After Ye Fan had drained the energies within the several tons of jade he had obtained the last time, he had reached the third tier of Invoke the Celestial Cloud. That had been when his progress had halted. It was going to take him some time to progress from the third tier to his fourth.

"Forget it. These things take time. We'll see how things go as they progress."

Ye Fan shook his head and decided to cast his worries aside.

He continued studying the contents of the Book of Celestial Cloud and its defensive formations.

He didn't spend much time worrying about Chu Sect's sect leader. After all, he might have been too paranoid.

As an outsider, the sect leader probably wasn't going to interfere with the private matters of the Chu family. The chances of that happening were slim.

While Ye Fan dove into his research on the Invoke the Celestial Sky Formation, a huge commotion was taking place thousands of

miles away in Jiangbei.

They were hosting the National Special Troops Contest again, a contest that took place every three years.

Every military camp in China would send their unit to take part in the contest.

As the commander-in-chief of the Jiangdong military, Wu Yang gave his team a personal sendoff.

"We train soldiers for a thousand days so that they might fight a day's battle. Qing-He, it's all up to you now. You and your team will decide if the Jiangdong military makes history."

Verdant leaves whispered as the branches of the willow trees swayed in the gentle breeze.

Wu Yang, who hardly drank, made a toast to Lin Qing-He and the Eagles Force before they embarked on their journey to Jiangbei.

Lin Qing-He had been tasked to lead the Eagles Force, who was going to represent the Jiangdong military in the National



Special Troops Contest.

This was the most prestigious national contest hosted by the Chinese military.

The Eagles Force's performance was going to determine if the Jiangdong military were to rise to glory or sink into disgrace. It would decide the future of Wu Yang, Lin Qing-He and the members of the Eagles Forces as well. That was why Wu Yang had given the contest so much of his attention.

"Don't worry, Commander Wu! The months of intensive training have transformed every member of the Eagles Force into a fearsome war machine! They are now like ferocious wolves and their enemies are merely prey waiting to be slaughtered. You don't have to do a thing at all. Simply wait for news of our victory!" laughed Lin Qing-He with immense confidence.

"Good! That's what I want to hear. To be champions, we must first want to become champions! I have only one wish of you and that is for you to emerge the most powerful team in the military! In addition, if you do bump into the team from the Yanjing military, don't hold yourselves back. Give





them a good, hard thrashing. Do it without breaking any rules, of course. I want Lu Tian-He to regret having incurred the wrath of the Jiangdong military. That's all I have to say. You should be on your way."

Upon Wu Yang's command, Lin Qing-He led the Eagles Force on the road to Jiangbei.

The rumbling engines of numerous jeeps reverberated in the air as they sped towards Jiangbei, their destination which rested thousands of miles away.

They were not the only ones embarking on the long journey that day. From Xibei, Xinan and Bianjiang were teams that raced towards Jiangbei with an urgency akin to warriors charging into the battlefield.

As these teams approached their destination, so too did the date of their contest arrive.

The lively atmosphere in Jiangbei reached its peak.

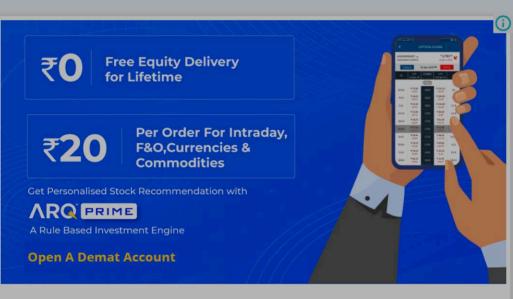
"Commander Lin, it's been a while! I didn't expect you to lead the team from Jiangdong military this year. You seem really confident



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Chapter 1206 The Green Dragon Descends



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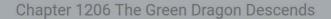




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of your chances!"

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Members from the various military camps had gathered.

Many of them had known each other from way back and had struck up conversations as soon as they had bumped into one another.

"Instructor Han, it's been a while. How have you been?" said Lin Qing-He as he approached a sprightly old man.

That would be the chief instructor of the Jiangbei military, Han Ping.

"Thanks for asking! I'm doing great. I can keep this up for another twenty years or so!"

After exchanging a few words with one another, the instructors headed off to complete the documents necessary to enroll their teams in the contest.

"Where's the team from the Yanjing military? Have they not arrived?"

Han Ping surveyed the area. The teams from Xinan, Xibei and Bianjiang were all here, but



no one had seen anyone from the Yanjing military.

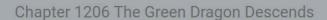
Everyone was nearly done with their documents, but the team from Yanjing was yet to be seen. Han Ping and the others were naturally curious.

Lin Qing-He laughed at the confusion on their faces. "Instructor Han, stop looking around. I'm afraid that the Yanjing military isn't participating this year."

