

"How could you be so powerful? How is that possible?" Chu Shen could not believe what he saw.

He was so stunned that his eyes nearly popped out. He never thought Chu Tianfan could vanquish the Chu family's most powerful formation.

How on earth did he manage to destroy our formation merely with the support of his followers?

"No! No way! Impossible! How could our family's formation fail?" Chu Qitian collapsed to the ground and shrieked hysterically.

He found it hard to believe Ye Fan could thrash the Chu family's formation with a rabble of supporters.

All thirty-six Chu Family Protectors were decimated, and their bodies were lying in a pool of blood.

They were all grandmasters, not some ordinary folks.

The death toll of Grandmasters from the Chu family today alone had exceeded the total number of deaths over the last century.

In other words, Ye Fan had completely wiped half of the warriors from the clan.

"You b*stard! How dare you kill all thirty-six protectors of our family! You must die for doing this to us!" Chu Shen bellowed in anger.

His heart felt as if it was bleeding.

It took the family countless years to train these men to become protectors of the family.

Besides spending time and money to train these men to become grandmasters, the Chu family had spent years scouting men who were gifted in martial arts.

But in the blink of an eye, Ye Fan's subordinates had killed every single one of them.

One could imagine the Chu family's agony and anger at that point.

Yet Ye Fan remained unperturbed. He let out a mirthless laugh and said, "Why worry about others? You should worry about yourselves!"

His devilish laugh instantly caused them to shudder.

Upon hearing what he said, Chu Shen's face turned pale, and his eyes widened. "What do you mean? Are you planning to exterminate the Chu family? How dare you, Chu Tianfan!" he roared in fear.

The elder finally realized the danger the Chu family was in.

Chu Zhengliang, who had sustained severe injuries, could no longer battle, and the family's formation had been utterly vanquished.

They had exhausted all resources to continue with this battle with Ye Fan.

The latter gave him a cold shoulder and turned to Gaius.

All four Dragon Slayers had used every ounce of their energy after performing the Ice Fire Dragon.

Their faces turned pallid the moment they landed on the ground because they still had some old wounds on their body.

There was even blood seeping out from the corner of Owen's mouth.

The four had pushed themselves beyond their limits, especially when they performed the Ice Fire Dragon.

Even those who were still on their feet could hardly stand upright.

"I'm sorry, Dragon Master. That's all we could do for you." The color had drained out of Gaius' face as he apologized.

Ye Fan responded with a grin. "You've done your best. Take a good rest to build up stamina again. The Ice Fire Dragon is a formation from the Comprehensive Array Attack of the Supreme class. You must have had a hard time casting this formation. All of you did great, so don't worry. I'll take it from here."

"But you must be exhausted, too. We're worried..." Gaius expressed his concern.

Ye Fan waved his hand in the air and said, "I've had enough rest when I was trapped under the rubble."

He was not severely wounded when the Cloud Sun Immortal Army crushed him beneath the rocks. Instead, he seized the chance to recuperate and

rebuild his stamina.

After all, he was someone who had mastered the Invoke the Celestial Cloud. This particular technique had enabled him to regain his strength at lightning speed.

While the Dragon God Body could shield him from external forces, the Invoke the Celestial Cloud could strengthen his inner body.

Ye Fan's ability to continuously absorb energy from the environment had enabled him to combat sustainably.

Despite gathering his strength multiple times to display some of the most powerful martial art techniques, he did not show any sign of exhaustion.

After talking to Gaius, Ye Fan turned around and walked slowly toward the Chu family with a deadpan expression.

Though his footsteps were light as a feather, the family could somehow feel a tremor in their hearts. It was as if the God of Death was approaching them.

Chu Shen and the rest staggered. "What are you doing? Haven't you killed enough people? Do you really want to kill us all?"

Fear was written all over their face.

However, Ye Fan kept mum and continued walking in their direction.

"Listen carefully, kid. You might have defeated the protectors, but that doesn't mean you can step all over us. Leave before you regret it. I'm warning you, or you'll be sorry!" Chu Shen exclaimed while the rest of the family members continued to retreat.

Ye Fan responded with a snort. "Cut the crap!"

Suddenly, the ground where he stood started cracking.

The young man started levitating right before their eyes.

He then raised his hand, clenched his fist, and aimed right at the elders of the Chu family.

"B*stard, are you for real?"

Chu Shen and the elders in the family were flabbergasted.

In a fit of anger, he gathered the remaining warriors from the Chu family to retaliate.

But they were no match for Ye Fan at all.

The latter's punch had sent Chu Shen and his men flying a few feet away.

They knocked down countless trees and rocks before collapsing to the ground. The blood they spewed had turned the ground red.

Yet, Ye Fan did not show any sign of stopping. He was preparing to launch his next attack as if he was determined to wipe out the entire family.

“How dare you!”

The elders of the Chu Sect could no longer sit and watch Ye Fan decimate the family.

After bellowing at the top of their lungs, they stepped in and joined the fight.

Ye Fan had somehow expected this to happen. Before the elders from the Chu Sect could launch an attack against him, Ye Fan had thrown several powerful punches at them.

Several loud smacks reverberated throughout the battlefield, and the Chu Sect elders were flung to the ground.

Nothing could stop him from advancing now.

No one was there to protect the Chu family anymore.

“I gave you a chance, but you chose death! You leave me no choice but to kill all of you!” Ye Fan said coldly, as if he was a judge delivering a verdict.

He pressed his palms together and gathered energy at the tip of his fingers.

In a matter of seconds, a wave of energy erupted from the tips of his fingers like a sword!

Get ready to taste my sword!

He then released the wave of energy in the Chu family's direction.

