

A Record 241

Chapter 241: Message from Qilin 9

"Er... I've been so busy recently that I've been getting dizzy and lightheaded, so I'll have to refuse your kind offer," Elder Hu Yan replied as he waved his hands in response.

"Dizzy and lightheaded? That's no good. Come sleep for a night on my 10,000-year-old Profound Ice Bed and you'll be sure to wake up feeling much better," Dao Lord Yun said.

"Ah, I just remembered that I still have a cauldron full of pills sitting on the fire, and it's about time that they're ready! My apologies, but I have to go now."

Sweat was beginning to bead up on Elder Hu Yan's forehead as he spoke, and he exploded into countless specks of blue light, vanishing on the spot.

Dao Lord Yun placed her hand over her own mouth as she giggled in amusement.

Meanwhile, Yuan Bushao and the woman in the black dress paid no heed to the interaction between Elder Hu Yan and Dao Lord Yun, departing from the hall in silence.

Xiong Shan also took his leave before promptly departing, and before long, Dao Lord Yun and Ouyang Kuishan were the only two people left in the hall.

A serious look appeared on Dao Lord Yun's face as she asked, "What do you plan on doing with those two elders?"

Ouyang Kuishan remained silent, seemingly still yet to make a decision.

"Let me make this clear: it's all thanks to that Li Feiyu that Yuan'er wasn't abducted during the trial, so I'm not just going to stand by and watch as others try to frame him to further their own agendas," Dao Lord Yun said in a meaningful voice.

"As the leader of the sect, I can't be biased. Otherwise, conflicts could easily arise, leading to catastrophic consequences. Li Feiyu did indeed do quite well in this situation, but at the same time, he failed to perform his duty as one of the guardian elders, so he should be let off the hook, but not rewarded beyond that.

"As for Su Tongxiao, the blame for the incident should definitely fall on him, but given the circumstances, I'll only administer a light punishment upon him. Additionally, seeing as Fellow Daoist Hu Yan expressly stated that Li Feiyu should be rewarded, you can issue him a reward on your own behalf," Ouyang Kuishan said.

Dao Lord Yun nodded in response, then flew away as a streak of white light.

Moments later, he appeared on another mountain summit.

There was a white palace that was over 100 feet tall situated on this mountain, and it looked as if it had been carved out of a single enormous block of white jade.

It was an unknown jade-like material that was giving off a gentle glow that resembled moonlight, and the entire palace was filled with a strong glacial aura.

As soon as Dao Lord Yun entered the palace, she was immediately met with a burst of glacial qi, but it was kept at bay by a burst of invisible force that was emanating from her body.

At the center of the palace was a crescent-shaped pond that appeared to have been formed naturally, and it was so deep that it was impossible to see its bottom. There was a translucent round plate that was about 10 feet in size floating on the surface of the pond with countless tiny transparent runes engraved upon it, and it was giving off a white glow, as if it were entirely crafted from a block of ice.

The glacial aura here was 10 times more pronounced than outside, and it was coming directly from that pond.

A woman in a white dress was seated with her legs crossed on the plate, and it was none other than Bai Suyuan.

Her entire body was enveloped within a layer of gentle white light as she constantly absorbed the glacial qi from the pond. Her aura had advanced significantly compared with during the trial, and she was approaching the late-Spatial Tempering Stage.

Dao Lord Yun nodded in approval upon seeing this.

Bai Suyuan seemed to have heard Dao Lord Yun's arrival, and her eyelashes fluttered momentarily before she opened her eyes.

A smile then appeared on her face as she rose up from the plate before landing next to Dao Lord Yun.

"You're becoming more beautiful by the day, Yuan'er. I wonder which lucky boy is going to make you his wife," Dao Lord Yun chuckled as she gently stroked Bai Suyuan's hair.

A slight blush appeared on Bai Suyuan's face upon hearing this, and she complained, "What are you saying, Mistress? I'm not going to marry anyone as long as you don't!"

"What does this have to do with me?"

Dao Lord Yun was very amused to hear this. As one of the 13 Golden Immortals of the Blaze Dragon Dao, she possessed unfathomable power, but she was like a doting mother whenever she was around her favorite disciple.

She led Bai Suyuan to the side before sitting down as she said, "Yuan'er, it's good that you're so diligent in your cultivation, but don't rush it. This Glacial Moon Pond contains extremely potent glacial qi, while will reciprocate your Moonlight Immortal Physique, but at the same time, it'll also harm your body in excessive quantities, so you have to be patient and progress slowly."

"Yes, Mistress," Bai Suyuan replied.

After that, Dao Lord Yuan answered a few questions that Bai Suyuan had on cultivation, and given her aptitude and intelligence, she was immediately able to figure things out.

The smile on Dao Lord Yun's face became even more pronounced upon seeing how gifted a learner her disciple was.

"By the way, why did you come here today, Mistress?" Bai Suyuan asked.

"Why? I can't come to visit you?" Dao Lord Yun asked as she put on an angry expression.

"That's not what I meant, Mistress," Bai Suyuan said as she swayed Dao Lord Yun's arm from side to side like a small child.

"Alright, I won't tease you any longer. I discussed what happened during the trial with a few of the other dao lords today," Dao Lord Yun said with a serious expression.

Bai Suyuan's expression changed slightly as she released Dao Lord Yun's arm, and a serious look appeared on her face as well.

"Even after some discussion, we were still unable to identify the intruder," Dao Lord Yun sighed.

Bai Suyuan's face fell slightly upon hearing this, and she replied, "The Northern Glacial Immortal Region is extremely vast and is home to countless powerful cultivators, so there's no way our Blaze Dragon Dao can know them all."

"Seeing as we've been unable to identify him or track him down, I think you should stay in the sect as much as possible. I'll continue to investigate the matter, and we'll be sure to capture him," Dao Lord Yun said.

Bai Suyuan nodded in response, following which a thought occurred to her, and after a brief hesitation, she asked, "During the trial, four of the disciples had their physical bodies destroyed. What have you and the other dao lords decided to do with Elder Li and Elder Su?"

A meaningful smile appeared on Dao Lord Yun's face upon hearing this.

"You seem to be very concerned about that Li Feiyu. I've never seen you pay so much attention to any of the male disciples. Could it be..."

"What are you saying, Mistress? Elder Li saved our Bai Clan and brought me to the Blaze Dragon Dao, and this time, he saved me from being abducted in the trial. I owe him a great debt, and that's the only reason why I asked about him," Bai Suyuan hurriedly explained.

"Is that right?" Dao Lord Yun asked with an amused look in her eyes.

For some reason, Bai Suyuan didn't dare to meet Dao Lord Yun's gaze as she replied, "Of course! There's no way I'd take a liking to someone like him!"

Dao Lord Yun merely began to giggle in response, while Bai Suyuan kept her head lowered as a faint blush appeared on her face.

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Meanwhile, in a lush mountain range that was abundant with spiritual qi countless kilometers away from the Blaze Dragon Dao.

A young man who was dressed like a lumberjack was seated in a secluded cave with his legs crossed. There was a layer of dense white light around him that was expanding and shrinking with each cycle of inhalation and exhalation.

A long while later, the man opened his eyes as he murmured to himself, "This body has decent aptitude. I've already recovered around a tenth of my former cultivation base."

A look of intense resentment then appeared in his eyes as he spat through gritted teeth, "Li Feiyu, I'll get you back for destroying my physical body sooner or later!"

After that, he rose to his feet and exited the cave before flying away into the distance as a streak of white light.

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Over 10 years passed by in the blink of an eye, and Han Li had been focused on completing Transient Guild missions this entire time.

Due to the fact that he had to take care of the Dao Warrior and all of the spirit plants planted in his fields, all of the missions that he took on were ones near the Ancient Cloud Continent.

Due to the frequency at which he took on missions, many of the other Transient Guild members situated on the Ancient Cloud Continent gradually came to know the name of Wyrms 15, a powerful madman who was sweeping through missions like the wind.

As a result, many people were led to the false assumption that he had to have been at the late-True Immortal Stage.

As Wyrms 15's reputation continued to build, many of the Transient Guild members near the Ancient Cloud Continent were keen to have him as an ally during their own missions, and there were even some people directly contacting him with requests to complete certain missions.

In contrast with how renowned he had become in the Transient Guild, Han Li had maintained a low profile in the Blaze Dragon Dao.

After completing his three regular elder missions, he had refrained from interacting with anyone else in the sect under the guise of cultivating in seclusion.

During this period, he was summoned once by Dao Lord Ouyang and Dao Lord Yun, and the former had enquired him about the incident concerning the trial, while the latter had rewarded him 1,000 merit points without saying anything, only warning him not to speak of this matter to anyone else.

He wasn't the type to go blabbering about something like this anyway, and he was certainly more than happy to accept the 1,000 merit points.

He wasn't all that renowned in the sect to begin with, and after so many years out of the limelight, he had become even lesser known in the sect, and that was exactly what he wanted.

One day, Han Li was standing in front of his medicine garden in his cave abode, nodding to himself with approval at the sight of the vibrant spirit medicines laid out before him.

During these past years, he had been constantly undertaking all types of missions, accumulating a large sum of spirit stones in the process. Additionally, he had managed to nurture a batch of 50,000-year-old Blaze Tuber Herbs with the spirit liquid from his Heaven Controlling Vial, so it was now time for him to focus on cultivating for a while.

There was a rather spacious and barren area in the southwestern corner of the garden, standing out like a sore thumb compared with the rest of the lush and vibrant garden.

That was exactly where the primary bean had been planted.

Over the years, he had watered it with the spirit liquid on many occasions, but the primary bean still showed no signs of germinating at all.

According to the book of Dao Warrior planting insights given to him by Elder Hu Yan, there was a massive range of factors that could impact the germination period of a Dao Warrior, and it was quite normal for a bean to be nurtured for centuries without germinating.

Right at this moment, Han Li's brows suddenly furrowed slightly as he returned to the secret chamber in his cave abode.

As soon as he entered the secret chamber, he flipped a hand over to produce his Transient Guild mask, which he promptly put on.

The runes on the mask began to glow brightly as it released a beam of azure light, which formed a projection of an azure figure.

The figure was rather tall and imposing, wearing a cloak-like robe and an azure deer mask. He was standing with his hands clasped behind his back, giving off an authoritative aura.

"Why have you suddenly contacted me, Fellow Daoist Qilin 9?" Han Li asked.

Qilin 9 was none other than the late-True Immortal Stage Transient Guild member that Han Li suspected to have been Xiong Shan.

Chapter 242: Smelting Sword Refinement

"No need to be alarmed, Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15. I contacted you today because there's a special mission that I'd like to invite you to complete with me," the azure figure said.

"If my memory serves me correctly, we haven't had many past interactions, so why have you come specifically to invite me?" Han Li asked.

"You've been forging quite a reputation for yourself recently, Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15. We've only worked together once in the past, but you left a very deep impression on me. I know that your reputation is very much deserved, and that's why I came to invite you to undertake this mission with me."

Qilin 9 was praising Han Li, but the tone of his voice was very neutral, as if he were merely stating facts rather than trying to flatter Han Li.

"My reputation is nowhere near as resounding as yours, Fellow Daoist Qilin 9. Seeing as this is a mission that's caught your eye, I'm assuming it's not going to be an easy one to complete, right?" Han Li asked with a smile.

"My apologies, but this mission is indeed quite special. Low-level members are barred from undertaking the mission, and I'm afraid I won't be able to reveal the contents of the mission to you unless you agree to accept it," Qilin 9 replied.

"Even if you can't reveal the contents of the mission to me, surely you can at least tell me the mission location," Han Li said.

"The location is on the Infernal Frost Continent," Qilin 9 replied.

"In that case, I'm afraid I'll have to turn down the mission. There are many things that I'm busy with at the moment, so I can't make any far journeys. My apologies, Fellow Daoist," Han Li refused as his brows furrowed slightly.

To the north of the Ancient Cloud Continent was a vast frozen sea, and across that sea was a continent that was perpetually enshrouded in ice and snow. That was the Infernal Frost Continent.

Crossing the frozen sea wasn't as difficult as crossing the Thunderstorm Sea, and there was supposed to have been a teleportation array for this purpose as well, but even so, the journey would've taken at least several years there and back.

Qilin 9 wasn't surprised by Han Li's refusal, and he said, "Don't be in such a hurry to refuse. Fellow Daoist. I suggest you hear the reward for the mission before you decide whether to accept it or not."

"Go ahead," Han Li prompted.

