

## Dragon War God

### *Chapter 16 - Typhoon Nine Fingers*

“You ... You’ve really come back?!”

Long Chen smiled calmly as he stared at the crowd. “You kept saying that you would get the Dragon Seal, so why did you lose? You are such an embarrassment. I guess I have to avenge you now.”

Yang Lingqing had never truly expected Long Chen to come back. She was still stunned by everything that had happened so she did not know how to react when she saw his confident smile. But when she thought how her brother had committed suicide because of Long Chen, Yang Lingqing’s face grew cold as she shrieked, “You coward! Return my brother’s life!”

Her shout attracted everyone’s attention.

The entire courtyard was instantly filled with chattering. Long Chen raised his head and met their eyes. He smiled coldly, straightened his body, and walked up the arena under the immense pressure.

The Yang patriarch was just about to pass the Dragon Seal to Yang Lingyue!

When Long Chen appeared, the pupils of the people onstage shrank. Some of their faces grew cold. Yang Xueqing was the most agitated. Just as she was about to stand, Bai Zhanxiong pulled her down and whispered, “Xueqing, he has guts. Let us see what kind of trouble he’s planning. If you fight him in public, you will ruin your reputation.”

Yang Xueqing sat back down, her gaze was cold as ever as she stared at Long Chen.

Long Chen suddenly stared at her and she flinched. Long Chen’s eyes were unyielding, and his gaze was sharp as an arrow. Yang Xueqing panicked a little on the inside.

“This bastard ... He’s gotten even stronger ...”

Yang Xueqing was shocked.

Long Chen took one look at her and chuckled. He was undoubtedly the center of attention. The one standing in front of him was none other than the strongest member of the Yang family, his grandfather! His grandfather stared at Long Chen blankly.

Even he was surprised by Long Chen's behavior. Even in this crowd, Long Chen didn't reveal even an ounce of fear, and he displayed his bravery as he walked calmly.

Even his grandfather, who had lived a long life, was impressed. He knew that the Yang family was a hellish torment to Long Chen.

*Disregarding his life and standing in such an unyielding way. If he's not an idiot, he's a hell of a guy.*

This was the judgement made by Long Chen's grandfather. He was more than happy to see what Long Chen would do.

Everyone's gazes were focused on Long Chen. Many ridiculed him even as his behavior impressed his grandfather. Most of them thought that Long Chen had a few screws loose in his head.

Long Chen's gaze was strong and spirited as he stared at his grandfather. He slowly knelt and said loudly, "Greetings to my grandfather. I should be punished for arriving late to the Family Meeting, but ..."

He raised his head and stared calmly at Yang Lingyue. "I am also a member of the Yang family and wish to have the chance to fight for the Dragon Seal. Please allow your humble grandson to fight with Sister Lingyue to determine the champion!"

Everyone knew that Long Chen wanted the Dragon Seal. The blunt and bold way he expressed his intentions in front of his grandfather impressed them but they shook their heads when they thought of the gap between him and Yang Lingyue.

"Wishful thinking." Yang Xueqing chuckled.

Everyone else was thinking the same.

As he stared at the courageous youth whose gaze did not waver, Long Chen's grandfather grew more and more excited. However, he maintained his calm as he said, "Chen'er, the family has its own rules. Since you are late, you do not have the right to participate in the tournament. Also, the champion was selected after numerous rounds. I'm afraid it's not appropriate for you to just show up and fight in the finals."

Long Chen understood that he had a chance since his grandfather did not deny him immediately. He raised his voice deliberately, "If Grandfather thinks that I cannot fight Yang Lingyue just because I did not fight multiple rounds, you may select anyone in the family to fight me. How can you determine that Sister Lingyue is superior to me unless we fight each other? The Dragon Seal is meant for the most talented individual among the younger generation of the Yang family."

He turned to look at Yang Lingyue, who was furious that he'd stolen her spotlight. She also remembered that he caused Yang Zhan's death. Naturally, she wanted to kill him on the spot.

Long Chen looked at her and said, "I hope Sister Lingyue still remembers our bet. If you lose, I will ..."

"Enough!"

Yang Lingyue's face was as cold as frost as she spoke to her grandfather. "Grandfather, let me fight this brat! I don't want the others to think that I am not the true champion today nor do I want him to embarrass us further! I hate people that plot against others in the shadows. Let me teach him a lesson!"

Yang Lingyue was firm. Their grandfather smiled mysteriously. "Since you guys insist, I can only agree to it. But remember, no killing. Control yourself! If you embarrass the Yang family, no one gets the Dragon Seal!"

Long Chen was happy that he had successfully taunted Yang Lingyue. "Thank you, Grandfather! Since Sister Lingyue is a lady, naturally, I will show mercy!"

"You rascal!" Yang Lingyue was furious.

