







To those who dabbled in martial arts, there was nothing more exciting than rediscovering a lost art.

While the Tang family was brimming with anticipation and trepidation, Tang Yun had already mustered all her energy.

Soon after, she released a burst of energy that surged through the air like a soaring dragon, churning rivers and shaking mountains.

The raw force shot upward and expanded across the sky.

Tang Yun's silvery voice pierced heaven and earth.

"The universe beckons while the crescent moon begs for me to hold it! The first strike of the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique—Wind Flow!"

Whoosh!

With a blinding white light, the wave of energy blasted across the area.

At that moment, the crowd saw the gorgeous woman brandish her Seven Foot Green Blade.

The cutting aura she radiated formed a crescent in the air as she stood tall before her opponent, courageous but wary.

Surrounded by an air of malice, her eyes shone with determination to crush Ye Fan underfoot.









Whoosh!

The beam of light seemed to stretch for miles, and the reach of her energy was limitless.

At the summit of Mount Chumen, Tang Yun easily gained the upper hand. She was invincible.

The first strike of the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique plunged down from the sky and found its mark.

The brief moment of impact was enough to dismantle Ye Fan's defense.

He staggered backward from the force of the impact.

However, it was only the beginning.

Tang Yun continued with her flurry of attacks after delivering the first blow.

The second strike.

The third strike.

Tang Yun's attacks were unforgiving as they rushed toward Ye Fan like a coursing river, giving Ye Fan no time to catch his breath.

"May cruelty and brutality ravage the earth, and the howl of anguish rule the night. The second strike—Ice Heart! The sword of a warrior pierce through thousands... The third strike—Green









Dragon! The fourth strike-Memoria!"

Her energy rose around her, cold as ice.

A myriad of colors swirled in the sky, resembling a convention of dragons guarding their territory.

Rain poured down, accompanied by bone-chilling wind.

Amongst the storm stood the extraordinary woman. She was a picture of grace with her floorlength gown and ebony hair that tumbled down her back. Her moves flowed, one into another, creating a dangerous dance of death.

She released four strikes in one go, each one potentially fatal. Her attacks were of the highest level known in the world.

The resplendence of the four-strike-combo left the crowd in awe.

The entire Chu Sect gaped as the pulsing energy struck Ye Fan like the whip of a punisher.

The first strike threw Ye Fan back by a thousand meters.

The second obliterated the defense of the Dragon God Body.

The third strike pierced into his body, causing blood to bubble out of his mouth.









The fourth injured Ye Fan heavily enough to bring him to his knees. He crumpled to the ground.

The Sword of Yunyang flew out of his grip and shot a thousand meters away. With a hum, the blade sank into a cliff face.

A deathly silence ensued.

The crowd was stunned by the sheer magnificence of Tang Yun's abilities.

The sublimity of the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique replayed in everyone's mind.

"T-That was amazing!"

"So this is the power of the person who beholds the number one spot in the Sky Ranking!"

"Was that the strongest sword technique known to man?"

The incredible scene sent the crowd into a frenzy, their voices rising to a clamor.

Glee overwhelmed the members of the Chu Sect.

The four strikes Tang Yun had demonstrated were unprecedented and unparalleled.

Word was that the sword was the ace of all weapons, and Tang Yun's assault on Ye Fan cemented this saying. The sword was indeed a force to be reckoned with.















"This descendant of the Tang family is quite formidable."

"She completely overpowered Zhenghong's son!"

"From the looks of it, Zhenghong's son might lose the battle even if he uses Invoke the Celestial Sky."

The Demonic Duo watched Tang Yun from afar as they marveled over her capability. Tang Yun's victory healed their wounded pride, as their egos were badly battered when they lost to Ye Fan.

It had been a while since the duo last saw a prodigy who came from one of the Three Families of the Chu Sect.

Although Ye Fan technically fit the criteria, he had been banished from the Chu family.

Now that the Demonic Duo had witnessed Tang Yun's powers, they felt like they had found a successor for the Chu Sect.

While members of Chu Sect pranced around, celebrating Tang Yun's win, the woman of the hour quietly retracted her energy.

The head of Chu Sect squared her shoulders.

She had an imposing demeanor, and her presence demanded reverence.

Like a haughty queen, Tang Yun sneered at Ye Fan, who was bloodied and bruised. "Chu Tianfan, I told









you that you're no match for me," her frosty voice rang.

"You will be seeking death if you show your face here again. I've been so kind to advise you before, but it's unfortunate that you're so obstinate. What do you have to say for yourself now?" Every word Tang Yun uttered was a clear jab at Ye Fan.

Right from the start, Tang Yun never saw Ye Fan as a worthy opponent.

She knew that her abilities were beyond Ye Fan's and thus regarded him with contempt.

Even if Ye Fan was currently the first in the Sky Ranking, he was insignificant to Tang Yun.

After all, the memory of Ye Fan's frailty was engraved in her mind since they last met at the Chu residence.

Back then, Ye Fan was so weak that Tang Yun could pulverize him at any given time.

