

Who would have thought that the proud that in just thirty minutes, the commanding son of the Chu family would be beaten to a pulp in the blink of an eye?

Chu Qitian lay sprawled on the ground and raised his head with difficulty.

With a bloodied face, he stared hard at the slim figure standing proudly at the top.

“W-Why? Why I still can't beat you. W-Why?”

Blood trickled out of his eyes as Chu Qitian let out a growl of resentment and misery.

He could not figure out the reason behind it.

*I've also mastered Dragon God Body and Invoke the Celestial Sky. Whatever Ye Fan learned, I learned too. All that Ye Fan lacked, I also own. Compared to him, I have more famous teachers to guide me and the entire family's resources at my disposal. I obviously have so many advantages but why am I still no match for him—the abandoned son of the Chu family?*

Chu Tianqi had always belittled Ye Fan in the past.

Despite hunting the latter down for ten years, he merely left it to his subordinates and rarely asked about it.

After all, Ye Fan was just an abandoned son, so Chu Tianqi never thought that the former could

be much of a threat.

The only reason why he wanted to kill Ye Fan was because he was afraid that his uncle, Chu Zhenghong, would take Ye Fan back to the Chu family and seize his position as heir to the family.

However, he did not expect that the person before him, whom he used to look down upon, had become a person that he could never beat.

He truly could not accept the outcome.

As the heir of the Chu family, Chu Tianqi had his own pride.

He had always believed that he was the most terrifying genius in the world and that no one of his age could compare with him.

However, Ye Fan's growth in power completely shattered that very pride.

Ye Fan faced Chu Tianqi's indignance with a condescending demeanor, his cold words resounding through the sky.

"I already said that you are no match for me. Even if you use the same techniques and moves as me, you still won't be able to defeat me. You are nothing but a flower in a greenhouse that will never grow into a big tree. The practice of martial arts is not something that can be conjugated by having a few powerful teachers and a strong background



and resources. You assumed that with the support of your family and sect, you would be able to stand proudly at the pinnacle of the martial arts world, but you have no idea that your conception was wrong from the start. The skills of a true expert martial artist are honed in battle and killing, not by cowering at home and being taught by others.”

People only saw Ye Fan's present-day achievements, but who would know how he managed to obtain them?

After being kicked out of the Chu family that year, Ye Fan had fought nearly a thousand battles to that very day.

He had survived countless life-and-death situations to reach his current level.

Chu Tianqi, on the other hand, was nothing but an arrogant aristocrat worshipped by everyone since childhood. Even his current cultivation came mostly from Jade Eyes.

What could he take to compete with Ye Fan?

“Since we are of the same clan and origin, Chu Qitian, I'll give you a word of advice. Only fingers that have shed blood can strum the world's greatest music, and only after experiencing hellish trials can one create heavenly power.”

Ye Fan's deep voice reverberated throughout the area, those few words appeared deafening

to everyone.

Even Mochizuki Kawa and the others had mixed emotions when they heard it.

*Indeed, everyone loathes suffering, but how many would realize that suffering is the most precious treasure? In history, no great man standing at the top of the world did not shed blood and suffer. No towering trees can grow in a greenhouse. One could not wield a peerless divine sword without experiencing thousands of trials and tribulations.*

Looking at the tall and muscular man in front of them, Mochizuki Kawa and the others could not help but wonder how many hardships Ye Fan went through to master his present skills.

Moon God was especially compassionate as it was written all over her exquisite face.

*My master must have suffered a lot all these years.*

“Hahaha!”

Contrary to them, Chu Tianqi merely threw his head back and laughed after hearing Ye Fan's words.

The way he laughed at that moment, coupled with his bloodied figure, was a terrifying and ghastly sight.

However, his mocking smile soon morphed into



anger.

“Keep those preaching to yourself, Chu Tianfan. You are an abandoned son of the Chu family and have no right to lecture me. Also, don't think that you can gloat over defeating me. Let me tell you. It's too early for that. I may not be able to defeat you, but my pet can kill you all the same. As long as you die here, I, Chu Tianqi, will still be the most gifted genius in this world!”

After saying that, Chu Tianqi laughed maniacally.

He had accepted only his own defeat.

He still had the backing of the expert martial artists of Chu Sect and the Sacred Beast, Blaze.

*If I can't kill Ye Fan, I'll let Blaze do it. In any case, Ye Fan must die!*

*Roar!*

The moment his words fell, a burst of green light came from Chu Tianqi's pupils.

After that, Blaze, who had been eagerly waiting behind him, finally made its appearance once again.