"Why would you say that?" asked the other instructors curiously.

"Well, they have no one. The Yanjing military had come in last in the previous contest, hadn't they? They had been worried about coming in last again and had proposed to team up with the Jiangdong military to build a team jointly. What a joke, right? I turned them down flatly though. You know the kind of soldiers the Yanjing military is made of. They're young masters from rich families who only know their women and nothing else. None of them is qualified to take part in such tournaments." Lin Qing-He's words were laced with scorn and disdain as he shook his head.





"What? Did the Yanjing military really propose to team up with you? I can't believe it! Commander Lin, I heard that the Green Dragon Force was supposed to represent the Jiangdong military in this contest. Why have they been replaced by the Eagles Force?" asked Instructor Zhu Rong of the Xibei military.

Lin Qing-He sighed loudly and shook his head. "I would rather not talk about that. Lu Tian-He from Yanjing recommended an instructor by the name of Ye Fan to our commander-in-chief. Commander Wu took Lu Tian-He's words and appointed Ye Fan as the chief instructor of our military and tasked him to create and train the Green Dragon Force. But he turned out to be a good-for-nothing! Nothing good comes out of a good-for-nothing."

"The Green Dragon Force turned out to be a group of useless good-for-nothings too. Commander Wu and I banished them from the military and decided to have the Eagles Force represent the Jiangdong military in this contest instead."

The other instructors appeared enraged by what they had heard.



"How dare this Ye Fan commit such an audacity!"

"That's right! How dare he deceive the commander-in-chief of the Jiangdong military!"

"You shouldn't have let him go. Men like him should be shot!"

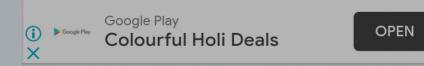
"I agree. But Commander Wu is a merciful man and decided to let him go," said Li Qing-He unhappily.

Amidst their heated discussion, the time for applying for the competition was almost up.

"It appears the Yanjing military won't be sending a team to take part in the contest this year. What a bunch of cowards! They don't even dare to fight. They don't deserve to win."

"That's the military we have guarding our capital city. What an embarrassment!"

"Forget it. Let's not wait any longer. We can begin to draw lots now," said Han Ping angrily after taking a look at the time.



"Hold on! Who's the one who called the Yanjing military cowards and an embarrassment?" A thunderous voice erupted in the air as the chief instructors gathered in the arena to draw their lots.

Shock rippled through the crowd.

Everyone whipped their heads around and stared into the distance.

Lu Tian-He had arrived with the Green Dragon Force in tow.

Their grand arrival could rival that of a vast army. Demons and gods alike would flee in fear at the sight of them.



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"This...is that...Lu Tian-He?"

Everyone's eyes turned and landed on Lu Tian-He.

Hostility flickered across the eyes of many when they realized whom it was who had just spoken.

The instructor of the Jiangbei military was one of them.

"I was wondering who that might be. So, it's our great general, Lu Tian-He. The Yanjing military's come in last for the past three years. It's hard to take General Lu's words seriously. Even the chief instructor who won last year's championship wouldn't have spoken as confidently as you have, general," scoffed Han Ping with mockery clear in his eyes.

Han Ping had been displeased by Lu Tian-He's accusatory tone and had retaliated with mockery.

Lu Tian-He was not cowed by Han Ping's words of scorn though.

"Let not the kettle call the pot black,



Instructor Han," he retorted. "I remember thrashing you thoroughly three years ago. It appears that that lesson had not taught you humility at all!"

"You..." Han Ping shook with rage.

Lu Tian-He seemed to have discarded all tact as he spoke about Han Ping's mortifying defeat openly.

Han Ping was instantly reminded of what had happened during the previous contest.

Three years ago, the Yanjing military had come in last and had been eliminated from the contest in the first round. Its participants had been injured severely as well.

As the instructor of the Jiangbei military and the champion team, Han Ping had mocked Lu Tian-He openly.

Lu Tian-He had flown into a rage and given Han Ping a good thrashing in public. Han Ping had been severely beaten and utterly humiliated.

The mention of that incident was akin to hitting Han Ping a second time.



Han Ping wasn't going to take the insult lying down though.

"I had gotten ill and was recovering from my illness then. I wasn't exactly in tip-top shape. That was how you managed to beat me," said Han Ping frostily. "If you dare insult me this way again, I'll make sure you pay for it. We'll settle all our grudges once and for all then!"

"Is that so? We shall see then," scoffed Lu Tian-He before disregarding Han Ping completely and leading the Green Dragon Force off to have their names registered for the contest.

It was then that Lin Qing-He caught a glimpse of the young men and young woman walking behind Lu Tian-He.