Feeling despair, the clan could only lay helplessly on the ground.

Trembling in fear, Chu Qitian shrieked for help and ran away as fast as he could alongside some members of the family.

Despite their speed, they couldn't outrun Ye Fan's wave of energy.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"No! No! Somebody, please stop him!"

There was nothing Chu Shen and the others could do as they watched their imminent doom get closer and closer.

"Xuan, Ming, please save us!" Desperate, Chu Qitian got on his knees and shouted while streams of tears flowed from his eyes.

Not long after that, almost the entire Chu family followed suit and started pleading for help.

"Please save our family! We beg of you!"

"We'll do anything! Please just save our family!"

The wailings of the family were so loud that they could pierce the clouds.

Boom!

Suddenly, a formidable force shot out from where the Chus were and went straight for Ye Fan.

Like two meteors colliding, the mysterious force and Ye Fan took each other head-on, and upon impact, the shockwave they created was enough to break tree branches and blow rocks away.

After a short stalemate, Ye Fan was sent stumbling backward, and every step he took left a hole in the ground.

Everybody at the scene was completely stunned by the loud explosion.

Shocked, they then turned to look in the direction

of the Chus, for nobody expected that the family would still have a card up their sleeves.

Everybody wondered who it could be that had enough power to fend off Ye Fan.

"What happened? Who could be that powerful? Has the Chus been hiding a trump card all along?" questioned Gaius with his eyebrows furrowed.

While all those present at the Dragon God Hall were still in shock, two figures were revealed after the dust settled.

Standing near the Chus were two elderly men with white hair. The aura emanating from them was so intense that everyone at the scene could feel its presence.

"Who... Who are they?"

"It's the Demonic Duo! They're the Chus' guardians," explained the Chu Sect's head of elders while narrowing his eyes suspiciously at the two elderly men.

"What? Guardians? Are they supposed to be a threat?" Unlike those in the Chu Sect, Mochizuki Kawa and the others were clueless about who the Demonic Duo was.

"Of course! The Demonic Duo has served Chu Yuan for almost their entire lives. They were his right-hand men when Chu Sect was in a crisis all those years ago, and together, they've taken down countless fearsome men. As Supremes, the Demonic Duo's prowess was second only to Chu Yuan himself back then." The Chu Sect leader had

nothing but reverence in his eyes when he talked about the two elderlies but powerful men.

Immediately after listening to him, Mochizuki Kawa and the others trembled all over.

"Are you... Are you telling me that these two are the Infernal Duo that slaughtered countless men by Chu Yuan's side?" Fear-stricken, Mochizuki Kawa's eyes widened in terror while his heart raced.

Even though he had not heard of the Demonic Duo before, he knew who the Infernal Duo was since they ranked top three on the Sky Ranking.

One of the main reasons Chu Sect could achieve great heights was because of their talents, and the Infernal Duo was undoubtedly the best among them.

However, due to infighting in the sect, the Infernal Duo disappeared along with Chu Yuan.

Since everyone thought that the two had met their demise like Chu Yuan, nobody would expect to see them suddenly reappear that day.

In response, the head of elders nodded. "After the power grab, the two changed their name to the Demonic Duo and lived in seclusion among the Chus. Their only purpose now is to protect the family in Chu Yuan's place. However, besides Chu Yuan himself, no one in the Chu family could command them. That's why they rarely show themselves, except to carry out simple missions. Now that Chu Tianfan's got the family cornered, as guardians, the Demonic Duo could no longer stand

idly by. Oh, how the tables have turned.”

After hearing what the sect leader had to say, everyone's face hardened while their breathing quickened.

The fight grew more intense by the minute as the Chus and Chu Tianfan continued to exceed expectations.

Seeing how unpredictable and exciting the situation had become, Aaron and the other martial arts leaders were on the edge of their seats.

“I can tell this is going to be good. Now, how will that young man react, I wonder.” Cackling, Aaron enjoyed how things had transpired before him.

“I think Chu Tianfan is all out of tricks. Unless he can order his men to perform the Comprehensive Array Attack again, he doesn't stand a chance,” stated Karl while shaking his head disappointedly. “Even if Tang Yun herself were to go against the Demonic Duo, she might not necessarily win the fight, much less a young man who had pretty much exhausted himself.”

Like Karl, even Gaius had started to lose faith in Ye Fan.

“We can't just stand by and do nothing! We have to help Master now! Everyone, we must try and see if we can do the Ice Fire Dragon again!” implored Gaius.

Without a second thought, Owen and the others agreed with the man. However, the second they tried to utilize their elemental force, their face

turned pale, and blood spewed out of their mouths.

It was hard enough that they had to perform the high-level combat skill once, so it was impossible to do it again in such a short time.

"D*mn it!" Upset, Gaius and the others smashed their fists on the ground so hard that their knuckles started to bleed.

Han got so worried that he coughed blood. Somehow, the stress from watching the fight had worsened his injuries.

As Gaius and the others continued to wonder what they could do to help, Ye Fan lifted his head to look at the Demonic Duo grimly. "This is between the Chus and me, so I hope you two can stay out of it."

The Demonic Duo had stayed with the Chu family for many years, so they had known Ye Fan since he was just a young boy.

They even taught him some of their skills back then.

However, the duo never expected that they would have to fight the young man one day.

"You're Zhenghong's son, Chu Tianfan? The talented little guy we met so many years ago?"

"My goodness! How you've grown!"

The two elderly men had always been quite taciturn, but not when they saw Chu Tianfan.

When Chu Qitian heard the two, he was concerned that they would hesitate to take down the enemy, so he quickly reminded, "Xuan, Ming, he's not one of us now. You don't have to show him mercy. I'm sure he didn't show our men any. They all died at his hands! So please, you have to avenge us! He had it coming for what he did to our family."