Following a mighty roar, Blaze's body grew rapidly until its huge figure seemed to obstruct the sun.

Its four wings were propped up like clouds,

covering half of the sky, while its majestic shadow loomed over half of Tokyo.

“Tear him to pieces, Blaze!”

Despite walking unsteadily, those words of resentment and hatred burst forth from Chu Qitian's weak body.

Ye Fan solemnly glanced up at the huge and terrifying creature.

*It almost killed Eigetsu just now. Now, it's time for me to avenge her.*

“Master! This monster is very peculiar. You must be careful! Its strength and defense are incredibly formidable. Even I will find it extremely hard to pierce its scales!”

Seeing that Chu Tianqi had finally used his trump card, Moon God couldn't help but begin to worry.

Having experienced the creature's ability firsthand, she even felt that Chu Yuan might not necessarily be able to hurt it in the slightest.

Now that Chu Tianqi was using it to take on Ye Fan, she was naturally very worried.

“Mm. Don't worry, Eigetsu. I've got this.”

Ye Fan furrowed his brows.

He naturally did not underestimate Blaze as he



did when facing Chu Tianfan.

Although he had not made a move, he could still feel the tremendous power of the beast before him.

“Tear him to pieces, Blaze!” Chu Tianqi suddenly bellowed again.

Blaze, who had long completed its transformation, immediately let out a roar and charged toward Ye Fan.

It first swiped its claw like a long sword cutting through the void toward Ye Fan.

It moved so fast that it only left an afterimage in the sky.

“Master, be careful!” cried Moon God anxiously.

Ye Fan was also shocked.

*This monster is incredibly fast!*

Facing such a swift attack, Ye Fan had no choice but to use his arm to block it.

*Swish!*

Its sharp claws slashed across and instantly subdued Ye Fan's Dragon God Body.

As a result, the latter's clothes were torn, and numerous streaks of blood trickled down from under his sleeve.

At the same time, Blaze whipped its long tail.

With a loud thump like the noise of an iron whip, it sent Ye Fan flying and crashing on the ground ultimately.

The blood on Ye Fan's arm stained the ground where he landed.

“Master!”

Seeing that Ye Fan was injured, Moon God, a venerated person of a nation, could not stop her tears from rolling down her cheeks.

Ignoring her injuries, she ran toward the direction where Ye Fan had fallen.



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“Take it easy, Moon God!”

When Mochizuki Kawa and the others saw Moon God acting so recklessly, they wanted to stop her.

Alas, Tsukuyomi couldn't possibly allow them to hold her back.

She forcefully shoved the Japanese martial artists blocking her path away and sprinted toward Ye Fan desperately.

Perhaps she tugged on her injury, but blood again gushed out of her abdomen.

However, that didn't matter to her anymore.

No matter how painful her physical injuries were, the agony paled in comparison to the distress within her at the sight of her master injured.

By then, Ye Fan had already stood up from amidst the ruins.

With Dragon God Body having been thwarted, his clothes had also been long since ripped to shreds.

Blood trickled down his arm.

Beneath the broken skin, one could vaguely glimpse milk-white bone.

Such anguish inundated Moon God that tears

streamed down her face.

Hugging the man hard, she sobbed, "Let's not battle anymore, Master. Never again. We'll go back to Jiangdong. Let's go home..."

The girl who was weeping as she hugged Ye Fan right then was no longer Japan's highest deity who previously took the country by storm and astounded the entire world. Instead, she was merely a young maiden in love, a girl who was worried about the person she liked.

Simply put, she was but the innocent girl Ye Fan took everywhere with him back then, Suzumiya Eigetsu.

In her world, there was no grand undertaking or Japan and its citizens.

To her, the country and its survival were illusory.

Only her master was real.

Her world consisted of Ye Fan alone.

She had already lost him once, and she didn't want to experience the torment of losing him again.

For that reason, her heart almost shattered into a million pieces when she saw Blaze injuring him.

As she wailed in utter distress, she appeared just like a child.



"It's just a paltry injury, silly. I've experience life-and-death situations countless times, so such a paltry injury is nothing."

Ye Fan never expected her immense grief at his superficial injury.

Unbeknownst to him, Suzumiya Eigetsu was afraid that she would lose him once more.

It was precisely because she had experienced such pain that she was all the more fearful of loss.

Thus, the man's reassurance didn't work on her.

Her face pale and her body weak, she continued hugging him tightly. Burying her head in his chest, she repeatedly begged him not to battle anymore.