Although Ye Fan had been skilled enough to hold his own against the Supreme Grandmaster in the rainforest in a later fight, he was still worlds away from her in terms of martial prowess.

Despite his exponential improvement in the past few years, Tang Yun did not see Ye Fan as a threat, even when he defeated Chu Zhengliang.

After all, Tang Yun had dominated the Sky Ranking









for almost ten years.

She had remained a legend in the martial arts world for so long that the idea of an inexperienced newcomer dethroning her was ludicrous, and her predictions were right.

At her full power, Ye Fan could not even counter her attacks.

Had she not gone easy on him, her Cloud and Mist Sword Technique could have easily killed him.

Ye Fan did not respond to Tang Yun's derogatory remarks.

Instead, he struggled to his feet and spat a mouthful of blood on the ground.

"Cloud and Mist Sword Technique? Indeed, you are powerful!"

Ye Fan laughed humorlessly. Tang Yun could not see a hint of fear nor regret in his unwavering gaze.

Her eyebrows knitted together.

This guy was thrashed, and yet he refuses to admit defeat? Does he not know to learn from his mistakes? Or, does he really think that he can beat me just because someone crowned him the first in the Sky Ranking?

Deciding that it was the only explanation, Tang









Yun scoffed internally at Ye Fan's immaturity.

Just as Tang Yun's expression darkened, Ye Fan lifted his head to taunt, "Tang Yun, could you wipe that smirk off your face? We're not quite done here."

"Aren't you going to give up? Your Dragon God Body has been destroyed, and your sword is embedded in that cliff. You don't have any weapons! How are you going to fight me?" Tang Yun questioned, her tone impassive.

With a snort, Ye Fan answered, "Don't forget that I can still use Invoke the Celestial Sky! I would love to see which is the better move—the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique of the Tang family or Invoke the Celestial Sky of the Chu ancestors."

Ye Fan grew solemn as he focused.

All his dispersed energy rushed back to him like water down a vortex.

The temperature dropped dramatically.

The atmosphere at Mount Chumen was so tense that it was hard to breathe.

"Is this the final battle?"

Anxiety gripped Chu Zhengliang's heart.

The elders of Chu Sect, too, were on the edge of their seats.









They were well aware that the upcoming fight would decide the victor of this war.

It was the Dragon God Hall Master versus the head of Chu Sect; Invoke the Celestial Sky versus the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique!

In a battle between two mighty beasts, no one knew who would have the last laugh.

Perhaps the debate about the better martial art styles that had lasted centuries-long would end once and for all.

Although the former head of the Tang family, Tang Murong, had been subdued by Chu Yuan's Invoke the Celestial Sky, it was a lopsided battle as Tang Murong's capabilities could not compare to Chu Yuan's.

Hence, the question of whether Invoke the Celestial Sky or the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique was more powerful lingered in the minds of many.

Today, the war about the ultimate move would take place once again.

"Who would win?" Chu Zhengliang voiced his thoughts, his expression grim.









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Conflicting emotions warred within Chu Zhengliang.

Though he fervently hoped that Tang Yun would win, her victory would signify the loss of the Chu family's Invoke the Celestial Sky.

It would be a huge blow to their reputation.

Whatever, we'll deal with that later! Once my son merges with the Jade Eyes, he will unlock a whole new world of potential. When the day comes, I will pass down the ultimate move of the Chu family—Invoke the Celestial Sky. Once he is well-prepared, he can fight Tang Yun and restore our glory!

With this in mind, Chu Zhengliang felt his worries dissipate.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan's power was reaching its peak.

There he stood, his aura resembling a raging bonfire.

Waves of energy gathered and flowed to his palms like streams to rivers.

Within him, Invoke the Celestial Cloud was building up.

In a split second, a presence that rivaled Tang Yun's materialized.

Tang Yun's eyes became glacial as she observed Ye Fan's every move.









In the end, she shook her head in disappointment.

Is he seeking his demise? Why is he still being so stubborn at this stage?

Moments ago, Tang Yun had been contemplating if she should go against her sect's wishes and let Ye Fan live, provided that he begged for her mercy.

However, Ye Fan's actions thus far were enough proof that he would wreak havoc in Chu Sect if she did not end him right away.

With that in mind, Tang Yun hardened her heart.

She summoned the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique once again. Each strike would be clean and precise.

At this moment, Ye Fan's Invoke the Celestial Sky was ready to be unleashed.

Immense energy erupted and swept through the area.

Ye Fan soared through the sky, harnessing his energy like a sword.

The first form of Invoke the Celestial Sky, Cloud Sun Kick, made its appearance!

After delivering his first blow, Ye Fan clenched the power of the heavens in his hand and slammed his first onto the ground.









The earth quaked beneath his feet.

"Second form of Invoke the Celestial Sky—Tumble of the Majestic Mountain! Third form of Invoke the Celestial Sky—Earthshaking Palm! Fourth form—Red Flame Finger! Fifth form—Void Slash!"

Ye Fan started the fight with five attacks in one go. Everything happened in the blink of an eye.