At that moment, Chu Qitian had nothing but deep hatred for Ye Fan, but the Demonic Duo cared not about what the man said.

They turned to Ye Fan and voiced, "Let's stop fighting. With the two of us here, there's no way you can hurt the Chus. If you drop this right now, we'll let you walk away."

Since the duo did not want to hurt Ye Fan, they gestured for the man to leave Mount Chumen.

However, that did not sit well with Chu Qitian. "What are you doing? You can't just let him walk away! He has to pay for his sins today! I'll die before I let him walk away in one piece!"

Chu Qitian was still yelling when he suddenly got slapped on the face by Chu Shen. "That's enough! You shut up right now! They know what they're doing. And it's not like you get to order them around."

After getting rebuked by the elder, Chu Qitian was so shocked that he immediately shut his mouth.

Chapter 1682



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chu Yuan had always treated the Demonic Duo as equals, so the other Chus, too, held the two in high regard.

Even Chu Shen, an honorable elder in the family, respected the duo very much.

The dire situation that the family found themselves in only served to increase Chu Shen's deference toward the two.

Naturally, he got upset when Chu Qitian was being disrespectful. *Who's going to protect us from Ye Fan if he offended the Demonic Duo?*

Even though Chu Shen also wanted the duo to kill Ye Fan, he knew better than to second-guess their decision.

Besides, Chu Shen was also worried that Ye Fan might do something unexpected when cornered, and he would rather not find out what other trump cards the young man had up his sleeves.

After all that had happened, the Chus had grown to fear Ye Fan.

Compared to their desire to see the man dead, they would rather that Ye Fan just leave them alone. *The sooner Ye Fan gets out of our sight, the better!*

However, Ye Fan had no such intention. "Stop fighting? You make that sound so easy, but do you really think I can do that? I'm not leaving this place until I wipe out the Chus!" promised Ye Fan in all seriousness.

After hearing that, the Demonic Duo rubbed their foreheads, feeling troubled. "Is that really necessary? Why do we have to kill each other? I know Patriarch Chu kicked you out of the family back then, but you're part of the Chus nonetheless, and these are your family! Do you really want to spill the blood of your own family members? Can't we just talk things over? I'm sure the elders are more than willing to make things up to you," suggested the two with a straight face.

Suddenly, Ye Fan burst out laughing as if he had just heard the funniest joke in the world. "You think they're going to make things up to me? The Chus care about nothing except their reputation, so what makes you think they'll ever talk things out with me? I used to be as naive as you are right now. I thought a prominent family like the Chus would never break their promises. Do you want to know what I found out in the end? It was all just a big fat joke to them! If I were you, I'd save my breath because you can't change my mind. None of the Chus are trustworthy, so I'll never negotiate with them. If you two insist on defending them, I'll have no choice but to take you down as well."

With that, Ye Fan took up a stance to get ready for his move, Invoke the Celestial Sky. Suddenly, the elemental force from his surrounding started gathering around him.

He was like a dry sponge voraciously sucking in all the energy near him.

Even though the Demonic Duo could tell that Ye Fan was getting ready to go all-out, they remained as calm as the sea. The two had so much battle experience that they were convinced they had

seen it all.

As much as the duo respected Ye Fan's capabilities, they assumed that the young man got too emotional in the matter.

"Why throw your life away like this, young man? Your struggle is futile because there's nothing you can do to harm us. We don't want to kill any Chus, much less the son of Zhenghong. If you do as we say and walk away, we'll pretend as if nothing had happened," added the Demonic Duo indifferently.

The tone they used to speak with Ye Fan was like that of a father trying to dissuade his son from prodigal habits.

"I appreciate the kindness, but that won't be necessary because the Chus are not looking for forgiveness and I'm way past trying to get them to repent. One of us must perish today. It's either me or them!" shouted Ye Fan so loudly that his voice reverberated throughout the Dragon God Hall.

"You fool! You have no idea what you're getting yourself into!" The Demonic Duo had always had a deadpan expression on their faces, but at that moment, they seemed to be angered by Ye Fan's stubbornness. "But if you insist on ending your life like this, we'll oblige. The Chu family has been around for at least a century, and it will continue to thrive under our watch!"

Whoosh!

The Demonic Duo then took to the sky, and all the others could see were two beams of light, one white and the other black, shooting upward.

The two elderly men moved like Olympic athletes in the air, making it difficult to believe that they had lived out more than half their lifetime.

The power they had gathered was so immense that the ground started to shake.

Like a tornado, the two beams of lights spun around and created an energy storm, for the two men were able to complement each other's energy perfectly like yin and yang.

Anyone who witnessed the sheer force contained in the energy storm could immediately feel chills running down their spines.

"That's... That's the Infernal Duo's ultimate move, the Yin Yang Slash!" With his mouth agape, the Chu Sect's head of elders was utterly mind-blown when he realized what he was looking at.

"With their powers combined, Xuan and Ming are an incredibly formidable force. Some even said that the Yin Yang Slash is the closest move to a Supreme-level Comprehensive Array Attack. It was with this ultimate move that the Infernal Duo beat three Supremes from overseas. Just thinking about it gives me the chills!" explained someone in the crowd who was familiar with the Infernal Duo and the Yin Yang Slash.

"It's over! That young man is totally done for. There's no way he's going to survive that attack!" exclaimed Aaron, the Remdik martial arts leader, as he shook his head, convinced that Ye Fan was a goner.

Everyone else at the scene was just as terrified,

for they apparently did not expect the Demonic Duo to perform their ultimate move right from the start of the fight.