Yang Lingqing watched the scene unfold with a complicated gaze. Her brother had died because of Long Chen and her father wanted to kill Long Chen. But then again, she had a good relationship with Long Chen before. She was quietly impressed by his spiritedness in the arena, as well.

*We can deal with what happened to my brother after the gathering. But to think that he would make such a grand entrance. If he doesn't have the strength, he's pretty much dead ... He was only at the Third Draconic Stage half a month ago. That's a gap of three stages! How could he fight Sister Lingyue? What should I do?*

Yang Qingxuan and Yang Wu were discussing the matter too.

Yang Wu's gaze was sharp as he stared at Long Chen. "That brat is only at the Fourth Draconic Stage. He's so arrogant just because he learned a Body Tempering method. Nothing but a frog in the well."

Yang Qingxuan nodded in agreement. "Indeed. Two stages is not a gap that a Body Tempering method can make up for. But he is indeed very brave to stand in the arena today."

Yang Wu smiled lightly. "Courageous, but foolish. He's nothing but a laughingstock."

Yang Qingxuan merely smiled as he silently agreed.

The Yang patriarch returned to his seat and talked with his guests for a moment. Long Chen and Yang Lingyue's fight was about to start.

"Sixth Draconic Stage ..."

Long Chen clenched his teeth as Yang Lingyue's gaze turned as sharp as blades.

"I won't play any games with you! I will fight with my full strength! Don't blame me if you die!"

Yang Lingyue laughed coldly at Long Chen's words. "Dream on. Remember well that you are only a slave of the Yang family. Don't think you are someone important just because you obtained some measly strength."

Long Chen saved his breath and did not argue with her.

His entire body contracted as faint starlight appeared all over him. His eyes grew so bright that they were like stars themselves. Yang Lingyue's vision was temporarily distorted by the strong light.

"Child's play! I've heard that you can use Meteor Fist! I have cultivated two different techniques too! Let me show you what the true Meteor Fist tastes like!"

Yang Lingyue shouted as the strength of a Sixth Draconic Stage cultivator exploded. She closed in on Long Chen like a whirlwind as starlight gathered at her fist. She punched forcefully at Long Chen.

Long Chen had already mastered the Meteor Fist. The only disadvantage was his Qi, which was two stages below Yang Lingyue's—a difference twenty times over!

"You don't even have the qualifications to discuss the Meteor Fist with me!"

Long Chen laughed as Yang Lingyue's Meteor Fist streaked across the sky towards him. His gaze turned fierce as he shouted and stomped his feet squarely on the arena, launching himself towards Yang Lingyue like a missile. Starlight appeared on his fist before it made contact with Yang Lingyue's Meteor Fist. Their techniques collided with an explosion.

"That brat actually uses the Meteor Fist to such a masterful degree with just the Qi of the Fourth Draconic Stage! It's even stronger than Qing'er's!"

Their grandfather focused on him.

Those who were familiar with the Meteor Fist were deeply impressed as they talked among themselves. Even Yang Xueqing was surprised. *I heard that he used the Meteor*

*Fist to defeat Zhan'er before. I didn't believe it then but looking at his fist now ... His mastery of it is equal to mine ...*

While everyone was surprised, Yang Lingyue had already pushed Long Chen back. Her Meteor Fist was about to injure him when Yang Xueqing chuckled.

“You can't win! You don't have enough Qi even though you are talented in cultivating martial techniques!”

Long Chen's blood was boiling from the impact of his opponent's Meteor Fist.

*Her Qi is twenty times more than mine! But you are dead wrong if you think I'm going to lose here!*

Although his right-handed Meteor Fist impressed the spectators, it was not enough against Yang Lingyue. Just then, Long Chen roared as he used both hands to unleash consecutive Meteor Fists!

*Boom!*

There was a giant explosion as Long Chen managed to block Yang Lingyue and steady himself at the same time.

The two consecutive Meteor Fists stunned everyone. Their grandfather even got to his feet excitedly. “He's a genius! He uses the Meteor Fist so masterfully even though he's only at the Fourth Draconic Stage! He's definitely a genius!”

Yang Qingxuan and the others were shocked too. Yang Wu was shocked as well, even though he was belittling Long Chen. He gulped, “Dad ... He's only sixteen, right? If not for the incident with Yang Zhan, we might be able to catch up to the Bai family ...”

Two consecutive Meteor Fists. Long Chen came up with it after going through some training.

He used two Meteor Fists to push Yang Lingyue back. Long Chen's blood was still boiling as he stared at the furious Yang Lingyue.

*Yang Lingyue is not an easy opponent! I've used two Meteor Fists and consumed half of my Qi. If things continue this way, I will still lose, no matter how masterfully I use it. If that happens, my grandfather will not defend me, and Yang Yuntian will kill me!*

Since he had no path of retreat, Long Chen's eyes gradually grew more insane and desperate, making even Yang Lingyue afraid. Still, she clenched her teeth and attacked Long Chen again.