A hurricane formed, stirring the skies and seas.

The Earthshaking Palm loomed over the earth while the Red Flame Finger broke the dimensions.

Last but certainly not least was the Void Slash.

It contorted reality and brought about chaos.

From afar, it seemed like the sky and earth had been separated. Light and darkness intertwined in the space formed.

Ye Fan was no less than a god among mortals as he manipulated the dimensions. Life and death were at his command.

His colossal power oppressed the masses, its immensity causing them to suffocate.

"T-This..."

"Such incredible power!"

"No wonder he's the top of the Sky Ranking!"









"My guess is that apart from Tang Yun, no one on the Sky Ranking can withstand the full blast of Invoke the Celestial Sky."

Although many of the people present had experienced Ye Fan's powers first-hand, they were still astounded by the extent of his abilities. Whenever he revealed his capacity, it seemed like he held the power to destroy the entire planet.

Although Invoke the Celestial Sky and the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique were both highly regarded secret techniques, there was a stark difference between the two martial art styles.

The aforementioned was frontal and aggressive, like a stampede of war horses whereas the latter was a gentle strength, much like the steady flow of a river.

It was a collision of yin and yang, strength and fluidity.

It was virtually impossible to determine who would be the last one standing.

"What happened?"

"What's going on?"

"Is the fight over?"

The Jones family had finally made it to the top.

The sight that greeted them was the trashed















compound of the Chu residence and the standoff between Ye Fan and Tang Yun.

"Shut up! It's not over yet, obviously! Can't you see that Ms. Tang is still fighting him?"

The battle was entering its last phase, but the Jones family, who had been taking their sweet time, had just arrived.

They had heard a deafening boom, followed by complete silence.

Hence, they assumed that the fight was over and came out of hiding.

However, their witless question garnered enraged comments from the head of elders of the Chu Sect.

They told the Jones family to stop spouting nonsense and watch the battle from a secluded spot.

Having heard this, Bill realized belatedly that they had miscalculated the time.

The battle was still ongoing.

However, now that they had shown themselves, it was too late to retreat.

Frightened, Bill ordered his entire family to head to the back.









After he had found cover, he lifted his gaze to see that the final battle between Ye Fan and Tang Yun had officially started.

After Ye Fan's assault with Invoke the Celestial Sky, Tang Yun quickly retaliated with the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique.

Tang Yun was not one to be undermined. Taking into account that Ye Fan had begun with five moves, she struck five times as well.

"The universe beckons while the crescent moon begs for me to hold it! The first strike of the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique—Wind Flow!"

She continued chanting, "May cruelty and brutality ravage the earth, and the howl of anguish rule the night. The second strike—Ice Heart! The sword of a warrior pierce through thousands... The third strike—Green Dragon! The fourth strike—Memoria! The fifth strike—Unicus!"

Whoosh!

Tang Yun went on the offense with all five strikes.

It was one strike more than the last fight.

Evidently, Tang Yun had put her guard up against the ultimate move of the Chu family and attacked with all her might.

The five strikes shot through the air like a bullet from a gun, backed by the incessant strength of a









rapid river.

The crowd gawked as Tang Yun's energy crashed into Ye Fan's.

The first strike slammed into Ye Fan's Cloud Sun Kick and annihilated it with a resounding boom.

With its remaining energy, Tang Yun's Wind Flow charged forward and met Ye Fan's second form—Tumble of the Majestic Mountain.

However, Tumble of the Majestic Mountain was the equivalent of a bulldozer. The large fists demolished Tang Yun's Wind Flow and collided with her second strike.

After a brief stalemate, Ice Heart emerged the winner and rendered Tumble of the Majestic Mountain useless.

Following that, Ice Heart merged with the third Cloud and Mist Sword Technique to create a synergistic effect and easily cut through Ye Fan's Earthshaking Palm.

The spectators cackled.

"It looks like Ms. Tang is winning!"

Though both ends were still going strong, the start of the battle had given the onlookers a teaser.

They were able to make a guess on who would win based on just the first few moves.





In the first half of the battle, Tang Yun managed to intercept three Invoke the Celestial Sky forms with just two strikes.

By logical deduction, Tang Yun would be the one to last till the end.

As expected, by the time the first four Invoke the Celestial Sky forms had been destroyed, Tang Yun still had two strikes left—Memoria and Unicus.

To many, the result was obvious.

However, there were no halftimes in the battle of the strongest.

A fight between kings was a duel to the death!

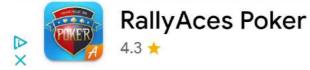
"Looks like it's ending soon," Chu Zhengliang could not help but whoop in joy. He could almost taste the victory.

As Tang Yun gazed at Ye Fan, her eyes filled with compassion and sympathy for his plight.

With the crowd's eyes riveted on them, Tang Yun's last two strikes hurtled into Ye Fan's final move—Void Slash.

Both sides were deemed the best of the best. This was the fight of the century.

The moment the two bursts of energies met, the ground shook tremendously from the impact.





Boom!

