



THE SIX IMMORTALS

BOOK 02

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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 30 – A Robbery On The Way

The devil's territory was a vast region without any boundaries, with several cities along its flanks. Jiu You city was just one of those cities.

The closest entrance point of the Devil's territory was about two thousand miles away from Ting Feng valley, but with the help of divine essence seals, this distance could be covered in two days' time.

However, without the use of divine essence seals, this distance would take about sixty seven days or so to cover on foot.

Bi Fan had decided to spend the night in Ting Feng valley and planned to leave in the morning. He spent the night studying about the various types of animals and creatures that he could encounter inside the Devil's territory.

There were said to be a lot of beast, and demonly creatures inside the devil's territory. Some even had the ability to poison people, and then there were goblins, which often attacked people, and some unhappy spirits that Bi Fan would have to deal with, but this would require him to maintain his composure at all times.

That evening Bi Fan also spent some time looking at the Jade book.

The book spoke about various methods to refine and increase body strength, and was very detailed in nature. A lot of methods

had striking similarities with those of 'blood devil' methods, and some seemed even better to refine strength.

The jade book only had ten pages in it, the first one was missing, but the next six seemed fully intact. The first page must have been the index to the rest of the book. The pages two, three and four talked about methods of practicing martial arts, whereas the next two spoke about the various methods in which someone could refine their body.

Bi Fan didn't practice the teachings of the book, mainly because he had no time.

He read the book carefully a couple of times, and then spent some time trying to figure out the differences between these methods and those of 'blood devil' and estimated that these new methods could bear pretty good results as well.

Bi Fan decided that he would practice the teachings and techniques in the jade book once he had the time for it.

Early next morning, Bi Fan exited the Ting Feng valley and set out in the direction of the Devil's territory entrance.

People entered and exited the Devil's territory almost every day, and a lot of these people visited the Ting Feng valley before entering the Devil's territory in order to make their preparations.

In fact, it is thought that Ting Feng valley's origination was due

to this reason it self. The people, who set the place up, took it into account that its proximity to the Devil's territory would attribute to its prosperity.

There were a lot of other young men walking on the same path, and were probably travelling to the entrance themselves.

Most people didn't know each other, and seemed a little cautious of striking up a conversation with the others.

“You, the boy in front.”

Bi Fan looked behind him, to see that there were three guys walking behind him, who were trying to catch up to him, and shouting all the while, not in a polite manner though.

Bi Fan turned around and looked, but there was no one else in the immediate vicinity, so he asked in an undertone: “Are you calling me?”

“Yes you boy. Don't peep around.” The voice called out again, and Bi Fan was finally able to identify the source clearly.

Bi Fan turned to face in that direction and said angrily, “You're looking for me?”

Even Bi Fan's anger was quite tender due to his usually calm headed personality.

“Yes Boy, don’t play dumb. We saw you yesterday at Ting Feng valley. You bought a lot of Sunset Jade purifier Dan pellets, hand them over to us. And you also have quite a lot of magical instruments in your possession, surrender them to us or we will kill you.” A white clothed boy who seemed to be heading this trio stated.

Bi Fan himself had been eyeing other people in the Ting Feng valley, so he wasn’t were surprised that these people wanted to rob him.

This wasn’t overly unusual in the Tian Yu world, when it came to accumulating valuables, many disciples of the Buddhist ways resorted to robbery, same as the devil’s disciples.

Bi Fan was sure that the three young men standing in front of him were followers of the Buddhist ways as they didn’t stink of evil auras.

“So, you want to rob me huh? Well, that depends on whether you the ability or not.” Bi Fan said in a cold voice.

His light ray sword in firmly in his hand, Bi Fan stood facing his three opponents with an air of confidence about him.

The young man dressed in white, awe fully stared at the sword in Bi Fan’s hand, and his facial expression exposed a shade of greed: “Nice sword, looks like a top grade magical weapon, I guess that one is mine!”

“Yours? Well, you must have death wish.” Bi Fan stood there proud, brimming of self-confidence.

After the encounters of the previous few days, Bi Fan’s strength had seen a significant rise, which was a key factor in contributing to this new found confidence of his.

He had even managed to overcome opponents, who were in the brave layer, so he wasn’t even remotely afraid of these guys. The strongest of the three was the one at the back, and even he was only in the ‘inner organs’ layer, whereas the other two hadn’t even reached the ‘inner organs’ layer yet.

“Boy, if you have any sense then surrender the Sunset jade purifiers as well as the weapons you possess, and you might be able to avoid your death. Our friend, Jiang Sheng, is the student of the ‘rising sun’ school, and he’s someone you cannot afford to offend.” A tall youngster standing behind the one in white warned.

Bi Fan could make out that these youngsters where somewhat afraid of going through with their plans as they were trying to use the names of their backers to threaten him.

Unfortunately for them, they had run into Bi Fan, who wasn’t moved by their, rather persuasive robbery tactic, even if they were trying to threaten him with the name of ‘rising sun’.

Bi Fan had no idea who this Jiang Sheng was, as he had never heard of his name before. Moreover, Bi Fan was already pissed

with this Jiang Sheng for attempting to rob him.

“‘Rising sun’ disciples are really good, very difficult to deal with. I must add, also quite fearless in the face of danger. Resorting to robbery? Probably comes from the excellent teaching that they receive.” Bi Fan laughed heartily as he mocked them.

The complexion of the youngster in white changed: “Watch your mouth!”

Bi Fan’s mockery seemed to have made the white clothed youngster realize that if the knowledge of this robbery incident ever found its way back to the ‘rising sun’ school, then they could get into trouble.

As long as one has strength to loot, the person could get away with it, and keep the plunder. But to fight under the banner of ‘rising sun’ school, that would bring disgrace to the name of the school, consequences of which could be very severe for the accused.

This was an unwritten rule in all the schools.

The youngster at the back, stood tall and proud, and hadn’t made any move yet.

He must be the one they call Jiang Sheng, and he had started making his way to front of the pack, slowly.

‘Fufeng Double-edged sword’

Bi Fan put his sword to use.

“Pop.....”

For a few seconds, there were unceasing sounds of ripping; the two youngsters in the front were relieved of their clothing, thanks to Bi Fan’s sword play. However, their bodies weren’t scarred or bruised in any manner, as Bi Fan demonstrated his expertise.

They trembled, probably even wet their pants, but didn’t dare to move fearing Bi Fan and his sword.

Jiang Sheng, who was still in the process of coming to the front, after watching this, ceased in his stead.

He found himself drawing a comparison, even if he was capable of beating his two companions; he was still no match for Bi Fan.

His eyes clearly indicated that, he knew he was no match for Bi Fan.

However, Jiang Sheng hadn’t retreated yet; he just seemed to be caught in a state of dilemma.

Jiang Sheng was analyzing Bi Fan’s skill and strength in his mind, step by step, and knew it, right down to his core that he

couldn't beat Bi Fan, no matter how hard he tried.

Jiang Sheng, started becoming a little nervous and started taking a few steps back slowly.

Both his companions started begging for mercy: "Please let us go, spare us....."

"Relieve yourself of all your belongings, spars, Dan pellets, and everything else. If you try to hide any items from me, I will kill you."

The two youngsters in front of Bi Fan were reluctant to follow his command.

Jian Sheng snapped at that moment: "Boy, you dare to threaten us! Know this; my eldest brother is ranked second in Qianlong list. Fear for our revenge, and let us go, unharmed or there will be consequences."

"I have never heard of the Qianlong list. And let's assume that your brother is very strong, but if I kill the three of you here and now, no would ever know that I was behind this." Bi Fan replied, his voice as cold as ice.

Both of Jiang Sheng's companions started relieving themselves of their belongings, as soon as the heard the word 'kill', fearing for their lives.

Jiang Sheng's complexion changed to resemble those of his comrades, his legs started trembling, and it looked like he too, would start begging for mercy soon.

“Hand over all your valuable items and I'll let you leave, or else....hmmmm!” Bi Fan said with a smile.

This time, Jiang didn't hesitate, and he started putting his valuables on the ground.

Perhaps Jiang Sheng's brother was a rather strong man, as Jiang Sheng was even carrying a Yin Yang pouch.

Bi Fan quickly gathered all the items that were laid out on the ground, and stepped away from the scene, leaving those three pathetic youngsters behind.

As he was leaving, Bi Fan turned around to take a look at Jiang Sheng, and gazed into his eyes, which were brimming with poisonous sentiments.

“Brother, we need to find out who this guy is. We need to avenge our pride.”

Jiang Sheng's voice stunk of hate: “Let him enter the devil's territory. I want him to die in there. Draw a picture of him, and make sure it's as realistic as possible....”

“A picture? Why, what are you up to?”

“Are you stupid or something, we are obviously going to put a bounty on his head. We will have someone kill him for us!”

“Let’s go, we need to make our way to entry point.” Jiang Sheng said.

Even though Bi Fan hadn’t planned on robbing someone on the way, the yield of this robbery seemed pretty decent.

Out of the three, only Jiang Sheng had good quality items, the other two only had low-grade things. The most precious of all the items he had managed to loot was the Yin Yang pouch.

The Yin Yang pouch even contained some Dan pellets and approximately a thousand spars, making the bounty even sweeter.

Humming a tune, Bi Fan continued on his way, and he didn’t even use the divine essence seals to speed up his travel. He was very relaxed, and wished to enjoy the scenery.

The rest of the journey was uneventful, as Bi Fan got closer to the entrance, the number of people on the path increased.

The devil’s territory wasn’t just an area where martial artists could train, but it also contained several spots where people could excavate ores, and several other precious and rare items.

In addition to this, the venom extracted from those devilish creatures was of an even higher value in some cases.

As a result of this, the area around the entrance to the devil's territory had taken the shape of a small town, always busy as many martial artists entered and exited the region every day. Majority of the people staying in this town were from the Jiu You city and surrounding regions.

This small town was called Xi Guan (Western pass), and even though it was a very small town, its atmosphere was more like that of a small city.

Xi Guan was enclosed in two meter high walls, standing guard, were capable of withstanding attacks by wild beasts. The city had a total of eight gates in all directions to facilitate easy access to people.

As Bi Fan strode in and around the town, he saw that there were a few vendor stall in here as well, just like Ting Feng valley, but much lesser in number.

All one could see here, was streets lined with stalls, equipped with various kinds on commodities. Every street was unusually busy and noisy.

The town's trading mainly revolved around venoms, corpses of wild beast, various herbs and Panacea amongst other specialty items found in the devil's territory. Weapons and Dan pellets were also being traded in large numbers, especially purifiers. However,

the same items were being sold here at a much higher price, so much so that the cost of a single Sunset Jade purifier Dan pellet was about two hundred spars.

Bi Fan was regretting that he hadn't bought extra purifiers; otherwise he could have made a profit by selling them here.

Bi Fan was in no hurry to enter the devil's territory, so he continued to stroll around the city, trying to find out the value of various items, especially those that were specific to the devil's territory, as he would factor their worth when accumulating them inside the devil's territory.

He knew that this trip into the devil's territory was going to be a rare one, and he couldn't afford to go back empty handed from it.

Many stores were selling items like horns, skins, meat, Panacea and other herbs, mineral ores, and most of these items were priced very high.

Bi Fan figured that the prices of the items were linked to their purity, which was divided into various levels.

Even low cost items collected from corpses of creatures inside the region could sell for as high as ten thousand spars, so it was no surprise that so many people were willing to risk their lives by venturing into the devil's territory.

However, only the stronger demon's remains had much value

and the stronger the demon, the higher the bounty.

Also some items were rarer than others, so skill wasn't the only way to make money here, one would also need luck. Even the speed with which a demon is killed was a factor.

If the demon was killed very slowly, then the quality of the extracts would degrade to a huge extent, reducing its market value.

Bi Fan spent almost half a day wandering around the streets, and even though he was quite tired, he fancied that he could make some money.

On his way back, Bi Fan purchased a few animal extracts and herbs which were particular to the devil's territory, as he figured that their prices were a lot cheaper here than outside.

Even though Bi Fan knew that these items were available in the outside world, their price here was much cheaper, and anyway, the Tian Yuan ring had a lot of space, so he knew that filling it up wouldn't be easy.

If it weren't for the limited amount of spar that Bi Fan had in his possession, he would have made some big purchases.

Bi Fan, since his birth had always had a humble financial condition, he knew the importance of spars and the rarity with which he came across any. If there was a chance to earn some more, Bi Fan would certainly not let to go of it easily.

Due to the limited amount of resources that Bi Fan had, he decided to only buy items that he was sure of being able to sell for a profit once he returned to Ting Feng valley.

Within half a day, Bi Fan had spent almost all his spars buying items he could trade later, and the Tian Yuan ring had a heap of new additions inside it.

Chapter 31 – The Black Tiger

Bi Fan stayed in Xi Guan for two days and three nights, during the days he would go out and try to understand the conditions inside the devil's territory, and after sunset, he would practice his martial arts, in an attempt to prepare himself better for the adventure ahead.

Bi Fan had already started practicing the teachings of the jade book to refine his body strength, and the effect was quite significant. Even though he had only been practicing the first method, he could already feel an increase in strength, which was a pleasant surprise.

In the three nights that he had been in Xi Guan, he had taken out time to practice this new method to the point where he felt that he was ready to start the second method that the book spoke of.

Even though the name of the method was unknown due to incomplete state of the book, Bi Fan had guessed that these methods were similar to those of 'blood devil', but slightly more advanced.

The only problem he faced was that the condition of the book made it very difficult to understand it clearly.

On the break of the third day, after having his breakfast, Bi Fan made his way to the registrations office to enlist his name.

The devil's territory was divided into several levels based on

strength, and martial artists would be transferred to the appropriate sector accordingly. The transfers were random, and ensured that two martial artists who were at the same level would be sent to the same level but different regions.

Bi Fan bought a jade tablet, breaking which would indicate that he wishes to be transferred out of the devil's territory, cutting short his originally intended one month stay. This was a sort of a safety net.

Most people entered the devil's territory to make money, hunting wild animals and creatures inside the region, and almost always took these Jade tablets with them. These Jade tablets were only available for a price and weren't cheap either.

But surviving in the devil's territory without any backup options was a very difficult task.

On top of that, it was extremely difficult to identify directions inside the region, which made it very difficult to find an exit when needed.

Bi Fan stepped onto the delivery chamber while the inside of the brains were revising everything he knew about the region. Then suddenly, he was transferred out into the devil's territory.

He felt dizzy for a couple of seconds, but an instant later found himself in the middle of a dense forest.

He opened his eyes to inspect his surroundings, but the tall and towering trees that seemed to be everywhere, made it very difficult for him to look very far. The morning sun's light was trickling through the canopy, but the light wasn't enough, and visibility was low.

The devil's territory was somewhat gloomy and damp, no wonder all kinds of toxins were able to flourish in such an environment.

For the sake of safety, Bi Fan ingested a Sunset Jade purifier Dan pellet, so he could roam around for the majority of the day's length without worrying about being poisoned.

Bi Fan had bought so many purifiers for this purpose only, he was well aware that if his body was being supported by a purifier, than the probability of being poisoned would be greatly reduced.

Bi Fan knew that without such measures, a practitioner with his experience and skill would require a good amount of luck to make it out of here alive, so it was money well spent.

Bi Fan, along with Greedy started walking through the thickets of the forest, eyes and ears alerted in every direction, searching for wild creatures.

He hadn't gone very far, when he spotted some Panacea and herbs growing in the bushes nearby, but these were rather common and not very valuable either, so he didn't bothering picking them up.

He would only collect items that were of value.

Bi Fan knew that it was a novice mistake to collect everything in sight, and it would only slow him down.

Greedy was stationed atop Bi Fan's shoulder, and kept his eyes shut for some reason, mostly. These ordinary herbs weren't good enough to attract his attention either, he would probably not even consider eating them if he had been hungry for a decade.

As he had just entered the devil's territory, Bi Fan was being extra cautious, and was going very slowly.

Some time had passed by now, and Bi Fan hadn't spotted a single creature of any value to him, all he had come across was some small animals that were of little or no value at all.

Small animals were good for barbecuing and keeping oneself fed, but otherwise had no financial value.

It was vital to save one's strength in the devil's territory. Squandering energy on things that didn't matter could prove out to be very costly if met with a fierce creature.

The devil's territory had several goblins and other vicious creatures inside it, but the areas where they flourished were designated to 'emerging from the womb' martial artists. If such a creature bumped into someone in Bi Fan's layer, it would probably

kill the person.

As Bi Fan continued to walk along, sometime later, he heard the sound of a tiger's hiss. Bi Fan slowly and cautiously started walking towards the direction of the sound.

Since the main idea behind Bi Fan trip to the devil's territory was to gain experience, his natural instinct was to go and find out if the wild animal was challenge enough. Also, he was certain that there wouldn't be too many other martial artists in the region that he would need to be careful about, so he could afford to take the risk of getting into a tiresome battle.

As he crept closer, Bi Fan was finally able to see the head of the beast. It was a black tiger, a strong and formidable opponent. From the looks of it, Bi Fan could identify that the tiger's strength must be in the 'inner organs' layer, which meant that the tiger was almost as strong as Bi Fan.

“A black tiger!” Bi Fan exclaimed in an undertone.

An adult black tiger's strength usually lingered around the 'inner organs' layer and apart from being strong, they were well known for the strong fighting capabilities.

Black tigers were fast, strong in both attack and in defense, which made them, very difficult opponents to deal with.

Bi Fan was about to enter in this first combat inside the devil's

region, and that too against such a powerful enemy, he knew he would have to be extremely careful. The long Diao, as smart as always, knew that his safety, was in staying as far away from the fight as possible.

With the light-ray sword in his hand, Bi Fan stood up, announcing his arrival to the tiger. He gathered his strength, but for some reason, felt vaguely different.

The tiger upon seeing Bi Fan, growled and then swooped himself off the ground.

There was very little light that lit the area, as the dense canopy obstructed the sun, and Bi Fan's vision was dark.

‘Fufeng double-edged sword!’

Bi Fan cast out his attack and directed the blade of his sword towards the thick skinned belly of the tiger. The tiger, realizing Bi Fan intention, didn't dare charge back at him and tried to dodge his attack.

The tiger, Bi Fan realized would be a much more difficult to deal with as compared to his initial estimate, as the tiger lunged, turned and twisted his body in mid-air and managed to sidestep Bi Fan's attack, and smoothly landed on his side.

Bi Fan turned to face the tiger again, and with his light-ray sword in his hand, made another straight dash at the tiger.

The tiger again, somehow managed to dodge Bi Fan's ferocious attack. A few hairs from tiger's skin fell to the ground, as Bi Fan only managed to give the tiger a shave with his sword in this attack.

The sword passed so close to his body but still missed, there was almost no contact and the sword didn't even change directions.

"Strong and powerful!" Bi Fan couldn't help but admire his opponent.

Upon realizing that the tiger's strength was equivalent to the 'inner organs' layer, same as him, and physical strength superior to his, Bi Fan decided that he needs to change his tactic.

Going with brute strength was going to make the cut here; if he wished to defeat this beast, Bi Fan would have to employ some of the more sophisticated techniques that he had mastered over time.

Bi Fan put all his skills to test against the tiger, using him as a target for his practice.

Back in Xi Guan, Jiang Sheng had circulated Bi Fan's poster in the hope of finding someone who would be willing to kill Bi Fan.

Since Bi Fan had taken all the money that Jiang Sheng had, only 'rising sun' disciples were willing to trust Jiang Sheng's word and were willing to try for the bounty on his head.

Jiang Sheng had promised that the person who manages to kill Bi Fan will get two thousand spars as a reward upon Jiang Sheng's return to the 'rising sun' school.

So much so that, Jiang Sheng had even exaggerated the value of the items that Bi Fan had in his possession, in an attempt to tempt the people who were going into the devil's territory, to kill Bi Fan. Some of the students had been scared off by the skill and power of Bi Fan, but those who hadn't, were very willing to find and kill Bi Fan, for both the bounty on his head and the rewards that they would get from Bi Fan's corpse.

Bi Fan hadn't realized that Jiang Sheng and his friends were going to prove out to be such a menace in the future, or else, he would have extinguished their existence from the world there and then.

“Roar!!!!” The black tiger uttered a terrible roar. His body was bruised and battered from top to bottom, his skin defiled in more than dozen places.

Bi Fan was taking full advantage of his marvelous footwork and had been attacking the tiger nonstop at an amazing speed, literally making a sport out of the poor animal, giving him no room to breathe. In fact, Bi Fan was so quick, that the tiger seemed well aware that any attempt to flee Bi Fan would prove out to be null and void.

The black tiger had sustained some serious injuries and even

though he had put up a fierce fight, he was clearly no match for Bi Fan's skill, and was now torn up, from top to bottom.

“Thank you black tiger! You gave me an opportunity to practice my skills on you, so I'll make this easy on you now.” Bi Fan smiled.

‘Rainy-fly sword!’

Bi Fan focused everything he had in this attack, and countless strikes befell the black tiger.

“OW!!” The black tiger uttered a terrible scream, as he fell to the ground. He twitched a few times, barely able to breathe anymore.

The black tiger's body had sustained at least a dozen cuts and wounds on the places where Bi Fan's sword had met his body.

The tiger's skin was quite battered and damaged, but even then, his meat and bones would still fetch a pretty high price.

Bi Fan quickly incorporated the tiger's body directly into the Tian Yuan ring and then left.

A lot of people in Xi Guan had told Bi Fan that sounds of intense fighting and the smell of blood often provoked other demons in the vicinity.

At present, Bi Fan had used up almost half of his strength to kill

the black tiger, so he needed to rest, and wouldn't be able to continue fighting for long.

Inside the devil's territory, crisis could arise at any moment, and preserving one's energy was critical. Roaming around injured could be very hazardous, especially if trouble found its way to someone in that condition.

Not long after Bi Fan's departure from the scene of the fight, he started hearing sounds of various beasts coming from that direction. He could hear their roars again and again.

"It's fortunate that I knew the circumstances here before coming in and left the scene in time, had I stayed behind to peel off the tiger's skin there, I would have gotten into some serious trouble." Bi Fan thought to himself.

Bi Fan found a tree he could climb, and then atop one of the tree's branches, he started practicing to revive his body strength.

Time was passing quietly, but then suddenly, the Long Diao made a 'creaking' sound, as he tried to issue a warning.

Bi Fan had been restoring his strength at a leisurely pace, and had managed to restore almost ninety percent of his strength by now, as soon as he heard the warning, he quickened things up.

He opened his eyes and saw that the Long Diao was standing between him and almost a dozen snakes. Greedy seemed quite

excited as poisonous foods were his favorite.

There were at least ten snakes in front of the lone Long Diao, who was ready for a battle of his own, considering himself in charge of Bi Fan's protection in this case.

As he saw Bi Fan stand up, the Long Diao got even more excited and quickly shot out at an electric pace at the snakes and quickly returned to his spot, with a snake between his teeth.

Most of the snakes were afraid of the Long Diao and seemed to be shaking their heads.

Bi Fan on other hand, had no intention of attacking the snakes himself, and stood there on guard against any sneak attacks the snakes might attempt to catch him off guard.

Greedy quickly gobbled up the snake's head and gut, and tossed the rest of his corpse aside.

He again shot out at the snakes, and returned to his place quickly, catching another snake this time as well.

Long Diao's are the bane of poisonous creatures like vipers, in addition to that, Greedy's astonishing speed was too much for the these ordinary snakes to match up to.

Realizing that most of them were about to become a happy meal for their opponent, the snakes decided to withdraw from the tree,

fearing for their lives. The tree leaves rustled as the snakes panicked and made a run for it, so much so that, some of them literally fell off the tree, and onto the ground below.

Anxiously, the Long Diao dropped the snake's dead body and decided to pursue the other snakes before they got away.

Bi Fan knew that Greedy likes snakes for his meals, and decided to help out.

With the help of the 'immortal finger', Bi Fan was successfully able to kill a few on his own.

Soon, the ground was bloody with the dead bodies of several snakes, as Bi Fan and Greedy had each managed to kill a few, while some of the more fortunate snakes had managed to get away.

"Greedy, I'll help you collect your food, but then, we need to leave this place as soon as possible." Bi Fan expressed his desire to leave in a worried tone.

"Creek." The Long Diao creaked in approval, meanwhile holding another snake in his mouth.

His main interest was in the snake's head and their poisonous bile, which was stored in their gut. The rest of the snake's body was useless to the Long Diao.

Bi Fan quickly incorporated all the remaining carcasses in the Yin

Yang pouch and along with the Long Diao, quickly departed from the scene.

Originally, he had only restored his strength to about a ninety percent, and now, after the energy that he had just consumed, he felt that he must be around eighty percent of his total energy.

Bi Fan found another tree after travelling some distance, and climbed up again, this time cautious of any venomous presence in the vicinity.

Soon, he had restored his strength, and decided to look for more demons and decided that it was time to venture a little deeper into the devil's territory.

On the way ahead, Bi Fan plucked a good amount of Panacea, but hadn't come across any rare minerals or ores as of yet. Like veins of Spar ores (Crystal ores), or other kind of rare metallic ores. These ores were probably located somewhere a little deeper into this abyss, but Bi Fan's current vicinity seemed devoid of these fortunes.

Bi Fan had travelled some distance but hadn't come across a second beast till now.

“Well, if there are so many beasts everywhere inside the devil's territory, why can't I find some?” Bi Fan thought, a little depressed over his fortune.

After a while, Bi Fan heard the burst of howling, which appeared to be made by wolves.

“Finally, it appears we have found ourselves a pack of wolves.” Bi Fan forced a smile.

Most wolves inside the devil’s territory were only as strong as ‘martial strength’ layer, and even a pack full of such wolves wasn’t exactly a good bounty.

Only the wolves that were as strong as ‘inner breath’ were of good value for the outside world. Bi Fan was unaware of the fact, that most of the wolves in this pack were as strong as the ‘inner breath’, and their sheer numbers making them a dangerous opposition.

Bi Fan had initially decided to give this opportunity a pass, but as soon as he heard the sounds of close combat fighting coming from that direction, he decided to reverse his decision.

It didn’t matter much to him, as it didn’t seem like this was any danger to him, but if he could extend a helping hand to someone in need, he wouldn’t mind helping. He was many a things, but stingy, wasn’t one of them.

Bi Fan decided to stealthily examine the situation once before deciding on the course of his action.

There were at least a hundred wolves in the pack, and the

strongest few of them seemed to be around the 'inner organs' layer.

This pack was engaged in a fierce battle with a group of five people, who all seemed to be in the 'inner organs' layer.

Although the human segment involved in the battle was stronger than their counterparts, they all seemed to have sustained a good amount of wounds so far from the fight.

These five people were using a very strange kind of martial arts; their skills were unknown to Bi Fan. He had never seen such martial arts, and had no idea which school these five belonged to.

Bi Fan didn't rush to their aid straight away, and decided to hide in the trees nearby and began memorizing their style of fighting.

These five didn't seem in any immediate danger for the time being, and on top of that, Bi Fan was a little uncertain as to whether they deserved his help or not, so he decided to wait a while and inspect the situation a little further.

Bi Fan would wait till these five had consumed most of their energy, just in case they turned hostile and decided to turn on Bi Fan later.

Chapter 32 – A Helping Hand

The pack appeared to be led by two wolves, the strongest of them all, the pack advanced and retreated in an orderly fashion, pinning the five fighters close together. The wolves were backing each other up, making it difficult for the five humans to kill any of them.

The wolf pack hadn't sustained any serious injuries, whereas the state of the five men was becoming frailer by every passing minute. Even though the five of them were very stubborn and were standing strong, Bi Fan was afraid that they wouldn't be able to last a very long time at this rate.

They were inside the devil's territory, surrounded by a pack of wolves; even attempting to escape wouldn't be of much use.

These five youngsters needed something of a miracle to get out of their present predicament.

The five of them were also cooperating with a decent understanding, their attacks were seamlessly coordinated, and every now and then, they were able to kill an ordinary wolf or two.

There were at least a hundred wolves in this pack, so a few dead ones wouldn't exactly make any difference. Especially considering that the two chiefs and the other ten strongest ones were unharmed so far, and they posed the maximum threat.

The two chief wolves along with the other ten strongest ones

were mostly staying away from the fight now, protecting themselves from incurring any injuries, while allowing the others to finish the fight.

“Poof!” one of the youngster’s arms’ was hit by a wolf and the wound started dripping blood.

The five humans were very commendably united, the other four quickly circled around their comrade, keeping him in between them, allowing him to bandage his wound.

Unfortunately for them, the five had grown rather tired now, having used up most of their strengths, and on top of that, they had sustained quite a few injuries in quick succession. Plus, the sheer number of their opposition wasn’t allowing them any room to rest.

Seeing the wounded state of the humans, Bi Fan decided that it’s now or never, if he doesn’t rush to their help now, they will soon be dead meat.

Seeing his opportunity, Bi Fan leaped off the tree he was hiding in.

In his right hand, wielding his sword, he employed ‘fufeng double-edged sword’, whereas with his left hand, he cast out the ‘immortal finger’, targeting two of the stronger wolves.

Bi Fan’s attacks landed before he did; a glorious mid-air display.

“AOOWWW!!” The two wolves’ uttered blood curling shrieks, unaware of Bi Fan’s presence, they were engrossed in attacking the five other humans. Caught off guard, they succumbed to Bi Fan’s surprise attack, and fell to the ground.

Bi Fan had barely landed on ground, he turned beautifully, accounting to his excellent footwork, and began attacking another wolf.

The other wolves spotted his intrusion, as he killed another wolf.

With the help of his exceptional footwork, which appeared to hitting its pinnacle, Bi Fan quickly struck down another four wolves.

“WOOOOOO!!!” The two head wolves simultaneously wailed furiously, as the charged in Bi Fan’s direction.

“It looks like we are being assisted by an expert. Brothers, lets quickly seize this opportunity and kill these wolves.” The five of them weren’t stupid or cowardly; they launched a fierce full-scale attack, realizing that they had just been presented with an excellent opportunity to kill the wolf pack.

A good number of the ordinary wolves had been slayed, but they didn’t pose much of a threat anyway. It was the strongest ones that were the main cause of worry.

Bi Fan used his agility, somersaulted through mid-air as he slashed his way through another pair of wolves, and then quickly retreated, as he realized that the chiefs of the pack were charging at him.

Accounting to Bi Fan's present strength and skill, killing ordinary wolves, who were only at 'martial strength' layer, was a piece of cake, not to forget, that some of the wolves were even weaker than that level.

The two furious head wolves were trying to close-in on Bi Fan, but Bi Fan's floating fast and nimble footwork, had them chasing him continuously, as they failed to catch up to him.

In a very short span of time, Bi Fan had already killed ten wolves, but it was the two strongest ones that posed the maximum threat, and they were still alive.

Bi Fan had now stopped in his footsteps, as he was now confronted with the two chiefs of the pack, one on his either side.

The two wolves were quite strong, and they weren't going to be easy to deal with.

“AAAOOOOO!!!” The two wolves howled on his either side, as they charged at Bi Fan.

The howls of the two wolves left Bi Fan's ear drums buzzing.

Bi Fan calmed his head down, as he dodged to one side, avoiding the incoming attacks.

‘Fufeng double-edged sword’, ‘the immortal finger’....

Bi Fan attacked with full force, as he wanted to finish this business as soon as possible.

His top grade light-ray sword befell one of the wolves. The skin of the wolf was as hard as iron, even though Bi Fan’s sword cut his skin open, his sword didn’t slice through the wolf’s body.

Bi Fan was slightly surprised by this, but as the other wolf pounced at him, Bi Fan retreated, avoiding the attack, and was forced to abandon a good opportunity to finish the other wolf off.

The attacks of the two chief wolves weren’t exactly top quality in their merit, and now that one of the wolves’ was injured, the two of them now seemed a little cautious.

The two of these wolves were as strong as Bi Fan and had entered the ‘inner organs’ layer. But they were naturally gifted with very strong skins, making their defense much stronger than that of an ordinary ‘inner organs’ layer demon. Bi Fan would have to resort to something a little different to kill these two.

“AOOO!!! AOOO!!!” The two wolves attacked again, this time, running parallel to each other, side by side, making it a lot more difficult to find an opening.

The five injured youngsters had consumed most of their energy, so, even though they were doing a pretty good job killing the ordinary wolves, relying on them to kill these stronger ones wasn't a realistic option.

