

A Record 111

Chapter 111: Divine Selection

"It looks like you two have noticed the difference. The previous map didn't appear to have any issues, but none of the major bodies of water on the island were presented on that map, and that's because those bodies of water aren't marked out on the maps being publicly sold. In contrast, I've marked out all of the major bodies of water that we've passed by on the way here on this updated map," Han Li explained with a smile.

Everyone turned back to give the map a closer look upon hearing this.

Sure enough, just as Han Li proclaimed, the previous map provided by Wyrms 8 was quite detailed, but there were very few bodies of water marked out on it, and even the ones that were marked out were only small rivers and lakes.

Everyone's attention had been drawn to the cities prior to this, so no one had noticed this.

"During these past few days, I made sure to gather some information on the island's geographic environment from all of the cities that we visited. In particular, I tracked down all of the old maps that I could, and I was finally able to find some information related to these major bodies of water," Han Li said.

He then extended a finger forward once again, and a series of large rivers appeared on certain parts of the map depicted on the light screen.

Everyone's expressions changed slightly upon seeing this.

"Due to the short timeframe, this is all of the information that I was able to gather on the major bodies of water. Now that it's all laid out in front of you, I'm sure you've also noticed that all of the Red Moon Cities that we've passed through and some other large cities have all been situated next to large bodies of water. This is something that we've personally seen these past few days, so we can verify this to be true," Han Li explained.

Everyone thought back to the cities that they had visited during the past few days, and sure enough, they had all been in close proximity to a large river or lake, as was the case with the Red Moon City that they were currently in.

"Surely that doesn't mean anything though. There are many advantages to building cities near large bodies of water, and that's certainly not something that's unique to the Red Moon Cities on this island," Wyrms 13 countered.

"That's true, but through an enchantment that I cast on the shopkeeper of a bookshop in this city, I found out from him that all images depicting the major bodies of water on the island are strictly prohibited on all books being sold on the island, and this order was issued by Gong Shuhong himself. It's clear that he's trying to hide something," Han Li said.

Wyrms 13 had no counterargument to this.

"I don't know why Gong Shuhong is doing this, but looking at all of the major bodies of water that have already been marked out on the map, they converge at this point," Han Li continued as he pointed at a city on the map.

That city was none other than the Red Moon City of the Kun province.

"This is all just speculation. Can you be certain that that's where Gong Shuhong is?" Wyrms 25 asked in a skeptical voice.

"Of course I can't be certain, but wouldn't it be much better to take a look there first instead of continuing on a completely aimless search? At the very least, we'll have slightly better chances there," Han Li replied.

Wyrms 25 opened his mouth as if he wanted to rebuke Han Li, but he was unable to find the words to do so.

"That makes a lot of sense to me! If you hadn't discovered, we would've still been completely in the dark," Wyrms 9 said in an elated voice.

After joining forces with all of the other guild members, he had always felt outmatched by Wyrms 8, and he was very pleased to have finally scored a victory of sorts over Wyrms 8 and his group.

"I fully agree with Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15's proposal. If we really go and search through all of the Red Moon Cities one by one, Gong Shuhong would've most likely already been tipped off long before we get to him, and he'll go into hiding somewhere else where we can't find him. We really do have to thank Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15 for making this discovery" Wyrms 16 said.

"You're far too kind, fellow daoists. I only happened to stumble upon this discovery by chance," Han Li said with a modest smile.

After a moment of contemplation, Wyrms 8 declared, "Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15's theory is very sound. Let's go to the Kun province."

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One night, several days later.

Two streaks of light flashed through the night sky above a vast plain, then descended onto the outskirts of a forest down below.

The two streaks of light faded to reveal a pair of flying arks, and Han Li's group flew down in their animal masks.

"Up ahead is the Red Moon City of the Kun province. It looks like there's a pilgrimage going on in that city as well," Wyrms 8 said as he pointed up ahead.

Han Li cast his gaze toward the direction that Wyrms 8 was pointing in, and he saw a massive, brightly lit city standing in the night close to 10 kilometers away.

The city was illuminated by crimson lights that had also stained the clouds in the night sky up above the same color, presenting a rather peculiar sight to behold.

This city was also enshrouded under a blue light barrier, but under the influence of the crimson lights, the blue light barrier was leaning toward a shade of dark red.

"This is an enormous city. It looks like there really is a chance that this is where Gong Shuhong is hiding," Wyrms 9 mused as he inspected the city before him.

"Let's not delay any further. Just like in the past, let's all refrain from using our spiritual sense as much as possible after entering the city," Wyrms 8 said.

Wyrms 9 naturally chose to ignore those orders, while everyone else nodded silently in response.

Moments later, everyone had adopted disguises using their masks and donned black cloaks that allowed them to blend into the night.

After that, they approached Red Moon City in silence.

At this moment, the city's four gates were wide open, and the main roads leading to the plaza at the center of the city were lined with red lanterns that illuminated the entire city to be as bright as day.

There were thousands of people making their way along the official roads outside the city gates, and they were rushing quickly toward the city. They had all traveled to Red Moon City to attend the pilgrimage, but all of them were a little late due to one reason or another.

Han Li and the others split up into two groups, then joined the crowd to enter the city through the gates.

Han Li, Wyrms 9, and Wyrms 16 entered the city through the southern gate, then followed the flow of the crowd toward the center of the city.

The atmosphere in the city was quite solemn, and everyone was very quiet as they traveled toward the center of the city in silence with their arms crossed over their chests.

Only after getting close to the center of the city could one hear the sound of some type of strange chanting, and Han Li's trio felt as if they were hearing the sound of constantly crashing waves, reverberating in a special rhythm.

At this moment, there were already millions of people packed onto the giant plaza at the center of the city and the nearby main roads. As a result, Han Li's trio was unable to progress any further upon reaching only halfway up the southern main road.

Thus, they were forced to squeeze through the crowd toward the plaza at the center of the city like a trio of slipper eels, much to the chagrin of many of the people around them.

However, due to the fact that the majority of the people here were mortals, and they were all busy chanting prayers, no altercation ensued from their actions. Thus, they were able to slowly squeeze their way onto the plaza, and even though they still weren't at the center of the plaza, they weren't all that far away.

Han Li was quite a tall man, so all he had to do was raise his head slightly to see all the way to the center of the plaza, where a huge statue that was over 1,000 feet tall was situated.

It was unclear whether it was due to the material of the statue or the lanterns around it, but the entire statue was of a crimson color, presenting a rather unnerving sight to behold.

Hovering in the air in front of the statue's chest were seven blue-robed figures, each of whom had the image of a crimson crescent moon embroidered onto the chest of their robes.

Under the illumination of the lanterns and with the statue behind them serving as a backdrop, these figures were made to appear like deities, and they were all giving off a peculiar aura.

However, none of them were actually all that remarkable when it came to their cultivation base. The white-haired elderly man at the center of the group was a late-Grand Ascension cultivator, but aside from him, everyone else was only at the Body Integration Stage.

However, for all of the people down below, the most powerful of whom were only Core Formation cultivators, they were no different from lofty deities.

Just like all of the millions of worshippers gathered down below, these seven people were also chanting the same prayers with extremely reverent expressions.

While Han Li was sizing up the seven blue-robed cultivators, Wyrms 16's voice suddenly rang out in his mind. "Should we take them down?"

He turned to find that Wyrms 9 was also looking back at him with a rather hesitant expression.

Right at this moment, the moon reached its highest point in the night sky, and the sound of prayers in the surrounding area gradually subsided.

The white-haired elderly man in the sky slowly turned around, sweeping his gaze across the plaza like a ruler looking down upon his people.

"It is only thanks to the infinite benevolence of the holy lord that we are all able to stand here today. Those among you who are most devout to the holy lord will be chosen for higher honors. The divine selection is about to begin, it's time to dedicate your prayers to the holy lord and pray for selection."

As soon as his voice trailed off, a wave of thunderous cheers instantly rang out from the crowd, but the cheering quickly subsided, and everyone looked up with hopeful expressions with their hands clasped tightly in front of them in prayer.

In order to blend in, Han Li's trio did the same thing.

Right at this moment, the plaza suddenly shuddered slightly as if some type of ancient array had been activated, and a very peculiar aura rose up in the surrounding area.

Han Li lowered his head slightly as he peered through the gaps in the crowd to inspect the ground with blue light flashing in his eyes.

As a result, he discovered that a series of complex patterns that were invisible to the naked eye had suddenly lit up, and they were intertwined with one another as they extended in all directions.

Immediately thereafter, hundreds of pillars of crimson light suddenly rose up into the heavens from all over the plaza, encompassing one Red Moon City resident after another.

Han Li cast his gaze toward the pillars of crimson light, and he was rather taken aback by what he saw.

Not only were the people encompassed within the pillars of light not panicked in the slightest, they were nothing short of ecstatic, and some of them were even weeping uncontrollably from joy.

If there were any friends or family next to them, then all of those loved ones would also be overjoyed, and even those who were unfamiliar with the ones encompassed within the pillars of light were looking at them with admiration and envy in their eyes.

Han Li turned to Wyrms 9 and 16 with a perplexed expression to find that they were just as puzzled as he was.

After all, nothing like this had ever happened in any of the previous Red Moon Cities that they had visited.

All of a sudden, a thought seemed to have occurred to Han Li, and he transmitted his voice to Wyrms 9 and 16, raising the question: "Could it be that these are the people chosen by the so-called holy lord?"

After a brief moment of contemplation, Wyrms 9 and 16 replied, "That's probably it. If we follow these people, perhaps we'll be able to find out more information about Gong Shuhong. The only problem is that we don't know where these people are going to be taken."

Han Li smiled as he replied, "There's an easy solution to that problem. There are people of all demographics being teleported away, so it seems like the selection process is completely random, but that's actually not the case."

Chapter 112: Clues

After hearing what Han Li had to say, Wyrms 16 immediately paid closer attention to the people being teleported away, and he quickly exclaimed, "These people seem to all be either low-grade cultivators or in possession of spiritual roots!"

"That's right! Are you suggesting that we also pose as low-grade cultivators so we can be teleported away with them?" Wyrms 9 asked.

"That's right. Given our powers, I'm sure we'll be able to pass as low-grade cultivators with no issues at all," Han Li replied.

"The place where we're going to be teleported to may have something to do with Gong Shuhong. Should we inform Wyrms 8 and the others?" Wyrms 16 asked in a slightly hesitant voice.

"We're only infiltrating their ranks for now. Let's wait until we actually make a discovery before we contact them," Wyrms 9 replied in a cold voice.

After that, he raised a hand and gently tapped a finger against his own forehead, upon which a burst of invisible fluctuations instantly began to emanate from his body.

His manifested face didn't change at all, but his aura was rapidly changing, adjusting itself to the mid-Foundation Establishment Stage in the blink of an eye.

Han Li and Wyrms 16 also immediately followed suit, adjusting their own auras to the Foundation Establishment Stage as well.

After that, they waited patiently for the same pillars of red light to emerge from beneath their feet.

However, a few minutes passed by, and during that time, more and more pillars of red light continued to rise up around them, but they weren't given the same treatment.

"Why haven't we been teleported away? Could it be that you're incorrect in your assessment, and this divine selection really is just a random process?" Wyrms 9 asked with a skeptical expression.

Han Li contemplated the situation for a moment before replying, "Be patient and keep waiting. If we haven't been teleported away even after the divine selection process has ended, then we'll just have to release our spiritual sense over a small area to investigate."

Wyrms 9 didn't say anything further upon hearing this, but he began to inspect his surroundings.

Right at this moment, a burst of red light suddenly rose up beneath his feet to encompass him, and everyone around him instantly turned their attention toward him.

Before he had a chance to do anything, the light faded, and he had also vanished from the spot.

Words of praise and envy instantly rang out from the people around him.

However, before long, two more bursts of red light emerged nearby, teleporting two more people away in a flash.

These two people were naturally none other than Han Li and Wyrms 16.

Han Li felt the entire world spin around him, and he couldn't help but sway unsteadily on the spot before reappearing somewhere else entirely.

He quickly swept his gaze over his surroundings to find that he was still surrounded by countless people, and Wyrms 16 was standing not far away from him with a perplexed look on his face, while Wyrms 9 was nowhere to be seen for now.

At the moment, they were situated in a vast underground palace that was so packed with people that it was impossible to see the walls of the palace. The only things that were visible were the ceiling up above the thick stone pillars standing nearby.

There were a series of large braziers hanging down from each of the stone pillars, and it was unclear what was being burned inside them, but they weren't releasing any smoke, and there were only crimson flames visible inside.

At the same time, bursts of red light were appearing incessantly in the surrounding area as one mortal and low-grade cultivator after another was teleported into the underground palace.

