

Carefree 241

Chapter 241: Dragon Realm Energy

Although the Uncle River the golden carp was not the Golden Dragon God, it was still a Water God and had the attributes of a dragon. Or to put it in another word, it had the blood of the Golden Dragon God.

With such a status and the fact that it took ownership of a region, it would surely have the protection of the Dragon God.

Therefore, Fang Yuan quickly isolated its corpse and used his dream elemental force to attempt to keep it within his own actualised dream world.

Of course, a physical object like the corpse was impossible to be contained within the actualised dream world.

As the air around it vibrated, the corpse exploded and a loud bang was heard.

At the same time, Fang Yuan's expression changed.

He did gain something in his actualised dream world.

Before the carp exploded, a small white hint of realm energy appeared and quickly dissipated. The small tail of the carp was caught and thrown into the actualised dream world.

"Condense!"

Within the actualised dream world, Fang Yuan's true self appeared. He stretched out his right hand.

The air trembled and white streaks condensed on his palm, forming half the portion of realm energy. It was a pure white and was wriggling like an earthworm.

"If not for my ability to control my own actualised dream world, I might just let it disappear. Would the realm energy disappear the moment it is released? Could this be... natural realm energy?"

Fang Yuan sighed.

What was left in his hands was less than half the amount of realm energy from Uncle River.

He was already quick to capture the realm energy, but most of it had dissipated before he could keep it.

The amount of realm energy which Uncle River had was given to him by the Golden Dragon God, and might not even be 1% of what the Golden Dragon God had.

"What can I do with 0.5% of realm energy?"

After a long sigh, he opened his hands and released the realm energy.

Feng Xinzi and the few others were likely to be coming for this energy, so there must be some use for it.

If realm energy was released, it would dissipate quickly and disappear.

"Are there no changes?"

Fang Yuan looked at the size and height of his actualised dream world and shook his head. Suddenly, he glanced at his stats window:

“[8 Gates Sword Array (First Sword) (11%)]”

“There is an increase of 1% for the Leaving Fire Sword?”

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin and looked at his Leaving Fire Sword, which seemed to have not changed.

If not for the proficiency bar in his stats window, he would not even be aware of such a minor change.

“I’ve gained 1% from such a small amount of realm energy. What should I expect after getting the realm energy from Golden Dragon Lake?”

Fang Yuan’s eyes glittered. “The difficulty level for the other swords should be different from the Leaving Fire Sword, but it should allow me to actualise a true Leaving Fire Divine Soldier and begin on my next step for the next sword, right?”

“Although I don’t know the reason why Feng Xinzi and the rest are after the realm energy, to me, it is enough to know that I can increase my cultivation through it!”

“I am just lacking in a technique to seal the realm energy!”

If he used brute force, even if he could painstakingly kill the Golden Dragon God, he would lose more than half of its realm energy. How could he bear to let it go to waste?

Therefore, he had to obtain the technique to seal realm energy!

Since Feng Xinzi and the rest had already planned for the exploration mission in this realm a long time ago, they must be prepared.

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and returned to reality.

The river was surging.

Although he had many complicated thoughts in his dream world, it was only a blink of an eye in the reality.

Regardless if it was Ling’er who was beside him or Yu Da who was frightened to his wits, or even the crowd at the riverbank, none of them could react to what had just happened.

Uncle River was killed!

Since the accession of Golden Dragon God, nothing like that had ever happened!

“Let’s go!”

Fang Yuan was not interested in the commotion at the riverbank and directly commanded Ling’er.

Her eyes were filled with dismay, but she did not resist Fang Yuan.

After all, she knew that regardless of how things would turn out, it would not be appropriate for her to return...

...

After three days, at Golden Dragon Lake.

The lake was extremely vast and deep. On the surface of the lake, there was a thin layer of fog. Many small islands were within the lake, housing many island dwellers who would only worship the Golden Dragon God. They were like their own country and even Lie Country could do nothing about it.

Along the sides of the lake, in a restaurant, Fang Yuan ordered a pot of wine, a few dishes and enjoyed himself there.

As for Ling'er, he had given her some money and let her off.

After all, he only wanted to help her for the sake of helping her, and it was a small issue.

As for the Golden Dragon Lake, there was peace after the death of Uncle River, the golden carp. This surprised Fang Yuan.

"He must be extremely nervous inside, right? I'm sure he is preparing for my arrival?"

Fang Yuan finished his last cup of wine and stood up, preparing to pay for the bill.

At this moment, he twitched a little before slowly sitting down again, smiling.

"Deng! Deng!"

As footsteps were heard, two people walked down from the wooden staircase from the upper floors. Seeing Fang Yuan, their expression remained unchanged as they walked over.

"Brother Fang!"

It was a man and a woman. The man looked like a martial artist while the woman was a beautiful lady. It was Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus.

Of course, even though they had already gotten used to their bodies, they flinched in uneasiness as they met someone familiar. After greeting each other, they promptly joined him at the table.

As the brute looking martial artist which Deity Clear Lotus was possessing waved his hands, a layer of mist appeared. From outside, people could only see three friends happily chatting.

"Alright, we can speak without a worry now!"

Deity Clear Lotus looked at Fang Yuan. "It has been a few days and Brother Fang has already accomplished something big!"

"Hmph..."

Venerable Fiery Dragon scoffed. "You killed Uncle River, the golden carp! Do you know how much trouble that would bring to our plan?"

"I have no idea!"

Fang Yuan shrugged his shoulders and gave an innocent look. "Didn't we agree to split up and do whatever we want? How would I know who your target would be?"

Venerable Fiery Dragon was stunned.

In fact, he had already discussed this with Deity Clear Lotus that the main objective would be to take down Golden Dragon God. This was why they came straight to Golden Dragon Lake.

After hearing the news of Uncle River being killed, they quickly came out from hiding without a regard for anything.

Little did they know that Fang Yuan was new to this place. Furthermore, since they did not discuss the 'big plan' with him, it was only normal that something like that would happen.

"As for you guys..."

Fang Yuan was infuriated. "Both of you know that realm energy is extremely beneficial. Why did you hide this fact from me?"

As he raged, the air around shook as though there was a strong source of energy.

Deity Clear Lotus looked at Venerable Fiery Dragon and were shocked. "Your cultivation level... How much have you recovered?"

"About 30% to 40%?"

Fang Yuan lied through his teeth.

"Keke... We have only heard about realm energy from Su Guo. Before confirming it, we did not dare to do anything reckless..."

Deity Clear Lotus tried to salvage the situation, but Fang Yuan did not believe anything that she said.

"If this is so, then Feng Xinzi and Yu Tianlao would also target this place, right?"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered as he asked.

"No, Feng Xinzi is much more greedier... As for Yu Tianlao, she is rather mysterious and no one would ever know what she is up to..."

Venerable Fiery Dragon looked at Fang Yuan and felt that he was too mysterious to be understood.

"Brother!"

As for Deity Clear Lotus, she waved her hands welcomingly. "It is fate that we are able to meet Brother Fang. Let's count him in, shall we? After all, it's good to have another person helping out! Looking at the situation at Golden Dragon Lake, I'm afraid just the two of us won't be able to handle it!"

"That's true!"

After a long silence, Venerable Fiery Dragon nodded his head.

"Oh, thank you for your generosity!"

Fang Yuan placed his fists together and acted like he was appreciative. In a short while, after their exchanges and lies, it was weird that they could still get along.

“That’s right... Brother Fang, your guess is correct. Both of us are here for the Golden Dragon God, or should I say... the realm energy within the 800-mile radius of the Golden Dragon Lake!”

Deity Clear Lotus nodded her head. “After my research, I found out that the realm energy would not only aid us in our cultivation in the Illusionary Divine Stage, it would also have miraculous effects in smelting weapons and doing alchemy!”

“The only problem is that it is hard to obtain and hard to contain...”

Fang Yuan shook his head and sighed.

“Looking at how things are, I’m guessing that you have lost more than half of the realm energy from killing Uncle River, right?”

Deity Clear Lotus bit her lips and smiled. “I can teach you a technique to contain the realm energy. Let this be a sign of my sincerity for working with us!”

“Hmph... The golden carp, Uncle River, is the third child of Golden Dragon God and has his love. If we were the ones to contain the realm energy, we would surely be able to contain 90% of it!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon spoke in a regretful tone.

“Haha... Forgive me for my recklessness!”

Fang Yuan smiled. “Since Deity Clear Lotus have expressed her sincerity and both of you are going after the Golden Dragon God, I’ll listen to all of your commands!”

“That’s great!”

Deity Clear Lotus was jubilant. “With the addition of Brother Fang, I am extremely confident we’ll make it work this time!”

Fang Yuan was rather confused that Venerable Fiery Dragon did not rebut Deity Clear Lotus’s comment.

It seems that the power of Golden Dragon God was much more than he had imagined.

Indeed, Deity Clear Lotus started to describe Golden Dragon God’s abilities. “Under this god, there is Uncle River, Patrolling Ghost and others. Most importantly, we have to contain the realm energy of Golden Dragon Lake. It is as powerful as 3 or 4 dream masters in the Illusionary Divine stage combined, and even Feng Xinzi is afraid of facing the Golden Dragon God alone... However, it is most troublesome when these beings are within their territories, as they would be strengthened by their realm energies. For instance, The king of Lie Country would be strengthened by the country’s realm energy, which makes him invincible against many spiritual spells. Even Yu Tianlao could do nothing to him...”

“I see!”

Fang Yuan nodded his head.

“In fact, the realm energy in Hui Realm has appeared in Da Qian before, but in a different form!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon added on. "For instance, if the royal family of Da Qian did not have protection from the heavens and the control of the dragon energy, it would already be overrun by the crazy people from the Evil Divine Sect and the Divine Lotus Cult."

"Protection from the heavens, control of the dragon energy?"

Fang Yuan started to think about it and slowly began to understand the backing of the royal family of Da Qian.

"Mmm, the king of Lie Country is equivalent to a small Da Qian Emperor... With the realm energy of the country, we cannot go near him. However, if we are able to take his realm energy...."

There was a hint of temptation in Deity Clear Lotus's voice.

Chapter 242: Bait and Kill

Dragon God Island.

The island was situated in the depths of Golden Dragon Lake. On it, there was the largest temple, built to worship the Golden Dragon God. It was under the protection of many strong believers who lived nearby.

These island dwellers live among the islands in the lake and depend on the Golden Dragon God for survival. Their establishments on the lake were shocking and even the king of Lie Country could do nothing about it.

"Just on Dragon God Island itself, there are already about 10,000 people living on it, and a standing army!"

Fang Yuan and the two other dream masters approached the island, and their eyes were glittering.

One month had already passed since the three of them had met.

With their own secret techniques, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus went all out and recovered more than half of what they originally had. To recover even more of their abilities, they were met with all sorts of restrictions. Compared to Fang Yuan's unique ability, the difference was obvious. At some point, he even felt that he could take the both of them down. Of course, that only remained as a thought.

Through the past month, they had collected quite a lot of information regarding Golden Dragon Lake.

Finally, the three of them could not hold it back any longer and started to plan their attack.

"Within the lake and especially at the Dragon God Island, the Golden Dragon God would be able to use its full strength, and he would be further strengthened by the realm energy..."

Fang Yuan shook his head. "We should not fight him here."

"Of course we wouldn't!"

Venerable Fiery Dragon gazed at Dragon God Island with a serious look and raised his hands.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

A few red sparrows landed on his arms and chirped cheerfully.

However, Venerable Fiery Dragon remained with his serious look, as though he had received new information.

“How’s it?”

Deity Clear Lotus asked.

“The defence on Dragon God Island is tight. Even my secret technique to spy on them was discovered! We cannot go in by brute force!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon continued to look solemn and shook his head.

“If that is so, then the only way is to attract him out of his nest!”

Both of them looked at Fang Yuan.

Seeing their reactions, Fang Yuan rolled his eyes. “Shouldn’t you keep your promises?”

“Alright!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon patted his own chest. “I will transfer you 100 contribution points when we get back!”

“I’ll give you the technique to seal the realm energy now!”

Deity Qinghe passed her white-coloured inscription plate over.

“Alright!”

Fang Yuan took the inscription plate and placed it on his forehead. Immediately, he received a huge transcript of the technique. “I’ll verify it on my own. If there are no problems with it, we can carry on with our plan three days later!”