Bi Fan hadn't been able to attack the two wolves of late, and had been consistently forced to retreat, as he tried to dodge the attacks of the two wolves.

On top of that, the constant howling of the two wolves was upsetting Bi Fan's focus.

Suddenly, Bi Fan had an idea, and he deliberately slowed down a bit.

“AOOO!” one of the wolves open his mouth to howl again.

As soon as he did, Bi Fan turned around and cast out the 'immortal finger' aimed straight at the wolf's mouth.

“Boom!” The wolf's head exploded and blood splashed all around. The wolf's corpse landed on the ground ahead of him attributing to his forward inertia.

'The immortal finger' is an extremely sharp and concentrated attack, it pierced through the wolf's arteries and windpipe, killing him in an instant.

The other wolf realizing the odds of his survival, turned around and made a dash to save his life.

“Oh, so you want to run away? Well, that won’t be so easy!” Bi Fan chased after the wolf, ‘the dance of mist’ footwork being called into action.

In a flash, almost like a mirage, Bi Fan intercepted the other wolf.

The wolf watched Bi Fan’s movements with an angry expression of his face. He kept his mouth shut, well aware of what the result of howling could prove out to be.

“That smart huh!”, Bi Fan was impressed.

However, faced with just one wolf now, Bi Fan was spoilt for choices.

‘Fufeng Double-edged sword!’

Bi Fan cast out his attack at a very quick pace.

Even though he wasn’t able to kill the wolf in an instant, his attacks were certainly giving the wolf a headache.

Bi Fan’s light-ray sword wasn’t exactly vegetarian in nature, the attacks left the wolf scared and blood stained.

Faced with enormous pain from the wounds, the wolf still would dare open his mouth to howl, as his bloodshot eyes glared at Bi Fan.

The wolf pounced at Bi Fan, his throat wide open, his jaws directed at Bi Fan's throat. The wolf's eyes reflect his fear of Bi Fan's finger.

“Well, that's the end of that!” Bi Fan snorted in a cold voice.

His light-ray sword was ready for the beast.

With seamless power, Bi Fan cast out one of his most powerful sword attacks, ‘Rain-fly sword!’

The five youngsters had been dealing with the other wolves, and had been able to manage with them with ease, and were going to be done with their end of the fighting soon.

The way Bi Fan had dealt with those two wolves, especially his skill with the sword, had left the five of them dumbstruck.

Most of them were not very far away from Bi Fan in terms of strength, but his sheer skill placed him in a league of his own.

As the wolf saw Bi Fan's sword blockade the way in front of him, the color of fear filled his face, but he had launched himself at a pace where it wouldn't be possible to back off now.

The wolf, in a determined effort, accelerated his pace further, as he desperately needed to snap Bi Fan's neck into two.

Bi Fan charged back at the wolf, his body bringing a gale along with it, his sword pointed straight at the wolf.

His light-ray sword, pointed straight at the wolf's throat, pierced straight through it.

“Poof!”

Bi Fan and the wolf had met mid-air, Bi Fan sword went straight through the wolf's throat and then the rest of his body, as it passed cleanly through the insides of the wolf.

With a crash, the wolf landed on the ground, his belly cut open, and blood spilled all over the floor and Bi Fan.

The wolf was dead long before his body hit the ground.

The five humans were astonished to see the skill of Bi Fan, they were both impressed and scared of him.

Bi Fan wiped the blood off his sword and then off his face.

“Many thanks brother, you are our saving grace! May we ask your name?” One of the youngsters asked, he was skinny and had a

delicate and humble look on his face.

“Relax, there is no need to thank me.” Bi Fan smiled.

“My name is Li Zi Yun, we all hail from Jiu Yu City.”, the young man who spoken up earlier stated. “You saved us all, we will remember this act of kindness.”

Bi Fan said: “My name is Bi Fan, I’m a disciple of Quinyang, please don’t say thanks, I only hunted these wolves so I could collect the rewards from their bodies. Is it alright with you all if I keep the carcasses?”

“Without a doubt, you deserve this.” Li Zi Yun said with a smile, trying to cover up the disappointment of the financial loss.

Even though Li Zi Yun wanted a share of the profit, but wouldn’t dare say a word against Bi Fan, as the five of them were pretty seriously injured and had consumed most of their energy. He was well aware that they would be no match for Bi Fan, and hence, didn’t want to upset him.

Bi Fan quickly, and a bit rudely, started incorporating the dead bodies into the Tian Yuan ring.

Witnessing Bi Fan incorporate almost twenty of the dead wolves into the Tian Yuan ring, left Li Zi Yun and his friends completely baffled.

A Yin Yang pouch had a lot space, but even then could only incorporate a maximum of twelve wolf carcasses, but they realized that Bi Fan evidently had other resources as well.

Even though Bi Fan had said that he was a student of Quinyang, they figured that it may not be true.

Li Zi Yun and his friends were afraid that if they question Bi Fan further, as they far too scared of offending Bi Fan. They were under the impression that Bi Fan was intentionally trying to keep his identity a secret.

But they wouldn't dare to try and get to the bottom of this as they were too afraid to ruffle Bi Fan's feathers and provoke his anger.

They were scared that if Bi Fan got angry, he could easily kill the five of them, following which he could take their treasures and all the remaining dead wolves, some of which he might leave for them right now.

Wolf fur and meat were capable of fetching a good amount of spars and could turn out to be potential reason for a fight here, and the devil's territory was a common place for robberies and murders.

Bi Fan incorporated some of bodies of the wolves into the Tian Yuan ring and then quickly disappeared into the forest.

If he wanted to, he could have killed Li Zi Yun and all this friends

with ease, but he felt that he could justify robbery, so he didn't do it.

Watching Bi Fan disappear into the forest gave a sense of relief to the five youngsters.

“Bi Fan is too strong, it's highly unlikely that he is an ordinary disciple.”

“Yes, he's probably trained by an elite at Quinyang, otherwise how could he possibly be carrying so many Yin Yang pouches.” Li Zi Yun reasoned, completely unaware of Bi Fan's real resources.

He paused for a while and then continued, “Let's quickly peel off the skins of the left over wolves and get out of here.”

Li Zi Yun was well aware that they didn't have the luxury of storing as many carcasses as Bi Fan could and they would only be able to collect a few of the remaining of the carcasses.

They only collected the most valuable skins; they flayed them and quickly left, as the smell of blood from the ruins of the battle was far too gross to remain there for long.

Once Bi Fan had gone some distance, he started searching for a place to practice and restore his energy.

The fighting had seemed effortless and even though he hadn't incurred any injuries, he had still consumed majority of his energy

in the battle.

But most importantly, Bi Fan had gained a great amount of experience from the fight and knew that he needed to restore his energy.

“I need to restore my strength....” Bi Fan knew that he needed to restore his strength, his body needed the energy back to be able prepare himself for any future fights.

“It seems that the best way enhance strength is to battle.” Bi Fan thought to himself.

Soon the curtains of night would fall, and the night time was the most dangerous inside the devil’s territory, as that was the time that most demons came out to feed.

Bi Fan decided to abandon the idea of venturing further into the devil’s territory and was looking for a tree so he could take a break.

As the night approached, the devil’s territory got even gloomier, the chilly wind blew and leaves rustled.

Bi Fan saddled himself in and started practicing.

The practice of the ‘inner breath’ techniques was the most important, also the most important to succeed at; this process took time and need to be approached step by step. Dan pellets helped, but still needed one to be able to practice purely on the basis of

their skill set.

Bi Fan didn't take any of the 'inner organs' layers pellets and decided to take his time practicing the 'longevity burst' technique to restore his energy.

As he started practicing, he could slowly feel the energy being stored into his body, he felt very satisfied by the overall output the day had produced.

After he was done restoring his body energy with 'Longevity burst', he started practicing the new techniques from the jade book to enhance his strength.

After today's battle, he could feel the increase in his strength as a benefit.

He felt that if it wasn't for his current strength level, he would not have been able to kill the two wolves the way he had managed to.

Even though Bi Fan had travelled a fair distance, he was still afraid that five youngsters that he had rescued earlier might try to kill him.

This kind of thing was very frequent in the Tian Yuan world, so it wouldn't exactly be surprising.

Physical strength was an important thing, and had many

benefits, it increased the ability of a martial artist to last in battle, and furthermore, if the person ran out of strength in battle, they would be able to defend themselves, owing to the increased defense strength.

Increase in physical strength was like an insurance policy and was an important thing the he needed to secure for the future.

Bi Fan had been always concentrated on increasing his physical strength and dove straight into his practice.

Bi Fan knew that couples with his skills sets, he was at least strong as the 'brave' layer.

Bi Fan was ecstatic with his current state but then was suddenly interrupted by the growls of a tiger.

Chapter 33 – The Mysterious Valley

Tigers are one of the strongest of animals, and at night, they become even more dangerous.

As he listened to the tiger hiss, Bi Fan estimated that the tiger was already as strong as the ‘inner breath’ layer, and was soon about to become even more strong.

Bi Fan gently leaped off the tree and quickly rushed in the direction from which the sound was coming.

It wasn’t easy to come across such strong demons in the devil’s territory, and he didn’t want to miss such a good opportunity to hone his skills.

Bi Fan quickened his pace. His pace matched that of a leopard as he leaped through the forest looking for his next game.

After a few moments, Bi Fan finally spotted the tiger.

The tiger stood about two meters in height and his body was about four meters in length. The tiger had white fur, his four powerful limbs made no noise whatsoever, as he quickly moved through the forest looking for food.

“Now that’s one good tiger! If only I could turn him into my ride! He could probably move as fast as the wind.” Bi Fan praised the tiger.

It was such a pity that this thought could not be turned into reality. It was incredibly difficult to tame the wild animals inside the territory and a lot easier to kill them, but only in comparison to the former.

The tiger's body was brimming with energy due to the change in the atmosphere.

Bi Fan spent some time, slyly comparing himself to the tiger and figured that he might not be able to match this one, and certainly not in these conditions.

Due to his proximity to the tiger, Bi Fan wouldn't even dare breathe heavily, and kept his breathing to a bare minimum, while maintaining his distance with the beast.

Soon, the tiger spotted a wild boar he could hunt. The boar seemed to be about two hundred pounds in weight, but even then, soon enough found its dead body dangling from the tiger's mouth.

The tiger hunted the boar down with an alarming efficiency; he threw himself at the boar and finished it off in a single strike. This tiger was going to be a lot more difficult to deal with when compared to the wolves Bi Fan had managed to kill earlier.

At present, Bi Fan wouldn't dare to take any action against the tiger, for he was far too scared. So he followed the tiger, as he made his way back to his cave. Bi Fan waited and tried to examine the situation at hand before deciding the course of his actions.

The tiger's cave was very large in size, about three meters high and four meters wide. It appeared very deep, although it wasn't possible to make out its exact depth from Bi Fan's current location.

As he saw the tiger enter the cave, Bi Fan loosened up a bit.

He found a tree that directly overlooked the cave, climbed up and decided to just stay and observe his intended target for a while.

While the tiger was going to enjoy his meal, Bi Fan was only going to sit on top of a branch and wait, patiently.

Suddenly, the Long Diao popped his head out and made a creaking sound, while his eyes remained fixed at the cave.

Bi Fan quickly covered the Long Diao's mouth as he was too scared of disturbing the tiger.

"Don't make loud noises, Greedy. There is a very powerful tiger inside that cave." Bi Fan whispered.

As the Long Diao understood what Bi Fan was trying to say, he didn't make any further sounds, in fact he didn't even jump chaotically on his shoulder, but continued to look at the cave eagerly.

It took Bi Fan a few seconds to understand: "There must be

something very good inside the cave, otherwise Greedy wouldn't be so excited."

But the thought of the demonly ferocious tiger that resided inside the cave, made Bi Fan think of giving up and turn around.

This tiger wasn't an ordinary one, and had become even stronger at night. Bi Fan couldn't find the confidence to go up against a beast like this one.

Greedy's animated look appeared to indicating that there could be some very precious herbs inside the cave, giving up on which wasn't that easy for Bi Fan.

Bi Fan was hesitating from going into the cave, but he didn't want to turn his back on this opportunity either, so he stayed on the tree and waited.

He waited till dawn, but as soon as he saw the light, he decided to take action.

He burst towards the cave, unaware of the situation inside, but knew that it was certainly very dangerous for him.

As he stood at the entrance of the cave, he had no plan in his mind, and had no idea what he was going to do next.

Greedy was becoming increasingly impatient, so it was evident that whatever he was sensing inside this cave was going to be of

great value.

“You’re going to have to stay calm for a while, at least till the time I can assess the actual situation.” Bi Fan grudgingly explained.

Greedy immediately calmed down, but his eyes looked full of expectation, which made him look even more adorable than usual.

Bi Fan stood at the entrance of the cave, and peeked inside. The cave was very dark on the inside and felt very gloomy, on top of that, Bi Fan couldn’t see very far into the cave, and hence had no idea what he was walking into.

Bi Fan bent down, picked up a stone and threw it inside the cave.

“Bang!” he heard a loud sound.

The tiger was still having his delicious meal, and upon being interrupted, became very furious all of a sudden.

“Roar!!!” a deafening one at that. Bi Fan’s ear ached with the pain from the sound.

Bi Fan could see the shadow of the white furred tiger emerging from the cave, and at a pretty alarming rate at that.

Bi Fan reflexively retreated and hastened back, but the tiger was

quicker and soon emerged out of the cave.

The tiger with his eyes fixed at Bi Fan, issued a low pitched roar, as he prepared himself to launch an attack.

Goosebumps all over his body, Bi Fan quickly drew out his light-ray sword, ready to defend.

“Roar!” With another roar, the tiger charged towards Bi Fan.

The tiger’s bloody, angry mouth was wide open was ready to tear Bi Fan apart.

Bi Fan calmed down, and with a cool head, pointed his finger straight at the tiger’s mouth, ready to use the ‘immortal finger’.

He had used this trick to slay an ‘inner organs’ wolf previously, so he naturally felt like giving it a try again.

Unfortunately, the tiger was a lot stronger, and had a lot more energy flowing inside his body; he made a turn in mid leap and got out of the way of Bi Fan’s attack, while his long tail swept in Bi Fan’s direction.

His tail issued a gushing sound as it swung through the air.

Bi Fan’s body retreated as he brought his sword to the front.

“Bang!” Bi Fan felt that he might have been able to cut open the tiger’s mouth had he been able to connect with the tiger’s mouth with such force. The force was so great that Bi Fan almost dropped the sword.

The tiger’s eyes were set on Bi Fan, his tail was barely scratched, and Bi Fan had only managed to shave off a few hairs from his tail.

“Outstanding energy! Amazing physical strength!” Bi Fan said, shocked.

This tiger was far too strong, this was a bad deal.

Up against such a powerful opponent, Bi Fan needed to focus his entire attention at the task in hand; he couldn’t afford any distractions here.

The tiger seemed even more provoked now, and threw his flexible body at Bi Fan once again.

‘Fufeng Double-edged Sword!’

Bi Fan managed to connect a few strikes in quick succession, but his hits didn’t go past the tiger’s skin, and it didn’t seem like he had managed to seriously injure the tiger, maybe not at all.

It was obvious now that this tiger was in the ‘brave’ layer, and accompanied by his strong and flexible body, he was going to be a lot more difficult to deal with as compared to a ‘brave’ layer

human opponent.

Suddenly, the Long Diao jumped off the tree he was hiding on, dashed sideways, and sneakily dodged his way into the cave. Fortunately, Bi Fan saw this, as he was standing directly opposite to the cave, facing its entrance.

Bi Fan frowned; he had no idea what the Long Diao was trying to do, and also, he was a little worried for the Long Diao's safety.

In order to distract the tiger's attention, Bi Fan started attacking the tiger with full force. 'Rainy-fly sword', 'the immortal finger', 'blood devil' and 'prancing tiger', all put to use, as he launched a quick attack.

His strikes were not meant to do any deed in terms of merit, but were merely there to buy the Long Diao some time.

Bi Fan's agility was hitting its peak, but even then, he was unable to hurt the tiger.

Bi Fan had managed to connect his hits to the tiger's body several times, but even then hadn't hurt the tiger severely; however, he did manage to anger the tiger even further.

The tiger on the other hand was trying to bite, pounce, grab, swept his tail, roared and growled.....

The tiger was also using a great amount of strength and energy in

the fight, but since Bi Fan was so agile, he was managing to slip through the tiger's proverbial paws every time he was in a position of crisis, literally.

Bi Fan had been engaged in combat with the tiger for a long time now, and even though he was holding his own, he knew that being able to continue for much longer won't be very good for his sake. Thankfully, soon, the Long Diao emerged out of the cave.

If this fight turned into a death match, then irrespective of the result, the fight would be a dangerous one, for both parties. It might be possible for Bi Fan to beat the tiger but even then, he would suffer severe injuries, a price not worth paying under the circumstances.

Taking such a risk would definitely mean severe injuries, no matter the end result, which was nothing short of suicidal inside the devil's territory.

Bi Fan was tangling with the tiger when he saw the Long Diao coming out of the cave. He felt a wave of relief surge through him as he saw his friend return from the cave safe and sound.

As the tiger pounced at Bi Fan again, Bi Fan quickly got out of the way, and made a run for it, fleeing into the forest.

It was finally time to get out of this fight, a little later might be a little too late.

The Long Diao as smart as ever, was following Bi Fan in full speed, jumping from tree to tree, as he didn't want to risk running on the ground for the fear of the tiger.

The enraged tiger obviously wasn't going to let Bi Fan get away that easily, and he started after Bi Fan.

Bi Fan scuttled his way between trees, making sure that the path he picked was studded with obstacles. After all, this tiger was a fairly fast beast, and it wouldn't be easy to out run him. But then again, Bi Fan was far more agile and on top of that, the tiger's large body made it difficult for him to intertwine his way through such an obstacle-studded path, and soon Bi Fan was out of his fight.

Once he was safely away from the tiger, Bi Fan stopped to catch his breath, and the Long Diao jumped onto his shoulder.

“Greedy, did you find whatever it is that you were looking for?”

“Creek....” The Long Diao responded excitedly. But from the looks of it, it was obvious that Greedy had already eaten it, and Bi Fan still had no idea what this herb was.

Bi Fan wanted to ask more questions, but the Long Diao climbed into his arms and straight away, dozed off.

“Please don't tell me that you're about to evolve?!” Bi Fan said, completely astonished.

After all said and done, if all this leads to the evolution of the Long Diao, then it was all worth it.

“Roar! Roar!....” The tiger roared relentlessly, wildly, and as loudly as he could, making it obvious that the tiger had finally realized that the treasure he was guarding, was now gone.

“Tiger, I’ll come back for you in the end, and by that time, I’ll be strong enough, and I’ll get you then.” Bi Fan said, walking away from this fight, for now.

The devil’s territory was vast and borderless, and moreover, there was no shortage of shelter.

Bi Fan found a place he could rest for the night, and set off early next morning once again.

After entering the devil’s territory, it is vital that the practitioner should go looking for demons to fight in order to improve their strength and skills; otherwise the trip would be fruitless.

Bi Fan hadn’t entered the devil’s territory to simply be eligible to become a disciple; he needed to enhance his strength as quickly as he possibly could.

Under these heavens, strength was the most vital aspect of survival.

If he didn’t have the strength, then the others would continue to

beat him up to the point where he wouldn't even be able to recognize his own image.

As he continued to wander through the forest, he would stop and pick up any valuable herbs that he could get his hands on.

The devil's territory was humongous in size, and even though there were many people inside the region, due to its sheer size, it wasn't easy to come across other humans.

Bi Fan had been in the devil's territory for three more days since, during which he had killed five demons and about a dozen animals but still hadn't run into a single human being.

Bi Fan would spend the days hunting demons and he would rest at night. It was important to give his nerves a little rest as his days inside the devil's territory were hectic and tense due to all the fighting.

These three days had been very tiring for Bi Fan, he had managed to gather a good amount of resources and his strength had also seen a good, strong rise.

Bi Fan was both miserable and happy.

The Long Diao hadn't woken up since, and as a result, Bi Fan felt bored all the time, and so, he spent every waking minute hunting demons.

Just now, Bi Fan was chasing a wild leopard, and he followed the leopard in to a large canyon like valley.

The valley was kilometers wide, with cliffs on either side. The canyon was covered with tall and towering trees, and the trees on top of the cliffs were home to various precious herbs.

The leopard it seemed had nowhere else to run to, and he was too afraid to fight Bi Fan.

Bi Fan stood at the entrance of the ravine for a long time, speechlessly so.

The entrance to the valley was very well hidden, if he hadn't followed the leopard here, he would have never been able to find it himself. In fact, even after finding it this once, he knew that finding it again wouldn't be easy.

The passage that led to the valley was very narrow, and the canyon wasn't visible from the starting point. The channel was slanted slightly downwards, zigzag in nature, and had several side roads; it would take hours to find the right path.

But Bi Fan was here somehow, and he was really amazed at its grandeur.

This great valley was home to some magnificent flowers, birds, and a river stream, it was nothing short of paradise.

As he looked up, he couldn't tell exactly how high the cliffs were, but he could make out that one would need to be at least in the 'emerging from the womb' category to climb up and down such steep cliffs.

But it was highly unlikely that a person in the 'emerging from the womb' category would ever be able to find their way here, which was a very shameful thing considering that they would benefit very greatly from the valuables that this place had to offer.

Generally, the stronger martial artists were sent deeper into the devil's territory, so it was highly unlikely that he would bump into someone from the 'emerging from womb' category here.

As a proof of that, the herbs that were growing on the trees of cliffs were still unpicked.

As Bi Fan realized this obvious fact, he felt a surge of relief.

For the sake of insurance, Bi Fan didn't start picking up the herbs that he could as he wanted to take a look around, to ensure that there was no danger.

He had no idea where the leopard had run off to, but he wanted to kill it, just to ensure that it doesn't sneak up behind him later on.

He walked into the jungle, with his sword in his hand, very careful of any dangers that might await him.

The aura here was far too strong and it was difficult to tell if there was any evil presence like goblins lurking around. If that was the case, Bi Fan would gladly turn around and flee.

Along the way, Bi Fan spotted several precious herbs and Panacea, but he could only recognize a very few of them.

The aroma from some of the herbs was very intoxicating, which was lifting his spirits to some extent, and it felt like his internal energy was vibrating.

Some of these herbs were precious and were necessary ingredients in high grade Dans. However, Bi Fan had no idea exactly how much spar he could get for these precious herbs.

Bi Fan saw a rainbow colored fruit a little distance away and decided to pick it.

This rainbow colored fruit took a century to blossom and then another century to be ripe for picking. Moreover, it was a very important ingredient in a very expensive and divine Dan, which made it extremely valuable.

“Roar!” Bi Fan was still reaching out to pick the fruit when he heard a deafening roar, so loud that he thought that his ear drums would burst, and his mind was shook with fear.

Just listening to its roar, Bi Fan was certain that this demon was

so powerful that he would not be able to fight it.

Bi Fan decided to abandon picking up the fruit and ran straight for the entrance of the valley.

As he dashed for the entrance, Bi Fan picked up a few herbs that he could get his hands on.

He could feel a tremendous force inside this valley, a force so powerful, that just being in its proximity was making it difficult for him to breathe.

Bi Fan couldn't neglect such a presence, and he wouldn't dare going back in. He ran out back into the passage that had led to this valley. He could feel the pressure reduce as he made his way out.

He had no idea what was lurking inside this canyon, but he wouldn't dare to find out either.

Chapter 34 – The Sound Of Thunder

Bi Fan was in a state of shock, the fear of the beast that inhabited the ravine still lingered in his head. Maybe the beast wasn't as strong as he had anticipated, or maybe the it was, who knows, could even be a goblin.

Even though there were many precious herbs and Panacea inside the valley, Bi Fan, for the fear of the monster that lurked the valley, decided to suppress his desire of going back in and continued to walk his way out through the passage.

Bi Fan had an amazing memory; just following the leopard on the way in, was enough for him to memorize the path. But walking out now, he was careful, so he could make sure that he wouldn't forget this route, as it was definitely something that he would want to come back for, later in the future.

There were many extremely rare and expensive herbs and Panacea inside the canyon, and that was something that Bi Fan couldn't ignore. His heart just yearned for the day when he would be strong enough to take on the demon that possessed the valley, and when that time comes, Bi Fan would return to this mysterious valley once again.

Once he had exited the secret passage that had led to the valley, Bi Fan climbed up the tallest tree that he could find, and carefully tried to identify the location, so that he would never forget this place's location.

There were tall and towering trees everywhere, remembering directions in a place like this was a very difficult task, so Bi Fan decided to mark the tree with a seal for reference.

Once Bi Fan was sure that he had memorized the location of this mysterious canyon, he decided to leave. He turned around and looked at the passage one last time; he was still reluctant to leave.

Fortunately, the Long Diao was still asleep, had he seen so many precious herbs, he would have never wanted to leave that place.

He hadn't walked away too far from the entrance of the valley's passage when he saw some humans at a distance.

There were three of them, teenagers, walking carefully through the jungle. They all seemed reasonably strong, and he could tell that they were around the 'inner organs' layer mark.

"I really don't like this place, I don't want to stay here for long, and I'm already missing the beautiful world outside." One of the teenagers, dressed in bright colored clothes muttered.

A sturdier looking teenager stated: "Ling Shao, unless we become disciples, we will never be able to enjoy the company of the beautiful women we all want."

The bright-clothed youngster smiled as said: "Imagine if we could get the rewards that Jiang Sheng has offered for the head of that boy, and all the magical weapons that boy possesses! We

would all be very rich, just imagine the life we could all have then!”

“I know, but it’s so difficult to find people inside the devil’s territory.”

“But as long as we can find him, we should be able to kill him easily.” The sturdy looking youngster replied confidently.

Bi Fan was hiding at a fair distance from those boys, but he could hear what they were talking about clearly enough.

“It appears that Jiang Sheng is desperate for revenge, so much so that, he is even willing to spend money on a reward for my killing.” Bi Fan thought to himself, feeling humbled, moved by emotions.

However, after all the practice that Bi Fan had gotten since entering the devil’s territory, his effective strength was as good as ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer, attributing to his amazing skill set, so he wasn’t really scared of these guys.

Bi Fan knew nothing about these three youngsters, and he didn’t feel like making any more enemies for no good reason, so he decided to let them go.

But maybe the heavens above disagreed with him, and suddenly a black, bucket-thick python snaked up behind Bi Fan. A python that size could be a very difficult enemy to deal with.

Bi Fan had taken a Sunset Jade pellet some time ago, which should still be giving him protection, but he decided to not take any chances, and popped in another one.

In addition to being extremely strong, a python has another very powerful weapon in its arsenal, poison.

The minute Bi Fan saw that big bad python, he knew that it was no longer possible to hide anymore; he quickly got out of his hiding spot and made a dash, in an attempt to get away from the viper.

He wasn't very far away from the three youngsters and they heard the commotion he had just made. As soon as they heard the sounds, they ran in to check out the situation.

When they saw the python, they instantaneously decided to flee as well.

“Look, isn't that the same guy that Jiang Sheng wanted dead?” The sturdy looking teenager exclaimed loudly.

“Yeah, he looks exactly like the boy in the picture!” The bright-clothed boy agreed, surprised.

“Ling Shao, what do we do now?” The sturdy looking teenager asked the bright-clothed boy. It seemed that the other two youngsters were relying on the leadership of this one.

The leader's eyes were fleeting, fists and teeth clenched and he seemed to be making up his mind about the course of their action and eventually said: "Let's follow the python around, sneakily. That way we can collect the valuables from its victims."

"Ling Shao, you have one amazing brain my friend, what a wonderful idea you have just come up with." The third and somewhat plump boy praised his comrade.

The three of them hid in the under bushes nearby and silently watched as the python caught up with the escaping Bi Fan, and the fight ensued.

The python was indeed a formidable creature, he was using his thick and powerful tail in a sweeping motion to attack Bi Fan, his strike was so powerful that it was uprooting all the bushes and shrubs in its path. Not something Bi Fan seemed very happy about.

Moreover, the python had an extremely rough and strong skin, Bi Fan tried to defend the strikes with his sword, but his light-ray sword didn't seem to be doing anything to the snake's skin. It appeared that the best Bi Fan's weapon could do was scratch the viper, and would by no means, cause any serious harm.

Bi Fan was being forced to retreat, constantly. He was defending with all his might, using 'Fufeng double-edged sword' technique to his best ability.

In fact, Bi Fan was so focused on the fight, that he forgot all about

the three youngsters from earlier and had no idea that the three of them were watching him.

“Bang!” All of a sudden, the python’s sweeping tail hit Bi Fan.

Bi Fan went flying into the air and blood splashed out of his the spot where the tail had struck him.

The minute he hit the floor, Bi Fan quickly mustered his strength and rolled over, picked himself up and tried to make another attempt to flee, this time, in the direction where the three teenagers were hiding.

“Don’t tell me, does he know that we are hiding here? Is he trying to lead the python to us?” The bright-clothed boy frowned.

“No way, just look at him, he seems to have sustained some serious injuries, he is definitely panicking and making a run to save his life, that’s all.” The sturdy looking boy reasoned.

“I hope you are right!” The boy replied: “Thankfully he is injured now; otherwise he would have been a handful to deal with.”

The moment the python saw Bi Fan escaping, he started after Bi Fan, not ready to let go of his prey so easily.

The trio could no longer conceal themselves at their present hiding spot and quickly taking advantage of the diversion, stormed out of their hiding spot and attacked the snake’s body.

In actuality, the three of them wanted to kill Bi Fan first, but since, Bi Fan was running in a random, haphazard fashion, they ended up attacking the python first.

The teamwork of these three was quite exquisite, their blows, very powerful. But even then, they couldn't inflict any fatal injuries to the python but still at least managed to gash the python's belly.

“HMMPPHHH” The python violently swept his tail again, uprooting every spec of flora that obstructed its path.

The chubby boy wasn't quick enough to get out of the way and unfortunately took the hit.

He flew into the air, hit a tree and fell to the ground.

It appeared that he might not be able to fight any further, which meant that it was just the two other boys against this lethal viper now.

“Fatty!” The sturdy looking youngster called after his friend.

The bright-clothed boy's face showed no emotions what so ever, his eyes were fixed on the python, his heart cold, but not his feet.

This python was in the 'brave' layer, at least. This meant that he

was going to be extremely difficult to deal with.

The fat teenager had injured himself rather seriously, which meant that the pressure on his two standing comrades was much higher now, and the odds were stacked against their favor.

Bi Fan had managed to find himself a hiding spot and was now watching the fight from a distance, having injured himself in the action.

His heart was yearning to find out who wins the battle that was enraging in front of his eyes.

The python suddenly emitted a gas, which was poisonous in nature. The two youngsters quickly popped a purifier each and retreated to get themselves out of the cloud of this poisonous smoke.

The python's thick and brutal tail continued to sweep left and right, splitting and smashing everything in its path.

The two youngsters were finding it hard to breathe and were being forced to constantly retreat.

The bright-clothed youngster looked furious, he gnashed his teeth and shouted: "Go to hell!"

Just then, he threw a small, dark spherical object, only as big as thumb in dimension, at the snake and quickly retreated.

“Fall Back!”

The sturdy looking youngster really didn't need to fall back this time, but it seemed that he was sensing that something terrible was about to happen.

The chubby one was injured and immobile, his facial expression depicted a shade of helplessness.

Bi Fan had no idea what this small, dark object was, but seeing the others retreat, he too quickly moved further away from the fight.

“Boom!” A loud noise erupted from the scene.

An enormous explosion detonated, which reached as high as the trees. The force of the explosion was such that, the two youngsters, who were retreating, were thrown away.

The chubby youngster was much worse off, several shards found their way to him and were buried into his body, injuring him further and reducing his chances of survival.

Bi Fan was at a fair distance from the fight, so he wasn't thrown away but its force, but his ears were buzzing from the sound of the explosion, and he could barely hear anything apart from the ringing sound from the side effects of the explosion.

“That was.... Was that?! The five sounds of thunder!” Bi Fan looked on, in a state of absolute horror.

The five sounds of thunder was weapon that was synthesized by some of the martial art schools, and even though it didn't carry the strength of an actual person, it's effect was devastating, like that of a bomb.