She wanted to go back to Jiangdong. More so, she wanted him to return there, back to the place where they first met.

It was also there that she experienced the warmth of home for the very first time.

Therefore, to her, Ye Fan's home was also her home.

After so many years of fighting and being adrift, her heart, which had been weak in the first place, had long since been riddled with holes.

Her greatest desire had never been influenced

and power.

She only wanted to go home, return to Jiangdong, back to their home.

There were no battles or bloodshed there, much less the risk of separation brought by death.

The only thing that existed was peaceful bliss and happiness.

*That's true. After experiencing so much and witnessing the sufferings of the world, possessing the so-called influence and power is nothing in the grand scheme of things. Living a simple and peaceful life is the most basic happiness.*

“Eigetsu, I promise that I'll bring you back, back to Jiangdong in Jingzhou. I'll do gardening with you and visit Dongchang Lake with you again. Soon... When this battle draws to an end, I'll take you wherever you want to go and allow you to eat whatever you want. But now, let me settle this grievance that has persisted for more than ten years.”

Ye Fan's expression gradually turned chilly.

His energy that had been scattered spewed and condensed at his elixir field once more.

At that very moment, he resembled a flame that rekindled from the ashes, his power again bursting forth.



Pivoting, he pinned a sharp gaze on the four-winged beast.

*Ultimately, I underestimated this little beast.*

He initially thought that there were few in this world who could injure him, considering the might of his Dragon God Body.

Unfortunately, he miscalculated.

Never had he thought that the Dragon God Body he had relied on for years would actually be no match for a trample from the beast.

“Don't battle anymore, Master... I beg you. Please don't battle anymore,” Suzumiya Eigetsu continued pleading.

Tugging on Ye Fan's clothes, she shook her head at the man with tears staining her face.

“It'll be fine, Eigetsu. I haven't unleashed my true capabilities yet. Next, I'll show you your master's true might!”

Ye Fan's expression slowly darkened.

The corners of his upturned mouth carried a bloodthirsty murderous intent.

At the same time, his initially placid energy started surging violently.

A golden light that reassembled flashes of lightning gradually flared on his body.

The lightning-like flares started circling him.

Suzumiya Eigetsu could distinctly see golden patterns starting to manifest on the man's forehead.

There was only one in the beginning, but it then doubled.

In the end, three golden Thunderstripes emerged on Ye Fan's forehead.

*Bam!*

Without warning, Ye Fan stomped his feet on the ground.

Following that, his lean body started rising into the sky.

Behind him, clouds gathered, and rumbling thunder started converging mid-air.

His hair stood up on ends as sharp as swords.

“W-What is this?”

“What is Chu Tianfan doing now?”

At the sight of the scene before them, the expressions of those from the Chu Sect changed drastically.

Likewise, shock showed in the eyes of the Japanese martial artists.



Many of those present had interacted with Ye Fan previously.

As such, they were pretty clear about the man's capabilities.

However, they had never seen him using that present move.

Lightning flashed all over him as though he was Thor reincarnate.

From afar, the terrifying and horrifying power had everyone shuddering in fear.

“What a worthless sleight of hand! No matter how much you struggle, Chu Tianfan, it can't change the fact that you're doomed today. Blaze is a Sacred Beast of the Chu family. Its father was once a Sacred Beast under the Chu family's ancestor, Chu Yunyang. In fact, its capability had long since gone beyond that of a human's. I'd advise you to give up resisting and resign yourself to death.”

Chu Tianqi smirked, his eyes brimming with disdain.

He didn't give a fig about the changes in Ye Fan.

In his eyes, the man was no match for a swipe of the claw by Blaze, regardless of how many tricks he had up his sleeve.

After all, nothing could stand against absolute power.

Blaze was so strong that almost all conspiracies and tricks in the world couldn't do it any harm.

“Attack!”

Following Chu Tianqi's order, Blaze let out a long howl.

Subsequently, it waved its sharp claws and charged toward Ye Fan again.

Ye Fan merely stood there motionless like a statue.

It wasn't until Blaze had almost reached him that he stretched out his hand and seized its massive claw.

The tremendous impact dragged him back a hundred meters.

Seeing that, Chu Tianqi sneered and shook his head contemptuously.

“What a fool! You even wanted to test your strength against Blaze? You're mortal, yet you have delusions of being equally matched with divinity? You are just like a firefly, but you want to compete with the moon!”

He snickered scornfully.

Regretfully, his smile didn't last long.

Ye Fan, who was propelled backward by the



momentum, finally stood his ground. After blocking off Blaze's attack, he continued grasping its sharp claw.