“That’s good!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon exchanged mysterious glances with Deity Clear Lotus.

...

Three days later, on Dragon God Island.

“Roar! Roar!”

In the temple, a figure with the head of a dragon and the body of a human let out a terrifying roar.

It was similar to that of a tiger or leopard’s roar, with the vibe of a God.

On Dragon God Island, people and animals alike would kneel down and pay their respects to the Golden Dragon God.

“Dragon God is here!”

In the temple, a priest was wearing a colourful but scaly hide. There were even scales on his face. He was in meditation, as though he was listening out for something. Quickly, he turned around and announced:

“The mighty Golden Dragon God had passed down a decree! The person who killed his son, the golden carp, is here at Golden Dragon Lake... Find him and kill him! Bring his head back as an offering!”

“Wuuu! Wuuu!”

Many island dwellers shouted in fury as they started to paddle their boats and took their leave from the island.

...

At the border of Golden Dragon Lake.

“Shing!”

Fang Yuan pointed his finger out like a sword and struck at random.

In front of him, there was a huge tortoise. As the sword essence struck through its shell, green blood started to flow out.

“Five Places and Ten Earths, Seal!!!”

He struck his left palm on the shell of the tortoise.

“Buzz!”

A glow appeared and a small amount of realm energy was visible. As it struggled to escape, it was contained by the runes around. Slowly, the space around it shrunk and finally, it became like an earthworm, which was subsequently thrown into Fang Yuan’s actualised dream world.

“This technique is really simple...”

The plan which Deity Clear Lotus and Venerable Fiery Dragon came up with was to use Fang Yuan’s identity as a bait. He would enter the Golden Dragon Lake and attract the island dwellers out before killing them.

As long as the damage they could create was huge enough without displaying any real threat to the Golden Dragon God, he would surely appear to stop them!

What if he would decide to be a cowardly tortoise? They would kill their way in until the Golden Dragon God wouldn’t be able to take it!”

Previously when Fang Yuan killed the golden carp, he sealed his own spiritual aura, which made him undetectable.

With his sudden revelation, he attracted this large tortoise and the other crustacean army.

‘This is not right... you’re overdoing it!’

Beside him, a red sparrow was chirping. "You need to fight and run at the same time, convincing the Golden Dragon God that he has the ability to take you down. The best would be to injure yourself and force him to come out of hiding, making himself vulnerable!"

"I know..."

Fang Yuan waved his hands in annoyance but he was panicky inside.

If Venerable Fiery Dragon were to become a trickster, he would be rather successful.

"And also... The realm energy..."

The red sparrow stared at Fang Yuan as though it was begging for an earthworm to eat.

"Whoever killed it shall have it!"

Fang Yuan rejected him without hesitation, turned around and took his leave.

"Whoosh!"

At the small river near them, a splash appeared and a huge green prawn crawled up the shore. With its two huge claws, it started to snap at Fang Yuan.

"Another one who is looking for death!"

Fang Yuan looked across the lake and saw the silhouette of a wooden boat. He smiled.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

This time, the red bird leapt on his shoulders and chirped into his ears.

"Alright, I've got it, fight and run at the same time!"

Fang Yuan swung his sword out, forming a red moon in the air. Within seconds, he had already chopped off the head of the prawn and started to drag the prawn along with him by its tail. "It's such a rare sight to see a freshwater prawn this huge! We're having a good meal tonight."

As soon as he walked into a forest, there was a trail of blood behind him.

...

Not long after, the news of a person wreaking havoc at Golden Dragon Lake spread.

The fishermen could haul up fishes of over ten inches long and huge turtle shells. Of course, they also found remnants of broken boats from the island dwellers.

Many fishermen reported that they had seen the devil before and that it was only a young man.

At the same time, the casualty rate on Dragon God Island steadily crept up.

Finally, it was the seventh day.

"Roar! Roar!"

As a dragon's roar was heard, the ground gave way. A golden flash of light shot out from the temple and towards the South.

South of Golden Dragon Lake.

"My God will never let you off!"

An island dweller, who was a Wu Zong, spat out blood.

He was highly skilled in martial arts and was at the level of a Wu Zong. With the assistance from other spiritual objects, he was comparable to a Wu Zong in the Meridian Opening Realm.

But now, he was laying on the ground like a dead dog. Not long after, he lost his breath and died.

"I'll wait for him!"

Fang Yuan breathed heavily, and his body condition had deteriorated.

This island dweller was indeed highly skilled and posed a formidable opponent. This resulted in Fang Yuan having multiple injuries and he was bleeding everywhere, soaking in clothes wet in blood.

Of course, this didn't matter.

If he continued to head South and through a mountain, he would be out of the territory of Golden Dragon Lake.

If the Golden Dragon King wanted to strike, it would strike now.

Fang Yuan revealed a worn-out look and started to close his eyes and meditate.

Around him, there were many corpses of the island dwellers. It was like a massacre and huge volumes of blood filled the ground. It had turned black and was a nauseous sight to behold.

In the hell-like surroundings, Fang Yuan sat in the middle peacefully, which felt confusing.

After a short while, Fang Yuan stood up and was prepared to leave.

"Rumble!"

At this moment, a golden glow appeared and a strong surge of energy exploded!

At a small river beside where Fang Yuan was, there was a black shadow within. It was long like a gigantic snake.

"Roar! Roar!"

After the roars were heard, there was a huge splash and a gigantic water dragon appeared.

This water dragon had the body of a snake and had four claws. It was green in colour with hints of golden streaks on its back. With its ferocious eyes, he glanced at Fang Yuan. "Mortal, was it you who killed my son and destroyed my crustacean army?"

"Why do all Gods like such an entry?"

Fang Yuan dug his ears. "Regardless... You are still a water dragon, not a dragon!"

Fang Yuan was certain that this was the Golden Dragon God.

Even though it had the support from the royal family and had been existing for a few hundred years already, it still had insufficient cultivation to become a true dragon.

On the contrary, from the water dragon's eyes, he could only feel that he was evil and cruel.

"It seems that the gods in this realm are problematic. If you continue to rule with fear and control your followers, how can you think about achieving something big in the future?"

Fang Yuan shook his head and looked at the red sparrow.

"Alright, you can make the first move. Deity Clear Lotus and I will make the necessary arrangements to block his path!"

Fang Yuan could hear Venerable Fiery Dragon's voice in his mind.

"What audacity!"

Without a doubt, Fang Yuan's indifferent attitude had infuriated the Golden Dragon God.

With a water dragon's roar, the Golden Dragon God grew in size and struck a huge claw above Fang Yuan.

"Rumble!"

Fang Yuan quickly dodged the claw. At where he once stood, there was a huge claw mark on the ground.

"You indeed have the assistance from the realm energy from the Golden Dragon Lake..."

Fang Yuan widened his eyes. "Your physical body, energy and blood have already reached its peak! Watch out for my sword!"

As he complimented the Golden Dragon God, there was a glow on his right hand.

The illusionary shadow of a red spiritual sword appeared in his hands.

"Leaving Fire Sword, strike!"

"Whoosh!"

A fiery glow struck mid-air and landed on the water dragon, knocking its scales off and revealing a wound.

"Rumble!"

Not just that, a small fire started to burn on the water dragon.

"Ah... How dare you..."

As the Golden Dragon God exclaimed, he harnessed his water-type techniques in an attempt to put out the fire.

Previously, Fang Yuan was concealing his true ability but now, as he used his full strength, he gave off a different feel.

“Who are you exactly?”

Golden Dragon God transfigured into a middle-aged man wearing robes and started to float in mid-air. He appeared solemn.

“I am the person who is responsible to kill you! Watch out!”

Fang Yuan exclaimed.

“Rumble!”

As the blood in the ground came together, spiritual inscriptions were formed, creating a huge array and trapping Golden Dragon God in it!

Chapter 243: Killing in the Array

“What is... this?”

In the blood array, Golden Dragon God was glowing as he was fighting against the binding array. His expression was changing.

“Save me, king!”

Amidst a blood fog, many illusionary shadows appeared. The first of them was an animal with the feathers of a crane and the shell of a tortoise. It looked fierce but the shadow of it was incomplete. Its eyes were bloodshot. “King... I’m in pain!”

“Dragon God! Dragon God!”

Behind him, many spirits were rushing and they were all covered in a black mist.

“God, please protect the island dwellers!”

Most of the island dwellers had fractured bones and they were like grieving souls surrounding the Golden Dragon King.

“What this about...”

Witnessing this scene, Fang Yuan’s expression changed.

“Hehe... how’s my Thousand Soul Bloodied Array?”

Beside him, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus appeared. “I created this blood array. As for the grieving souls, it was Deity Clear Lotus’s Karma Technique. It is normal for this god to experience all these karma, for he had a good deal of coming to an agreement to coexist with the mortals!”

“I’ve learnt!”

Fang Yuan nodded his head. “Normal spiritual array masters would only know how to cast an array and the most they could do would be to rely on the geographical features of where the array would be cast. However, both of you are able to do it naturally after taking into account the background of the Golden Dragon God and cast it naturally! Kudos!”

All these grieving spirits and island dwellers were not only killed by Fang Yuan but had to become a tool after death to go against the Golden Dragon King. They were pitiful as they were being manipulated while they were alive, and even after death.

Even the arranging of the array to trap the Golden Dragon King was an impressive one.

“The two of them... they are not simple! But to train and achieve the Illusionary Divine Stage, how could they not have had any help?”

Fang Yuan thought to himself silently and looked at the array.

...

“King...”

“Princess...”

“Save all of us!”

In the blood array, every grieving soul was pestering the Golden Dragon God.

“How dare all of you! Do you want to disobey my orders?”

Golden Dragon King took two steps back and revealed a face of determination. “Do all of you want to be destroyed and vanish from this world?”

“Rumble!”

As he spoke, a concentrated bubble of realm energy appeared from his body and rose up slowly like a cloud, becoming a sight to see 800 miles around the Golden Dragon Lake.

“Chi! Chi!”

The souls which approached him dissipated and melted as though they were snowmen under the sun.

“Rumble! Rumble!”

Surges of energies continuously struck the array like waves.

“What a strong force from his realm energy!”

Outside, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus were frantic. “The most realm energy we have ever seen was from Uncle River. Who would have thought that this Golden Dragon God would have so much realm energy!”

“We cannot allow him to break out of the array, or he will escape through the water.”

Deity Clear Lotus roared and placed her both her hands on the array.

“Chi! Chi!”

Within seconds, her strong arms quickly withered and became skin and bones. It was as though life was being sucked out of her arms.

“He will not escape. He will simply use the realm energy from the Golden Dragon Lake to destroy us completely!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon glanced into the cold-looking eyes of the Golden Dragon God. Together with Deity Clear Lotus, he placed his feminine hands onto the array.

After taking in life from the both of them, the blood array started to stabilise. Although it looked precarious, it was still able to contain the Golden Dragon God’s relentless attacks.

However, both of them were extremely pale as though they were dead.

“Both of us have sacrificed 20 years of our lives in an attempt to contain the Golden Dragon God’s realm energy for a while longer. Fang Yuan, quickly enter the array and kill him, or we will all lose our lives!”

Their voices were heard in Fang Yuan’s mind, which made him roll his eyes.

However, he also understood the teachings of arrays and could tell them both of them had already exerted their strength. If he were to ask them to fight against the Golden Dragon God, it would be extremely tough for them.

Furthermore, as time passed, both of their life essences would be lost. Their hair even turned white, which was evident that they had already lost many years of their lives.

“Without assistance from the realm energy, the dragon king is only a spiritual knight in the Elemental Opening Realm and a Wu Zong!”

Fang Yuan shook his head and took a step into the array.

“Rumble!”

In the next moment, everything changed!

It was bloodied all around and there was pressure felt everywhere.

In the centre, the Golden Dragon God’s body glittered as it repelled the blood fog which was within the array. There was a streak of realm energy on his head which was sealed by the glow of blood from the array.

“Thief, it’s you again!”

Seeing Fang Yuan, the Golden Dragon God’s expression changed once more.

If not for him, how would he so carelessly leave the lake and be captured?

He wanted to kill Fang Yuan so badly and drink his blood!