"Isn't that the Green Dragon Force? You again...you scoundrels, how dare you step foot into a military camp again! You've already been driven out of the military! Get out of here!" thundered Lin Qing-He.

Lin Qing-He held no grudges against the members of the Green Dragon Force. The one he truly hated to the core was Ye Fan.

These young men and young woman had chosen Ye Fan over the military and Lin Qing-He abhorred them for it.

That was why he had hurled curses at the Green Dragon Force without regard for their past comradeship.

The Eagles Force stared at the Green Dragon Force with equal disdain and scorn. This was no place for the Green Dragon Force.

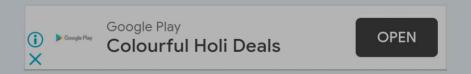
"You've been expelled from the military. Why are you here? Your names have been struck off the registry. You have no right to be here," said Lin Fan, the team leader of the Eagles Force, with a mirthless smile.

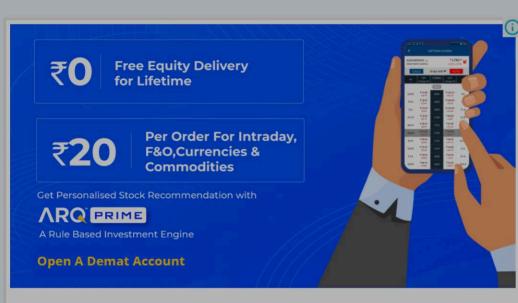
Ye Yu-Yan shot back fearlessly. "We're here to take part in the contest, of course."

"What? You're taking part in the contest? Are you kidding me?"

Lin Fan and his teammates burst out into laughter.

Their eyes glistened with mockery and condescension. It was as if they had just heard the funniest thing in the world.





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"You? You want to participate in the contest? Who do you think you are? You're just losers who were trained by an instructor who's also a loser! Your names have been struck off the military records. The Eagles Force will represent the Jiangdong military. The Green Dragon Force's been shelved! You're no longer recognized by the Jiangdong military as one of its units. You don't have the right to take part in the contest. Come on, hurry up and get lost!"

"They have every right to join this contest."
Lu Tian-He's thunderous voice interrupted
the Eagles Force's sniggering and taunting.
He walked up to the registration booth then.
"The Green Dragon Force will be
representing the Yanjing military in this
contest."

What?

"Lu Tian-He, what is the meaning of this?
The Green Dragon Force committed a
serious crime and was disbanded by the
Jiangdong military. How could you take
them in and have them represent the Yanjing
military? Are you trying to make an enemy of
the Jiangdong military and Commander
Wu?" thundered Li Qing-He as a furious look



darkened his face.

The members of the Green Dragon Force had been marked as criminals by the Jiangdong military.

But Lu Tian-He had taken them in. That was an open act of provocation against the Jiangdong military.

Lin Qing-He was naturally livid.

"Commander Lin, this seems a matter that's beyond your jurisdiction. As you said, the Green Dragon Force is no longer part of the Jiangdong military. What it does has nothing to do with you anymore. Whether I take them under the Yanjing military's employ has nothing to do with you either. Your military was foolish enough to drive talent away. I'm not going to do the same," said Lu Tian-He coolly and with a mirthless smile. Lin Qing-He flushed as he struggled to form a retort.

Li Zi-Yang saw a chance and took it.

"Commander Lin, take a good look, won't you? The Green Dragon Force can still take part in the contest without the Jiangdong military's backing. We are doing fine even

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though we've left Jiangdong. The world's a big place. There's always somewhere the Green Dragon Force can go. We won't ever go back to that hellhole that's Jiangdong, not even if you beg us."

"You...you..." Lin Qing-He trembled with rage.

He had expected the Green Dragon Force to regret their decision after being driven out of Jiangdong. They would come crawling back and begging him for forgiveness. They would plead desperately for Lin Qing-He to help them regain their status as soldiers.

He had been terribly wrong!

These young fools remained audacious and arrogant.

"Commander Lin, why bother with these young punks? You've said it. They're just losers. Let General Lu have them if he wants them. Why get mad over them? You should know. The Yanjing military has no one else. They have no choice but to employ these good-for-nothings that the Jiangdong military have discarded," consoled Han Ping as he approached Lin Qing-He.



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Each word was a barb that stung Lu Tian-He repeatedly.

The other instructors began to follow suit.

"That's right, Commander Lin. You should understand the difficult position Instructor Lu is in."

"He's got no one else. That's why he has to pin his hopes on these losers."

Their attempts at comforting Lin Qing-He were but an excuse for taunting and jibing Lu Tian-He.

After all, the Yanjing military had come in last for the past three contests.

The Yanjing military had become the laughingstock of the military.



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