In contrast with the solemn atmosphere on the plaza, it was much rowdier here. All of the people who had been teleported into this place seemed to be unable to contain their excitement, and they were eagerly looking around while standing on the tips of their toes.

Aside from several Foundation Establishment and Qi Condensation cultivators, all of the people around Han Li were mortals, so being teleported here all of a sudden felt like a divine miracle to them, and they all began to chant their prayers in a reverent manner.

The combined voices of their prayers were reverberating throughout the entire underground palace, causing it to buzz incessantly.

For some reason, Han Li was struck by an oppressive sensation as he listened to these prayers.

However, this feeling only lingered for a short while before fading away, but there was a persistent bloody odor in the murky air that refused to dissipate.

His brows furrowed slightly as he looked down to find that all of the bluestone slabs that the ground was paved with had been stained a shade of red so dark that it was beginning to resemble black. It seemed like the type of color that could've only arisen from being regularly soaked in blood.

With that in mind, Han Li couldn't help but think of the yin soil that he had discovered under the stone slabs beneath the Red Moon City of Lan, and his brows furrowed even more tightly at the thought.

At this moment, Wyrms 16 squeezed through the crowd with some difficulty, arriving behind him before asking in a low voice, "Have you found anything?"

"I think I may have found some clues, but I can't be sure for now. Let's track down Fellow Daoist Wyrms 9 first," Han Li replied with a shake of his head.

After that, he transmitted his voice to Wyrms 9, asking for his location.

Through their communication, he was informed that Wyrms 9 had been teleported to a location rather far away from them, near the center of the underground palace.

Thus, the two of them were forced to squeeze their way through the noisy crowd, drawing a great deal of ire and discontent along the way.

The closer they drew to the center of the underground palace, the more pronounced the bloody odor in the air became, and the darker the shade of red of the stone slabs beneath their feet.

By the time they arrived at the center of the underground palace, the color of the ground had almost turned a shade of dark purple.

Han Li looked up to find a statue that was over 30 feet tall up ahead, and it depicted none other than Gong Shuhong.

Near the statue was a stone platform that was around 100 feet in size, and it was only protruding slightly above the ground. The platform was completely empty with the exception of a short yet extremely muscular man.

The man was wearing a purple robe, and there was also a crimson moon design embroidered onto his chest.

His eyes were half-closed, and his aura was restrained, but Han Li could sense that he was a Layman Immortal.

Han Li and Wyrms 16 made their way over to the edge of the platform, following which the former's gaze lingered on the Layman Immortal for a moment before he turned to look beyond the statue.

Someone also squeezed their way out of their crowd in that direction, and it was none other than Wyrms 9.

He had naturally also spotted Han Li and Wyrms 16, yet right as he was about to make his way over to them, the Layman Immortal suddenly raised his head before briefly inspecting his surroundings.

Moments later, the man withdrew his gaze before looking directly up ahead as he began to speak. "Everyone..."

As soon as his voice rang out, all of the commotion in the area instantly ceased, and the entire underground palace became extremely quiet as everyone directed their attention toward him.

The atmosphere in the palace had become rather solemn, and Wyrms 9 also stopped what he was doing as he cast his gaze toward the Layman Immortal as well.

"The divine selection ceremony has already concluded. All of you have been chosen by the holy lord as his most devout followers, an honor unmatched by any," the man declared.

Everyone immediately erupted into ecstatic cheers upon hearing this.

Han Li swept his gaze across his surroundings to find that there was no longer any more red light appearing in the area, indicating that no more people were being teleported into the palace.

The Layman Immortal raised his hands in a quieting gesture, and the cheering gradually subsided, with the underground palace quickly falling silent again.

After that, he continued, "Out of the infinite kindness of his heart, the holy lord has decided to select those of you who possess the best cultivation aptitude to bestow cultivation arts upon and serve by his side. All you need to do is pray with sincerity and wait for the arrival of the holy lord."

Everyone in the palace immediately closed their eyes and clasped their hands before themselves in prayer upon hearing this.

An elated look appeared on Wyrms 16's face as he transmitted his voice to Han Li and Wyrms 9: "It sounds like Gong Shuhong will be coming here. Should we inform Wyrms 3 right away?"

Han Li cast his gaze toward Wyrms 9 upon hearing this, only to find a hesitant look on the latter's face.

Right at this moment, the statue at the center of the underground palace suddenly began to tremble, and two bursts of crimson light appeared in its eyes.

Han Li's trio immediately turned their attention toward the statue.

"We welcome the arrival of our holy lord," the Layman Immortal said in a reverent voice as he turned around and extended a bow toward the statue.

Everyone immediately followed suit, extending respectful bows of their own as they greeted in unison, "We welcome the arrival of our holy lord."

Han Li had also bent over slightly, but his gaze remained on the statue and the Layman Immortal.

The man was making a string of hand seals, and his lips were quivering incessantly as if he were chanting something.

All of a sudden, the crimson light within the statue's eyes flashed, and two pillars of red light were projected directly forward.

As the statue slowly revolved on the spot, the two pillars of red light swept through the crowd.

As the red light swept over Han Li, he could clearly sense a burst of spiritual sense lingering on him for a moment before turning elsewhere.

What was rather strange to him was that the spiritual sense was coming from the purple-robed man rather than the statue.

Right at this moment, Wyrms 9's voice rang out in his mind.

"What is he trying to do? There's no holy lord descending here, it's just him releasing his spiritual sense!"

"It looks like this is only a ceremony held in the name of that so-called holy lord. Gong Shuhong most likely isn't going to be coming here," Han Li replied after a brief moment of contemplation.

As soon as his voice trailed off, the pillars of red light that were combing through the crowd suddenly drew to a halt, lingering on a pair of young men.

The two were ecstatic, and they hurriedly moved toward the center of the underground palace under the instructions of the Layman Immortal, attracting much admiration and envy from those that they passed by along the way.

Han Li took a brief glance at the two men to find that even though they were only at a Foundation Establishment Stage, but their spiritual roots and bone structures were both quite good.

After that, the two pillars of light continued to sift through the crowd, landing on a thin young man and an elegant young woman moments later.

Han Li examined them to find that even though they weren't cultivators, both of them had exceptional cultivation aptitude.

As the pillars of red light continued to move through the crowd, one person after another was selected, and all of them were instructed to move toward the platform that the Layman Immortal was on.

Before long, over 200 people had already gathered there.

Ignoring their cultivation bases, Han Li could see that these people were the cream of the crop among the tens of thousands of people gathered in the underground palace when it came to cultivation aptitude.

With that in mind, he was suddenly struck by a sense of realization. Many past observations were strung together in this instant to form a cohesive theory, and he hurriedly transmitted his voice to Wyrms 9 and 16 to communicate this theory.

"I'm afraid we may be in some trouble, fellow daoists. This is not a place where people gather to see this so-called holy lord. Instead, it's most likely a sacrificial site."

"What?" Wyrms 9 and 16 were very alarmed to hear this.

"Did you find some leads, Wyrms 15 and 16? What led you to this conclusion?" Wyrms 9 and 16 asked as they turned to Han Li with a perplexed expression.

Chapter 113: Trap

"Just like in all of the underground palaces in the other Red Moon Cities, there's a lingering bloody odor in the air here, and the earth has already turned into yin soil. It's clear that this is a place where living beings are regularly slaughtered. Among the people brought to this place, all of them are either cultivators or mortals who possess spiritual roots. They're most likely going to be used as sacrifices here," Han Li explained with a grim expression.

"Now that you mention it, Gong Shuhong does cultivate in the laws of blood. Could it be that he regularly requires a large number of sacrifices to support his cultivation?" Wyrms 15 and 16 speculated with tightly furrowed brows.

"If that's the case, then why don't they begin the sacrifice right away? Why did they put the sacrificial subjects through a selection process first?" Wyrms 9 and 16 asked in a skeptical manner.

"My guess is that those who possess the most exceptional cultivation aptitude are selected so that they can be developed into those high-grade cultivators wearing the crimson robes, and they'll be the ones who directly serve Gong Shuhong.

"In order to prevent these people from revealing the true nature of the pilgrimage, they've most likely had some type of restriction placed on their souls. As for the rest... The true sacrifice will most likely begin after the selection process is complete," Han Li replied.

"Looking at the current situation, we should still have enough time to take that man down and get out of here," Wyrms 9 said as he took a glance at the Layman Immortal.

However, right as his voice trailed off, a loud buzzing sound immediately rang out from the surrounding space.

At the same time, a series of intertwining crimson patterns appeared on the walls of the underground palace, and they quickly began to spread like a system of cobwebs, instantly covering the entirety of the walls.

These crimson patterns flashed momentarily before blooming like flowers, revealing countless eyes that were glowing with faint crimson light. The eyes were constantly squirming as if they were living creatures, presenting an extremely unsettling and harrowing sight to behold.

Everyone was quickly illuminated a crimson color by the light being released by the eyes, and the bloody odor permeating through the air instantly became countless times more pungent.

Horried looks began to appear on the faces of many of the people in the underground space upon seeing this.

Wyrms 9 was just about to say something when another burst of buzzing rang out, and the crimson eyes abruptly brightened considerably, releasing beams of crimson light that were as concentrated and densely packed as rain, encompassing the entire underground space, making it impossible to take evasive measures.

Every single beam of crimson light was giving off bursts of unidentifiable law fluctuations, and Han Li's trio was very alarmed by this development.

They didn't know what this crimson light was, but it clearly wasn't going to be something beneficial to them.

Han Li immediately summoned his True Extreme Membrane, and at the same time, he swept a hand through the air to release a round yellow mirror and an azure jade pendant, which instantly transformed into a pair of haloes, one yellow and one azure, both of which settled around him.

He had obtained these treasures from Tuhar, the Grand Ascension cultivator of the Cold Crystal Race that he had slain, and he was carrying them precisely in case of situations like this.

Wyrms 9 also reacted extremely quickly, making a hand seal as a series of blue ripples appeared around him, forming a series of layers that shielded his body from all directions.

Meanwhile, Wyrms 16 summoned a large azure umbrella, which revolved in the air above him before releasing countless dazzling threads of azure light, which draped down to form a ball of azure light that encompassed his entire body.

"What's going on? The selection process still isn't finished yet..."

A hint of befuddlement appeared in the Layman Immortal's eyes at the sight of the crimson eyes that had appeared around him, but before he had a chance to ponder the situation any further, countless beams of crimson light shot forth through the air.

He seemed to be quite fearful of these beams of crimson light, and he immediately opened his mouth to release a crimson flag, which instantly transformed into a crimson light barrier that enveloped his entire body.

The beams of crimson light were traveling extremely quickly, landing on everyone in the underground space in the blink of an eye.

The light barriers released by the treasures summoned by Han Li's trio posed no obstacle at all as the beams of crimson light passed through with ease before vanishing into their bodies.

Han Li's expression changed drastically upon seeing this, and he immediately inspected his own internal condition with his spiritual sense.

However, the crimson light had vanished without a trace after entering his body, much to his shock and concern.

Right at this moment, a strange vibration began to ring out beside Han Li's ears.

For some reason, his heart was suddenly beginning to thump violently in an uncontrollable manner, and his heart rate was rapidly climbing.

At the same time, his blood circulation also sped up by severalfold, causing his entire body to become scorching hot, and the magic power in his dantian was also becoming unstable due to his violently beating heart.

Alarmed looks appeared on the faces of Wyrms 9 and Wyrms 16, and they were clearly also experiencing the same thing as Han Li.

"What's going on?"

"What is this terrible feeling?"

"I can't take this..."

"Argh!"

A string of blood-curdling howls intermingled with dull thumps rang out from all directions, and Han Li's trio looked around to find that all of the mortals and low-grade cultivators who had been struck by the beams of crimson light were trembling incessantly, while their skin had also turned bright red.

Immediately thereafter, their bodies swelled before exploding into clouds of viscous blood mist.

Within the span of just a few seconds, hundreds of thousands of people in the surrounding area had exploded into blood mist, forming a suffocating cloud that permeated throughout the entire underground space.

As the crimson eyes on the walls blinked, the blood mist in the underground space rapidly converged to form a series of blood clouds. In the absence of all of the people who had had their bodies blown up, the underground space had become completely empty.

As a result, there were no longer any obstacles around to obstruct the view of Han Li's trio, and they discovered that there were four more people in the underground space with them.

They were none other than Wyrms 8 and his group, and they had somehow managed to infiltrate this place as well.

Wyrms 9 and Wyrms 16 were both quite pleased to see this.

Despite their differences, it was always good news to be reunited with allies in perilous situations. With the powers of seven True Immortals combined, surely they would be able to find a way out.

Han Li quickly swept his gaze over the blood clouds in the sky, and his heart immediately sank slightly. Bright azure light radiated from his body as he drew upon all of his magic power and unleashed several secret techniques in a row to try and quell the unrest in his body, but no matter what he did, his condition refused to improve, and his heart rate was only becoming faster and faster.