However, it was an experienced god. “We are only on opposite ends because of the death of Uncle River. I have 8 other sons just like him, and countless crustacean army! Why not stop fighting... With all my wealth, I can compensate you anything you want!”

“Oh? You’re becoming smarter!”

With a mysterious look, Fang Yuan shook his head. "What a pity... We don't want your treasures, but the realm energy in this 800-mile radius lake!"

"That is the source of my energy!"

The Golden Dragon King looked desolate. "It seems like... We have to fight each other to our deaths!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, he rushed forward and transfigured into a water dragon. With the swerve of his tail, he swiped at Fang Yuan.

"Pa!"

Fang Yuan was struck by the tail and fell above the array. He stood up as though he was uninjured and dusted his chest. "Indeed... Without assistance from the realm energy, you are not such a formidable opponent after all!"

"You!"

The water dragon in the blood array widened his eyes. "How can you remain uninjured?"

"Why not?"

Fang Yuan rubbed his chest. As he rubbed, his clothing disintegrated and flew with the wind like butterflies, revealing his golden body.

This was the strength of Giant Eagle Metal Body coupled with the defensive Hundred Poison Golden Body!

"There is no such person like you in Lie Country who does not need to rely on the powers of the zodiac... What kind of God are you?"

The water dragon asked as he sounded confused.

"You are already a dead dragon. Why do you need to know so much?"

Fang Yuan let out a laugh and pointed his right hand out. "Thousand arrows, strike together!"

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

In his actualised dream world, the 8 Gates Sword Array shook.

Countless red-coloured sword essence filled the blood array, and in the array came an exclamation filled with fury and pain.

"Chi! Chi!"

"Rumble!"

In the blood array, the water dragon dodged the sword essences as they slowly inched towards the boundary of the lake.

Every time the array shook, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus would spit out a mouthful of blood. Within minutes, their hair became completely white.

“This dragon is more powerful than we have expected!”

There was blood on Deity Clear Lotus’s mouth. “If not for fate for us to meet Fang Yuan, we might end up dead if we were to strike recklessly!”

“That’s true!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon had an awful look on his face. “I am worried about our friend not being able to take down the dragon in such a short time. If he takes a little longer, we would die and return to our realm. Yu Tianlao would surely laugh at us!”

“Kacha!”

At this point in time, a stronger force struck the array and cracks started to appear on its side.

In the array, Fang Yuan swung his sword essence around and slowly started to form a sword, landing it on the water dragon’s body.

As the water dragon flew out, blood spurted everywhere and it crashed into the walls of the array.

As everything shook, countless water dragon scales and water dragon blood scattered on the ground like rain.

“Kacha!”

In the blood array, the blood glow which contained realm energy shook and started to crack under immense pressure. The realm energy within it was trying to break free as though it could emerge anytime.

“We can’t hold any longer. We need to kill the dragon now!”

Through his spiritual will, Fang Yuan could sense that the both of them were about to use up all their energy. “If we let it escape, even I would probably die and it would hurt our own physical bodies! It would not be worth it then! Use your final strength!”

As the Golden Dragon King sensed that the realm energy was about to escape, it had a joyful look and became more composed.

“Rumble!”

In front of him, three spiritual meridians appeared on Fang Yuan’s body forming a spiritual armour and covering his body.

“Whoosh!”

At the same time, a translucent fire sword was shimmering in Fang Yuan’s hands. It had a dragon carving on its handle and was a Leaving Fire Sword.

“Sixth Elemental Force and the Leaving Fire Sword, kill!”

Becoming a shadow, Fang Yuan approached the Golden Dragon King swiftly.

As the spiritual armour glowed, it blocked off most of the attacks.

With the look of determination in his eyes, Fang Yuan danced around the water dragon and wielded the sword with all his life. Avoiding all his other wounds, he came to the water dragon's neck and lunged forward!

"Roar! Roar!"

As the water dragon roared, it appeared as though it could not hold on further.

With the scales on its neck falling, Fang Yuan continued to strike the water dragon's body, allowing the sword's essence to explode within the body

"Growl!"

After a dull voice was heard, the water dragon's stomach expanded as though it had swallowed a small burning sun.

The stomach continued to grow and finally, it could not hold any longer and exploded.

As blood splattered across the sky, two halves of a water dragon's corpse fell from the sky and as it hit the ground, dust was stirred up.

"Finally... it had ended!"

Fang Yuan waved his hands, retrieving the scale from its neck.

It was an inverse scale and was different from the rest. It seemed to be of pure gold and different from the scales from other parts of its body, which stunned Fang Yuan.

"Kacha!"

In the next moment, the blood array crumbled.

"Phew... It's finally dead!"

"This d*mned dragon is really fierce... Wait, quickly contain the realm energy!"

Deity Clear Lotus and Venerable Fiery Dragon were stumbling about but held on and executed the technique to contain the realm energy in mid-air.

"Good!"

Without reservations, Fang Yuan helped out and the three of them worked together to execute the technique.

"Roar! Roar!"

Amidst the runes, a white streak of energy slithered like a dragon and on its way, it struck the seal.

"What a fellow!"

Fang Yuan gritted his teeth. "Such power! Indeed the realm energy from 800-mile radius of the Golden Dragon Lake!"

Chapter 244: Dragon Palace

Compared to Uncle River's realm energy, the process of sealing Golden Dragon God's realm energy was much harder.

Even though the three of them were working together, he could feel an energetic dragon forcing its way out.

"Haha... great!"

However, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus were pleased.

The more difficult it was to contain the realm energy, the bigger their reward.

"Buzz!"

As the realm energy surged, dark clouds began to form above the entire Golden Dragon Lake.

In the sky, lightning struck everywhere.

Even though the three Illusionary Divine dream masters came together, the huge realm energy was extremely hard to contain, even without the Golden Dragon God controlling it.

"Five Places and Ten Earths, Seal!"

Finally, before the lightning could strike them, colourful runes were covered all over the realm energy and as it glowed, the realm energy was contained.

"Split!"

As the three of them worked together, according to their agreement, the dragon-shaped realm energy split.

"Kacha!"

In the explosion, the original realm energy became three smaller streaks of energy. As their power was reduced, they could no longer attempt to break out.

"The Golden Dragon God's realm energy is plentiful. If we carry it around us, we would attract too much attention and trouble for us. The best way to keep it is to keep it directly into our actualised dream world."

Without hesitation, Deity Clear Lotus and Venerable Fiery Dragon transferred their realm energy into their dream worlds.

Fang Yuan did the same thing.

The amount of realm energy was huge. With it, the Golden Dragon God could manage 800 miles of land and even go against the royal family. If all these realm energies were to land on a small god's hands or on a cultivator's hands, they would surely achieve a breakthrough immediately and therefore gain the power which the Golden Dragon God once had. After all, it would be more favourable for the realm energy to end up with the natives compared to Fang Yuan and company. At least, that would be the choice of the heavens.

“Although we are concealed in the bodies of the natives, the more we do, the more we are revealing ourselves...”

The three of them stood together and looked at the dissipating dark clouds. “The heavens would surely find some way to deal with us. They might even create some Energy Souls!”

“Energy Souls?”

Fang Yuan immediately thought of the protagonists in the novels which he had read about. These protagonists would be equipped with magical weapons and beautiful ladies would automatically come to them. With this thought, he shuddered.

“That’s right. These Energy Souls are rather troublesome and cannot be killed. Therefore, they can become strong very quickly...”

Venerable Fiery Dragon gave an unpleasant look. “If we go after these Energy Souls, we might even encounter the even more powerful Fate Souls. I’m sure you do not want to have the feeling of going against the entire world...”

“What we’ve done is still considered a small commotion in this world, right?”

Deity Clear Lotus’s expression changed.

“This is only a Dragon King is a small place and the heavens might let us go. As For Feng Xinzi’s big plan...”

Venerable Fiery Dragon shook his head. “It’s not that simple. It would only be normal if the heavens would interfere. Regardless, in the next two months, we’ll prepare to live in seclusion and handle the realm energy. What about you, Brother Fang?”

“Me?”

Fang Yuan rubbed his nose. “I would explore this world and gain more exposure. Don’t you want to follow me to explore the dragon’s nest?”

“... These treasures are useless to us...”

Deity Clear Lotus continued. “What is rarer than the corpse of a water dragon?”

Looking at the water dragon corpse on the ground, she commented. “To us, it can only be made into a one-time usage magical weapon to be disposed of in this world...”

Although pessimistic, they carried on to split the corpse of the water dragon.

They were friendly to each other since they knew that this was something they could not bring out of this world.

Afterwards, the three of them worked together once again as they prepared to explore Dragon God Island.

Other than an empty temple and the many escaping island dwellers, they still could not find the dragon’s nest.

“Since he calls himself the Golden Dragon God, he might have built a Dragon Palace underwater!”

Deity Clear Lotus and Venerable Fiery Dragon immediately backed out. “In this 800-mile huge lake, even though we are dream masters in the Illusionary Divine stage, it is still impossible for us to slowly search for it. Instead of wasting time here, why not find a place for us to slowly recover our cultivation and make a few magical weapons in preparation for the final plan!”

Facing such a rejection, Fang Yuan could only laugh.

He had already restored all of his cultivation. Furthermore, he was not well-versed in smelting magical weapons. He could only show a face of regret as a response to their rejection and continue on with his plan.

“Although Deity Clear Lotus is right, I have nothing else to do. I have restored everything that I need to restore, so it will be alright for me to continue searching. I might even find something useful!”

After a few days, at night.

As the sun set, the moon started to spread its glow over the surface of the world.

On the lake, the moonlight was shimmery but there was peace everywhere.

“A full moon above the ocean, and people and the ends of the world can enjoy the same moon. For lovers would resent the long night and think of each other...”

Looking at the moon, Fang Yuan slowly recited a poem.

Although there were two suns in this realm, there was no changing moon, which disappointed him a little.

“This place... it is still not my original world!”

Lying on a small boat, he drifted along with the current. Looking at the moon above him, he took out a piece of scale.

This scale had sharp edges like a sword and was golden. It had a hint of dragon property and was not a normal scale; it was the inverse scale of the Golden Dragon God.

Because all three of them were friendly towards each other, or it could be the fact that they didn’t mind, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus did not say anything about him keeping the scale.

Under the moonlight, on the surface of the lake, the golden glow on the inverse scale intensified and inscriptions full of spiritual property started to appear on the scale.

As he dipped the inverse scale into the lake, there was a surge of energy which spread from the scale.

“It’s the Dragon God!”

“Dragon God!”

Not long after, a black shadow appeared beneath the lake. “Golden Dragon God is already dead. How can I still detect his spiritual aura? Could it be a broken scale? If I swallow it, I will have the blood of the dragons and might even be able to become a dragon in the future!”

“Mortal, hand over the piece of scale!”

“Splash!”

As water splashed around, a huge black shadow emerged from the lake. It was a black snake’s head the size of a water pot. Its ferocious eyes were like torches. As it spoke human language, its tongue slithered in and out of its mouth, making it seem evil.

If a normal person were to see this, they would be shocked and stunned.

“Who would’ve guessed that there is still such a monster in the Golden Dragon Lake!”

Without caring what the snake had said, Fang Yuan kept the piece of scale. “I have a question. If you cannot answer, you will end up like the three previous island dwellers. They are now reflecting on their own actions in my stomach... Where is the Dragon Palace? Hmmm?”

As he asked, a huge pressure was felt in the vicinity and on the black snake.

“Ah... You’re the human who killed Golden Dragon God!”

As the black snake exclaimed, it turned around and tried to escape.

How would Fang Yuan let it escape? With the casual flick of his finger, red-coloured sword essences appeared in mid-air and as it pierced through the black snake, there were many charred wounds appearing. Its red blood started to seep into the lake, dyeing it red.

“If you still want to escape, the next sword would be through your head!”

Snakes were extremely good at surviving. Although it had many wounds on its body, none of them was severe.

As it froze in mid-air, many figures of red swords were pointing towards its skull.

Such a threat almost made the snake cry.

It was extremely unlucky! It was only attracted by the blood smell of the Golden Dragon God but ended up facing the person who killed the God. If he had known, he wouldn’t have come to risk its own life.

“I’ll say, Sir!”

The black snake lowered its head, showing its respect. “There is a huge array outside the Dragon Palace. Normal island dwellers would not know its location, but the few Uncle Rivers and us demons would know. I’ll bring you there now!”