"Aside from 300 Immortal Origin Stones, you'll also receive a Jade Gleam Cloud Stone," Qilin 9 said, and he seemed to be quite confident that his reward would be sufficient to tempt Han Li.

Instead of being pleased or elated to hear this, Han Li remarked with a cold expression, "The fact that you know that I'm searching for a Jade Gleam Cloud Stone indicates that you've done your homework before coming here, Fellow Daoist."

"It's already been a few years since you released the mission searching for a Jade Gleam Cloud Stone, and to this day, no one has answered your call. Surely you're not going to pass up this opportunity, are you?" Qilin 9 asked.

Han Li fell into deep thought upon hearing this.

Seven or eight years ago, while carrying out a mission for the Transient Guild, he had decided to read through the beasthide book that he had obtained from the old man that had attacked Bai Suyuan, and in that book, he had read about a very strange type of smelting sword refinement technique.

The technique allowed one to smelt special metals and materials to drastically enhance the power of a flying sword, and if a set of multiple flying swords were smelted at once, those swords would be able to fuse as one during battle, making them significantly more powerful than before.

Most importantly, after the smelting process, not only would the physical forms of the flying swords be completely transformed, the auras that they gave off would also change as a result of the materials used in the smelting process.

Right there and then, Han Li had decided that he was definitely going to smelt his 72 Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords again.

However, the spirit materials required for this smelting process were very difficult to acquire, with the most important material being the Dendrobium Gold Essence, while the most important supplementary material was the Jade Gleam Cloud Stone.

Coincidentally, Adam already had some Dendrobium Gold Essence. It was that dark golden metal that he had obtained from the Origin Mirage Beast's palace, and he had acquired more of the material from the elderly man in the Profound Ice Mountain Range.

As for the other materials required, Han Li had managed to gather all of them from within the Blaze Dragon Dao at the cost of some Immortal Origin Stones. All that was left to find was the Jade Gleam Cloud Stone, which he had been unable to find in the sect or in the Transient Guild.

After a long silence, he asked, "How big is this piece of Jade Gleam Cloud Stone?"

"I'm sure you're aware of how precious the material is, Fellow Daoist. The reward is only a fist-sized chunk. Even so, that's already more than enough to be used as the main material to refine a flying sword," Qilin 9 said.

After a brief hesitation, Han Li finally said, "Alright, I'll accept this mission."

Even a fist-sized chunk of Jade Gleam Cloud Stone was sufficient to be used as a supplementary material to refine his 72 flying swords.

"Fantastic! With your inclusion, I'm sure we'll be able to complete this mission smoothly."

Only now did a hint of a smile creep into Qilin 9's voice.

"I've already accepted the mission, so you can tell me exactly what needs to be done now, right?" Han Li asked.

"There's no hurry. The people undertaking the mission haven't all been assembled yet. You can make some preparations, then meet us on Everlone Island situated at the northernmost tip of the Ancient Cloud Continent. There, I'll reveal the exact contents of the mission to you," Qilin 9 said.

"In that case, I'll see you there," Han Li replied with a nod.

Qilin 9 didn't stay any longer, instantly vanishing from the spot.

Han Li stowed his Transient Guild mask away, then departed from his secret chamber.

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Three years passed by in the blink of an eye.

There was a peninsula situated in the northernmost tip of the Ancient Cloud Continent. It was a thin and long landmass with a slight curvature, extending into the boundless white sea.

The entire island had a black coloration, and it was completely encased under a thick layer of ice without any vegetation to be seen.

At the end of the island was a giant black rock, atop which sat a tall and imposing figure with his legs crossed. The figure was wearing a loose-fitting black robe with an azure deer mask on his face, and it was none other than Qilin 9.

Beside him at the foot of the rock was a tall and thin man wearing an ochre robe with plum blossom designs embroidered upon it. He was wearing a rat mask that was also azure in color.

Through the eye holes on the mask, one could see that he had a pair of extremely tiny pupils, and quite fittingly, his eyes were giving off a sly and sneaky gleam, much like one would see in the eyes of a rat.

"We've already been waiting for seven days, why has he still not shown up? He's certainly making us wait?" the rat-masked man complained in a high-pitched voice as he took a disgruntled glance in the direction of the Ancient Cloud Continent.

"We're the ones who got here earlier. The agreed time still hasn't arrived yet, so you'll have to wait a bit longer," Qilin 9 said.

The rat-masked man habitually flexed his neck from side to side upon hearing this and didn't say anything further.

Around 15 minutes later, a streak of azure light suddenly appeared in the distant sky before quickly landing in front of the giant black rock.

The azure light contained none other than Han Li, and he swept his gaze over Qilin 9 and the rat-masked man as he cupped his fist toward them in a salute.

Qilin 9 rose to his feet atop the giant rock, then introduced to Han Li, "Fellow Daoist Wyrn 15, this is Fellow Daoist Qilin 17."

"I've heard much about you," Han Li said with a nod.

"You sure kept us waiting!" Qilin 17 complained in an inhospitable voice as he sized up Han Li.

Han Li could hear the displeasure in his voice, but he merely smiled and didn't say anything.

Qilin 9 jumped down from the rock, landing beside Han Li's duo as he said, "Now that everyone's here, allow me to reveal the contents of the mission."

Han Li immediately turned to him, as did Qilin 17.

"According to the mission description, there's a certain valley in the Snowstorm Forest to the south of the Infernal Frost Continent, and there's an extremely high-level array set up in the valley. Our mission is to infiltrate the valley without triggering the array and kill the mid-True Immortal cultivator inside," Qilin 9 said.

"Do we know why the array exists and if there's anything special about it?" Han Li asked.

"That's all I know about the mission, we'll have to figure out the rest after we get there," Qilin 9 replied.

"It sounds like it's not a very difficult mission at all. By the way, why are all of the special missions in the guild like this? They're always so ambiguous and lacking in details," Qilin 17 complained.

Qilin 9 paid no heed to Qilin 17 as he declared, "Alright, time is of the essence, so let's set off right away."

He swept a sleeve through the air as he spoke to release a cascade of starry golden light, within which was a three-level louchuan that was entirely golden in color.

The louchuan was around 300 feet in length and over 50 feet tall, with many runes engraved on its surface for speed enhancement and other purposes. Furthermore, the exterior of the three-story pavilion on the louchuan was extremely ornate and embedded with all types of precious jewels, presenting an extravagant sight to behold.

"In order to get to the Infernal Frost Continent, we can take a teleportation array from Smoke Tomb Island. Prior to that, we can make the journey to the island on my Golden Veined Spirit Boat," Qilin 9 said, then rose up into the air before landing on the deck of the louchuan.

Han Li and Qilin 17 also did the same, landing on the spirit boat one after the other.

Upon his landing, Han Li swept his gaze over the spirit boat to find that there were also all types of complex patterns engraved onto the pillars, doors, and windows on the louchuan, all of which were giving off bursts of spiritual power fluctuations.

Standing outside each level of the pavilion were several slender and extremely beautiful young women, all of whom were wearing rainbow-colored or golden silken robes, appearing as if they were celestial maidens.

However, Han Li quickly came to realize that these stunningly beautiful women were actually all just intricately crafted puppets.

"Each of you can choose a level of the pavilion to stay in. If you need something done, just issue an instruction to the puppets," Qilin 9 said, then flew onto the top-floor of the pavilion before making his way inside.

Qilin 17 took a glance at Han Li, then didn't say anything as he rose up onto the second floor. He then reached out to stroke the cheek of one of the puppets standing in front of the door as he praised, "Oh, that's quite pleasant on the hands."

After that, he chuckled to himself as he opened the door of the pavilion and made his way inside.

Chapter 243: Extreme Cold

Shortly thereafter, after a burst of tremors, all of the runes on the Golden Veined Spirit Boat lit up, and it rose up into the sky amid a vast expanse of golden light, flying toward the frozen sea.

Instead of entering the pavilion, Han Li made his way to the bow of the boat, where he cast his gaze into the distance while standing with his hands clasped behind his back.

Up ahead was a boundless expanse of white with thick layers of ice spreading as far as the eyes could see, only punctuated by some frosty black rocks or giant mountains of ice jutting out of the surface of the sea.

The view in the extremely far distance was quite blurry due to the presence of the mist up ahead, and birds were an extremely rare sight in the sky above the frozen sea.

Both the sea and the sky above it were extremely silent, giving this frozen region a bleak and lifeless appearance.

However, through his spiritual sense, Han Li was able to detect the auras of many powerful demon beasts lurking in the clouds in the sky, the depths of the sea, and even within some of the mountains of ice, and the only reason why none of them had come out as they were fearful of Han Li's trio.

Thinking back to the Thunderstorm Sea, Han Li couldn't help but marvel at the vast diversity in the geographic environments in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

There were virtually no places like this in the Mortal Realm or in the Spirit Realm, and he was certain that there were still many more places that he couldn't even fathom here in the Immortal Realm.

For some reason, the memory of the short time that he had spent traveling the Spirit Realm as a pair of lovebirds prior to his ascension suddenly sprang into his mind.

This memory had always been one that he had suppressed and relegated to the bottom of his heart, and it was also why he had been alone for the vast majority of time during his cultivation journey, unwilling to casually dabble in relationships.

Parting with his loved ones had always been a painful experience that he didn't want to have to endure.

"If Wan'er were by my side, we'd be able to roam the Northern Glacial Immortal Region freely together. I wonder how she's doing right now. The resources that I left her prior to my ascension should be enough to support her cultivation to the Grand Ascension Stage. I wonder if we'll ever be reunited someday..." Han Li murmured to himself with an absentminded expression, then turned and made his way into the first-floor pavilion.

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Close to a year later.

There was a white island with a radius of no more than 10,000 feet situated in the southern region of the frozen sea.

The island was circular in shape with a clear outline, resembling a massive white plate, and it was clear that it had been created artificially.

On the island were a series of white stoned pillars of different heights, some of which had runes engraved upon them, while others were embedded with spirit stones that contained abundant spiritual power.

The entire island appeared to have been a massive white array.

Right at this moment, the Golden Veined Spirit Boat arrived in the air from afar, then paused momentarily in mid-air before vanishing amid a flash of golden light.

Han Li's trio appeared in the sky, then began to descend toward Smoke Tomb Island.

They weren't making any efforts to conceal their own auras, but their appearances and statures had all been altered significantly.

Qilin 9 had turned into a burly man with a thick beard, while Qilin 17 had adopted the appearance of a scholarly man wearing an azure robe, and Han Li had transformed into a fair-skinned young man who appeared to have been around 20 years of age.

The three of them descended onto a small plaza on the edge of the island, and there was a hall constructed from white stone up ahead.

The three of them strode into the hall to find that the furnishings were extremely simple, with only a circular stone platform in the hall, atop which sat an elderly man with a white beard with his legs crossed.

To Han Li's surprise, the elderly man was an early-True Immortal cultivator, and his attire indicated that he was an inner sect elder of the Blaze Dragon Dao.

The elderly man took a glance at Han Li's trio, remaining seated as he asked, "Have you come here to travel to the Infernal Frost Continent?"

"Correct," Qilin 9 replied.

"That'll be seven Immortal Origin Stones per person," the elderly man said in an expressionless manner.

After the fee was issued, the elderly man rose to his feet, stepping down from the circular stone platform before leading Han Li's trio out of the hall through a rear door.

After emerging from the hall, the three of them followed the elderly man over a path that was around 10 feet wide, making their way toward the center of the island.

Han Li took a glance at the path beneath his feet to find that it was several inches lower than the ground on either side of it, giving it the appearance of a small trough embedded into the earth, and there was a rune engraved onto the ground once every several dozen feet.

The closer they drew to the center of the island, the more frequently these paths appeared, forming a complex system that was quite mysterious in appearance.

"Fellow Daoist Qilin 9, if I'm not mistaken, he's wearing a robe of the Blaze Dragon Dao, is that correct?" Han Li asked through voice transmission.

"Indeed. This man seems to be an inner sect elder of the Blaze Dragon Dao," Qilion 9 replied.

"Could it be that all of the teleportation array between the Ancient Cloud Continent and the Infernal Frost Continent was constructed by the Blaze Dragon Dao?" Han Li asked.

"That's not the case. The teleportation array on Smoke Tomb Island is the only one that was constructed by and is under the control of the Blaze Dragon Dao, while the teleportation array on Extreme Ice Island near the Infernal Frost Continent is under the control of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace," Qilion 9 replied.

"I see. Thank you for enlightening me, Fellow Daoist," Han Li said.

As the two were conversing with one another through voice transmission, they followed the elderly man to a plot of flat land near the center of the island.