The strength and effect of the five sounds of thunder was almost the same as that of the strike of an 'enormous strength' layer martial artist.

Bi Fan had heard about this devastating weapon from Jing Feng, but now, he had seen its effect first hand.

The python was at the center of the explosion and it was very highly improbable that he survived it. The smoke and dust from the explosion hadn't cleared out yet, so it was difficult to make out the actual situation.

“Auhh...” The bright-clothed and the sturdy teenagers pulled themselves to their feet.

The sturdy teenager looked at the other one and said: “You used the five sounds of thunder... that was our only insurance. It's a very expensive weapon and costed a lot of money....”

“As long as we can get the rewards from killing that boy that Jiang Sheng wants dead or get a crystal nucleus from this python's

dead body, we should be able to recover our losses and then some.” The bright-clothed teenager replied.

The Sturdy teenager said: “I don’t know what happened to chubby; he had already been injured pretty severely, not sure if he survived that one.”

The two of them were so excited at the moment, that they didn’t seem to care at the very least for their companion. They didn’t seem much bothered with him and it appeared that they were considering him extra baggage at present, irrespective of him being dead or alive.

Soon enough, the dust settled down a bit, and the center of the explosion was faintly visible.

The python was dead; his dead body was surrounded with flesh and blood. At the center of his carcass was a shiny crystal, just lying there in all the blood.

“The python is dead and still there is a crystal nucleus!” The bright-clothed youngster exclaimed.

The two of them were completely unaware that Bi Fan was following them, as they sprang towards the pit to collect their reward from the battle.

Crystal nuclei were very precious. The python had been fighting for some time now, but that didn’t exhaust his nucleus, for it was

filled with aura. While they had managed to obtain a nucleus, they had still used up the five sounds of thunder, but still on the whole, they stood to make a small fortune in the end.

The bright-colored teenager was preparing to go into the pit to pick up the crystal personally.

Bi Fan suddenly saw his opportunity, jumped up from behind them and into the pit and took the crystal away, right from under their nose.

“Boy, you dare snatch our crystal! You’re dead!” The sturdy youngster announced his judgement in fury.

Bi Fan grinned slyly: “Well, even if I hadn’t taken your crystal, would you have not tried to kill me for the bounty on my head?”

“Since you already know, go die in hell!” The bright-clothed boy whooshed in Bi Fan’s direction, his sword ready to stab Bi Fan.

His companion acted harmoniously and attacked Bi Fan from the other side, cutting him off and forcing him to retreat.

Bi Fan dodged, and dodged again, and then with his sword in his hand, charged for his bright-clothed opponent.

‘Rainy-fly sword!’

He cast out his most powerful sword attack, and with all his strength.

Before Bi Fan had snatched the crystal, he had already made up his mind about killing the witnesses.

In the preceding fight with the python, the bright-clothed boy had used up more than half of his energy, and on top of that, he had sustained some minor injuries when their bomb detonated.

He tried to draw his sword to block Bi Fan's incoming attack, but he was half a beat slower in response.

The light-ray sword slipped past his block and went smoothly into his throat. The youngster's mouth was open; his angry eyes stared at his killer, full of regret.

"Ling Shao!" The sturdy teenager shouted: "You're alright, just pretend that everything is okay, you will lead us out of here and we will be rich soon!"

"Yes, well, it's a little too late now." Bi Fan smiled.

The immortal finger! Prancing tiger!

With two quick and consecutive attacks, Bi Fan stormed violently for his remaining opponent.

The sturdy teenager went into a shock, as he realized that he was too slow to avoid Bi Fan's strikes. The immortal finger pierced straight through his chest, poking a bloody hole in it, and scarlet colored blood drained out his body.

Then, Bi Fan's fist followed in to the hole made by the immortal finger, making the hole even bigger and killing the last standing man of the trio.

Bi Fan lightning fast attacking had ended this fight in the blink of an eye.

Amongst these three teenagers, only the bright-clothed boy had a Yin Yang pouch. Bi Fan quickly collected everything that was of use and decided to go elsewhere before looking into his rewards.

Bi Fan tossed the bodies of the three youngsters into the pit and covered their remains with some dirt, in the hope of concealing them from the wild animals, for he didn't want them feeding on their bodies.

He wasn't being compassionate, but nonetheless, his morality didn't allow him to leave their bodies for the wild animals to feed on.

After collecting everything, Bi Fan quickly left the scene.

So much noise was very likely to attract other people and various demons to this location, and Bi Fan needed to recover his strength.

Just because the fighting had ended quickly didn't mean that he hadn't consumed any energy.

While leveling the trio to the ground and previously fighting the python, Bi Fan had spent a good amount of energy and had also sustained some minor injuries, so it was very important for him to recover and restore his body state to normal.

There was a constant threat to life inside the devil's territory, whether from humans or demons, so it was very important to keep yourself fit and ready for a fight at all times, if one wished to survive this place.

Bi Fan quickly disappeared into the jungle, searching for hiding place so he could practice and revive.

Chapter 35 – The Fierce Ape

Bi Fan had barely left the scene and soon after, five humans arrived at the scene of the explosion.

These five humans were covered with dust. It seemed that these people were trying very hard to camouflage themselves according to their environment, probably not having the courage of fighting their way out of the devil's territory.

“Well, there is snake skin here and dead bodies of humans as well. It appears that the snake was killed by the explosion and one of the humans too, looks like he was killed in the explosion. However, the other two humans seemed to have been killed by a human only. It could be that there was a crystal nucleus within this python's body and the people responsible for its death started fighting over it, amongst themselves.”

One of the human, a rather handsome one, was checking the perimeter of the explosion and analyzing the situation.

Another man, a slightly older one added: “Your analysis sounds fairly correct, but there is another possibility. Maybe there were two different groups involved here, and one of the two could have left alive, and certainly with a solid reward.”

If Bi Fan had overheard their analysis, then he would have definitely been very impressed.

By just looking at the scene, these people were able to identify

exactly what had happened, so it was rather obvious that these men weren't amateurs, in fact, it would be fair to assume that these men were very experienced.

“Let's not waste our time analyzing this; Jiang Sheng was insulted by somebody. We must find the boy responsible and kill him, Jiang Wen has personally requested it, we cannot return empty handed.”

The speaker was wearing a jade colored hat, and had a very fair complexion. He was also a disciple of the 'rising sun' school. His name was Gu Yu and was the leader of this group.

“Gu Yu, are we going to let go of this opportunity? There could be a very serious reward if we track these people down!” The handsome looking man insisted.

“No, the 'rising sun' has rolled out this order to every disciple in their network, so we need to find and kill that boy.” Gu Yu shook his head: “Jiang Sheng has a lot of influence in the school and this is a big thing, a lot of our superiors are eagerly waiting to see what happens next and we must make sure that we succeed at this task.”

....

Bi Fan on the other hand, had finished his recovery and had set out on a new journey, completely unaware of the fact that the

'rising sun' school had asked its huge network to find and kill him. Traps were being laid down for him and his life was in more danger than it had ever been.

Bi Fan had been keeping a watch on an ape, this ape was around the 'brave' layer, and Bi Fan hadn't attacked him yet.

This ape was almost thirty feet in height, was mighty in stature, and his body was visibly as strong as iron itself. He was extremely violent in nature and wasn't going to be easy to deal with.

He had been watching this ape for some time now and as soon as he saw an opening, he took his chance and tried to advantage of the situation.

This time, Bi Fan decided that he's not going to use his sword, keeping in mind the physicality of the ape's skin. Using his light-ray sword on such a tough skin wouldn't yield much benefit, so he decided to practice his boxing skills against this one.

Wan Zu boxing.

Bi Fan attacked the ape with his best boxing combinations.

Even though Wan Zu boxing was only an entry level technique, but at Bi Fan's level of expertise and strength, it would still prove out to be a very powerful weapon.

"Boom!" He landed a punch. The ape's towering body remained

fixed in its place, Bi Fan's on the contrary shook, and he fell back a few steps before he could stabilize himself again.

“Amazing power and strength!” Bi Fan patronized his opponent in a gloomy undertone and charged at the ape again.

The ape snarled loudly and swept his forearms to catch Bi Fan.

Bi Fan with aid of his mystical footwork managed to get out of the way, side stepped the ape and readied to attack the ape again.

He was considering this ape to be a punching bag and was using him to practice his boxing.

The ape had a very strong body but his strong and mighty body wasn't as flexible or fast as Bi Fan's, and he was failing to catch Bi Fan, repeatedly.

Bi Fan was fighting with more and more vigor. He even started using techniques like 'prancing tiger' and 'the immortal finger', but even then, it appeared that he saw causing no harm to the ape.

Soon, he could feel that he had used up almost half of his energy, so he decided to immediately escape.

The ape chased him for a while, but since he figured that there is no point chasing such a quick target, he decided to give up.

Bi Fan found a place where he could safely restore his energy, and recover his strength.

Soon, after he was done, he decided to go out again. A thought came into his head, that fighting is the best way to increase strength and practicing his boxing has always given the best results.

“I should go after the ape again, such an amazing ‘sandbag’ is very difficult to find.”

Bi Fan went out searching for the ape again, and found him sleeping in his nest.

Bi Fan suddenly sprung up. This woke up the ape, and as soon as he saw Bi Fan, his eyes suddenly changed colors and were now, red with fury.

“Boom!” The ape hit out again. He was aiming for Bi Fan, who got out of the way, so he only managed to break off a part of the tree that stood next to him.

“Wow, what amazing strength. I wish I could kill him and peel off his amazing skin.” Bi Fan secretly smacked his lips with greed.

This time, Bi Fan was fighting even more violently and the battle was becoming increasingly fierce by every passing minute.

His attacks landed on the ape’s body like rain drops, but even

then were unable to do any harm to him. On the other hand, the ape's temper was becoming more and more explosive.

But Bi Fan didn't care even the slightest bit; he had found himself an excellent punching bag. It was time for some serious practice.

The idea was to learn and practice, Bi Fan was learning a lot about using his boxing skills against a taller opponent. He even tried 'prancing tiger' boxing technique later.

'The immortal finger' had also seen some improvement; his attacks were more powerful now.

Bi Fan was employing every technique he knew, and every move he had was becoming more and more powerful, thanks to his new punching bag.

However, 'the immortal finger' used up a lot of energy, so Bi Fan was using it very judiciously.

If only Bi Fan ever managed to reach the magical powers category, then he would be able to use the 'the immortal finger' at will, and the power, impossible to even imagine for him right now.

Not only that, Bi Fan was paying special attention to his 'dance of mist' foot work and was learning a lot, perhaps at this rate, it wouldn't be very long before he would be able to practice other, more sophisticated moves.

This was a rare encounter, and this ape was so beneficial for Bi Fan, and he naturally didn't want to miss this opportunity and was ready to maximize the benefits.

The ape was extremely strong and his body was almost invincible, to an opponent like Bi Fan. But then again, he was too slow compared to Bi Fan, and Bi Fan was easily able to toy around with him.

The ape's eyes were purple with rage; he was beginning to realize that he was destined to become a punching bag for Bi Fan.

Perhaps one day, if Bi Fan became really strong and managed to make a big name for himself, he would tell people about this ape, his 'punching bag' and maybe, it would make for a very funny and popular tale.

For five consecutive days, Bi Fan made the ape drain his strength as he trained on him.

In these five days, Bi Fan's physical strength had increased to almost three Yun Shi (stones used to measure strength). His inner energy had also seen a massive increase, and at full capacity was around five Yun Shi, which meant that at the combined strength of eight Yun Shi, Bi Fan had nearly reached the 'spiritual intelligence' layer.

This wasn't the only good news, due to the increase in strength; Bi Fan would now be able to practice the second technique of the 'prancing tiger'. 'The immortal finger' was even more devastating

than ever before, and at this rate, soon, Bi Fan would be able to practice some of the more complicated steps from the 'dance of mist'.

“Thank you my friend. Now, I'd like to say good bye to you.” Bi said as he walked away.

As the ape realized that Bi Fan was finally leaving, and hopefully not returning, the ape shouted out, venting his frustration while his eyes indicated a hint of joy.

Bi Fan had tortured the poor soul to such an extent that he had wondered if Bi Fan would ever leave him alone.

The devil's territory was a place to practice and gain experience, and Bi Fan wasn't willing to leave without some.

In these five days of battling the ape, Bi Fan had already gained enough strength to kill the ape, but decided not to, just for the sake of it, so he could practice more.

Bi Fan's whims were as transient as the clouds.

The Yin Yang pouch that he had procured from the three teenagers had proven to be more valuable than expected. Not only had he gained the nuclei which he had stolen from their kill, their bag also contained a dark, spherical capsule-ish object.

He hadn't expected their pouch to contain another one of those

formidable bombs, but then he remembered the look in the eyes of their leader, as he killed the boy, regret, probably from not being able to use the weapon against Bi Fan as well.

Having personally experienced the might of the five sounds of thunder, Bi Fan was sure that it could have easily killed him.

Bi Fan hid the bomb in his inventory; this one could prove out to be a lifesaving entity, an insurance policy.

Bi Fan was much faster now, and accompanied by the massive increase in strength, he felt that he was almost flying.

As he felt his majestic strength rush throughout his body, he roared. He was now on the lookout for his next target.

While the demons and animals were difficult to deal with, humans were still better for practice, as they often had very unique sets of skills which, was always good for gaining more experience.

Suddenly, Bi Fan heard sounds of fighting coming from up ahead, amongst these were screams of humans as well, there was definitely a fierce battle taking place somewhere nearby.

Without the slightest hesitation, Bi Fan quickened up his pace and disappeared into the forest that lay ahead of him, looking for more trouble.

There was a river, and this gurgling stream had wide open

stretches of land on both its banks.

On one side, there was a bonfire that looked like it was semi extinguished. This was definitely being used to roast meat for meals, but the items on the grill seemed burnt.

It appeared that a bunch of humans were probably having a little picnic party along the river and were most likely attacked by wild animals. Everything smelt of a skirmish.

Bi Fan kept looking around and finally saw it.

A little further in the clearing, six humans were huddled together in a circle and were surrounded by about twelve bears. Three of these bears were in the 'inner organs' layer whereas their leader was in the 'brave' layer.

Out of the six humans, one was around the 'brave' layer whereas all the others were around the 'inner organs' layer, which made this team a very strong one, but unfortunately for them, their opponents were even stronger.

Bears are gifted with skins as strong as apes and on top of that, their bodies are a lot more agile in comparison.

The fight seemed to have just started, so neither side had seen any casualties so far.

Bi Fan climbed up a tree so he could get a complete view of the

battlefield.

The six humans were fighting in a style which he was very familiar with. It didn't take him long to realize that these humans were from 'the rising sun' school.

"They are probably looking for me!" Bi Fan thanked his fortunes, seeing the plight of his enemies.

An evil smirk widened his face as he formulated a plan of action.

Out of the six, five were Gu Yu and his party, and seemed to have been joined by another member.

Gu Yu was the strongest of them, with his strength in the 'brave' layer, but he wasn't just strong, he was also a very wise man, and thus was leading this party.

The bears had ambushed these disciples in an organized manner, and if it wasn't for the capable command of Gu Yu, the six of them would already be dead.

If the six of them would have scattered and fled, they would have most certainly been dead by now, their best chance was to gather their strength and make a stand, even if they were marginally weaker or at a disadvantage.

Gu Yu and his party were not as strong as the bears, but they weren't very far behind either. Gu Yu had already sent a signal, a

special signal that only ‘rising sun’ disciples used, asking for urgent help. So, if these guys were able to hold their own for some time then they might be able to survive if their reinforcements arrived on time.

In order to kill Bi Fan, many of the ‘rising sun’ disciples had entered the devil’s territory, and many of them might be willing to extend a helping hand to Gu Yu and his comrades in this hour of need.

“Brothers, hold on, our reinforcements will be arriving soon.” Gu Yu shouted, in an attempt to raise the morale of his comrades.

The bears were very well organized, and were good at combat. They advanced and retreated in unionized fashion, defended each other, and were suppressing their opponents with ease, leaving them no room to breathe.

Moreover, considering that they were being led by a beast that was in the ‘brave’ layer, made matters even more difficult for the youngsters, as even Gu Yu wouldn’t dare go head-on against them as he would be at a disadvantaged position.

Bi Fan was relishing this opportunity, Gu Yu was fairly strong and the others were almost as strong as Jiang Sheng.

He was getting an excellent chance to understand and memorize their fighting style.

Once he had understood their fighting style, it would be a lot easier to deal with them later on.

“Ah!” one of the ‘rising sun’ disciples managed to stab a bear with his sword and another bear quickly slapped him on the arm.

With his arm injured and bloodied, the disciple wouldn’t be able to fight for till be bandaged himself.

Gu Yu was quick to respond, and promptly put the boy in the middle of their circle to protect him. But with only five members of the crew fighting against the bears, their odds of winning were even lesser.

“We do not aim for a kill, because if we get them, they also get us. So we don’t hurt them, because we can’t afford any more injuries. If one more person gets injured, we might not be able to stand up to them.” Gu Yu ordered his men.

These bears were very intelligent, especially their leader, none of them were trying to fight Gu Yu, and were concentrating their efforts on the other four.

The leader of this bear pack was so strong, that only Gu Yu could hope to contend against him, the other stood no chance whatsoever.

The leader of the bears attacked in full force, leaving Gu Yu no option but to face him, and the formation of the humans suddenly

became very chaotic.

The other bears quickly seized the opportunity and launched a fierce attack at the other, leaving the others in a state of complete panic and desperation.

Fortunately, they weren't very weak either, and were strong enough to hold their own, considering that most of them weren't injured very seriously. In fact, even if they lost a couple of men, they were all still good enough to continue fighting for a while.

“Follow me, we need to make our way to that big rock over there.”

Gu Yu, even in such a desperate state had the vision to form a plan, impressive.

The other five, fighting the bears cautiously to avoid any injuries, started making their way to the rock by the river.

Gu Yu's intentions were intercepted by the head bear, and he increased the intensity of his attacks.

Gu Yu applied one trick after another, and managed to zig zag his way through the battle field and found his way to the front of the boulder and re united with his fellow disciples.

Backs against the boulder, Gu Yu seemed relieved, after all, now he only had to deal with attacks from three sides, not four.

They had just started to relax a bit, when the bears launched a ballistic attack, in full force, backed by their powerful bodies, not something that Gu Yu and his men had foreseen.

The impact of the attack caused a rush in the ranks of Gu Yu and his men, as they suddenly realized that they were at a greater disadvantage now.

Now, they had nowhere to run, no place to fall back to, and would now be forced to deal with the bears head on.

After all said and done, the physical prowess of a human's body was no match for that of a bear's.

Chapter 36 – Common Enemy

Impacts from the attacks of the bears was very heavy but, fortunately for the group, Gu Yu was standing between them and the chief bear, and it was evident that he could stand a while longer without much trouble.

“We need to stand tough; help from our school will be arriving soon.” Gu Yu encouraged loudly, raising everyone’s morale.

Gu Yu stood facing the ‘brave’ layer bear directly, and was facing the impact of his attacks, his teeth were clenched, but he couldn’t afford to reflect his adversity in his actions much, as it would sink the morale of his team to the bottom, in which case, casualties would be inevitable.

Bi Fan, who was sitting and watching from a tree at a distance, could understand this very clearly. Meanwhile, his face wore a cold smile.

Since ‘the rising sun’ school had made his life so difficult, he wasn’t afraid to strike back.

He was a lot stronger now and had almost reached the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer. Using that strength, he leveraged himself down to the ground and gently ducked behind a boulder.

The bear and Gu Yu’s group were both engaged in a fierce battle so no one paid any attention to the quietly approaching Bi Fan.

As he reached closer to the battle field, Bi Fan snuck behind a boulder. He was almost ready to execute his plan. He picked up a handful of pebbles, as the smile on his face became even wider.

Bi Fan chose the man standing next to Gu Yu as the first target, and raised his finger as he threw a pebble into the air.

He used 'the immortal finger' to direct the stone at his intended target, with an astonishing force, the diseased stone hit its target and a piercing scream resonated in the battle field.

"Quickly, get down!" Gu Yu was really strong and was fighting with everything he had, but even then he was able to spot that shooting stone.

He wanted to pull his companion aside, and out of that shooting stone's path, but he reacted a little too late.

"AAHHHH!" Gu Yu's companion screeched a blood-curling scream.

The boy's arms were still hanging by his side when he hit the ground. A hole had been poked into his arm, right at the spot where the stone had pierced his body, and blood gushed out.

"What humans? Even a human is helping these bears against us?!" Gu Yu was furious.

He tried to estimate the origin of the stone based on the orientation of his comrade's body. His eyes searched around in vain as he failed to find this new opponent.

Bi Fan, who was hiding behind a rock, laughed as he ignored Gu Yu's predicament.

This wasn't a time for morality or righteousness, if Bi Fan hadn't found a way to deal with these 'rising sun' disciples, then they would have come looking for him sooner or later. So this was more like a pre-emptive measure to sort his troubles a little early.

Gu Yu and his delegation seemed to have almost lost this fight now, as the odds were far too unfavorable for them.

Moreover, Bi Fan had also succeeded in distracting their attention from the bears that were in front of them, as they were trying to keep an eye out for any more surprise attacks.

The bears read this situation and reacted very intelligently, and they suddenly launched a wave of ferocious attacks, taking advantage of the situation.

Gu Yu's companions were sustaining injuries in quick succession, but were somehow still standing tough. Gu Yu, in comparison, was slightly better off.

"We must stand tough; reinforcements will be here any time now." Gu Yu hadn't given up yet and tried to raise the morale

verbally.

“Don’t mess with me, otherwise, I swear you devil, I will make sure that you pay for these sins later. Believe me; you will curse your fate.”

Bi Fan ducked out of his hiding spot again, popped a few stone into the air, this time four of them and shot them at the people who were engaged in combat.

“Smack!” Gu Yu’s reacted sharply as the tip of his sword stabbed the stone, breaking it into pieces.

The other reacted much slower, and the stones hit their targets.

Bi Fan didn’t manage to kill anyone this time around, but did enough to slow them down further, leveraging the fight against their favors even further.

The bears seemed convinced that they would be able to shred the humans in front of them to pieces with ease, as they roared for victory and charged for their preys.

The look on Gu Yu’s face changed drastically, almost as if he was ready to abandon his companion, like he was ready to make a run for it.

“You want to leave? Well, not so easily.” Bi Fan grinned slyly.

With his finger ready to cause chaos, he started lashing out bullets of stones at Gu Yu, making it even more difficult for him to escape, as he stood there, surrounded by bears.

His companions, were even worse off, they quickly got divided and disbanded and were basically standing corpses now.

The bears would show them no compassion, for humans were just another source of food to them.

They quickly killed the others, leaving Gu Yu alone, standing in the middle of the entire bear squad.

“You evil, attacking me sneakily! Show yourself to me and I swear that I’ll cut you to pieces!” Gu Yu roared, his eyes red with rage.

Bi Fan curled his lips, but didn’t speak up. Anyway, Gu Yu was already as good as dead, so why should he bother wasting the skillfulness of his tongue.

His hands were itching to see if the bears were treating Gu Yu properly or not.

“Boom! Ah!...” there was a sound of a violent collision, which was followed by muffled screams from time to time for a little while.

It took a while before the sounds from major movements stopped, leaving only the sounds of bones being crushed by the bears.

Bi Fan snuck out to take a look; Gu Yu's dismembered corpse was being devoured by the bears as they tore his body to pieces.

Gu Yu was already dead, so Bi Fan took some steps back and went towards the forest, but he didn't go too far, he found a tree close by and climbed up, as he waited for the bears to leave.

Gu Yu and his companions were fairly strong, which means that they might be carrying some very valuable items with them. And once the bears were gone, Bi Fan could go back and collect the spills of the war.

A while later, once the bears were done eating all they wanted to, and had grabbed the left overs between their teeth, they left the scene.

As soon as the bear were out of sight, Bi Fan leapt off the tree and onto the ground underneath it.

The ground of the battlefield was stained with blood and human flesh, a terribly frightful sight.

Bi Fan held back his vomit as he bent over and seized the weapons from the ground, he collected all the spar that he could find and even picked up a Yin Yang pouch that was still intact and

not bloodied.

He was putting his loot away when he heard the sounds of chatter coming from nearby and realized that the source was coming closer.

“Is that the reinforcements from ‘the rising sun’ school?” Bi Fan quickly made a move and hid himself in the bushes nearby.

Soon, three young men appeared along the borders of the clearing.

“Gu Yu and the others should have been here? What happened, why aren’t they here?”

“Let’s look down by the river, Gu Yu and his company was very strong, very highly unlikely that something went wrong with them.”

As he overheard their conversation, Bi Fan was sure that these people were ‘rising sun’ students.

“Come on, there are signs of a fight over there, and also there seems to be a lot of blood.”

The three youngsters quickly made their way to the boulder where the final fight had taken place. As they looked at the bloodstained scene, the look on their faces changed very drastically.

“It seems that Gu Yu and his company ran into some serious trouble here. It appears that they were all killed by bears and then, were eaten.”

“Look, based on this path of blood trail, it seems that the bears dragged the remains of their bodies in that direction. The blood hasn’t dried out yet, which means that the bears would not have gone too far, should we follow them?”

“No let’s not, even a party as strong as Gu Yu’s couldn’t stand up to these bears, then we too might suffer the same fate.”

“No, ah what? Their weapons are gone as well, and even their money, all of it! How could that be?”

The three teenagers looked around for a bit but didn’t find anything valuable, and their faces were now frowning.

The bears would not have any use for weapons, so they obviously wouldn’t take them. It was apparent to them that a human had arrived at the scene before them and had taken away all of their possessions, including their weapons and money.

“Let’s look around, whoever picked up their possessions, could not have gone too far. Gu Yu’s sword was a top grade weapon, we cannot let that fall into the hands of any other school.”

These three youngsters were extremely smart, even with all the

blood around, they could still spot the footprints of the thief and realized that he had gotten away.

As soon as he realized that they would try to pursue him, Bi Fan quickly left the scene.

These three would have to soon go back, and it was important that they reported back to their superior in time, for they would tell the 'rising sun' school that Gu Yu and his friends were killed by bears.

Bi Fan at this point didn't want to take the initiative to complicate matters even further. However, if someone tried to attack him, he would fight back, and his counter attack would be fatal.

But these three teenagers had a very important role, so he didn't want to provoke any trouble with them, because he needed them to go back and explain that Gu Yu and his friends, fell prey to a group of wild animals.

The three teenagers looked around for a long time, but they couldn't find anything substantial, so they had no choice but to leave.

They had no interest in avenging Gu Yu and his friends, all they wanted was their weapons and their money.

Bi Fan found a quiet place to sit, so he could take a look at the

loot. Actually, he didn't really care about the weapons or the money, his main interest was in the Yin Yang pouch.

This Yin Yang pouch should have belonged to Gu Yu as only good students had enough resources to buy them. Bi Fan opened the pouch, and he found a lump containing almost three hundred spars in it, along with some other items. Apart from that, there were three low grade weapons and two books.

Bi Fan was only interested in the books, so he took them out to take a look at them. One of the books was about the secret techniques of cultivation of inner energy at the 'rising sun' school and the other one spoke of the 'rising sun' double-edged sword fighting methods.

Both of these books spoke of techniques that were usually imparted to medium level students, which meant that they would be impossible to procure using any other methods. The 'rising sun' double-edged sword fighting technique was almost at par with 'Fufeng double-edged sword' technique.

Bi Fan didn't want to practice the methods taught in these two books, but wanted to learn them anyway, as they would increase his knowledge and improve his skills.

The problem with using these two techniques was obvious. If the 'rising sun' school ever found out that he knew their secret methods, then he would be in a lot of trouble.

However, if he managed to mix their style up a bit and merge it

into 'Fufeng double-edged sword' technique, then nobody would be able to make out the connection. Bi Fan put everything away, and got up, feeling pleased with himself.

Bi Fan knew that 'rising sun' students were looking for him, searching his trail, lured by the reward that was offered for his death, but he wasn't worried about it.

With the increase in his strength, his confidence in his ability had also seen a massive rise.

Moreover, most of the people who had entered the devil's territory in his search were obviously not very strong. This was rather obvious to him, as no serious martial artist would come looking for him in the devil's territory for only a thousand spar, which was the bounty on his head.

Feeling no pressure from the 'rising sun' students on his trail, he continued to venture deeper into the devil's territory in the hope of finding a suitable demon to train on.

Now-a-days, even 'brave' layer demons weren't capable of putting much pressure on him, so he needed to find a 'spiritual intelligence' layer demon for his training and to refine his strength and skills.

In this part of the devil's territory, only a very few demon were as strong as the 'spiritual intelligence' layer, and in most encounters, the people who met with them, ran away for the fear of death.

Bi Fan had been looking for one of those for a while now, but he still hadn't found a demon as strong as the 'spiritual intelligence' layer yet. He was confident that he could even try and take on five or six of them at once, without much effort. So obviously, the 'brave' layer demons posed no threat to him whatsoever.

Bi Fan was getting stronger with every passing day, making rapid progress in his strength and skill alike, which meant, that his martial art was improving greatly.

At this moment, Bi Fan had been inside the devil's territory for almost two weeks now, and his strength had almost doubled up since his entry.

His physical strength had gone up to four Yun Shi, owing to the first method that he had learnt from that battered jade book.

His body's inner energy was soaring even higher, and had reached almost six Yun Shi, which meant that, a total of ten Yun Shi, put him at the peak of 'Spiritual intelligence' layer.

A while ago, when Bi Fan was at the peak of the 'inner breath' layer, he was already good enough to go shoulder to shoulder with his peers, and was commended for his excellence; imagine what it would be like now.

He had been feeling the effects of his practice from the methods mentioned in the jade book, but unfortunately for him, the book was incomplete.

“‘Spiritual intelligence’ demon, please show yourself quickly, I can’t wait anymore!” Bi Fan’s heart yearned in prayer.

His strength was on the verge of breaking through to the next layer, so he needed to practice harder. He needed to make this breakthrough, so he could practice the ‘immortal finger’ to its maximum potential.

Bi Fan preferred fighting his way through to the next layer in comparison to using Dan pellets to make the breakthrough, as it helped build a stronger foundation for the next layer.

As he was thinking of all these things, he heard the humbling roar of a beast at a distance.

He didn’t know what kind of a beast had made that sound, but he knew that this kind of a roar would have scared him a while ago, which meant that the beast was obviously a very strong one.

Bi Fan, extremely excited, rushed towards the direction of the sound.

“Finally, I have found a beast strong enough!”

Chapter 37 – The Nefarious Chimera

He ran as fast as he could, as he was afraid that the demon might wander away and he'd miss his chance.

Suddenly, he felt arms moving around his chest, like those of a little guy. The Long Diao was finally awake.

Bi Fan was a lot more worried about Greedy's wellbeing, when compared to finding a suitable demon to train on.

Bi Fan held up the Long Diao and looked at him carefully, almost as if studying him. He found very little change in his friend, his head was still very small, only his white hair had become even whiter, almost to the point where they seemed to be glistening and his eyes, his big bright eyes, looked even more quick-witted now.

“Greedy, are you hungry? Here, take this, eat up.” Bi Fan took out two herbs from the Tian Yuan ring and gave them to the Diao (I finally figured, its English equivalent, A Marten).

The Marten took the two herbs in his hands and gobbled them up quickly. Even after eating his regular meal, he was looking at Bi Fan pitifully, like he was trying to say that he hadn't had enough yet.

“Greedy, I never thought that after your evolution, you would become even greedier. Ah” Bi Fan said, laughing meanwhile.

The Marten ate up two more herbs before looking satisfied and then, even managed a burp or two.

“Greedy, if you keep eating like this, one day, I’ll go bankrupt feeding you.” Bi Fan laughed as he patted his pet’s head.

“Creek....” The Marten creaked, expressing dissatisfaction, as if he was saying ‘I don’t eat that much’.

The Marten looked so adorable, that Bi Fan couldn’t help a smile: “Greedy, you need to find a place to hide, I’ve located a very powerful demon and I’m on my way to fight it now.”

Another huge roar from the beast ringed in the forest and Bi Fan accelerated his pace once again.

After a while, Bi Fan was able to finally get a look at the beast.