*If I win, I live. If I lose, not only will I die, I will also become a joke. I can only win! I must not lose!*

Long Chen laughed like a maniac at these thoughts. Yang Lingyue realized he was about to risk everything. Fear sprang up in her heart and she instinctively used her strongest technique.

“The Dragon Seal is not for you! Typhoon Nine Fingers!”

“First finger, strike!”

“Second finger, break!”

“Third finger, revolve!”

“Fourth finger, annihilate!”

Each attack from the Typhoon Nine Fingers forced Long Chen to step back. Everyone knew that Long Chen's only attack was the Meteor Fist. He had nothing else to use. With Yang Lingyue using her Typhoon Nine Fingers, Long Chen's defeat was imminent!

Outside of the arena, Yang Lingqing was worried.

*Sister Lingyue's Typhoon Nine Fingers is extraordinary! I lost to the same technique, naturally he will too. If he loses ...*

Everyone wanted to know how Long Chen planned to fight the Typhoon Nine Fingers. Instead of retreating, Long Chen walked towards Yang Lingyue. Everyone was shocked that he was not trying anything!

“Is he trying to die?”

“Heavens! He's trying to commit suicide!”

*Chapter 17 - Proudful Gaze*

Long Chen's behavior sent shockwaves through the crowd. Everything had happened in a single moment. Yang Lingyue's furious Typhoon Nine Fingers landed one by one on Long Chen. Each time the Qi-reinforced finger struck Long Chen, the clothes on his back exploded to shreds and blood flowed from his mouth!

The sudden events made all of the Yang family members in the audience shoot up from their seats, uncertain how to react. Yang Xueqing was as pale as a sheet, and she'd even squeezed the arms of her chair to bits.

Yang Lingqing, who was paler than ever, rushed to the fighting stage! “Stop it! Sister Lingyue!”

But there was no stopping the Typhoon Nine Fingers once they were unleashed. The Yang patriarch was about to react when he caught sight of Long Chen’s eyes!

Long Chen’s eyes were fixed on Yang Lingyue. Blood sprayed from his mouth but a fire continued burning in his eyes, leaving the Yang patriarch deeply shaken!

It was the most unshakable glare he’d ever seen.

Ferocity! Unyielding! Pride! Insanity! Viciousness!

These were the qualities he saw in Long Chen’s eyes. Although his abilities far exceeded those of Long Chen, even he felt fear at Long Chen’s glare! “If the boy matures ... Just based on his inner qualities ... Shocking!”

Since the Yang patriarch did not react, no one else dared to move either. Yang Xueqing took a step forward but the patriarch pulled her back.

No one noticed Yang Xueqing’s reaction, and she herself didn’t even realize what she’d done.

Everyone thought Long Chen was about to die when the Typhoon Nine Fingers’ seventh finger, Lingyue’s limit, struck Long Chen. That was when he suddenly let out a hysterical roar. He raised his fist and punched, his movements as smooth as flowing water, as if he had practiced them tens of thousands of times!

Yang Lingyue, who was partially spent from using the Typhoon Nine Fingers, was both frightened and shocked when Long Chen struck her in the stomach. She cried out in pain before being thrown off the stage. She hit a wall with a boom. Blood sprayed out of her mouth, and she fainted!

Yang Wu flew into a rage but Yang Qingxuan stopped him. “Go help Lingyue with her injuries. Do not attack.”

Yang Wu glared at Long Chen then obeyed. He had already decided to severely beat Long Chen up. He loved Yang Lingyue deeply since she was his precious younger sister. He had never even reprimanded her a single time.

The Martial Courtyard fell silent. Everyone stared in shock at the young man onstage still standing tall!

The Typhoon Nine Fingers had torn his clothes to shreds, exposing his back. He was a bloodied mess from his chest injuries and the blood that sprayed from his mouth.

And yet, he stood firmly on the stage. The Typhoon Nine Fingers didn't push him back an inch! His last move had defeated Yang Lingyue but he remained standing. A vicious smile spread across his face as he looked around like a war god. His bloodshot eyes fell on Yang Xueqing, and he laughed coldly.

Yang Xueqing's face was as pale as a sheet as she watched the man standing proudly on stage. She fell a step back, and waves of emotions rolled in her heart!

Not daring to look Long Chen in the eyes, she turned and ran.

Long Chen watched her leave without a word. "Did you see that? Are you afraid? Yes, I am from the Long family! I am Long Qinglan's son! We are proud! To everyone who has ever looked down on me: you all will realize that I, Long Chen, will one day become your nightmare! And today is only the beginning!"

"Yang! Xue! Qing! From today onwards, you will see a different Long Chen! He is the leader of the people! You no longer have the right to look at him with contempt! He will be a presence that inspires awe and admiration!"