“Very well!”

Fang Yuan leapt onto the snake’s head.

With all his experience in dealing with animals, he knew that the snake was speaking the truth.

With the confusion array outside the Golden Dragon God’s palace, normal island dwellers would unknowingly bypass it.

However, this black snake was not normal. With its status, it surely knew the location of the palace.

“Let’s go!”

With Fang Yuan’s command, the black snake leapt into the water.

‘Humans cannot survive in the water. When we reach the bottom, i’ll...’

As a cunning look flashed in the black snake’s eyes, it quickly noticed a layer of spiritual armour surrounding the human, repelling the water around him. A long red sword was held to its head, which made it helpless and had no choice but to obediently show him the way.

As they swam across a group of colourful corals, an underwater palace appeared in front of Fang Yuan’s eyes.

The palace appeared extremely luxurious and it was covered by a large hemisphere outside. Within it, corals were used as decoration and pearls covered the floor. It was a luxurious sight to behold.

“Sir... This is the location of the palace. Although I can trespass the protective array outside, without the permission of the Dragon God, I cannot decide on my own accord!”

The black snake humbly commented.

“Mmm, at least you’re aware!”

Fang Yuan approached the membrane of the hemisphere. Something within his robes started to heat up. It was the piece of dragon scale!

“Verification of spiritual aura?”

Fang Yuan tilted his head to think, before pressing on the inverse scale.

“Buzz!”

A red glow with streaks of gold appeared as it landed on the membrane.

“Whoosh!”

As the membrane shook, an opening was revealed which was only large enough for one person to enter.

“Indeed!”

Fang Yuan smiled, kept the scale and walked it without hesitation.

As the opening gradually closed, the black snake waited for half a day before leaving quietly.

“This is not what I have expected. Although, the palace is luxurious, there are no servants here. On the contrary, it seems more like a secret hideout for a cultivator?”

Fang Yuan circled the palace a few times and noticed that the palace was not huge. As the membrane repelled the water, there was no water pressure within the palace. Instead, there was fresh air within. He stumbled upon an alchemy room, a study and a meditation room. He was ecstatic, especially with the whole room of books. Most of the books were about cultivation. Even though there were differences in their realms, it could still greatly improve his foundation.

Therefore, he decided to stay here for a month to take in all the knowledge he could.

Chapter 245: Self Destruction

The Dragon Palace was bathed in golden rays.

Walking along the pavement, one could see many Bright Moon Pearls radiating a brilliant glow.

Apart from that, there was also the Water Evading Pearl, Dust Evading Pearl and many other treasures conveniently placed in each and every corner. Any of these pearls would be highly sought after in the mortal world, but they were relegated to mere decorations in this fancy palace.

“There should be other deities in the dragon palace...”

Fang Yuan squatted in front of a pile of ashes and was deep in thought “The Golden Dragon God’s realm energy was split into 3. Could they have fled the palace knowing that they have lost their pillar of support? But what about the water folks? Could it be that the Golden Dragon God was a very cautious person and would only let his subordinate the Yin Spirit stay in the palace and tend to him?”

This appeared rather curious to Fang Yuan. But he too had no one even though he was of a talented and courageous person.

On the flip side, if there was a tribe of dragon descendants and water folks, it would be a hassle to kill them all.

He arrived at the study and casually flipped open a book.

The Golden Dragon God had a vast collection. Some of the martial arts manuals were even inscribed onto bone or shell plates, then bound together. Every book could be considered a work of art.

“Rain Cloud Evoking formula?”

Fang Yuan teased out the gist out the formula. “Only a person with dragon properties could cultivate this technique... Specifically meant for demons... This book has indeed broadened my horizons.”

He browsed through the manual and placed it down, picking up a roll of inscribed steel leaves.

This unknown leaf was wide and had a glossy surface. Inscribed on it was a tightly packed cluster of small words. Every stroke seemed to be filled with a rich history.

“Green Spiritual Sword Formula? Finally a martial arts technique for humans.”

Fang Yuan glanced through it. The energy circulation techniques were crude and focused on rough sensations of the energy flow. The last few sword techniques were fairly unique and slightly interesting.

“After all, even Zodiac or Shinto cultivators’ strength boils down to the strength of one’s realm energy as well as the absorption of realm energy. One could achieve everything even without obtaining a high status in the society. As such, techniques of Hui Realm were biased towards utility.”

“Mmm, such an interesting train of thought.”

He firmly remembered the teachings of the Green Spiritual Sword Formula. These insights would aid him in completing his techniques or think on his toes in future situations.

In the blink of an eye, half a day has passed and Fang Yuan returned to the treasure vault of the Dragon Palace.

The vault was well hidden and it took Fang Yuan some effort to finally locate it.

In front of the broad and sturdy gate, stood statues of two spiritual beasts. They had black jewels as eyes and were very lifelike.

“Pi Xiu? [1]”

Fang Yuan stared at the spiritual beast and muttered to himself.

The statues had the form of a lion, a head of a dragon, a body of a horse, legs of a unicorn, and a pair of wings sprouted from its back. It had a very fierce expression and looked similar to a Pi Xiu.

“ROAR”

He stepped forward to touch the door handle when the two Pi Xiu roared to life.

“Hmph, trying to stop me with a simple static array?!”

The corners of Fang Yuan’s eye curled, and the Leaving Fire Sword appeared in his hands.

Roar!

In that instant, there was a warmth radiating from his clothes. The Inverse Scale of the Golden Dragon God appeared with a pure gold hue and was pulsating with life, roars of a dragon could even be heard.

“WuWu!”

The two Pi Xiu bowed their heads in submission and returned to their original positions, turning back into stone statues.

“So you sensed the blood and spiritual aura of the Golden Dragon God?”

Fang Yuan kept the scale “This scale turned out to be the key to the array guarding this Dragon Palace. No wonder my journey in the Dragon Palace was so smooth sailing.”

His placed both hands on the door.

The door was smelted from pure crimson copper, it was thick and tall, had 99 round studs and was complete with door knockers in the mouths of a beast. Its design was simple yet grand.

With a light push, the heavy doors swung apart effortlessly, revealing an entire vault filled with shimmering treasures.

Gold, platinum, pearls, jade, corals....

The large amounts treasures piled on the floor and formed a small mountain.

Fang Yuan paid no attention to them and walked deeper into the treasure vault.

In here, several pillars of rainbow corals were converted to shelves, on them were pieces of treasure, each of them was radiating energy in splendid brilliance.

“The Life Shortening Sword?”

He walked forward and read the label on the coral “Concocted from a 300-year-old coral’s gold, mixed with 9 Bends Spiritual Wood, smelted with Venerable flames for 49 days. On the last day, the sword must be used kill a tiger demon, completing the concocted process. The edge would be unimaginably sharp. The sound of the sword cutting through the air struck fear into the souls of others, hence the name, Life Shortening Sword.

Beside it laid the handles of several spiritual weapons, all of good stats.

A unique piece was the Crystal Spiritual Armor, it was said to be forged from the shell of a 10,000 years old Mystic Turtle and possessed exceptional defensive capabilities. Fang Yuan was thrilled and put it on immediately.

Even though he could not bring it back to his original world, it would still be of good use in his time here in the Hui Realm.

“But... It was still right for Venerable Fiery Dragon and company to not come here.”

He sat on the pile of gold and looked at the many treasures that lay in front of him, shaking his head. “There aren’t many items that are of use to us, besides, they could not be brought out of this world. To delay one’s recovery for these was not worth it. But....”

He walked to the depths of the vaults, shifted the corals away and lifted the Life Shortening Sword, and stabbed the wall furiously several times.

He shamelessly used the misused the spiritual sword as a shovel and dug a small hole in the walls, revealing a small hidden switch.

“Hahaha, hidden mechanisms designed by mortals would not fool me!”

He flicked the switch and opened the hidden safe, in it laid a tiny box.

The surface of the box was a deep black, covered with various spiritual inscriptions. It sat still without releasing any forms of energy, this was indeed a unique treasure.

“Tsk Tsk.... A self-destruction array?”

Fang Yuan deduced that from just the surface of the box and burst out in laughter, “There must be something very valuable hidden in it. It was a pity that I knew nothing of the unlocking techniques.”

Despite that, he made a wild guess and placed the inverse scale onto the black box.

“If this scale cannot open the box, I would have no other options than to use brute force. I should be able to fish the item out before the box self-destructs.”

He thought nonchalantly.

After all, there were not many treasures that could be brought back to their world like the realm energy. Even a legendary treasure would be of little use.

Roar!

Upon placing the scale on the box, a dragon cry was heard and a small water dragon emerged, as if it was a miniature golden dragon god, it was bathed in blood.

“An opportunity?”

Fang Yuan’s eye twitched, the water dragon leapt onto the box and shimmered with spiritual light, his expression changed, “Oh no, it is initiating the self-destruction spiritual inscriptions!”

He had a horrified look on his face as his mind raced.

The Golden Dragon God had it designed this way on purpose. The scale was the key of the array, but when it came to this last treasure box, it became a command for self-destruction. A smart alec would think that it would unlock the box, but in reality, he had chosen to destroy it!

“This must be an item of great importance!”

Fang Yuan pointed his finger, the Fleeting Fire Sword appeared and split the box open forcefully.

At this point, luck dictated if his method would enable him to retrieve the treasure in its entirety.

He was a decisive man, and he acted upon his instincts immediately.

“Go!”

The Fleeting fire sword was condensed to its peak. It split into 2 before exploding.

“Come back”

Fang Yuan tried to fish out the treasure, then retreated quickly.

Boom!!!

A frightening explosion resulted, blowing the treasure vault into rubber.

Fang Yuan retreated to the entrance and looked at the horrid state the vault was in, speechless. He opened his fists.

In his palm, there was a small segment of roots remaining, of the length of a pinky. The rest of it was long gone.

“Is it some sort of spiritual plant?”

Fang Yuan could not appraise the grade of the spiritual plant just from the roots, but he was sure it was of extraordinary value.

“No...This is right and wrong...”

Fang Yuan sniffed the plant and felt something was different. He then used his spiritual will to look at White Whiskers in detail and saw large volumes of spiritual inscriptions on it. It was a pity most of it was destroyed.

“Such a pity... Even if I had the entire plant, it would be useless to me. Unless I could keep it in my actualized dream world and bring it away.”

He looked at the roots and shook his head, "I still have some time on my hands, and why not try to salvage this plant?"

After all, Fang Yuan had the help of the Stats board, even though he started with nothing, he still retained his botany skills.

"These roots have water properties, the dragon palace would be an ideal location for it, and it was far superior to any spiritual lands."

Fang Yuan looked at his surroundings and obtained some information from the roots, he stroke his chin, and his eyes were brimming with joy.

He planned to spend his remaining time reading the manuals in the dragon palace study and to concentrate on cultivation. While doing so, he would be waiting for the plant to grow.

He was curious why the golden dragon god would go to such great lengths to destroy this object.

He got it doing it immediately.

Fang Yuan was a man of action, after careful considerations, he realized that the main hall of the dragon place had the best water energy. He tore it down and made it into a flower bed.

This flower bed was unlike others, it was surrounded by spiritual earth, in the middle, he made a small indentation that resembled a pond.

Above the dragon palace, the spiritual waterfall flowed down into the pond, it was milky and fragrant, filling up the pond. The white whiskers laid in the centre of it all.

Fang Yuan was fairly confident about reviving this spiritual plant. It all stemmed from his level 5 botany skills.

"Botany [Level 5] — You're now a master in the Botany Realm! Any plants planted by you would not only awaken but also develop special traits, the maturity period would also shorten based on the conditions!"

"Even though I cannot restore it to its original condition, to be able to awaken it or develop special traits would be good too..."

To him, successfully reviving the plant was going to be a bonus, a failure would just be remembered as a funny memory. With that in mind, Fang Yuan took his mind off the pond, went into a side chamber and sunk into a deep state of cultivation

Chapter 246: Miraculous Fruit

Within the actualised dream world.

"Rumble!"

The dragon cried faintly.

After the spiritual seal was broken and the restrictions lifted completely, the white realm energy flew into the sky, transformed into a cloud dragon and thrashed around in the tiny space.

“It seems that you have not suffered enough!”