Subsequently, infinite power burst forth from his tiny and fragile body under everyone's shocked gaze.

Using himself as the fulcrum, he actually managed to lift Blaze's gigantic body.

"H-H-How is this possible?"

Everyone's jaws dropped at the sight of that scene.

Utter shock pervaded Chu Tianqi.

Never had he imagined that there was really someone in this world who could be on equal footing with Blaze.

*Bam!*

While everyone was still in shock, Ye Fan had already hoisted Blaze over his head. He slammed it onto the ground hard.

Then, he repeated that series of actions.

*Bang! Bang! Bang!*

Blaze's massive body, as if it was repeatedly struck by a giant hammer, was pounded toward the ground by Ye Fan.

As a thunderous sound echoed in all directions, a large swathe of the ground collapsed from the impact.

Stunned by the incredible scene before them, the crowd could only gawk.

"I-Is he even human?"

"Can he also be a monster?"

Mochizuki Kawa and the Japanese martial artists were flabbergasted.

From their perspective, Ye Fan was no different from a monster on par with Blaze.

Even the teary-eyed Suzumiya Eigetsu, who was worried sick just a moment ago, covered her mouth in shock.

"D\*mn it! Blaze, what are you doing? I ordered you to finish him! So, just kill him!" the raging Chu Qitian roared.

Despite his frustrated shouts urging Blaze to counterattack, Blaze's tail was caught by Ye Fan while its head was being slammed onto the ground repeatedly until it was seeing stars.



From the looks of it, Blaze had been beaten unconscious by Ye Fan.

“That piece of trash!”

The infuriated Chu Qitian almost burst a vessel.

In his desperation, he bit the tip of his tongue, causing Jade Eyes to glow, flooding Blaze's mind with a rush of spiritual energy.

In the instant, the badly-beaten Blaze was reinvigorated and let out a deafening roar toward the sky.

Following his furious cry was an inferno shooting out of its jaws, encapsulating Ye Fan's body with an explosive force and terrifying heat.

The massive impact threw Ye Fan back while the heat from the inferno tormented him greatly.

Ye Fan, having no other choice, had to release Blaze's claws and back away.

Upon regaining its freedom, Blaze turned around and bored down on Ye Fan as if it had gone berserk.

With its jaws opened wide, it looked as if it was going to swallow Ye Fan entirely.

Ye Fan, who had no intention of standing idly by and letting himself be devoured, turned around

and retreated a hundred steps back.

Nonetheless, Blaze wasn't discouraged from missing his target.

Spreading out its gigantic wings, it swung its razor-sharp scales in Ye Fan's direction while sweeping its metal-whip-like tail across the ground.

Attacking with a roar, it was clear that Blaze was utterly enraged by Ye Fan.

The menacing assault that ensued pummeled Ye Fan just like a hurricane.

Blaze was alternating between bearing its jaws down, breathing fire out of its mouth, slashing its wings, and sweeping with its tail.

Every single one of its strikes carried the explosive power of lightning, leaving huge craters on the ground.

In fact, the terrifying force of Blaze's claws was capable of ripping thick steel sheets into pieces.

Under pressure from Blaze's rampage, Ye Fan—deciding not to fight head-on—chose to dodge repeatedly.

However, from the perspective of those from Chu Sect, Ye Fan had fallen into a disadvantage and had no answer to Blaze's attacks.



“Hahaha!”

With his eyes glistening smugly, Chu Qitian sneered, “Chu Tianfan, I advise you to surrender, for there's no way you can penetrate Blaze's impregnable defense given how physically tough he is. From the very beginning, Blaze's victory in this battle was never in doubt. As for you, you'll be torn apart once you have exhausted all your strength.”

“Is that so?”

At that moment, Ye Fan—caught by a swipe from Blaze's claws—was sent crashing into the ancient ruins below.

Nevertheless, he quickly sprang back to his feet. Patting the dust off his body, he raised his head and threw Chu Qitian a smirk—triggering the latter's displeasure.

“I'm surprised you can still smile in the face of death. You truly are nothing but a fool! Let's see if you can still maintain that smile of yours when Blaze's claw pierces through your body!”

Chu Qitian was outraged.

Nonetheless, Ye Fan simply shook his head and snorted.

“Chu Qitian, do you really think a nobody like you can stop me? Given that I have dared to make a comeback, I naturally possess the confidence to take Chu Sect on. Now, watch

closely as I defeat this beast of yours!”