A burst of indescribable force was accumulating within his body before surging toward his heart, while another type of power was filling his body, causing it to rapidly expand.

A strange crimson color had appeared on his skin, but it was extremely faint.

Upon noticing this crimson sheen on his own skin, Han Li was immediately reminded of what had happened to those mortals and low-grade cultivators before their bodies exploded.

The same crimson color had also appeared on the skin of all of the other six Transient Guild members, but what was quite surprising to them was that there was an agonized look on the face of the purple-robed man on the raised platform, indicating that he also seemed to be in the same situation as them.

However, they naturally had no spare capacity to pay any heed to him.

At this point, the nature of the situation was already obvious.

They had thought that they had successfully snuck into the underground palace without being noticed, but in reality, they had already been detected by Gong Shuhong, who took advantage of their plan to trap them in this underground space. In order to avoid rousing their suspicions, it seemed that he was even prepared to sacrifice this Layman Immortal subordinate of his.

The crimson eyes on the walls were still blinking incessantly, releasing one beam of crimson light after another, and everyone was doing their best to take evasive measures, but they were still constantly being struck by the beams of light.

With each beam of crimson light that struck its target, a burst of strange power of laws would make its way into the target's body, further accelerating their heart rate.

Within the span of just a few seconds, everyone felt as if their hearts were about to leap out of their chests, and it was an extremely agonizing and panic-inducing feeling.

Among the seven of them, Han Li was the only one who was still holding up relatively well. Having already attained a True Extreme Body, his physical constitution was far superior to that of the average immortal, and that applied to his heart as well.

Even though his heart rate was also constantly accelerating, it was still bearable to him for now.

Wyrms 9 had a dark look on his face, and at this point, he was no longer making any attempt to conceal his magic power. He began to chant an incantation, and countless blue runes flew out of his body before intertwining to form a thin protective barrier.

The barrier was quite thin, but it was giving off bursts of powerful laws of water fluctuations.

The beams of crimson light were still able to pass through the blue protective barrier, but they were clearly whittled down significantly during the process.

It looks like the power of laws can only be stopped by the power of laws... Han Li thought to himself upon seeing this.

Han Li and Wyrms 9 and 10 were still in decent condition for now, but the same didn't apply to Wyrms 11-16.

Even though he was also pulling out all the stops, his body was still swelling steadily, and his skin had turned as red as blood, the same shade as the blood that was gushing uncontrollably out of his orifices.

"We have to find a way to get out of here!" Wyrms 9 and 10 yelled as they rose up into the air as a streak of blue light.

Wyrms 11-16 immediately followed along.

Han Li was the least affected by the crimson light out of everyone present, but it naturally didn't benefit him in any way to remain in this place, so he followed along as well.

Wyrms 9 and 10 and the others also quickly rose up into the air upon seeing this.

During his ascent, Wyrms 9 swept an arm forcefully through the air to release a blue flying dagger, which transformed into a giant blue blade that was over 100 feet in length in the blink of an eye. The blade was giving off sounds of howling wind and rumbling thunder as it crashed viciously into the stone ceiling of the underground space.

However, as soon as the blue blade made contact with the ceiling, a vast expanse of crimson light suddenly emerged from the ceiling without any warning, forming a crimson light barrier with countless runes surging incessantly over its surface.

A resounding clang rang out as if the giant blue blade had struck a metal wall, and the crimson light barrier remained completely unscathed, not even wavering in the slightest from the force of the impact.

Wyrms 9's expression changed drastically upon seeing this.

Right at this moment, a black spike that was enveloped in black light shot out of Wyrms 16's body, and there was an urgent look in his eyes as he released a mouthful of blood essence, which vanished into the black spike in a flash.

The black spike immediately began to glow brightly while revolving rapidly, and countless tiny runes appeared on its surface alongside arcs of black lightning amid a string of rumbling thunderclaps.

The space in the wake of the black lightning trembled violently, and there were even some black spatial rifts that had appeared in the air.

Chapter 114: One Life for Another

"Go!"

Wyrms 16 thrust a finger through the air, and a resounding boom rang out from the black spike as it shot forth as a bolt of black lightning before striking the crimson light barrier up above with devastating force.

Almost at the exact same moment, circles of runes appeared on the surface of Wyrms 9's blue blade at his behest, and the light radiating from the blade became blindingly bright. Meanwhile, the fist projections unleashed by Han Li also fell upon the crimson light barrier.

A string of loud rumbling rang out, and the light on the surface of the crimson light barrier flashed wildly as it caved in significantly, but it still showed no signs of breaking.

Right at this moment, the crimson patterns on the surrounding walls suddenly began to release dazzling crimson light, while a strange glugging sound rang out.

The vast blood cloud in the air suddenly began to churn and tumble violently, following which long plumes of blood mist extended out from within it before flying in all directions, then seeped into the crimson patterns on the walls.

In the blink of an eye, the vast blood cloud vanished without a trace, leaving the underground space even emptier and more cavernous than before.

The crimson patterns on the walls abruptly became around twice as thick as they originally were, and those unsettling crimson eyes also bulged as if they had been opened up wide, presenting an even more terrifying sight to behold.

At the same time, the crimson light barrier shielding the ceiling of the underground space also became far thicker and denser, much to the alarm and dismay of Han Li and the others, and the parts of the light barrier that were caving in from the combined attacks from Han Li's trio were also radiating dazzling crimson light.

The black spike and the blue blade were repelled, and Han Li was also forced to stumble back by a burst of immense repulsive force as a stunned look appeared on his face.

Before they had a chance to do anything else, the surrounding crimson eyes began to glow even brighter, and the entire underground space was instantly enshrouded by dazzling crimson light, transforming the entire space into a crimson world.

Han Li's brows furrowed tightly upon seeing this, and he could clearly sense a burst of even more potent power of laws surging incessantly into his body through the crimson light, causing his heartbeat to accelerate even further.

Even with his incredible physical constitution, he was beginning to struggle.

In response to this sudden turn of events, Han Li immediately activated his Big Dipper Origin Arts, and seven specks of starlight appeared on his chest and abdomen, while a layer of starlight appeared over his entire body.

At the same time, all of his muscles, bones, and tendons were significantly bolstered, while a layer of starlight had also surfaced over his heart, and his heart rate finally began to slow a little.

In contrast, Wyrms 9's condition was worsening by the second, and he immediately made a hand seal, upon which a burst of black light flew out of his body, then rapidly expanded to transform into a black-robed elderly man whose entire body was encompassed within a layer of dazzling blue light.

Countless blue runes were dancing within the blue light, giving off potent bursts of power of laws.

Immediately thereafter, Wyrms 9 made another hand seal before sweeping a hand through the air, and all of the blue light radiating from the black-robed elderly man's body instantly surged toward him.

As a result, the protective barrier formed by the power of laws around Wyrms 9 instantly brightened by around twofold, and it was able to ward off the oncoming beams of crimson light again.

Unfortunately for Wyrms 16, he didn't possess a body as powerful as Han Li's, nor did he possess any power of laws with which he could protect his body, and his face had become deathly pale under the relentless assault of the crimson light.

Bursts of power of laws that were constantly becoming more and more potent surged into his body in a frenzy before being converted into a form of strange power that struck viciously at his heart.

His heartbeat continued to accelerate rapidly until a dull thump suddenly rang out within his chest. Blood came gushing uncontrollably out of his mouth along with many organ fragments, and he fell heavily onto the ground with a dull thump, while the black spike also clattered onto the ground, having become completely dull and devoid of luster.

A desperate look appeared on Wyrms 16's face as he reached out in an attempt to grab onto something, but his body suddenly swelled up like a balloon before exploding violently into a cloud of blood mist that gave off incredible spiritual power fluctuations.

Both his body and his nascent soul had exploded in unison under the effects of the power of laws of blood.

The cloud of blood mist that his body had exploded into then immediately split up into several dozen bursts, as if it were being manipulated by someone, before vanishing into the surrounding walls and being absorbed, just like the blood cloud from before.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and the blood mist formed by Wyrms 16's body was absorbed, the power of laws that were surging throughout this entire space became significantly more potent once again.

Han Li could hear the thumping of his heart ring out beside his ears once again, but he didn't panic as he took a deep breath before closing his eyes.

As a Profound Immortal, he was extremely knowledgeable about the human body, and the heart was the basis of the body, so he naturally had a very thorough understanding of the organ.

The sound of his heartbeat wasn't constantly getting louder and faster. Instead, there was some type of rhythm to it.

In the instant that Wyrms 16's body exploded, Han Li had grasped onto something.

Following Wyrms 16's demise, blood began to gush out of Wyrms 9's mouth and nose, and his face was becoming paler and paler.

He had clearly already realized that the increase in the potency of the power of laws surging through this space could be directly attributed to Wyrms 16's death.

At this point, he had already withdrawn all of the power of faith and power of laws in his Earthly Deity Avatar, but still wasn't enough to ward off the power of laws contained within the crimson light.

He could sense that his heartbeat had already accelerated to the limits of his body's physical tolerance.

I can't die here!

Wyrms 9 was roaring furiously in his heart, but he was unable to make even a single sound. The protective barrier around him gradually began to dim, and a despairing look appeared in his eyes.

All of a sudden, a fist punched through the protective barrier around him, seemingly out of nowhere, before striking him on the back.

The fist released a burst of force that penetrated into his body before acting upon his heart.

The force exerted was nothing short of ingenious, containing a certain tempo that immediately disrupted the frequency of his heartbeat. As a result, most of the destructive power that was crashing its way through his body instantly dissipated.

He opened his mouth and involuntarily threw up a mouthful of blood, but his complexion had already improved significantly, and he turned around to discover Han Li standing behind him, in the process of slowly withdrawing his fist.

He couldn't understand why Han Li was able to counteract the effects of the power of laws with just a single punch, but he still gave Han Li a grateful nod.

All of a sudden, the crimson eyes on the walls began to slowly close for some reason, and the crimson light filling the entire underground space also quickly faded.

However, the crimson patterns on the walls still remained, and the crimson light barrier protecting the ceiling was also still in place.

Despite that, both Han Li and Wyrms 9's heart rates had returned to normal, and they each heaved a long sigh of relief in the wake of that grueling ordeal.

In the distance, a figure descended out of the air, and it was none other than Wurm 8. However, his entire body was drenched in blood, and he appeared to be in terrible condition, having clearly suffered greatly throughout that ordeal. However, the fact that he was able to survive to this point at all clearly indicated that the power of laws that he possessed was also quite special.

Aside from the three of them, there were no other survivors in this vast underground space, and there was a nauseating odor of blood and gore permeating through the air.

Han Li and Wyrms 8 and 9 had been too busy fending for themselves to keep tabs on the situation around them, so they failed to notice what had become of Wyrms 8 and his group.

Clearly, Wyrms 8 and the others had also done everything they could to break out of this space, but to no avail, and everyone else aside from Wyrms 8 had perished, which meant that four immortals had just fallen in that brief span of time.

Furthermore, the purple-robed man on the raised platform at the center of the crimson space had also disappeared, leaving only a large crimson flag that was glowing with faint spiritual light standing in his place.

Han Li wasn't pleased at all to see the demise of the purple-robed man. Instead, his brows furrowed slightly as a grim look appeared on his face.

There was a very good chance that Gong Shuhong was the one who had set this trap, and the fact that he was willing to sacrifice one of the Layman Immortals serving under him just to draw Han Li and the others to this place was a clear indication of just how determined he was to kill them.

As these thoughts were running through Han Li's mind, he took some pills to aid in his recovery.

He wasn't naive enough to think that Gong Shuhong would leave them alone after that failed attempt to wipe out their entire group.

After taking a few pills himself, Wyrms 9 had also recovered somewhat, and he hurriedly cupped his fist toward Han Li in a grateful salute. "Thank you for saving my life, Wyrms 15. Words cannot express my gratitude."

After that, he beckoned toward the black-robed elderly man standing beside him, who rapidly shrank down before vanishing into his body as a streak of black light.

Han Li had already noticed the Earthly Deity Avatar that Wyrms 9 had released, but his expression remained unchanged as he replied in an indifferent voice, "There's no need to thank me, Fellow Daoist Wyrms 9. We're all in this together, so it's only right that I help out where I can."

Not only did he recognize Wyrms 8 and 9's avatars, he had even fought against them on a previous occasion. It was none other than the avatar of Patriarch Lu Kun that had accompanied Han Qiu to Dark Veil Island.

It was quite a coincidence that not only was Lu Kun also a low-level member of the Transient Guild, he was here on the same mission as Han Li.

At this point, Wyrms 8 and 9 had also flown over to them, and he landed beside Han Li and Wyrms 8 and 9 as a wry smile appeared on his face. "Looks like we've been one step behind Gong Shuhong this entire time."