Waves of emotion rose in his heart.

It was the worst he'd ever been injured, but it was also his proudest moment. He could finally stand up for himself today. He stood with his shoulders back as his gaze swept across the audience.

Everyone else stared at him, stunned and speechless.

He had used his body to block Yang Lingyue's Typhoon Nine Fingers, and when she was spent from the attack, he had fired a fatal shot! Just for victory. No one present dared to do such a thing!

Yang Lingqing ran to the base of the stage but stopped when she noticed the incredulous atmosphere. Tears sprung out of her eyes when she saw Long Chen covered in blood, with more flowing continuously out of the corner of his mouth.

Long Chen's gaze finally stopped on the Yang patriarch. He gave a small smile and declared loudly, "Yang Lingyue has lost her ability to fight, and I am still standing here. It should be very clear who the champion of the Family Meeting is. Grandfather, please give me the Dragon Seal!"

*Please give me the Dragon Seal!*

His request sounded like a rumble of thunder echoing in the audience's ears!



This was the teenager who did not fall despite his bloodied body, whose burning gaze made everyone avoid his eyes. He would be forever present in their memories from this day on!

The Yang patriarch was obviously struggling with himself. but he could not avoid the gaze from the stage.

At that moment, a ray of green light shot towards the stage with a whoosh. "You brute! Return my son alive!"

It was Yang Yuntian, who was at the Seventh Draconic Stage!

Long Chen's appearance at the Family Meeting had caused a huge commotion. Since Yang Yuntian was still at the Yang Residence, how would he not know?

He had held himself back when Long Chen and Yang Lingyue were fighting. Now that Long Chen had won and let down his guard, he charged towards the stage immediately. He was ready to kill Long Chen!

Yang Yuntian was much stronger than Yang Lingyue, his cultivation had almost reached the Eight Draconic Stage. When he attacked, a tsunami-like presence crashed towards Long Chen.

The audience was still speculating whether or not Long Chen could get the Dragon Seal, and they gasped at the unexpected twist!

Long Chen had just gotten out of danger, but he had jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire!

Long Chen had used up all his strength fighting Yang Lingyue and forgotten the threat Yang Yuntian posed. Or rather, he had underestimated how much Yang Yuntian wanted to kill him. That was why when Yang Yuntian attacked, he knew he was done for.

He had been certain that the Yang patriarch would protect him, but he had grown careless for a moment and now he had strayed too far from the Yang patriarch. Yang Yuntian's attack was completely unexpected!

In the blink of an eye, Long Chen was in extreme danger.

However, he had just defeated Yang Lingyue and his bestial senses were still present. Yang Yuntian's sudden attack was focused on power and precision. He knew that Long Chen was at the end of his rope, so he didn't bother with an extremely powerful technique. The incoming Qi of the Seventh Draconic Stage was enough to make Long Chen feel suffocated!

As soon as Yang Yuntian's fist arrived, Long Chen roared like a madman and struck with two consecutive Meteor Fists. Yet, he was still thrown back, blood spraying out of his mouth.

His entire body burned in agony!

After the Typhoon Nine Fingers and Yang Yuntian's attack, Long Chen was quickly losing consciousness. However, Yang Yuntian wasn't done. When he realized that his attack had not killed Long Chen, he appeared in front of him in a flash. "Scum! Die!"

A dragon roar boomed so fiercely that Long Chen almost crumbled from the soundwaves. At this point, he was already out of his mind and his vision was blurry. He saw what seemed like the shadow of a dragon slowly expand as it unleashed power ten times stronger than his Meteor Fist towards him! "Is ... this the Dragon Seal ..."

He couldn't believe he'd die so soon. After some thought, he felt like he couldn't let go. At least he'd accomplished something; he'd changed that woman's impression of him!

He thought about Long Qinglan, then Ling Xi ...

A warm surge of energy flowed into his body and he realized his mind was sharper again. His eyes sprang open and he saw the Ling Xi Sword on his ear expand. The fairy-like figure appeared in front of him once more!

Long Chen only saw her back once again, although it was much clearer this time ...

When they emerged from the Desolate Beastlands, Ling Xi had shrunk the Ling Xi Sword until it became a tiny stud. She pierced Long Chen's ear, saying that it was more discreet this way. Although Long Chen didn't know whether to laugh or cry, he let her have her way.

Worried about Long Chen's safety, Ling Xi willed the Ling Xi Sword to expand and she left the sword once more.

Everyone had expected Long Chen to die from the Dragon Seal but to their surprise, his ear stud turned into a sword. Then, a fairy-like girl appeared in a cloud of mist ...

"You idiot, you're always worrying me ... If you do this again, I'm not going to rescue you ..."

It was Ling Xi's voice.