With that, Ye Fan burst into a series of laughter.

Amidst the echo of his voice, the horizon began to crack, followed by lightning crackling around Ye Fan's body.

As if they had come alive, the three Thunderstripes between his brows unleashed a dazzling glow.

The very next second, Ye Fan—evolving into a stream of light—shot into the sky and reappeared in front of Blaze in a flash.

Subsequently, a powerful punch smashed into Blaze's abdomen.

*Bang!*

A thunderous rumble reverberated through the air.

In response, Chu Qitian scoffed, “It's useless. Even swords can't cut through Blaze's scales, let alone your bare hands.”

Chu Qitian brimmed with confidence, for he was speaking the truth.

After all, Ye Fan's punch barely landed a scratch on Blaze.

In spite of that, the force from the punch had permeated through Blaze's scales and



undoubtedly hurt its internal organs.

In the midst of an agonized cry, Blaze's body was flung back by a hundred meters. Opening its jaws while being mired in excruciating pain, it spewed a mist of blood into the air.

“H-How is this even possible?”

Chu Qitian was so stunned that his eyeballs almost popped out of its sockets.

Unfortunately for him, that was just the beginning.

After the first punch, Ye Fan—piling on the pressure—bore down upon Blaze again.

Throwing his steel-like fist that carried the force of a thousand tons, he aimed it at Blaze's eyes this time.

In an evasive maneuver, Blaze swung its wings around to block.

Nevertheless, Ye Fan didn't flinch as his fist smote Blaze's wings with devastating force.

The impact from the punch bent Blaze's bones, essentially breaking its wings in half.

The excruciating pain that ensued caused Blaze to retract its wing by reflex—unintentionally exposing its eyes.

Seizing upon the opening, Ye Fan launched a

kick at them.

Blaze's lantern-sized eyes—despite being protected by its scales—sunk into their sockets upon the impact, resulting in green blood gushing out.

“Argh!”

With blood spewing out of its eyes, Blaze let out an agonized cry before falling onto the ground.

Writhing in agony, it covered its eyes with its claws as it continued to roar uncontrollably.

“Now's the time!”

At the end of the day, a beast could never escape its nature. Regardless of how strong it was, its mental capabilities and behavior were no match for humans.

If Ye Fan was in its shoes, he would've retreated to a safe distance immediately.

In contrast, when Blaze stayed still and roared, it opened up a window for Ye Fan to deal it a fatal blow.

Underneath the watchful eyes of the crowd, the intensity of Ye Fan's vigor began to rise until a terrifying power culminated within his body.

In the end, his bulging muscles were so pumped that veins were visible on the surface of his arms, which were now double their



original size.

“This...”

From afar, Chu Qitian's expression drastically changed the moment he recognized the harnessing technique.

Charging at Ye Fan, he screamed at Blaze.  
“Blaze, retreat!”

“Retreat? Is it even possible?”

Ye Fan's lips suddenly curled into a murderous smile.

The next second, he bellowed, “Boundless Destruction!”

*Boom!*

A tremendous shockwave was unleashed as Ye Fan—wielding god-like power—threw an earth-shattering punch forward.

Its explosive power released a sonic boom into the air.

Despite Chu Qitian's desperate efforts to stop him, the former failed to block in time and was swept away by the ensuing blast.

Amidst the sound of shattering ribs, blood rained in the air.

Chu Qitian had vomited a mist of blood while

his body was thrown back.

As for Ye Fan's attack, it continued on its trajectory, undiminished in power.

Boundless Destruction was the amalgamation of Tumble of the Majestic Mountain and Infinite Force from Invoke the Celestial Sky.

True to its name, the boundless energy and devastating force it unleashed was enough to decimate everything before it. In fact, its power would intensify with every subsequent strike.



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Under the weight of Ye Fan's tremendous power, Blaze's massive body was instantly sent flying thousands of meters away, as if it was a ball.

At the point where Ye Fan's fist landed on Blaze's body, one could clearly see it collapsing upon itself.

The trajectory from which Blaze was thrown back left a path of destruction behind, filled with crumbling buildings and flattened hills.

The excruciating pain it felt triggered a roar of agony and tormented it to the brink of tears.

Green blood gushed incessantly out of its mouth till a pool of it gradually formed on the ground.

Obviously, this was just the after-effects of the second punch.

Soon, with the subsequent barrage of punches raining down upon Blaze, it let out a roar of even greater pain.

Its defenses, impregnable over the last few centuries had finally been broken through.