His fur were blazing red, his body formation like a lion, almost twenty feet in height, and thirty feet in length, which extended to almost forty feet owing to the serpent like tail that it had on its rear. The beast looked awfully terrible and scary.

“A Chimera!” Bi Fan was taken by surprise.

Chimeras were very powerful, awfully nefarious demons, they had very powerful bodies and their tails were exceedingly toxic in nature. A magical powers level Chimera was capable of breathing fire as well, which made them a very lethal opponent.

Bi Fan recovered from the shock once he realized that this one was only in the 'spiritual intelligence' layer.

The fighting capabilities of this breed far exceeded those of the other demons in the same layer, and if this Chimera was even one layer higher than its present stage, Bi Fan would have surely fled by now.

The Chimera had clearly come out to hunt for food, an obvious fact, considering that it had its paws and all of its fifty-six teeth deep inside the flesh of a rhino, which was gasping for its last breaths.

Bi Fan didn't react immediately, because he wanted to follow this demon around for a while, so that he could locate its cave, which he suspected must be somewhere nearby.

Usually a demon as strong as this one, were often known to be find accommodation around some sort of a treasure which they guarded with their lives, like a bunch of rare herbs or a crystal mine.

As long as Bi Fan was able to follow the Chimera back to its residence, he could get his hands on that treasure as well.

When the fighting would begin, the Marten could use the opportunity and sneak into the cave and steal the treasure. Now, obviously, the treasure would have to be fairly small in size for the Marten to be able to seize it by himself.

The Chimera picked up the rhinoceros in its mouth, with his teeth firmly dug into the dead animal, and made its way through the forest at a very quick pace and with exceptional ease, considering he had a rhino dangling from its mouth.

Bi Fan followed the Chimera from a distance, while being extremely careful, as he didn't want his presence known to the demon.

He followed the Chimera for roughly an hour, and finally they arrived at a very deep lying valley. The Chimera put down its prey on a flat stone tablet and began enjoying his meal.

Right about now, when the Chimera was hungry, would be the best time to fight it, as it meant that he was low on energy.

Soon after arriving here, the Marten had been finding it hard to conceal his excitement, which meant that there was obviously something very nice here.

Bi Fan put the Marten down, and then marched out of his hiding spot.

“Roar!!!” The Chimera opened its bloodied mouth and let out a bellow of rage when he spotted Bi Fan.

While a nefarious Chimera is enjoying its meal, one should abstain from interrupting it. But since that didn't stop Bi Fan, the

Chimera went wild with anger, and its eyes, red with rage.

Bi Fan hadn't even made a move yet, and the Chimera's tail had already sweeping left and right.

Its dark tail was thick and strong, and in addition to this, it also was acutely poisonous and spiked at the end with barbs.

If these barbs managed to penetrate one's skin, then they would inject a very dangerous poison into the body of the victim.

Even though Bi Fan had already taken a Sunset Jade Purifier, he was still afraid of that sweeping tail. He was afraid that the Sunset Jade purifier might not be enough to nullify the toxin that this beast could inject into his body.

Even without factoring in the toxins, the Chimera's tail was fairly dangerous. He swept it around with such enormous force that taking a hit of that would be very unpleasant.

Bi Fan was very concentrated at the moment, mentally. He brandished the 'dance of mist' footwork and managed to dodge.

The Chimera's tail had a sweeping radius of about one meter, and he had swept it at a decent height. The tops of all the boulders in that vicinity broke, and sprinkled to the ground.

Bi Fan inwardly smacked his lips; he needed to be more careful, if he wanted to get out of this in one piece.

Bi Fan sped up his movement, as he would need to get closer to the Chimera before he could launch any sort of an attack, something the Chimera's tail would make a difficult task out of.

“Bang! Bang!....” The Chimera kept sweeping its tail wildly, and the trees and boulders in the vicinity were paying the price. Its tail had managed to sweep off chunks of moss from the tree trunks while the boulders were much worse off.

Bi Fan was awfully fast, and was managing to avoid that sweeping tail consistently, but it required a great deal of concentration on his part to do so.

Presently, Bi Fan was only about two meters away from the Chimera, so he took out his light-ray sword and cast out the ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’ attack.

‘Spiritual intelligence’ layer demon such as this one, are gifted with extremely hard skins which made it very hard to hurt them. On top of that, they also had a lot of inner energy which meant that they could continue fighting for a long duration.

Bi Fan's light-ray sword was a top grade weapon, but when attacking a demon such as this Chimera, it was only capable of shaving off a few strands of hair from the target's body.

But Bi Fan didn't care much, he needed the Chimera to hone his martial art skill and wasn't really interested in killing the beast.

So, one human against one Chimera in a fight, well, this was turning out to be a very fierce battle.

So, one human against one Chimera in a fight, well, this was turning out to be a very fierce battle.

The Chimera was incapable of using its tail at targets in close proximity, but it also had a very large mouth, which had very sharp teeth, and then, claws, which were its most aggressive weapons in war.

Grab, bite, thump, pounce...

The Chimera was willing to employ any means and any part of his body from head to toe.

Bi Fan was extremely agile and quick on his feet, and normally he would use 'the immortal finger' finger to save himself if he was caught in a moment of crisis, but hadn't done that so far in this fight, as he hadn't sustained any injuries.

Using 'the immortal finger' meant consuming a lot of his inner energy, so Bi Fan was judicious with its use, and only resorted to it in moments of grave crisis, to bail himself out.

The Chimera on the other hand was completely enraged by Bi Fan. He roared and roared, constantly storming towards Bi Fan, ready to shred him to pieces.

Bi Fan side stepped its attack, and intentionally backed away. He intended on leading the Chimera away from the valley and into the forest, this way the Marten could conduct his covert operation peacefully.

Soon, Bi Fan had managed to draw the Chimera away from the valley and into the forest.

Once inside the forest, the Chimera's tail was confined due to all the big trees around them, which meant that he couldn't use it as freely as he was able to earlier, which meant that Bi Fan could relax a bit.

The Chimera had a very strong body, but in this environment, the sheer size of its body reduced his agility.

Bi Fan was now fully concentrated on practicing his martial arts, using all kinds of sword techniques to attack. He cast the same skills out, again and again, trying to increase the efficiency of his attacks.

Using the same tricks, he tried to change the angle of the stab, tried varying the force and intensity and practiced on.

This was one of the benefits of having a sparring partner, for practicing in itself wasn't enough, one also needed to explore.

It requires a very strong opponent to practice with if one needs to

increase strength while being able to find the best combination of moves, angles, or trying to find a new style of fighting.

Finding demons in the devil's territory was easy, but something as powerful with skin as rough and hard as this one's, made for the best of sparring partners.

Bi Fan kept an eye out for the Chimera's attacks and dodged them effectively, but apart from that, he was having a jolly good time, he had already cast out the same moves almost a dozen times.

Apart from swords play, he had even resorted to melee attacks, and had already tried to use the Wan Zu boxing style, punching and pounding.

The Chimera was completely enraged, mad and violent by now. Even though he wasn't injured, but his inability to tear Bi Fan to pieces was driving it mad, which reflected in its fighting.

“Roar!” The Chimera made an unexpected move and severed the trees in the immediate space.

The tall and towering trees fell down, giving the Chimera sufficient space to move around. Scared, Bi Fan dodged his way away from the Chimera.

“Creak....” The Marten creaked, announcing that he had returned from its operation, but Bi Fan had no idea whether he had succeeded or not.

Bi Fan had expended most of his inner energy and decided that it was time to withdraw.

Especially considering that the Chimera was even angrier now, Bi Fan figured that it's in his best interests to find a temporary refuge and restore his strength.

As Bi Fan turned around and made a run for it, the Chimera decided to pursue him, still angry at Bi Fan's intrusion.

The Chimera was really quick on its feet, forcing Bi Fan to scurry, in a completely disarrayed fashion. Bi Fan was trying to pick his path through the most obstacle studded routes, choosing to make his way through areas where the trees were clustered close together.

The trick finally worked. Due to the sheer size of the Chimera's body, he was unable to intertwine his way through the forest like Bi Fan. And since Bi Fan was taking his detours through areas where the density of tree population was at its maximum, the Chimera was slowed down further and eventually gave up.

Bi Fan finally got rid of Chimera and breathed a sigh of relief, and the Marten showed up by his side.

Inside the forest, the Marten was one of the quickest animals, even Bi Fan couldn't hope to keep up with his pace here.

A black lotus was dangling from the Marten's mouth. The lotus was the size of a wash basin and the Marten was holding it from its stem, between his teeth.

The black lotus was flickering and shimmering, making it appear as if the lotus was blazing with a dark black fire.

Bi Fan had inadvertently seen something like this before and knew that this was a very precious flower. An extremely rare breed of flora which could be best described as extremely poisonous.

This lotus was even more toxic than the Chimera, and its poison contained a great amount of aura. This lotus's poison was classified as a Mysterious level entity, which meant that it would most certainly be a favorite for the Chimera that it was stolen from.

Plants, including poisonous ones that contained aura inside them were classified into nine categories, as yellow, mysterious, earth, sky, king, emperor, Imperial, aged, and legendary. And further, depending on their potency, they were divided into four more sub categories.

The Chimera was probably guarding this lotus as he needed this nefarious breed of flora for his evolution at some point in time.

“Greedy, here, let me have a look.” Bi Fan reached over to the Marten, excitedly.

Bi Fan had barely ever touched a Mysterious level Panacea; the

ones that he had been planting all his life were mostly yellow level herbs as he had never been given the responsibility of such precious herbs at the orchards.

The last time he had seen a mysterious level herb, was inside that Mysterious ravine that he had accidentally ventured into. The rainbow colored flower that he had tried to pick up on his way out was in considered similar in ranking as this one.

However, this nefariously poisonous Lotus was extremely rare, even more so than that flower which took centuries to bloom.

The Marten was a little reluctant to hand it over, but did so any way.

Bi Fan picked up the lotus very carefully, he wrapper its stem in cloth before holding it in his hands.

He was preparing to take a close look at the black Lotus when suddenly, out of his body, emerged silk-like black threads, and all of a sudden, enveloped the black lotus in their grasp.

This was the first time that Bi Fan was conscious when the black thread had come out of his body. He was completely unaware of their existence; his heart skipped a beat as he looked on in absolute horror at the black silk threads that were coming out of his body.

The black silk threads scared the Marten as well, who ran, petrified, screeching and squeaking long the way.

The black lotus started melting and eventually disappeared, even its stem vanished into nothingness.

The black silk threads that had emerged from his body looked even shinier now, than they had emerging from his body, and soon after, disappeared into his body, leaving no trace of their existence.

Bi Fan stood there for a long time, motionless, speechless.

How could black silk threads like those ones be coming out of my body? What were those black silk threads? Why did those threads absorb the black lotus?

Bi Fan's heart and mind were filled with doubts and fears.

“Creak....” The Marten creaked from a distance, looking rather annoyed. This lotus was supposed to be his treat, not only did it contain an amazing amount of aura; it was also extremely poisonous; just what a growing Marten likes.

The disappearance of the black lotus had certainly made the Marten angry.

On top of that, he also seemed very scared of the black silk threads that had emerged out of Bi Fan's body and wouldn't dare come near Bi Fan, for now.

The Marten made another squeaking sound, almost as if he was yelling at Bi Fan, as Bi Fan touched himself, to ensure himself that nothing strange was going on now.

“Fortunately, no one was harmed.” Bi Fan breathed out a sigh of relief.

“However, what were those black silk thread at the end of the day? And how did they get inside my body? Will they remain there?” Bi Fan was completely puzzled and his head was exploding with questions.

Bi Fan carefully examined his body, which showed no trace of any kind of abnormality, and he couldn't make any discovery regarding the existence of the threads. He started introspecting, meditating, trying to search the depths of his mind for any knowledge of this incident, he needed to know.

Chapter 38 – Death Of An Enemy

Due to Bi Fan's strength, looking inside his body wasn't going to be an issue for him, but it was the first time ever that he was peeping into his body.

Flesh, blood, arteries and organs were all very strong, but nothing out of the ordinary.

He started looking into his pubic region. The pubic region inside his body was covered in a drizzling white mist, which obviously, was his inner energy and aura.

“How? How's that even possible?! There's a lotus inside my pubic region! I haven't seen a lotus like that one since.... the one I saw inside the Wan Snake Cave!” Bi Fan was left awestruck in that moment of discovery.

There was a lotus inside his pubic region, petals, eighteen in count, color, black and white. Its huge petals hovered above the white fog, like they were being supported by his inner energy.

The lotus looked somewhat dispirited, like it was low on moisture.

The black petals were marginally better off, and slightly more flamboyant than the white ones.

Bi Fan was certain that this was the same lotus that he had

spotted inside the Wan Snake Cave, that same strangely wonderful Yin Yang lotus.

But he was completely clueless as to how the lotus entered his body.

There had been many doubts in Bi Fan's mind about the cave and that incident, but things were become clearer now.

His body had been completely altered after the incident inside the Wan Snake Cave; he was beginning to realize that the Yin Yang lotus was the reason for this sudden change in his physique and not the Wannian Spirit milk.

Bi Fan tried to sense the Yin Yang lotus, he even tried interacting with it, but the communication failed as the lotus did not respond. It appeared that he would have to try a second time a little later and for the time being, he would have to suffice by slowly studying the lotus.

Bi Fan decided to stop looking inside his body, and opened his eyes, only to see that the Marten was still carrying an angry look on his face, which instantly made Bi Fan laugh.

“Greedy Marten, well, come on, I’ll fix you the best quality herbs” Bi Fan smiled and said: “Come on to my shoulder now, I would like to find a private spot to practice.”

“Creek....” The Marten shook his head, still too afraid to come

close to Bi Fan.

Bi Fan knew that the Marten was a little frightened at the moment, so he did not insist on it: “Alright, why don’t you follow me. But don’t get lost.”

Bi Fan didn’t venture out very far away from the Chimera’s lair and found a suitable place nearby so he could practice and restore his energy in peace.

Just a while ago, the Yin Yang lotus inside his body had swallowed that poisonous black lotus that the Marten had obtained from the Chimera’s lair. As a result of this, it seemed that his body’s inner energy had gone up to some extent, and had broken into the next layer. Now, his inner energy was almost in the ‘brave’ layer, on its own accord.

Once he was done restoring his inner energy, Bi Fan took some time out to practice as well. He began thinking about his fighting, the lessons he had learnt, the most suitable moves, and how to make those moves even better and more efficient, and how to make his attacks even more dangerous and powerful.

It took Bi Fan another five hours of rigorous training before he was satisfied with the results, which was followed by another restoring session.

He stretched out his arms and legs a bit; his bones issued a flurry of crackling sounds loud enough to attract attention from people, if any had been standing near him.

“Ah, that feels good!” Bi Fan said out loud.

The Marten had been standing cautiously at a distance the whole time, and wouldn't squeeze himself into Bi Fan's arms for a nap like he used to earlier.

Bi Fan beckoned to the Marten: “Greedy, come here, don't be scared. The black silk threads won't come out to kill you, if that was the case, then they could have done it long ago..”

The Marten listened to what Bi Fan was trying to explain, hesitated for a bit and then finally chose to trust Bi Fan and jumped onto his shoulder.

The Marten kept looking left and right, still terrified of the black silk threads, ready to flee at a moment's notice. The serious look on his face was rather hilarious.

When the black silk threads did not emerge for a while, the Marten's taut nerves finally loosened up a bit and eventually, he fell asleep on Bi Fan's shoulder.

Bi Fan pacified the Marten; just to make sure that it had fallen asleep, and then started preparing himself to go a few more rounds with the Chimera.

After being unable to chase Bi Fan down, the Chimera had returned to its food and had decided to vent its anger out on the

dead rhino by gobbling the whole of it.

Soon after, it had returned to its cave of residence, only to find that the precious black lotus that it had been guarding, was now gone.

The Chimera was quick to realize that Bi Fan had a part to play in the disappearance of the lotus, igniting new flames of hatred for Bi Fan in his heart.

When Bi Fan approached its cave, the Chimera was taking a nap but woke up as soon as he realized that there's movement nearby.

The Chimera rushed out of its cave and furiously roared at the unknown passerby. But once he realized that the trespasser was Bi Fan, his rage touched new heights.

Without any explanations or delays, the Chimera charged for Bi Fan, and launched a ferocious attack.

It's a good thing that the Marten was away from the fight, as the force of Bi Fan's attacks was much greater now.

Although, his attacks still weren't good enough to seriously injure the Chimera, but since he could attack with much more force than before and at a higher frequency as well, the Chimera was obviously in greater pain.

“Boom!” The Chimera in lieu of its anger, cast out a direct attack

at Bi Fan.

Bi Fan side stepped and managed to dodge the attack, and the Chimera ended up hitting a tree, which broke.

“Wow! What amazing strength!” Bi Fan exclaimed.

Even though at a physical level, Bi Fan was no match for the Chimera, and was nowhere near as tough as the beast, his agility and flexibility far exceeded that of the Chimera's, and this particular environment favored those traits in a fight, especially when fighting up close.

Bi Fan made sure that he was always close to the Chimera while they were entangled in their duel. This way, the Chimera's tail goes out of the equation, in fact, as opposed to being its most vicious weapon, it kind of got in its way, making things even harder for the monster.

Generally speaking, a Chimera such as this one, uses its tail in a fight to cause the maximum damage to the enemy, but since the tail was being used to a negative effect in this fight, the Chimera had no option but fight with very limited resources and, to barely half of its maximal capacity.

On the other hand, if the Chimera was capable of breathing fire, then Bi Fan would have been rendered helpless.

Bi Fan's strength had seen a decent increase and he was casting

out various moves with higher efficiency and a lot smoothly than before, while his body was dripping wet with sweat.

Bi Fan's strength had seen a decent increase and he was casting out various moves with higher efficiency and a lot smoothly than before, while his body was dripping wet with sweat.

“Prancing Tiger's second style ‘sea of tigers!’” Bi Fan roared as he charged towards the Chimera with the intensity of a tiger, with the entire strength of his body condensed into one single punch; a punch, which was headed towards the Chimera.

Strength erupted from Bi Fan's body as he charged for the Chimera.

The Chimera had a huge physical structure, but even then, the Chimera was forced back a few steps.

However, surprisingly, the Chimera still wasn't hurt much and lashed straight back at Bi Fan.

The Chimera's bloody mouth was wide open, ready to swallow Bi Fan whole.

‘The Immortal Finger’

Bi Fan held the attack back until the Chimera had closed him down, and then with his finger aligned with the Chimera's body, Bi Fan unleashed a fierce, condensed strike of ‘the immortal finger’

straight into the inner lining of the Chimera's mouth.

“Wooo...” The Chimera wailed and screamed, again and again as the injury that he had sustained wasn't a very light one.

“Since you have managed to injure yourself seriously, you are no use to me anymore.” Bi Fan said in a very cold voice.

He launched another attack of the immortal finger, a very intense one this time as well; well aware of the fact, that the Chimera wouldn't be able to dodge it.

“Hey, you are smarter than I gave you credit for, and you might still have some fight left in you.” Bi Fan said, with a surprised look on his face as he watched the Chimera side-step his intended final attack.

Bi Fan continued to attack the Chimera without any pauses, and whenever the Chimera made a mistake or gave Bi Fan any room to take any advantages, Bi Fan would launch a mortal attack.

The Chimera would open its mouth from time to time to spit out the blood that was accumulating inside its mouth from the wound that he had sustained. It was evident that the pain was unbearable and the Chimera was visibly afraid of Bi Fan.

The Chimera had been fighting Bi Fan for a long time now and that too without any benefits in an unfavorable environment. On top of that, Bi Fan's agility was causing a major headache for the

Chimera by restraining him sufficiently that the only way to continue fighting was to defend. If the fight ensued for much longer, the situation would only worsen for the Chimera.

The Chimera's morale was already down the drain and Bi Fan was launching lethal attacks in quick succession, fully intending to finish this fight, along with the Chimera, as quickly as possible.

Suddenly, Bi Fan heard a noise; it seemed that the sounds from the fighting had managed to attract a few people in their direction.

Bi Fan didn't even bother to finish off the Chimera, and without any hesitation, escaped into the forest.

Bi Fan left, and Chimera just stood there looking puzzled as he didn't expect to outlive this day. Nonetheless, he looked visibly happy to have survived long enough to see another day.

As his opponent had already left, the Chimera lay down on the ground, trying to hold back the pain, as he slowly tried to heal himself.

The Chimera lay there quietly, but that didn't mean that it wasn't angry, just that its present condition was forcing him to suppress that anger for now.

It goes without saying that demons are brutal by nature, a Chimera is far more tyrannical in its attitude than an average monster, as it shows no sympathy when it tears apart another

demon for its meals.

The Chimera hadn't fallen short of Bi Fan's strength. It was simply that the Chimera was no match for Bi Fan's pace, and all his attacks were going in vain as Bi Fan was able to dodge them with ease, again and again, every single time.

The Chimera's blood-red eyes, flashed a shade of bitter hatred, and not just for Bi Fan, but for the entire human race jointly.

Bi Fan on the other hand, hadn't run away very far, and had found himself a hiding spot nearby, ready and awaiting any opportunities.

"I don't know who these humans are, or what they are capable of, but I most certainly know what this Chimera can do." Bi Fan managed to pilfer a smile.

The Marten had also returned to its place of Bi Fan's shoulder, and was somewhat puzzled by Bi Fan's behavior.

Soon, seven humans emerged inside the forest and into Bi Fan's line of sight.

"Hey, these people are from the 'rising sun' school!" Bi Fan recognized three of them. The three of those seven were the same ones that he had seen at the river basin the other day, in fact, the three of them had even attempted to track him down on the basis of his footsteps.

These people had chosen to be his enemies, and since they had a death wish, then, in this case, he wouldn't mind helping them along. The only thing that he was uncertain about, was whether they were all 'rising sun' disciple or not.

“My impression is that they are all 'rising sun' disciples, in which case, I wouldn't mind if they fought the Chimera. For me it's even better if both my enemies suffer some collateral damage.” Bi Fan secretly thanked his stars.

“From the looks of it, it appears that a very fierce fight had taken place here, but now, there appears to be no movement whatsoever. However, from the looks of things, it's hard to tell whether the fight reached its conclusion or not.”

“I don't know what kind of a demon made these marks, but I can be sure of one thing, and that's that this demon is a very strong one. Just look at all the trees in this area, whoever was involved here, managed to break them down.” They marveled as they gazed at their surroundings.

“Everybody be careful. The Demon probably survived this fight; we need to be on our guard.” A relatively aged man said.

The unscrupulous chatting of these people had already disturbed the healing Chimera.

The Chimera was a lot smarter than these people and without making any sounds, had managed to hide himself in the forest, and

was now, waiting for an opportunity to strike and take them by surprise.

The Chimera's heart was trying to hold back a rage of fury as he vowed to wipe out the entire human race.

The Chimera was overly familiar with these surroundings and conveniently managed to sneak to the back side of these seven humans without exposing his presence.

The seven humans tried to track down the people involved in the fight and slowly walked their way through the area and into a valley. They were very careful, as they were afraid of being attacked by the surviving demon.

The seven humans decided that they need to scatter a bit, to search for clues.

The Chimera crept closer to the group of seven, stroked its poisonous tail and launched it at the neck of one of the humans. The human didn't even issue any sounds, as he stood there, being strangled to death, alive.

The man's gear landed on the ground below as he was lifted into the air, and made a ringing sound.

"Be careful, what are you doing?" One of the other six turned around to look. He halted the moment he saw his struggling companion being swept away by the vicious tail of the Chimera.

He immediately cried out in fear: “ A demon! People we need to get out of here now!”

The other five turned around and looked at the Chimera as well.

The Chimera was already exposed, so he swept its tail in full swing.

“Quick, get out of the way! That’s a Chimera! Its tail is extremely toxic!” One of them was obviously quiet experienced as he was able to identify the threat.

The six of them tried desperately dodged the attack, even if some of them had no idea as to what the threat was in the first place, and fortunately for them, none of them got injured.

“Quick! Run into the jungle, or we do not have any chance of survival.” A young man shouted out to his companions.

The Chimera launched several attacks in quick succession. His attacks didn’t bear any fruit, which intensified his fuming anger further and he charged for them in full force.

The six of them had never been in such a tight spot before, they ran and stumbled, frantically, in an attempt to make their way to the forest ahead.

“ARRRGHHH!!!” The Chimera was really angry, and he wasn’t going to let these people escape so easily.

The Chimera quickly caught up with one of the remaining humans and rolled his tail at the man.

Once the Chimera’s tail hits its target, survival for the same, was rather difficult. As the terrified man saw the tail sweeping in his direction, he screamed: “Help me brothers!”

Another one of Bi Fan’s enemies was now dead.

The five others were quick to comprehend the meaning of that sentence and without even looking back; they sped up as they ran for their lives.

Chapter 39 – Capitulation

The Chimera's tail swung one more time and forcefully twisted itself around the neck of the man. The noise of his crackling neck was audible to a fair length of distance as the man breathed his last breath and passed away, shutting his begrudging, hateful eyes for the last time.

The remaining five people, who were running haphazardly in every direction, trying to escape the Chimera's wrath, decided to quicken up their pace.

“ARGHHH!.....” The Chimera issued another deafening roar; loud enough to put that of a lion's to shame.

The remaining five people, who were trying to escape at thunderous speeds, came to an instant halt, as the fear of the Chimera's roar ran chills down their spines. Bi Fan was well aware that when this Chimera roared with so much intensity, then, its next strikes would be even fiercer, but he didn't seem to care much about it anyway.

The Chimera had already launched itself after the remaining five humans, fully intending to deliver them to the same end as their last two comrades.

The five remaining humans realized that facing the Chimera, was their only option and attempting to flee would be the equivalent of courting death.

Bi Fan quickly found his way to the back of the fight, ready to cause all sorts of trouble for them.

Bi Fan sneakily watched from his hiding place, and observed that they were all from the 'rising sun' school, even though only a teenager, surprisingly, one of them was as strong as 'spiritual intelligence' layer.

'Spiritual intelligence' layer practitioners usually prefer going into the second layer of the devil's territory. So it was rather obvious to him that he had entered this part of the region to search for him.

Bi Fan's eyes, brimming with murderous intentions were concentrated on the battle ahead of him.

Bi Fan thus far, had only seen relatively weaker 'rising sun' students, who were mostly around the 'inner organs' layer, so he was very attentively watching some of their more experienced disciples while they displayed their skills, as the grave battle ensued.

Jiang Sheng, Jiang Wen, these two names had been encrypted into Bi Fan psyche, and he wanted to leave the two of them for the last.

A teenager wearing a purple jacket seemed to be leading this group, they advanced and retreated at his command and were able to hold the Chimera off, for now.

In fact, since they were fighting in the woods, the Chimera's movements had been greatly restricted and he was unable to use his body to its full extent. Plus, the Chimera had been injured earlier, in the battle with Bi Fan and hadn't fully recovered from it, which meant that the Chimera was actually leaning towards a defeat at the moment.

The man with the purple jacket couldn't help but contain his joy as he realized: "The Chimera seems to be showing some weaknesses, if we work harder, we can kill it and we have already established the upper hand."

The Chimera was covered in fur and flesh from head to toe, both of which were very precious, its tail, in particular, would fetch a very high price.

The man in the purple jacket kept shouting encouragements at his comrades as they attacked the Chimera with elated spirits, suppressing the beast.

The Chimera had been fighting non-stop for a long time now, and things were getting even worse for him. With every passing second, his hatred for Bi Fan only grew stronger and stronger; if it hadn't been for the amount of energy that he had consumed in fighting Bi Fan, he had been able to make an easy game out of the humans in front of him.

"Harder! We almost have him now!" The man in the purple jacket roared.

“Chimera, it seems that you are going to require my help to finish this job after all.” Bi Fan said; ready to intervene in yet another fight.

He popped up a few stones into the air and launched them straight at the five humans with the aid of ‘the immortal finger’. Bi Fan had decided to name this attack, ‘a snap of the fingers’, a rather appropriate name.

As he heard the sounds of the stones piercing through the air, the Chimera was certain that Bi Fan had returned and had already launched an attack. As he realized that he would also have to deal with Bi Fan along with these five, he couldn’t contain the fear that hit his heart and it reflected on his face.

He was just preparing to try and make a run for it, when one of the stones whooshed past him and it dawned upon him that this hail of bullet stones was directed at the humans and not him.

The Chimera was visibly confused; he had no idea why Bi Fan was doing this and simply couldn’t understand the sudden change of course this fight had taken.

‘A snap of the fingers’ was a very dangerous attack, as the stones were pelted at very high speeds with incredible accuracy, making it very difficult to dodge, or even thwart the attack.

The man in the purple jacket easily crushed the stone that was directed at him, but the others weren’t strong enough and fell prey to Bi Fan’s strike.

“Ah! Ah!.....”

Blood-curling shrieks filled the atmosphere as the four of the five humans were hit by the stones and sustained injuries. In fact, two of the four had even lost grip of their weapons, leaving them with no way to retaliate the incoming attacks.

The man in the purple jacket was furious: “You scumbag! Attacking us sneakily!”

“Putt-putt.....” were the only sounds he heard in response as more stones found their way into the battle field.

Bi Fan launched several successive attacks, as he reproduced the stunt.

The man in the purple jacket decided to quit cursing and started concentrating on dodging the attacks.

The four others were finding it harder to dodge the attacks with every passing minute, as they had already sustained injuries. This forced the man in the purple jacket to combine forces with them and aid them in shooting down the stones, rather than fighting off the Chimera.

The Chimera was a little slow to react, but once it realized that he had been gifted with an opportunity, he brazenly launched a brutal attack at the humans, exposing its ominous nature.

“Ah.... ” another screech echoed, as another one of the injured teenagers met his fate.

The looks on the faces of the remaining teenagers had changed drastically; they were all looking for means to escape.

Even the youngster in the purple jacket, who had thus far been helping his comrades, seemed to be searching for an avenue of escape, willing to abandon his comrades, ready save himself at the cost of their impending deaths.

Although these teenagers were all from the same school, they obviously had no profound emotional connections; they were more than willing to abandon their friends in dire situations, if it meant that they could live to see another morning's sun.

Bi Fan had seen enough in this world, but even then he couldn't help but shun such a behavior on their part.

His hands hadn't slowed down at all, in fact, his fingers had been snapping all the while, and stones were being launched at the humans unceasingly.

Since, the last time, when Bi Fan had used this technique, by the river, he had been picking up the appropriately sized stones and had been collecting them in the Yin Yang bag, making it very easy for him to get access to them when needed.

Bi Fan's hands were doing the job of a machine gun, hailing bullets of stones at his enemies.

Bi Fan had been prioritizing the youngster in the purple jacket with his attacks, forcing him to focus his attention on dodging the stones rather than trying to escape.

The Chimera had managed to deliver the other three youngsters to their final destinations in quick successions, which meant that the youngster in purple now stood there, facing the Chimera, alone.

The Chimera had managed to deliver the other three youngsters to their final destinations in quick successions, which meant that the youngster in purple now stood there, facing the Chimera, alone.

“My human brother, I have done nothing to wrong you, so don't collaborate with this demon against me.” The youngster in the purple jacket announced out loud.

Even though the youngster was in a mortal situation, the look on his face, deceptive of this fact, was quiet gentle.

Bi Fan replied in a cold voice: “My brother, asking me for help won't work, but you can try begging the Chimera if you wish to survive, maybe that will help your case instead.”

“You despicable little creature, come out and fight.” The

youngster in the purple jacket was furious after hearing Bi Fan's reply.

Bi Fan chuckled: "If you think I'd ever help you against this Chimera, then you're gravely mistaken. I'd rather enjoy myself as you slowly crawl towards your death."

The Chimera had already kill four of his comrades in quick succession, but the anger that had been smoldering inside it's heart hadn't cooled down at all, in fact, had been flamed even hotter.

"OWWW" The Chimera threw itself at the youngster, its murderous bloody mouth, wide open like a sacrificial bowl, ready to nip off the youngster's head.

The teenager in the purple jacket was still recovering from Bi Fan's cold and sharp tongued replies, and he barely managed to dodge the attack, but quickly prepared to launch a counter.

In the current scenario, the youngster in the purple jacket was all alone, against a ferocious Chimera which had Bi Fan helping it out. He could make out that Bi Fan was fairly strong and that taking them both on at the same time wasn't going to be possible for him.