The thunderous noise echoed throughout the mountains.



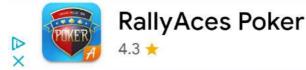
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"That rascal is doomed! The Cloud and Mist Sword Technique is superior to Invoke the Celestial Sky! Since Tang Yun's attacks have been bulldozing over Ye Fan's Invoke the Celestial Sky forms, it's obvious that he's going to lose! He might stand a chance if he manages to unleash the sixth form of it, but I doubt Ms. Tang would give him the chance to charge up his attack!" Chu Zhengliang muttered to himself with a cold sneer as he flashed Ye Fan a look of pity.

As someone who has trained in Invoke the Celestial Sky, I know that each subsequent strike takes longer to charge up. Ye Fan pushed himself to his limits just to get five hits in during that short amount of time in between. Even if he wanted to deliver the sixth hit, Tang Yun's blade would've reached him before he can finish charging it up.

With everyone eagerly waiting to witness Ye Fan's defeat, the two secret techniques clashed for the last time.

However, the unexpected happened. They did not get to see Invoke the Celestial Sky being defeated.

Ye Fan's Void Slash clashed hard against Tang Yun's Memoria and Unicus.

Right as their attacks made contact, the energy from Void Slash was spread across all directions.

It soon became obvious that Memoria and Unicus were no match for Ye Fan's Void Slash, rendering the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique completely





useless against Ye Fan's Invoke the Celestial Sky.

Not only did Ye Fan's Void Slash shatter both of Tang Yun's strikes like they were glass, but it even retained its momentum as it went flying toward her.

"What?"

Even Tang Yun herself was shocked when she saw that.

She did not expect Ye Fan's final attack to be so powerful.

Is it just me, or did the previous four hits feel a lot weaker than the fifth one?

Invoke the Celestial Sky was terrifying precisely because every strike formed the foundation to help charge the next one.

Although there were a total of nine forms in Invoke the Celestial Sky, only the final form would be used after mastering it.

It might seem that Ye Fan's previous four forms were weak, but that was actually not the case.

Just like a song, the previous hits were simply the prelude leading to the final hit, creating a powerful climax.

The Void Slash at the end was incredibly powerful because of the energy charged up from the





previous attacks.

In fact, it was so powerful that it didn't lose any momentum even after breaking through Cloud and Mist Sword Technique.

Tang Yun desperately launched a few attacks in an attempt to weaken Ye Fan's.

At the same time, a golden light emanated from her body as she activated Yin Yang Dragon God Body to help protect herself from the incoming hit.

That was a technique that Ye Fan and Tang Yun had developed through Joint Cultivation back then.

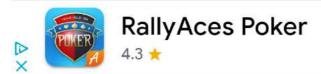
Little did they know, the two of them who used to share the same bed would end up fighting each other like this.

As the tide of the battle turned, Tang Yun, who had the upper hand at first, found herself to be in a precarious situation.

She had put all of her remaining power into defending against Ye Fan's attack, but the Void Slash was simply far too powerful.

Tang Yun coughed up blood after being hit by the shockwave from the Void Slash, staining her dress red instantly.

Everyone in Mount Chumen was shocked when they saw that.









"W-What just happened?"

"How is this possible?"

"Did Chu Tianfan just turn the tables on Tang Yun?"

Their gazes were all fixated on the sight before them in disbelief.

Just seconds ago, they were all certain that Ye Fan would lose the battle, only to see him make a comeback immediately after.

It all happened so suddenly that the crowd was left completely speechless.

Before Chu Zhengliang and the others could even recover from their state of shock, another booming voice was heard.

"Invoke the Celestial Sky, sixth form, Infinite Force!"

Ye Fan's voice sounded both ethereal yet domineering at the same time.

As he finished charging up his sixth strike, all of the Chu Sect members felt their blood go cold.

Chu Zhengliang, Bill, and the Chu Sect elders were so shocked that their eyeballs were bulging from their sockets.

"Sixth form?"





"I can't believe he's still got a sixth form!"

"S-Since when did Chu Tianfan activate the sixth form?"

The Chu Sect elders were losing their minds at that point.

Tang Yun still took a huge amount of damage from Void Slash even after putting all of her power into defense. Right now, she's practically on her last legs and still hasn't gotten out of Void Slash's radius. There is no doubt that Infinite Force will kill her if it hits her in this state! Is this the end for the head of the Chu Sect who has dominated the Sky Ranking for almost ten years?

Chu Zhengliang and the Chu Sect elders were on the verge of peeing their pants at the thought of that.

"Fall back, Ms. Tang! Fall back! You must dodge the attack!" they shouted madly at her.

They were afraid because they knew Ye Fan would surely come after them if Tang Yun were to fall in battle.

Do you guys think I don't know that? How can I dodge it when all of my energy is focused on withstanding this Void Slash? If I distract myself by even thinking of dodging, I could die from Void Slash before his sixth strike even hits me! Looks like this is the end for me! The outcome is the same regardless of whether I dodge or take the hit! D*mn,





I just realized how scary Ye Fan really is!