Han Li took a glance at the area to find a circular array surrounded by several dozen stone pillars in the distance. Each pillar was so thick that a chain of seven or eight people would've been required to link hands around it, and they were quite spectacular to behold.

There were seven or eight other people on the plaza around the array, some of which were seated with their legs crossed, while others were standing.

The elderly man led the trio onto the plaza, then said to a middle-aged man who was also in Blaze Dragon Dao elder attire, "Elder Fu, these people are traveling to Extreme Ice Island as well. We have enough people, so we can activate the array now."

"Alright, you can all enter the array now," the middle-aged man said as he turned to the others on the plaza.

Those people had already been waiting for quite some time, and they were quite elated to hear this as they eagerly stepped into the array.

Han Li's trio immediately followed suit, and once all 10 people had entered the array, the elderly man gave the middle-aged man a nod, and the two of them strode over to the circular stone platforms on either side of the array before sitting down with their legs crossed.

Immediately thereafter, the two of them began to chant an incantation, and the white stone pillars around the array lit up one after another, while the spirit stones embedded onto the ground and the runes engraved there also began to radiate dazzling light.

The light quickly spread until all of the patterns on the ground had lit up, and all of the stone pillars situated elsewhere on the island also began to give off dazzling radiance as the entire island array was activated.

A faint buzzing sound rang out, and the entire island began to tremble violently.

Situated within the array, Han Li looked up at the sky to find that the clouds up above were churning violently, gradually forming an enormous hole, out of which was emanating powerful spatial fluctuations.

The mist enshrouding the outskirts of the island was also impacted by these spatial fluctuations, quickly receding to form a ring-shaped wall of mist around the island.

Right at this moment, a resounding boom rang out, and the entire island shuddered violently as a vast expanse of five-colored light erupted out of the array at the center of the island, forming a massive pillar of five-colored light that erupted straight into the heavens.

Han Li and the others were swallowed up by the five-colored light before instantly vanishing on the spot.

Shortly thereafter, the array gradually subsided, but the hole in the sky and the wall of mist around the island continued to linger.

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In the northern region of the frozen sea, fierce winds were howling incessantly, while dark clouds hung low in the sky.

Snow was fluttering everywhere, encompassing the entire area of the sea.

On the dim surface of the sea, the frozen snow and seawater had been molded into giant ice spikes by the ferocious wind, and they were pointing diagonally up at the heavens.

Amid this forest of ice spikes was an ovular island that was enshrouded under an azure light barrier.

Right at this moment, a sound that resembled a rumbling thunderclap suddenly rang out high up in the sky, and the entire ovular island shuddered as a vast expanse of five-colored light appeared, following which Han Li and the others emerged on an array at the center of the island.

Due to the symptoms from ultra long-distance teleportation, everyone was looking rather pale, and the ones among them with the lowest cultivation bases were even feeling some instability in their souls.

As for Han Li, he merely felt a slight tightness in his chest, but that quickly subsided.

He took a glance at his surroundings to find that the layout of the area was much the same as the one on Smoke Tomb Island, except the white stone pillars around the array had been replaced by pillars of translucent ice.

Right at this moment, a cold voice rang out from outside the array. "The teleportation is complete, it's time for all of you to go."

Han Li turned to discover a thin elderly woman with a head of white hair. She was wearing a white cloak while holding a white horned dragon wood cane, and she was looking at everyone with an inhospitable expression.

Everyone hurriedly stepped out of the array before making their way toward the northern border of the island under the elderly woman's instructions.

There was a white hall of ice standing there, within which was a wide table with a benevolent-looking round-faced elderly man seated behind it.

In contrast with how cold and inhospitable the elderly woman was, the elderly man had a far more friendly appearance.

"Welcome to the Infernal Frost Continent, everyone. I'll be requiring all of you to submit a further three Immortal Origin Stones per person prior to leaving Extreme Ice Island," the elderly man said with a smile.

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, then turned to Qilin 9 with an inquisitive look in his eyes.

"This has always been the arrangement between the Blaze Dragon Dao and the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and the same fee applies when we go back to Smoke Tomb Island," Qilin 9 explained.

Han Li nodded in response, but he couldn't help but feel a little speechless.

A one-way trip required 10 Immortal Origin Stones, so a return trip was going to require 20, which was more than the reward that he would receive from completing a low-level mission for the Transient Guild.

If it weren't for the fact that this fee was quite paltry compared with the handsome reward for this mission, there was no way that he would've been willing to accept this so easily.

After the Immortal Origin Stones had been submitted, everyone was directed to a door on the side of the hall.

The round-faced elderly man remained seated as he swept a sleeve through the air toward the door, and a burst of azure light appeared on its surface, following which a circular passageway that was as tall as a grown man emerged on the light barrier that encompassed the door.

"I wish you all safe and smooth journeys, fellow daoists," the elderly man said with a smile.

Qilin 9 led the way out of the door upon hearing this, arriving on the plaza outside the hall, followed closely by Han Li and Qilin 17.

After them came the other seven people who had also been teleported here.

As soon as they emerged from the hall, they were immediately met with heavy snow and a bone-chilling glacial aura. Han Li was already prepared for this, but his brows still furrowed slightly in an involuntary manner.

Looking at the snow-covered world before him, Han Li couldn't help but think back to when he first ascended to the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. At the time, he had also been in an extremely cold setting, and the glacial aura from that time seemed to have been even more potent.

He could still recall the excitement he had felt as if it had only happened yesterday, but to this day, he still couldn't recall anything that had happened after that.

The path of cultivation was one that was fraught with peril, and he couldn't help but wonder when he would be able to present himself in his true name without having to worry for his own safety.

His hands clenched up into tight fists as this thought sprang into his mind.

Chapter 244: Judgment

While Han Li was lost in his own thoughts, lights of different colors had begun to emerge from the bodies of many of the cultivators beside him. Some of them had jade pendants with warming effects tucked up their sleeves, some were wearing belts woven from fire-attribute materials, and some were wearing insulating spirit garments.

All of a sudden, a feral roar rang out, and a massive snow rhinoceros with an entirely white body emerged from the dense snowfall, whipping its head from side to side as it gave off a vicious aura.

One of the people in the group jumped onto the snow rhinoceros's back, and as he pressed his legs into the sides of the beast, it immediately began charging away.

A string of loud thumps rang out as the snow rhinoceros plowed its way straight through a series of ice spikes, traveling so quickly that it was as if it were in flight, and it didn't take long before it vanished into the distance.

Everyone else also summoned different types of snow and ice beasts before riding them away, and it didn't take long before Han Li's trio were the only ones left.

Qilin 9 swept his gaze across his surroundings for a moment, then summoned his Golden Veined Spirit Boat again, and the three of them jumped on before setting off toward the Infernal Frost Continent.

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Around half a month later.

The snowstorm had just ceased in a region of the frozen sea, yet there was still a dense blanket of dark clouds in the sky, while gusts of bone-chilling wind were ravaing the surface of the sea.

The Golden Veined Spirit Boat that Han Li's trio was on was rapidly approaching the area, and inside the pavilion on the first floor, Han Li was seated with his legs crossed on his bed when all of a sudden, he felt a violent jolt run through the boat.

His eyes immediately sprang open as he rushed out of the room, where he saw an enormous black tentacle wrapped around the railing of the boat. The tentacle was stretched completely taut, seemingly doing everything in its power to drag the boat down into the sea below.

The boat was already beginning to tilt slightly, and Han Li looked down along the tentacle to find that a massive hole had opened up in the ice sheet covering the sea down below.

The tentacle belonged to an enormous scaled octopus with half of its body extending out of the hole, and the tentacle was continuing to constrict further and further, causing the entire boat to lurch slowly toward the sea down below.

All of a sudden, a furious roar rang out. "Insolence!"

A figure then shot out of the third-floor pavilion on the louchuan, transforming into a streak of golden light that flashed through the air before returning in an instant.

In the next instant, the tentacle wrapped around the railing of the boat was severed into pieces.

At the same time, the body of the giant black octopus also exploded violently, sending an enormous volume of black blood erupting in all directions, staining large sections of the surrounding ice black.

Han Li's heart stirred slightly upon seeing this. The octopus demon beast only possessed Grand Ascension Stage power and had limited intelligence, so it wasn't all that difficult to kill, but its scales were no ordinary scales, and it was far from a simple matter to bypass the defenses of those scales to instantly slay the beast.

This was a clear indication that Qilin 9 had most likely mastered some type of special law powers that granted him extremely formidable offensive prowess.

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Over three months passed by in the blink of an eye.

There was an enormous snowy mountain range sprawled across the southern part of the Infernal Frost Continent, and there were countless branches extending out of the mountain range on either side, making it resemble an enormous frost centipede when viewed from above.

Every single branch of the mountain range was filled with enormous mountains that extended all the way up into the clouds, and all of them were almost entirely covered in snow and ice, with only some sections of exposed black rock visible on parts where the ice had slid off.

Above the mountain range was a picturesque blue sky, where the bright sun was hanging like a golden medallion, giving off warm and gentle light. However, the entire place was extremely cold and completely devoid of warmth.

To the east of one of the mountain range's southern branches were two mountains, both of which were over 10,000 feet tall. They were like a pair of silver longwords that were pointed directly up at the heavens, and nestled in between them was an extremely deep valley.

Outside the valley was a vast snowland that extended for tens of thousands of kilometers.

The snowland was riddled with countless massive cedar trees that were over 1,000 feet tall, but they were mostly inundated by a thick layer of snow, leaving only their tips exposed, but those tips were also covered by snow, thereby forming a series of white snowy pagodas.

Right at this moment, a string of dull roars suddenly rang out from within the snowland outside of the valley.

All of a sudden, a pair of furry white ears poked out from beneath the snow in the cedar forest to the northeast, and they swiveled around a few times to listen for surrounding sounds, then began to move toward the entrance of the valley.

A string of loud booms rang out incessantly in their wake as one massive tree after another was felled, sending massive flurries of snow erupting in all directions, and a deep and massive trench also appeared on the ground as a result.

The terrain seemed to have become more elevated closer to the entrance of the valley, and the owner of the pair of furry white ears gradually emerged from beneath the snow.

As it turned out, it was a massive snow rabbit that was over 100 feet tall, with a pair of slightly red eyes and tall ears.

Upon arriving at the entrance of the valley, it sprang forward forcefully with its hind legs, plunging itself straight into the valley up ahead.

A resounding boom rang out, and the snow rabbit was sent flying back before landing on its backside, as if it had just crashed into an invisible barrier.

After righting itself again, a ferocious look appeared in its eyes, and it let loose a low snarl before sinking back on its haunches to prepare to spring forward again. This time, it did so with several times more force than before, launching itself violently at the entrance of the valley.

All of a sudden, a faint golden light barrier appeared in the air within the entrance of the valley, and the light barrier was riddled with runes. A bolt of golden lightning that was around as thick as a human thumb abruptly sprang forth before striking the snow rabbit, and its entire body was instantly charred black before exploding violently, sending a charred odor wafting through the air.

At this moment, three figures emerged from within the deep trench in the cedar forest, then made their way toward the entrance of the valley.

This was none other than Han Li's trio, and Qilin 9 stopped in front of the entrance of the valley before turning to Han Li and Qilin 17 as he asked, "What do you think, fellow daoists?"

"If I'm not mistaken, the array here should be the Golden Peak Lightning Array that was passed down from ancient times. The bolt of lightning that had struck down that snow rabbit just now was nothing more than a display of but a tiny fraction of the array's power," Qilin 17 replied.

"I'm also of the opinion that this is the Golden Peak Lightning Array. According to my observation just now, the foundations of the array should be situated on the two mountains on either side. There should be at least two metal-attribute treasures at or above the spirit treasure caliber on those mountains, and the area encompassed within the array most likely includes those two mountains and the entire valley," Qilin said with a nod.

Meanwhile, Han Li remained completely silent, seemingly contemplating something.

"Have you noticed something, Fellow Daoist Wurm 15?" Qilin 9 asked.

"I've never seen this Golden Peak Lightning Array before, but I have heard of it before. The array is renowned for combining resolute defenses with formidable offensive prowess, and once activated, it'll release a storm of golden lightning comparable in power to a small lightning tribulation. The bolt of lightning that the snow rabbit triggered just now was quite powerful, but it was also extremely restrained, which seems uncharacteristic of this array," Han Li said.

"That's just because that snow rabbit was too weak to trigger an all-out retaliation from the array. What's so surprising about that?" Qilin 17 dismissed with a disdainful expression.

"In that case, what do you think this array is?" Qilin 9 asked.