The Chimera had been on a very successful killing spree and was quite excited, high on confidence and self-belief.

Bi Fan was in no hurry to kill this one off, and instead of firing stones at him, he started concentrating on observing his martial

arts.

The youngster was using all kinds of 'rising sun' techniques very optimally, and his strength was nothing short of formidable.

Bi Fan had been doing a lot of reading on the 'rising sun' techniques, using the book that he had procured, but hadn't been able to get a grasp of its essence. But as he watched the youngster display some of those styles, things started becoming a lot clearer to him.

Bi Fan had been wanting to learn the 'rising sun' techniques to enhance his own style of sword fighting and hoped that it would help him increase the efficiency of 'the immortal finger' as well.

The youngster in the purple jacket had been using his skills very efficiently to such an effect that the Chimera was finding it very difficult to deal with him.

Bi Fan had already figured out all that he needed to know, and decided that it was time to end the life of another 'rising sun' disciple.

'A snap of the fingers' and two stones went flying again.

The stones made their way straight for the eye balls of the youngster.

The youngster was fully concentrated on fighting the Chimera

when he suddenly heard the sound of the stones piercing the air. He knew he didn't have the time to dodge this time, so he quickly covered his vital organs, hoping to minimize the damage.

“Ah!....” Even though the youngster managed to protect his eyes, he couldn't get out of the way completely. The stones hit him in the face, poking open, two bloody holes, as they embedded themselves in his handsome face.

The youngster in the purple jacket covered his face with his hands as the pain took over and he completely forgot about the Chimera that stood before his closed eyes.

The Chimera seized this opportunity and grasped the head of the youngster. In one single strike, the Chimera snapped off the youngster's head in a terribly frightful scene, as blood splashed all over the ground.

Once the Chimera was done, it roared out as loudly as it could, venting out all of its frustration. Once he was done, he turned around to sneak a look in the direction from which the stones were being fired from and the color of fear returned to his face. The Chimera quickly started to leave, not even bothering to tow away the bodies of its kill.

“Big Guy, you know I will find you...” Bi Fan came out of his hiding spot, smiling and walked over to the dead bodies of the deceased 'rising sun' disciples.

Each of these people had only been carrying a very small amount

of spars, and Bi Fan collected them very quickly.

The youngster in the purple jacket was obviously a core disciple of the 'rising sun' school, and had a Yin Yang bag in his possession, a gift which Bi Fan kindly accepted.

Bi Fan started walking towards the Chimera quickly, fully aware that the Chimera had quite possibly consumed all its energy, and now would be the most the fortunate time to kill it.

The Chimera, grabbed at one of the humans bodies that was lying near it and with the body dangling from its mouth, quickly started to leave the scene.

The Chimera was too slow at this moment, and Bi Fan could easily catch up any time he wanted.

“Big guy, don't try to run now.” Bi Fan shouted as he started to close the gap between them very quickly.

As soon as the Chimera realized that Bi Fan had decided to chase after it, he decided to lose the human carcass that was dangling from its mouth and started running at full capacity.

Bi Fan complying with the Chimera accelerated his own pace and continued chasing it.

The Chimera had a huge body, hence was at a huge disadvantage as the huge trees tarried his escape plans.

Bi Fan on the other hand, was very cleverly picking the most optimal paths to close down the Chimera and was catching up very quickly.

Abruptly, the Chimera came to sudden halt, turned around to face Bi Fan, making it clear that he had no intention of escaping any further.

Bi Fan figured that the Chimera was up to something funny and was very vigilant, on guard, prepared for any attacks.

The Chimera suddenly revealed a very ugly smile, and while looking at Bi Fan with its pitiful eyes, closed its forepaws on the ground beneath, almost as if he was bowing down.

Bi Fan was taken aback by this gesture as he had no idea what the Chimera was doing.

“Whrrrrr.....” The Chimera produced a very subdued roar, more like purr, as it slowly crept to the ground.

Bi Fan was even more confused now, and even more alert than before.

Unexpectedly, and boldly, the Marten came out of his hiding spot, issued a creaking sound and started making gestures incessantly.

The Marten had been communicating with Bi Fan using gestures for a long time, so Bi Fan could understand what the Marten was trying to say.

The Marten was trying to tell Bi Fan, that the Chimera was really scared of Bi Fan, and was begging him for mercy, no wonder the Chimera was acting in such a docile manner.

“So, Big guy, you want me to spare your life? Well, not so easily...” Bi Fan said with a strong smile on his face.

The Chimera’s eyes were filled with hope. The feel of those eyes wasn’t something that Bi Fan could simply ignore.

“Big guy, you will have to follow me or....” Bi Fan said with a smile, his body language reeking of a threat.

The Chimera hesitated, after all, he was a demon, and a mighty powerful one at that, surrendering wasn’t even remotely in its nature.

The Chimera was a very proud and arrogant creature. On top of that, it’s every cell permeated with rancor as far as Bi Fan was concerned, so he naturally didn’t want to surrender to his will.

However, it was evidently clear to the Chimera, that if he didn’t surrender to Bi Fan’s whims then Bi Fan wouldn’t hesitate to kill him.

“Big guy, you have to think logically, there is no harm in following me. I will even provide you with a nucleus to charge yourself up, if you’re willing to let me train on you.” Bi Fan smiled.

“Creak....” The Marten was bouncing vivaciously in an attempt to try and persuade the Chimera.

The Chimera stared at Bi Fan and at the Marten for a long time, still hesitant.

Bi Fan was extremely patient, and continued to look at the Chimera, harboring his ill intentions.

“Humm....” Finally, the Chimera lowered its head, symbolizing his surrender and its eyes reflected its compliance.

Bi Fan was in a frenzied state of exaltation: “But first, you will have to offer me your spirit!”

The Chimera obediently exposed the strands of its spirit, which Bi Fan collected. Now, if the Chimera ever showed any signs of malice or disloyalty, Bi Fan could fragment these strands of his spirit, and cause the Chimera a massive amount of damage.

Chapter 40 – A Breakthrough

Later, Bi Fan sat on top of the Chimera's back as the Chimera led him through the forest. Bi Fan couldn't help enjoying the leisurely ride, feeling incredibly pleased with his position.

As the Chimera led him through the forest, Bi Fan came across several demons, but none of them were strong enough to attract Bi Fan's attention.

The demons they came across were only ordinary; none of them were in the 'brave' layer, let alone any higher. Fighting with such opponents wasn't going to bear him any results.

Unfortunately for Bi Fan, in this part of the devil's territory, the number of demons that were in the 'brave' layer, or higher, was very low.

The Chimera made its way through the forest in a very smooth fashion, meaning that Bi Fan could concentrate on meditating and practicing while he rode the Chimera's back. He needed to make every minute count.

Bi Fan's strength had been growing stronger and stronger, but he wasn't satisfied yet. On the contrary, he was becoming more assiduous towards it with every passing day.

He knew that he had started very late in life as compared to his competition, and hence needed to snatch every second and utilize it for practice.

Moreover, just recently, the Silhouette figure of Yan Yu Si had popped into Bi Fan's head, and he couldn't help, but wonder what she was up to.

Yan Yu Si was in charge of the Xuannv palace, and her strength was nothing short of tyrannical.

Bi Fan wanted his strength to transcend that of Yan Yu Si, so that his name could also be taken alongside a genius martial artist like her.

Bi Fan was willing to make any and all kinds of sacrifices to become a successful martial artist.

Recently, Bi Fan's inner energy had already broken into the 'brave' layer and his physical strength was on a rise as well.

Once he breaks through to the next layer, his fighting capacity would see a massive rise. So much so that even if he ran into a whole group of 'rising sun' disciples, he need not worry about the consequences of the encounter.

Sometime later, Bi Fan asked the Chimera to stop, and asked him to guard Bi Fan.

Bi Fan settled against a tree and started to practice.

This time, Bi Fan decided to take a Dan pellet to help him make the breakthrough.

The Dan pellet was a very strong one, and as he swallowed it, a huge amount of aura surged throughout his body.

Holding such huge amounts of untamed aura inside one's body can be very painful and Bi Fan clenched his teeth, as he tried to subdue the pain. He started practicing Quinyang longevity burst to absorb the aura that the Dan pellet was providing.

Quinyang longevity burst was a very low level method to absorb aura, so, the absorption rate was very slow and he couldn't utilize the entire Dan pellet.

Unfortunately, even though he was in the 'spiritual intelligence' layer, he couldn't refine aura at the speed which he should be able to.

Even though he had only ingested a 'brave' layer Dan pellet, it took him about an hour to assimilate its aura.

In fact, he couldn't harvest all of it, and almost half of the pellet went waste. Bi Fan could feel its effects, a significant rise in his inner energy, but not enough to break through to the next layer.

Bi Fan had sufficient Dan pellets to break through to the next layer, and since he needed his inner energy to breakthrough to the 'brave' layer, it only made sense to take a 'brave' layer Dan.

Once he was done absorbing the pellet, he decided to wait a while before ingesting another one.

Bi Fan started practicing his martial arts, and continued to practice till he had depleted all of his inner energy.

With the Chimera standing guard, watching his back, Bi Fan wasn't worried about being harassed by demons or other humans and could easily continue his practice in peace.

After consuming up all his inner energy, Bi Fan started to restore it, and continued the process till his inner energy was fully restored.

He repeated this process several times, to maintain a form of purity, meaning, without taking Dan pellets. If one took too many Dan pellets to increase strength and break through to the next layer, it often ends up causing a heterogeneous mixture of inner energy inside a person, which tends to effect the future growth very negatively.

Bi Fan decided that it was time to take a second 'brave' layer Dan pellet. He ingested the pellet and began refining the aura.

This time, the refining happened at a much faster rate and he was able to harvest a significantly higher percentage of the pellet.

Bi Fan was not rushing into things, and he continued to practice

as it was a necessity to have a strong base.

In the two days that passed, Bi Fan had already consumed about eight 'brave' layer Dan pellets. It takes time to process so many pellets and on top of that Bi Fan needed to practice as well, in order to maintain a pure energy structure in his body, so he only took the pellets to support his practice instead of using them as an alternate.

In these last two days, Bi Fan had accumulated enough inner energy to make the breakthrough and bottleneck to the next layer.

Bi Fan was preparing himself for the final practice, ready to make the breakthrough to the next layer.

“Chimera, no matter what happens; make sure that I shall not be disturbed.” Bi Fan issued very clear and strict orders.

A backlash is very dangerous. Once a person is on the verge of breaking into the 'brave' layer, they must be extremely careful. When the strength is higher, so is the risk; and when such is the case, a person shall not be disturbed. In fact, most people would never opt to do such a thing inside the wild due to the fear of a backlash.

Bi Fan was awfully bold, in fact, if he told people that he tried to break through the bottle neck to next layer inside the devil's territory, then most people would simply refuse to believe him.

The Marten was also standing close to Bi Fan, guarding him.

With everything set and prepared for the final practice, Bi Fan started the practice for the breakthrough.

Quinyang longevity burst's speed depends on the energy that surges out of the pubic region, and Bi Fan was careful that he didn't lose his concentration in doing so.

Currents of energy charged through his body in a steady flow as he prepared to make the breakthrough. Things were going very smoothly, and it was only a matter of time before he would bottleneck to the next layer.

However, when a practitioner hits the bottleneck, the body suffers a huge amount of pain and the person in question must show a great amount of restraint to continue practicing through it.

It requires a great amount of will power, courage and a lot of strength to make such a breakthrough and even then, the task isn't an easy one.

Bi Fan could tolerate the pain, so he tossed all these thoughts aside and concentrated solely on his practice.

He had been practicing nonstop for three and half hours and mid-way, several demons had tried to approach him, but the Chimera chased them all away.

The Chimera was strong enough to reside in the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer, and was considered a hegemon, an absolute feudal chief, so ordinary demons wouldn’t dare to come anywhere near it.

“Boom!” his inner energy finally cleared the final checkpoint, bottlenecking to the next layer.

“Boom!” his inner energy finally cleared the final checkpoint, bottlenecking to the next layer.

Torrential currents rampaged throughout his body as his inner energy expanded exponentially.

Bi Fan was really excited: “I have finally reached the ‘brave’ layer, and soon I’ll be in the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer. Then I’ll be able to practice the free burst techniques and my strength will rise much faster”.

“AAAAA!!!!” Bi Fan stood up and roared, as sweat carelessly dripped down from his body, to the ground beneath him.

The Chimera and the Marten rushed to Bi Fan’s side. Their faces were reflecting the pleasure they were feeling after watching Bi Fan succeed.

The Chimera had already decided to follow Bi Fan, so it was also in his best interests if Bi Fan’s strength increased.

Bi Fan considered the Marten to be a family member, so he was glad to see the Marten rejoicing in his success.

“Come, let’s keep going forward!” With the increase in strength, his confidence was also increasing. In fact, even his temperament had also seen a drastic change; he had become much calmer by nature now.

Bi Fan jumped up to take his place on the Chimera’s back and the Marten too, hopped up on top of the Chimera’s back, who then started moving forward in long strides.

Bi Fan hadn’t set a specific target or even a time frame.

Bi Fan didn’t care if his stay in the devil’s territory exceeded a month, as Bi Fan had entered the devil’s territory to gain experience, so if he felt that the devil’s territory didn’t suffice his needs anymore, he would naturally want to exit the region.

Nevertheless, Bi Fan needed to spend at least a month inside the Devil’s territory, a term over which he had no control.

Bi Fan had just broken into the next layer, but now he needed to find some opponents so he could gain some stability.

Along the way, they encountered several beasts. Bi Fan and the Chimera killed as many as they could get their hands on, regardless of the beast’s strength. The Carcasses of their victims were then incorporated into the Tian Yuan ring.

Bi Fan now had a total of five Yin Yang pouches; however, the space was still finite in some terms.

Anyway, now, with the Chimera as his new companion, Bi Fan couldn't sell off these carcasses in the open market. These carcasses were going to be used for satisfying the Chimera's massive appetite, in fact, several more would be needed for that purpose.

Since, they were collecting food for the Chimera; he in particular, was putting a lot of effort. But whenever animals saw the Chimera looking to make a meal out of them, they quickly made themselves scarce.

Anyway, Bi Fan was only looking for a strong enemy, so he didn't care much if the Chimera's violent appearance scared the weak ones away.

The Chimera on the other hand was awfully carefree while roaming around in the wild.

On the way, they even encountered a small group of humans, who instantaneously bent down to the ground in surrender, awfully terrified of the Chimera.

The moment they had seen a teenager sitting on top of the Chimera, their shocked faces had reflected several different emotions simultaneously, including those of envy and admiration.

Bi Fan decided that he won't harm these boys. These youngsters belonged to some other school, and after all said and done, he didn't need any more enemies.

The youngsters were terrified by the pace at which the Chimera gusted pasted them.

It took them a long time to recover, mentally, from the encounter and they continued to discuss it for a long time.

“What kind of a demon was that? He was so strong and so fast! I could barely move....”

“That was a Chimera. A Chimera is a very powerful and ferocious demon, I have no idea how that human managed to subdue one. He's one lucky guy.”

“If that guy managed to subdue such an enormous beast then he is definitely very strong as well.”

“That's probably true, but I don't know which school he belongs to. Xuan Wu Ji topped the Jiu Yu list, is it possible that he is more powerful than Xuan Wu Ji?”

“Highly unlikely, after all, Xuan Wu Ji topped that list several years ago, and this person seemed a little too young to compete with the likes of such a genius.”

“If you give him a few years, then it might be possible someday. I mean that Chimera of his, can grow into a very big and powerful beast, and if his strength advances into the ‘transformation’ layer, then it might be possible that he could actually break into the ‘emerging from the womb’ category someday.”

... ..

Bi Fan didn't hear their discussion, in fact, by the time they started discussing this, Bi Fan's company had already wandered far away from them, owing to the Chimera's speed.

No one knew how the devil's territory came to be, although there were several legends that spoke about the same. Some say, that some sort of a disagreement was settled here, and that this area was ground zero of an ancient battle.

Numerous spirits prevailed here, so much so, that for thousands of years, no one even dared to venture anywhere close to this region. Then slowly, over the years, tall, towering trees started growing, animals started living here, and gradually turned into beasts, goblins, and other forms of evil demons, and this is how the devil's territory became what it is today.

However, in the present day, there is no written record, making all such legends and folklores nothing more than myths, and completely untraceable.

No spirits were ever reported in the devil's territory. Although, one thing was certain, the amount of aura inside the devil's

territory far exceeded the aura that lingered in the world outside.

No one knew the reason, but if humans stayed inside the devil's territory for long periods of time, then sometimes, they would go berserk, as if they had been possessed. Even the demons that were present inside the devil's territory were far more violent in nature than the ones present outside, but never acted like they had been possessed by evil spirits.

It is for this reason that humans never stayed inside the devil's territory for too long a time frame and so the devil's territory had been cordoned off by a unanimous vote.

Do evil spirits and ghosts really exist?

Several people suspected that they do, but no one had ever been able to prove it.

Bi Fan had heard a lot of rumors related to the devil's territory, but he had laughed them off.

For a long time now, people had fancied the idea of the devil's territory being an ancient battlefield, but no one had any proof or clues to support the argument.

Attempting to get to the bottom of this argument was only going to waste time and cause grief, and hence wasn't worth it.

Bi Fan knew that he is only a man, and men have their own

consciousness, and Bi Fan's consciousness kept telling him to increase his strength.

Even if there was an ancient treasure trove hidden in this region, Bi Fan was practical enough to know that it would be more beneficial to train and upgrade his strength than going on a wild goose chase.

“Wooooo!” the Chimera had just hunted down a wild tiger and issued a roar out of excitement.

Recently, the Chimera had become more and more active; it appeared that tagging along with Bi Fan had proved out to be a good choice. Unlike the past, he was no longer just eating and sleeping, sleeping and eating; he was no longer leading a monotonous life.

A Chimera is born to fight, they like the excitement, and they really like to fight.

The only complaint that the Chimera could register, was that every time they encountered a strong opponent, Bi Fan would rush out ahead to fight it, which meant that the Chimera couldn't enjoy himself to the optimal limit.

Suddenly, there seemed to be a massive surge of oppressive energy coming from the deepest abyss of the devil's territory, like evil forces were leaking from within.

Bi Fan was thankful that his heart was still beating after that shocking moment, and even the Chimera was, visibly, shivering with fear.

“What was that?” Bi Fan asked, shocked.

This incident, it seemed wasn't limited to their surroundings, and other demons and disciples in the devil's territory had also sensed this sudden surge of energy.

People, animals, and demons alike, were curious. And once the spirits had calmed down, everyone wanted to find out where this sudden surge of energy had originated from.

Chapter 41 – Spirits

Bi Fan did not hesitate at all as he climbed on top of the Chimera and rushed towards the point, from which this evil aura had erupted.

Recently, Bi Fan had been having a lot of difficulty finding suitable opponents, and he felt like taking a chance here.

Along the way, Bi Fan decided that it was better to change his appearance a bit, as he didn't want to risk being spotted by 'rising sun' disciples, as it might lead to unnecessary trouble.

That being said, Bi Fan did not fear 'rising sun' disciples, he simply didn't want to be delayed on his course to ground zero of the incident that had just occurred.

Bi Fan had this strange feeling that the things could get really messy around that area.

“Was the devil's territory really an ancient battlefield?” Bi Fan was taken aback as he pondered over the idea.

In the ancient past, the strength of men far exceeded that of today's. Their strength was beyond match and so were their weapons.

If this really was an ancient battle field, then any leftover weapons that anyone could find, would certainly be extraordinary

by present day's standards.

Today, the world considered the 'immortals' to be an almost extinct layer, and following their decline, the 'immortal' weapons had also faded away. Only a very few, handful of very powerful factions around the world were rumored to possess a very small amount of such weapons.

Excited by this thought, Bi Fan kept pushing the Chimera to accelerate its pace.

The Chimera too was very curious, and so was running as fast as he possibly could.

Along the way, Bi Fan encountered several humans and demons, all of whom, were trying to find their way to the point of origination of this freak incident.

Bi Fan didn't want to get involved in any kinds of fights right now, as getting to ground zero was his top priority at the moment.

The really surprising thing was that Bi Fan spotted several 'brave' layer demons on route. He had no idea why he hadn't spotted them previously, maybe they remained hidden from public sight as they didn't wish to be disturbed. But owing to the narrowness of the path, they were forced to come out in the open to investigate this incident.

If the demons that preferred their privacy were provoked, then a

fierce fight was called for.

Bi Fan was even more excited now; finally, finding new targets for his practice wasn't going to be a very difficult task.

Although Bi Fan ran into many humans on the way, none of them were sitting on the back of a demon, let alone something as strong as this Chimera. So naturally, Bi Fan was stealing all the attention.

Bi Fan's Chimera gusted past everyone on the way, as he drifted towards the center of the scene, and eyes balls followed them.

Ground zero of this outbreak was very deep into this level of the devil's territory, and was awfully close to the second level.

Bi Fan's ride, the Chimera, reduced its run to a walking pace as they neared their destination.

Bi Fan just stood there, shocked, as he looked at the surroundings he had just arrived at.

In front of him, were tall trees, tall withered trees. A huge expanse of the forest had withered down to a stale yellow color.

The evil spirits that had done this were obviously very strong, but it wasn't just that, from the looks of it, it appeared that this outbreak was a pretty violent one.

A few humans and demons had already arrived at the scene, but no one was willing to take the initiative of leading the way ahead and into the devastated expanse that lay ahead of them.

No one knew what was really happening here, no one knew why and how these evil spirits had appeared or where they had come from.

The hearts of everyone present were puzzled, but curious, and they all awaited answers.

Ever since Bi Fan had arrived at this place, he could feel that the Yin Yang lotus that inhabited his body had been growing very restless. The black part of the lotus, especially, seemed very excited.

Under pressure from the Lotus that resided in his body, Bi Fan jumped off the Chimera's back, and started walking towards the area that was enveloped by the spirits.

At present, Bi Fan simply seemed to have no control over anything. It appeared as if the Yin Yang Lotus was making him walk and had taken control over his body.

“Greedy, Chimera, stay back, wait for me outside, do not come in here.” Bi Fan bit his tongue as he tried to gain some control back to issue orders to his companions.

As he entered the region, he could sense his body being affected by the spirits in the vicinity, and he simply could not let the Chimera and the Marten take this risk.

The Chimera was about to follow Bi Fan into the region, but as soon as he heard Bi Fan's command, he quickly retreated his footsteps.

The Marten had wanted to step into the region several times, but each time, his heart, filled with fear, stopped him. He couldn't help as he jumped up and down, hoping to channel out the adrenaline rush.

Bi Fan, step by step, slowly walked towards the center of the region that appeared to have been possessed by evil spirits.

All the creature and humans that were present on the scene, stared at him in awe, as if, he was their pathfinder.

As they watched Bi Fan cross almost twenty meters into the region without facing any abnormal activity, finally some of the creatures and humans decided that they too couldn't wait any longer and decided to venture into the region enveloped by the spirits.

“Ah....” Blood-curling screams echoed, as the minds of these humans and demons were attacked by the spirits. The pain they suffered was beyond the bearable limit, so they quickly retreated their footsteps and fell back.

Some six men had rushed into the area at a very quick, but failed to get out of there quickly enough, and soon fell to the ground, dead.

The ones who hadn't yet entered into the region, looked on, gasping at the scene they were witnessing.

The creatures that were present on scene had been so badly scared off by this incident that they backed further away from the spirits.

The Chimera and the Marten were quiet smart, as soon as they heard the screams of the ones that had tried to follow Bi Fan; they quickly realized that no one will be able to follow him into the region. This also meant that some of them might try to create trouble for them, as everyone knew that the two of them were with Bi Fan, so the two of them quickly retreated from their spots and hid.

“Damn it, how has that person managed to penetrate almost thirty meters into the region, no one else can even step foot into it.” A human spoke out furiously.

“We need to find a way to enter the region; otherwise that guy will take away all the credit.”

The people present outside were getting more and more anxious. The demons, however, had taken a few steps back, and had calmed down; they weren't really interested in magic that much.

Bi Fan had penetrated a decent distance into the area without facing any problems so far, so he gradually relaxed a bit.

Bi Fan had penetrated a decent distance into the area without facing any problems so far, so he gradually relaxed a bit.

Since it was the Yin Yang Lotus that had guided Bi Fan into this zone, he was sure that the Lotus would ascertain that nothing untoward happened to him.

Once he had entered about thirty meters into the zone, he could feel the real strength of the spirits. He could feel their presence against his body, and he could feel that they were trying to enter into his mind.

The black part of the lotus finally started acting; silky black threads started emerging from Bi Fan's body and started to absorb the Spirits.

Bi Fan stood there, at the center of a whirlpool, with all the malignant spirits rushing towards him, frantically.

These spirits were formless, invisible. The humans and creatures standing outside the zone couldn't see them, but Bi Fan could sense their presence.

The Yin Yang Lotus was absorbing the spirits and aura at a maddening rate. The Black petals were assimilating those evil spirits whereas the White petals were in charge of absorbing the

Aura.

Bi Fan could sense that the aura surrounding him was now thinning out, so Bi Fan decided to walk a little deeper into the Abyss, as some of the spirits might have decided to stay away from the demons.

Bi Fan was aware, that the demons and humans, who were waiting and watching from the outside, may cause him some trouble later, in fact, he considered a fight to be inevitable and unavoidable upon his return.

Bi Fan could sense the enthusiasm with which the Yin Yang Lotus was absorbing the Aura, and he felt that it was best to let the Lotus take its time.

Bi Fan continued to walk deeper into that forbidden zone, and the ones that stood outside, looked on, in astonishment at the freak that Bi Fan was.

“Woah, that’s amazing, it’s as if those evil spirits have no effect on him.” One youngster wondered in admiration.

“Nah, nothing can stop so many spirits, he’s probably already been possessed by the spirits.” Another man argued, refusing to be convinced otherwise.

“We can’t just stand here and wait; there might be some amazing treasures inside that area.”

“I have some mind soothing Dan pellets, high price, available for purchase here.” A man yelled.

Some of the people who were in possession of these Dan pellets suddenly burst into action. They ingested the pellets and made their way towards the region that was engulfed by the spirits.

Perhaps it was the sparse density of the Spirits close to the entrance that allowed the Dan pellets to nullify the effect of the spirits and the humans that entered the region now, had already penetrated about ten meters into the region without much trouble.

“Hey you there, I’d like to buy some of those mind soothing pellets.” The people that were standing on the outside were rushing over to the ones who had these mind soothing pellets, desperate to enter the possessed region.

“Over here, one pellet for a hundred spars, how many would you like to buy?”

“A hundred spar for a single pellet? Are you serious? I have a family to feed, please can you give me one for lesser.”

There were many people standing on the edge of the possessed area who had these mind soothing pellets, but what they didn’t have was courage; the courage it took to enter the spirit inhabited

region that lay in front of them.

Although, at this point of time, such people had been presented with an opportunity to make a small fortune, and to them, their fortune, was in selling these Dan pellets for a few extra spars.

“I have a mind soothing Dan pellet, the pellets goes to the highest bidder, hurry!” A youngster pulled out a mind soothing pellet as he advertised his product loudly.

In no time at all, the teenager was surrounded by a flock of humans, who were bidding for the pellet and the exchange took place quickly.

Similar scenes were seen in several other places all around and the whole vicinity was bustling with excitement.

Some people had chosen to gather a little farther away from the main scene, near the demons, choosing to remain out of this for the time being, but the glint in their eyes clearly reflected that they were waiting for the opportune moment to make their move.

As soon as a person would get their hands on the pellet, they would eat it and rush into the zone.

Bi Fan had gone further into the region and had almost vanished from the line of sight of the crowd that waited outside in anticipation. Bi Fan, at this point had already gone at least a hundred meters into that possessed territory, if not more.

The deeper he ventured, the denser the aura, the more intense the spirits. The Yin Yang Lotus was busy, absorbing the entire aura and the spirits that dwelled.

Bi Fan didn't have much of a role to play here, and he submitted himself to simply inspect the Lotus that resided inside his body; only to find that Lotus was becoming more and more lustrous.

And the center of the Lotus seemed to be protruding a bit now, almost like there was bulge in the middle. But even then, it didn't feel as if the Lotus was in an uncomfortable position, on the contrary, it appeared as if the Lotus was having a jolly good time, and was continually growing more radiant.

Bi Fan was really curious to see what further changes the Yin Yang Lotus would exhibit.

After reaching this point, going any further was becoming very difficult for him, mainly due to all the physical pressure.

Bi Fan had no other choice and he came to stop, so he could rest for a while, while the Lotus continued to absorb the aura and spirits in the surrounding region, and then he started moving further again.

Bi Fan had no idea how far the center of this eruption was, as he hadn't yet had any visual contact with its source.

Those who had entered the region behind him realized that, as they ventured deeper into the region, the force of the spirits increased, along with the difficulty and risk involved in going any further. The smart ones were quick to quit and return back to the safe zone, whereas some were far too sacred to go any deeper.

The ones, who had paid a very high price while acquiring the mind soothing pellets, especially, didn't want to give up very easily.

Ten meters.... Fifteen meters..... Twenty meters....

These people were already under a lot of pressure and some of them were still pushing themselves very hard to go further in.

“Please don't let the devil possess me!” Many people inwardly prayed as fear overwhelmed their courageous start.

One strong and courageous man managed to venture almost twenty five meters into the region, but suddenly, he started going berserk. He started shouting like maniac as he tore his clothes apart and pulled at his hair.

“Oh my god! He has been possessed by the devil!” The people who stood a few steps behind him instantaneously stopped, looking gloomy and scared, as they watched him die a gruesome death.

A human had been possessed even after being supported by the

Dan pellet. So now, not a lot of people were willing to take the risk.

One of them, however, had exchanged all of his possessions to obtain the Dan pellet and refused to return without any rewards, and so he continued to walk deeper.

He failed to learn the lesson from the mistakes of his predecessor, but managed to teach one to his followers.

He too failed to survive, and died a deranged death.

This time, without any sort of hesitation, everyone turned around and started heading back.

The people who had sold off these Dan pellets in the first place were secretly laughing at their customers.

“The man who entered the region first, who was he? Too courageous, he wasn’t even afraid of the spirits.”

“Let’s examine this situation for the time being instead of reporting this to our superiors immediately. Maybe it will stop, or it might get worse too.”

“I remember what that man looks like, if he manages to come out alive, then we must find a way to cut him off.”

Everyone gathered, was waiting to see what happens to Bi Fan,

but at present, none of them could see him, as he had already faded out of their visual reach.

Chapter 42 – Strong Ones Join In

The evil spirits had suddenly appeared out of nowhere and they were causing quite a scene. Most people who were in Xi Guan had already spotted the anomaly, and so had the people inside the second layer of the devil's territory.

However, the devil's territory was restricted in some ways. This meant that the people inside the second layer could not enter the first layer in the same trip, and this barrier also prevented the demons that resided in the second layer from wandering into the first.

“So many evil spirits appearing out of nowhere, this is a bad omen!” the looks on faces of people who were witnessing this from the other places, had also changed drastically to that of a sad one.

“So many evil spirits sprouting inside the devil's territory! Are the legends true?”

Several people had gathered to witness this phenomenon and they couldn't help but speculate if the rumors were actually true; the devil's territory might have been a battlefield in a bygone era.

If this place really had served as the grounds for an ancient battle, then many strong people would have died here. This also meant that there could still be a few surviving artifacts from that era; some palpitating hearts yearned to get their hands on such artifacts.

“There is no certainty, but if this place really was an ancient battlefield, then there could also be a few immortal weapons buried there, we must go and survey the area.”

‘Immortal weapon’, this one term was enough, the eyebrows of everyone present, were already raised.

Immortal weapons Ah! These were weapons of unlimited power. There was only one known immortal weapon in the entire world, it was named, Tai Yin. Tai Yun was controlled by the nine sacred school of Tian Yu.

It was rumored that the weapon was so strong, that it was rarely ever used. In fact, they say, that the schools only use this weapon to control the weather.

Spiritual weapons were considered priceless in Tian Yu, and even spiritual weapons couldn’t hope to match the power of an immortal weapon.

No prizes for guessing that if anyone came face to face with an immortal weapon, they would do anything to get their hands on it.