The black and hardened scales that protected it all these years were shattered by Ye Fan's punches, revealing the soft and tender flesh beneath them.

Falling from the air, it finally crashed into its

own pool of blood.

Amidst its agonized screams, its body writhed on the ground, just like a crying child.

Watching what was unfolding before them, the crowd couldn't help but be stricken by terror.

*He's so strong!*

*Chu Tianfan is just overwhelmingly powerful!*

*This doesn't make sense at all!*

No one had expected Ye Fan to successfully smash Blaze's scales with his bare hands when Moon God had failed to land a scratch with her sword.

"Is he even human?"

"His body... is it really made of flesh?"

From a distance, the grievously injured Mochizuki Kawa stared at the god-like presence of Ye Fan, which sent a chill down his spine.

He couldn't believe that he and the latter were enemies back in the day.

In fact, he had even crossed swords with Ye Fan more than once.

Just thinking about it now caused his knees to quake in fear, for he realized that it was a



miracle he was still alive.

Even Suzumiya Eigetsu was dumbfounded by the sight.

She had assumed Ye Fan was just reassuring her earlier but could now see she was wrong and had underestimated him.

Unfortunately, not everyone celebrated the sudden turn of events.

The beaten Chu Qitian turned red in rage when he saw how Blaze had been thrashed.

No sooner had he powered through the pain to get back on his feet than he dashed toward Blaze's side while unleashing a heartbroken tirade at Ye Fan.

"You b\*stard! How cruel can you be? Why do you have to use such brutal strikes? D\*mn you!"

Holding Blaze's head, he consoled it repeatedly.

As for Blaze, it lay in his arms as if it was a child longing for its parent's comfort.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan, with a solemn expression, looked down at them.

"Chu Qitian, you have reached the end of the line. This is where our enmity ends."

*Whoosh!*

Ye Fan had barely spoken when a powerful gale blew out of nowhere.

Behind him, the trees and rocks began to shake violently, a phenomenon resulting from the unleashing of his power.

At the same time, Moon God's broken sword—guided by Ye Fan's aura—gradually rose into the air from the ground and floated right up to him.

From the looks of it, Ye Fan was going to end Chu Qitian and Blaze's lives with it.

“B\*stard, how dare you attack Mr. Chu!”

“Old Master is not going to let you get away with this!”

The elders of Chu Sect had turned pale in shock.

Faced with Ye Fan's murderous intent, all of them charged hysterically at him.

Even though their display of loyalty was heart-moving, it was still nothing but a pointless struggle.

A single kick from Ye Fan unleashed a force that sent the men flying with blood spewing out of their mouths.

The gulf between their powers was simply too great.



Having lost Blaze's protection, the men from Chu Sect were no different from lambs awaiting slaughter.

After getting the elders out of his way, Ye Fan stretched out his hand and pointed abruptly with his finger.

*Zing!*

Just like a laser, the broken sword behind him let out a piercing shriek before flying straight at Chu Qitian and Blaze.

"Chu Tianfan, how dare you!" the members of Chu Sect screamed in horror.

"Dodge, Mr. Chu!"

With Blaze grievously wounded, Chu Qitian too was on his last legs.

No one had any doubt that neither man nor beast would survive Ye Fan's sword.

However, at the crucial moment, the injured Blaze howled toward the sky as a blistering rainbow of light emitted from its body.

With four wings suddenly spreading out, a terrifying look descended upon its crimson eyes while mysterious red markings began to appear on its originally black scales.

"Is this... its third transformation?"

Everyone present felt as if their eyes were about to pop out.

Even Ye Fan was no exception, for he was just as astounded as they were.

During its previous battle with Moon God, Blaze had already transformed twice.

Little did anyone expect it to be able to do so one more time.

Furthermore, after its transformation, the injuries previously inflicted by Ye Fan healed rapidly.

The scales that were shattered earlier were quickly replaced with newly grown ones.

Its ability to rejuvenate was so mind-blowing that anyone watching would be filled with despair.

Within a few short seconds, Blaze whose life was hanging by a thread just a moment ago had grown even more ferocious than before.

Pushing off the ground with its sharp claws, it leaped into the air and landed in front of Chu Qitian to shield him.

It then opened its jaws and caught Ye Fan's sword with a menacing bite before spitting it back out.

*Swoosh!*



As the sword pierced through the air, it now headed in Ye Fan's direction.

“Master, be careful!” the concerned Suzumiya Eigetsu yelled.

Ye Fan naturally didn't dare underestimate the attack as he intercepted it with a palm strike of his own.