After a moment of contemplation, Han Li shook his head as he replied, "I've never encountered an array like this before, nor have I ever read about it, so I don't know its name, I just have a feeling that it's not as simple as it appears on the surface."

"If you've never even seen the Golden Peak Lightning Array before, then I suggest you keep your mouth shut. You said a bunch of stuff just now, but you may as well have said nothing at all," Qilin 17 scoffed.

Han Li remained unbothered by Qilin 17's rude remarks, paying no heed to him as he continued to focus his attention on the array.

"It seems like you're convinced that this is the Golden Peak Lightning Array, Fellow Daoist Qilin 17. Do you have any way for us to bypass the array without alerting the person inside?" Qilin 9 asked

A thoughtful look appeared on Qilin 17's face as he replied, "Those two mountains are the cores of the array, and 81 lengths of Lightning Restraining Wood are used as the array's foundation. Generally speaking, all that needs to be done is to find a weakness in any of those two things, and the array can be easily unraveled.

"However, if we want to bypass the array without alerting the person inside, then we'll have to think of a way to assimilate ourselves with the array in order to avoid triggering it."

"In order to assimilate ourselves with the array, we must alter our own auras so that it matches the metal attribute of the array cores, or to match the lightning attribute of the array foundation. That'll allow us to enter the array without triggering it," Qilin 9 added.

"This process must be completed instantaneously. Otherwise, there's still a chance that the array could be triggered," Qilin 17 said as he took a glance at Han Li.

"Fellow Daoist Wyrn 15, if you haven't discovered anything else, then let's follow Fellow Daoist Qilin 17's plan," Qilin 9 said as he turned to Han Li.

"The method described by Fellow Daoist Qilin 17 would normally be correct, but what's strange about this array is the manner in which it releases lightning is very different from that of ordinary lightning arrays. The lightning is very concentrated and formidable, and if we were to enter the array without careful consideration, I don't think we'll fare any better than that snow rabbit," Han Li said with furrowed brows.

A hesitant look also flashed through Qilin 9's eyes upon hearing this.

His initial assessment of the lightning array had been quite similar to Qilin 17's, and the only reason he was willing to consider Han Li's input was due to the reputation that Han Li had recently forged for himself in the Transient Guild. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been hesitating at all.

Chapter 245: Entering the Valley

"We'll know if my method works or not when I test it out. You two can watch from the side, but in exchange, once we kill our target, I get to have the first pick out of all of their treasures," Qilin 17 said.

Before Han Li had a chance to say anything, Qilin 9 replied, "You seem to be very confident in your plan, Fellow Daoist Qilin 17. In that case, feel free to give it a try, but before that, we need to set up a spatial sealing array outside the array so the person inside isn't alerted to our arrival and runs away."

Han Li naturally had no objections to this, either, and after briefly discussing some further details, the three of them split up to perform their own roles.

Close to a day later, right as it was beginning to get dark, Han Li's trio met back up at the entrance of the valley.

Qilin 9 chanted an incantation, then pointed a finger at an array flag on the ground in front of him, and a layer of invisible ripples immediately surged through the air, forming a barely visible spherical light barrier that encompassed the entire nearby area in a radius of several hundred kilometers.

"Alright, the spatial sealing array has been activated. The floor is now yours, Fellow Daoist," Qilin 9 said as he turned to Qilin 17.

Qilin 17 nodded in response, then took a few steps forward until he was directly in front of the light barrier at the entrance of the valley before producing a shimmering golden talisman with a flick of his wrist.

He then raised the talisman before pressing it against his own forehead, and all of the runes on the talisman instantly lit up before flowing straight into his head.

What followed was a profound incantation, and arcs of golden lightning began to emerge all over Qilin 17's body amid a string of loud buzzing and crackling.

Immediately thereafter, his entire body abruptly blurred as he transformed into a thin arc of lightning and sped directly into the valley.

A faint pop rang out from the entrance of the valley, but that was the extent of the disturbance, and Qilin 17's was nowhere to be seen.

"It looks like this method works!" Qilin 9 remarked with an elated expression.

However, Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he looked up at the sky, and Qilin 9 hurriedly looked up as well, seemingly also having sensed that something wasn't quite right.

All of a sudden, a figure with golden lightning surging all over their body came plummeting rapidly out of the sky before slamming violently down onto the snowland with a resounding boom.

A massive crater instantly appeared on the snowland, and a vast expanse of golden lightning erupted forth from within, charring the surrounding cedar trees black.

Han Li and Qilin 9 rushed onto the scene to find Qilin 17 seated at the bottom of the crater. His entire body was charred black and releasing plumes of white smoke, giving him a rather sorry and comical appearance, but he didn't appear to have sustained any severe injuries.

"What happened, Fellow Daoist Qilin 17?" Qilin 9 asked.

"This restriction isn't the Golden Peak Lightning Array. To put it more accurately, it's not just the Golden Peak Lightning Array," Qilin 17 replied as he jumped out of the crater before flipping a hand over to produce a pill that he promptly devoured.

"I see, that makes sense," Han Li suddenly remarked.

"It sounds like you discovered something, Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15," Qilin 9 said.

After a brief pause for contemplation, Han Li replied, "Back when that snow rabbit crashed into the array, I felt some hints of spatial fluctuations in the air. The way I see it, the array here is a special type of fusion array."

Qilin 17 arrived by Han Li's side, having already recovered from his injuries and changed into a set of new robes.

This time, he was no longer looking at Han Li with the same derision as before, and he asked, "So you're saying that this array is a combination of the Golden Peak Lightning Array and some type of spatial array?"

"That's right. While it's true that you managed to successfully bypass the array just now, in the instant that you entered the Golden Peak Lightning Array, you were immediately teleported back out by the spatial array inside," Han Li analyzed.

"In that case, the lightning released by the Golden Peak Lightning Array had to have been condensed by the same spatial array," Qilin 9 speculated.

"I presume that's the case. It's a good thing that Fellow Daoist Qilin 17 was fast enough to escape the brunt of the retaliation from the Golden Peak Lightning Array after he was expelled by the spatial array. Otherwise, his injuries would've most likely been far more severe," Han Li said as he took a glance at Qilin 17, and a grim look appeared on the latter's face upon hearing this.

"It seems like whoever's in this valley is doing something extremely important, and they're trying to keep out all possible distractions. Otherwise, they wouldn't have set up such a strange array here. With this array in place, not only is it difficult for outsiders to enter the valley, leaving the valley for those inside won't be a simple matter, either," Han Li mused.

After a brief silence, a cold look appeared in Qilin 9's eyes as he said, "If we can't sneak in in secret, then the only way to proceed would be to destroy the cores of the array and enter by force."

"Hold on a second, I have a method that could perhaps work," Han Li suddenly said.

"Go ahead, Fellow Daoist," Qilin 9 prompted.

"I just so happen to know a lightning array technique that combines the power of lightning with the power of space to achieve instantaneous teleportation. This array is also a fusion of the same two types of power, so as long as I can control the fluctuations of my array to the same level as those of this array, perhaps we'll be able to pass through it," Han Li explained.

"What would you say is the probability of this method succeeding?" Qilin 9 asked.

"The lightning array technique is not easy to control, so I'd say the chances of success are only around 50%," Han Li replied after some brief thought.

"Only 50%? So you're saying that there's a 50% chance that we'll come under retaliation from this lightning array?" Qilin 17 asked, clearly feeling rather hesitant.

After a moment of contemplation, Qilin 9 decided, "We'll go with Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15's method. Even if it fails, I'll keep the attacks from the lightning array at bay, and after that, we'll just have to force our way through the array after that."

Qilin 17 nodded in response after hearing this.

After the trio decided on a plan, Han Li arrived at the entrance of the valley, then closed his eyes as he released his spiritual sense, carefully sensing the spiritual power fluctuations from the array at the entrance of the valley.

A long while later, his eyes suddenly sprang open, and arcs of silver lightning appeared all over his body.

Immediately thereafter came a rumbling thunderclap, and the arcs of silver lightning sprang forth before intertwining with one another in mid-air to form a lightning array with a diameter in excess of 100 feet, encompassing both Qilin 9 and Qilin 17 as well.

"Please come a little closer to me, fellow daoists," Han Li said.

A peculiar look flashed through Qilin 9's eyes as he took a couple of steps closer to Han Li, and Qilin 17 also did the same.

In the next instant, Han Li brought his palms together in front of himself, and the lightning array around the trio instantly shrank down to only around 10 feet in size, while the arcs of lightning that were springing forth from the array were also significantly compressed.

Immediately thereafter, the lightning array around Han Li's trio vanished from the spot in the blink of an eye.

Almost at the exact same moment, several dozen thin bolts of golden lightning erupted from the invisible light barrier at the entrance of the valley, only to then instantly vanish without a trace as if nothing had ever happened.

Inside the valley, a vast expanse of silver lightning suddenly appeared high up in the sky, and Han Li's trio could be seen within the silver lightning, hurtling toward a nearby black cliff in an uncontrolled manner.

Han Li hurriedly withdrew his lightning as he tapped a foot against the cliff to launch himself backward, and he performed a somersault before drifting down onto the ground.

Qilin 9 and Qilin 17 were also able to stabilize themselves before making smooth descents.

Han Li heaved a long sigh of relief as he said, "The spatial power within this array is even more potent than I imagined, and I almost lost control of my lightning array."

"That's fine, all that matters is that we were able to successfully enter the valley," Qilin 9 said with a wave of his hand.

Han Li swept his gaze across his surroundings to find that the entire valley was riddled with scattered rocks, and there wasn't any snow to be seen. The only thing that was worthy of note was a building constructed from piled-up rocks at the center of the valley.

What was rather surprising to him was that the world's origin qi within the valley was extremely abundant, far more so than even most of the areas in the Bell Toll Mountain Range. Furthermore, there was smoke rising up from the top of the black stone hall, forming a cloud that was giving off five-colored light.

Han Li's trio exchanged a glance with one another before rising up into the air in unison and flying toward the stone hall.

At this moment, the stone hall was filled with scorching fire, and waves of heat were surging incessantly out of the skylight on top of the hall.

At the center of the hall was a golden pill cauldron that was around three feet tall, and it was hovering in mid-air.

An octagonal array had been engraved onto the ground below the pill cauldron, and the entire array was filled with countless fiery runes. Eight fiery dragons were extending out of these runes, carrying the golden pill cauldron and keeping it aloft.

Sweltering flames were surging incessantly out of the bodies and mouths of the fiery dragons, releasing tremendous heat upon the pill cauldron.

The ancient runes engraved onto the golden pill cauldron were flashing incessantly, serving to completely seal in the fragrances of the spirit medicines inside, as well as to constantly draw the surrounding world's origin qi into the cauldron.

Outside the fiery array was a white-haired elderly man wearing a purplish-golden robe and a lotus flower crown. At the moment, he was making a hand seal while controlling the eight fiery dragons beneath the pill cauldron.

The elderly man had a gaunt face with high cheekbones and deep-set eyes, which were staring intently at the pill cauldron before him. There was a fanatical gleam within his eyes, and he seemed to have been completely immersed in what he was doing, as if to him, the pill cauldron was the only thing that existed in this world.

All of a sudden, the flashing runes on the pill cauldron suddenly began to glow with dazzling radiance.

Almost at the exact same moment, the golden light radiating from the pill cauldron itself also turned into a combination of five different colors, and it seemed that some type of important change was taking place.

The look of excitement on the elderly man's face became even more pronounced upon seeing this, and he was constantly murmuring to himself, "Here it comes, here it comes..."

Right at this moment, two beams of golden light pierced through the sealed stone door of the stone hall.

A pair of loud clangs then rang out as the heavy stone door was split up into four chunks before falling into the hall.

Chapter 246: Nascent Incinerating Blood Pill

The white-haired elderly man immediately turned to discover three masked figures standing at the entrance of the stone hall.

They were led by a deer-masked figure that was holding a golden longsword, which was giving off dazzling golden light.

"Who are you?" the white-haired elderly man questioned with a cold expression.

Qilin 9 offered no response, merely slashing his golden longsword through the air with a cold smile on his face.

A sharp screeching sound rang out as a streak of golden swordlight erupted out of the sword, sweeping directly toward the white-haired elderly man.

Instead of taking evasive measures, the elderly man threw himself in front of the pill cauldron without any hesitation.

He then swept a sleeve through the air to release a purplish-golden lightning serpent that was around 10 feet in length, which clashed against the golden swordlight with a rumbling thunderclap.