Suddenly, the entire bunch of people present at this scene, starting flocking towards the counter to buy an entry ticket into the devil’s territory.

The entire Xi Guan town was rushing towards the ticket counter, to enter the first layer of the devil’s territory.

The person who was responsible for the sale of these entries didn't want to comply with their demands, as some of the practitioners were far too strong to be allowed into the first layer of the devil's territory and were usually assigned to layer two or three.

Only a mortal human, he was unable to ward off the constant threats of such powerful people, and left with no choice, he eventually granted them the access to the first layer of the devil's territory.

At least a thousand or so, very powerful practitioners, had managed to buy themselves entry tickets into the devil's territory, and as soon as they entered the region, they rushed towards the possessed area.

These people were applying all kinds of techniques, whatever it took to get there as quickly as possible. So much so, that some were even willing to use divine essence seals for the same.

Of course, there were others who were slightly more cautious, and didn't break into the devil's territory so hastily.

If this region had really been a battlefield in the distant past, then maybe, it wasn't such a good idea to go in there at this time.

At this point, Bi Fan had no idea as to far out he had ventured into this region. Now, he needed to stop for at least twenty minutes after taking each step, as that's the time it took for the

Lotus to absorb the spirits and the aura, and this time frame was increasing with every step he took.

The Aura density was increasing steadily and the evil spirits were becoming more and more violent, which was making Bi Fan very uncomfortable.

If the Lotus hadn't been in control of his body, then he would have fled this region a very long time ago.

Evil spirits were entering into his body, which wasn't a very comfortable sensation, and even with the Yin Yang Lotus protecting him, Bi Fan was still in a very miserable state.

Bi Fan couldn't help the Lotus absorb the spirits or the Aura, and was basically rendered jobless at the moment. He felt really bored, and all he could do was inspect the Lotus from time to time, as it continuously changed in many ways.

After absorbing so many spirits and aura, the Lotus's petals had grown much bigger in size, and it glimmered with even more radiance than before.

Apart from the flower itself, the Lotus's stamen was also growing in size, and was beginning to form a proper shape.

The Lotus's stamen was also half black and half white in color, like the Lotus, and looked very similar to a Yin Yang.

There were eighteen holes in the stamen; half of them were black in color whereas the other half were white. However there were no seeds in them at the moment.

The Lotus's stamen was very small in size in comparison to the Lotus's body, but its dimensions were constantly growing in size, and Bi Fan, for some reason, felt that it must be a good sign.

Actually, Bi Fan couldn't really be sure, and at this moment, he was only making things up along the way.

He had no idea whether this Lotus that was concealed in his body, was a good thing or a bad thing to begin with. But so far, his heart felt consoled in the fact that nothing bad had happened to him because of the Lotus.

As the Lotus's stamen started taking its shape, the Lotus was able to absorb the aura and the spirits at a much faster rate.

Bi Fan could distinctly feel it otherwise as well, and he could sense that the spirits were forming a much bigger whirlwind around him, as they flocked into his body.

“Was this place really an ancient battlefield? How else could there be so many evil spirits and so much aura here...” Bi Fan body may not have been in his control but his mind most certainly was.

Bi Fan couldn't help but look forward, wanting to see the source of this eruption, but he still couldn't spot it, nor could he see any

valuables in vicinity.

Simultaneously, Bi Fan also kept looking back every now and then, as he would want to know if he had any company.

A lot of people had managed to get onto the scene, and Bi Fan was surprised that none of them had been able to keep up with him.

The people who were at the edge of the zone were even more anxious than Bi Fan. Bi Fan had been gone for almost three hours now, and they still couldn't see any signs of movement inside the zone.

Is he dead after all, or is he alive?

This question was the main concern of everyone present and even the demons looked on in anticipation.

They were eagerly waiting to see him dead and hoped that he had managed to acquire some valuables, as some of them were still not willing to return empty handed from this episode.

“What do we do now? He went in such a long time ago, if he wandered too far away, then it will be very difficult to find him and his valuables.” A man said anxiously.

“No, I doubt it. The heart of this activity is a fair distance away, by now he must have reached very close to it. But you see, the deeper you go, the stronger the evil spirits become. So by now,

they most likely would have entered his body, possessed him, and killed him. He has to be dead by now.”

“Yes, yes, you are right. The man went in there such a long time ago; he is most certainly dead by now.”

“Yes, yes, you are right. The man went in there such a long time ago; he is most certainly dead by now.”

These people were convinced that Bi Fan was already dead; in fact, they wanted him to be. These people had not been able to enter the zone like Bi Fan had, and they simply didn't want to believe that another man could be better than them.

These people were talented youngsters from different school, proud and arrogant, which meant that they were really dissatisfied with Bi Fan's capability, and wouldn't allow themselves to be subjected to someone's superiority.

If they felt that anyone was above their level, they wouldn't hesitate in killing the person in question to prove otherwise.

While these people were busy waiting, they felt a sudden surge of strong and powerful people approaching them at high speeds. They could feel that these new comers were at least as strong as the 'emerging from the womb' category.

These new comers had barely landed, and soon, another group of similarly strong practitioners arrived at the scene.

The demons that were present at the scene started shivering in fear and were left with no choice but to escape, as they simply couldn't dare to stay here any longer.

However, these new strong arrivals were least concerned with the demons, and they were only bothered about the evil spirits, so they allowed the demons to leave in peace. In fact, most of them didn't even bother to glance at the demons.

“Who will tell me what's going on here with these spirits?” A large and handsome man asked.

He was in the ‘emerging from the womb’ layer; as his eyes scanned the youngsters around him whose heads hung low as they lowered their gaze.

One youngster walked out of the crowd, trembling with fear and trepidation, and spoke up: “Sir, the evil spirits are very powerful, we cannot dare to go into the territory ourselves, as the deeper we go, the evil spirits become stronger and then they possess us... but....but....”

“But what, say it quickly.”

“Sir, there was one young man who wasn't afraid of the spirits and it even seemed as if they had no effect on him at all. He ventured into the zone three hours ago and still hasn't returned.”

“What?” The big and handsome man exclaimed.

“Sir, I speak the truth. Everyone here can testify to this.”

“One person had entered the zone a long time ago, we do not know his present situation, and we have no idea whether he is alive or dead.”

“The guy simply ignored the spirits and continued to move forward very quickly.”

... ..

Many people were speaking on the matter simultaneously.

Very soon, several hundred very strong practitioners had gathered outside the possessed zone, and many more were on their way.

“Let’s go into the region and see things for ourselves.”

Eventually, these strong practitioners simply couldn’t sit by idly and they started preparing to enter the zone.

One man, in one strong leap, jumped into the possessed region, he leapt almost ten meters in, and continued to stride inwards at a very quick pace, without being even slightly affected by the spirits.

Once a person enters into the 'spiritual intelligence' layer, they undergo a significant transformation. They take a massive leap in terms of strength and energy, even their wisdom improves a lot.

'Spiritual intelligence' was considered a big milestone in the 'fetus' category and not one that many people managed to cross over into.

Once a person has crossed over into the 'spiritual intelligence' layer, breaking into the higher layer, and even the 'transformation' layer is relatively easier.

Again, breaking into the 'emerging from the womb' category was a big milestone, the inner energy would get transformed into aura, spirit and there were several other very significant changes. Also, it was much harder to break into this category as compared to 'spiritual intelligence' and one needed to train very fiercely to achieve it.

So obviously, the resistance that an 'emerging from the womb' martial artist would have to these evil spirits was much greater when compared to 'spiritual intelligence' practitioners.

One person had already taken the lead and looked well committed to maintaining it. The others quickly jumped into the zone, for the fear of falling behind.

Back in the region clear of the possessed zone, there were a few 'spiritual intelligence' martial artists as well. But once a person breaks into the 'spiritual intelligence' layer, they gain a great

amount of self-awareness, and these people knew well enough that cannot compete with ‘emerging from the womb’ martial artists, so they gave up on the idea of breaking into the zone that lay ahead of them.

Twenty meters.... Thirty meters.... Fifty meters.....

The people who had taken the initiative to enter the zone first, had already managed to reach almost fifty meters, but their pace had now been slowed down considerably, probably due to the influence of the spirits, which was only growing stronger.

However, so far, no one had been possessed by the evil spirits.

In a very short span of time, thousands more had managed to reach the periphery of the possessed zone, and when then saw that so many of their competitors had already gone in, they rushed into the zone without even bothering to understand the circumstances that they were going to face inside.

As far as they were concerned, they were already lagging behind, and they just didn’t want to fall behind even further.

“Woah! Just look at them, they are so powerful. They aren’t even afraid of those evil spirits. I have no idea how long it will take for us to reach their level.”

“It’s too early to say whether the spirits are affecting them or not. You see, things start getting complicated with every step you

take, and the deeper you go, the stronger the effect of the spirits. I'm afraid that soon enough, things might not be looking so good for them." A young man rebutted, recalling his own experience.

His voice, however, was subdued by a blood-curling scream, and it would appear as if his prediction had come true.

One man, 'spiritual intelligence' layer, was rolling on the floor, holding his head, and it seemed like he was suffering from an incredible amount of pain.

"Oh my, I think he has been possessed!" Everyone ceased in their steads.

The man in question, had company, and his friends rushed to him to rescue him. But by then, he had already lost control over his mind and he recklessly started attacking everyone around him indiscriminately.

He tossed around from left to right, and bled at least seven people that surrounded him, and then eventually fell to the ground, dead.

"Be careful, evil spirits are getting stronger and stronger. If your strength is not enough, think for yourself and return." One man, 'emerging from the womb' layer, spoke out loudly to warn the others.

Many of the people who were below the 'emerging from the womb' category, decided to fall back and started retreating as they

didn't want to die a gruesome death. However, the ones who were in the 'emerging from the womb' layer were full of confidence and didn't feel that they needed to return at this point.

Although, there were still some, who were below the 'emerging from the womb layer', and had decided to carry forward as they felt that they could handle it.

The idea that this place could have been an ancient battlefield was so tempting that most men couldn't resist it.

The people who had decided to continue forward were very cautious now, as they had already witnessed the possessing of one practitioner, and slowed their pace down significantly.

As they moved forward, if anyone felt that they couldn't continue any further, they would immediately turn around and fall back. Although, most of them felt defeated in doing this, but their hearts were consoled in the fact that they would live to tell another tale, rather than dying a terrible death in here.

“Ah!....” Another man seemed to be losing control of his mind.

He clenched his teeth, tried to regain his mind; he was trying to fight back, his life was at stake.

The formless spirits breached his defenses before he could reach out for the Jade tablet that could grant him an instant exit from the devil's territory.

His screams reached the ears of the brave men who were still moving forward, and their hearts went cold, mind numb, giving them goosebumps all over their bodies. Some more practitioners decided to retreat and turned around.

At present, only three hundred men were left, who were still moving forward, very slowly, very cautiously and from time to time, someone would quit and turn around.

Chapter 43 – Seeds

Bi Fan had no idea that so many other, extremely powerful, martial artists had joined him inside the zone and were strong on his trail. His body was being controlled by the Yin Yang Lotus as he continued to walk deeper into the region, step by step.

He had no idea how long this would take, but he knew that the Lotus meant him no harm, so he resigned himself to the Lotus's will.

He, however, was very optimistic and curious about the core of the spirit eruption.

Subjected to such kind of boredom, all Bi Fan could do was watch the Lotus change in shape and size as it continued to absorb the aura and the spirits. But now, suddenly, he could see two grain sized seeds inside the Lotus's stamen, one black, and the other, white.

“Amazing, the Lotus is actually bearing seeds, could it be using the spirits as food?” Bi Fan couldn't help but wish.

The Lotus had managed to assimilate a huge amount of aura and spirits before it had expedited the birth of the seeds and was still growing bigger.

The Lotus was absorbing the Aura and the spirits much faster now, but Bi Fan's forward pace had gone down considerably.

The Spirits formed a storm, sweeping all the dried leaves off the ground which appeared to be dancing in the storm, as they surrounded Bi Fan.

Every now and then, a leaf would hit Bi Fan in the face and cause him a bit of pain.

Bi Fan welcomed this pain, to him, it was relief. It meant that his body was still his own.

“Look, there’s someone ahead of us, and it looks like he’s still alive!”

The sound came from a good distance away, behind Bi Fan, but he could hear it very clearly.

“Yes, I see him too, but it doesn’t seem like he’s moving. What if he’s possessed?”

Bi Fan had been taken by surprise, and felt very uneasy now.

The obviously reason being, that he couldn’t control his own body at the moment.

Several, very strong martial artists had decided to follow in Bi Fan’s stead and some of them had managed to catch up with him to some extent. At the moment, they were only about two hundred

meters away from him, and were finally able to see his silhouette figure.

At this moment, only thirteen of them were still actively involved in the excavation, as a vast majority of the ones who had started strong, had eventually given up and turned back while some had lost their lives to the spirits that lingered in the zone.

All of these thirteen people were in the 'emerging from the womb' layer and they had finally gotten close enough to at least spot Bi Fan.

“That kid is standing very still, he simply isn't moving forward. Does anyone know what we should expect?”

“He has been still for a while now. Could he be dead? I heard that he was only in the 'brave' layer, so how did he manage to get this far? If what they say is true, then this is truly an exceptional circumstance.”

“'Brave layer!' Impossible. There was definitely an error in the judgement of the people who stated this; it's almost like a tiger managed to disguise himself as a pig. We are all in the 'emerging from the womb' category, and even we haven't been able to get that far yet. There is no way a 'brave' layer boy did it.” One of the men snorted coldly.

Indeed, these people were all masters of the art, and though they had managed to penetrate this deep in the zone, even they were having a very difficult time moving forward at present.

The man who stood ahead of them was at least two hundred meters further into the zone, so there is no way that he was only as strong as the 'brave' layer.

The situation was such, that several 'emerging from the womb' layer practitioners had succumbed to the spirits and died, whereas lower layer martial artists had quit early. Only these thirteen had been able to persist this far in this forsaken zone.

“The pressure will only become stronger up ahead, I’m afraid that we may not be able to go that far.” A man sighed.

“I think that only the 'magical powers' layer experts are capable of exploring the core of this zone.”

“If we withdraw and return now, then those 'magical powers' layer experts will come to explore this region later, and whatever rewards that await us, will be lost.”

All thirteen of them were considering quitting and returning as none of them wanted to die.

“Crap! Quick, look, he’s not dead yet! He just moved a step.” One man exclaimed.

The twelve others quickly shifted their gaze and managed to get a glimpse of Bi Fan’s movement. They stood there, speechlessly, with their mouths hanging open, out of shock.

After, what seemed like a long pause, one of them spoke up: “Is it possible that he’s in the ‘magical powers’ layer?”

“That must be the case, or else, how did he manage to go that far.”

“You say that he’s in the ‘magical powers’ layer, but what’s such a strong guy doing in this part of the devil’s territory?”

They all stood there in silence, as no one had an answer to that.

“Whatever the case is, I will have to go out and report this to my senior. I have tried, but now it’s time for me to turn back, what about you guys?”

“Since you’re leaving, we should all withdraw as well. Anyway, the man seems to be having a difficult time moving forward, so, he should soon withdraw too. Plus, we are still a very long way from the center of this activity; it won’t be possible for him to reach that far.”

These people withdrew and began to return; as they reached the outer rim, they were already soaking wet with exhaustion.

“Finally, they have returned! We were so worried that they won’t be coming out.” Someone shouted in a single breath.

“How’s the situation on the inside?” Many people had surrounded them, and were inquiring to gain some sort of clarity.

The thirteen people, who had just returned, remained tight-lipped as they didn’t have much news to share.

They quickly made a dash, and it appeared as if they were making their way towards the exit.

Many smart people had already started leaving the area, as they had realized that since they can’t breach the zone, then, there is no point wasting time standing outside.

Within moments, most people had already started to leave, leaving behind only a few hundreds in number, all of whom were from different schools. The main purpose that these people were left behind was that, so they could represent and observe on behalf of their respective schools.

The arrival of such strong people had made Bi Fan very anxious, but he now was a little puzzled, for he hadn’t expected them to leave.

Bi Fan couldn’t waste much time thinking about them, as his suffering was getting unbearable now.

Even with the Lotus protecting him, the shock from the attacks of the spirits was enough to cause him a great deal of pain.

“Holy Lotus, please spare me, I’m just a boy, I don’t want to die.”
Bi Fan prayed with all his heart.

The Lotus, however, hadn’t absorbed enough of the aura or the spirits and had no desire to leave just yet.

Bi Fan was left with no other choice so he clenched his teeth and geared up to endure the pain, the limitless, unbearable pain. His soul was being tortured, his spirit was being tormented and he felt as if he was going to go crazy and lose his mind.

If he did lose his mind, he at least wouldn’t have to suffer any more.

If he did lose his mind, he at least wouldn’t have to suffer any more.

Suddenly, he regained control over his mind, and he felt the pain in its most raw state, with all its force.

Bi Fan wanted to scream, vent it out, but the pain was so extreme that nothing came out of his mouth.

“Endure it!” Bi Fan had always been good at tolerating pain, for he had suffered so much of it in the past.

The pain was so intense that Bi Fan thought that he would soon faint. From past experiences, he knew that fainting would at least relieve him of this suffering temporarily.

The Yin Yang Lotus continued to manipulate Bi Fan's body and he continued to move forward.

It wasn't just his mind that was suffering; his body too was feeling the pain.

So much aura and so many spirits had been entering his body, maybe it was too much to handle or maybe some of them had managed to escape the Lotus. Bi Fan felt as if they were going to split his body open, from the inside.

Bi Fan was suffering on both ends, ceaselessly.

Suddenly, a method that he had learnt from that battered jade book, started working on its own. The technique started refining the Spirits and the aura to enhance his physical strength.

Bi Fan was so shocked, that he even forgot about the pain and started inspecting the method, which was in action.

The method must be a very powerful one; for a second, even the spirits that were attacking his body crumpled under its influence, before resuming attacking his body again, while the technique continued to use them to enhance his physical strength.

Obviously Bi Fan could feel the improvement in his physical strength consistently. Even the pain had subsided to a great extent and he felt very relaxed all of a sudden, relatively.

Since the situation had changed, Bi Fan was now, in no hurry to leave. If he stayed here, then his strength would continue to improve, so at present, he was willfully volunteering to subject himself to the pain he was suffering.

His body was drenched in his sweat and his head was exploding with pain.

He was happy to continue, as long as it didn't kill him.

It's such a pity that Longevity burst is a very low level technique, which meant that it wasn't capable of functioning on its own, otherwise Bi Fan would have loved to use it as well to enhance his powers further.

Obviously, at present, since Bi Fan had no control over his body, he couldn't practice it, as much as he would have liked to.

The Yin Yang Lotus was absorbing the spirits and the aura at a much faster rate now; the seeds were growing in size at a good rate and so was the rest of the Lotus.

As time elapsed, things continued to progress at their slow and steady pace; Bi Fan had, by now lost track of how long he'd been here, and had no idea as to how much longer it was going to take.

Bi Fan was roused by the hiss of a tiger from out of nowhere, and he instantaneously halted inspecting the Lotus that was inside his

body.

A giant black tiger had somehow managed to appear in front of Bi Fan; the tiger was quite close to Bi Fan, and judging by his glaring red eyes, Bi Fan could tell that the tiger's intentions weren't very much in his favor.

The tiger looked at Bi Fan, roared a few times, and then charged in Bi Fan's direction.

Bi Fan could tell that this black tiger was awfully strong as his pace was even faster than the Chimera's.

Bi Fan exerted his body with all his strength, desiring for it to move so he could dodge this incoming attack, but his body didn't budge, having refused to obey his command.

"It's over now." Bi Fan closed his eyes, he had done everything he could have; he had tried really hard; but now, it was time to go.

As the black tiger's bloody mouth was almost upon Bi Fan head, ready to tear it off the rest of his body, he was suddenly stopped. Suddenly, the tiger found himself struggling, as his body hung there, in midair.

Bi Fan opened his eyes, only to be surprised. The black tiger was being encompassed in a net of silky black threads, which were beginning to restrict his movements.

Suddenly, the black tiger started howling in pain, and his body started to dissipate.

Watching the tiger stripped down to his bones made Bi Fan a little nauseous.

Soon, even the bones had faded away, and the net broke down into strands of silky black threads which returned to their place inside Bi Fan's body.

Bi Fan felt a bit numb as he tried to fathom the power of these black silk threads. He vaguely guessed that these odd black threads might have something to do with the Lotus that resided inside his body.

Instead of being scared, Bi Fan was pleasantly surprised and even reassured. There was a force inside his body that was capable of protecting him in critical moments, and seemed to be showing up whenever he was in grave danger.

Bi Fan quickly peeped inside his body, hoping to enquire the occurrence of these threads.

The Yin Yang Lotus seemed to be busy absorbing the aura and spirits as normal, and nothing seemed to have changed with that.

In such a short span of time, Bi Fan could sense that his physical strength had reached almost six Yun Shi, which was almost at par with his inner energy.

“Amazing! Now, I can even fight with the ‘enormous strength’ layer.” Bi Fan was overjoyed.

Not only that, Bi Fan could see that the two seeds were now mellow and ripe.

Apart from this, two other holes in the Lotus’s stamen seemed to have sprouted a seed, each.

Consecutive surprises had diverted Bi Fan’s mind from the pain he was in. Had he been in control of his body, he would have celebrated this out loud.

Bi Fan was standing at a very advanced position inside the zone and he could sense that spirits were getting even more powerful and aggressive, which was being testified by the force of the whirlwind that was surrounding him at this moment.

The wind that was hitting him in the face, felt like the edge of a knife, sharp.

The Yin Yang Lotus resembled a bottomless pit. Bi Fan had no idea how many ‘magical powers’ layer spirits, this Lotus had already absorbed and even then, the lotus still continued to carry on, without experiencing any massive transformations.

Apart from the two seeds that had formed a proper shape inside the Lotus’s stamen, the lotus hadn’t changed an awful lot.

“Keep at it! Keep at it! Just don’t get me killed.” Bi Fan didn’t care about the pain, at the moment.

The pain hadn’t stopped, but Bi Fan was willing to endure all of it, his desire to grow strong was providing him with the strength to endure the suffering.

Bi Fan, however, was beginning to lose interest in exploring the core of this anomalous activity. The force of the spirits was already unbearable on the outside of the central region; he couldn’t even imagine what it would be like, to be at the center of this activity.

Judging by the torrential cyclone that the spirits formed around him at present, Bi Fan estimated that he must be fairly close to the center of the zone by now. The benefits that he could get from the entire aura that was stored inside the Lotus, was nothing less than a dream to him.

Bi Fan was just waiting for the Yin Yang Lotus to reach its saturation point, and then he would quickly exit the zone. His strength had already improved a lot, so he was more than happy at the moment.

A man who is never satisfied with what he has, is like a snake that is trying to swallow an elephant. Too much greed is often met with misfortunes, and can split one open thunderously.

His mind was just pondering over this notion when he heard the voice of another human. This one was extremely strong, and Bi

Fan was a little scared, so he wanted to get out of there immediately.

The strength he was sensing this time was stronger than the ones he had felt earlier. The people that he had sensed earlier were at least in the 'emerging from the womb' layer, and even then, they hadn't dared to venture this deep into this forsaken zone. These new comers on the other hand, were coming in strong.

"Yin Yang Lotus, don't be so greedy. Your greed is going to get me killed." Bi Fan started to lose heart, fearing the worst.

Chapter 44 – Swept Away

“Woah! Such a young man standing at the heart of the evil spirits, this is really amazing!” One man exclaimed.

A man whose beard resembled that of a goat's, creased his eyebrows as he frowned while speaking up: “This youngster doesn't seem to be afraid of these evil spirits and seems to have been here for a long time now. I would conclude that he's a devil's disciple, right?”

“These evil spirits are really powerful; even we have to exercise our powers to fend them off. I highly doubt that a man that young could be capable of lasting here for such a long time.”

They were some distance behind him, but Bi Fan could hear their conversation quite clearly, and couldn't help as gloomy feeling crept into his heart.

“This is really bothering me, a dark practitioner, practicing his martial arts in here; it's quite scary and dangerous!”

Bi Fan wanted to explain things, but he couldn't open his mouth.

Even If he could open his mouth, he wouldn't be able to explain things, as he wouldn't be able to say anything.

All Bi Fan could do, was pray, that these martial artists would look into his situation before taking any action; otherwise, he was

doomed to die.

“I would like to investigate the situation a little further. This boy obviously seems to be very strong, and on top of that, we have no idea who he really is.”

“I too, would like to take a better look.”

Following this, Bi Fan started hearing brisk footsteps, more than one set, approaching him at a very quick pace.

These people were genuinely very strong, even with the force of the evil spirits that lingered in this region; they were able to move forward in the area at such a brisk pace.

Bi Fan was really worried, as these people were capable of killing him off in an instant.

“Ah!” The fastest among the new comers issued a miserable shriek and quickly took a few back steps. “This kid is demonically strong. The influence of the spirits in this region isn’t the same as other places, it’s almost tenfold here. I can barely walk in there, how is he able to do it with so much ease?”

Two other humans, who were right behind him, tested it for themselves and were shocked when they realized that their companion was right.

“Scary! Really scary! He’s capable of practicing in that intense

pressure! Could he be drawing support from the spirits as well?”

He was only trying to be humorous, but the others, almost a dozen of them, were very serious.

If the boy really was drawing energy from the evil spirits, then things could prove out to be very tricky for these people. And if such was the case, then the person in question, once, if successful, could mean bad news for everyone.

Soon, more than a dozen, extremely powerful martial artists had gathered around, and even though they were really tempted to sort Bi Fan out, none of them had the guts to take the initiative.

Due to the Yin Yang Lotus's activity, a huge amount of spirits had formed a massive loop around him. This meant that the influence of the spirits around him was even greater, more powerful, and even more violent. So much so, that even these dozen or so 'magical powers' layer practitioners wouldn't be able to withstand it.

“Everyone, let's get a good look at his face, so we can locate him later. If he really is practicing such dark techniques, then it is vital that we eliminate him.” One man spoke up.

Bi Fan was incapable of speaking at the moment, but he felt relaxed. He had changed his appearance a bit on the way here, to avoid any attention from 'rising sun' disciples.

‘Magical powers’ layer, martial artists who were this strong, were usually the figureheads of the schools in Quinyang. So if someone got on the wrong side of such men, then bad times were inevitable.

“Everyone, should we continue to excavate this region? What if this place really was an ancient battlefield?”

“Yes, but be careful everyone.”

As he heard them depart, it was clear to Bi Fan that these people had a very good understanding amongst them, a fact, made obvious by the nature of their conversations.

But most likely they weren’t from the same school, which meant that if they managed to find an ancient artifact, then things could turn sour. Especially if there weren’t enough for everyone, and if such was the situation, then they all might start fighting over it.

Often, even if students of the same school managed to find a valuable treasure, then they would end up fighting over it.

This was such a cruel and deceptive world, in which one needed to keep an eye out at all times, and be on guard against friends and enemies, alike.

“I hope you guys find a huge bounty in here and then die fighting over it.” Bi Fan secretly wished.

Bi Fan's heart calmed down a bit, once he realized that it was only a false alarm.

'Magical powers' layer practitioners were regarded undefeatable in the Jiu Yu region, and people like Bi Fan, were no more than ants in front of their might and status.

Bi Fan was nowhere near as strong as the 'magical powers' layer, which meant that even hoping to contend against men like these, would only pave the way for his doom.

Bi Fan secretly pledged: "One day, my strength will transcend yours, and then I will trample the likes of you. On that day, you will taste the stench of my feet."

The dozen or so that had been standing close to Bi Fan had already left the area, leaving behind Bi Fan, who stood there, with a silly look on his face.

The Jade book's method was enhancing his strength at a very fast rate, and was transforming his physical strength unceasingly.

The evil spirits were still attacking him continuously, but his body was able to resist them off more tenaciously than ever before.

The two new seeds that had sprouted inside the Lotus's stamen had grown quite big by now and were almost the size of rice grains.

"Yin Yang Lotus, my brother, let's quickly get out of here before

they come back, because if they do, we will be in a lot of trouble.” Bi Fan had put aside the thought of enhancing his strength of the time being and just wanted to get out of this predicament.

Strength can rise slowly over time, but it’s of no use to dead men.

“Boom!” A massive explosion shook the earth and the sky.

The intensity and force of clamor almost sent Bi Fan flying, and left his ears in a great amount of pain as they buzzed, depriving him of his hearing ability for a short while.

“Seems like those guys have finally ran into trouble, let’s get out of here now. They might end up using me as the scapegoat for their misfortunes.” Bi Fan started to complain.

But, this was far from the end of it. The explosion soon took the shape of a massive cyclone.

This time, Bi Fan wasn’t spared and he found himself being swept up by this cyclone.

This time, Bi Fan wasn’t spared and he found himself being swept up by this cyclone.

The cyclone swept up everything in its path, rocks... trees...

The cyclone swept him up, rendering him completely helpless.

He could not dodge the other things that had been swept up, nor could he get out of it. He couldn't even protect his vital body part by covering them with his hands.

At present, when his body was undergoing such massive physical enhancements, Bi Fan really couldn't afford to sustain a violent collision. Especially considering the fact, that at present he was also incapable of using his inner energy to assist him if needed, and a violent collision would mean the end of him.

Bi Fan had been swept up really high up in the air, and had no idea where this cyclone was headed to.

The Yin Yang Lotus continued to avariciously assimilate the aura and the spirits, completely ignoring Bi Fan's predicament. In fact, it didn't even show any signs of slowing down.

The Yin Yang Lotus was so absorbed in absorbing the aura and the spirits that, it even failed to return the control of the body to Bi Fan.

Failing to move even a hairsbreadth, Bi Fan resigned himself to the will of the whirlwind he was caught in.

Bi Fan had no idea what had really happened just now, but such a huge explosion could mean that those martial artists may now be dead.

He was really anxious to find out what had become of them at present, whether they were alive or dead.

He was caught in a cyclone with several other objects; trees, stones which kept smashing into him, and had managed to knock him unconscious several times, and at present, he had no idea as to how long he had been inside this tornado.

He would lose consciousness and then, immediately regain it as another object smashed into him. Incapable of doing anything, he was forced to endure the inhumanity of the pain he was suffering.

At last, Bi Fan landed on the ground; his body was completely torn apart, fractured in more places than he could count.

His body was in such a bad shape that he could even move it, so he started using his mind to restore his body. He kick started the method from the Jade book in order to repair his damaged body.

As the Jade book's technique started doing its work, the white Lotus petals unexpectedly joined in, assisting in repairing his body and silky white threads started swimming inside his body.

The white silk threads were miraculous in their work; the pain started to ease quickly as the fractures started to heal at a very quick pace.

Bi Fan was amazed and he wanted to shout out loud; and he would have, if his body hadn't been so badly injured.

With the white petals of the Yin Yang Lotus assisting the Jade book's technique, Bi Fan's body was healing at an amazing rate, and within a few hours, he was capable of standing up on his feet with some difficulty.

He stood up and looked around, only to find himself still inside the devil's territory.

The devil' territory was a very dangerous place, more so for him at the moment, as his body was in a very badly battered shape. He desperately needed to find himself a secretive place so he could complete the healing process and restore his body to its full capacity.

Bi Fan trudged along for half an hour in that presently injured state of his with great difficulty before he found a place to take shelter in a cavern under an escarpment.

It took a great amount of effort to enter the cave, as it was covered with vines on the outside which concealed it from sight.

Once inside, Bi Fan started to practice Longevity burst in order to repair his damaged body along with restoring his inner energy.

As he kicked off the Longevity burst, the white petals of the Yin Yang Lotus, once again started emitting white silky threads to assist in repairing his body.

The white silky threads accelerated the speed of his physical recovery significantly and even helped in accelerating the restoration of inner energy.

“It seems that the white petals of the Lotus have healing powers. That’s really good for me.” Bi Fan thought, pleased.

It took Bi Fan one day and one night to finish the restoration process and now, his body was back to its full capacity.

“Arghhh!!!” Bi Fan felt strength surging throughout his whole body and couldn’t help shouting out.

Bi Fan tested his new found strength for a while and realized that, at present his physical strength was close to seven Yun Shi, while his inner energy had already crossed seven Yun Shi.