"What a demented man he must be to sacrifice so many cultivators and mortals just for the sake of his own cultivation," Wyrms 8 spat through gritted teeth.

"Now's not the time to be discussing such matters. We should focus on finding a way out of here first," Han Li said as he inspected his surroundings.

As soon as his voice trailed off, a burst of sinister cackling suddenly rang out.

"I didn't think that the three of you would be able to survive. The Transient Guild truly has no lack of formidable cultivators among its ranks!"

Immediately thereafter, the raised platform at the center of the underground space collapsed violently amid a burst of loud rumbling to reveal a massive hole.

A crimson cloud emerged from the hole, then dissipated to reveal three figures, one of which was none other than the purple-robed elderly man who had ambushed Han Li's trio back in Heavenly Water City.

The other two were also wearing purple robes with crimson moon symbols embroidered upon them, and one of them was a muscular middle-aged man with a thick beard on his face, while the other was a hideous young woman in a black dress, with a complexion that was as black as a kettle and a flat and virtually featureless face.

Judging from their auras, all three of them were True Immortals, with the middle-aged man giving off the most powerful aura of the three, and he seemed to be the leader of the trio.

The man cast a sinister gaze toward Han Li's trio with a cold smile on his face.

Chapter 115: Battling Chou Wu Again

"That brat was the one who somehow managed to break open my Bloodlight Space back in Heavenly Water City. I thought he had managed to do that purely out of dumb luck, but it seems like he's got some special tricks up his sleeve," the purple-robed elderly man said as he pointed at Han Li while his eyes narrowed slightly.

"Sounds like you've taken an interest in him, Chou Wu. In that case, I'll leave him to you, and we'll take care of the other two," the hideous woman in black said in a coarse and grating voice.

"That suits me just fine," Chou Wu chuckled in response.

While the three purple-robed cultivators were speaking with one another, Han Li's trio was also sizing them up with grim expressions.

These three were all Layman Immortals at the early-True Immortal Stage, so overall, they were inferior in power to Han Li's trio, but aside from Han Li, both Lu Kun and Wyrms 8 and 9 had suffered severe injuries. If a battle were to break out here, it was most likely going to be quite a grueling affair.

"Those three must be Gong Shuhong's other three Layman Immortal subordinates," Wyrms 8 and 9 said to Han Li and Lu Kun through voice transmission.

"This is a very strange place. I'm afraid there may be more nasty surprises to come if we linger here for too long," Han Li replied as he quickly swept his gaze over the crimson patterns on the surrounding walls, which had dimmed slightly at this point.

"We have to end this battle as quickly as possible. Now's not the time to be holding back," Wyrms 8 and 9 said.

As soon as his voice trailed off, the trio of purple-robed cultivators were already charging at them.

All of a sudden, spatial fluctuations erupted in front of Han Li's trio, and hundreds of crimson blades of light appeared before hurtling directly toward them.

Han Li took a half-step backward, then pulled back his fist before unleashing a powerful punch.

A burst of tremendous force instantly surged through the air, accompanied by a string of sounds akin to rain falling on a banana leaf.

All of the oncoming crimson blades of light instantly stalled, then exploded into countless specks of crimson light.

Before the light had even faded, Chou Wu's trio had already split up and were flying toward the opponents they had chosen for themselves.

A grim look appeared on Wyrms 8's face at the sight of the burly middle-aged man that was approaching him, and he had no time to address his injuries as he quickly made a hand seal.

A burst of light erupted all around him, following which a streak of dazzling azure light flew out of his body, then rapidly expanded to form a thin white-robed man beside him.

The white-robed man was quite similar to Wyrms 8 in appearance, but the skin all over his entire body was green, and he was basked in a layer of azure light. It was none other than Wyrms 8's Earthly Deity Avatar.

As soon as the avatar appeared, it immediately positioned itself in front of Wyrms 8, then opened its mouth and inhaled sharply.

Ferocious gusts of wind were instantly swept up in all directions, swirling violently to form a trumpet-shaped white vortex that surged into its mouth, causing its belly to expand rapidly.

It then opened its mouth to release an azure wave of energy that was visible to the naked eye, and the energy wave quickly transformed into an azure wind dragon that was over 100 feet tall.

A cold sneer appeared on the burly man's face upon seeing this, and he didn't even bother to make any preparations before throwing a punch directly forward.

At the same time, a sinister-looking white bone gauntlet had appeared over his fist, and spiritual light flashed over its surface as an enormous fist projection was unleashed, hurtling directly toward the azure wind dragon.

A resounding boom rang out as the azure wind dragon and the giant fist projection exploded in unison, sending countless azure blades of wind erupting in all directions.

A string of loud clangs rang out incessantly as the blades of wind sliced a series of extremely deep gashes into the ground, the walls, and the surrounding stone pillars as if they were made from tofu.

Following that initial clash, a layer of faint crimson light appeared over the burly man's body, and he rushed straight into the blades of wind as he continued to close in on Wyrms 8.

The blades of wind struck the crimson light on his body one after another in rapid succession, but they were unable to inflict any damage.

Wyrms 8 gritted his teeth as he leaped up into the air with his Earthly Deity Avatar to meet his opponent.

Meanwhile, after a fierce clash against Lu Kun, the hideous woman in black drifted backward with her entire body enveloped within a cloud of dense black mist.

However, before she had even descended onto the ground, her brows suddenly furrowed slightly, and a lotus flower formed by black mist emerged in the air beneath her feet amid a flash of black light.

She tread lightly onto the black lotus flower before springing up again and descending elsewhere.

On the spot where she was originally going to land, the blood that had accumulated over the ground suddenly churned and rippled, and a black figure wielding a blue longsword emerged in a flash, revealing itself to be Lu Kun's Earthly Deity Avatar.

Lu Kun's expression darkened slightly at the sight of his failed sneak attack, and he called out to his Earthly Deity Avatar to attack the woman together.

Not far away from them, Chou Wu was watching Han Li with a cold gaze, and he said in a cold voice, "I knew you had some tricks up your sleeve, but I didn't think that you were also a Profound Immortal. The blood puppet that I'm currently refining just so happens to be missing a vessel, so your True Extreme Body will be perfect for the role."

Han Li offered no response to this aside from raising his fists slightly in provocation.

The purple-robed elderly man's eyelids twitched slightly upon seeing this, and a hint of cold killing intent surfaced in his eyes.

All of a sudden, he flipped a hand over, and a dark purple bowl appeared over his palm amid a flash of black light. Red light was flashing and rippling incessantly within the bowl, as if it were filled with fresh blood.

As Chou Wu began to chant an incantation, the red light within the bowl brightened considerably, and it was originally only rippling slightly, but in the blink of an eye, it had begun to churn like boiling water while swirling violently within the bowl.

If one were to look closely, they would be able to see a series of anguished ghostly faces within the red light, and they were all frantically trying to clamber their way out of the bowl as if they were trying to escape.

A burst of dazzling radiance erupted from the bowl at Chou Wu's behest, and a huge volume of blood came gushing out, forming an enormous wave of blood that encompassed a huge area as it swept directly toward Han Li.

A nauseating odor instantly wafted through the air, while ghastly howls reverberated incessantly throughout the underground space. It was as if the entire area had suddenly been plunged into the underworld, and all of the cultivators and mortals who had just perished here had returned with a vengeance to vent their resentment and killing intent to their hearts' content.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he sensed the intense yin aura within the wave of blood.

With a flick of his wrist, the round yellow mirror came flying out, and a burst of yellow light was released from its surface, forming a ring-shaped light barrier all around Han Li.

As soon as the light barrier appeared, the wave of blood immediately came crashing down heavily upon it.

The yellow light barrier shuddered in an unsteady manner, but quickly stabilized itself again.

However, in the next instant, a burst of loud sizzling rang out as large plumes of smoke rose up from the surface of the light barrier, looking as if it were about to be melted away by the wave of blood. At the same time, the yellow mirror that was hanging in mid-air also began to tremble uncontrollably.

All of a sudden, a loud crack rang out as the round mirror was shattered before falling onto the ground, having completely lost its luster.

Without the yellow light barrier standing in its way, the wave of blood surged forward and inundated Han Li in an instant.

From Han Li's perspective, he felt as if he had been plunged into an extremely viscous sea of blood, and his movements were greatly restricted as a result.

His True Extreme Membrane was still glowing faintly even as it was soaked by the blood around him, but he could clearly sense that the membrane was constantly being contaminated by some type of corrosive power.

A series of ghastly figures were swimming incessantly through the sea of blood around him, and regardless of their age or gender, all of them seemed to be out for Han Li's blood as they rushed at him in all directions with their faces twisted in fury and bloodlust.

In response, Han Li thrust his arms through the air, instantly releasing countless fist projections that destroyed the 100 or so figures closest to him. At the same time, a layer of golden scales appeared over his body, and he grew noticeably in height as he prepared to leap out of the sea of blood.

"You're not getting away!" Chou Wu sneered as crimson light began to glow from his hand, and he thrust his palm against the bowl ahead of him.

Countless runes instantly began to sweep out of the bowl before vanishing into the sea of blood around Han Li.

The blood around Han Li instantly began to churn while rapidly revolving in a certain direction, and the temperature of the blood was also rapidly rising, as if it were being boiled over an open flame.

Before long, the temperature of the blood was already comparable to that of molten lava.

Within the scorching vortex of blood, Han Li's body began to sway unsteadily, and the layer of golden scales over his skin was beginning to take on a bright red hue. Furthermore, the sea of blood around him was tearing at him from all directions, preventing him from escaping.

A cold look appeared on his face as he made a hand seal, and a clear cry instantly rang out as the Essence Fire Raven flew out of his body, then transformed into a layer of silver flames to envelop him from all directions.

With this layer of flames around him, all of the scorching blood was kept at bay.

In fact, in the face of the astonishing heat being released by the silver flames, the blood around Han Li was quickly evaporating.

It didn't take long before a vacuum was formed around him, and the sea of blood was unable to restrict his movements any longer.

"I don't have time to waste with you here!" Han Li said in a cold voice as he sprang directly upward, and all of the blood above him instantly parted in the face of the protective barrier formed by the Essence Fire Raven.

After springing out of the churning vortex of blood, Han Li immediately threw a vicious punch directly at Chou Wu.

Chou Wu was greatly alarmed by this abrupt turn of events, and he hurriedly made a hand seal, upon which the bowl in front of him instantly swelled to several times its original size.

At the same time, the runes on the surface of the bowl began to glow brightly, and it released a series of black haloes as it positioned itself directly in the path of Han Li's fist.

A deafening boom rang out as Han Li's fist instantly shattered the black light radiating from the bowl. At the same time, several cracks instantly appeared on the bowl's surface, and it quickly reverted back to its original size.

Chou Wu shuddered violently as he gave a muffled groan, and blood began to trickle down from the corners of his lips.

He withdrew the bowl as he stroked the cracks on its surface with trembling fingers, and his eyes were full of shock as he murmured, "Impossible..."

Before he had a chance to do anything else, a sharp screech rang out, and a silver fire raven came flying rapidly at him like a speeding arrow, leaving a trail of silver flames in its wake.

Chapter 116: Forcing the Enemy Into Retreat

In the instant that the silver fire raven appeared, a hint of fear immediately appeared on Chou Wu's face, but at this point, it was too late to turn back. Thus, he gritted his teeth as a determined look appeared on his face, then abruptly opened his mouth to release three mouthfuls of blood essence onto the bowl in his hand in succession.

As soon as the blood essence came into contact with the bowl, it was completely absorbed without even a single drop left over. The bowl then began to buzz loudly as bright crimson light erupted from its surface alongside circles of runes, and a wyrm that was formed by blood flew out from within.

As soon as the wyrm appeared, it immediately opened its cavernous mouth to release a torrent of blood, which swept toward the silver fire raven as an enormous wave.

The wave of blood was extremely viscous, and it was giving off a nauseating odor.

The silver fire raven wasn't fazed in the slightest by the oncoming wave of blood, and it flapped its wings vigorously to release countless fist-sized silver fireballs that flew directly toward the wave of blood.

All of the silver fireballs exploded into silver flames upon contact with the wave of blood, evaporating the majority of the wave in the blink of an eye as plumes of white smoke rose up into the air.

The wave of blood was instantly punched full of holes, with the largest one being a hole that was 200 to 300 feet in size at the center of the wave.

The silver fire raven flew directly through the hole as a streak of silver light, then hurtled directly toward the blood wyrm and Chou Wu beyond it.

Chou Wu gritted his teeth as a fierce look appeared in his eyes, and he made a rapid series of hand seals, upon which bright crimson light radiated from the blood wyrm's body. At the same time, countless translucent runes appeared within the crimson light as the blood wyrm flew toward the silver fire raven with ferocious might.