The purplish-golden lightning serpent instantly exploded into countless tiny arcs of lightning that sprang forth in all directions, while the golden swordlight was also destroyed, split up into countless tiny fragments that flew through the surrounding air.

A string of loud booms rang out incessantly as countless chunks of rock flew in all directions, and the entire stone hall was instantly destroyed.

Before the dust settled, another streak of swordlight arrived, and this time, it was Han Li who had sprung into action.

He was holding a silver flying sword, and he launched himself up into the air before slashing the sword directly down upon the white-haired elderly man.

This flying sword was something that he had obtained during a Transient Guild mission, and it was a treasure that had been forged with Galactic Astral Silver as its main material. Of course, it couldn't even

begin to compare with his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords, but given his suspicions that Qilin 9 could be Xiong Shan, it was naturally a good idea to keep his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords hidden.

Furthermore, he possessed the lowest cultivation base out of the trio, so he didn't want to display too much power.

He had already made a contribution by getting the three of them into the valley, so the Qilin 9 and Qilin 17 couldn't really say anything even if he were to hold back a little here.

The silver flying sword began to radiate dazzling light as it released hundreds of silver sword projections, forming a massive silver waterfall that came cascading down upon the white-haired elderly man.

The elderly man let loose a low roar as he raised a hand before spreading his fingers open, and a thumb-sized bead that he was holding in his hand instantly swelled to countless times its original size, transforming into a golden shield that positioned itself above his head.

At the same time, a purplish-golden whip appeared in his other hand, using which he lashed out violently to his left.

A string of loud clangs rang out incessantly from the golden shield overhead, and golden light flashed incessantly as a dense web of cracks appeared on its surface, but it was able to just barely keep all of the oncoming sword projections at bay.

On the other side, a loud thunderclap rang out from the elderly man's lightning whip, and a pair of formidable purplish-golden lightning serpents sprang forth toward Qilin 9, keeping him at bay as well.

Right at this moment, a burst of spatial fluctuations suddenly emerged above the elderly man's head, and Qilin 17 appeared in a wraith-like manner, holding a black spear with both hands, which he plunged down toward the elderly man from above.

All of a sudden, the scorching flame beneath the five-colored cauldron began to churn violently, and a fiery dragon abruptly sprang out from within before pouncing toward Qilin 17, bringing with it a scorching wave of heat.

Qilin 17 immediately adjusted the course of his attack, sweeping his spear through the air instead of continuing to plunge it down directly from above. In doing so, he conjured up a vast expanse of black spear projections that swept toward the fiery dragon.

The spear projections and the fiery dragon exploded in unison upon contact, resulting in a blinding eruption of crimson and black light.

This appeared to have been quite a lengthy process, but in reality, all of this had taken place in the blink of an eye.

The white-haired elderly man had withstood the attacks from Han Li's trio head-on without taking even a single step backward, and he was still resolutely defending the pill cauldron behind him.

Qilin 17 sprang back and descended onto the ground several thousand feet away, having avoided the shockwaves from the explosion that had just taken place, and a cold smile appeared on his face as he flipped his black spear around in an elegant manner before plunging its tip straight into the ground.

The white-haired elderly man held his lightning whip in one hand while his other hand was clasped behind his back, and there was a wary look in his eyes as he inspected the trio before him.

He had already stowed away the golden shield that had been severely damaged by Han Li's sword projections, and his spare hand was concealed up his sleeve, holding onto a golden talisman that had slid discreetly into his grasp.

Han Li's gaze was fixed intently on the elderly man, and as soon as the latter opened his mouth, Han Li immediately lashed out once again, slashing his silver longsword through the air to release another barrage of several hundred silver sword projections that hurtled directly toward the elderly man.

After flying several hundred feet through the air, all of the sword projections abruptly split up into countless tiny streaks of sword qi that encompassed the white-haired elderly man's entire body from all directions.

The elderly man could only cease his chanting for now as he retaliated with his lightning whip.

A burst of purplish-golden lightning erupted from the lightning whip, accompanied by a draconic roar. Immediately thereafter, the purplish-golden lightning swelled drastically in size, transforming into purplish-golden lightning dragon that was several thousand feet in length, whipping its tail violently through the air as it twisted and thrashed from side to side.

A string of rumbling thunderclaps rang out as all of the sword qi hurtling toward the purplish-golden lightning dragon was eradicated.

A large chunk of the lightning on the surface of the purplish-golden dragon had also been exhausted, but the elderly man immediately made a string of hand seals, and the purplish-golden lightning dragon was instantly restored to the peak of its powers as it pounced viciously at Han Li.

Han Li feigned a panicked expression as he shot back in retreat, and right at this moment, a streak of golden swordlight that was over 1,000 feet in length came crashing down with unstoppable force, imbued with a burst of peerlessly sharp metal-attribute law powers.

The sword qi erupting from the streak of sword light split all of the clouds in the sky apart, forming a massive rift.

The wielder of the sword was naturally none other than Qilin 9, and at this moment, he was hovering high up in the sky, basked in a layer of golden light. Furthermore, his entire body was giving off an indescribably sharp aura, as if he were the embodiment of a peerlessly sharp sword.

Han Li continued to fly back in retreat while looking up at Qilin 9, and at this moment, it was confirmed to him beyond a reasonable doubt that this person was indeed Xiong Shan.

As the streak of golden swordlight descended from above, the white-haired elderly man raised his hands up into the air with all his might, and the purplish-golden lightning dragon temporarily abandoned its pursuit of Han Li as it flew up to oppose the streak of golden swordlight.

A dull clang rang out, and the purplish-golden lightning dragon was split into two down the middle by the streak of golden swordlight, and it exploded into a vast net of purple lightning.

The golden swordlight wasn't destroyed in the clash, but its power had been significantly diminished, and it was unable to descend any further with the purple lightning net standing in its way.

Right as the white-haired elderly man was about to do something else, the ground behind him suddenly shuddered, and a massive rift appeared, immediately following which a black spear shot out from within before crashing heavily into the pill cauldron.

A resounding clang reverberated throughout the entire stone hall, causing the surrounding space to ripple and quiver.

The pill cauldron was instantly sent flying by the spear strike, hurtling through the air before crashing down onto the ground over 1,000 feet away, only coming to a rest after rolling quite a distance away.

It was unclear what type of material the cauldron was forged from, but its surface remained completely unscathed in the face of the attack. However, the five-colored light radiating from it receded after flashing a few times, and it reverted back to its original golden color.

It was clear that the elderly man had been prioritizing the safety of the pill cauldron above all else, so Qilin 17 decided that it would be a good idea to destroy the cauldron in order to distract the elderly man, thereby creating an opportunity for Han Li and Qilin 9 to strike. This was why he had plunged his spear into the ground earlier, and his plan had worked flawlessly.

The elderly man instantly turned around, and as soon as he caught sight of the golden pill cauldron that had fallen onto the ground, a look of heart-wrenching fury and despair instantly appeared as he let loose a guttural roar.

"NO..."

Han Li and the others were quite taken aback by such a vehement reaction, and they were momentarily rooted to the spot.

"You've ruined tens of thousands of years of work! All of you must die!"

The resentment in the elderly man's eyes was becoming more and more ferocious, and it was as if he had lost all capacity for rational thought.

He flipped a hand over to produce a dark red pill, which he placed into his own mouth, but instead of swallowing it right away, he gnashed the pill into mush between his teeth before devouring it.

A sense of foreboding welled up in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this, and Qilin 9's expression suddenly changed drastically as he yelled in alarm, "That's a Nascent Incinerating Blood Pill!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, the elderly man began to chuckle in a harrowing, inhuman voice, and his skin gradually began to darken, quickly turning into a dark red shade that resembled raw pig liver.

At the same time, his sunken eyes began brighter and brighter, and there were even glimmers of golden light shining through.

Qilin 9 rushed back over 1,000 feet in the blink of an eye as he cautioned, "Look out, fellow daoists! He's just taken a restricted pill that can ignite one's nascent soul and blood essence in unison to significantly elevate the consumer's cultivation base for a short time. With the aid of that pill, there's a chance that he could even reach the Golden Immortal Stage!"

Han Li and Qilin 17 also hurriedly rushed back in retreat upon hearing this.

All of a sudden, a strange sound rang out, and wisps of faint red steam began to rise up from the elderly man's body, giving him the appearance of a steamed crab.

Immediately thereafter, the elderly man abruptly vanished from the spot amid the sound of rushing wind, and all that was left in his place was a cloud of red mist that began to slowly drift upward.

In the next instant, a figure suddenly appeared directly in front of Qilin 17 several thousand feet away, and the figure raised a fist before lashing out at Qilin 17's face with ferocious power.

Qilin 17 was caught completely off guard, and he only had time to raise a hand to shield his own face.

A resounding thump rang out, and Qilin 17 felt as if a mountain had crashed straight into the palm of his hand. His hand wasn't able to act as much of a buffer at all before it crashed heavily into his masked face, and he was sent flying back like a cannon ball before crashing heavily into a black cliff over 10,000 feet away.

A resounding boom rang out as the mountain that was tens of thousands of feet tall instantly exploded. Chunks of giant rocks the size of houses flew through the air in all directions as the mountain was instantly toppled.

Chapter 247: Avoiding Direct Confrontation

Before the dust even had a chance to settle, Han Li felt a blur flash before his eyes, and the white-haired elderly man instantly appeared before him, moving at an extraordinary speed.

Han Li immediately reflexively raised his arms, and he only just had enough time to cross them to form a barrier in front of himself before he was sent flying back by a tremendously powerful punch.

Thankfully, he had already conjured up his True Extreme Membrane, as well as a layer of golden scales over his arms, so he was able to ward off the attack better than Qilin 17 did, but even so, he was still sent flying back several thousand feet before managing to steady himself.

Even though the white-haired elderly man had managed to send Han Li flying, he also stumbled back a step himself, and a hint of surprise flashed through his eyes.

Immediately thereafter, Qilin 9 came swooping in with his sword, and the elderly man let loose a thunderous roar as he lashed out with his fists.

At this point, his skin had already gradually turned from a dark red color into a bright red hue, and the steam that was rising up from his body had also turned a shade of light pink.

Accompanying this change was an increase in his speed and power, and with every single punch that he threw, a loud boom would ring out in the air from the sheer force of his blows.

Qilin 9 was slashing his golden sword repeatedly through the air, while the white-haired elderly continued to fight with his bare fists, and each punch struck the edge of the golden sword's blade with tremendous force, resulting in a string of deafening booms.

The two of them were constantly changing positions, and the clashes between fists and sword sent bursts of invisible law fluctuations erupting through the air, destroying everything in the surrounding area and even carving out giant craters into the ground.

Qilin 9's swordsmanship was nothing short of exceptional, but in the face of the ridiculously fast and powerful elderly man, he was struggling to hold his own.

"All of you must die!" the white-haired elderly man roared, and his fists blurred as around a dozen identical fist projections appeared in the air before hurtling toward Qilin 9 with immense power.

Qilin 9 didn't have any time to think, and he gripped onto the hilt of his sword with both hands as a ball of dazzling light suddenly appeared at the tip of the sword. The ball of light was rapidly becoming brighter and brighter, and it swelled to several dozen feet in size before flying through the air and exploding violently.

Countless streaks of golden sword qi were sent sweeping through the air, crashing into the oncoming fist projections to produce a string of sharp metallic screeching noises.

However, to Qilin 9's surprise, almost all of the streaks of sword qi were instantly destroyed, but the fist projections weren't completely eradicated.

Immediately thereafter, a vast expanse of golden light emerged from his body to form a protective barrier in front of him.

Right at this moment, a slightly disheveled Qilin 17 abruptly flew out of a nearby giant crater, and with a flick of his wrist, a yellow rope flew out of his sleeve.

The length of rope was writhing around in mid-air like a spirit snake, and it formed seven or eight loops in the blink of an eye before flying toward the white-haired elderly man.

A string of resounding booms rang out, and the golden light around Qilin 9 shuddered violently as he was sent flying back through the air. The white-haired elderly man was about to charge forward and press his advantage, but he was caught in the loops of the yellow rope, which instantly constricted to completely bind him.

Qilin 17 was holding onto one end of the rope with one hand, and with a forceful wrenching motion, the elderly man was forcibly dragged toward him.

At the same time, Han Li popped up out of nowhere with his silver longsword raised, and he pierced the tip of the sword directly toward the elderly man's head.

Golden light flashed within the elderly man's eyes as a burst of muffled chanting rang out from within his mouth.

In the next instant, bright crimson light erupted all over his entire body, and the skin and flesh on his arms split open to reveal the bones underneath, which were still covered in a layer of pink fascia, and he was able to slice through the yellow rope with his bones to free himself as if they were sharp blades.