Tang Yun thought to herself when she heard their panicked screams.

"Is this the end of the line for me? Am I really going to be defeated by his hand?" she muttered to herself under her breath.

Tang Yun's heart sank into despair as she realized how wrong she was about Ye Fan.

She had assumed that she could easily defend against any of his attacks as long as she felt like it, but she was wrong.

The weak young boy from the Chu family had grown into a man that even she could not defeat.

Tang Yun felt incredibly conflicted as she watched Ye Fan finish charging up his sixth strike.

I have been living proudly as an invincible legend for so many years, and yet he turns out to be the one to destroy all that...

Ye Fan, who was in a berserk state at the time, didn't notice the changes in Tang Yun's expression as he focused all of his strength on his arms.

He knew full well that his battle with the Sky Ranking's strongest would come to an end after this strike.

"Tang Yun, I once told you that I would someday





show you just what I'm truly capable of. Neither the Chu Sect nor you can afford to mess with me. Right now, I'm going to fulfill that promise!" Ye Fan shouted coldly with an emotionless look on his face.

A second later, Infinite Force could be seen surging toward Tang Yun at full speed with overwhelming power.



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At that critical moment, Ye Fan noticed a few shiny drops of tears coming from Tang Yun's beautiful eyes.

Some of them were sent flying by the strong wind before hitting him on his face.

Her tears were as cold as ice, and for the briefest of moments, Ye Fan felt like his stone-cold heart had been hit by a sledgehammer.

His body started trembling, and the determined look in his eyes began to waver.

Meng Wanyu had just arrived at the scene, and the first thing she saw was Tang Yun about to get hit by Ye Fan's attack.

"Don't do it, Ye Fan! Don't kill my master!" she shouted with tears in her eyes as she ran toward Tang Yun.

The Void Slash attack that was filled with tons of Qi instantly left hundreds of wounds on Meng Wanyu's body upon impact.

Although her dress was stained red immediately, she clenched her teeth and held her arms out as she stood before her master.

The sight of Meng Wanyu's defiant tears softened Ye Fan's heart, and the power from Infinite Force dissipated instantly.

Ye Fan's intense aura too, quickly subsided as he





forcefully canceled the release of the sixth form of Invoke the Celestial Sky.

In the end, he couldn't bring himself to deliver the final blow.

He thought he was able to let go of everything, but it turned out that he wasn't able to let her go at all.

Nothing in the world could possibly push him far enough to hurt her.

However, Ye Fan's act of mercy was seen by the members of the Chu Sect as a golden opportunity to take him out.

Noticing that Ye Fan's attack had stopped, Chu Zhengliang quickly yelled at Tang Yun, "This is your chance, Ms. Tang! Hurry! Don't let this opportunity go to waste!"

With the help of the Yin Yang Dragon God Body, Tang Yun was able to survive Ye Fan's attack and finally get out of that dangerous situation.

Chu Zhengliang's words pushed her already desperate state of mind over the edge, and she instinctively attempted to make a final struggle.

Buzz!

A loud buzz was heard as Tang Yun's Seven Foot Green Blade came flying out of her hand.

With an aura as cold as ice, the sword sailed





through the air like a dragon.

Tang Yun had incorporated every last bit of Qi within her body into that attack.

She believed that she wouldn't have another chance if she didn't strike with all of her might.

After all, if the fifth form of Invoke the Celestial Sky had nearly killed her, then the sixth form would only be much more powerful.

With so much elemental force put into that blade, it looked like it could penetrate anything and everything as it soared through the air.

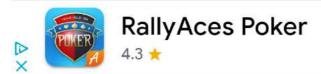
"Don't do it, Master!" Meng Wanyu shouted in panic when she saw the blade heading toward Ye Fan like a bullet, but it was too late for her to do anything.

The blade had already reached Ye Fan by the time Meng Wanyu's gaze fell upon it, so any attempts to stop it would be futile anyway.

The blade went right through Ye Fan's body in an instant, and blood began spraying out of his wound immediately after.

Eventually, the Seven Foot Green Blade lost all of its momentum and crashed into a mountain several miles away.

Boom!









The mountain could be heard crumbling down as Ye Fan fell to the ground with his body covered in blood.

The entire place fell into a deathly silence for quite a long time before the Chu Sect members began cheering like crazy.

"We won!"

"Hahaha!"

"Ms. Tang won! Victory is ours!"

The entire Mount Chumen was in an uproar as countless Chu Sect members cried out in relief.

Chu Zhengliang and the elders, too, breathed sighs of relief.

"Phew... Thank goodness it's finally over..."

Everyone was cheering and celebrating, all except for Meng Wanyu and Tang Yun who stood there in silence.

Meng Wanyu's eyes reddened and teared up the moment she saw the blade go through Ye Fan's body.

"H-How did things turn out like this? You can't die, Ye Fan! You can't die..."

Her face went pale, and she broke down crying on the spot. For some reason, she felt like her heart





had shattered into a million pieces when she saw Ye Fan get hit by the blade.