Blue light flashed through Han Li's eyes as he inspected the blood wyrm, and his expression suddenly changed slightly as he hurriedly made a hand seal to try and summon the fire raven back to him.

However, right at this moment, all of the runes on the surface of the blood wyrm's body brightened considerably before exploding violently into an enormous cloud of extremely dense blood mist that swallowed up the silver fire raven in the blink of an eye.

Immediately thereafter, a clear cry rang out as a silver fireball shot out of the blood mist, then transformed back into a silver fire raven that flew rapidly back toward Han Li.

However, the fire raven was looking a little dim compared with before, and there were many patches of blood clinging to its body, clearly indicating that it had been affected rather heavily by the blood wyrm's self-detonation.

A layer of silver flames appeared over the fire raven's body at Han Li's behest, and the blood clinging to its body instantly evaporated, following which it flew back up his sleeve and vanished out of sight.

The blood wyrm released by Chou Wu's bowl treasure was imbued with a hint of power of laws, making it very potent in its ability to erode spiritual nature. Thankfully, Han Li had made a quick decision to summon the fire raven back to himself. Otherwise, its spiritual nature would've been significantly diminished.

At this moment, Chou Wu's face was rather pale, clearly indicating that the abilities that he had just unleashed had been quite taxing. A hint of resentment appeared in his eyes at the completely unscathed Han Li, and he suddenly grabbed onto his own robes before tearing them apart.

A long and narrow gash then abruptly appeared on his exposed belly, and the skin and flesh there shrank back on either side to reveal a gaping black hole.

Radiant black light began to glow from the surface of the dark purple bowl, and it flew into the gaping hole in a flash as if it had been summoned.

At the same time, the cloud of blood mist left behind by the detonated blood wyrm and what remained of the wave of blood swept back rapidly before also vanishing into Chou Wu's body through the gaping hole.

As a result, his height increased rapidly, and the pupils in his eyes disappeared, replaced by a pair of crimson rubies.

At this point, his robes had already been torn to shreds, and a layer of translucent crimson scales had appeared over his skin, transforming him into a crimson giant that was 70 to 80 feet tall, with a glittering sheen emanating from his entire body.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this, and instead of retreating, he charged directly toward the crimson giant.

Chou Wu cackled with glee upon seeing this as he raised a palm before swinging it down upon Han Li's head, causing the space in its wake to tremble and quiver.

Han Li made no attempt to take evasive measures as he lunged forward, raising his right fist to directly oppose the giant's enormous palm.

A resounding boom rang out, and Han Li felt as if a mountain were falling upon him, forcing him back down onto the ground, and in the blink of an eye, close to half of his body had been embedded deep into the ground.

However, after withstanding that punch from Han Li, the crimson giant shuddered violently before stumbling back several steps in an unsteady manner, and only after that was it able to steady itself.

Right at this moment, Han Li abruptly sprang up from the ground, reaching the ceiling of the underground palace in a flash, then propelled himself down from the ceiling with both feet, sending himself plummeting toward the crimson giant like a shooting star.

The crimson giant let loose a thunderous roar, and bright crimson light erupted from its body as it threw a vicious punch at Han Li.

At the same time, seven specks of blue light appeared on Han Li's chest and abdomen, and a layer of hazy starlight also appeared over his outstretched fist as it crashed into the crimson giant's fist.

A string of resounding booms rang out incessantly as if a mountain were collapsing, and the crimson light on the surface of the giant's fist quickly faded, following which the fist itself crumbled away into crystalline chunks of different sizes that fell down onto the ground.

In contrast, Han Li's fist resembled an unstoppable blade as it crashed through the crimson giant's arm, then blew right through the left side of its chest, shattering close to half of its entire body into pieces.

What remained of the crimson giant's body shuddered violently, and the light in its ruby eyes dimmed significantly. Immediately thereafter, its entire body completely crumbled away into a pile of crimson crystals.

Inside a crystal where the giant's dantian was located, Han Li spotted a miniature golden figure, and it was none other than Chou Wu's nascent soul.

It seemed that the nascent soul had been temporarily sealed within the crystal due to the secret technique that Chou Wu had just unleashed, rendering it unable to escape.

Right as Han Li reached out to grab the crystal, the nascent soul suddenly self-detonated with a loud thump, exploding into a cloud of blood mist that vanished without a trace into the blood on the ground below.

It had only taken less than 20 seconds for Han Li to put an end to Han Li's life, much to the astonishment of the four immortals who were still locked in a fierce battle not far away.

However, the four of them were displaying completely contrasting reactions, with Wyrms 8 and 9 elated by this development, while the two Layman Immortals were completely horrified.

A decisive look appeared in the eyes of the woman in black, and she immediately extricated herself from her battle against Lu Kun before descending onto the raised platform at the center of the underground palace in a flash.

Almost at the exact same moment, the burly middle-aged man also escaped from Wyrms 8 and his Earthly Deity Avatar, then landed right next to his female companion.

In the next instant, their bodies blurred before transforming into a pair of crimson clouds that vanished into the large hole on the raised platform.

The two of them had fled the scene without any hesitation.

Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun exchanged a glance upon seeing this, then withdrew their respective Earthly Deity Avatars before making their way over to Han Li.

Even though the battle had only been a very brief one, the two of them had been severely injured to begin with, and those injuries had only worsened.

"I feel like a fool now for failing to realize after all this time that you possessed the ability to kill a Layman Immortal with ease, Fellow Daoist," Lu Kun said as he turned to Han Li with a complex look in his eyes.

"If you hadn't slain that man so quickly and forced his two companions into retreat, the two of us would've most likely struggled immensely in a drawn-out battle. I'll be sure to inform Wyrms 3 of what you've done here," Wyrms 8 said.

"Indeed, Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15's feats should be acknowledged and reported. However, at the moment, we should focus on finding a way to get out of here," Lu Kun said as he looked around with a hint of lingering fear in his eyes.

"Earlier, Wyrms 16 used that immortal treasure to try and break through the restriction here, but not only did that not work, it caused that strange crimson light barrier to retaliate viciously, so it looks like brute force is not the way to go. We'll have to think of some other way," Han Li said with a contemplative expression.

"If you ask me, those two have most likely only temporarily retreated. I'm sure Gong Shuhong won't allow them to leave us alone for very long," Wyrms 8 said with a concerned expression.

"Wyrms 15, you were able to break through that crimson space back in Heavenly Water City, and I'm sure that wasn't just down to dumb luck. Can you see if you can find any vulnerable points in this space? In the meantime, I'll try and get into contact with Wyrms 3 to inform him of the situation here," Lu Kun said after a brief moment of contemplation.

"I'll give it a try," Han Li replied with a nod.

With that, Lu Kun closed his eyes, and the goat mask reappeared on his face before blue ripples began to surge over its surface.

Meanwhile, Wyrms 8 began to gather the storage treasures of all of the immortals who had met their demise in the underground palace.

Han Li merely took a glance at him, but refrained from saying anything, and blue light emerged within his eyes as he began to carefully inspect his surroundings.

There was a thick layer of blood caked onto the ground, and the remains of all of the people who had perished here were soaked within the blood. Blood had also splattered all over the surrounding walls and stone pillars, presenting a harrowing sight to behold.

Similarly, the statue in the underground palace was also drenched in blood, and it was looking particularly sinister and disturbing, like an evil deity who reveled in slaughter and bloodshed.

However, even after a thorough inspection, Han Li was unable to find any vulnerable points on the surrounding walls or the statue.

Moments later, Lu Kun also opened his eyes as he shook his head and said in a grim voice, "There's no response from Wyrms 3."

"This underground palace is rather strange. The restriction in here seems to be imbued with a type of laws of blood, and it's nurtured by all of the blood from the sacrifices performed in here, forming a completely independent space. It's not going to be easy to find a way out of here," Han Li said as his brows furrowed slightly.

While they were speaking with one another, Wyrms 8 also made his way over to them. "The storage tools left behind by our fellow daoists of the Transient Guild and those two Layman Immortals are all here. Let's split the contents. There are most likely still going to be more perilous moments to come on this mission, so it's best to be as prepared as possible."

At this moment, he was holding several storage bags in one hand, and two storage bracelets in the other.

After tallying the spoils, the three of them discovered that the six Layman Immortals were quite affluent, regardless of whether it was in terms of pills, materials, or treasures, and Han Li's trio all received bountiful returns.

Given everything that Han Li had displayed earlier, the only immortal treasure in the possession of the six deceased Layman Immortals, the black spike owned by Wyrms 16, naturally fell into his hands.

Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun were both very eager to take the treasure for themselves, but neither of them wanted to see the treasure fall into the other's hands, so in the end, both of them decided to do Han Li a favor and split the treasure to him.

Han Li was naturally aware of this, and after accepting the treasure, he made some concessions in the distribution of the six Layman Immortals' other possessions, a gesture that was much appreciated by the other two.

Chapter 117: Landing in Trouble Again

After quickly splitting the spoils, Han Li's trio split up once again to try and find a way out.

There was simply no way that they could feel safe until they left this strange underground space.

At the moment, Han Li was situated over 1,000 feet away from the statue, carefully inspecting his surroundings with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes.

Meanwhile, Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun had also begun investigating the area after taking a short while to recover from their injuries.

As time passed, the three of them employed several methods to try and find a way out, but all to no avail. Han Li was still able to maintain his composure, but Lu Kun and Wyrms 8 were beginning to let their agitation get the better of them.

Right at this moment, the entire space suddenly shuddered before swaying violently, much to the alarm of Han Li's trio.

Before the three of them had a chance to do anything, the ground beneath their feet suddenly completely shattered with a resounding boom.

A viscous cloud of blood surged up from the shattered ground, then swelled rapidly to inundate the trio like lightning before descending back down, pulling Han Li's trio along with it.

The entire world was spinning in front of Han Li's eyes, but the surrounding cloud of blood was holding them tightly in its clutches.

By the time the world fell still around them again, they found themselves situated in a massive, unfamiliar space.

This was an underground cavern that was countless times larger than the underground palace from before, but the majority of its area was taken up by an enormous underground lake. The water in the lake was of the same color as blood, and it seemed to be very viscous, with bubbles rising up incessantly on its surface before popping one after another.

With each bubble that popped open, a burst of crimson mist would emerge, and the entire underground cavern was completely filled with this faint crimson mist.

At the center of the crimson lake was a flat island that was protruding out of the water. The island was several dozen kilometers in size, resembling a massive plaza.

At this moment, Han Li, Wyrms 8, and Lu Kun were standing on this plaza.

At the center of the plaza stood a huge palace, which was entirely enshrouded within a dense crimson cloud, through which only the indistinct outlines of the palace could be seen.

Aside from Han Li's trio, the entire underground cavern was completely empty, and it was eerily quiet, with only the sound of the popping bubbles on the surface of the lake punctuating the silence.

The two Layman Immortals who had fled earlier didn't seem to be in here, either.

After inspecting his surroundings, Han Li was just about to release his spiritual sense for a closer examination when he suddenly discovered that he was unable to release his spiritual sense out of his body due to a type of peculiar power imbued within the crimson mist in the air.

Judging from their grim expressions, Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun had clearly also noticed this, and the former immediately swept a sleeve through the air to release his Earthly Deity Avatar.

Lu Kun was just about to say something when Han Li suddenly yelled, "Look out down below!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, the ground beneath their feet suddenly split open, and several massive crimson bone claws reached out to grab at their legs.

The three of them immediately flew up into the air to avoid the grabbing bone claws.

The ground down below continued to crumble away as one massive figure after another emerged. These were all crimson skeletons that were several times as tall as the average adult human, and in the blink of an eye, several hundred of them had emerged from the ground.

Every single one of those skeletons was giving off a powerful aura comparable to that of a Body Integration cultivator.

The skeletons let loose a string of low roars, then sprang up into the air, pouncing at Han Li's trio.

At the same time, the crimson lake around the island began to tumble and churn, following which a series of crimson monsters leaped out from within.

These monsters had female human upper bodies with heads of long, crimson hair and a pair of large bat wings on each of their backs, but they possessed serpentine lower bodies.

The auras being released by these winged naga monsters weren't inferior in the slightest compared with the giant skeletons, and as soon as they flew out of the crimson lake, they immediately sped directly toward Han Li's trio as well.

In the blink of an eye, Han Li's trio found themselves surrounded by close to 1,000 skeletons and naga creatures, a development that was quite alarming to say the least.

Wyrms 8 gave a cold harrumph, and the Earthly Deity Avatar beside him began to glow with dazzling azure light at his behest, resembling an azure sun that was hanging in the sky above the crimson lake.

The Earthly Deity Avatar swept its hands through the air, and the azure light around it flew out of its body, then split up into four massive azure wind dragons that flew away in all directions.