Immediately thereafter, he raised an arm and swept his blade-like bones toward the nearby Han Li.

The tip of Han Li's silver longsword struck the elderly man's bones to produce an extremely unpleasant screeching sound.

Han Li felt a burst of tremendous force surging toward him, and he immediately made the decision not to fight fire with fire, allowing himself to be sent flying back instead.

Even though the white-haired elderly man had lost some of his capacity for rational thought, he was still rather taken aback to see Han Li being blown back so easily. However, a thought then seemed to have occurred to him, and he abruptly turned around before pouncing at Qilin 17, who was still holding one end of the yellow rope.

In the blink of an eye, he appeared directly behind Qilin 17, then plunged the blade-like bones of his arms through several layers of protective light barriers with ease before piercing straight through Qilin 17's chest, creating a gaping hole that blood instantly began to gush out of.

Qilin 17's entire body arched back violently as a huge mouthful of blood gushed out from beneath his mask, but immediately thereafter, a burst of white light erupted from his waist, sending his entire body plummeting rapidly downward before slamming violently into the ground.

The white light then faded to reveal Qilin 17 laying on the ground in a completely still manner, and it was unclear whether he was dead or alive.

The white-haired elderly man cackled in a harrowing voice, and he paid no further heed to Qilin 17 as he turned a cold gaze to Han Li, who had already retreated to several thousand feet away.

Meanwhile, Han Li was watching the unfolding scene with a grim expression.

The elderly man appeared to have been quite a powerful Profound Immortal, and after devouring that Nascent Incinerating Blood Pill, his powers had been enhanced to an extreme degree. If Han Li had chosen to fight fire with fire just now, he would've most likely sustained severe injuries.

At this point, the elderly man's eyes had already turned completely golden in color, and there was no longer even the slightest hint of rationality within them.

This was a Profound Immortal who possessed power close to the Golden Immortal Stage and had lost all capacity for rational thought. It was no wonder that Qilin 17 was no match for him.

All of a sudden, the elderly man vanished from the spot in a flash.

Han Li didn't hesitate in the slightest as he shot back in retreat while a layer of golden scales appeared over both of his arms, and he raised a fist before throwing a punch directly forward.

A resounding boom rang out as his fist clashed violently with that of the white-haired elderly man, who had suddenly appeared in front of him.

A burst of invisible shockwaves instantly erupted forth in all directions like an almighty wave, causing the surrounding space to shudder violently while loose rocks were sent flying in all directions.

Han Li felt a burst of tremendous force surging toward him, and he was sent flying back several thousand feet, only coming to a rest after crashing into a pulverizing a black cliff face behind him.

The white-haired elderly man was also sent flying back, but only for about 2,000 to 3,000 feet before he managed to steady himself.

"I didn't think you were also a Profound Immortal, Fellow Daoist Wyrn 15. Having said that, do not oppose him directly. Instead, I'll set up an array to trap him, and you can lure him in once it's ready. At this point, he's already lost his sanity, so once the blood essence and nascent soul in his body is incinerated to nothingness, he'll drop dead on his own," Qilin 9 called out to Han Li as he hovered high up in the air.

Han Li took a moment to catch his breath, then replied, "Try to set up the array as soon as possible, Fellow Daoist Qilin 9. I can't guarantee that I'll be able to keep him occupied for long."

After that, he sprang up into the air before hurling the longsword in his hand forward.

The silver longsword flew through the air as it began to radiate dazzling silver light, and a circle of dense sword projections appeared around it, resembling a lotus flower that was blooming in mid-air.

Han Li then began to chant an incantation while pointing a finger downward, and a rapid string of silver sword projections instantly came raining down from above, completely inundating the white-haired elderly man that had only just emerged from a cliff face.

A string of rumbling booms rang out incessantly within the valley as dust and rock fragments flew in all directions, quickly concealing the elderly man's body.

All of a sudden, an animalistic roar rang out, and the white-haired elderly man sprang out of the cloud of dust.

All of the skin on his entire body was riddled with crimson cracks, while his long white hair, which had previously been bound up in a tight bun, was now dancing wildly around him in the wind, giving him the appearance of a ferocious devilish creature.

His arms were crossed to form a barrier to protect his face, and he plowed his way straight through the barrage of silver sword projections before crashing into the silver sword lotus flower.

The silver sword lotus flower instantly exploded into a flurry of silver sword projections that erupted froth in all directions, and the silver longsword that was situated at its center was also snapped into two.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and the muscles on his scaled arms bulged as he lashed out with his fists.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the valley, Qilin 9 was holding a golden staff that was around the same thickness as a grown man's arm, and he quickly strode over to a rock before plunging the staff forcefully downward.

There were countless runes engraved over the entire staff, which was around 30 feet in length, and around two-thirds of it was plunged into the earth, leaving only around the top 10 feet left exposed above the ground.

Qilin 9 took a glance at his surroundings to find that a circular array formed by golden staves had already taken shape, and there were two openings in the array, one to the east and one to the west.

"The array is ready, Fellow Daoist Wyrms 15!" Qilin 9 yelled as he turned to Han Li.

Han Li immediately twisted around before flying toward the array, and having completely lost all sanity, the white-haired elderly man pounced after Han Li without any hesitation, hurtling through the air at an even higher speed than Han Li's.

Han Li had only just reached the edge of the array when the white-haired elderly man caught up to him, and the latter instantly plunged the bone blade on the outer edge of his arm straight at the back of Han Li's chest.

Right at this moment, a sharp screeching sound rang out as a golden longsword shot out of Han Li's body, clashing with the elderly man's bone blade to raise a flurry of golden sparks.

The elderly man was stopped cold in his tracks, situated directly above the array.

At the same time, Qilin 9 hurled a golden staff at Han Li with a flick of his wrist as he yelled, "Catch!"

Han Li instantly swooped down to catch the golden staff, then turned and plunged it straight into the ground where one of the openings of the array was situated, and almost at the exact same moment, Qilin 9 plunged another staff into the ground at the other opening.

A faint buzzing sound rang out as a burst of invisible fluctuations rose up within the array, and all of the runes on the golden staves began to radiate dazzling golden light. A series of shimmering golden chains then rose up from the ground before binding themselves tightly around the white-haired elderly man.

White mist was rising up from the white-haired elderly man's entire body, and he began to struggle and thrash violently in mid-air.

The dozen or so golden staves that were known as Dragon Locking Staves began to sway unsteadily in the face of the white-haired elderly man's tremendous power, resembling saplings in a ferocious storm that could snap at any moment, but they were somehow just barely able to hold on.

Chapter 248: Final Blow

Han Li heaved a slight sigh of relief upon seeing this, then turned to Qilin 9 as he asked, "Fellow Daoist Qilin 9, how much longer do you think he'll be able to last?"

"His blood essence has already been incinerated from his organs to his flesh, and from his bones to his skin, so he should be a completely spent force soon. All we need to do is wait another 15 minutes," Qilin 9 replied.

Right at this moment, Qilin 17, who had been laying still on the ground this entire time, suddenly spasmed a few times before getting up into a seated position, seemingly with great difficulty.

The bright red flesh around the hole in his chest was slowly squirming as it fused back together, and only after the hole was completely sealed did he heave a long sigh of relief with a look of lingering fear in his eyes.

"That was way too close! I almost died here..."

Han Li and Qilin 9 exchanged a glance, and both of them could see their own derision mirrored in one another's eyes, but neither of them bothered to say anything. After all, the mission was going to be over soon, so they wouldn't have to put up with Qilin 17 for much longer.

Qilin 17 naturally noticed this brief interaction, and he had no intention of immediately joining Han Li and Qilin 9. Instead, he flew over to the rubble that was once the stone hall, then began to search through the wreckage.

With a sweep of his sleeve, a section of loose rocks was swept aside to reveal the pill cauldron down below, and he crouched down to pick it up.

"Don't you dare!"

The white-haired elderly man who was trapped in the array seemed to have spotted Qilin 17, and he threw his head back before letting loose a thunderous roar.

The octagonal array on the ground that had been snuffed out earlier abruptly lit up once again, and scorching flames erupted forth to form eight fiery dragons that flew directly toward the white-haired elderly man.

Han Li's trio was greatly alarmed by this sudden turn of events, and they hurriedly tried to intercept the fiery dragons, but it was already too late.

The eight fiery dragons surged straight into the elderly man's abdomen before vanishing into his body.

The crimson coloration of his body instantly became even more pronounced, and it was as if there were molten lava flowing within the cracks on his body, giving him an extremely terrifying appearance.

Most importantly, his aura had swelled drastically once again, and he had broken through to the Golden Immortal Stage.

He reached out with both hands to grab onto the golden chains around him, then tugged on them forcefully, and all of the surrounding Dragon Locking Staves were instantly uprooted before being swung at Han Li and Qilin 9.

The two of them naturally didn't dare to fight fire with fire, and they hurriedly flew back in retreat.

In just a single stride, the white-haired elderly man was able to reach Qilin 17 before throwing a punch directly at his head.

The speed displayed in that single stride had been downright ridiculous, and it was as if the space between him and Qilin 17 had been compressed. There was no time for Qilin 17 to take evasive measures, so he could only raise both hands to summon a glowing yellow flag to protect himself, while a white light barrier also surfaced over his body.

The yellow flag was clearly no ordinary treasure, and there was an image of the almighty beast Baxia with a stone monument on its back emblazoned upon it. The Baxia was so life-like that it was as if it could spring out of the flag at any moment, and it was giving off an extremely powerful earth-attribute aura.

As soon as the flag was unfurled, it was struck by the white-haired elderly man's fist, and all of the surrounding space in a radius of over 100 feet collapsed violently.

However, despite the fact that the flag appeared to have next to no structural integrity, it merely rippled incessantly in the face of the white-haired elderly man's fist, but wasn't instantly torn apart.

However, it was only able to last a brief moment before the Baxia image emblazoned upon it crumbled away, immediately following which the entire flag was torn to shreds.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Qilin 17 rolled to the side to take evasive measures, but he was still struck by the residual shockwaves from the blow, and the white light barrier around his body was instantly shattered, while he was sent flying through the air with blood gushing out of his mouth.

The white-haired elderly man didn't skip a beat as he caught up to Qilin 17 in an instant before throwing another punch at his head.

All of this had taken place so fast that even if Han Li and Qilin 9 wanted to save him, they simply wouldn't have been in time to do so.

Qilin 17 was cursing his own impatience, thinking to himself that he should've played dead for a while longer instead of being in such a hurry to secure the pill cauldron.

In a state of panic, he swiveled around and grabbed onto the ears of the golden pill cauldron, then raised it up high in front of him as a shield.

The white-haired elderly man's fist came hurtling through the air, yet right as it was about to strike the pill cauldron, a hint of reluctance appeared in his golden eyes, and he stopped his own fist dead in its tracks.

Qilin 17's eyes were tightly shut, and his entire body was drenched in cold sweat. He thought that his fate was sealed, but to his surprise, the final blow didn't come.

He carefully opened his eyes to find that the white-haired elderly man's entire body was completely wrecked, and he was standing in a completely motionless manner with his fist still outstretched in front of him.

There were still some specks of crimson light glowing within the cracks on his body, resembling the dying embers of a flame, but it was clear that his body was already completely devoid of life.

Han Li strode over to the elderly man's remains, and a myriad of emotions welled up in his heart.

It was unclear whether the elderly man had failed to deliver the final blow as he had exhausted all of his blood essence and nascent soul, or because he was unwilling to smash his prized pill cauldron.

Right as Han Li's trio heaved a collective sigh of relief, a glimmer of barely detectable golden light suddenly appeared in the white-haired elderly man's lifeless eyes, as if there were still a final hint of vitality in his body.

A sense of foreboding immediately welled up in Han Li's heart upon seeing this, but before he could do anything, an azure talisman suddenly flew out of the white-haired elderly man's sleeve.

With the emergence of that talisman, the final glimmer of golden light in his eyes completely faded, while the talisman flew through the air as a streak of azure light, instantly covering a distance of several thousand feet, immediately following which it began to release a flurry of countless tiny golden runes in a frenzy.

It was a talisman that had been entirely inscribed using golden seal text, and in the next instant, all of the runes began to release countless rays of dazzling azure light.

All of the azure light converged in mid-air to form a sea of azure light that was blindingly bright, and a rumbling thunderclap rang out in the air, following which the sky above the valley was instantly concealed behind a dense blanket of dark clouds.