Usually, people would save their trump card until the very end, but what the duo did was the complete opposite.

The unorthodox fighting behavior left everyone utterly dazed.

“Good, good! Now that's what I want to see. That b*stard is going to be hit so hard that he'll instantly be reduced to ashes!” Nobody was more glad than Chu Qitian to see the Demonic Duo give Ye Fan their all.

Chu Qitian was worried that the duo might show Ye Fan mercy before, but after seeing the display of power, he realized that his concern was unfounded.

As guardians of the Chu family, the Demonic Duo's priority was to protect the Chus, so naturally, they had to do everything to stop Ye Fan.

The fact that Ye Fan had angered the two only made things worse for him.

However, while everyone else seemed to tremble before the Demonic Duo's might, Ye Fan smirked. “Xuan, Ming, I want to apologize in advance for what I'm about to do. But I've waited for a long time to challenge the Yin Yang Slash. It's time to find out once and for all if your ultimate move can overpower mine!”

In the face of the Demonic Duo's assault, Ye Fan

decided to give it his all as well.

Paired with his Dragon God Body, Ye Fan got ready to unleash his ultimate move, Invoke the Celestial Sky.

The move was already powerful on its own, but when performed with the Yin Yang Dragon God Body, it shot up to a different level.

Ye Fan remembered meeting the Demonic Duo for the first time many years ago. Back then, he was still with Chu Zhenghong, and that man was the one who introduced him to Xuan and Ming.

“These elderly men have protected our family for many years, so they're very well-respected. Their ultimate move, the Yin Yang Slash, has deterred all those who wished to do us harm. If you manage to counter the move one day, our family will pretty much be in the palm of your hand.” That was what his father told him, and Ye Fan had never forgotten about it.



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Hence, Ye Fan was neither fearful nor nervous when the Demonic Duo performed the move. Instead, he seemed somewhat excited that he got to witness the two men's trump card at such a close range. "After much hardship and effort, it's finally time to see how much stronger I've become!"

When the duo's energy storm finally took shape, it boomed so loud that one could be forgiven for thinking that the sky itself had cracked.

Like a missile locked onto its target, the Demonic Duo rocketed toward Ye Fan.

Still, the young man remained as calm as the sea while activating his Dragon God Body.

Ye Fan then performed Invoke the Celestial Sky to take the duo head-on.

"First form: Cloud Sun Kick!"

Pow!

"Second form: Tumble of the Majestic Mountain!"

Wham!

"Third form: Earthshaking Palm!"

Bam!

In just the blink of an eye, Ye Fan had already performed three forms of his ultimate move to take on the Demonic Duo's Yin Yang Slash.

However, his attacks were completely useless

against the duo. Like throwing pebbles into the sea, Ye Fan's efforts did nothing to stop their advancement.

"It's not working. Those two are just too strong for Master. If we don't do anything now, this won't end well." Gaius and the others could tell that Ye Fan was in deep trouble.

At first, they thought that even if his ultimate move could not overpower the Demonic Duo's, he could at least hold the two off, but they quickly realized they were wrong.

In the end, Ye Fan's Invoke the Celestial Sky was as futile as throwing eggs at a rock, for it did not seem to affect the Demonic Duo at all.

"You brought this on yourself, Chu Tianfan! You should've walked away when you had the chance. Instead, you insisted on challenging Xuan and Ming. Do you think someone as insignificant as you have the capability to match the Demonic Duo? Back then, they were top three on the Sky Ranking! Even though they have aged a little, that doesn't mean that they're any less fearsome. A country boy like you should know your place! You deserve what's coming to you!" Chu Qitian gloated over Ye Fan's predicament before letting out a cackle.

Like Chu Qitian, Chu Shen and the others were also glad to see how outmatched the Demonic Duo was against their adversary.

So much so that a smile appeared on Chu Shen's wrinkled face.

Still, Ye Fan could not care less about what others think of him and his capability.

At that moment, he was wholly focused on the fight at hand.

With the energy of Invoke the Celestial Cloud still roaring inside of him, Ye Fan could feel the power coursing through his veins.

Even though his three forms were not enough to stop the Demonic Duo, he remained calm and collected.

He prepared himself to unleash his fourth form.

“Red Flame Finger!”

Boom!

Like lightning, a gigantic finger-shaped flame swiftly slammed into the energy storm that was the Demonic Duo.

Finally, Ye Fan had successfully halted the Yin Yang Slash's advancement and stopped the duo in their tracks.

With their powers equally matched, the fight had fallen into a stalemate.

“He did it! My goodness, he really did it! Ye Fan managed to block the Demonic Duo's attack!”
Angie was filled with concern for the man before, but when she saw the parties evenly matched, she got so excited that she leaped up.

“No, that's not it,” disagreed Gaius.

"What do you mean?"

"It's not over yet. Look closely."

Unlike Angie, who could only see what was on the surface, Gaius and the others noticed how the flame had rapidly reduced in size after coming into contact with the Demonic Duo.

As expected, the moment Gaius was done speaking, the duo extinguished Ye Fan's flame.

Even though the fourth form of Invoke the Celestial Sky had successfully defeated Chu Zhengliang, it was no match for the Demonic Duo's Yin Yang Slash.

"That has to be the last card up his sleeves! He's doomed for sure!" shouted Chu Qitian in excitement.

Chu Shen and the others, too, sneered at Ye Fan, hoping that the young man would soon meet his demise.

"Your resistance is futile, Chu Tianfan! It doesn't matter what you can do; you can never hope to match the Demonic Duo's power. As they said, the fight was over before it even started. You should've just walked away," voiced Chu Shen with the cocky smile of a victor.