Long Chen lifted his head to watch as he lay on the stage. He still couldn't see Ling Xi's face but from the dazed expressions of the spectators, he knew she had to be beautiful ...

A few rays of light shot through the mist from the sword and shattered Yang Yuntian's attack, finally giving the Yang patriarch his chance to block Yang Yuntian.

Yang Yuntian was too quick. Even though the patriarch was more powerful and had rushed forward immediately, he still hadn't been fast enough.

Long Chen had almost died!

Ling Xi dissolved into mist once more, returning to the Ling Xi Sword. The sword shrank again, returning to Long Chen's ear. He heard Ling Xi's extremely weak voice. It seemed like this endeavor had cost her a lot of energy.

"... Mmm, I'm going to sleep, I can't help you with the rest ..."

"Xiao Xi ..."

She had now rescued him twice. Long Chen was extremely grateful.

He had always believed in giving back what you received, and he would return the kindness to Ling Xi many times over.

It had been an eventful Family Meeting. Long Chen's appearance was already a shock, then he defeated Lingyue, and then Yang Yuntian had attacked him. However, what shocked everyone the most was the girl who had emerged from the sword and saved him.

Long Chen was now shrouded in a veil of mystery.

Even with his vast experience, the Yang patriarch didn't know what that was either. This grandson of his had given him so many surprises and obviously held many secrets.

But it was not the time for questions. Yang Yuntian thought he could kill Long Chen but he never imagined a girl would appear and block his attack. By the time he could attack again, the patriarch was already standing in front of him ...

Glaring at the patriarch with bloodshot eyes, Yang Yuntian screamed, "Father, he killed your grandson, my son! And you're protecting him? How can you do this to me?"

The Yang patriarch's gaze turned cold. "You're already forty. You're not young anymore and I'm not going to say much here. This is the Family Meeting with many esteemed guests of Baiyang Town; I refuse to let you embarrass me here! We'll talk about this later! Xuan'er, take him away!"

The Yang patriarch had the full presence of a leader. Although Yang Yuntian wanted nothing more than to kill Long Chen immediately, he knew the patriarch had made up

his mind. If he didn't read the situation right and further angered his father, it would diminish his chances of killing Long Chen later.

He glared daggers at Long Chen, then swallowed his anger and left.

He knew that as long as Long Chen was in the Yang Residence, there would be ten thousand ways to kill him!

The patriarch wouldn't let him kill Long Chen today to protect the family's reputation but there would be countless opportunities in the future. Yang Yuntian could easily act before dealing with the aftermath!

When Yang Yuntian left, the patriarch heaved a sigh of relief. He was extremely conflicted by today's events. He looked at Long Chen, who was still onstage, and checked his injuries. Long Chen was already in a sitting position, and his hand positions showed that he was cultivating.

That's right!

The demonic ginseng he'd consumed contained great medicinal strength, and some of it remained in his body. His severe injuries had triggered its medicinal properties. In addition to that, even more Qi flowed from the mysterious jade pendant after he was hurt. The overlapping forces made Long Chen realize he now had the ability to attain the Fifth Draconic Stage in front of everyone!

### *Chapter 18 - Dragon Seal*

Everyone knew he had only been in the Third Draconic Stage half a month ago. It was unheard of in Baiyang Town to have the talent to achieve breakthrough twice in half a month. Since that was the case, the Yang patriarch would definitely take some effort to keep Long Chen alive!

Long Chen was absolutely confident that his performance that day had shaken everyone. He would be the hottest topic in Baiyang Town for the near future!

This time, his breakthrough to the Fifth Draconic Stage was surprisingly smooth, as if it were a natural progression. In fact, it was much easier than his breakthrough to the Fourth Draconic Stage. He completely used up the medicinal strength of the two demonic ginseng for his cultivation. Unbelievably, he broke through the fifth dragon vein in less than fifteen minutes!

A mighty dragon's roar shook the heavens and earth!

With the nourishment of the demonic ginseng and his injuries mostly healed, Long Chen shot back to his feet. Everyone noticed a powerful aura radiating from his body and a

divine light dancing in his eyes. Now, Long Chen should be able to defeat Yang Lingyue easily! “This guy ... his progress is unnatural ...”

Chen Liu, who had previously bullied Long Chen, quietly hid behind the person next to him, his legs shaking uncontrollably ...

Every person who had once mocked Long Chen or looked at him with contempt gulped, their faces pale. When the Yang patriarch saw that Long Chen had attained the Fifth Draconic Stage, he felt very proud inside despite his stony expression.

Long Chen noticed Yang Lingqing’s gaze in the crowd. Naturally, it was filled with complex emotions.

Long Chen had initially believed that the matter was resolved. He turned to look at the Yang patriarch who was about to retrieve the Dragon Seal. However, a few members of the Bai family walked up to the tournament stage. Their glares were cold.

The Yang patriarch froze slightly and asked, “May I ask why you’re here?”