It was as if the entire world had been plunged into darkness with the exception of this sea of azure light.

All of the world's origin qi within a radius of thousand of kilometers converged toward the valley from all directions before fusing into the sea of azure light, causing it to churn violently like a turbulent wave.

Faint threads of azure light emerged from the center of the sea of light, then intertwined to form an azure figure clad in a suit of armor with a solemn look on his face.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and as soon as the azure figure appeared, he immediately took a glance at the remains of the white-haired elderly man down below before lashing out with an enraged expression.

A burst of azure light emerged from the palm of his hand, then split up into three thin azure threads that hurtled toward Han Li's trio at an incredible speed.

The space in the wake of the azure threads instantly became twisted and warped, and countless specks of azure light converged from all directions from all of the vegetation within the entire valley. With the emergence of these specks of azure light, all of the surrounding plants instantly wilted away.

The countless specks of azure light gathered around the three azure threads, which instantly transformed into three balls of azure light, each of which was around a foot in size. Countless azure runes were dancing on the surfaces of these balls of light, and they were giving off incredibly destructive law fluctuations.

All of the space in the wake of the balls of azure light trembled and warped violently, and numerous white spatial rifts appeared, releasing astonishing suction force that threatened to collapse the entire space.

Han Li immediately shot back in retreat, only for the ball of azure light to accelerate even further and catch up to him in a flash before crashing down with tremendous force.

Han Li was quite alarmed, but remained composed, and he conjured up his True Extreme Membrane while raising both hands to summon his Heavy Water True Axis, which instantly swelled to several dozen times its original size, forming a massive shield before him.

The azure ball of light crashed into the Heavy Water True Axis with an earth-shattering boom, and Han Li felt his entire body being jolted by a burst of devastating, sending both him and the Heavy Water True Axis flying back for over 10,000 feet before he just barely managed to steady himself.

Having been fed so much heavy water by Han Li over the years, the Heavy Water True Axis had become as heavy as several mountains combined, and it had also been imbued with a great deal of water law powers, making it no lesser in power than a decent Acquired Immortal Treasure.

The ball of azure light had sent Han Li flying, but it had also disintegrated into countless specks of azure light itself.

Even so, Han Li was still stunned by the power of the ball of azure light, which far exceeded that of the attacks unleashed by the late-True Immortal cultivators that he had come across in the past.

He turned his gaze to the Heavy Water True Axis in front of him, and much to his dismay, he discovered that a faint mark had appeared on its surface, indicating that spiritual nature seemed to have been harmed.

Han Li hurriedly injected his immortal spiritual power into the Heavy Water True Axis, and the Water Dao Rune on its surface flashed momentarily as the mark on the axis quickly vanished.

Only then did he allow himself to heave a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Qilin 9 and Qilin 17 had also been sent flying, but they possessed superior cultivation bases to Han Li, and thanks to their treasures, they were also able to withstand the blows from the balls of azure light without much trouble.

Qilin 17 had summoned a turtle-shell-shaped shield with an extremely life-like demon beast that had the head of a dragon and the body of a turtle engraved onto its surface. The shield was flashing with spiritual light, and it appeared to have been quite a remarkable treasure.

However, a clear mark had been inflicted onto the shield, much to Qilin 17's anguish and chagrin.

As for Qilin 9, the golden flying sword in his hand had already disappeared, and instead, there was a golden millstone hovering in front of him. The millstone's surface was riddled with countless tiny golden runes, and had an extremely heavy and sturdy appearance.

A hint of surprise appeared on his face as he caught sight of Han Li's Heavy Water True Axis, but he then immediately composed himself and withdrew his gaze as if he hadn't noticed anything.

The change in Qilin 9's expression had only lasted an instant, but it hadn't managed to escape Han Li's notice.

Judging from Qilin 9's reaction, Han Li couldn't help but wonder if he had seen this Heavy Water True Axis before.

With that in mind, Han Li unconsciously became even more wary of Qilin 9.

Chapter 249: Making an Enemy Out of the Immortal Palace

After the azure figure forced back Han Li's trio, he didn't press his advantage. Instead, he descended beside the body of the white-haired elderly man, then swept a sleeve through the air to release a burst of azure light that enveloped the lifeless body, seemingly trying to save him.

However, the white-haired elderly man's soul had already been completely destroyed, leaving only a spent husk behind, and he was as dead as dead could be.

The azure figure turned to Han Li's trio with a look of thunderous rage on his face as he roared, "How dare you Transient Guild bastards come after members of our Immortal Palace!"

Han Li's heart jolted slightly upon hearing this, and he turned to Qilin 9 as he asked, "What's going on here, Fellow Daoist Qilin 9?"

Qilin 17 also turned to Qilin 9 with an accusatory look on his face.

"Please don't misunderstand, fellow daoists, I wasn't aware of this, either, and I can assure you that I didn't try to intentionally deceive you. The person who released the mission never revealed the identity of our target to me," Qilin 9 said with a sullen look on his face.

Han Li carefully observed Qilin 9's expression, and after determining that he didn't seem to have been lying, he immediately withdrew his gaze as he contemplated how to proceed.

In the face of such a formidable foe, he couldn't afford to panic.

Right at this moment, the azure figure made a hand seal, and bright azure light surfaced over his body alongside a series of azure patterns.

All of the specks of azure light that were the scattered remains of the three balls of azure light instantly converged toward him in a frenzy before surging into the azure patterns on his skin, causing him to swell drastically in stature to over 1,000 feet tall in the blink of an eye.

Han Li's trio immediately swept their spiritual sense over the azure-armored giant before them, and all three of them were extremely alarmed by what they detected.

The aura that the giant was giving off wasn't inferior in the slightest compared with that of the elderly man after he had consumed the Nascent Incinerating Blood Pill. In fact, the giant's aura was slightly more powerful in comparison, and the hearts of Han Li's trio immediately sank upon detecting this.

"This is Spiritual Origin Restoration! Look out, fellow daoists, we're dealing with an avatar of a Golden Immortal!" Qilin 9 exclaimed.

Han Li already suspected this to be the case, but he was still quite alarmed to have had his suspicions confirmed.

Having already been a member of the Blaze Dragon Dao for many years, he had accumulated a great deal of knowledge, and he had learned that one of the most prominent abilities of a Golden Immortal was Spiritual Origin Restoration.

Golden Immortals possessed far superior control over immortal spiritual power than True Immortals, and they were able to recover their spiritual power that was scattered during the course of battle, thereby significantly reducing their immortal spiritual power expenditure.

Judging from the powers that the azure figure had displayed thus far, he was clearly a Golden Immortal who had mastered some type of wood-attribute laws, allowing him to draw upon the wood-attribute spiritual qi in the surrounding area to unleash his attacks. If they were powerless to stop him from recycling his immortal spiritual power over and over again, then they would be in a world of trouble.

Right as these thoughts were running through their minds, the azure-armored giant pounced forward at an extraordinary speed despite its enormous frame, reaching Han Li's trio in the blink of an eye before slamming a giant fist straight down upon Qilin 9.

A burst of invisible fluctuations erupted forth amid a rumbling boom, and immensely powerful law fluctuations swept through the surrounding area like gusts of ferocious wind.

Instead of flying back in retreat, Qilin 9 made a hand seal, and the golden millstone in front of him began to glow brightly as it instantly swelled to the size of a small mountain, revolving rapidly as it rose up to meet the azure-armored giant's fist.

An earth-shattering boom rang out, accompanied by an explosion of golden and azure light, and the golden millstone was sent flying, as was Qilin 9.

However, the golden millstone was also quite a powerful treasure, and the repulsion force from the clash forced the azure-armored giant back a few steps, while the azure light radiating from his fist also dimmed slightly. However, the azure patterns on his arm lit up once again, and all of the scattered azure light began to surge back to him.

Before he had a chance to fully recover, Han Li and Qilin 17 abruptly appeared on either side of the azure-armored giant.

Han Li's Heavy Water True Axis expanded even further at his behest, swelling to the size of a house, and it began to revolve rapidly while giving off tremendous law power fluctuations.

Immediately thereafter, the Heavy Water True Axis came crashing down toward the azure-armored giant as a streak of black light.

Meanwhile, Qilin 17 was making a series of hand seals before summoning a square seal that was giving off an earthy yellow glow. A yellow dragon was coiled on top of the seal, giving it the appearance of an imperial jade seal from a mortal empire.

Qilin 17 quickly chanted an incantation before pressing his palm forward, and the yellow seal instantly swelled to countless times its original size.

A giant yellow dragon projection also emerged within the blinding yellow light around it, and it came crashing down upon the azure-armored giant.

Thanks to their earlier battle against the white-haired elderly man, the three of them had developed a decent amount of chemistry.

The azure-armored giant remained completely unfazed as he reached out with both hands, grabbing toward both the Heavy Water True Axis and the giant yellow seal.

Bright azure light radiated from his hands as countless azure runes surged forth in a frenzy, forming around a dozen layers of azure ripples that clashed against the opposing treasures.

A string of loud cracks rang out as the giant yellow seal broke through several layers of azure ripples in succession, but these azure ripples were extremely resolute, and with each layer that was breached, the seal would noticeably slow down.

Finally, after breaking through eight layers of ripples, the momentum of the giant yellow seal was completely exhausted, and it was stopped in its tracks before being caught in the grasp of the azure-armored giant.

At the same time, Han Li's Heavy Water True Axis was also clashing against the azure ripples, and a string of loud cracks rang out in succession as all of the layers of azure ripples were torn apart by the Heavy Water True Axis with ease.

The axis wasn't even slowed down in the slightest as it continued to forge ahead, and the azure-armored giant seemed to have been rather taken aback to see this as it clenched its palm into a tight fist, while the azure patterns on the surface of his hand began to glow.

All of the destroyed layers of azure ripples were instantly drawn back into the azure fist, giving it a more substantial form and lending it more power as it was launched through the air.

Han Li let loose a loud roar, and his face suddenly turned bright red as he made a rapid string of hand seals.

The Water Dao Rune on the Heavy Water True Axis instantly lit up with dazzling radiance, and a row of incredibly bright water blades emerged on the edge of the axis. The Heavy Water True Axis rapidly revolved as it clashed against the giant azure fist, and a resounding boom rang out as the azure fist, which was still yet to fully recover, was split into two.

The Heavy Water True Axis continued to rapidly revolve as it sliced all the way up the giant's arm, aiming to split the azure-armored giant's entire body in half.

The azure-armored giant's expression changed drastically upon seeing this. It clearly hadn't anticipated that the Heavy Water True Axis would be so formidable, and it opened its mouth to release a thin, yet blindingly bright azure thread.

The azure thread was giving off powerful law fluctuations, and it wrapped itself around the Heavy Water True Axis at an incredible speed.

The Heavy Water True Axis was instantly stopped cold in its tracks, and all of the water blades on its surface were shattered upon making contact with the azure thread.

The azure-armored giant took advantage of this opportunity to rush back in retreat, but before it could do so, Han Li abruptly switched to a different hand seal, and numerous black runes appeared on the surface of the Heavy Water True Axis to destroy the azure thread, but were also destroyed themselves in the process.

Immediately thereafter, the axis resumed slicing up the azure-armored giant's arm, managing to slice its arm off cleanly at the shoulder before it was able to get away. The axis then continued to revolve relentlessly, shredding the severed arm into balls of azure light.

The azure-armored giant came to a rest in the distance, then turned to look at its missing arm with slightly furrowed brows.

"Looks like I may have underestimated you earlier."

The azure-armored giant took a glance at Han Li, and it was clear that it was still furious, but it was also clearly far calmer than before.

A layer of azure light appeared at the spot where its arm had been severed, and the azure light that the severed arm had disintegrated into instantly surged back into giant's shoulder, where a new arm emerged, except the azure patterns on this one were dimmer than before.

Han Li made a beckoning motion to draw his Heavy Water True Axis back to him, and his face had turned very pale. It appeared as if he had exerted himself quite severely, and he flipped a hand over to produce an Immortal Origin Stone to replenish his immortal spiritual power.

Using the Heavy Water True Axis had been quite taxing on his immortal spiritual power, but not to such a severe extent. However, he didn't want to make himself appear excessively powerful in the face of Qilin 9 and Qilin 17.

Qilin was put slightly at ease by the sight of Han Li's labored display.

Han Li's Heavy Water True Axis had been astonishingly powerful, but it was clear that using it had also severely depleted Han Li's immortal spiritual power reserves, and that was quite reassuring to Qilin 9.

As for Qilin 17, he wasn't paying much attention to Han Li. Instead, he was making a string of hand seals in an attempt to recover the giant yellow seal that was still locked firmly in the grip of the azure-armored giant's other hand.