At that point, Gaius and the other Dragon Slayers had already given up all hope.

"I guess this is the end for the Dragon Master," sighed Iwai Zen to himself, hiding in the crowd.

Just when everyone thought that there was nothing Ye Fan could do to turn the tide, the man seemed to have somehow gathered even more power in him.

"Wait a second. What's going on? Could it be that Chu Tianfan hasn't shown his trump card yet?" Aaron and the others widened their eyes in surprise when they saw that Ye Fan was not yet defeated.

"Sword Saint, Chu Tianfan has served the War God Castle before, so you should know what's going on, right? Has he been keeping his trump card close to the chest this whole time?" Aaron inquired, turning to look at Sword Saint and Tang Hao.

In response, Sword Saint shrugged helplessly. "Don't look at me. I'm just as surprised as you are."

"And here I thought you were the great Hall Master of War God Castle. I guess not even you know what's going on with Chu Tianfan, huh?" Aaron shook his head disappointedly, which only served to put Sword Saint in a fouler mood.

While Aaron and the others were still trying to figure out what was going on, someone in the Chu family had a sudden realization.

"Could it be? No! That's impossible! There's no way it can be true. Someone as young as him can't possibly be able to master the fifth form. Even Zhengliang only managed to reach the fourth form. I refused to believe that Chu Tianfan has surpassed the man!" Chu Shen shook his head unwittingly, trying to dissuade himself from what

he believed to be true.

However, fate has always had a strange sense of humor.

Just when Chu Shen was still muttering to himself, a thunder-like sound resounded through the sky.

“Fifth form of Invoke the Celestial Cloud: Void Slash!” When Ye Fan announced his next move, those at the scene could have sworn that the place had darkened, especially where the man was standing.

Suddenly, Ye Fan was completely engulfed in pitch-black darkness, and out of the darkness was a bright ray of light.

Like a sword made of lightning, the light seemed to have sliced through the darkness itself.

When the energy of the Void Slash lit up, it was so bright that somehow, it made the world look as though it had become dimmer.

Not even the sun itself could compare its brightness to that produced by the ultimate move.

Utterly stunned by the display of power, everyone squinted their eyes as they continued to stare into the bright light, hoping to make sense of what was really going on.

The elders of the Chu Sect, as well as the Chu family, forgot to breathe when they witnessed the event.

Even the Demonic Duo, who possessed years of

combat experience, were taken aback by the sheer force at Ye Fan's behest.

"Could that be the fifth form?"

Before the duo could get an answer, Ye Fan had already unleashed the Void Slash on them.

Like a knife cutting through paper, Ye Fan's attack decisively sliced through the Demonic Duo's energy storm and separated the two from each other.

With the fifth form, all it took was one hit for Ye Fan to show the world that he had what it took to best the duo's Yin Yang Slash.



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The force was so great the earth itself almost got split apart.

The sky seemed to have cracked open while a terrifying air current rolled through the place.

Nothing could withstand the attack; not even the mountain, which had been shattered upon impact.

It took a while before the dust and debris cleared up.

Eventually, the darkened sky returned to its original state but not the battlefield.

After getting destroyed by attack after attack, the place had almost turned into a wasteland.

Cough, cough!

At that moment, everyone at the scene could see the Demonic Duo coughing out blood after sustaining severe injuries. Even their usual deadpan expressions had become grimaces.

Like birds that had lost their wings, the duo plummeted from the sky and landed heavily on the ground.

Evidently, that was the end of the Demonic Duo's winning streak.

If Chu Zhenghong were around that day, he would be surprised to see his own words brought to realization by his son.

In the end, Ye Fan's Invoke the Celestial Sky managed to take down everything the Chus had to

throw at him.

Even their guardian, the Demonic Duo, was no match for his ultimate move.

After emerging as the victor and showing his opponents that he had them in the palm of his hand, Ye Fan crossed his arms proudly and smirked.

He was like a god to everyone at the scene at that point, for he somehow managed to do the impossible.

Even after the battle concluded, their eyes remained glued to the man. Everyone, including Mochizuki Kawa, Sword Saint, and Aaron, trembled in fear after witnessing such a majestic display of power.

In that instant, everyone's mind was completely blank.

All they could think about was how Ye Fan defeated the Demonic Duo with his ultimate move.

"How... How is that even possible? How can someone be that powerful?" Sword Saint finally broke the silence after a while.

It was unbelievable! That was the only sentence that came into Sword Saint's mind.

He thought Chu Tianfan was only as powerful as himself, but after witnessing how the man bested Chu Zhengliang, he knew that Ye Fan possessed more power than a War God.

Sword Saint was even more mind-blown when the Infernal Duo, too, got outmatched by Ye Fan. At that point, he realized that words were no longer enough to describe how mighty Ye Fan was. *Could he be top ten on the Sky Ranking? Maybe top five? Heck, maybe he's already gone beyond the ranking system!*

"You've lost, Xuan, Ming." Ye Fan cared not what others thought about him because most of them were not even close to his level of capability. His eyes were focused solely on the two elderly men after defeating them.

Cough, cough!

Short of breath, the Demonic Duo's faces were completely drained of colors and were as pale as a ghost.

As much as they tried to get on their feet, their bodies would not allow them to do so.

They were injured so severely that they would start coughing violently whenever they tried to move a muscle.

Even when they were not coughing, blood continued to come out of their mouths.

Still, the duo summoned every bit of strength left in them to lift their heads so that they could look Ye Fan in the eye. "You've managed to perform every form of Invoke the Celestial Sky, didn't you? Back then, even with six forms, your father still lost to us. But it only took you five to humble us. At first, we had no idea what was going on. Then, we thought of the long-lost complete version of

Invoke the Celestial Sky. That's what you used to take us down, wasn't it?" inquired the Demonic Duo with a weak voice.