There was an obvious killing intent in the glare Bai Zhanxiong gave Long Chen. He took a step forward and spoke respectfully to the Yang patriarch. “Uncle Yang, I have no intention of causing trouble at the Yang Family Meeting but there is one thing we must ask him.”

When Bai Zhanxiong’s eyes fell on Long Chen’s ear, Long Chen knew the situation was going to turn bad. *When Ling Xi defended me, she exposed the presence of the Ling Xi Sword. Bai Shixun saw the sword that day, he must’ve described it to them. These three people from the Bai family must know that I was the one who castrated Bai Shixun!*

The puzzled Yang patriarch looked over as well.

Bai Zhanxiong stared at Long Chen coldly and said, “Everyone, I’m sure some of you know about the tragedy that befell my youngest son half a month ago. The culprit was so violent to the point that I cannot wait to kill him with a thousand cuts!

“According to Shixun, he had been chasing after a black iron sword, only to be robbed by a masked man who caused the tragic incident. What I’m saying is that the black sword that saved Long Chen just now looks exactly like the one my son described!”

“You brat, you must be the masked man!”

“He’s so young but so vicious! You can tell he’s black-hearted!”

All eyes fell on Long Chen after Bai Zhanxiong’s words.

The news about Bai Shixun had already spread through the whole Baiyang Town. However, they kept the chatter down because the Bai family was number one in Baiyang Town.

But they all knew that the aristocratic young man's life was probably ruined.

Long Chen privately exclaimed, *If the truth comes out, the patriarch might give up on me if he's unwilling to cause conflict between the Bai and Yang families. However, they don't have proof, and I'll never admit it!*

He lifted his chin and huffed coldly, "I don't know what you're talking about. How's what happened to your youngest son got anything to do with me? Also, all the weapons in this world are pretty similar to each other. How can you judge that this sword is the same one your son saw?"

Bai Zhanxiong was furious to see Long Chen denying his crime. He said coldly, "There are many weapons in this world but there are not many swords that are seventy centimeters long, completely black, two fingers wide, and covered in rust. Are you still trying to defend yourself?"

Long Chen replied mildly, "You've already seen my sword, naturally you can describe it. You're such a prominent figure in Baiyang Town, yet you're trying to frame a small potato like me. What's the deal with that?"

Since the bickering was continuing, the Yang patriarch interjected, "Chen'er, do I have your word that you did not do such a thing?"

Long Chen nodded. "I didn't. I don't even know what happened to his youngest son. Did someone cut off his limbs, or did they break his dantian?"

It required a certain amount of courage to lie to the Yang patriarch. He had just performed well and the Yang patriarch appreciated talent greatly. Although Bai Zhanxiong had made his accusations, the Yang patriarch was still unwilling to hand the piece of meat he'd just received to the Bai family's chopping board. That was the reason why he'd questioned Long Chen.

Long Chen only dared to lie because he guessed the patriarch's intentions correctly.

With Long Chen's confirmation, the Yang patriarch turned to Bai Zhanxiong and said, "Xiong'er, you must investigate this matter more closely; you cannot make rash conclusions like that. Go home today and talk to your father. Brother Bai and I have been lifelong brothers, and Brother Bai trusts me. I will talk to him too. As for the rest, there is no need for further discussion."

This was the Yang Family Meeting and the Yang patriarch was the most respected figure present. Relations between the two great families were complex and Bai

Zhanxiong was also going to be connected to them through marriage soon. Bai Zhanxiong frowned but he could only nod. "If that is the case, I will obey you, Uncle Yang. My father has helped the Yang family a lot since its establishment; you and my father have a relationship like brothers. I trust you to deal with the matter, Uncle Yang ..."

Bai Zhanxiong looked at Long Chen, then left. *The Yang family ... Hehe, I'll let you go, for now, brat. But the day is approaching when everyone will know that the Bai family is the true ruler of Baiyang Town!*

Bai Zhanxiong walked off the stage but Bai Shiji remained. He sneered at Long Chen and asked the Yang patriarch, "Grandfather Yang, he'll participate in the Demon Hunting Tournament, won't he?"

The Yang patriarch's gaze grew sharper. He didn't reply but he knew that the young brat was making a threat. If Long Chen participated, it would not bode well for him.

Bai Shiji then walked up to Long Chen and smirked. "There will be a Demon Hunting Tournament soon, but it's best if you don't go. You're probably going to end up dead."

A powerful aura of a Seventh Draconic Stage warrior radiated from him.

*Is he trying to intimidate me ...*

Bai Shiji's eyes were filled with contempt. Long Chen smiled coldly. He knew this would be his next opponent.

When the Bai family left, all the other major attendees excused themselves too. Finally, the Yang Family Meeting came to an end.

It had been an eventful day.