Yellow light was flashing urgently from the seal, but no matter how much it struggled, it was unable to break free.

After taking a moment to compose himself, Qilin 9 turned to the azure-armored giant and said, "May I ask which Golden Immortal Stage senior of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region you are? We only came here to carry out a mission, and we have no intention of making an enemy out of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. Could it be that there's been some type of misunderstanding?"

From the series of clashes that had just taken place, he was able to determine that even though the azure-armored giant was a Golden Immortal avatar, it didn't possess the power of a Golden Immortal.

Instead, at the very most, it was only at the pinnacle of the True Immortal Stage. Otherwise, the three of them wouldn't have had any chances.

The azure-armored giant offered no response as it opened its mouth to release a ball of azure light that contained countless dancing azure runes, and the ball of light instantly vanished into the giant yellow seal in its grasp.

Light flashed erratically on the surface of the sea, and it was instantly enveloped in a layer of faint azure light.

Qilin 17's expression changed drastically as he discovered that his mark in the seal had been erased. His spiritual connection with the seal had instantly vanished, meaning that the treasure no longer belonged to him.

"How dare you!"

Qilin 17 was furious, and he immediately pounced forward.

The seal was an extremely important treasure to him that was virtually equivalent to his bonded treasure, and having it taken away was no less severe a loss than having an arm severed.

Qilin 9 wanted to stop him, but it was already too late.

Qilin 17 swept a sleeve through the air to release five yellow beads, which transformed into five earthy yellow mountains in the blink of an eye, each of which was around 1,000 feet in size.

The five mountains then instantly fused into a single giant mountain that was over 10,000 feet tall, and it was giving off dazzling yellow radiance while countless yellow runes had appeared on its surface.

A burst of extremely heavy law fluctuations erupted out of the enormous mountain, and everything with a radius of several hundred kilometers instantly became countless times heavier than before.

He's mastered the laws of gravity!

Han Li's body also sank downward, but this amount of gravitational force was simple for him to withstand, and he immediately recovered as a layer of azure light flashed over his body.

The light radiating from the giant mountain grew even brighter as it came crashing down upon the azure-armored giant while releasing an incredibly destructive aura.

Han Li and Qilin 9 exchanged a glance before pouncing forward in unison.

Just like before, the two of them split up to flank the azure-armored giant from either side, and the Heavy Water True Axis and the golden millstone were giving off dazzling light as they hurtled toward the azure-armored giant.

At this point, negotiation was clearly no longer an option, so all they could do was fight.

Chapter 250: Falling Into Dire Straits

The azure-armored giant remained completely unfazed by the sight of the oncoming trio.

It began to chant an incantation as it swept a hand through the air, and the giant seal in its hand was hurled through the air, flying toward the enormous mountain as it swelled to close to 100 times its original size in a flash.

A resounding boom rang out as the giant seal shuddered violently before sinking downward slightly, but from there, it was able to hold its position and keep the huge mountain at bay.

At the same time, the azure-armored giant made a strange hand seal in front of its own chest, and a burst of azure light that contained countless surging azure runes instantly rose up from its body.

The azure light spread outward in all directions, forming a vast sea of azure light in the blink of an eye to protect the azure-armored giant.

The Heavy Water True Axis and the golden millstone crashed into the sea of azure light from the left and the right, causing it to churn and surge violently.

A series of azure ripples appeared around the giant before proliferating outward in all directions in layers, and there were over 100 such layers.

The Heavy Water True Axis was rapidly revolving as it crashed into the azure ripples, tearing through 50 to 60 layers in the blink of an eye, but it was then stopped cold in its tracks, unable to advance any further.

As for the golden millstone, it was imbued with even greater power, breaking through 70 to 80 layers of azure ripples before also coming to a rest, still situated around 2,000 to 3,000 feet away from the azure-armored giant.

Right at this moment, all of the azure ripples around the pair of treasures began to rapidly revolve in a frenzy, and from afar, it appeared as if two massive vortexes had appeared in the sea of azure light.

As the layers of azure ripples coiled themselves around the pair of treasures, two giant balls of azure light were instantly formed, trapping the treasures within them.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and by the time that Han Li and Qilin 9 realized what was happening, it was already too late for them to withdraw their treasures.

Both the Heavy Water True Axis and the golden millstone lit up in unison, sending waves of black and golden light crashing into the surrounding balls of azure light in an attempt to break free.

However, the balls of azure light were extremely resolute, and even though they were shuddering incessantly, they displayed no signs of breaking as more and more azure ripples continued to converge from the surrounding area.

After trapping those two treasures, the azure-armored giant paid no further heed to Han Li and Qilin 9 as it turned to lash out at the enormous mountain hanging above its head.

Five threads of azure light shot out of its fingertips, then came together to form a thin strand of azure light that resembled a streak of sword qi, and it was giving off incredibly powerful law fluctuations.

Countless specks of azure light appeared in the surrounding air before surging into the streak of azure sword qi, which then struck the giant mountain in a flash, easily slicing it into two as it were made of tofu, much to the alarm and astonishment of Qilin 17.

The streak of azure sword qi wasn't slowed down in the slightest as it continued to hurtle directly toward Qilin 17, looking as if it were going to slice him in half as well.

Qilin 17 hurriedly stomped a foot down onto the air below, and at the same time, dazzling yellow light erupted from his body to form a ball of yellow radiance as he flew back in retreat. At the same time, several talismans emerged within the yellow light to form a series of protective barriers all around him.

As soon as these protective light barriers took shape, the streak of azure sword qi had already arrived.

The protective light barriers around Qilin 17 appeared to have been quite resolute, but all of them instantly fell away in the face of the streak of azure sword qi, and an agonized howl quickly rang out as an arm came falling out of the sky.

Only after summoning so many talismans at once was Qilin 17 just barely able to avoid being killed on the spot, but even so, his left arm had still been severed at the shoulder, and his aura had diminished to less than half of what it was as a result.

In the next instant, he immediately made a hand seal with his remaining hand, and the blood that was pouring out of his severed arm was abruptly set alight. His entire body transformed into a ball of radiant crimson light that sped into the distance at a speed that was several times faster than before.

Han Li and Qilin 9's expressions instantly changed drastically upon seeing this.

The latter bit down onto the tip of his own tongue before expelling a mouthful of blood essence, and he flicked his fingers at the blood essence in rapid succession, upon which it instantly transformed into a cloud of blood mist that vanished in a flash.

Immediately thereafter, a vast expanse of red and golden light was released by the golden millstone that was trapped within the ball of azure light, making it resemble a two-colored sun. Balls of red and golden flames had also appeared on its surface, burning through all of the surrounding azure ripples and allowing the millstone to return to Qilin 9 in a flash.

Immediately thereafter, Qilin 9 fled in a different direction from Qilin 17 as a streak of golden light.

Almost at the exact same moment, the Water Dao Rune on the surface of the trapped Heavy Water True Axis also began to glow, and numerous blades of water re-emerged on its edge before the axis began to rapidly revolve, tearing the surrounding azure ripples apart before flying back into Han Li's grasp.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li sped away in another direction as an arc of silver lightning, traveling no slower than Qilin 9.

Upon realizing that their opponent was too formidable for them to defeat, all three of them had decided in unison that fleeing the battle was the best course of action.

Within the arc of silver lightning, Han Li's mind was racing.

This Golden Immortal avatar didn't possess the power of a true Golden Immortal, but it was still an extremely difficult opponent to deal with, and just that streak of azure sword qi that was formed by those law threads was something that Han Li doubted that he would be able to deal with.

"It's too late to try and get away now!"

The azure-armored giant was completely unconcerned by the attempts made by Han Li's trio to flee the battle, and a cold smile appeared on its face as it abruptly raised both of its arms in unison.

The sea of azure light around it shuddered before exploding violently, sending countless streaks of azure light flying in all directions before vanishing into thin air.

All of the surrounding space in a radius of several thousand kilometers instantly began to ripple violently as countless balls of azure light appeared, releasing blinding azure radiance that became interconnected to form an enormous azure domain in the blink of an eye.

Han Li's trio were all caught within the domain, and they felt as if the space around them had suddenly become tens of thousands of times heavier than before, thereby significantly reducing their speed.

Han Li let loose a low roar, and his Heavy Water True Axis appeared above him as those blades of water reappeared on its edge, and it began to rapidly revolve in an attempt to slice through the surrounding space.

The surrounding azure space churned violently for a moment, but it then instantly recovered amid a flash of azure light.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and before he had a chance to do anything else, countless azure runes suddenly appeared around him before rapidly revolving around his body.

His surroundings blurred, and he abruptly vanished from the spot, reappearing no more than 2,000 to 3,000 feet away from the azure-armored giant in the next instant.

Almost at the exact same moment, Qilin 9 and Qilin 17 also appeared nearby with two more flashes of azure light.

At this point, Qilin 17 had already regrown a new left arm, but he was clearly still in very bad shape as he exclaimed with an alarmed and fearful expression, "Could this be... a spirit domain?"

Qilin 9 was far more calm and composed, and he quickly took a glance at his surroundings without offering a response.

Han Li also inspected his surroundings for a moment, then mused, "It doesn't seem to be a complete spirit domain. Instead, some other method seems to have been used to assist in its formation."

The surrounding azure space was just like a spirit domain in that it had completely separated them from the outside world, making it impossible for them to draw upon the world's origin qi. As a result, they were only going to be able to unleash less than 50% of their power.

A cold smile appeared on the azure-armored giant's face as it said, "If you had tried to flee the battle from the very beginning, I may not have been able to stop you with this avatar of mine, but now, it's time for you to pay with your lives!"

As soon as its voice trailed off, the nearby space rippled, and countless balls of azure lightning the size of houses appeared before hurtling toward Han Li's trio like a ferocious storm.

Qilin 9 immediately raised a hand to summon his golden millstone, which hovered in front of him like a shield.

At the same time, golden light flashed around his body, and countless golden sword projections appeared, forming a golden sea of swords around him.

The entire sky was filled with formidable sword qi that swept toward the balls of azure lightning.

Almost at the exact same moment, Han Li made a hand seal, and his Heavy Water True Axis swelled even further in size before situating itself in front of him.

It then released a vast expanse of watery black light, which formed a huge black cloud that was 700 to 800 feet thick.

The Time Dao Rune on the axis was glowing with dazzling radiance as huge balls of blue water lightning flew out of the black clouds, hurtling toward the surrounding balls of azure lightning amid rumbling thunderclaps.

Meanwhile, Qilin 17 had summoned a yellow gourd that was suspended above his head.

He began to chant an incantation, and a layer of translucent runes emerged over the surface of the gourd as it rapidly swelled to the size of a house. Loud rumbling could be heard within the gourd, and

several thousand grains of translucent golden sand came pouring out, presenting a stunning sight to behold.

As soon as the sand was released, each grain split up into countless more, forming a sea of golden sand in front of Qilin 17.

Countless balls of azure lightning came crashing down upon the defensive measures that Han Li's trio had set up before exploding violently into azure lightning, forming a destructive sea of azure lightning.

Lights of all types of different colors intertwined with one another as earth-shattering booms rang out in succession, causing the surrounding space to shudder violently.

Han Li's trio were all looking on with grim expressions.

Each of these balls of azure lightning wasn't all that formidable on their own, but with each ball of lightning that exploded, a new one would instantly be conjured up in its place, and it seemed that there was no end to this barrage.

The blue water lightning released by the Heavy Water True Axis was quickly overwhelmed by the relentless barrage of azure lightning, and countless balls of azure lightning came crashing down upon the black cloud.

The black cloud shuddered violently as it was rapidly worn down, and it didn't take long before its original thickness of 700 to 800 feet was whittled away.

500 feet, 400 feet, 300 feet, 200 feet...

In the blink of an eye, the thickness of the black cloud had been reduced to less than 200 feet.

Qilin 17 was also facing a similar predicament, with only a thin layer of yellow sand remaining above his head.

Qilin 17 made a hand seal, and two thick pillars of yellow light erupted out of the palms of his hands as he desperately injected his immortal spiritual power into the film of sand overhead.

Having already had so many of his most powerful treasures destroyed or damaged, this film of sand was the only thing he had left to rely on at this point, and if it were also destroyed, then his fate would be sealed.

Out of the trio, Qilin 9 appeared to have been struggling the least. The sea of golden swords around him continued to swirl, and its radiance had dimmed a little, but it was still able to release streaks of golden sword qi to destroy all of the oncoming balls of azure lightning.