When the Chu family heard the two, they froze like statues.

Taken aback, Chu Qitian could feel his legs turning to jelly before he slumped to the ground. "But how? How is that possible? Even I, an official family of the Chus, don't have the complete version of Invoke the Celestial Sky, so how could a bastard son like him get his hands on it? It's impossible! I refuse to believe it!

Compared to his defeat, Chu Qitian found Ye Fan's possession of the complete version of the ultimate move even more difficult to accept.

What made it worse was the fact that Ye Fan, the banished Chu, was the only one who mastered the move.

Immediately, the Chu family felt embarrassed for ridiculing Ye Fan and claiming his version of Invoke the Celestial Sky to be fake.

After what had happened, the tables had turned on the Chus, making them the laughingstock instead.

In response to the Demonic Duo's question, Ye Fan nodded. "Correct. I hope you don't feel too humiliated because you just lost to the complete version of Invoke the Celestial Sky."

Unexpectedly, the duo burst out laughing after listening to Ye Fan. "Of course not! It was our honor to witness such a brilliant move first-hand.

Now we can die with no regrets. You're even more powerful than your father ever was. No, let me rephrase that. You're more powerful than any of the Chus! It's time to finish this. Do it, boy! We're ready."

Prepared to surrender their lives, the Demonic Duo lifted their chins to expose their neck to Ye Fan.

Like all great warriors, the duo was well aware that losing the fight meant losing their lives. That was the undefiable rule.

After the two elderly men submissively shut their eyes in front of their opponent, Ye Fan smirked. He knew that he had defeated the Demonic Duo and their Yin Yang Slash, and that was enough for him.

"Gentlemen, I'm not going to kill you. I came for the Chus, so their lives are the only ones I'm going to take. This is between the Chu family and me, not you two," explained Ye Fan after shaking his head.

After that, he walked past the Demonic Duo and went straight for the Chus.

"What are you... What are you planning to do to us? Chu Tianfan, are you really thinking about wiping us out? We have the very same blood running through our veins! In fact, I'm your elder! How dare you disrespect me!" Chu Shen and the other Chus were filled with terror as they watched Ye Fan slowly approach them with malicious intent.

"Elder?" Ye Fan suddenly cackled after hearing what Chu Shen had to say. "Are you telling me that

we're family now? That's odd. I don't remember you saying that when you tried to have me killed."

As Ye Fan mocked the man, energy had already begun to converge into his hand.

Before long, the fearsome force took shape on his palm.

Chu Shen and the others instantly fell to their knees and begged for forgiveness when they saw that Ye Fan was ready to obliterate them.

"Please have mercy! We're willing to do whatever it takes to get our entire family over to China to apologize personally to your mother. All we ask is that you let us live. Please!" pleaded Chu Shen at the top of his lungs.

"I don't think so. It's too late now," responded Ye Fan coldly, unmoved by the plea.

With that, he swiftly struck Chu Shen's chest with his palm, breaking the older man's ribcage and puncturing his lungs.

Like a rag doll, Chu Shen was sent flying while wailing in agony.

However, that was not enough to kill the man.

After landing on the ground, Chu Shen continued to moan in pain after vomiting a pool of blood.

"What do we have here? It seems like you were saved by the armor underneath." Ye Fan wondered how Chu Shen survived his attack at first but then realized the man was protected by a piece of

armor. "I'm assuming it can only save you from one strike. What do you say we try another?"

Before Chu Shen could respond, Ye Fan was ready to rush forward to continue his assault.

However, he had forgotten that Chu Qitian was lying on the ground near his feet. The man had embraced his head with both his arms while he trembled fearfully right beside Ye Fan, too afraid to say another word.

"Watch your step, Dragon Master," reminded Gaius playfully.

At that point, Chu Qitian was in complete desperation.



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Looking at the poor man at his feet, Ye Fan was sure that Chu Qitian had nothing but fear in him.

His posture looked as though he wished for nothing more than the ability to dig into the ground.

"That's not how you dig into the ground. Here, let me help you," mocked Ye Fan before stepping violently on the man.

Grimacing, those at the scene could hear the sound of bones cracking before Chu Qitian was stomped into the ground by Ye Fan.

Immediately, Chu Qitian let out a bloodcurdling cry that echoed through the entire Mount Chumen.

Everyone was utterly dumbfounded after witnessing how Ye Fan savagely stomped the poor man into the ground.

With his feet planted firmly on Chu Qitian's back, Ye Fan proceeded to walk over him to the rest of the Chu family.

"This is... This is despicable!" voiced the head of elders with his eyes widened.

Watching the scene from a distance away, Meng Wanyu instantly covered her mouth in shock after seeing what happened to Chu Qitian.

After all, Chu Qitian was not only the son of Chu Zhengliang, the Chu family head, but he was also the apprentice of Tang Yun, the leader of Chu sect.

Even though Chu Qitian's revered identity was

enough to deter most of his enemies, it meant absolutely nothing to Ye Fan.

Nobody knew if Chu Qitian survived the nightmarish ordeal, but even if he did, everyone had no doubt that he was severely injured.

Horried by what had happened to Chu Qitian, the other Chus hurriedly scattered like rats, hoping to escape Ye Fan's wrath.

They also cried for help while running for their lives. "Elder, please save us! You have to get Tang Yun to save us! She's the head of Chu Sect. She must be able to do something!"

Obviously, the family was utterly terror-stricken after witnessing how Ye Fan took down one Chu after another.

Every one of them feared that the man would come for them next, and that was enough to send them into a frenzy.