A dozen or so of the oncoming skeletons and naga monsters were sent flying by the wind dragons, and the majority of the monsters who were directly struck instantly had their bodies destroyed.

The rest of them appeared to have sustained injuries as well, but the surrounding crimson mist seemed to have a mind of its own as it instantly surged into their bodies, healing their injuries at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye. Within the span of just a few seconds, all of them were fully healed.

Wyrms 8's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

The four wind dragons didn't appear to be very remarkable, but every single one of them had been formed by his power of laws, making each of their attacks far more formidable than even what a Grand Ascension cultivator could withstand. However, these skeletons and naga monsters were displaying extremely impressive physical resistance and self-regenerative abilities.

In contrast, Lu Kun was refraining from using his Earthly Deity Avatar, seemingly trying to conserve his power of faith. Instead, he swept a hand through the air to release eight flying daggers, which swelled rapidly to form eight giant blue blades that began to circle around in the air.

Seven or eight indistinct blade projections appeared around each of the giant blue blades, and with eight of these blades in total, dozens of blade projections were manifested before sweeping rapidly through the air in all directions amid a burst of rumbling that resembled the sound of violently crashing waves.

In the blink of an eye, the entire space within a radius of over 1,000 feet was filled with glacial blue light, and around a dozen skeletons and naga monsters were instantly struck before exploding on the spot.

In contrast with Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun, Han Li's attacks were far more mundane, and he was only throwing punches at the surrounding area.

With each punch that he threw, the surrounding space would shudder violently, and all enemies who attempted to attack him were destroyed with a single punch with no exceptions.

After just a few seconds, hundreds of skeletons and naga monsters had already been slain by the trio.

However, more and more of the creatures were emerging from the ground and the crimson lake with no end in sight, so the number of monsters that Han Li's trio was being attacked by wasn't decreasing at all.

"Fellow Daoists, we don't know where Wyrms 3 is at the moment, and there's a very good chance that Gong Shuhong is in that palace. His location is completely unknown to us, while we're exposed out in the open, so the situation is very detrimental to us," Han Li said to his two companions through voice transmission while inspecting the surrounding area with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes.

"Could it be that you've found a way out?" Lu Kun asked as a hopeful look appeared on his face, and Wyrms Eight directed his gaze toward Han Li as well.

This underground cavern didn't appear to be all that remarkable, but both of them could clearly sense that the entire cavern was enshrouded within a burst of immense power of laws, so getting out of this place definitely wasn't going to be an easy feat.

"I've found several conspicuous points in the cavern, but it's going to take some time for me to exploit those points, and these skeletons and naga monsters are quite annoying to deal with," Han Li replied.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Wyrms 8 and 9 said, "Leave these small fry to me. I have a way to keep them occupied for some time while you and Wyrms 10 and 11 focus on finding a way out."

"Alright, then I'll be counting on you."

Han Li threw several punches in rapid succession as he spoke, and seven or eight fist projections erupted forth before exploding violently amid a string of earth-shattering booms.

A burst of terrifying power swept through the area, tearing a hole in the encirclement formed by the surrounding skeletons and naga monsters.

At the same time, bright azure light erupted from Han Li's entire body as he flew through the hole in the encirclement, then sped toward a certain spot on the ceiling of the underground cavern.

The surrounding skeletons and naga monsters faltered momentarily, following which all of them roared in unison, and the majority of them abandoned Wyrms 8 and 9 to go after Han Li.

Wyrms 8 and 9 harrumphed coldly upon seeing this, and he flicked his fingers through the air in rapid succession. Azure radiance that was even more dazzling than before erupted from his Earthly Deity Avatar, and the azure light spread through the air in circles, instantly encompassing the majority of the space within the underground cavern.

All of a sudden, a burst of peculiar buzzing rang out in the air, and all of the world's origin qi in the area encompassed within the azure light began to tremble. At the same time, a series of thin azure threads appeared out of thin air to ensnare the skeletons and naga monsters, thereby significantly hampering their speed.

Meanwhile, Han Li continued onward without pause, reaching his destination in the blink of an eye before throwing a powerful punch.

Right at this moment, two humanoid figures emerged from the ceiling of the underground cavern, and they were none other than the burly man and the woman in black who had fled earlier.

As soon as he appeared, the burly man immediately threw a punch at Han Li.

The menacing bone gauntlet on his fist suddenly began to glow brightly, and a massive fist projection that resembled a malicious ghost shot forth through the air.

At the same time, black light flashed within the hand of the woman in black, and a thick black mace appeared in her grasp. As soon as the mace was swung through the air, countless black mace projections were released, forming a black mountain that came crashing down upon Han Li.

An earth-shattering boom rang out, and the fearsome fist projection exploded violently, as did the mountain of black mace projections.

The burly man and the woman in black were astonished to see this, and their bodies were jolted violently before being sent flying back through the air like a pair of cannonballs and crashing heavily into the ceiling of the cavern, causing the entire cavern to tremble and quiver.

Having witnessed Han Li's battle against Chou Wu, they were already aware that Han Li possessed incredible physical strength, but only after a direct clash did they come to realize that he was far stronger than they had anticipated.

Han Li also shuddered slightly, and he was forced to take two backward steps before managing to steady himself.

"Let me lend you a hand, Wyrn 15!"

A burst of blue light shot forth from behind Han Li, and from within the burst of light emerged Lu Kun and his Earthly Deity Avatar.

At the same time, Lu Kun opened his mouth to release a burst of blue light, which vanished into the body of his Earthly Deity Avatar, which instantly began to glow brightly with blue radiance as it also opened its mouth to release two balls of watery blue light.

Encompassed within the balls of light were countless shimmering blue runes, which were giving off powerful water law fluctuations.

The two balls of blue light flashed momentarily before abruptly sprouting a head and four limbs each to form a pair of watery blue figures, which sped through the air at an incredible speed toward the burly man and the woman in black.

This seemed like quite a complex sequence, but in reality, everything had taken place in the blink of an eye.

The burly man and the woman in black had only just steadied themselves when they were confronted by the pair of watery blue figures, and the burly man's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this as he flung his gauntlet through the air. Immediately thereafter, he opened his mouth to release a ball of blood essence, which transformed into a cloud of blood mist that seeped into the gauntlet in the blink of an eye.

The gauntlet instantly took on a crimson hue, and it blurred momentarily before transforming into a sinister crimson ghostly head the size of a pavilion.

The ghostly head opened its eyes, and bright crimson light was radiating from its pupils. It then opened its cavernous mouth, and a wave of crimson flames erupted forth from within before sweeping toward the oncoming blue figure.

Chapter 118: Bait

At the same time, the woman in black hurriedly made a hand seal with one hand in response to the blue figure that was hurtling toward her.

The black mace in her hand began to glow with black radiance, and a series of winding crimson patterns appeared on its surface, following which a burst of crimson flames swept forth from the mace.

As the mace was swung through the air toward the oncoming blue figure, a string of explosions rang out incessantly in the air, immediately following which the mountain of giant mace projections appeared

once again, except this time, every single mace projection was enshrouded within a cloak of crimson flames.

The space in the wake of the mountain of mace projections was visibly warping and rippling, as if it were boiling from the intense heat of the flames.

The two blue figures crashed into the crimson flames and the mace projections at virtually the exact same moment, but they were able to pass through those obstacles amid a flash of blue light, and they were completely unaffected.

However, upon closer inspection, one would discover that both of the watery blue figures had become slightly diminished in stature, but at the same time, their speed abruptly increased drastically as they reached the burly man and the woman in black in the blink of an eye.

The burly man and the woman in black were extremely alarmed by this unexpected development, but before they had a chance to do anything, the pair of watery figures suddenly began to glow with scintillating radiance.

Immediately thereafter, both of them exploded silently, transforming into a vast expanse of glacial energy that swept toward the burly man and the woman in black from all directions.

A string of loud crackling rang out as a layer of crystalline blue ice appeared on their bodies, and the ice was rapidly spreading. In what seemed like no more than the blink of an eye, the two of them were encapsulated within two massive blocks of blue ice, both of which were several dozen feet tall.

This was clearly no ordinary ice, as evidenced by the fact that the two of them were completely immobilized within it, and their expressions of shock and horror had been frozen onto their faces. However, in the next instant, crimson light flashed from both of their bodies, and the series of cracks began to appear over the surface of the two blocks of ice.

Meanwhile, Lu Kun's complexion had paled slightly, while the blue light radiating from the body of his Earthly Deity Avatar had dimmed significantly, and it was clear that this had been quite a taxing attack for him to unleash.

Right as the burly man and the woman in black were about to break out of the blocks of ice, Han Li suddenly appeared behind them in a wraith-like manner. A layer of golden scales emerged on both of his fists, and they were thrust through the air like a pair of mighty wyrms, crashing into the bodies of his two opponents with devastating force.

The two blocks of ice exploded violently, as did the bodies of the burly man and the woman in black within them.

Their nascent souls flew out of the shattered blocks of ice, and each of them was encompassed within a faint layer of crimson light. In the blink of an eye, both of them appeared in front of the gates of the palace on the island down below, as if by instantaneous teleportation, and their movements were completely unaffected by all of the azure threads in the surrounding area.

Han Li wanted to intercept the pair of nascent souls, but it was already too late.

Right as the two nascent souls were about to fly into the palace, the crimson cloud that the palace was enveloped in suddenly began to surge and churn violently. Immediately thereafter, a pair of massive hands formed by crimson mist extended out from within. The pair of hands spread their fingers open, and crimson light flashed over their palms, upon which the two nascent souls were instantly immobilized and drawn into their grasp.

"Please spare us, merciful holy lord!" the pair of nascent souls desperately implored as horrified looks appeared on their faces.

A cold harrumph suddenly rang out from within the palace at the center of the island, and the voice was extremely unpleasant on the ears, much like the sound of metal grating on metal.

The expressions on the faces of Han Li's trio changed slightly upon hearing this, and a hint of alarm appeared in the eyes of Wyrms 8, who was still situated on the island. He immediately withdrew his hand seal, then rose up into the sky with his Earthly Deity Avatar to join Han Li and Lu Kun.

As a result, all of the azure threads in the air faded away. However, instead of swarming Han Li's trio, all of the crimson skeletons and naga monsters melted away into streaks of viscous crimson light, which then flew into the crimson cloud from all directions before vanishing out of sight.

Immediately thereafter, a tall and imposing figure slowly emerged from within the palace. The figure's entire body was enshrouded in a layer of crimson light, so only the faint outlines of their facial features were visible.

Behind the figure were two huge balls of crimson flames that were crackling incessantly.

What was rather strange about these two balls of fire was that the outermost layer of both of them consisted of crimson flame, but one of them contained a purple center, while the center of the other one was white.

A pair of faces could be seen within the purple and white flames, and those faces belonged to none other than Chou Wu and the man in the purple robe from before.

"Please spare us, almighty holy lord! Our physical bodies may have been destroyed, but we can just find new bodies, and we'll be able to continue to serve you!"

The nascent souls of the burly man and the woman in black began to desperately plead for their lives once again.

"Thank you for your hard work over all these years. I'll take care of things from here."

Gong Shuhong remained completely unmoved by their desperate pleas, and he merely raised a hand into the air, upon which the pair of giant crimson hands closed their fingers. Two blood-curdling howls instantly rang out, following which two peculiar balls of crimson fire flew out of the pair of giant hands.

The outermost layers of the fireballs were both crimson in color, yet they contained an azure core and a black core, respectively.

The twisted features of the burly man could be seen within the azure flame, while the face of the woman in black emerged within the black flame, presenting a peculiar and unsettling sight to behold.

The two balls of crimson flames quickly descended in front of Gong Shuhong, and the purple, white, azure, and black flames within them were slowly revolving on the spot while suspended in mid-air.

Han Li's trio was looking on at the harrowing scene unfolding before their eyes, and they couldn't help but exchange an astonished glance with one another.

"I'm very pleased with those four sacrifices from before. Now that I've taken your nascent souls as well, my Origin Restoration Blood Flames will be able to advance even further. Once that happens, I'll no longer be bound to this island," Gong Shuhong mused as he turned his attention to Han Li's trio.

As soon as his voice trailed off, he immediately made a hand seal, and the four flames of different colors revolving through the air around him instantly vanished into the layer of crimson light over his body at his behest. Immediately thereafter, his aura began to elevate incessantly.

"It seems like he's very close to reaching the late-True Immortal Stage. This is going to be a difficult fight," Han Li said in a grim voice as a layer of translucent light appeared over his body.

"At this point, our backs are against the wall, so we have no choice but to fight."

Lu Kun flipped a hand over as he spoke, and a purple jade vial appeared in his hand. He tipped a thumb-sized purple pill out of the vial, then swallowed it without any hesitation.

At the same time, his Earthly Deity Avatar raised a hand, and a vast expanse of watery light surged forth to form a series of protective light barriers that enveloped his entire body.