Fang Yuan shook his head as he witnessed the situation, “8 Gates Sword Array! Rise!”

“Swoosh!”

In the centre of the space, the cloud dragon did not dare approach the array. The 8 sword radiance flickered as they supported the heavens and earth, forming a sword array.

The fire-type sword essence was especially threatening as it appeared to overpower the other 7 sword essences.

Suddenly, the sword radiance shot out, surrounded the cloud dragon like a whirlpool and constantly inflicted cuts upon it.

The sharp radiance reduced the realm energy into the purest form of energy and scattered it.

“Crash!”

With the aid of the energy, the whole actualised dream world started to expand and the fire-type sword within the 8 Gates Sword Array started to form.

Finally, after a period of time, accompanied by the humming of the sword, the Leaving Fire Sword roared, the red glow shook the world as the scarlet dragon danced in the sky.

In that instant, multiple fire sword essences surged forth and stimulated the entire dream world, causing it to expand multiple folds.

“Roar!”

The cloud dragon let out a cry, but it was unable to go against the insurmountable sword essence. It was completely destroyed and turned into pure elemental energy. The Leaving Fire Sword glowed and the scarlet dragon on the hilt appeared to come to life as it let out a roar.

“The fire-type sword is finally formed completely!”

To Fang Yuan, it was better to be content with what he had than to risk losing everything by doing too greedy. Even though the realm energy would be more useful in Da Qian, it would be better for him to increase his power before taking part in Feng Xingzi’s grand plan.

Fang Yuan would use the realm energy to aid in his own cultivation regardless of how Venerable Fiery Dragon and the others think.

At this point in time, the Leaving Fire Sword was finally formed!

“The Leaving Fire Sword is located at the true South. Next, it will be the water-type sword located at the true North!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand and the Leaving Fire Sword fell onto his palm. Every inscription on the sword was real and appeared simple.

“Fire and water have no mercy. As of now, I am just a dream soldier master who has cultivated 1 sword. If I am able to successfully form the water-type sword, I would be able to summon it into the actual

world to form the Water-Fire Dual Sword Array! This is also where the secret teachings of the 8 Gates Sword Array truly become formidable!”

Given Fang Yuan’s current standard, he was able to summon a Leaving Fire Sword and was no different from an ordinary dream soldier master.

However, once he would be able to form more swords, he would be able to combine the 3 talents [1], 4 divisions[2] and the 5 elements sword array ...the possibilities were endless and he would be able to change the world with his sword array!

“Using fire to stimulate water, go!”

He tossed out his fire-type sword and in an instant, at the North of the sword array, a penetrating chill, blue and slender long sword momentarily appeared. The water on it swirled around and started to gather.

“What a shame, this realm energy is only one-third of the Golden Dragon Lake! It was almost not enough to form the fire-type sword. I was only able to succeed due to the hard work that I put in the past 2 months!”

Fang Yuan shook his head. “If I am able to obtain the realm energy of the Golden Dragon God, it would be sufficient to form half the water-type sword...”

It would be increasingly difficult to form the swords of the 8 Gates Sword Array. Of course, those cultivating other pathways of dream masters would experience the same difficulty.

...

In the real world, Fang Yuan opened his eyes, “Stats window!”

In an instant, a screen which only he was able to see appeared before him:

“Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 36

Spirit: 30

Magic: 30

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine Stage (1st tier), Wu Zong (3 Meridians)

Technique: Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique [Grade 4(1%)], Hundred Poison Golden Body [1st Refining Stage], 8 Gates Sword Array [2 swords (1%)]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]”

“The cultivation of a sword is able to raise the magical energy by 10?”

Fang Yuan was deep in thought. "Towards the end, the disparity would be even greater! It is no wonder that there are such great disparities between a high-levelled Illusionary Divine Stage dream master and an ordinary dream master..."

He stood up and shook his sleeves. He could not help but feel satisfied when he saw his collection of manuals that filled his entire house.

"After close to 2 months of training, I have completely refined the realm energy and reached another level in my cultivation. Not only that, I have memorized everything in the Dragon Palace records. This gain is sufficient...Furthermore, there is yet another surprise."

Fang Yuan arrived at the Dragon Palace Main Hall.

He had already torn down the place and converted it into a small flowerbed. In the middle, there was a pond and within the pond, the White Whiskers had germinated, grew...and transformed into pure white flower and plant.

Its leaves were sparkly and translucent and grew atop a white stalk. However, its veins were golden in colour.

If one were to observe carefully, one would be able to notice a large number of runes within the golden veins. It was truly a sight to behold.

At that moment, there was a white flower bud the size of a small bowl at the top of the spiritual plant.

"What an exotic spiritual plant, I have never heard of it before!"

Fang Yuan sat cross-legged and silently waited for the flower to bloom, "Who knows what type of fruits it will bear and what properties does the fruit have..."

After half a day, above the Dragon Palace, spiritual water cascaded endlessly.

Within the pond, the white flower bud quivered and started to blossom slowly.

"It's here!"

Fang Yuan opened both eyes and stared intently at the pond.

"Rumble!"

At this time, a faint sound heard from the outside world caused his expression to change. "This pressure...a heavenly threat?"

He looked at the spiritual flower in the middle of the pond in astonishment as he did not expect that the blossoming of this flower was predestined!

Above the Golden Dragon Lake.

Dense clouds loomed as lightning flashed.

It was as if the heavens were furious. The overwhelming pressure caused many spirits to cower and remain hidden in their dens, not daring to even reveal themselves.

This was a heavenly threat!

Within the Dragon Palace, the moment the first petal of the exotic flower blossomed..."Crack!"

Amidst the loud sound, the sky appeared to be ripped open and a streak of purple lightning suddenly descended, its target, the water body within the Dragon Palace.

"Crash!"

The surface of the lake rippled and many spiritual fish floated up with their bellies facing upwards. It was truly a disaster for the fishes in the pond.

"This Dragon Palace was built at the bottom of the lake with the intention of preventing lightning strike!"

Fang Yuan was not really shocked after witnessing this scene.

The Golden Dragon Lake was the first line of defence. The Coral Array outside was the second line of defence and the defensive array of the Dragon Palace was the third line of defence!

He was still in an advantageous position. Even if he was of no match, he would still be able to make his escape!

"The more you incur the jealousy of the heavens, the more I want to find out what kind of thing you are?"

Fang Yuan released the red light in his hand and a scarlet sword appeared. It was the Leaving Fire Sword!

However, compared to the shadowy sword essence previously, the current Leaving Fire Sword was the real deal! Even if Fang Yuan was dead, the sword could still remain within the real world and unleash its potential. It could even become an inheritance of a small family clan!

"Rumble!"

Outside, the lightning flashed endlessly. Some streaks of lightning even managed to reach the Dragon Palace.

"It is able to destroy the Coral Array outside so quickly even with the lake weakening it?"

Fang Yuan fixed his eyes on the pond. Within the pond, the white flower had blossomed halfway and a small amount of golden light was trickling out.

"Crack!"

A streak of lightning appeared and struck the top of the Dragon Palace heavily. The whole membrane shook and was shattered shortly after with a loud crash.

Water flooded in and the structures were overwhelmed. Large portions of the structures collapsed in a short duration.

"Stabilise!"

Fang Yuan's expression remained unchanged as a Leaving Fire Sword appeared. The Leaving Fire Sword circled the spiritual pond and channelled the water outwards.

"Crash!"

Within the spiritual pond, the flower finally bloomed completely and gave out a unique fragrance.

A ray of golden light descended from above.

At this time, a streak of purple lightning flashed, the specks of lightning combining as if it was a tiny snake and flew towards the golden light.

"Hey!"

Fang Yuan was expecting this. In the instant the purple lightning appeared, he had already drawn out the Leaving Fire Sword. "You dare intercept me? You did not ask for my permission!"

"Swoosh!"

An extremely concentrated line of fire flashed and struck the purple lightning snake.

Fang Yuan's arms trembled and he moved back a few steps.

Using the time that he had, he reached out and grabbed the golden light. Soon after, the white flower withered and turned to dust after it had served its purpose.

"Boom!"

Lightning danced crazily in the sky!

One could feel the wrath of the heavens even at the bottom of the lake.

"This is not fate, but rather...not stopping, not giving up unless the target is achieved!"

Fang Yuan's expression grew solemn.

Even though he was a dream master in the Illusionary Divine Stage, he would not be able to hold up against heaven's will. Even if he remained hidden in the Golden Dragon Lake and refused to leave, he would definitely be no match for heaven's trial!

"It looks like...this object is crucial!"

He looked at his palm and saw that the white exotic flower had borne a fruit which looked like a golden ball. There were runes which flickered and formed a ring of light around the surface of the fruit, causing onlookers to be dazzled.

"Crack! Crack!"

Another few streaks of lightning struck down, which caused Fang Yuan's spiritual armour to crack as he tried to flee.

"I cannot take it any longer!"

His face grew solemn as he started experimenting with transferring the golden fruit into the actualised dream world.

Even though he knew that doing so might destroy this mystical treasure, he still took a gamble and did it after weighing the pros and cons!

“Whoosh!”

Fang Yuan did not expect the process to take place without a hitch as the golden ball disappeared and reappeared in his actualised dream world.

After losing its target, the raging lightning turned peaceful. The dark clouds in the sky dispersed, revealing the scorching sun. The brilliant sunlight lit up the ground and formed a rainbow.

“Whooo...”

Fang Yuan’s sorry shadow appeared beside the shore as he heaved another sigh. “It’s so dangerous!”

If he was not able to form the first sword, he might not have the ability to keep the golden fruit safe from the lightning.

Furthermore, if he was not able to successfully transfer the golden fruit into the actualised dream world, Fang Yuan would have to give it up under the neverending heavenly lightning.

He might even be implicated if he was inattentive!

However, there was no problem now.

His actualised dream world and the real world could be considered two different worlds. As such, the heaven’s trial of the real world could not reach him in his actualised dream world.

“It is just...what is that?”

Fang Yuan looked at the golden fruit within the actualised dream world. He was unable to discern the sand-like spiritual runes on the surface of the fruit which caused him to enter a deep thought. “What is this extraordinary object and who knows how the Golden Dragon God attain it in the first place...”

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 247: Plan

In his actualised dream world, a golden fruit was floating in mid-air, and it was covered in the glow from the countless runes on it.

“This... doesn’t seem like a spiritual fruit!”

Fang Yuan thought to himself.

The white flower could only be considered as ‘half spiritual’. Leveraging on the way plants grow, it mimicked it to enter the world.

The most direct way to prove this theory was the fact that his own botany skill did not improve.

“Based on common sense, a spiritual plant which was able to attract the heaven’s attention should be enough for me to achieve a breakthrough in my Botany, right? But now, it seems like there are no changes...”

Fang Yuan looked at his own stats window. “The only explanation is that the stats window does not consider it to be a spiritual plant?”

Fang Yuan examined the golden fruit closely.

It was concentrated with runes on its surface like stars in the night sky. The runes were arranged in a specific manner, but it was unknown as to what message it was trying to convey.

Furthermore, just by looking at it would make his eyes dazzle.

“It’s alright. I’ll look up on information on it when I return to Da Qian. From there, I might get some information...”

Fang Yuan looked up to the skies which were clearing up and turned around to leave. “Our three months are up. Since he had asked me for help here, I will have to return to meet up with Feng Xinzi to hear about his plan...”

...

After living in seclusion for two months before returning to civilization, Fang Yuan realised that Lie Country had ended up in a turmoil.

Fires were burning everywhere and there were fights among the soldiers. Even the peaceful lake was pushed into unrest as the dwellers made preparations to leave anytime.

“What happened?”

As he arrived at a city, he took out his knife-shaped coins and randomly asked a person on the streets who appeared educated.

“Oh...”

The scholar was around his 40s and had a goatee. He was wearing a pale green robe and it seemed like he was drinking to drown his sorrows. With a long sigh, he replied. “The country is unfortunate with a series of disasters... Two months ago, the Golden Dragon God was killed and there was unrest at the Golden Dragon Lake. The Lie Country continued to pressure and the two brothers of the king of Lie Country, Lord Chunhe and Lord Huixing gathered their troops to rebel. There were rumours that they had obtained the dragon’s realm energy and took over ten cities, killing the imperial soldiers and are now starting to take over the capital!”