Before that, none of the Chus ever imagined that Ye Fan, the one they despised so much, would one day return with such fearsome strength to trample on them.

If they had known that would happen, they would never have kicked Ye Fan and his mother out of the family.

"That's enough, Chu Tianfan! You've had your fun. If you keep this up, we'll have no choice but to interfere. I'm sure you wouldn't want to face Tang Yun herself." The Chu Sect's head of elders would never sacrifice himself to save the Chus, but he

knew that he had to say something to try to stop Ye Fan.

Naturally, Tang Yun was the only person he could think of that had any chance of defeating Ye Fan. *Tang Yun, the head of the Chu Sect, is the strongest fighter on the Sky Ranking. I'm sure that even someone like Ye Fan would think twice before crossing her.*

However, unbeknownst to the head of elders, he had made a grave mistake.

Instead of launching his attack on the Chus, Ye Fan suddenly turned around to palm-strike the head of elders and sent the man flying.

Like Chu Qitian, the head of elders cried out in pain before coughing out blood.

"If I hear another word from you, you'll be a dead man!" threatened Ye Fan, immediately scaring the man into silence.

After that, nobody at Mount Chumen dared to make a sound while Ye Fan made his way into the Chu residence again.

By then, all the Chus had already hidden in the forbidden grounds, which was the safest place they could think of.

According to legend, that was where the heads of the Chu family spent the last moments of their lives.

Chu Yuan entered the forbidden grounds many years ago but never came out. That was the last

time anyone saw him.

The place had always been off-limits to everyone besides the heads of the family who were near their end.

In other words, that area was a sacred and holy place to the Chu family.

However, due to their dire circumstances, the Chus decided that their lives were more important.

They even dragged the gravely wounded Chu Shen to the forbidden grounds.

Slowly, Ye Fan entered the place and stood before a giant boulder that served as a door.

Inscribed on the rock were several crimson-colored words: *Ancestral tomb. Head of Chus only.*

Ye Fan chuckled when he saw the inscription. "What is this? The ancestral tomb is in Fenghai, China, not here."

Without hesitation, he shattered the boulder with a powerful kick.

Immediately, he could see the Chus hiding right behind where the boulder was.

"I'm your uncle. Please don't kill me! I know your father wouldn't want you to do it."

"He's right. We're family! You're my nephew! You don't really want to murder your uncle, do you?"

One after another, the Chus began to talk about

their relationship with Ye Fan in order to appeal to his conscience.

Some of them even apologized and begged for forgiveness.

"I know we were wrong to have stood by idly when Patriarch Chu kicked you and your mother out of the family. We tried to dissuade him, but he just wouldn't listen. If we could do it all over again, you can bet that we'll die before letting him get his way!"

"Ye Fan, we know what you've been through all these years, and we're very sorry that you've suffered so much. Still, we're family, right? Blood is thicker than water. Do you really want the blood of your own family on your hands?"

In order to stay alive, the Chus did everything they could to dissuade Ye Fan.

After a while, some of them even started crying as they continued to beg for mercy.

If something like that happened years ago, Ye Fan probably would have been moved by the Chus' pitiful actions.

However, he was already a changed man then.

The years of hardship had hardened his heart enough to see through their falsehood.

Instead of feeling pity for the family, Ye Fan found their behavior amusing.

"You're calling yourselves my uncles? What a joke!"

I clearly remember how you lot treated my mother and me. The pain you've caused us is something I'll never forget. To be honest, I'm grateful for what you've done. You're the reason why I became who I am today, so thank you for the pain. You can save your breath because I don't need your apology. What I need is to take your heads back to China and tell my mother how her son has avenged her," stated Ye Fan with a malicious smile.

With that, Ye Fan started to levitate off the ground as he charged up for another palm strike.

Staring down at the Chus, Ye Fan was reminded of how the family sent his mother and him down Mount Chumen with their own hands.

"You reap what you sow! This is for my mother!" That was the last thing the Chus heard before Ye Fan's energy formed a gigantic palm to strike down on the forbidden grounds.

Boom!



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“No!”

“Please don't. I don't want to die!”

“No! I haven't lived my life to the fullest! I don't even have children yet!”

As the Earthshaking Palm descended upon them, the anguished cries of the Chu family pierced the stillness of the forbidden grounds, their voices filled with hopelessness and desperation.

Worried for their clan, the elders of Chu Sect frantically ordered Ye Fan to stop.

Alas, it was to no avail.

Wails and sobs rose around him, but Ye Fan remained unfazed.

This was the consequence of their own actions.

The Chu family had forced him and his mother to endure a great deal of suffering over the years, yet they felt no remorse nor guilt for their actions.

Ye Fan had no qualms about returning the sentiment to the people who had shown him no compassion.

“The legend of the Chu family will end here, once and for all.”

Ye Fan watched as the Earthshaking Palm hurtled toward the Chu family. His gaze was cold and unfeeling as if he were staring at a corpse.

However, just as everyone thought that the Chu

family would meet their end, a surge of energy burst out from the depths of the forbidden grounds.

The pulsing energy that filled the atmosphere felt like the awakening of a beast.

In the next moment, the crowd felt the power of a thousand seas blast down from the skies.

With a bolt of lightning, a humongous fist materialized in the sky and slammed into Ye Fan's Earthshaking Palm with a deafening crash.

The collision created a sonic boom that swept through the area.

Soon after, a lean figure plummeted from the sky and landed on the ground. The person staggered backward to find his footing.

With every step he took, a deep footprint was left in the soil.

The person continued to stumble backward until he slammed into a boulder. Depleted of energy, he collapsed to the ground.

"Is that Chu Tianfan?"