There was an inscrutable expression in the Yang patriarch's eyes. "Come with me."

The Yang patriarch's tone was mild. He led the silent Long Chen following away. Everyone watched them leave, including Yang Lingqing. *You were the catalyst of such a large conflict. What kind of person are you...*

Long Chen's performance that day was like a sudden storm that passed through every handmaiden and guard's ears. Everyone who'd treated him badly couldn't help but feel a pang of fear.

...

The eyes he met along the way were filled with fear and awe.

Long Chen smiled. This was the life he wanted.

When they reached the Yang patriarch's small wooden house in front of the Martial Scroll Palace, the Yang patriarch sat on the floor, folded his legs, and looked at Long Chen mildly. "Let me ask you a question first. You were the one who did it to Bai Zhanxiong's youngest son, right?"

Long Chen nodded.

This was within the patriarch's expectations. He eyed Long Chen from head to toe, then sighed after a long while. "You brat, I've never seen you this energetic. Your performance today shocked me. You guessed that I would block Yuntian and Bai Zhanxiong because of my appreciation for talent. That's very clever but also very dangerous. But you made the right bet. That is why you've survived."

Long Chen wasn't surprised that the old man had seen through his intentions. All he could say was, "I had to scheme in order to keep myself alive, I hope you won't take it to heart, Grandfather."

Long Chen knew that even though he didn't have much of a history with the old man, he was dealing with the top brass of the Yang family, the man who controlled the family's fate. He could never offend him.

The Yang patriarch was silent for a while, then he said, "If this had happened when I was younger, considering my temper, I wouldn't have let you go easily if you used me like that. However, there is something I need help with urgently. If you do it right, I will let this go. You must know that there aren't many people in Baiyang Town who would dare use me like this."

"What would you like me to do?"

The patriarch stared at him, his eyes bright. A long time passed, then he sighed. "Let me tell you the history of Baiyang Town. Thirty years ago, the Yang family didn't exist. It was just the Bai family in Baiyang Town. At the time, I was only a somewhat-talented martial artist. I got to know the current Bai patriarch and we went out on many adventures together and forged a deep friendship. In the end, we both returned to Baiyang Town. I set up the large Yang business as you know today and had a family.

"The relationship between me and Brother Bai has been great until today. We even played a small part in the match between Qing'er and Xiong'er. However, I've been having a headache over something recently."

Long Chen asked hurriedly, "What is it? Is it that Demon Hunting Tournament?"

The Yang patriarch nodded. "The Bai and Yang families have always been close. It was us against the world. However, everything changed when I received a piece of news ten



days ago, and the fact that you castrated Bai Zhanxiong's youngest son has made things worse. If I hadn't protected you it might've been fine, but I did. The relationship has worsened. I'm afraid Qing'er's wedding might not even happen."

The Yang patriarch's brows were deeply furrowed.

*So this man actually planned the marriage.* Long Chen had already cursed the old man a hundred times in his heart but he still wasn't sure about the relationship between the two superpowers in the Bai and Yang families. From what the patriarch said, they had to be on great terms. *Might the wedding not happen? That's great, I'm not needed then. What if I made the relationship between the two families even worse? However, I'm afraid this old man would kill me first ...*

Long Chen pursed his lips. "Grandfather, what *is* the Demon Hunting Tournament you mentioned?"

The Yang patriarch looked at Long Chen with intensity in his eyes. "Baiyang Town is under the jurisdiction of Yuanling City. Ten days ago, the ruling family of Yuanling City, the Lingwu family, commanded the Bai and Yang families to send their progeny into the Desolate Mountains for the Demon Hunting Tournament. The family that retrieves the most demonic cores will receive the right to rule in Baiyang Town for twenty years. At that point, the next generation will compete again for the right to rule."

"During all these years, Baiyang Town had no true ruler. The other towns are slowly getting their own leaders; our turn has finally come. The right to rule for twenty years holds great importance to both families. Although Brother Bai and I are as close as brothers, I will not let go of this opportunity easily."

The patriarch sighed. "The tournament will be in the afternoon on the tenth day of the eighth month, and Qing'er's wedding will be held that night. That is why I'm afraid you young ones won't have time to attend the ceremony. Naturally, Yuanling City will send people to oversee the tournament. People like me will not be allowed within the vicinity of the Desolate Mountains."

After listening to his explanation, Long Chen knew what he had to do. "So, Grandfather, you want me to work with the Yang family in the Demon Hunting Tournament to get more demonic cores, right?"

The Yang patriarch nodded. "Among the younger generation, Bai Shiji and Bai Shichen are at the Seventh Draconic Stage and two others are at the Sixth Draconic Stage. The Yang family only has Lingyue and Yang Wu to lead. You did well today; you learned the Meteor Fist, a skill above your level, in three days. You even wield it very well. With you, the Yang family has some hope in the Demon Hunting Tournament."