“Such a thing could happen?”

With The Qin Yi’s memories, Fang Yuan was rather familiar with the happenings in Lie Country.

The lords here had their own pieces of land and their own private army. However, if they were not of the royal family, they would not be approved of power and status.

Lord Chunhe and Lord Huixing were strong contenders with influence and troops under them. With a sense of justice, they could cause trouble for the country if they led the rebellion.

"This feels weird..."

Fang Yuan took out a string of coins and chased the scholar away. There was a look of suspicion on his face. "Although both of them will benefit in the short term, the people under them would lose their homes and would hate them. Could they be frenzied? Wait a moment..."

There was a glow in his eyes. "Could it be that... Feng Xinzi and Yu Tianlao were behind all these? That's right. With this explanation, everything would make sense! His big plan would be to..."

At this point in time, Fang Yuan's eyes glittered. He quickly rushed towards Lie Country's capital.

...

The capital of Lie Country laid on a piece of flatland. The city walls were tall and surrounding the city was endless plots of farms.

But now, there were fires everywhere and smoke filled the air. There was a campsite set up just outside the city walls and the soldiers were sleeping with their weapons. War could happen anytime.

Not just that, in the daytime, soldiers would go out and harvest from the farms. It was evident that they wanted to cut off their food supply and had the intention to trap them for a long period of time.

On the city walls, as the king of Lie Country looked across, he was a little dizzy. "Why did this happen! Oh, why did this happen?"

He was in his 40s and his face was a healthy red. His skin was smooth and appeared young. He had considerable experience in politics but had not fought a war before. Therefore, he was lost at what to do facing such a situation, which put him at a disadvantage.

As the king of Lie Country, he had the protection of the dragon's realm energy, the assistance from his zodiac and strength from Shinto. However, he still did not dare to retaliate. As for the threats from martial artists, he had his personal guards to take care of them.

However, what would be the use if he was the last one standing and the whole country was destroyed?

"Have you investigated?"

After a long sigh, the king of Lie Country gritted his teeth with a face of determination. "Why are my two brothers rebelling?"

"Reporting!"

An official in black took a bow. He was in charge of reporting information. "Based on information from our spies, the Lords are being controlled by demons!"

"Demons?"

The king frowned.

“Since a long time ago, they were not reliant on the king, which meant that they would not have the assistance from the realm energies! However, the two demons both of mysterious spells which are able to hypnotise both Lords, by are able to strengthen them too, which ultimately resulted in the unrest today!”

The official in black lowered his head and kowtowed, and his forehead started to bleed. “I have not done my job, I deserve to die!”

“I am being blessed by the heavens! With the protection of the country’s realm energy, how could demons possibly create unrest?”

With this news, the king was relieved. “Regardless of anything that might happen, my capital is heavily guarded. As long as we can defend until the few masters arrive, by then, they would be able to destroy the demons!”

“Wise words, king!”

Hundreds of officials echoed at the same time.

He had no choice but to go with this plan. Although it should not be considered a plan, it was nonetheless effective.

Most importantly, no one could shoulder the responsibility of losing a war within the city. Even so, since it was something that everyone supported, even though cowardly, everyone would still rejoice over it.

Witnessing this scene, the king of Lie Country could guess what his subordinates were thinking, and his eyes became blurry.

...

Outside the city, on a plateau.

“Brother Feng Xinzi, Sister Yu Tianlao, we meet again!”

Fang Yuan, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus arrived here and indeed, they managed to meet Feng Xinzi and Yu Tianlao.

“It has only been a few days and you could do such a big thing! I was surprised!”

Deity Clear Lotus bit her lips and smiled. With the appearance of a brute man, everyone had goosebumps.

“Cough cough...”

Feng Xinzi twitched his face and looked towards Fang Yuan and Venerable Fiery Dragon. “What do you think about my army?”

“A messy bunch!”

Fang Yuan looked towards the campsite and shook his head. “The king of Lie Country didn’t get his throne through the correct means. With his two brothers coming together to rebel against him, they could have the same power as compared to the power of Lie Country. With the split amongst the

generals, they could only rob the commoners and attack the city, losing the heart to defend the country. Even though they might benefit in the short run, they would fall in the long term...”

“You’re good! Good!”

Feng Xinzi clapped his hands and laughed. “I never knew that you would be familiar with the happenings in the world. I’ve underestimated you...”

“Isn’t it more effective to wipe out the officials who are helping the king?”

Fang Yuan frowned. “When the masters arrive, the split generals would be easily defeated. What are your purposes in doing this?”

“Hehe... our purpose? Have you not guessed it yet?”

Yu Tianlao chuckled. “Why didn’t the three of you inform me of the good deed that you guys were doing at Golden Dragon Lake? Don’t you want to share the rewards with me? Hmmm?”

“Keke...”

Venerable Fiery Dragon exchanged glances with Deity Clear Lotus and appeared embarrassed. “How could the realm energy at Golden Dragon Lake compare with the realm energy of the country? I’m sure that the two of you have gained something by training the Lords and their soldiers, right?”

“Of course we’ve gained. However, we’ve placed them in Chunhe and Huixing. Otherwise, how would these two id*ots survive until now?”

Feng Xinzi’s eyes glittered. “Our big plan is to take the country’s realm energy!”

‘Indeed!’

Fang Yuan nodded his head silently in his mind.

Although the Golden Dragon Lake was only 800-mile radius wide, there was already such a concentrated realm energy in for the Golden Dragon God to have such power. However, it was still under the control of the country, which made it obvious as to how powerful the country’s realm energy was.

He was not shocked that this was the thing which attracted Feng Xinzi.

“It’s a perfect opportunity to strike when the king is at lost!”

Deity Clear Lotus lowered her head and was confused. “I’m sure we all know that the two Lords are useless and cannot complete their task... If the masters to gather, then it is a matter of them that their death would be imminent!”

“Therefore, it is up to us!”

Feng Xinzi looked at the capital of Lie Country with a burning look in his eyes. “Combining the power of five dream masters in the Illusionary Divine Stage, I’m sure we can break through a city gate!”

“Phew...”

Venerable Fiery Dragon took in a cold breath. “We can surely break through the city wall! But have you thought about the consequences? With the protection from the heavens, we are revealing ourselves to disasters from the heavens if we come out and take things into our own hands! We would then be plagued with endless troubles!”

“No risk, no rewards!”

Yu Tianlao glanced at Venerable Fiery Dragon. “Even with 20% of the country’s realm energy, we can surely achieve a breakthrough in our own cultivation! Furthermore... Feng Xinzi had already prepared an array to cover us from the disasters in preparation for this trip... Didn’t the few of you see it while we were dream-traversing?”

“If you think that is not enough, I have a secret technique with me to harness the realm energy and conceal our spiritual auras!”

Yu Tianlao looked at Fang Yuan and company before laughing. “Didn’t the three of you get the realm energy from Golden Dragon Lake? Take it out now and after everything is done, you guys will get your fair share!”

“This...”

Venerable Fiery Dragon exchanged glances with Deity Clear Lotus and both of them were hesitating.

Although the realm energy from the Golden Dragon Lake was valuable, they would surely agree if they could exchange it for the country’s realm energy.

Although there were risks involved, they still had a chance of success.

After all, Feng Xinzi had already planned for quite a while and was confident of success.

“If the both of you are willing to give us our fair share of the country’s realm energy, both of us would be willing to give our realm energy up.”

Deity Clear Lotus nodded her head.

“What about you, Brother Fang?”

Feng Xinzi looked at Fang Yuan with a look of anticipation.

“This...”

Fang Yuan scratched his head and replied with embarrassment. “I have already used up all my realm energy...”

Chapter 248: The Pen and The Sword

“Used up?”

Fang Yuan realised that not just Feng Xinzi, but even Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus were looking at him with disappointment.

“Do you know how valuable realm energy is?”

Deity Clear Lotus's finger shook. "If brought back to Da Qian, it can be exchanged for at least a thousand contribution points. Some high-tier dream masters might even come up with their own offers to buy or even owe you a favour... Even if you are keeping it for yourself for self-cultivation, you can combine it with spiritual objects to improve its effect. Why would you do this... you're wasting it!"

"Eh... it's actually our fault for not explaining it to him..."

There was a look of pity on Venerable Fiery Dragon's face.

As for Feng Xinzi and Yu Tianlao, both of them had a look of suspicion on their faces. They were suspecting if Fang Yuan had told them the truth.

To Fang Yuan, it was extremely worth it to use a third of the realm energy from the Golden Dragon Lake to achieve a breakthrough in his own cultivation as a dream master. It was not a waste.

No matter how good the prospects were, practical gains were the most important.

Fang Yuan remained speechless as he glanced at Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus giving up their realm energies to lend them out.

"Hehe... Brother Fang, you seem to be very nonchalant about everything here!"

Noticing him, Yu Tianlao chirped.

"It's not that... I am only thinking. Throughout the years, Lie Country must have some sort of backing or source of power to remain in power. Are the five of us enough to take down the king..."

"Keke... Don't worry, my friend!"

Feng Xinzi waved his hands. "I am already familiar with every person in Lie Country. No one is stronger than Golden Dragon God... except for the king of Lie Country. He has the protection of the realm energy, which makes it a little troublesome..."

"When do we strike?"

"Let's not delay things further. A day later would mean an additional day for the masters to prepare. Let's get ourselves ready and strike now!"

Feng Xinzi was decisive.

...

"Kill!"

Both lords, Chunhe and Huixing were Feng Xinzi's puppets. Just as Fang Yuan and company were making their last preparations, the commotion of chaos was heard as they prepare to invade the city.

"Bang!"

A huge catapult hurled a hundred-pound rock at the city wall.

As the rock crumbled into smaller pieces, it smashed into a few people, making blood spurt everywhere.

Those rocks which were slightly more accurate were flung just above the city walls, smashing everything in their way and resulting in a bloodied mess.

“Release the arrows!”

On the walls, soldiers were frantically trying to defend as they shot their arrows at the enemies.

As the enemies approached the walls, there were logs and rocks being rolled down, smashing everything in its way.

“Haha... the heavens are blessing the king!”

At the city gate, a general with a black face was laughing. “They have yet to compose themselves but are already attempting to attack the city! They are seeking death!”

Although they didn’t know the reason behind the haphazard enemy attack, he knew that if they continued to attack, they would slowly be weakened!

They were disorganised to begin with and could only survive by pillaging the villagers.

Now that they were attacking without organisation, they would not be able to withstand once the casualty rate rises. They might even crumble in the next moment.

‘By then, I would get the credit for everything... should I counter attack them outside the city? If I can capture any one of the lords, I might be heavily rewarded!!!’

Just as his eyes were glittering with greed, he could see 5 shadows rushing towards the city gate at an astonishing speed.

“Who are those? Kill them!”

Although he knew that these 5 people were highly skilled, he did not panic.

After all, in his many years of experience in Lie Country, he was already familiar with the different ambushes from enemies. Therefore, he could naturally react to the situation.

The only thing he was unaware was that the 5 of them had abilities he could never have imagined.

The next moment.

“Rumble!”

There was a huge explosion and the city walls shook. The general almost lost his footing.

His ears were buzzing and bleeding, and he felt a little dizzy. “What happened?”

As he struggled to crawl onto the city walls, he was dumbfounded.

Where the city gate once was it was no more. Instead, there was a huge hole, and 5 silhouettes were standing by it.

“What are you guys waiting for? Attack! Attack!”

The guards outside the city were shocked as well. As they slowly came out of their daze, their eyes were bloodshot. "Those who enter the city will get riches and concubines... your pick!"

"Kill!"

Seeing that their strongest defence was destroyed, the attack soldiers were inspired. Attracted by the rewards, they shouted as they rushed into the city.

Compared to them, the guards within the city were stunned and unable to react.

Seeing the city gate being destroyed, their confidence was shaken.

Since their enemy had assistance from the gods, the only thing they could do was to run and escape!

"De... Demons!"

Looking at the five Illusionary Divine stage dream masters at the city gate, his face was flushed as he spat out a mouthful of blood. "Even if it costs my life, I would fight all of you to my death!"

"Kill!"

"Kill them!"

His eyes were bloodshot. Enraged, he killed an escaping soldier and gathered his own soldiers, mustering their courage.