In this last episode, Bi Fan had to undergo a lot of suffering, but his strength had improved a lot, so as far as he was concerned, it was all worth it.

Now, that everything was fine, Bi Fan decided that it was time to go looking for the Chimera and the Marten. He especially needed to locate the Marten, as he couldn’t bear the thought of losing his dear friend.

Bi Fan tried to assess his current position, only to realize that he was lost.

He climbed on top of a tree but still couldn't identify his present location.

He had been swept away by a tornado; he had no idea how long he was caught in it or the direction it had taken.

Bi Fan speculated that he must be inside the devil's territory at the moment, but had no idea which part he was in.

If by chance, he had been thrown into the second layer of the devil's territory, then he was certainly going to be in a lot of trouble.

In case he was confronted by a strong demon here, he knew that he would have no option, but to run for his life.

At present, Bi Fan seemingly, had already forgotten about the Jade tablet, which will allow him to teleport to Xi Guan. Since, Bi Fan had experienced so many unworldly activities in the devil's territory, leaving his mind in a state of chaos; it is possible that he might have forgotten about the simplest of things.

Bi Fan hadn't gone too far before he bumped into a 'spiritual intelligence' layer beast.

With his new found strength, Bi Fan was able to end the fight with exceptional ease, and it barely took ten minutes to sort it out.

Bi Fan was a little worried, in the first layer of the devil's

territory, 'spiritual intelligence' beast were a rarity. But here, he had barely started out, and he had already bumped into one. It didn't take a great mind to deduce that he was probably not in the same segment of the devil's territory that he had set out in at the beginning of his adventure.

Bi Fan tried to suppress all the anxiety and concentrated in preparing himself for the battles that awaited him, but chaos still lingered somewhere in his mind.

It seemed that he was going to bump into a fair amount of really strong beasts here; he decided that he must use them to temper his skills or else he would regret it later.

Once he had calmed down a bit, he started looking for opponents to train on.

The beasts in this vicinity were indeed stronger than the ones he had initially set out in, and in no time, he managed to run into another strong one. This beast was in the 'brave' layer.

Bi Fan didn't miss the opportunity and quickly killed the demon.

Along the way, Bi Fan kept an eye out for any precious herbs he could find, but it seemed that they had already been plucked.

The fact was that, many people entered the devil's territory in search of such valuables, so finding one needed a good amount of luck.

There were a few who entered the region to practice, but even they made sure that they collected the flesh and skins of the beasts they kill, to exchange for spar once they exit the devil's territory. However, the real treasure for such people was a nucleus.

Fabulous fate, that's what it took to find a gold ore or a rare herb inside the devil's territory.

Bi Fan didn't waste much time treasure hunting; he would be satisfied as long as he could find strong beasts to hone his skills.

Chapter 45 – JiaoLong Dragon

Bi Fan continued to walk around the forest, very cautiously so.

Two successive encounters with beasts, that weren't exactly weak, meant that he might no longer be in the first layer of the devil's territory.

The chances of him being inside the second layer of the devil's territory were relatively large, as it is said that the majority of the demons inside the second layer were around the 'brave' layer and demons as high as the 'emerging from the womb' could be encountered with here, on occasions.

Of course, the demons as strong as the 'emerging from the womb' layer were lesser in number.

If Bi Fan fatefully bumped into one of them, he would surely try to escape. But escaping from a beast as strong as 'emerging from the womb' layer wasn't that easy either.

Bi Fan was more careful than ever before, as he no longer had the Marten to warn him, or the Chimera to protect him, so now, he needed to be a thousand times more careful.

He hadn't gone too far, when he felt the ground shake, which was followed by a massive sound, as if there was a whole flock of demons nearby.

“A group of beasts!” Bi Fan didn’t seem scared; on the contrary, he seemed rather excited.

He immediately rushed in the direction of the sound, even if it meant that he was going towards a whole group of beasts.

Bi Fan had made his own calculation, but even then, it was very courageous of him.

As he moved nearer to the sound, he could feel the ground shake with even greater intensity.

Soon, Bi Fan spotted a herd of wild Oxen. It wasn’t a very big herd, and there were only eighteen Oxen in the herd.

Their heads were almost as large as the Chimera’s. Their heads were adorned with horns, which were almost one meter in length. While some of the Oxen had one horn, the others had two.

“Wild Oxen!” Bi Fan was slightly surprised.

One of the books he had read in the past had described an Ox as a very mighty and fierce beast.

However, an Ox didn’t have the ability to evolve, which meant that even the most powerful of Oxen could only become as strong as a goblin, at best. Comparatively, a Chimera was much better, for a Chimera could potentially evolve in time and become far stronger.

An Ox was considered a very fierce fighter and a whole herd of them could potentially be very dangerous for a single human.

“Boom!” A loud noise echoed as one Ox knocked down a tree, severing it.

Bi Fan secretly smacked his lips; it was time to have some fun.

Bi Fan circled his way around to the back of the herd and then leaped up in the air and landed on top of the back of one of the Oxen, which was right at the back of the herd.

“Mooo!” The wild Ox realized that someone had landed on its back. The Ox started to complain and started shaking its body, in the hope of throwing Bi Fan off.

Bi Fan’s hands had already got a firm grasp of the Ox’s horns, while his legs were wrapped around its belly, as the Ox continued to sway.

Even then, the momentum of the Ox was so great that Bi Fan had almost lost his balance a few times.

The Ox was quite powerful, and all Bi Fan could do was hold on tightly, he couldn’t get off, or even attack the Ox.

“Woah! Cool it.” Bi Fan decided that he needed to subdue the Ox,

so he started to put pressure on the Ox, hoping to force it to the ground.

The Ox felt this sudden pressure from Bi Fan, but didn't lower to ground; however, it did slow down a bit.

The remaining seventeen Oxen had noticed the sudden movement at the back of the herd and had already stopped. They had turned around and had come closer to inspect the situation, only to find Bi Fan having emerged out of nowhere, and mounted firmly on top of their companion.

They could not only look on in despair, unable to help their comrade out.

Bi Fan was busy riding the Ox's back, which was tossing from side to side, showing no disdain for the rest of the world.

“Big guy ah? Come on... come on...”

This blatant provocation was all that was need to anger the Oxen in the herd and their eyes turned red, while their breathing took a coarse tune.

Wild Oxen were considered extremely strong, in fact, it was extremely difficult to withstand the force of these beasts if they collided into anyone headfirst.

Unfortunately for them, Bi Fan had come out of nowhere and

was now sitting on the back of an Ox, which meant that none of them could do anything about it.

Bi Fan couldn't possibly hope to match an Ox if it tried to collide with him, but at present, he was at a great advantage. He managed to put enough pressure on the Ox, so as to make it stand still on the ground.

Since he had already managed to subdue the Ox, he lost interest in it. He looked around and spotted an 'enormous strength' layer Ox, standing on the other end on the herd. He decided to have some more fun and he leapt off the back of the Ox he was on.

He used the backs of the Oxen, who were in the way, as stepping stones and tip toed his way to his new muse, bypassing the rest from above.

There was complete chaos in the herd, they all wanted to collide into him, and rip him into pieces, but since he didn't land on the ground, their anger couldn't be realized into action and they just stood there, helpless, furious.

In a handful of leaps, Bi Fan managed to reach the other end of the herd, having bypassed the Oxen in between, and landed firmly on the back of the 'enormous strength' layer Ox.

His legs were clamped around the Ox's belly while his hands had a firm grasp of the Ox's sharp horns.

“Moooo!” The Ox went man and wild with fury, and started colliding with everything in the vicinity, severing even the trees that stood nearby, hoping to throw Bi Fan off its back.

But Bi Fan had firmly established his position on top of its back, and was relishing driving the Ox mad.

Bi Fan was enjoying competing with this one; it was so much fun. He was beginning to really enjoy this contest of brute strength.

There he was, sitting in the middle of nowhere, at the top of an Ox, increasing the power with which he was trying to subdue the Ox.

Bi Fan kept increasing the pressure, hoping to suppress the beast, but the Ox was no less, in fact, was amazingly strong. So much so that, the Ox had barely slowed down, and that naughty little thing, continued to ram into obstacles.

“Dude, this must feel new to you, ah?” Bi Fan tried to agonize the Ox further.

But Bi Fan was beginning to realize just how crazy this Ox really was.

But Bi Fan was beginning to realize just how crazy this Ox really was.

“Boom....Boom....” The Ox bumped into a couple of trees

successively, breaking them into two. Soon, it began running into the forest, bumping into trees along the way, severing a good number of them.

This mad, wild Ox was really powerful and really aggressive.

Bi Fan's legs were wrapped around the Ox's belly, so his body could distinctly feel every jolt along the way. If it wasn't for his hands, which were tightly gripping the Ox's sharp horns, Bi Fan would have been thrown off this Ox's back by now.

The seventeen other Oxen in the herd had initially chased after them, but had eventually withdrawn.

The Ox's violent behavior had gotten on the wrong side of Bi Fan, and he started using 'the immortal finger' to beat up the Ox, as that was the only technique that he could use in this situation.

The pain made the Ox even more violent and it started to rampage around the forest with an even greater momentum.

As it rampaged around the wilderness, it obviously disturbed a lot of other wild beasts.

Some of them, who were weaker than the Ox, simply gave way to the Ox and then circled back to their holes.

Others, who were stronger, initially gave way to the Ox, as they too, were afraid of the Ox's damaging ability in case of a head-on

collision, but later started to chase after them later. However, even these demons were forced to give up their pursuit, as the Ox was moving too fast.

However, at the this point, Bi Fan's earlier playful expression had drastically changed to a very grave one, for he feared that if the Ox rammed down the lair of a goblin or a similar creature, then they certainly would feed him to the dogs.

Suddenly, Bi Fan was reminded of the Jade tablet and his mood calmed down a bit. Now, it was play time again, and he decided to take this Ox out for a real ride.

"I'm driving! I'm driving!" Now Bi Fan was really toying with this Ox; he sat there on top of its back, pretending to be soldier mounted on top of a horse.

The Ox's eyes were red with raging fury and its breathing was getting more and more coarse.

"Mooooooooo!"

The Ox continued to jolt violently, madly. Soon, it rammed into a large tree, on purpose, in the hope of unseating Bi Fan.

However, Bi Fan was awfully comfortable with all of this; he had gotten accustomed to all the jolting and bumping; in fact, he was enjoying it.

“Big guy, getting slower? Hurry up, giddy up horsey!” Bi Fan giggled and teased the Ox.

The wild Ox was becoming even madder, and kept bumping into anything and everything that it could lay its eyes on.

This had been going on for quite some time now, and the Ox's endurance was paving way for fatigue, as it seemed a little tired now.

All of a sudden, the Ox jumped into a giant algal bloom, splashing countless sprays of water and algae, all over the surrounding area.

This pool of water was very clear, serene and hidden in depth.

To Bi Fan's surprise, the Ox was an expert diver, and started diving into the most latent depths of the pool, and Bi Fan was forced to consider the idea of withdrawing himself.

Even though the Ox was mad with fury, it still hadn't lost its sense of rationality yet. In fact, Bi Fan could tell that it was fairly smart.

Bi Fan held his breath and grabbed the Ox's horns as tightly as he could and prepared for the oncoming assault.

The wild Ox started to tumble inside the water, in the hope of getting rid of Bi Fan.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a very powerful momentum broke out of the water, and left the entire pool swirling in its might. The pool suddenly had a different column of water, turning and twisting inside it.

Oxen are very heavy in weight, but even then, the Ox went flying.

Bi Fan found himself unable to breathe as the water column hit his body with the force of a hammer, leaving him in agonizing pain.

“Woah!” Bi Fan was completely astonished for a moment.

Certainly there was a very powerful monster hidden in the depths of this abyss, one so strong that it could shake the whole pool up.

The Ox seemed really scared and started swimming towards the surface, desperately.

Bi Fan and the Ox had just barely reached the surface when, the surface of the pool exploded open.

“Boom!”

A towering column of water splashed all across the area.

And suddenly, a huge head adorned with a horn, emerged from the water; it was the head of a massive monster. The monster seemed extremely big, and one could make out that the visible part of the monster's body was barely half of its whole, but was still almost thirty meters in length. The whole body of this monster was covered in scales.

“JiaoLong!” Bi Fan exclaimed, terror-stricken.

JiaoLong was dragon by heritage, and was capable of evolving into a full-fledged dragon. This creature was exceptionally strong, and in this case, being an adult, deep into the ‘emerging from the womb’ layer.

The Ox's limbs went cold and it started to shiver with fear, as soon as it saw the dragon. So much so, that it even forgot to escape, and just stood there.

“RRRRAGHHHH” The dragon roared, opened its bloody mouth and while doing so, revealed its sharp teeth, which quickly dug themselves into the Ox.

Bi Fan was so scared that he couldn't stay here for even one more second now, as he too, was too terrified, to even move, for fear had overtaken him as well.

He quickly pulled out the Jade tablet and disappeared in an instant.

Before being transferred out, the last thing that Bi Fan saw, was the Ox dying a miserable death, by being torn into two by the dragon's vicious teeth.

Bi Fan felt numb, but couldn't help secretly thanking his stars.

If it wasn't for the Jade tablet, then Bi Fan was destined to suffer the same fate, as the Ox he had been playing around with.

All of a sudden, Bi Fan found himself in Xi Guan.

“This is really amazing; this Jade tablet makes for an excellent insurance policy!” Bi Fan was really grateful that he had purchased one of these tablets.

Bi Fan quickly restored his original look, and went into the town, as he didn't exactly feel any need to rush into the devil's territory immediately.

Bi Fan had been inside the second layer of the devil's territory for a while and he had no idea what had happened with the evil spirits. A walk around the town would help him understand the circumstances a little better.

Additionally, Bi Fan also needed to buy a pet belt. A pet belt was used to incorporate animals into it, as if they were objects; it was quite similar to a Yin Yang pouch in terms of functionality, but slightly cheaper.

The Chimera was too big in size to tag along everywhere. On top of that, since the Chimera had been spotted with his disguise around the possessed zone, it was quite possible that people might recognize it, which could cause him a significant amount of trouble. However, if he managed to purchase a pet belt, then he could incorporate the Chimera into the belt and avoid any problems.

Bi Fan quickly made his way to the trading floor inside the market, and started searching for a pet belt.

A pet belt isn't a very common accessory, and was only used by a very handful of practitioners, as not many of them kept wild beasts as pets.

Bi Fan searched for a long time, but couldn't find one.

Out of desperation, Bi Fan set up his own booth and decided to use one of the Yin Yang pouches to procure a pet belt.

“Yin Yang pouch for a pet belt! One for one, interested people may come forth!” Bi Fan couldn't wait much longer; so he started shouting as loudly as he possibly could, meanwhile waving a Yin Yang pouch in his hand to validate the authenticity of his trade.

In no time, a lot of people had surrounded him.

“Brother, how much for the Yin Yang pouch?”

“Brother, I want the Yin Yang pouch, quote a price for me!”

... ..

“To be exchanged only for a pet belt, not for sale!” Bi Fan insisted, as loudly as possible.

“Oh, unfortunately, I don’t have a pet belt....”

“Brother, the Yin Yang pouch will fetch you some spars, and then you can use those spars to buy yourself a pet belt. Trust me; I will pay a premium price!”

Bi Fan had been surrounded by a lot of people, who, were trying as hard as possible to get hold of the Yin Yang pouch he had, and all their arguing was making him dizzy.

“Only available in exchange of a pet belt, not available for a sale at any cost!” Bi Fan stated out loudly, hoping to reaffirm his position on the trade.

“Brothers, there is no point doing business with someone who is that rigid. He’s simply not going to listen.” One distinct voice, subdued the crowd

[*] (ps: A JiaoLong dragon is an aquatic dragon.)

Chapter 46 – Eastern Blue Dragon

Three teenagers clawed their way through the crowd and slowly made their way to the front.

Bi Fan was glaring at these three, already angry with their interference.

He just wanted to procure a pet belt. He hadn't thought that something as minor as this would spur any trouble; well, bad luck.

“I will only exchange this Yin Yang pouch for a pet belt. My product is not available for sale.” Bi Fan said loudly, sounding a little harsh to be honest.

The boy at the front of the group was rather handsome and very smart in appearance. He was coldly looking at Bi Fan, quietly sizing him up.

“Are you the bully who troubled my junior Jiang Sheng?”

Things suddenly become very clear to Bi Fan; unequivocally clear. These people were associated with the ‘rising sun’ school, so they obviously would have been searching for him.

However, he really didn't care. At present, they were all inside Xi Guan, where fighting was banned. So, it really didn't matter which school they belonged to, they wouldn't be able to touch him.

“Who is Jiang Sheng? Please don’t interfere in my business.” Bi Fan coldly replied.

“Well, you do fit the description. This is ‘rising sun’s’ private matter, people who have nothing to do with this, may leave.” The youngster announced, as a sardonic smile crept across his handsome face.

Bi Fan spoke up loud enough for everyone to hear: “It is prohibited to start a fight inside Xi Guan. If you create trouble, then I will report this to the authorities.”

That handsome youngster realized that Bi Fan was indeed right, and fighting inside Xi Guan was prohibited. So now, he would be forced to give up the idea of straightening Bi Fan out right now.

“Boy, you’ve picked a fight with ‘rising sun’ students, you’re doomed to die!”

“Well, about that, is ‘rising sun’, the best school in the world? What are you guys so arrogant about?” Bi Fan sneered.

A lot of people disliked the ‘rising sun’ school, mainly because of the arrogant behavior of their students.

However, students from smaller school usually bore this resentment in silence, as they simply couldn’t dare to provoke any trouble with the ‘rising sun’ school.

“‘Rising sun’ may not be the world biggest school, but it’s big enough to crush you.” The handsome youngster laughed.

Suddenly someone interrupted their verbal duel, in a very cold voice: “‘rising sun’ is the best school in the world? Ah, well, I certainly learned something new today!”

The man who had interrupted seemed extremely strong; he stood over two meter in height; his physique looked formidable and his eyes, sharp.

“I think that’s the eastern Blue Dragon! He’s a new face belonging to the eastern aristocracy, he’s insanely strong, and he made a huge impact at the Jiu Yu list tournament.”

“They say that the eastern Blue Dragon despises the ways of tyranny. Could he be here to help this guy out?”

“Who knows, we can’t be sure of it.”

Bi Fan turned towards the eastern Blue Dragon with a look of gratitude and said: “Thank you brother, for boldly speaking in favor of justice!”

“Don’t thank me, I just could never understand why some people rely on the strengths of their fists to get their way in this world and bully others. Or even worse, rely on the strength of their backers and deface them as well.” The eastern Blue Dragon sounded very impressive.

The three 'rising sun' disciples were going green with anger but they couldn't dare to mess with the eastern Blue Dragon and Bi Fan, at the same time.

Firstly, the eastern aristocracy was slightly stronger than the 'rising sun' school and secondly, they had no beef with the Blue Dragon, nor were they interested in igniting one.

So, they swallowed their anger, suffering in silence, and decided to take it out on Bi Fan later on.

“Well, in that case boy, I'd like to challenge you to a duel, would you dare to accept my challenge?” the handsome boy challenged Bi Fan in a very loud voice.

Xi Guan prohibits unorganized fighting, but an arranged duel, where both parties have agreed to fight against each other, is allowed.

Bi Fan didn't respond, he just wanted to purchase a pet belt and then quickly re-enter the devil's territory to search for the Marten and the Chimera.

“The boy's a coward ah! I will continue to bully you forever.” That good looking youngster teased him loudly enough for everyone to hear it.

“Yes, well, we Quinyang students are so weak that you guys can

bully us all, huh?”

That voice was really familiar to Bi Fan and he instantly recognized it; he turned around to greet Jing Feng.

“Woah! That’s Jing Feng from Quinyang, he ranked third in the Jiu Yu list!”

This scene was getting more and more attention, as a lot of people had recognized Jing Feng; and they were beginning to discuss him.

“Jing Feng, they say, is almost as strong as Jiang Wen. The last time they dueled, Jiang Wen barely edged past him!”

“Oh! The kid who was looking for a pet belt appears to be from one of the Quinyang Schools; no wonder he wasn’t afraid of these ‘rising sun’ students.”

“Jing Feng, brother, what are you doing here?” Bi Fan asked, pleasantly surprised to see his friend.

Jing Feng laughed: “I heard that there was an anomaly involving evil spirits inside the devil’s territory, so I came here to explore the area for myself. You came here for your compulsory one month conditioning, right?”

“Yes, the conditioning is over, but then I lost Greedy towards the end of my time in there, so now I need to enter the territory again

to find him.” Bi Fan explained.

The two of them were chatting without bothering themselves with their surroundings and were completely ignoring those three ‘rising sun’ disciples.

The three of them knew what Jing Feng was capable of, so they didn’t interrupt, as they were afraid of provoking Jing Feng.

If Jing Feng lost his cool, then he could kill them off in no time. Jing Feng was a very powerful and ferocious fighter and it would be foolish to fall for his carefree and casual attitude.

“Great, then we shall go in together afterwards. I too want to enter the territory to inspect this anomaly.”

“Of course, my friend.”

“Bi Fan, why don’t you first teach these three flies a lesson huh? They are quite annoying.” Jing Feng could make out that Bi Fan’s strength had increased a lot and was confident that he could beat the three of them.

Bi Fan merely shook his head as he replied: “I just wanted to quickly get hold of a pet belt, so I can go back into the devil’s territory and look for Greedy. I didn’t expect that this would turn into such a big disaster.”

“Pet belt.. well I have one. Why don’t you go and teach these boys

a lesson and when you return victorious, you can have the pet belt.” Jing Feng looked coldly at those ‘rising sun’ students; especially the handsome one.

Jing Feng had taken an instant dislike to that boy, probably because he was quite handsome and not on the same side as him.

“Really? That’s all? Well, that’s not going to be a problem at all.” Bi Fan was really surprised.

He looked at the handsome youngster and said: “So, where were we? Oh right.... I accept your challenge! ”

He looked at the handsome youngster: “So, where were we? Oh right.... I accept your challenge! ”

Bi Fan completely ignored the furious looks on the face of that ‘rising sun’ student, as his face turned ashen: “I’m Gu Feng from the ‘rising sun’ and you’re going to regret this a little later.”

Gu Feng was in the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer and unlike Jing Feng, had been fooled by Bi Fan’s ‘brave’ layer appearance, which is why he had dared to challenge Bi Fan.

“Oh well, a little later might not turn out so well for you.” Bi Fan smiled.

A lot of people had gathered around them, and they all started making their way towards the town’s arena.

Along the way, a lot of people got inquisitive about this gathering and started to join the people who were on their way to watch this match.

Jing Feng closed in and whispered in Bi Fan's ears: "Bi Fan, once it starts, don't show him any mercy. Use all you've got, hit hard, break him to pieces, and I'll make sure that you don't get into trouble over this later; just don't kill the guy."

"Understood. I'll teach him a lesson, a very nice lesson. I'll make sure he never forgets this, anyway, I've already managed to offend some very powerful people inside the 'rising sun' school, so I'm not really worried about adding a few more to that list." Bi Fan replied.

They reached the arena complex soon. Bi Fan and Gu Feng had been followed by several hundreds in number. And as the word spread, more and more people were beginning to join this huge crowd.

This was quite unusual, but since a lot of people had entered Xi Guan, intending to go into the devil's territory to explore the situation, Xi Guan was a lot more populous at the moment, and hence this feud had managed to attract such a huge audience.

Bi Fan and Gu Feng glared at each other, as they made their way to the ring.

By the time they climbed into the ring, a referee was already

present there.

“Are you ready? Ready, then let’s start!”

The fight started, and Bi Fan didn’t pull out any weapon, as he had decided to use his fists to face his opponent.

Since Bi Fan hadn’t pulled out a weapon, Gu Feng felt rather embarrassed to pull one out himself, and contended to use his fists as well, same as Bi Fan.

“Boom!” Their punches collided. Bi Fan went back a few steps whereas Gu Feng’s upper body was only shaken up a bit, momentarily.

Bi Fan was only attacking tentatively; he hadn’t really used his real strength in that attack.

“That’s right!” Gu Feng raised his hand high up in the air, already considering himself the winner.

Gu Feng launched a quick attack, casting out ‘monkey fist’ technique; fast, flexible and agile.

Bi Fan didn’t react in a similar fashion. He cast out Wan Zu fist, but didn’t move from his position, sincerely playing with his opponent; he managed to block the Gu Feng’s attacks with ease.

“You couldn’t even breach my defenses, come on, I’m sure you’re better than that!” Bi Fan teased his opponent in a very loud voice.

This made Gu Feng furious, he started attacking Bi Fan in a frenzied fashion. Bi Fan on the other hand, didn’t seem to pay any attention to him, remained calm and composed, and easily managed to block off all of Gu Feng’s attacks.

“This Bi Fan from Quinyang is really powerful, but he’s only using a very basic boxing technique. Although what’s really amazing is that, he is so good at it, that he’s able to use it to match a technique like the ‘monkey fist’.”

“Gu Feng is really strong, he has even managed to break into the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer. ‘Rising sun’ has managed to recruit an excellent crop of young talented kids in these last few years.”

“Make a guess, Gu Feng or Bi Fan, whose going to win this in the end?”

“I bet on Gu Feng, he’s stronger, he’s in a higher layer.”

“I bet on Gu Feng’s victory.”

Out of those who had turned up to watch the match, someone had even managed to open up a gambling booth, and most of the people were betting on Gu Feng.

“I bet five thousand spars, I bet on Bi Fan’s victory!” Jing Feng

had actually decided to place a bet himself, and was willing to bet so steeply in Bi Fan's favor.

Five thousand spars is a very large sum of money for a student, and were probably all Jing Feng had in his possession.

The people, who witnessed this daring gamble, were startled. Bi Fan's chances of winning were set at one is to three, which meant that if Bi Fan did emerge victorious, then, Jing Feng would stand to receive fifteen thousand spars as winnings.

That's a fairly large sum of money, and even 'emerging from the womb' layer students didn't have so much money, unless they were being backed by some very wealthy supporters.

Bi Fan and Gu Feng were involved in a very fast pace fight, and hundreds of people had gathered to enjoy the contest. Several had placed their bets, and now, were cheering for their man.

"Bi Fan, I thought you were in a hurry to enter the devil's territory. Well, then get to it, finish this off quickly!" Jing Feng cheered loudly.

A lot of people had been surprised to see that Bi Fan was capable of matching Gu Feng. Now, they were even more surprised to find out, that Jing Feng was so optimistically backing Bi Fan to win this fight.

"Can Bi Fan really win this? Is it really possible?"

Many people were beginning to question their previous judgement. Especially the ones who had bet their money on Gu Feng, were beginning to get a bit worried now.

The eastern Blue Dragon hadn't placed any bets, and continued to watch the match. His empty, fleeting eyes, were twinkling, as if he could see through Bi Fan's intentions.

“Bi Fan of Quinyang, sooner or later, you're going to have to use your real strength. I didn't know that there was another man here, who had such an amazing skill set.”

The eastern Blue Dragon had said this out loud, in a rather excited frame of mind, and had almost jumping up. The people watching the match, who were seated close to him, quickly retreated a few steps and didn't dare to return to their previous positions.

Jing Feng looked at the eastern Blue Dragon, and then, shouted praise for Bi Fan: “Excellent power, energy and technique! How long do you plan on toying with this nobody?!”

As soon as Bi Fan heard Jing Feng's words, he decided that it was time to quickly finish this fight, once and for all.

He applied his physical strength as well, along with his inner energy in support. Bi Fan's total strength was close to fourteen Yun Shi, which meant that he was strong enough to be at the peak of 'enormous strength' layer.

He cast out the most basic of techniques, Wan Zu fist. Nevertheless, with such amazing power, it seemed to be sufficient.

“Boom! Boom!....”

A series of attacks, forced Gu Feng to fall back, again and again. Bi Fan was too powerful for him, and even though Bi Fan was in a lower layer than Gu Feng, he was simply rendered powerless.

“Go on!” Bi Fan struck again, another punch, and this time, sent Gu Feng tumbling across the ring.

Gu Feng had been thrown around, disgraced, and maddened with rage.

The Rising Sun!

Gu Feng pulled out a top grade weapon and decided to use it even if Bi Fan wasn't using one. He pointed it straight at Bi Fan's punch, ready to stab his fist.

Bi Fan's fist and Gu Feng's sword were approaching each other with a very strong momentum, stopping, at this point, wasn't going to be easy.

“Horrible!” The eastern Blue Dragon looked tense, “This ‘rising sun’ student is despicable.”

“Bi Fan is going to lose.”

“That sword is going to tear off his arm. That ‘rising sun’ student is so fierce, ah!”

Jing Feng wasn’t nervous at all, and he continued to wave his fan; even managed a sly smile on his face, for he had personally witnessed Bi Fan’s tour-de-force.

He muttered to himself: “This ‘rising sun’ student is having a very bad day; Bi Fan has a tendency of springing surprises.”

Chapter 47 – The Mighty Blue Dragon

Gu Feng's face exposed a complacent smile, and his two comrades cheered out, believing that their friend was now going to win this fight.

Bi Fan's face no showed no concern in regard to this new development in the fight, as he open up his fist; his two slender, stretched out, fingers turned a shade of jade, as they had once before, ready to welcome Gu Feng's sword.

Gu Feng's sword landed right between Bi Fan's two fingers, and found itself caught, between his two rock solid fingers.

The sword came to an instant halt; no matter how hard Gu Feng tried to pull it out, it remained stuck there and Gu Feng's facial expression started changing drastically.

“You're just not strong enough.....” Bi Fan shook his fingers a bit, as his tone reflected a hint of pejection.

It appeared as Gu Feng would start spitting out blood out of anger an moment now. He was exerting all his strength, and it was hard to tell whether his face was red or purple. His sword, however, remained clamped between Bi Fan's fingers; motionless.

Bi Fan pulled at the sword, and now, Gu Feng stood face to face with Bi Fan. Bi Fan prepared to throw a punch.

“Bang!” Bi Fan’s punch landed firmly on Gu Feng’s solid chest.

Gu Feng spit out blood as he went flying out of the ring, while his sword went flying in another direction.

Gu Feng had lost the fight. And the crowd went wild.

Most people had expected Gu Feng to win this match, but the end result had very sharply contradicted their expectations.

Bi Fan had not only won the fight; he had managed to do it with ease.

Since the beginning, Bi Fan had only used the Wan Zu fist technique, which was a very basic fighting style, as opposed to Gu Feng’s advanced ones, but had still managed to win. This meant that the people present in the arena, had no idea, as to what Bi Fan was really capable off.

“How could that be? Gu Feng lost the fight!”

“Yes, uh, I don’t understand this, Gu Feng lost. It was so obvious; Gu Feng was in the higher layer, this shouldn’t have happened! How did Bi Fan win?”

“Bi Fan is exceptionally strong, physically. So, his overall strength must be around the ‘enormous strength’ layer. There was nothing strange about this.”

“A ‘brave’ layer boy with the fighting capacity of ‘enormous strength’ layer! He could turn into something amazing if he manages to advance further!” Many people exclaimed, out of sheer surprise.

The Blue Dragon and Jing Feng seemed very calm as far as the result of the fight was concerned. Jing Feng had already seen Bi Fan’s ability in the past, and the Blue Dragon had a lot physical strength of his own; so to these two, this was business as usual.

“Bi Fan of Quinyang wins!” The referee announced the final result and the crowd quieted down for a second or two, and then erupted again; louder this time.

A lot of people had bet money on Gu Feng and had lost a lot of money. So now, they were furious with Gu Feng and started shouting and spitting in his direction.

Gu Feng, overwhelmed with the crowd’s reaction, decided that it was best for him to simply leave the scene while he still could and he dashed out of there with his two companions. He left in such a hurry that he even forgot to take his sword with him, which had fallen out of his hand while he was being thrown out of the ring.

Bi Fan leisurely walked over to the abandoned weapon that his opponent had left behind, and took custody of it. Well, the weapon was worth at least a few hundred spars; it would be such a waste to leave it behind like that.

Jing Feng suddenly realized that he had won fifteen thousand spars in a matter of minutes, and his face started to reflect a very vibrant smile; after all, he had just made a lot of money.

“Bi Fan, this time, I really need to thank you!” Jing Feng laughed.