At the same time, Wyrms 8 was also busy at work, releasing several glowing treasures in succession to protect himself.

"It's your turn now!"

The surging crimson light around Gong Shuhong gradually subsided, and he raised his head to the heavens before exhaling deeply, then slowly raised his arms, and two piercing balls of crimson light surfaced over the palms of his hands.

However, right as he was about to spring into action, something unexpected happened.

A burst of spatial fluctuations erupted behind him, and a hand that was enveloped in flames appeared out of thin air before plunging into his body from behind, piercing through his chest and emerging out the front.

Han Li's trio was elated to see this.

They could tell from the aura emanating from the hand that it belonged to none other than Wyrms 3, who had been missing for quite some time.

The crimson light on the surface of Gong Shuhong's body shuddered before exploding and flying away in different directions as seven or eight streaks of crimson light.

These streaks of crimson light then converged over 1,000 feet away to form Gong Shuhong's body again, except the crimson light on the surface of his body had grown a little dimmer.

A flash of fire erupted behind the fiery hand arm that had just emerged out of thin air, and Wyrms 3 appeared with his entire body enshrouded in orange flames.

As soon as he emerged, he immediately hurtled toward Gong Shuhong as a streak of dazzling fire.

The flames around Wyrms 3's body expanded drastically mid-flight, transforming into a thick and vibrant fiery wyrm that opened its cavernous mouth, threatening to devour Gongshu Hong whole.

A burst of violent law fluctuations erupted out of the fiery wyrm's body, evaporating all of the crimson mist in the surrounding area.

Gong Shuhong harrumphed coldly upon seeing this, and he brought his palms together before releasing a crimson fiery python, which sprang out of the crimson light enveloping his body before pouncing toward the fiery wyrm.

A resounding boom rang out as the two fiery creatures clashed before exploding violently into balls of dazzling flames.

Wyrms 3 took advantage of this opportunity to rise up above Gong Shuhong, and a huge crimson sword had appeared in his hand. There was a dragon engraved onto the surface of the sword, and it was giving off immense spiritual pressure, indicating that it was a Profound Heavenly Treasure.

With a swing of his arm, the giant crimson sword came crashing down with tremendous force.

Around a dozen streaks of fiery swordlight surged through the air before converging to one spot, forming a giant sword projection that was over 1,000 feet in length before descending toward Gong Shuhong.

Crimson light flashed from Gong Shuhong's hands, conjuring up a pair of crimson claws that were swept through the air.

10 crimson crescent-shaped claw projections were released, crashing into the giant sword projection amid an earth-shattering boom.

The sword projection and the claw projections exploded in unison, heralding the commencement of the fierce battle between Wyrms 3 and Gong Shuhong.

Lights of all types of different colors were clashing and weaving intertwining incessantly, while a string of loud booms rang out in rapid succession, causing the nearby space and the entire underground cavern to tremble and quake violently.

"I feel like Wyrms 3 was planning from the very beginning to have us charge ahead and act as bait to lure out Gong Shuhong," Lu Kun remarked with a wry smile.

"That's how things are in the Transient Guild. If you want to obtain what others cannot, then you have to be prepared to pay the ultimate price at any time," Wyrms 8 said, and there was also a hint of dejection in his voice.

"There's no point in talking about things like this right, fellow daoists. We have to help Wyrms 3 strike down Gong Shuhong if we want to survive this ordeal," Han Li said.

Lu Kun and Wyrms 8 nodded in agreement.

Having arrived at a consensus, the trio and the pair of Earthly Deity Avatars immediately entered the fray, charging toward Wyrms 3 and Gong Shuhong.

"Mere ants like yourselves should know your place!"

Gong Shuhong didn't even spare them a glance. Instead, he merely swept a hand casually in their direction.

A gust of fierce wind that was tinged with a bloody odor immediately swept toward Han Li's trio, and the crimson cloud up above abruptly began to release a vast expanse of crimson mist, which instantly encompassed the entire area overhead, inundating the trio and the pair of Earthly Deity Avatars.

The intense bloody odor was making Han Li's head spin, but a burst of cool and refreshing energy then immediately flashed through his brain, allowing him to shrug off the debilitating effects of the blood mist.

Blue light flashed within his eyes, and he was just about to retreat out of the cloud of blood mist when he heard an agonized howl ring out from nearby.

He hurriedly turned in that direction to discover that Lu Kun's Earthly Deity Avatar was in the process of crashing down toward the ground, and it was being rapidly pursued by a completely nude humanoid crimson creature.

The creature's bodily structure was no different to that of the average person, but its face was a complete blur, with no facial features visible aside from a pair of eyes that were giving off bright red light.

Chapter 119: Red Moon

Han Li immediately flew out of the cloud of blood mist upon seeing this, then rapidly descended toward the ground. Right as the tip of his foot was about to make contact with the ground, a cold gleam suddenly flashed through his eyes, and he raised an arm before throwing a punch toward a certain spot in the cloud of blood mist up above.

A crimson figure shot out of the blood mist in a flash, and it curled its fingers into a set of claws as it grabbed at the top of Han Li's head. Five powerful claw projections were unleashed from its fingertips, and the claw projections clashed directly with Han Li's fist projection.

A resounding boom rang out, and the projections from both sides disintegrated upon contact. Immediately thereafter, the crimson humanoid creature's arm exploded violently, and it was blown back by a burst of tremendous force, concealing it within the blood mist again.

Meanwhile, Han Li's body swayed slightly, and right as he steadied himself, a string of piercing howls suddenly rang out within the nearby cloud of blood mist.

Countless azure blades of wind erupted in all directions from the point where the sound was coming from, tearing a large section of the cloud of blood mist to shreds to open up a clear area, revealing Wyrms 8 locked in a fierce battle against another one of those crimson creatures. At this point, his Earthly Deity Avatar was already riddled with wounds, and it seemed that he was struggling immensely against his opponent.

Lu Kun's Earthly Deity Avatar had plummeted to the ground earlier, but it had since risen up to join forces with Lu Kun, and the pair were battling another crimson creature.

Right at this moment, the blood mist in the air churned slightly, and the crimson creature that had been sent flying by Han Li flew out once again, having already completely regenerated a new arm.

As soon as it emerged, it immediately sped toward Han Li as a crimson shadow once again.

Instead of retreating in the face of this oncoming assailant, Han Li charged forward to meet it once again, throwing several punches in succession to send it flying back through the air again while also leaving its body in tatters.

However, a series of crimson threads quickly shot out of the wounds on the creature's body, and those crimson threads tugged on one another to seal its wounds shut, following which it made another full recovery thanks to the surrounding blood mist.

No more than a few seconds had passed, and the crimson creature had made a full recovery once again before charging toward Han Li a third time.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

This crimson creature was rather similar to the water giant that Lu Kun had summoned in the past. In particular, this was the perfect environment for it to thrive in, so it was virtually unkillable by ordinary brute force attacks.

If things were to continue like this, even if he could hold his own for now, Lu Kun and Wyrms 8 most likely weren't going to last very long at all, particularly considering they were already carrying severe injuries.

Meanwhile, the roars of a tiger were ringing out incessantly up above.

As it turned, there were six giant tigers formed by blood mist prowling around Gong Shuhong, and they were locked in a fierce battle against Wyrms 3.

Perhaps it was because he was having to simultaneously control the three humanoid crimson creatures, but at this moment, the crimson light around Gong Shuhong's body appeared to be slightly dim. In the face of the attacks from Wyrms 3's giant crimson sword, the tigers were firmly on the back foot, and at this rate, it seemed that it would only be a matter of time before Gong Shuhong was defeated.

"You're no match for me without your avatar! Die!"

A cold sneer appeared on Wyrms 3's face, and his aura suddenly swelled by severalfold, becoming rather violent and unstable.

At the same time, his entire body began to rapidly swell in size amid a burst of crimson light, and a series of crimson scales emerged all over his skin. A pair of thick dragon horns also sprouted out of his

forehead, and his teeth had been replaced by a mouthful of sharp fangs. In the blink of an eye, he had taken on a half-human, half-wyrm form, and in particular, his arms had become incredibly thick and strong.

At the same time, crimson runes surged out of his huge sword in frenzy, and they were swirling around incessantly, causing all of the world's origin qi in the entire underground cavern to fluctuate in a wild and unstable manner. Countless specks of light appeared out of thin air, then gushed into the sword like the tide, following which the sword was swung viciously in Gong Shuhong's direction.

A resounding boom rang out, and a crescent-shaped sword projection that was close to 1,000 feet in length swept through the air. The surface of the sword projection was radiating bright red light, and from this red light was emanating a hint of extremely violent power of fire laws. As it passed through the air, all it left in its wake was a thin fiery red line, which caused the surrounding space to shimmer and warp.

Gong Shuhong hurriedly shot back in retreat upon seeing this, and at the same time, he raised both hands up into the air in unison to release a pair of crimson claws. The claws instantly swelled to several hundred feet in size, radiating dazzling light as they crossed over one another and positioned themselves in front of him.

At the same time, the six blood mist tigers before him also pounced forward, releasing a viscous pillar of crimson light out of each of their mouths to oppose the oncoming fiery red line.

The red thread sliced through the pair of claws with ease, then clashed with the pillars of crimson light.

A string of dull thumps rang out in rapid succession, and the pillars of light all exploded into huge clouds of blood mist, while the six blood mist tigers were also eradicated.

In the next instant, the fiery red thread abruptly blurred before appearing directly in front of Gong Shuhong, as if by instantaneous teleportation.

At the same time, a layer of translucent crimson light appeared over Gong Shuhong's body before transforming into a suit of glittering and translucent armor.

However, the suit of armor was no match for the fiery thread, which tore through the armor with ease before slicing into Gong Shuhong's body.

Dazzling crimson flames erupted violently, releasing vast law fluctuations that instantly inundated Gong Shuhong. At the same time, the entire space in a radius of several thousand feet around him began to warp violently, as if it were about to be incinerated.

After unleashing that attack, Wyrms 3's aura also diminished by as much as 50% to 60%.

All of a sudden, a blurry crimson shadow shot out of the scorching flames, then appeared several thousand feet away.

The crimson light then faded to reveal a thin and tall middle-aged man who appeared to be around 40 years of age. He had a head of lifeless straw-like hair, a set of gaunt and sunken facial features, and he was so emaciated that he was virtually nothing more than a sack of skin and bones, but his eyes were glowing with a crimson gleam.

His aura was in a state of disarray, and his left arm had been severed at the shoulder, but strangely enough, not a single drop of blood was flowing out of the wound.

"I see you used a substitution technique," Wyrms 3 chuckled coldly upon seeing this, and a burst of fearsome law fluctuations began to emanate from his giant crimson sword once again before he slashed it in Gong Shuhong's direction.

Yet another vast sword projection was released, and as soon as the law fluctuations arose, the sword projection transformed into a thin fiery red thread once again, hurtling toward Gong Shuhong at an incredible speed.

However, this time, Gong Shuhong didn't try to take evasive measures, nor did he try to defend himself against the attack. Instead, a peculiar grin appeared on his face.

Right at this moment, a resounding boom rang out from the lake down below, and an incredibly thick pillar of crimson light erupted out of the lake, instantly appearing between Gong Shuhong and the fiery thread.

The fiery thread struck the pillar of crimson light amid a burst of violent rumbling, and the pillar of light trembled as if it were about to instantly crumble.

However, bursts of crimson light then erupted out of the crimson lake down below before injecting themselves into the pillar of light in a frenzy, allowing it to remain stable and firm in the face of the fiery thread.

The fiery thread quickly began to dim, and a few seconds later, it vanished into nothingness amid a dull thump.

Wyrm 3's pupils contracted slightly in incredulity upon seeing this.

"It's about time..." Gong Shuhong chuckled to himself, then raised his right arm as he began to chant a complex incantation.

Another thick pillar of blood rose up from the crimson lake down below in a revolving corkscrew fashion, and it transformed into a viscous churning cloud of blood before injecting itself into Gong Shuhong's body.

As a result, his aura began to rapidly recover, and a series of red threads emerged from the wound on his left shoulder before intertwining with one another, forming a brand new arm in the blink of an eye.

Immediately thereafter, an even more astonishing scene ensued as the crimson lake down below began to churn and tumble violently, releasing one thick pillar of crimson light after another.

There were close to 100 pillars of light in total, and they were connected by more beams of crimson light to form an enormous array.

The entire underground cavern was instantly basked in dazzling crimson radiance, and the smell of blood in the air became 10 times more pronounced, while a burst of peculiar law fluctuations swept through the area.

Han Li was in the process of battling the humanoid crimson creature when his heart began to thump violently once again. All of the blood in his body began to churn before flooding back into his heart, instantly slowing his movements.