This isn't the outcome I wanted... I never wanted this to happen! I don't want to see my master get hurt, but I don't want Ye Fan to die either! I wanted them both to be all right, and yet I got Ye Fan killed because I saved my master...

Tang Yun, too, was completely frozen as she stood there staring at what she had done.

I've won the battle, but I can't bring myself to be happy about it in the slightest... If anything, I feel like I'm being consumed by an endless sadness... It's almost as if my heart is bleeding along with him...

"Why? Why didn't he use Invoke the Celestial Sky? Why didn't he resist at all?" she asked with tears in her eyes.

This wasn't the ending Tang Yun had wanted at all.

She had intended to give it everything she had to block Invoke the Celestial Sky, only to realize that his aura had dissipated right after she launched her attack.

She didn't know why he held back from using Infinite Force, but the sight of him lying in a pool of blood hurt her so much that she found it hard to even breathe.

Although Tang Yun had won the fight, she felt





worse than she would have if she lost instead.

Right as Tang Yun was on the verge of breaking down, Ye Fan staggered to his feet all of a sudden.

The rays of the setting sun were as red as the blood on the floor as they shone upon Ye Fan, who simply stood there with his head held low.

"H-How is this possible? That blade went right through him! How is he still alive?"

"Is this some kind of miracle?"

The Chu Sect members were losing their minds when they saw him getting back up.

Chu Zhengliang was so shocked that his eyeballs were nearly popping out of their sockets.

Everyone was staring at Ye Fan in confusion and disbelief, until the head of elders saw what really happened and explained with a frown, "No, this is no miracle! He only got wounded in his arm! The blade went right through his arm, so his vital organs are unharmed! That's why he's still alive!"

That was when everyone understood what was going on.

"Oh, so that's why he was able to get back on his feet!"

"Turns out, Ms. Tang only disabled one of his arms!"





"Still, he's nothing but a weakened and crippled person now! The fight is over!" Chu Zhengliang shouted through clenched teeth.

With his arm still bleeding profusely, Ye Fan slowly looked up at Tang Yun and burst out laughing all of a sudden.

"Haha... Hahahaha... Hahahaha..."

His laughter was filled with so much bitterness and sadness that everyone present could feel the intensity of his emotions.



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It pained Tang Yun deeply to hear how bitter Ye Fan's laughter sounded.

"Ye Fan, I... You..." She wanted to explain herself, but couldn't seem to find the right words no matter how hard she tried.

In the end, all of her conflicted feelings turned into questions instead.

"Why? Why did you hold back? We agreed to fight till the death, didn't we?" she asked coldly.

Her eyes reddened as she tried really hard to suppress her emotions.

"Haha... Yeah, you're right. We were supposed to fight till the death. I suppose I only have my own stupidity to blame. In fact, I'm probably the biggest fool in history!"

Ye Fan's eyes were filled with self-mockery and bitterness when he said that.

Great-grandma used to say that I have one fatal weakness, and that is my being too sentimental! In the pursuit of martial arts, only those who have no desires are able to keep going forward. It's fine if you meet someone equally sentimental, but if you meet someone heartless, it could very well cost you your life. I never really gave Great-grandma's advice much thought because I believed I wouldn't get attached to anyone heartless, but it looks like I was wrong. I treated Tang Yun with utmost sincerity, but what did I get in return? An icy-cold sword through





my arm and her equally cold words about fighting to the death. Heh, just my d*mned luck, I guess...

With that in mind, Ye Fan's expression grew cold, and the look in his eyes turned gloomy as he said, "This is where it all ends, Tang Yun. I was planning on sparing you in view of our past relationship, but now, I don't think that's necessary anymore."

Meng Wanyu was terrified when she saw him looking like that.

There wasn't a slightest bit of warmth left in him.

It was almost as if Ye Fan had turned the devil in the blink of an eye.

"W-What's he going to do?"

"Is he still not giving up?"

"Unbelievable! Absolutely unbelievable! Is he seriously going to challenge Ms. Tang with one arm left?"

Chu Zhengliang and the others were unable to comprehend what Ye Fan was thinking.

Buzz...

Just then, a low buzzing noise caught the attention of the crowd.

"Huh?"





"Hmm? What's that noise?"

Everyone was glancing about in confusion as they tried to figure out where the sound was coming from.

"It's the sword! The sword is moving!" someone shouted all of a sudden.

Everyone turned toward the direction of the noise and saw the Sword of Yunyang vibrating like crazy while embedded in the ground.

It looked like it had a life of its own as it continued to buzz and vibrate.

As if it had been summoned, the sword burst out of the ground and flew straight back into Ye Fan's hand.

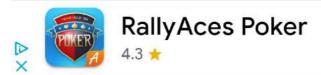
"W-What the ... "

"Has this guy lost his mind?"

"Is he seriously going to challenge Ms. Tang to a sword fight?"

Everyone was shocked when they saw him wield his sword, especially Chu Zhengliang.