Bi Fan replied: “Brother, you’re just being polite now. The credit goes to you; you were able to identify the real strength in me.”

“Well, we have to go into the devil’s territory now. So, let’s head out and see for ourselves as to what the condition is in there.” Jing Feng said.

“Can I come with you guys?” The Blue Dragon asked, all of a sudden.

Jing Feng looked at the Blue Dragon but didn’t say anything, as he quietly sized him up.

Bi Fan thought for a second and then nodded in approval: “Yes, we can all go together and watch each other’s backs.”

Seeing that Bi Fan had already given his word to the Blue Dragon, Jing Feng thought its best to not raise an objection.

The trio purchased a jade tablet each and entered into the devil’s territory.

Owing to all the trouble that Gu Feng had caused, plus the duel, Bi Fan hadn't exactly been able to find out much about the circumstances inside the devil's territory. He had no idea what had happened with the evil spirits in the end, or what that humungous explosion was about.

Bi Fan was really anxious to find out what had really happened inside the devil's territory; especially what had become of his two companions, the Chimera and the Marten; so he wanted to get there as soon as possible.

As soon as they entered the devil's territory, they set course to the zone that had been possessed by the evil spirits.

On the way, Jing Feng presented Bi Fan with the pet belt that he had promised, in a very well founded manner. After all, he had won so much money because of Bi Fan, so he really didn't mind giving Bi Fan this gift in exchange.

The Blue Dragon was in the 'spiritual intelligence' layer. And on top of that, he too had a very strong physical body. Even though he wasn't as strong as Bi Fan, in terms of physical strength; his physical strength was still at least five Yun Shi.

Although the three of them didn't exactly have similar personalities, they still had similar things on their mind and soon started chatting amongst themselves to kill time.

It was fairly obvious from the manner in which the Blue Dragon was talking, that he didn't exactly have a very affable personality

and in fact, was a bit of a recluse.

“Bi Fan, from what I have learnt so far, I can tell that your physical strength is more than mine. But what I can’t understand is; how did you manage to get it this high? What kind of methods do you use?” The Blue Dragon asked in a very serious tone.

Bi Fan forced a smile: “Well, maybe when we have some time in the future.”

The Blue Dragon had stated several times that he belongs to a military background and Bi Fan didn’t want to get too close to him at the moment, as he had no idea what this guy was about.

The Blue Dragon realized that Bi Fan was a little reluctant to share too much information, so he didn’t press the situation, as he realized that it may not change Bi Fan’s mind.

“Bi Fan, you were inside the devil’s territory when this happened, can you tell us what you saw, or what really happened with these evil spirits?” Jing Feng asked.

“I was training, when suddenly; evil spirits started soaring into the sky and then all of a sudden, everyone inside the territory, people and beasts alike, were rushing towards the zone to find out what’s happening.” Bi Fan slowly started recounting the event: “Once we reached the zone, I saw that a lot of people were quite anxious to enter the area and inspect the situation for themselves. But as soon as we went inside, people started getting possessed by the evil spirits and eventually died.”

He paused for a while and then continued: “Left with no choice, we were forced to retreat back to the safe zone. Soon, some stronger people joined us there, most were in the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer, while some were even as strong as the ‘emerging from the womb’ layer. They entered the possessed zone, but came back out a little later, having faced several causalities within their groups and it seemed like they too hadn’t been able to find out much.”

“After these people returned, they went to fetch their superiors, who then, entered into the region. But soon, there was a massive explosion, which was followed by a tornado, and I got caught up in it. When I woke up, I found myself inside the second layer. Things got out of hand, and I almost died, so I used the Jade tablet to transport myself to Xi Guan. It was really very thrilling to be honest...”

As Bi Fan recounted his edited version of the events, Jing Feng’s and the Blue Dragon’s mouths were hung wide open in amazement. It took them a while to absorb everything and calm down.

As Bi Fan recounted his edited version of the events, Jing Feng’s and the Blue Dragon’s mouths were hung wide open in amazement. And it took them a while to absorb everything and calm down.

“It seems like those evil spirits are really powerful, and even those freaks weren’t able to wangle anything....” Jing Feng gasped in admiration.

“Let’s hurry up; we need to see this for ourselves.” The Blue Dragon said out loudly.

The three of them increased their pace further and were floating towards the area, which had been overtaken by evil spirits, like a wisp of smoke.

“AAAWoooo!!!” Suddenly, they saw a pack of wolves ahead. Not a lot of them really as there were only twenty one wolves in the pack. While the strongest of the pack was only in the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer.

“Excellent! Just what I needed! Stay out of this, these wolves are mine.” The Blue Dragon announced in a very excited tone.

Bi Fan glimpsed over at Jing Feng, shook his head forcing a wry smile.

The Blue Dragon took out a dark colored scimitar, which was almost a top grade weapon and charged straight for the wolf pack.

His hands were raised high, ready to slice up the wolves.

The scimitar that the Blue Dragon was holding was fairly small compared to his size, but it struck with a thunderous force.

“Boom!” His blade came crashing down on the head of a wolf and

severed it from the rest of its body in an instant; and blood sprayed almost three meters in every direction.

The Blue Dragon simply ignored the dead wolf and his blade made its way to the next wolf, quick, urgent and with a violently overbearing force.

“This kid is really good, fierce and brave. With a bit of character and perseverance, he can really do very well for himself in the future.” Jing Feng praised, fanning his face with his Jade fan.

Jing Feng had replaced his previous fan with a new one, and this one was also capable of being used as a weapon. So, now, he could use it to fan himself and even confront an enemy if need be.

Bi Fan laughed: “It seems like the Blue Dragon has a lot of physical strength and he definitely knows how to use it.”

“Bi Fan, you too seemed to have developed a lot physical strength. Well, if I remember correctly, then, at the selection tournament, you were at par with the other participants, in terms of physical strength. How did you manage to cultivate so much physical strength in such a short time?” Jing Feng enquired with a straight face.

“Uh.....” Bi Fan didn’t respond to that, and just stood there, speechless.

The Blue Dragon was slicing wolves as if they were vegetables.

The Blue Dragon's moves weren't very sophisticated at all, in fact, they were a combination of strength, ferocity, bravery and were plainly domineering in nature. Jing Feng's fighting style was very different; it consisted of graceful movements combined with strength. The Blue Dragon on the other hand, used the simplest moves in a very direct manner, and no wolf was able to ward his attack off.

Soon, the Blue Dragon had killed all the wolves in the pack.

Jing Feng and Bi Fan just stood there, staring at the scene, stupefied.

“Jing Feng, Bi Fan, brothers, help me collect these carcasses, hurry, ah!” The Blue Dragon urged them to help him out.

After such a violent fight, the Blue Dragon seemed to be in a very cheerful mood.

“Brother, you killed the wolves, so their bodies naturally belong to you.” Jing Feng smiled.

“Nah, let's divide them up, you see my Yin Yang pouch only has a very limited space in it, so I can't take them all; and anyway, we might bump into more beasts along the way.” The Blue Dragon insisted.

Bi Fan and Jing Feng hadn't declined his offer out of courtesy;

they simply weren't interested in so many dead wolf bodies. The two of them were only interested in a nucleus; while so many dead bodies were just going to occupy a lot of space.

The chances of getting a nucleus from the dead body of such lowly beasts were very less. Nuclei were usually obtained from the carcasses of stronger beasts, like goblins.

The three of them split the carcasses three ways and continued on their way.

The Blue Dragon had consumed a lot of energy during the fight, so he ingested a restoration Dan to help him restore his inner energy and restored himself to full capacity.

Along the way, the three of them bumped into several waves of beasts and they managed to sort the same out, with exceptional ease.

Finally, they arrived at the scene, at the zone that was possessed by the evil spirits.

The region around the zone had been adorned with a good number of tall and towering trees, but at the moment, most of them had been damaged, some even severed from the middle. In fact, some part of the area seemed to be missing a few layers of earth as well.

There were a lot of people in the vicinity, standing at the edge of

the zone, but they weren't daring to go into the possessed territory.

Bi Fan stated: "Brothers, why don't the two of you go ahead and inspect the situation, and I'll go looking for Greedy."

The Chimera shouldn't be seen publically for the time being, especially around the possessed zone. If people saw him now, Bi Fan reckoned that some of them might recognize the Chimera and it could cause him a lot of trouble.

"Go, but be careful." Jing Feng cautioned him.

Bi Fan turned around and disappeared into the forest. Once he was away from the crowd, he started using the Chimera's soul strands to help him locate the Chimera, by signaling to him.

As long as the Chimera hadn't wandered away too far, he would be able to sense it.

The Chimera's soul's strands weren't enough for Bi Fan to know what condition the Chimera was in, which was making him very anxious.

Soon, the Chimera responded and his soul's strands started to indicate the direction in which he was.

Bi Fan quickly dashed in the direction he was pointed to, and relief washed over him when he saw his two companions,

unharmmed and well.

“Chimera, Greedy, I will have to subject you two to this pet belt, temporarily. If someone recognized the two of you, then we could possible get in a lot of trouble.” Bi Fan explained.

The Chimera nodded in approval, almost immediately.

The Marten in the other hand didn't do so at first, but then understanding the weight of the situation, reluctantly agreed.

Bi Fan quickly incorporated them into the pet belt, prepared sufficient food for them and made his way back to the possessed zone.

The zone possessed by the evil spirits had witnessed a massive explosion, followed by a massive storm. The evil spirits, however, hadn't diminished at all; in fact, they had only grown stronger and more violent.

Finally, some of the experts who had gone into the zone came back out, looking quite gloomy and embarrassed as they hadn't been able to find out anything new.

Later, several old men gathered around the zone and announced that the zone will be cordoned off, meaning that people will no longer be allowed to enter the zone. Following this announcement, the people who had been standing there in anticipation, looked a bit disappointed.

Chapter 48 – Coincidence

Bi Fan quickly located Jing Feng and the Blue Dragon, and caught up with them; and they relayed all the information they had received on the latest developments.

At the source of this anomaly's outbreak was a deep, bottomless, cave. A few experts had tried to break into the cave, which had triggered the explosion Bi Fan had witnessed.

Owing to their humungous strength, the experts had managed to survive it.

Some of the experts who had decided to seal off the area, were waiting for more experts to arrive, so they could all go back in together and finish the task.

Some of the experts present on the scene were from Quinyang, which is why Jing Feng had been able to find out so much about what was really going on here.

“What do we do now? This is so disappointing, we can't break into the possessed zone now...” The Blue Dragon expressed his anxiety.

He was a lonesome character, and his favorite part of the day was when he'd get to practice, or even better, fight. Most people like him weren't overly fond of sitting idly or in general, waiting.

Jing Feng and Bi Fan looked at each other, and chuckled.

“Well, then let’s get out of here. No point waiting here if we can’t enter the zone.” Jing Feng said, extremely disheartened.

He wanted to enter the zone and experience the evil spirits for himself, increase his knowledge, explore. He hadn’t expected that the experts who had arrived here before him would seal the area off.

“Why don’t we go and hunt some beasts? Owing to this upsurge of evil spirits, a lot of beasts have come out of their caves, which means we will have a lot fun.” Bi Fan proposed.

Jing Feng seemed to like the idea: “Well, we did buy the Jade tablets, maybe this way we will at least be able to recover its cost.”

It is needless to point out that, as they would get to fight a bit, the Blue Dragon happily agreed.

The trio left the possessed zone and went looking for beasts inside the devil’s territory.

Ever since the evil spirits had soared, high, into the sky, there had been a huge influx of people into the devil’s territory, which had frightened the beasts inside the devil’s territory. In this unprecedented situation, many of the beasts had decided to join forces, in order to protect themselves.

At the moment, it would be fairly difficult to find lone beasts, and the ones who were wandering alone, were really strong.

Out of the three of them, Bi Fan was obviously the least experienced one. In fact, Jing Feng and the Blue Dragon, each, had their ways of tracking down wild beasts, which were quite effective and useful.

Before long, they managed to track down a sleuth of bears, and this group was almost thirty bears strong, while the strongest of them was in the 'enormous strength' layer.

“You guys want in?” Jing Feng asked.

“Oh yeah, I’m not afraid of them.” Bi Fan replied, in a very relaxed tone.

“Of course! I must!” The Blue Dragon was obviously quite eager.

The trio charged for the bears simultaneously, Jing Feng wielding his mighty spear, looked like a dragon charging at his prey, in this case, the bear closest to them.

The Blue Dragon was holding his scimitar, charged the bears with a fearsome momentum, and looked quite scary.

Bi Fan on the other hand was only holding a regular light-ray sword, but his daring momentum was enough to scare off the weaker bears in the sleuth.

“Boom!” Jing Feng had already spilled first blood, his spear severing the head of a bear.

“Wooooo!!!....” The bears cried out in fear, again and again, as they tried to organize themselves into a formation, to attack their aggressors.

The Blue Dragon added another one to the dead list, relieving another bear from this world.

Bi Fan wasn't far behind either; his sword punctured the throat of a bear, and went straight through.

“Ha...ha....this is fun! Let's have ourselves a small competition and see who kills more bears.” The Blue Dragon laughed.

The Blue Dragon didn't wait for Jing Feng or Bi Fan's reply and stormed straight for the next bear.

Jing Feng and Bi Fan were young, they weren't just going to back out and throw the towel; the game was on.

The mighty spear swept everything in its range!

Jing Feng was leading; hardly any of the bears were strong enough to match him. He was already almost as strong as the 'emerging from the womb' layer, which meant that the bears

really couldn't hope to contest against him.

The scimitar was dreadful enough to scare any beast!

The Blue Dragon wasn't using any complicated moves, but he certainly knew how to use his strength to achieve the desired end result.

The light-ray sword was slicing left and right!

Bi Fan was using the 'Fufeng Double-edged sword' technique, and every time he swung his sword, the number of bears in the group reduced by one.

In no time at all, the three of them had managed to kill all thirty bears in the sleuth.

"Ha ha, it seems like I won ah!" Jing Feng smiled.

Jing Feng was the strongest of the three, and had managed to kill the maximum number of bears. In fact, the strongest bear in the sleuth had also fallen to Jing Feng's spear.

Bi Fan had almost managed to level with the Blue Dragon. The Blue Dragon was violent but decisive, and had managed to do slightly better than Bi Fan.

The three of them split the carcasses between themselves, whether they managed to obtain a nucleus from the bodies of these beasts or not, was dependent on their luck.

The Blue Dragon clearly didn't have much space left in his Yin Yang pouch to incorporate all the dead bodies of his share. Left with no other option, he decided to slice out the most valuable parts of the carcasses.

Jing Feng was slightly surprised: "Bi Fan, how did you manage to procure so many Yin Yang pouches?"

"Just my luck, brother!" Bi Fan couldn't explain things in detail, if he mentioned that he might have even resorted to murder to procure some of the Yin Yang pouches, then, he might get into a lot of trouble later on.

Jing Feng understood the situation all the same, so he didn't press any further; he too, had pillaged a lot of Yin Yang pouches, so knew the value of such secrets.

Soon, the Blue Dragon had accumulated all that he could store, using his scimitar to slice up the dead bears.

They hadn't gone far, when they started hearing the sounds of fighting coming from some distance ahead of them. There was a lot of movement, and they could tell that a big fight was being waged between a group of humans and beasts.

“Let’s go and check it out.” Jing Feng waved everyone one forward and the three of them cautiously made their way.

Usually, when a human is fighting a beast, it is considered rude to peep, it’s almost a taboo.

So obviously, Bi Fan’s trio quieted down in order to conceal their presence.

Stealthily, they made their forward, and hid in the trees that oversaw the fight, not very far away from the scene.

A pack of almost a hundred wolves surrounded a group of eleven humans, and both sides were intoxicated in this full scale battle.

Jing Feng, apparently, recognized these humans and his eyes suddenly became very cold, as if he was ready for war.

“Jing Feng, they will find out.” Bi Fan cautioned.

The other side had already found out. At the center of that human group was a man, whose strength seemed to be at par with Jing Feng; his strength was formidable; his eyes, looked over at Jing Feng, sharp.

Jing Feng smiled: “Let’s go and see what we can do here.”

Jing Feng, light as a feather, jumped off the tree and came out in

the open. Bi Fan and the Blue Dragon, left with no choice, followed after him.

It was quite obvious, that Jing Feng didn't just know these guys, but he also had a history with them.

“Jiang Wen, I never imagined that you would get suppressed so easily by such ordinary beasts.” Jing Feng laughed, jabbing at the other side.

It suddenly came to Bi Fan's realization, that the other side belonged to the 'rising sun' school, and at the head of the group, was Jing Feng's old rival, Jiang Wen.

Jiang Wen's strength was extraordinary; his sword seemed to be dancing in the breeze, slicing past one wolf after another. If it hadn't been for Jiang Wen, the group would not have been able to withstand such a big pack of wolves for so long.

“Jing Feng, what are you doing here? Don't you dare cause trouble for us.” Jiang Wen warned in a stern voice.

He seemed fairly afraid that Jing Feng, and his party, would end up assisting the wolf pack and the members in his group were already preparing themselves for another fight.

As soon as the wolves had seen Jing Feng pop up, they had separated away from the squadron of humans they were fighting

against, even though they kept glaring at the humans, they didn't dare to attack again.

The wolves were smart enough to know that more enemies wouldn't be very good for their interests.

Jing Feng laughed: "I was just observing you. It seems that you've gotten a little slower...ha ha..."

Jing Feng's trio was standing fairly close to the Jiang Wen's, like a pride of lions; Jiang Wen's anger was evident from the manner in which he was exposing his teeth.

"Brother, that's the kid who shamed me." One of the youngsters in Jiang Wen's group pointed at Bi Fan, his voice reeking of hatred.

That boy was Jiang Sheng, the boy Bi Fan had managed to offend.

Chapter 49 – Shamed

Jiang Wen looked at Bi Fan, coldly and his eyes were brimming with the aura of death.

“Boy, you dared to insult my brother! Things aren’t looking good for you.”

Bi Fan looked at Jiang Wen indifferently, and twitched his lips, as he cast the threat aside.

Jing Feng laughed: “Your brother got bullied by a new comer at Quinyang, he’s a complete waste; he’d be better off dead.”

Jing Feng’s words had easily managed to infuriate the entire group of ‘rising sun’ students.

Jiang Wen’s face turned ashen as he said: “Jing Feng, you’ve dared to insult ‘rising sun’ school, now you’re as good as dead!”

“Well, bite me. If you have what it takes.” Jing Feng smiled as he mocked his rival, while continuing to fan his face.

The Blue Dragon spoke up: “Brother, do you wish to sort these guys out as well?”

The ‘rising sun’ students were respectably strong and one could make out from the Blue Dragon’s body language, that he was more

than willing to take a shot at them.

“Well, I’d hate to deny the wolves a chance first. So for now, let’s get in the queue.” Jing Feng shook his head.

Even with Jing Feng and his companions out of the equation, for the time being, Jiang Wen and his boys were in plenty of trouble as it is.

“I’ll be done with these wolves in no time, then, you’re next!” Jiang Wen issued another threat.

Jiang Wen employed his true strength this time, and used his low-grade weapon to a formidable effect, beheading more than one wolf with every strike.

“Jiang Wen is using a low grade sword right now, unlike the formidable weapon he used against me at the tournament. He won’t stand a chance against me with a weapon like this one.” Jing Feng stated.

“Relying on powerful weapons to win a fight...what a waste.” Bi Fan said in a detracting tone.

Jing Feng smiled: “Bi Fan, always remember, weapons are a subset of a fighter’s strength, never belittle them. Martial artists desperately search for good weapons and continue to upgrade them as they progress.”

Bi Fan couldn't help but recall that he too, was in possession of some extraordinary weaponry, which he wasn't capable of using at the moment. But he was well aware of the fact, that he simply couldn't disclose this information to anyone, because if he did, then he would definitely not be able to retain them for long.

“I will remember that brother.”

Jiang Wen slashed past one wolf after another as carved his path towards the head of the pack.

The others in his company were also fighting with all of their strength, and the fight seemed like it was going to come to an end, much sooner than expected.

Even though the wolves outnumbered the 'rising sun' students, exceedingly, they didn't have the same luxury in terms of strength. On top of that, Jiang Wen had already turned the battlefield into a slaughterhouse and no wolf was even remotely capable of matching his strength.

The Blue Dragon was glaring at the skills that Jiang Wen was displaying, preparing himself for the oncoming war.

The Blue Dragon wasn't capable of defeating Jiang Wen at this time, but his goal was to top the Jiu Yu List, so naturally, he virtually considered Jiang Wen an enemy.

Jiang Wen saw the scorching glare in the Blue Dragon's eyes as

his heart felt slightly humbled. He simply couldn't disregard the Blue Dragon, or underestimate him for that fact.

“Jiang Wen is indeed a very powerful foe; he's simply massacring that wolf pack.” Jing Feng praised his nemesis.

If one put aside personal rivalry, then it was evident that Jiang Wen was an opponent worth praising and his strength had already reached the 'transformation' layer.

“Jing Feng, you've already reached the 'transformation' layer. You will probably break into the 'emerging from the womb' layer by the time the next Jiu Yu List tournament comes by.” Bi Fan stated; all smiles.

“'Emerging from the womb' layer won't be easy to break into, it's a massive threshold and certainly not a very easy one to cross over to.” Jing Feng shook his head.

The Blue Dragon stated: “It's better if some people advance; otherwise the Jiu Yu List won't be any fun with such silly opponents.”

The Blue Dragon loved a good challenge, and had quite the affinity for a stronger challenge.

Jing Feng stared at the Blue Dragon in silence.

Bi Fan too, didn't say anything; but he too, was full of fighting

spirit and ready for a war.

“Wooo!..... Wooo!...” Blood-curling shrieks echoed unceasingly, as the wolves fell to their deaths in quick succession.

Soon, the twenty or so wolves that remained of the pack, started to scatter in all direction, hoping to flee from their oncoming deaths.

Many of the youngsters in Jiang Wen’s contingent were quite seriously injured and were bleeding profusely.

But in the murderous rage that Jiang Wen was in at the moment, he completely disregarded his state, and that of his companions, as he marched forward and came face to face with Jing Feng.

He was only concerned with Jing Feng. To him, Bi Fan was not worthy of his attention, and certainly not someone he would tax his mind over.

“Jiang Wen, you’ve finally managed to conclude your previous appointment. That took too much time, you were so slow, but well, we have an old account to settle.” Jing Feng continued to fan his face, and smile: “I will grant you one hour to reinstate your inner energy, before I start bullying you around.”

Jiang Wen was even more enraged now: “Jing Feng, you are nothing more than a fly in front of me, how dare you show me such arrogance?!”

“Well, if we have a go now, I’ll swat you aside like a fly, would you like to try?” Jing Feng teased, still smiling.

Even as much as he begrudged Jing Feng, Jiang Wen didn’t respond to that, and turned over to face Bi Fan instead. And he address Bi Fan in a cold voice: “Boy, you’re no match for me. I’ll let you gain some more experience before I deal with you.”

“Well, if we have a go now, I’ll swat you aside like a fly.” Bi Fan copied Jing Feng’s words and his tone very precisely.

Jiang Wen was going wild with blood lust: “Well, then, its time I teach you a lesson first!”

Jiang Wen had already consumed almost fifty percent of his inner energy, but he was extremely confident that he could easily finish off a ‘brave’ layer opponent, even in this condition.

However, he immediately looked over at Jing Feng, afraid that Jing Feng might intrude.

Jing Feng was well aware of Bi Fan’s capability, so simply smiled as he mocked Jiang Wen further: “Jiang Wen, in your current condition, you’re not going to able to match any Quinyang student. You might as well save yourself the embarrassment and quit trying.”

Jing Feng knew Jiang Wen well enough to know, that belittling

him would only make him angrier.

Jiang Wen was beginning to lose all filters of control: “I’m going to sort the both of you out, one by one.”

“Wait, I’d like to go first!” The Blue Dragon interrupted, his voice sounding more like a war-cry.

“He’s challenged me, so I should go first.” Bi Fan stated.

Bi Fan simply didn’t want to miss the opportunity of trying out a ‘transformation’ layer opponent.

“Bi Fan, be very careful of his sword, it might seem like a low-grade weapon, but it’s exceptionally sharp. Don’t let it touch you.” Jing Feng cautioned.

Bi Fan nodded as he took out his light-ray sword.

“Boy, you’re dead!” Jiang Wen launched an early strike, and his sword sent out a massive screen of bright light, completely enveloping Bi Fan inside its range.

Bi Fan leaned on his back foot, and with almost ghostly swiftness, backed away from his position, at an incredible pace.

Jiang Wen attacked again, his sharp sword ready to chop Bi Fan, as it made a bee-line course towards Bi Fan’s face.

Jiang Wen had already made up his mind and he was preparing to chop off Bi Fan's head.

Jiang Wen had already made up his mind and he was preparing to chop off Bi Fan's head.

Bi Fan brandished the 'dance of mist' footwork, and his body, seemingly floated away from Jiang Wen's lightning fast attacks.

Eventually, Jiang Wen's initial attacks fell through. Bi Fan decided to launch a quick counterattack, and cast out the 'fufeng double-edged sword' technique, as swift as the breeze.

Surprisingly, Jiang Wen didn't even attempt to dodge the attack, and simply raised his sharp sword to block Bi Fan's attack.

"Despicable!" Bi Fan cursed out loudly, forced to change the direction of his sword.

Jiang Wen's sword was too sharp, so much so, that if it collided with Bi Fan light-ray, the end result of that collision might not be very good for Bi Fan.

Bi Fan immediately changed his strategy, and instead of attacking Jiang Wen, he decided to blindly evade everything that Jiang Wen was throwing at him; and let his sword pass Bi Fan's; unhindered.

His aim was to deplete Jiang Wen's inner energy. Jiang Wen had already consumed a large amount of inner energy against the wolves, and if Bi Fan managed to deplete the rest of it, then he could easily finish this fight in due course of time.

Jiang Wen wanted to end this quickly, but Bi Fan just wasn't giving him an opportunity. Jiang Wen's footwork was only as good as Bi Fan's, which meant that he was finding it hard to catch up with the evading Bi Fan.

“Quinyang schools are accepting these kinds of students! What a coward!” Jiang Wen taunted loudly.

The rest of the ‘rising sun’ students started to hoot; it was pretty hard to make out what they were saying, but they were definitely cussing at Bi Fan and Quinyang.

Bi Fan didn't react to their words at all as he didn't really associate himself with Quinyang or its schools.

Jing Feng, however, suddenly seemed to lose his temper: “Bi Fan, start taking some risks, end this early. Our reputation is at stake.”

Bi Fan glanced over at Jing Feng's face and decided to abandon his initial plan, modifying it to suit Jing Feng's desire.

‘Fufeng Double-edged sword!’

Bi Fan employed every strand of force in his body as he launched

an attack at Jiang Wen. He raised his sword, readying it to smash right into Jiang Wen's sharp weapon.

At the same time, he raised his finger to cast out the 'immortal finger'. Such an attack, from this close a range, can be very hard to detect.

Bi Fan's 'immortal finger' attack caught Jiang Wen completely off-guard, and he was unable to dodge it. The attack struck him on the underside of his armpit, poking a hole in it, and blood sprayed out of Jiang Wen's body.

Jiang Wen quickly distanced himself from Bi Fan, but wasn't completely unbridled by him anymore; in fact, his body language reflected an unexpected fear of his opponent.

Bi Fan had launched the attack with all his strength, and the effect was rather severe and damaging.

"That move by Bi Fan was really amazing. What an amazing combination, he completely caught Jiang Wen off-guard!" The Blue Dragon's mouth hung open in astonishment.

Jing Feng smiled: "I've never seen anyone rise up as fast as Bi Fan. If he continues to move forward at this rate, then he stands to have a very bright future waiting for him, ahead in his life."

As the fight wore on, Jiang Wen became even more fatigued and incompetent, as he had already consumed almost all of his inner

energy.

Bi Fan had even put away his sword and was using boxing techniques to attack Jiang Wen now.

Bi Fan's agility was hitting its pinnacle, which was making it very hard for Jiang Wen to catch him; one second he was here, and then he was suddenly behind Jiang Wen.

Bi Fan was using his flexible and nimble footwork to such devastating effects, that Jiang Wen simply couldn't cope up with him. Jiang Wen's body was too tired and he just kept rotating left to right, in the hope of catching Bi Fan.

Bi Fan had comprehensively suppressed Jiang Wen, and his companions were watching the fight with a gloomy expression on their faces, while Jing Feng's and the Blue Dragon's smiles were etched from one ear to the other.

“Ha ha! I didn't expect a fighter as dignified, as the number two on the Jiu Yu List, to ever be bullied around like this by an unknown entity. Looks like we missed a good show, but it seems that we're just in time for the end; the most exciting parts of all.” Suddenly, the forest lit up with the sound of an unexpected laughter.

Almost instantaneously, ten people emerged out of the forest, led by two very imposing figures, at a very fast pace.

“Wang Feng of Jiu Yu town and Hong Yun Tian of Tian Shui!” Jing Feng exclaimed.

Wang Feng had ranked fourth in the Jiu Yu List, right behind Jing Feng, whereas Hong Yun Tian had ranked fifth.

As soon as Jiang Wen saw the two men, his face turned red with embarrassment; and it appeared as if he would start spitting out blood.

Jiang Wen had a fabulous reputation, which had just gone down the proverbial drain.

“Brother Bi Fan, maybe that is enough for Jiang Wen, this time around.” Jing Feng said.

Quinyang and ‘rising sun’ were both, schools that preached the sacred way of martial arts, so under these circumstances, it wouldn’t be correct to openly murder one another.

Now, two more renowned martial artists were present on the scene and this massacre needed to come to an end, so as to avoid trouble later on.

Bi Fan was a little reluctant initially, but as soon as he understood Jing Feng’s motives, he immediately retreated and circled away from his opponent.

Jiang Wen’s body sprayed out more blood as his body trembled

with rage.

Today, he had been defaced by an unknown entity, and that too in front of so many people; this humiliation, was way more than his ego could sustain.

“Jing Feng, Bi Fan, I will remember this day. I will come back for the two of you, sooner or later.” Jiang Wen furiously got off the ground and walked away with the rest of the ‘rising sun’ students.

“Ha..ha...”

The new arrivals and Jing Feng laughed heartily as Jiang Wen and his party walked away.

One really didn’t need to look at Jiang Wen’s face to guess his expression.

“Jing Feng, Bi Fan, you will both die at my hands....” Jiang Wen swore to himself.

Wang Feng looked at Bi Fan as he said: “Jing Feng, looks like Quinyang has found themselves another genius, ah.”

“Ha Ha, Well, truth be told, Jiang Wen had already consumed most of his energy, and then was arrogant enough to challenge my junior; he was bound to be beaten.” Jing Feng laughed, fanning his face.

Wang Feng replied: “You’re too humble brother, but it looks like the Jiu Yu List is going get even more intense this time around.”

His words seemed to have a very profound meaning, as he looked at Bi Fan and the Blue Dragon, sizing them up. While the Blue Dragon glared back at him, his eyes ready for war again.

Bi Fan’s face on the other hand was expressionless; wooden. Wang Feng couldn’t see through him, no matter how hard he tried.

“Has he advanced yet?” Jing Feng asked, as his facial expression changing to that of a concerned one, almost as he if, he was even afraid to even say the name of the person he was referring to.

Wang Feng’s and Hong Yun Tian’s faces too, quickly changed colored as fear crept into their eyes. They simply shook their heads as no words came out of their mouths.

The three men soon separated away from each other, and Bi Fan just couldn’t hold back anymore: “Brother Jing Feng, who were you guys talking about, and why were you so afraid of him?”

“Jiu Yu List’s number one, he simply cannot be beaten. His name is Wu Ji Xuan.” Jing Feng’s tone comprised of both awe and fear.

The Blue Dragon was surprised for a second: “Wu Ji Xuan! He’s the strongest in all Jiu Yu territory. They even say that he’s one of

the strongest in the entire Tian Yu, and he's just started school.”

“Wu Ji Xuan, he's that powerful? I'd really like to meet him.” Bi Fan's eyes lit up.

Jing Feng Smiled: “Wu Ji Xuan is a little weird. Plus the gap in our strength is far too much, to even try competing against him, so just don't provoke him.”

- End of Book 02 -