However, his fighting spirit was only a small wave in the ocean of enemy soldiers. Within seconds, he disappeared.

"Kacha!"

In the sky, dark clouds started to form as lightning danced in the sky.

It was as though the involvement of the 5 dream masters had angered the heavens, resulting in the natural disaster.

...

"What a defeat..."

At the city gate, the five dream masters in the Illusionary Divine stage were witnessing the war, and Fang Yuan sighed.

Even though the five of them were just standing there, the surrounding troops were still afraid to come near them and proactively gave them a small empty space.

"This is the downfall of the capital of Lie Country...."

Feng Xinzi lowered his head. "Do not hold back and release everything that we've got! Double Dragons, create chaos!"

Two streaks of realm energy appeared on his hands. Fang Yuan could recognise that they were from the Golden Dragon Lake.

In Feng Xinzi's hands, the two streaks of realm energy roared and transfigured into two white serpents. Rushing up into the sky, it formed an array and released 5 streaks of white glow, covering Fang Yuan and the rest of the dream masters.

"Oh... this is..."

Looking at the glow on his own hands, Fang Yuan no longer felt that there was an impending calamity.

'Feng Xinzi is an experienced dream master indeed. He can shield us from the heavens with a simple array!'

Fang Yuan silently complimented him in his heart. Following, he could hear Feng Xinzi's voice. "This array can only cover us for about 4 hours. In return, we have to use up all the realm energy from the Golden Dragon Lake... we need to make full use of this opportunity!"

"Go!"

As the five of them looked at each other, they rushed into the royal palace.

"King! Bad news! The city has been invaded!"

In the royal palace, the king who has just returned to the palace turned pale. He almost tripped down a flight of stairs. "How can they enter so quickly?"

"It's 5 demons combining forces to break the city gate!"

"Such a thing could happen?"

The king got to his feet and cried. "Does the heavens want me dead?"

Ultimately, he was not the average person. Before the servants could console him, he had already wiped his tears. "I can die but the country must live on! Letting my brothers inherit the throne would still be better than letting the 5 demons take control! Where's the First Officer and First Lieutenant?"

"We're here!"

As both of them arrived, they bowed with a face of determination.

"As king, I now announce that both of you are the imperial advisors. Quickly be on your way to kill the demons!"

The king of Lie Country clenched his teeth.

After wiping out the demons, even though the country would be in shambles, he could still ensure his family's place on the throne. If the demons were to be successful, his heritage would be no more and the consequences would be unimaginable.

"Chi! Chi!"

Since he was the king, following his commands were dragon roars.

Behind the king, a huge streak of realm energy appeared. It stretched from the skies to the ground and a majestic power which the realm energy at the Golden Dragon Lake lacked.

“Whoohoo! Whoohoo!”

Two spiritual auras broke from the country’s realm energy and landed on the First Officer and First Lieutenant, strengthening them.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

“Aww! Aww!”

Behind the both of them, there was a Vermilion Bird and a White Tiger respectively. Absorbing the realm energies, they started to achieve breakthroughs and arrived at a level no one had attained before.

“I can only die serving you to repay your kindness, king!”

In a bright glow, both of them flew upwards and out of the royal palace.

“King!”

The king was dizzy and almost fell to the ground. As he looked at the shocked faces of his servants around, he rubbed his nose, and blood came out. “In history, we do not make people imperial advisors unless necessary. Now, I understand why...”

‘Appointing imperial advisors would suck out life from me, which would ultimately lead to my death...’

Finally, he understood. ‘With such a minor injury, it must be the heavens siding me!’

...

“Be careful! The enemy is highly skilled and they are most probably the First Officer and First Lieutenant. They harness power from the zodiacs of a White Tiger and a Vermilion Bird respectively, are the epitome of ‘the pen and the sword’!”

Feng Xinzi could see two strong spiritual auras emerging from the royal palace, transfiguring into a White Tiger and a Vermilion Bird. “Killing them would render the king useless!”

“White Tiger, to counter their enemies?”

Fang Yuan stared at one of them with interest.

Above that person’s head was a bright white glow forming the shape of a huge tiger. Just by the looks of it, it already seemed more superior to Qin Yi’s white tiger.

Needless to say, there were glitters of stars on the white tiger, which made it look more ferocious and determined.

“Is this the zodiac which the country’s realm energy support?”

Venerable Fiery Dragon appeared solemn. “With such power, I’m afraid they might be stronger than the Golden Dragon God!”

“Demon! Die!”

On the other side, there was a red glow and a Vermilion Bird landed, revealing an old man with a gentlemanly look and a crown on his head. As he pointed at the 5 of them, a burning inferno started to grow.

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 249: The Battle

The old First Officer was still an advisor of Lie Country. As his zodiac strengthened him, he transformed into a Fiery Vermilion Bird as his power was used to its maximum capacity.

“Roar! Roar!”

As he struck, the other First Lieutenant was also coming towards them strong. With the roar of his white tiger, he swung a claw at the 5 of them.

The tiger’s roar could be heard a thousand miles away and in it, there was a burning spiritual aura. As the power of the Alkaid Star landed, it was similar to the power of a Wu Zong in the Meridian Opening Realm; both were perfect counters to spiritual spells.

With the combination of the pen and the sword, their combined strength was more than just two Golden Dragon Gods!

“Ah...”

At one side, there were cries coming from the soldiers. They were set ablaze by the fire from the Vermilion Bird and were quickly burnt to death. Even the cultivators among them could not escape!

They were only watching from the sidelines but could already experience its intense power. This would mean that Fang Yuan and company would experience pressure from the bird a hundred, or even a thousand times more!

“You’re good!”

Spiritual meridians appeared on Fang Yuan’s back which formed a spiritual armour, and a fire-type spiritual sword was actualised on his hands as well. Fang Yuan let out a gentle sigh as he entered his strongest state, ready for battle.

“If I had yet to achieve a breakthrough, I might find it troublesome to deal with this thing!”

As the spiritual armour on his body glowed, it repelled the fire. Fang Yuan quickly glanced around.

Around Deity Clear Lotus, petals of lotuses appeared around her and let out a warm glow, separating her from the burning inferno outside.

With an exclamation, a red fiery dragon appeared around Venerable Fiery Dragon. Its scales were shimmering as it appeared extremely real. With another shout, the flames in the vicinity disappeared as the dragon started to swallow it up.

“Thank you Venerable!”

A pill’s essence surrounded Feng Xinzi as he smiled at Venerable Fiery Dragon.

“Hehe... do you really want to use your child’s play against me...”

Yu Tianlao looked at the Alkaid Star White Tiger zodiac and laughed. “Pain!”

“Aw! Aw!”

The tiger claw suddenly stopped in mid-air and the entire tiger started to flicker.

Within the tiger, the old First Lieutenant went pale as he clenched his teeth, almost shrieking in pain.

“How’s it, old lieutenant?”

Seeing this, First Officer stopped and instructed the Vermilion Bird to spread its wings, covering both of them inside.

“Be careful of that woman! Her witchcraft do harm by merely speaking a few words!”

First Lieutenant wiped the blood stains on his mouth. Slowly, his eyes turned bloodshot.

“Is this a curse technique?”

Fang Yuan looked at Yu Tianlao with confusion. “Indeed mysterious!”

In the next moment, the Alkaid Star White Tiger stabilized once again and pounced out with bloodshot eyes.

“Burn!”

With a smile, she continued her Mastery of Curses.

“Aw! Aw!”

But this time, the Alkaid Star White Tiger was prepared as it roared loudly.

“Rumble!”

A glow shot down from the Alkaid Star and transfigured into a long spear striking down.

“Pu!!!”

Yu Tianlao’s expression changed as she spat out a mouthful of blood. Quickly, she retreated. “What are you all waiting for? Do you want to see me die?”

From her tone, Fang Yuan could here a rare hint of anxiety.

He looked up towards the sky.

From there, he could see a bright Alkaid Star!

‘It seems that there are limitations to the Mastery of Curses. For instance, if she were to curse something with a much higher cultivation, she would experience a backlash! The first Lieutenant is rather smart to link up himself with the Alkaid Star. This way, if Yu Tianlao wanted to curse him, she would have to curse the entire Big Dipper or face backlash!’

Looking around, he realised that Feng Xinzi was a dream alchemy master while Deity Clear Lotus and Venerable Fiery Dragon were dream spells masters. With a sigh, he swung his fire-type spiritual sword out.

“Whoosh!”

The completely formed fire-type sword essence formed a streak of fire as it shot towards the Alkaid Star White Tiger.

“Aw! Aw!”

The white tiger was fearless as it continued to swipe at the sword essence.

“Whoosh!”

After a sound was heard, the white tiger’s claw was severed and fell to the ground.

“Whoosh!”

Fang Yuan became a black shadow as he rushed into the figure of the white tiger. With another strike of his sword, the sword essence exploded as the First Lieutenant’ expression changed. “What an impressive magical weapon!”

He had the premonition that even with the blessings of the country’s realm energy, he would still succumb to Fang Yuan’s red sword!

“Oh, so Brother Fang is a dream soldier master!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon complimented him as he waved his hands, mustering the fiery dragon to fight with the white tiger.

“First Officer, we are your opponents!”

Seeing Fang Yuan making the first move and Venerable Fiery Dragon blocking the path of the First Lieutenant’s white tiger, Feng Xinzi and Deity Clear Lotus stood in front of the First Officer. Pill essence and lotus petals filled the air and even the Vermilion Bird could not break through.

“Feng Xinzi?”

The First Officer’s eyes glittered. “I’ve heard that the two lords are being incited by a man named ‘Feng Xinzi’. Is that you?”

“Naturally!”

Feng Xinzi was not a cowardly man as he quickly admitted.

“This would mean that you are the man behind all these. You are a criminal and deserves to die!”

The First Officer appeared solemn. “Die!”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

Behind him, the Vermilion Bird gave out a long chirp as its flames grew bigger. It flew towards Feng Xinzi.

“A sacrificial move?”

Feng Xinzi shook his head and his body started to glow. Quickly, he transformed into the shape of a cauldron.

The cauldron was red and had three legs and two handles by its side. It was as though it was carved from a huge red piece of jade. Suddenly, the top of the cauldron opened up and fire began to spit out of it.

“Fire Consuming Cauldron?”

Deity Clear Lotus could recognise that this was Feng Xinzi’s signature move.

However, a Vermilion Bird’s sacrificial move would create a much scarier inferno than anyone could ever imagine!

Even an alchemy master’s cauldron was not enough to consume the flames in entirety. As the golden flames spread, Deity Clear Lotus and Feng Xinzi were forced to retreat in embarrassment.

“Nothing happened?”

After a wave of flames, the First Officer shook his head as he realised that both of them were unharmed. As he mustered his energy, a streak of light emerged from his head as it searched for a random star in the sky to combine its energy.

“Rumble!”

As the glow from the stars scattered, a Vermilion Bird burning in flames appeared and once again went after Feng Xinzi and Deity Clear Lotus.

Inspiration in writing transforming into a Vermilion Bird! The rebirth of the bird!

The First Officer was filled with a scholarly vibe and in the destruction of his zodiac, pure tongues of flames swept across, and it was a terrifying sight to behold!

“Yu Tianlao!”

Even Feng Xinzi could not cope with the continuous waves of flames as he called for help.

“Extinguish!”

As Yu Tianlao glanced over, she did not dare to curse the First Officer anymore. Instead, she targeted the Vermilion Bird directly.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

The newly reborn Vermilion Bird’s flames weakened in a moment.

Seeing this, the First Officer sighed and continued to release his scholarly vibes as fuel for the Vermilion Bird to recover and strike back once again.

“Hey old man, although you’re the First Officer, don’t you still want to keep your life? Why are you going all out?”

Feng Xinzi had always been very gentlemanly but this time, he could not hold back. "Since you want to die, we'll grant you your wish! Continue to hold up against him, he won't be able to hold on for long!"

"Everyone would die someday!"

The First Officer smiled calmly and looked at the First Lieutenant.

"Aw! Aw!"

The white tiger started to roar.

The First Lieutenant was at a disadvantaged situation.

As the sword radiance glittered, there was another charred scar on his shoulder.

Fang Yuan was one of the rare dream masters with highly skilled martial arts.

Not just that, his fully actualised magical soldiers were extremely sharp and hardy.