"Is this guy an idiot or what? Ms. Tang is famously known as The Best Swordmaster for a reason! Does this rascal really think he'd stand a chance against her in a sword fight? He's only going to make a fool out of himself and die!" he spat









disdainfully.

The other Chu Sect members, too, had mocking smiles on their faces as they watched from the side.

Ye Fan must've lost his mind! Any sane person would try to attack their enemy where they're weak, but he's doing the exact opposite! He has got to be either stupid or suicidal to do such a thing!

Instead of looking down on Ye Fan like the others, Tang Yun's eyes were filled with solemnity as she stared him down.

I know just how terrifyingly gifted Ye Fan is when it comes to swordsmanship. Still, it'll take more than just talent for one to excel in swordsmanship. Hard work and consistent training are also required, and I doubt he has trained as hard as I have!

With that in mind, Tang Yun didn't really fear Ye Fan all that much.

"If you use Invoke the Celestial Sky again, you might have a chance at besting me, but you are bound to lose if you use swordsmanship against me. Talent alone isn't enough to make up for your lack of training," she reminded him.

"Is that so? Let us compete with our swordsmanship, then. Cloud and Mist Sword Technique is the one you take pride in using, right? In that case, I will use that same technique to crush whatever pride you have left!" Ye Fan replied





with a sneer.

He had actually thought of using Cloud and Mist Sword Technique against her at first.

However, he changed his mind when he took into consideration her identity as the head of the Chu Sect. After all, it would be incredibly humiliating if he defeated her with her best technique in front of all her disciples.

That was the main reason Ye Fan chose to use Invoke the Celestial Sky instead.

Even if she did lose to him, it would simply mean the Chu family's technique was better than the Tang family's.

Given the Chu family's status as the world's best martial arts clan, it wouldn't be surprising if Invoke the Celestial Sky defeated Cloud and Mist Sword Technique.

However, the same could not be said if Ye Fan were to win against her using Cloud and Mist Sword Technique.

Since whatever remaining feelings Ye Fan had for Tang Yun were gone when she hurled her sword at him earlier, he no longer had a reason to hold back.

By choosing to use Cloud and Mist Sword Technique against Tang Yun, Ye Fan had rid her of any excuses if she were to lose.





"Bring it on, Tang Yun. You're known as The Best Swordmaster, right? Today, I will show the world that The Best Swordmaster is nothing compared to me!"

With his sword in one hand, Ye Fan leaped high up into the air.

He then channeled his Qi into the Sword of Yunyang, causing it to glow brightly as he chanted, "The universe beckons while the crescent moon begs for me to hold it! Cloud and Mist Sword Technique, first strike, Wind Flow!"

For the first time ever, the Sword of Yunyang was able to truly unleash its power, and the blade emanated a greenish glow as it traced a crescent shape in the air.

Ye Fan then lowered the sword as he continued to chant, "Second strike, Ice Heart! Third strike, Green Dragon! Fourth strike, Memoria! With knowledge comes power, and with power comes greatness! Cloud and Mist Sword Technique, fifth strike, Unicus!"

Swoosh!

Just like that, Ye Fan delivered five continuous slashes in an instant, each slash flowing smoothly into the other like water.

With perfect form and overwhelming power, Ye Fan's attacks soared through the sky like a dragon and left a rainbow-like trail behind them.





He was moving so fast that the crowd could barely make out what he was doing.

All they saw was a green beam soaring through the sky that looked like a sword and a human at the same time.

"What? He's using the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique? How is this possible? The Tang family never teaches this technique to outsiders, so how the hell does this rascal know it?"

The Tang family's elders were on the verge of losing their minds, especially those in the Chu Sect as they ranked the highest in the Tang family. The fact that Ye Fan knew a technique that even they didn't was driving them insane.

It was a little surprising that Ye Fan knows the Chu family's Invoke the Celestial Sky, but it is kind of justified since he is Chu Zhenghong's son. However, it makes no sense for him to know the Tang family's technique! What the hell is going on here? Could it be that Ye Fan is the illegitimate child of Chu Zhenghong and a woman from the Tang family?



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Their feelings of surprise, disbelief, and anger were so intense that they felt like ripping Ye Fan to shreds on the spot.

"Kill him! Ye Fan must die! An outsider cannot be allowed to learn our secret technique!" shouted the Chu Sect's head of elders.

Dragon God Body, Invoke the Celestial Sky, and even Cloud and Mist Sword Technique... This guy has learned all the secret techniques of the Three Families of the Chu Sect! I doubt anyone here is capable of doing that! Heck, even Chu Yuan isn't able to do that!

Chu Zhengliang was sweating all over at the thought of that. "W-Who on earth is he? How does he know the Tang family's Cloud and Mist Sword Technique? Is there anything he doesn't know? Well, whatever... There are many secrets to Cloud and Mist Sword Technique that only the Tang family members know. He only knows the basics of it at best, so using it against someone from the Tang family is suicidal!"

The Demonic Duo were both in awe when they saw Ye Fan's attacks, especially the last one where he flew with his sword like he had become one with it.

"H-He has become One With The Sword!"