The giant palm that was unleashed subsequently smashed into the sword.

*Boom!*

A thunderous explosion rang out.

Both attacks ground at each other for some time before fading away concurrently.

The unexpected scene secretly delighted everyone present, for a casual spit from Blaze was sufficient to hold off Ye Fan's all-out attack.

“D\*mn it, the beast has grown stronger again!”

Ye Fan's brows furrowed tightly, as Blaze turned out to be more formidable than he expected.

Despite using part of his trump cards, he still failed to defeat it.

Meanwhile, Chu Qitian was ecstatic over Blaze's successful transformation.

“Blaze, you did it! You have narrowed the gap

between yourself and your ancestors.”

Chu Qitian, initially overwhelmed by despair, was surprised that Blaze had completed his third transformation.

“Hahaha, Chu Tianfan, I have to thank you for forcing Blaze's fourth form out of him. By doing so, his bloodline grows ever closer to that of his ancestors. Hahaha...”

In his elation, Chu Qitian burst into triumphant laughter.

Every single one of Blaze's transformations was a process of purifying his bloodline.

Previously, Chu Qitian only managed to help it transform twice.

However, in the face of death, Blaze learned how to perform its third transformation which brought its strength to a whole new level.

“Chu Tianfan, it's time for you to die. Just like you said, this is the end of the line.”

With a smug glint in his eyes, Chu Qitian threw Ye Fan's words back at him.

In spite of that, the latter kept mum with a grim expression as he was prepared to face the powerful enemy.

*From the looks of it, I have to use Invoke the Celestial Sky.*



Ye Fan thought to himself with a heavy heart.

Initially, he wanted to save it for Chu Yuan, for it was one of his most powerful trump cards.

Unfortunately, the beast had forced him to deploy the technique ahead of his plans.

Given that Invoke the Celestial Sky would consume a significant amount of his energy, he was saving it for desperate circumstances. Unfortunately, it was no longer his choice.



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Faced with the formidable threat, the concerned Suzumiya Eigetsu dragged her wounded self up to Ye Fan's side.

Tugging Ye Fan's sleeve, she was visibly worried about the upcoming battle.

“Master, the beast has grown a lot stronger after its transformation. You have to be cautious.”

Previously, Moon God had been defeated by Blaze after its second transformation. Since she had failed to even break through its defenses, losing to it was a foregone conclusion.

Now that it had exceeded everyone's expectations and transformed a third time, its physical prowess was elevated to the next level. Consequently, her concern for her master intensified.

“Mmm-hmm. I know,” Ye Fan replied with a frown that was filled with intense conviction.

Just when he was harnessing his energy in preparation for an all-out attack, the group of Chu Sect elders climbed back to their feet and hurried to Chu Qitian's side, whispering something to him.

Chu Qitian was infuriated to hear their words.

“What did you say? You're asking me to retreat? Blaze has achieved its third transformation and



become so powerful that nothing can stand in his way. Now that Ye Fan is right for the picking, what is your agenda for asking me to withdraw? Have all of you lost your mind?" Chu Qitian fumed.

However, Chu Sect elders continued to plead with him, "Mr. Chu, this is an order from Old Master. A messenger has arrived to insist on our immediate return, for something has happened in China. Moreover, we still do not know the depths of Chu Tianfan's strength. Even with the alliance of countries back then, we still failed to kill him then.

"Therefore, Mr. Chu, are you certain we can finish him off with Blaze's third transformation? Don't forget that Chu Tianfan is still hiding other trump cards up his sleeves. Just with his physical prowess alone, he has defeated Blaze's first two forms. So, what if he unleashes his ultimate technique? Blaze would be placed in a precarious situation.

"In the event it is defeated, none of us are going to leave Japan alive. Mr. Chu, as a member of the Chu family, you know better than anyone else how formidable Invoke the Celestial Sky can be. Hence, we should first return to China as a precaution. Since it is Chu Tianfan's hometown, he'll go back there sooner or later. When that happens, we can mobilize the strength of the entire Chu Sect to annihilate him. Isn't that a much better plan?"

The elders of Chu Sect were clearly

traumatized by the defeats they had previously suffered at Chu Tianfan's hands.

Even though Blaze was unstoppable after its third transformation and Chu Sect clearly had the upper hand, the fear within Chu Sect elders didn't diminish one bit.

They were fearful of Ye Fan turning the tide of battle with another surprise.

By then, death would undoubtedly be their fate.

As the feud between Chu Sect and Ye Fan had been going on for years, the elders were cognizant of the latter's affinity to turn things around.