However, he only swayed slightly for a moment before steadying himself, but a hint of alarm flashed through his eyes.

Meanwhile, Lu Kun and Wyrms 8 were also affected by this burst of blood law fluctuations, which had caught them completely off guard. Thankfully, both of them were able to react very quickly, and with the assistance of their Earthly Deity Avatars, no opportunity arose for their opponents to exploit.

However, at this point, the light radiating from their bodies had become quite dim, and it was clear that the power of faith that they had accumulated up to this point was quickly running out. At the same time, both of them were quite far away from their respective islands, so there was no way for them to replenish their powers of faith.

In the air above, Wyrms 3 was just about to pounce at his opponent when an unnatural flush abruptly appeared on his face, and it was clear that the power of laws of blood had had a significant effect on him as well.

However, all it took was a quick hand seal and a deep breath for his complexion to return to normal, but even so, he was also quite alarmed by this turn of events.

Right as all of this was unfolding in the underground cavern, the entirety of the Kun province's Red Moon City began to rumble violently, as if an earthquake were taking place.

All of the rivers running throughout the city had also turned bright red, as if there were blood flowing through them.

The city's residents and those who were attending the pilgrimage were all panicked and bewildered by this disturbing sight, and none of them had any idea what was happening.

Before they had a chance to do anything, bursts of loud rumbling began to ring out incessantly.

All of a sudden, close to 100 pillars of crimson light rose up around Red Moon City, forming an enormous crimson light barrier that encompassed the entire city, enveloping it in a bloody and oppressive aura.

"What's going on?"

Not only were the ordinary civilians in the city at a complete loss, even the mid and high-grade blue-robed cultivators were completely bewildered and unsure of what to do.

Countless eye-shaped diagrams of different sizes appeared on the crimson light barrier in a flash, and all of them began to blink.

Countless beams of crimson light then shot out of the eyes before raining down upon the city.

Every single person that came into contact with the beams of crimson light instantly turned bright red, and their bodies swelled rapidly in size before exploding before they even had a chance to cry out.

In what seemed like no more than the blink of an eye, the lively and bustling city was already completely devoid of life. Blood began to flow over the ground in the city, only to quickly vanish into the ground as if it had been sucked away.

Meanwhile, the exact same thing was happening in all of the Red Moon Cities in all of the provinces on the entire island. Every single one of those cities had been enshrouded under an enormous crimson light barrier, which instantly robbed all of the living beings in the city of their life force, transforming them into fresh blood that seeped into the ground.

If one were to look down at Red Moon Island from high up in the sky, they would discover that all of the main rivers on the entire island had turned as red as blood.

The bodies of water formed a complex network, but ultimately, all of them were flowing toward the center, converging to the Kun province's Red Moon City.

At this moment, Red Moon Island resembled a blood moon hanging over the dark sea.

Chapter 120: Battling the Island Master

Inside the underground cavern.

Around a dozen dark caves had opened up on the surrounding rugged mountain faces, and blood was gushing out of the caves incessantly like a series of waterfalls. All of the blood was converging into the crimson lake down below, causing the blood inside to churn and froth incessantly.

In the air above, the giant array formed by the pillars of crimson light was buzzing loudly, and countless balls of crimson fire were springing up all over the array. Hints of power of laws were emanating from the balls of scorching flames, causing the nearby world's origin qi to boil and surge.

At the same time, the power of laws filling this entire space instantly became several times more pronounced.

An unnatural flush immediately appeared on the faces of both Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun, and both of them threw up a mouth of blood in unison. Immediately thereafter, they shuddered before falling back, and their auras were also rapidly diminishing.

Almost at the exact same moment, two bursts of crimson light shot forth in pursuit of the two of them in a flash, and they were none other than the two crimson humanoid creatures from before.

Wyrms 8 was greatly alarmed by this turn of events, and he opened his mouth to release a gust of fierce azure wind, which transformed into a crescent-shaped blade of wind that flashed through the air, leaving behind a thick white mark that was releasing powerful spatial fluctuations.

The crimson creature was unable to evade the attack, and it was split into two down the middle by the blade of wind.

However, that didn't slow it down in the slightest, and the two halves of its body transformed into two streaks of crimson light that reached Wyrms 8 in a flash before passing through his body. The streaks of light that came together to reform the body of the crimson creature, and held in one of its hands was none other than Wyrms 8's nascent soul.

The crimson creature cackled in a sinister manner as it opened its mouth before devouring the nascent soul whole.

At the same time, Lu Kun was still plummeting out of the sky, and for some reason, the magic power within his body had become stagnant and unwieldy, causing his heart to immediately sink.

The crimson creature was coming closer and closer, and he was completely powerless to evade it. All of a sudden, he gritted his teeth and made a decision. The head of his nearby Earthly Deity Avatar abruptly separated from its body, immediately following which its body exploded violently amid a flash of dazzling blue light.

Bursts of watery blue mist revolved through the air like a series of vortexes, releasing tremendous suction force that slowed down the crimson creature significantly.

Meanwhile, the head of the Earthly Deity Avatar flew toward Lu Kun as a streak of blue light, and it crashed into his body to accelerate his fall, sending him plummeting into the crimson lake down below, vanishing without a trace.

While Wyrms 8 and Lu Kun were both struggling against the effects of power of laws in the area, another fierce battle was taking place not far away, and the two combatants involved were none other than Han Li and the third crimson creature.

Han Li's face was slightly flushed, but his movements didn't seem to have been affected at all, and a barely detectable hint of surprise flashed through Gong Shuhong's eyes upon seeing this.

Right at this moment, a sharp screech rang out, following which a streak of swordlight that resembled a translucent fiery red thread swept through the air, giving off terrifying law fluctuations that caused the nearby space to tremble and buzz.

A cold sneer appeared on Gong Shuhong's face as he swept a sleeve through the air, and bursts of crimson light erupted out of the surrounding pillars of light. At the same time, balls of crimson flames rose up from the lake of blood down below, and the crimson light fused with the crimson flames to instantly form around a dozen layers of thick light barriers to protect him from the oncoming attack.

The fiery red swordlight struck the first crimson light barrier, tearing through it with ease.

One light barrier was torn apart after another, but the fiery swordlight was also constantly becoming dimmer and diminishing in size.

Finally, after slicing through the ninth light barrier, it fizzled out into nothingness after flashing a few times.

In the distance, Wyrms 3 raised his giant sword above his head once again, and a burst of scorching law of fire aura swept forth from his body to keep out the surrounding crimson light.

However, before he had a chance to swing his sword, an unexpected turn of events suddenly arose.

All of the surrounding pillars of crimson light suddenly flashed in unison, then formed a massive crimson cage in the blink of an eye, trapping Wyrms 3 inside.

Wyrms 3 remained calm and composed as the flames around him reared up, and the massive sword in his grasp transformed into a blooming fiery lotus flower, releasing several sword projections in all directions. Each sword projection was around a foot in length, and all of them struck the surrounding crimson cage.

The cage flashed erratically as one crimson pillar was severed after another, only to be instantly mended by the viscous blood gushing out of the pillars.

A hint of derision flashed through Gong Shuhong's eyes, and he began to chant an incantation while making a string of hand seals.

The lake of blood down below surged and churned, following which more giant crimson pillars rose from the depths. The surfaces of the pillars were burning with scorching crimson flames, and the flames wrapped around the enormous crimson cage like a mass of tentacles.

The water level in the lake was rapidly falling, and even though there was more blood constantly pouring in from all directions, it still wasn't long before the lake had virtually run completely dry.

Enshrouded within a thick layer of crimson flames, the giant cage began to slowly revolve as if it had transformed into a cauldron.

Inside the fiery cauldron, Wyrms 3 sat down with his legs crossed, and his face had become slightly flushed once again, while his blood was boiling within his veins.

The surrounding crimson flames were releasing an inexplicable type of heat that enveloped his entire body, seeping into his flesh and blood as if it were trying to refine him like a pill.

All of a sudden, he let loose a low cry as he made a rapid string of hand seals, and a series of fireballs swept forth from his body, revolving around him to form a fiery space that was several dozen feet in size.

Wyrms 3's flushed complexion instantly improved slightly, but it seemed that this still wasn't enough to completely ward off the effects of the laws of blood.

"I have all the time in the world! Let's see how long you can last!" Gong Shuhong chuckled coldly outside the fiery cauldron while continuing to make a string of hand seals, but his attention had turned to Han Li.

Somehow, Han Li was able to remain largely unaffected by the power of blood laws permeating throughout the entire area, and he was able to hold his own against the crimson creature.

Gong Shuhong's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and the other two crimson creatures instantly sped toward Han Li as a pair of crimson shadows at his behest. At the same time, the crimson creature that was battling Han Li sprang back in retreat.

Han Li also flew back in retreat upon seeing this, and he took a quick glance at Gong Shuhong, then turned to face forward again, not letting his guard down for even a moment.

To his surprise, he wasn't attacked by the other two crimson creatures. Instead, they crashed into the retreating crimson creature, following which a stunning scene unfolded.

The bodies of the three crimson creatures dissolved into blood, then fused together to form a crimson male figure that was identical in appearance to Gong Shuhong with the exception of its skin coloration.

Dazzling crimson light erupted from its body, then proliferated outward alongside an immense aura.

So this is Gong Shuhong's Earthly Deity Avatar!

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

Gong Shuhong's Earthly Deity Avatar let loose a wild screech, and crimson light flashed over its body a huge volume of blood gushed forth, then instantly intertwined to form a ball of blood roughly the size of a water vat. The ball of blood was giving off a rank odor as it sped toward Han Li as fast as lightning.

Han Li raised an arm, and a layer of shimmering golden scales appeared over his fist before clashing with the ball of blood amid a resounding thump, causing the surrounding space to shudder and ripple violently.

The ball of blood revolved on the spot momentarily before abruptly exploding into a vast expanse of blood mist, sending a burst of tremendous power of laws sweeping through the area.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly in alarm, and he immediately attempted to fly back in retreat, but it was already too late.

The cloud of blood mist churned violently, transforming into around a dozen crimson chains that instantly wound themselves around Han Li's torso and limbs, chaining him to the spot.

Han Li's entire body was already covered in golden scales, and he clenched his fists tightly as he tried to struggle free from his restraints, but the more violently he struggled, the tighter the crimson chains became. The chains were grinding audibly against his golden scales, and Gong Shuhong's Earthly Deity Avatar cackled in a sinister manner as he made a hand seal with both hands.

Half of all of the blood that was flowing out of the surrounding caves instantly split off to sweep toward Han Li at the avatar's behest, forming a giant vortex with a diameter of close to 1,000 feet to inundate his entire body.

However, in the next instant, a thunderous roar rang out from within the vortex, and a pair of incredibly thick golden arms reached out from within before grabbing viciously onto either side of the vortex.

A resounding thump rang out as the crimson vortex was forcibly torn apart, reduced to countless chaotic streams of blood that flowed away in all directions.

Immediately thereafter, a golden figure that was several hundred feet tall sprang out from within. It was none other than Han Li in his Giant Mountain Ape form, and there were still a few sections on his arms and torso that were drenched with blood.

As soon as he appeared, he immediately raised an arm, then made a grabbing motion with his hand. A ball of silver flames emerged on his palm, then rapidly elongated to form a huge silver spear that was over 100 feet in length.

Gong Shuhong's Earthly Deity Avatar faltered slightly upon seeing this, then beckoned with both hands to draw a vast expanse of crimson flames up from the lake of blood, forming a fiery crimson wheel around him that was over 100 feet in diameter.

A sharp screech rang out as the giant silver spear flew out of the golden ape's hand, and it was burning with scorching silver flames as it hurtled toward Gong Shuhong's Earthly Deity Avatar with unstoppable might.

Almost at the exact same moment, the crimson wheel of fire also began to revolve, then flew through the air like a scintillating crimson sun.

A resounding boom rang out as the fiery crimson wheel instantly exploded into a vast expanse of crimson flames, interspersed with wisps of silver flames.

The flames spread through the air in all directions in an extremely violent wave of scorching heat, causing the entire underground cavern to tremble and quake, while the blood in the crimson lake down below churned and surged.

The giant silver spear wasn't slowed down in the slightest. Instead, it was sped up even further by the shockwaves from the explosion, hurtling toward Gong Shuhong's Earthly Deity Avatar before piercing straight through his chest in a flash.

After summoning his Earthly Deity Avatar to deal with Han Li, Gong Shuhong had turned his full attention back to the crimson cauldron, attempting to incinerate Wyrms 3 as quickly as possible, and all of a sudden, his entire body shuddered as he threw up a mouthful of blood.

"No..." he roared as he lowered his gaze, just in time to see the giant silver spear protruding out of his Earthly Deity Avatar's chest transforming into a burst of dazzling silver flames that engulfed the avatar's entire body.