With the combination of skill and weapon, he had reached the peak potential of a dream soldier master!

Furthermore, there was Venerable Fiery Dragon who was also helping out with his spiritual spells.

"Bind!"

As Venerable Fiery Dragon pointed to the ground, vines started to appear and bind the white tiger.

"This is the time! Fiery dragon – explode!"

With a heartless look, he exclaimed.

"Rumble!"

The fiery dragon roared and exploded and within seconds, the white tiger was covered in red flames.

"You..."

The First Lieutenant's face was flushed and there were burnt marks all over his body. With the explosion, he flew backwards.

Fang Yuan would not let such a golden opportunity slip by.

At the moment of explosion, he risked the flames and rushed towards the First Lieutenant, striking his right hand out.

"Whooosh!"

The flames flickered.

The fire-type sword went straight through the First Lieutenant but there was no blood, as the wound was charred!

With such an injury, any mortal, even if he was an imperial advisor, would die without a doubt!

"Cough cough..."

The First Lieutenant's expression changed as he spat out a few mouthfuls of blood. With a smile, he exclaimed. "Brother, I'll take my leave first!"

Behind him, the Alkaid Star White Tiger wailed and condensed.

"Let's go!"

Fang Yuan's eyebrow twitched as he retreated quickly with Venerable Fiery Dragon.

"Haha... either way, I'll die! Why not die for the country?"

As the First Officer cringed, he appeared as though he had aged another 10 years. "With my green blood, dye the skies green! Green Skies Green Blood, the Vermilion Bird shall burn!!!"

"Pu!"

With his knife, he sliced his chest.

"Whoosh!"

Green blood started to flow out as it seeped into the Vermilion Bird.

Shortly after, the First Officer appeared weakened and seemed like he could not live much longer.

However, with the Green Skies Green Blood chant, the undead Vermilion Bird let out a long chirp and spread its wings. Its spiritual aura started to grow by a thousand folds!

"Two crazy old men!"

The five dream masters quickly retreated as they witnessed two mushroom-shaped clouds floating up in the air.

"They are only a temporary nuisance!"

Feng Xinzi wiped the blood from his mouth and exclaimed. "This is not good!"

"Kacha!"

"Kacha!"

5 consecutive distinct sounds were heard as the white glow on Fang Yuan and company exploded!

"Whoooo!"

The winds blew and dark clouds started to spread across the sky!

In the skies, lightning started to strike everywhere and in the thunder, there was a familiar feeling of impending threat.

The self-destruction of the two old men, together with the realm energy had destroyed the protection on their bodies! Their demonic and evil spiritual auras were revealed in the realm.

"Rumble!"

Thunder roared and it was as though the heavens were taking things into their own hands!

A tribulation from the heavens has arrived!

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 250: Wrapping Things Up

"Kacha!"

Amidst the dark clouds, lightning struck everywhere and 5 streaks of purple lightning descended from the heavens! This was a tribulation from the heavens, a backlash from the entire realm!

"We have to give it our all!"

The five dream masters looked at each other and exclaimed.

"Fire Consuming Cauldron!"

"Fiery dragon explosion!"

"Funeral Flowers Chant!"

"Seal!"

The 4 dream masters all revealed their signature moves to counter the purple lightning.

Even Fang Yuan was solemn. His Sixth Elemental Force exploded and together with his fire-type spiritual sword, he sliced towards the purple lightning.

"Rumble!"

As the lightning met with his sword, his hand shook and he retreated, his face looking desolate.

"What on earth..."

Looking at the Leaving Fire Sword, he noticed the spiritual light from it becoming dimmer. It was evident that the sword was damaged, and he let out a soft sigh.

He had restored his full power and could only do so much to counter the tribulation from the heavens. The 4 other dream masters would surely have it worse.

"The power of the tribulation increases as we continue to fight against it."

Looking at the dark clouds in the sky, Fang Yuan laughed coldly. "If we lose our physical bodies, our souls would be exposed to the elements. Even though we are at the Illusionary Divine stage, our souls would still be captured and it would not be as simple as damaging our original bodies."

"This is not good..."

Feng Xinzi's robes flew with the wind and his chest started to turn red. Suddenly, he shouted. "We cannot guess the heaven's intention and it is unwise to go against it. The only way out is to kill the king of Lie Country and obtain the country's realm energy before making our way back!"

Even though they were possessing the bodies of the natives, the heavens could already identify them and the tribulations would only continue.

They could only have a chance of survival if they had the power of the entire world, but how was that possible?

With that, Fang Yuan started to laugh to himself as he heard what Feng Xinzi said.

"Alright!"

However, he was not standing in their shoes as he had already reaped the benefits and would not be without his gains if he returned. Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus, on the other hand, would feel the pain as they would have lost everything. Thus, they quickly rushed towards the royal palace.

On the top floors of the royal palace.

"Demons! Demons indeed!"

The king of Lie Country shuddered as he witnessed these five silhouettes killing the First Officer and First Lieutenant, as well as countering the tribulations from the heavens. With that, his legs turned to jelly.

"Protect the king!"

In the royal palace, there were other highly skilled people other than the First Officer and First Lieutenant.

Many servants and generals rushed towards the five of them like grasshoppers trying to block a car.

"Seeking death!"

Against the few desperate dream masters, they all turned into a bloodied mess.

A few unlucky ones even had to undergo the tribulations from the heavens and were struck by lightning.

"King... The capital and royal palace have been invaded. You are no longer the king. Cooperate with us and give us the realm energy, and we might just let your soul free!"

Feng Xinzi struck his palm and a few armoured guards flew away.

Originally, his plan was to gather both Chunhe and Huixin to rebel and force the king to give up his throne and strike while they hand over the dragon's realm energy.

But now, since the heavens had already detected them, the plan was being messed up.

"Rumble!"

The dark clouds covered the entire country and darkness filled every corner of the palace. Within minutes, it had turned into night time.

As the purple lightning struck, the vicinity would be lighted up for a second, illuminating a chaotic capital city and the pale face of the king of Lie Country.

"Quickly hide, king! These demons are undergoing tribulations from the heavens and cannot last long!"

At one side, a servant advised the king.

"It's too late!"

The king laughed. "I am already dead! Even if I were to die, I will not let these demons get what they want!"

As he spoke, blood began to flow out of his mouth.

"King..."

The servants beside him cried. Without another word, all of them surrounded the king as they attempted to let the king survive a little longer.

"The King of Lie Country dictates that the Country's realm energy will return to the heavens. Heavens, please decide on how you would deal with these demons!"

As the king struggled, he used his blood to write out a few sentences. Within seconds, his face started to bleed as he lost his breath.

As the 5 dream masters rushed upstairs, they were shocked.

A pitiful roar of a dragon was heard and the illusionary shadow of a water dragon fell.

Following, a streak of realm energy as thick as a pillar separated from the water dragon and shot straight into the sky before disappearing.

Everything happened within seconds but Feng Xinzi quickly understood what was happening.

"Despicable!"

"How can the king be so extreme? To destroy his own country?"

Witnessing the scene, Fang Yuan was confused as well.

Originally, even if the king were to kill himself, the dragon's realm energy would be split among the few potential heirs of the throne, with Chunhe and Huixing being the likely recipients.

If that had happened, then everything would have gone according to Feng Xinzi's plan.

But now, by returning the country's realm energy to the heavens, it was destroying all their hopes.

"Ah! Even though you're dead, I will kill all your descendants and burn your soul!!!"

Venerable Fiery Dragon was enraged.

Both Deity Clear Lotus and himself had invested their realm energies and thought that they could gain from it. But now, everything was lost and he was going crazy.

"Rumble!"

As for the heavens, after receiving the realm energy from the king, the lightning and thunders rumbled with much more power than before.

Countless purple lightning formed the shape of an eye.

The eye of the heavens!

Suddenly, the dream masters felt as though they were being seen through.

"Let's go!"

Fang Yuan was decisive. Although he could defend himself from the previous few rounds of tribulations, the heavens were truly awakened this time. They had no chance against it and he quickly executed his dream-traversing technique to abandon his body as he travelled back to his own realm.

"Buzz!"

As that moment, he vaguely heard the exclamations from Feng Xinzi and the rest and a red lightning striking his possessed body, burning it.

...

Da Qian Empire, Sand Region, Dongyi County.

Fang Yuan shook as he opened his eyes.

"Phew!"

After shaking his limbs, he only felt a little weaker than before. It was a good thing that he had instructed his body to continuously take in elemental force before leaving it, and therefore everything was fine.

However, he still felt a little fear at the moment he left the Hui Realm.

The red lightning was stronger than the previous tribulation by 10 times! 100 times!

At his current level of cultivation, if he were to be struck, he would die in the realm and even affect his own real body!

"The good thing is that... I have still gained from this trip!"

Looking at his stats window, he smiled.

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 36

Spirit: 30

Magic: 30

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine (1st Tier), Wu Zong (3rd Meridian)

Technique: [Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique (Grade 4) (1%)], Hundred Poison Golden Body (1st Refining), [8 Gates Sword Array (2nd Sword) (10%)]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]"

"The realm energy from the Golden Dragon Lake is enough for the 8 Gates Sword Array to achieve a breakthrough, and that is enough..."

Fang Yuan's consciousness entered his actualised dream world. Looking at the centre of the 8 Gates Sword Array, he noticed that the Leaving Fire Sword was dimmer than usual. This was due to the damage that it had sustained from countering the tribulation. However, it didn't matter as he could slowly use his dream elemental energy to repair it.

Other than that, there was also a golden fruit floating in mid-air as it floated around with his dream elemental force. There was a circle of golden glow around it and it was covered in runes.

"Let me find out more about this in the Dream Realm... and also take a look at Feng Xinzi and the rest of them... they still owe me a ton of contribution points!"

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and entered the Dream Realm.

The streets were busy as usual. As soon as Fang Yuan entered the Dream Realm, his jade inscription plate started to glow.

"Feng Xinzi?"

Fang Yuan's eyebrows twitched.

"It's me... Brother, let's meet at the usual place!"

Feng Xinzi sounded weak.

"Alright!"

Fang Yuan was deep in his own thoughts as he arrived at the tea building.

Indeed, Feng Xinzi was already waiting for him in a private room.

Inside, a beautiful lady with a familiar spiritual aura greeting Fang Yuan.

"Its Deity Clear Lotus!"

He smiled and recognised her. "I wonder where Venerable Fiery Dragon and Yu Tianlao are?"

"Yu Tianlao and yourself were quick to react and left before the lightning struck. As for Feng Xinzi and myself, we were a little slower and were slightly affected and our souls were heavily wounded. As for Brother Fiery Dragon..."

Deity Clear Lotus revealed a sad look. "We still have no news of him. I have already contacted the people of his sect but there is still no news of him. I'm afraid... he is unfortunate!"

Fang Yuan bit his lip.

No one would expect that a simple exploration mission would escalate into such a situation.

"In that realm, normal deaths would lead to damage to the soul. However, for us, we have crossed the line..."

Feng Xinzi let out a bitter laugh. "Before I came here, I have researched about the red lightning. It seems that the lightning is from the natural source in that realm! Dream masters who would attract such a lightning would usually not end up well!"

"Natural source?"

Fang Yuan was deep in his thoughts.

"That's right... the natural source of energy of Hui Realm is from their realm energy, and especially from the country's dragon realm energy. The heavens were enraged to the point that they would not mind consuming their natural source of energy to destroy us..."

There was fear in Feng Xinzi's voice.

In fact, he was prepared for the journey to Hui Realm. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gotten the array which was able to shield them from the tribulations.

Never would they have thought that an enraged world would be so scary, and this was a huge blow to him.

"Oh... I'm afraid that Brother Fiery Dragon's soul is either severely injured or he might have died, and I am at fault..."

Feng Xinzi sighed, took out his inscription plate and waved his hands. On Fang Yuan's inscription plate, there was an additional string of contribution points. "This is the promised contribution points!"

"And from me!"

Deity Clear Lotus was honourable and quickly transferred contribution points to Fang Yuan as well.

"Thank you!"

This was what they had agreed on, and Fang Yuan accepted the contribution points without hesitation. They continued to talk for a while.

Feng Xinzi and Deity Clear Lotus were both injured. Not long after, they parted as they returned to healing their injuries.