Throughout the years, there were countless incidents when they had him surrounded and victory was at hand.

This time was naturally no different.

However, Ye Fan always turned the tables on them.

In fact, Chu Qitian, despite having spent more than ten years hunting the former, had allowed Ye Fan to attack his home instead.

Until that day, Chu Qitian's father was still hanging off Mount Chumen, wailing day and night in agony.

As for Chu Sect, they suffered an even worse



fate—half of the ten elders had been killed by Ye Fan.

Even though new elders had been chosen to replace those who died, their influence and strength were inferior to their predecessors.

Therefore, they were truly petrified of facing Ye Fan to the extent of preferring to flee despite their advantage in battle.

Consequently, Chu Qitian fell into deep thought, for it was obvious the elders' words had struck a chord with him.

*They have a point. Over the decade of pursuing Ye Fan, I would always end up being beaten to pulp just when I thought I had him.*

After a brief hesitation, Chu Qitian finally compromised and gave the order to retreat.

“Chu Tianfan, I have decided to let you off today. However, I'll be waiting for you at Jiangdong for our showdown. When the time comes, only one of us will come out alive!”

Chu Qitian's insidious voice reverberated throughout the land.

Just as he spoke, he ordered his men to withdraw. Blaze, acting as the rear guard, would cover their retreat.

With that, the grand army that was supposed to invade Japan marched away from Tokyo and

out of Japan's borders.

They headed back to China to rejoin Chu Yuan's Chu Sect army.

“Unrivalled Grandmaster, we can't allow them to flee. Instead, we should pursue and slaughter them all. Otherwise, they would come back for us one day!”

When Mochizuki Kawa saw Chu Sect retreating, he shouted anxiously at Chu Tianfan, urging the latter to finish their enemies off.

After all, as long as Chu Qitian was still alive, the martial arts world of Japan would continue to be threatened.

Thus, he naturally hoped to see Ye Fan use this opportunity to eradicate the men from Chu Sect.

Not only did he not care about Ye Fan's survival, but he also hoped that both parties would suffer grievous harm in a brutal battle.

In fact, his ideal scenario was for them to kill each other.

With both Ye Fan and Chu Sect annihilated, Japan's martial arts world would top the world.

However, no sooner had Mochizuki Kawa spoken than he was given a slap by Ye Fan.

A giant palm consequently blocked off the sky



before falling upon him, smashing him downward.

Amidst shattering rocks and cratering earth, a giant palm print subsequently emerged on the ground.

Before Mochizuki Kawa could even scream in agony, he was buried deep underneath the rocks.

In spite of that, he was one tough nut to crack.

A short while later, a blood-drenched figure crawled out from beneath the rubble.

Looking in Moon God's direction, he pointed at Ye Fan in a pleading manner before throwing out a few mouthfuls of blood. The next moment, his massive body collapsed onto the ground with a loud thud after losing consciousness.

“Sword God!”

The sight of the fainted Sword God shocked the martial artists of Japan.

While rushing to his side to check on his wounds, they appealed angrily to Moon God, “Your Highness, you have to stand up for Sword God! Ye Fan intended to kill him by striking him so brutally.”

“Your Highness, you have to mete out justice on his behalf,” the martial artists pleaded.

However, Suzumiya Eigetsu not only ignored their pleas but also threw herself into Ye Fan's arms in delight, as if she was a wounded kitten looking for comfort from her master.

Now that the men from Chu Sect had left, her mind was finally put at ease after being worried sick about Ye Fan.

"Master, they're finally gone," she remarked gleefully while leaning in his embrace.

However, the tension in her body had hardly eased when the pain from her wounds began to overwhelm her.

Subsequently, Ye Fan felt her trembling in his arms as blood began oozing out the corners of her mouth.

It was only then that did he notice how pale she looked.

The wounds Blaze had inflicted upon her earlier had long been covered in blood, causing Ye Fan to feel a squeeze in his heart.

Sweeping her off her feet, he prepared to leave. "Eigetsu, you must hold on. I'll take you back to China to have your wounds treated."

However, the Japanese martial artists refused to let him take her.

"Put Her Highness down!"



“She's the guardian of Japan, not China.”

“Who gave you the right to take her away?”

The martial artists surrounded him.

Raising his head, Ye Fan stared at them.

“I didn't kill you lot on Eightsu's account, but you had better not get on my nerves. Or else, I don't mind finishing Chu Sect's mission for them.”

*Whoosh!*

All of a sudden, a cold breeze filled with murderous intent blew in the air.



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