"Chu Tianfan was defeated?"

"Oh my God! The legendary youth of China lost in a head-to-head battle?"

Fear seized the onlookers as the incredible scene unfolded before them.

The fact that the invincible Ye Fan got overpowered left them flabbergasted.

“Who is it?”

“Could it be the spirits of the Chu family ancestors?”

The crowd was thrown into a frenzy by the unexpected turn of events. They peered into the distance, filled with anticipation and awe.

Sword Saint marveled over how powerful the Chu family was.

They were far more capable than they appeared.

First, it was the Cloud Sun Immortal Army, then came the Demonic Duo.

Each warrior that decided to reveal their abilities was a force to be reckoned with.

The masses thought that the Chu family would have been crushed under Ye Fan's foot after he had dismantled the protective rune with the help of the Dragon Slayers and struck down the Demonic Duo by invoking the Celestial Sky, but it seemed like the Chu family had more tricks up their sleeve.

We've been too ignorant! The Chu family is more powerful than we thought. I can't believe that the Chu family still has trump cards that have not been played.

While Sword Saint and the rest were dumbfounded, the Chu family was equally

perplexed.

They, too, had no idea who had unleashed the fist.

As murmurs of bewilderment and confusion spread through the crowd, a burly figure emerged silently from the forbidden grounds.

The man's grey robes billowed out behind him as he strode. Despite the silvery hair that signified his age, the man looked spry and healthy.

The old man's attire was plain, and his features were nondescript. Even his aura was unremarkable.

From the distance, he seemed no different from the average Joe.

Had this elder appeared in the market, he would have blended in perfectly with the crowd. No one would have noticed his presence.

However, knowing that the newcomer had come from the depths of Chu Sect's forbidden grounds, the group regarded him with reverence and a hint of wariness.

"W-Who are you?"

The tentative question hung in the air as silence ensued.

Everyone held their breaths, their eyes riveted on the old man.

At that moment, the same questions rang in everyone's minds.

Who is he?

Why is he here?

Is he a human or a ghost?

Could he be the spirit of a Chu family ancestor?

The puzzlement was not limited to the outsiders; the Chu family was also baffled.

Although the old man's face rang a bell, they could not put a name to it.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan had collected himself. His frosty gaze skipped over the hordes of people and settled upon the old man.

The old man appeared harmless on the surface, but Ye Fan's intuition told him that immense power lurked beneath the innocuous facade.

Ye Fan could not sense the hum of elemental force from the man. It was as if he was not a martial expert but an average human.

Simplicity was proof of ultimate proficiency, and true power hid behind the cover of mediocrity.

Perhaps the old man's martial prowess had reached such a height that it became imperceptible to those below his level.

"Are you Chu Yuan?" Ye Fan blurted out, breaking the tense silence.

His question was like a stone thrown into a pond, creating ripples of astounded remarks.

"C-Chu Yuan?"

"He's Chu Yuan?"

"The former head of the Chu family and Chu Sect, the top of the Sky Ranking, and the strongest warrior on earth?"

"The man who nearly unified all the martial art styles in the world?"

"Oh my God!"

"He's still alive? Didn't he already die?"

"How is he still alive?"

The crowd was petrified.

All color drained from Gaius's face.

Sword Saint's and Tang Hao's expressions became grim as they realized the gravity of the situation.

An inexplicable sense of foreboding bubbled up within all the martial arts leaders at the mention of Chu Yuan.

Back when Chu Yuan had taken the world by storm, most of the martial experts present were still nobodies.

Even so, veneration for Chu Yuan was engraved in their bones.

It felt like they had gone a few decades back in time.

Crippling fear gripped the martial experts' hearts as they were reminded of Chu Yuan's eminence.

"Patriarch Chu?"

"Y-You're Patriarch Chu?"

"Are you r-really Patriarch Chu?"

Dumbstruck, the Chu family members turned to gape at the ordinary old man.

Their eyes bore into the old man, disbelief apparent on their faces.

Ten years.

Chu Yuan had been missing for ten years.

Back then, Patriarch Chu was nearing his end. After chasing Ye Fan and his mother out of the family, Chu Yuan entered the forbidden grounds of the Chu residence and never returned.

As the years passed, the Chu family assumed that Patriarch Chu had found eternal rest in the forbidden grounds.

They never would have thought that he could come out unscathed.

"Even an outsider knows my name, yet my own family can't recognize me? It seems like the Chu family has deteriorated over the generations," the old man muttered, his eyebrows furrowed in displeasure.

Upon hearing his words, the Chu family members

fell to their knees with a thump.

"Almighty Patriarch Chu, please accept my obeisance!"

"Patriarch Chu, it's wonderful to see you alive!"

"Please save the Chu family. Save us!"

"If you had been a second late, the Chu family would have been exterminated and wiped off the face of the earth!"

Their fervent pleas rose to a clamor once the Chu family realized that the old man was indeed Chu Yuan.

Chu Shen, too, groveled at Chu Yuan's feet despite being on the brink of death after receiving a severe beating from Ye Fan.

Even Chu Zhengliang, who had been tending to his wounds at home, felt his father's presence and rushed to the scene.

"Dad! I can't believe it's really you! The past ten years had been rough without you."

Chu Zhengliang, the current head of the Chu family and a formidable warrior, broke down at the sight of his father.

The intensity of his emotions stemmed not only from missing his father but also from seeing a ray of hope that could save the entire Chu family from misery.

"C-Chu Yuan?"

“Is that actually Chu Yuan?”

“B-But how does he look younger than when he disappeared ten years ago?” the elders of Chu Sect voiced out unwittingly, unable to wrap their heads around Chu Yuan's reappearance.



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