"That's the highest level of swordsmanship! Chu Tianfan truly is a talented swordsman!"









The Demonic Duo were trembling all over from excitement.

They had assumed that Ye Fan only knew Invoke the Celestial Sky, so they were surprised when they saw how talented he was in swordsmanship.

Little did they know, Ye Fan had actually been studying Cloud and Mist Sword Technique ever since Tang Yun taught it to him back then.

He included swordsmanship in his training for Invoke the Celestial Sky as its fundamentals were crucial to perfecting the technique.

Of course, talent and training alone wouldn't be enough for Ye Fan to achieve the level of One With The Sword within a few years.

The reason he was able to do so was because of the Sword of Yunyang.

Ye Fan felt like his body would fuse with the sword whenever he wielded it. It was as if they were a single entity instead of two separate beings.

This merger of man and sword allowed him to attain a terrifying level of supremacy in swordsmanship.

"Looks like the girl from the Tang family is in trouble. Zhenghong's son has clearly surpassed her skills in swordsmanship."

"The only way for her to turn the tide around is to









rely on her understanding of Cloud and Mist Sword Technique and hopefully overwhelm him with it. Even then, some element of luck is still required if she hopes to win this battle."

The Demonic Duo discussed their analysis as they observed from the side.

Neither of them had ever expected the head of the Chu Sect to need luck in order to win a fight.

"Zhenghong's kid sure is something, isn't he? Imagine how much more powerful he could be right now if he didn't get kicked out of the Chu family back then."

"I believe he could very well surpass Old Master. It was a shame Old Master decided to kick him out back then..."

Having witnessed Ye Fan's insane talent, even the Demonic Duo couldn't help but think that Chu Yuan had made a terrible mistake kicking him out.

Had he not done that, Ye Fan would surely have become the greatest asset the Chu Sect could ever hope to own.

Whoosh!

An icy-cold wind accompanied the incoming Qifilled attacks as they made their way toward Tang Yun.

A look of concern filled her eyes as she clearly felt















the tremendous pressure from Ye Fan's attacks.

"O-One With The Sword? He managed to achieve One With The Sword?" Tang Yun muttered to herself in shock and disbelief.

Despite having shared the same bed with Ye Fan in the past, Tang Yun was unaware that he possessed such hidden talents.

Since Ye Fan had made his move, Tang Yun refused to back down and began charging up Ice Stream within her body while activating her Dragon God Body at the same time.

With the support from both her internal and external abilities, Tang Yun was able to reach new heights in power like never before.

Her actions could be described as throwing all the wood into the campfire at once.

While the fire wouldn't burn for very long, it would produce the strongest flame possible at that very moment.

"I'm going to win this battle at all costs, Ye Fan! I have to win! As the head of the Chu Sect, I am the Tang family's only hope! I will not lose to anyone on Mount Chumen, especially to an outsider using my family's secret technique!" Tang Yun roared through clenched teeth with a vicious glint in her eyes.

With her pride as the head of the Chu Sect as well









as the sect's honor at stake, Tang Yun was so desperate to win that she couldn't care less that Ye Fan was wounded.

That desperation was further fueled by her huge ego that had been developed over the years.

The Seven Foot Green Blade that had been summoned back to her hand emanated a deafening whistle as her Cloud and Mist Sword Technique glowed brightly.

Having achieved her maximum potential, Tang Yun unleashed five sword attacks in a row.

Each of those slashes was so powerful that they could cut right through anything in their path.

The intense Qi from their swords shrouded the peak of Mount Chumen, and the light from their auras coated the area with purple and green hues.

With all eyes fixated on both of them, Ye Fan and Tang Yun's attacks clashed with a deafening boom that shook the entire mountain.

Waves of energy from their swords spread out in all directions upon impact, shattering the earth beneath their feet and rocking the very mountain they were on.

Everyone felt like they had just experienced an earthquake as web-like cracks appeared on the ground.









Please win, Ms. Tang... We really can't afford to lose...

Chu Zhengliang and the others kept praying repeatedly as they made their way to a safe location before continuing to watch the fight.

Ye Fan and Tang Yun seemed to be evenly matched as their attacks continued to clash with neither side making any progress.

"Is this battle going to end with a draw?"

"H-How is that possible? How could Ms. Tang possibly be evenly matched in swordsmanship with that rascal?"

The members of the Chu Sect found it hard to believe.

The Demonic Duo, on the other hand, simply kept quiet with frowns on their faces as they watched on.

It wasn't until they sensed a surge in Ye Fan's elemental force that they exclaimed in shock, "Oh, no! He still has another trick up his sleeve!"

Those words had barely left their mouths when Ye Fan took a step back and twirled the Sword of Yunyang, unleashing a powerful burst of energy in the process.

The next thing they knew, the sword was overflowing with power as Ye Fan began chanting







in an ethereal-sounding voice, "Only by experiencing pain can one know it. Only by having attachments can one sever them. With a wise heart, one can pierce through anything! With this sword, I shall freeze everything! Cloud and Mist Sword Technique, sixth strike, Dismemberment!"



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