"The relationships between the younger ones of both families are cordial so they won't kill each other but you must be careful of the Bai kids. When you enter the Desolate

Mountains, go hunt for demonic beasts on your own. You must never fight the Bai family directly. That is the only way for us to get more demonic cores.”

Long Chen nodded, understanding the patriarch’s instructions. He would work alone, and he was the Yang family’s dark horse. He was also a ray of hope for the patriarch.

However, would it really pan out as the patriarch imagined? Was it possible for Long Chen to avoid Bai Shiji?

Long Chen nodded and said, “I’ll do as you say, Grandfather.”

The Yang patriarch chuckled and said, “I will help you deal with Yuntian, of course, since you’re helping the Yang family. Also, the Dragon Seal belongs to you. Study well during the next few days to be in your best form in fourteen days.”

Long Chen retrieved the Dragon Seal he’d dreamed about from the patriarch’s hand.

As he stared at the dramatic calligraphy of its title, Long Chen was filled with emotion. “Now that I have the Dragon Seal, my strength will rise again! Father said this Dragon Seal scripture is more than it seems; I must check out what secrets it holds and what a Dragon Warrior is!”

The Yang patriarch took out another pouch. “This contains 500 spirit jade pieces, take it. If you absorb everything, you’ll be able to reach the Sixth Draconic Stage. However, do not be greedy and be rash. You have just entered the Fifth Draconic stage, you must take a few days to familiarize yourself with the Dragon Seal first. Go back and rest.”

Long Chen excused himself. *The Demon Hunting Tournament and the wedding are both happening in half a month! What should I do? ... Whatever, I’ll cultivate the Dragon Seal first. Let’s see how powerful I can get!*

#### *Chapter 19 - Bizarre Seal*

“Vast Dragon Seal ...”

Sitting on the bed in his own room, Long Chen read the Dragon Seal front to back tens of times. He finally placed the Dragon Seal at the edge of the bed after feeling sleepy.

“Not many members of the Yang family cultivate it since it’s an advanced martial technique. Based on the age of the parchment, this should be the original copy. My father said it contains the secret to becoming the Dragon Warrior. But why can’t I find it?”

Long Chen lay down and stared at the window.

“What kind of rubbish is this? Isn't it just a few pieces of parchment? What kind of secret could it contain? Even if it does contain the secret, so many people from the Yang family have read it that it wouldn't be a secret any longer ... “

Long Chen was depressed.

“Hold up!” Long Chen suddenly sat up excitedly.

“The Yang family must not have discovered the secret because it's too hard to find it! Since my father told me to get it at all costs, I should be able to find it if I put in a bit more effort!”

He picked up the Dragon Seal once again and read the elegantly written sentences. He read each word and even examined the corners of the pages carefully but he discovered nothing.

“I am already at the Fifth Draconic Stage, but since I have the Complete Constellation Body, an ordinary Sixth Draconic Stage cultivator would be no match for me. With the Dragon Seal, my combat capabilities would drastically improve. Sadly, the Constellation Body is only an intermediate Yellow-tier martial technique. I won't have any advantages if I were to encounter a cultivator at the Seventh Draconic Stage and above ...”

“The Demon Hunting Tournament is starting soon. Since Bai Shiji hates me to his core, I won't be able to survive, much less make a name for myself if I don't find a solution soon.”

Thinking about Bai Shiji and the others who were already at the Seventh Draconic Stage, Long Chen's brows furrowed.

He knew the limits of his own strength. He might be able to win against a Sixth Draconic Stage cultivator easily, but it would be hopeless if he encountered a Seventh Draconic Stage cultivator.

The Draconic Realm was divided into nine stages. The first six stages focused on breaking through the dragon veins known as small dragon veins. These veins weren't very thick or long, so there was a limited amount of Qi a cultivator could utilize.

However, there was a large gap between the Sixth and Seventh Draconic Stages. To attain the Seventh Draconic Stage and higher, a cultivator was required to break through the Human Dragon Vein, Earthly Dragon Vein, and Heavenly Dragon Vein.

Each one was at least twice as thick and twice as long as a small dragon vein. The Heavenly Dragon Vein was the longest vein of the three—it was as long as the other eight dragon veins combined, and it coiled throughout the body of the cultivator.

Long Chen knew that the higher he rose in the Draconic Realm, the harder it would be to cultivate and break through. This was the reason why so few people attained the Ninth Draconic Stage!

The biggest difference between Long Chen and Bai Shiji, who was at the Seventh Draconic Stage, was the Human Dragon Vein. To break through it, he would require at least ten times the amount of Qi of a Sixth Draconic Stage cultivator. This was why Bai Shiji's Qi was at least twenty to thirty times more powerful than Long Chen's.

"But ..."

Long Chen's eyes were cold as he thought about something. *Since Bai Shiji is Bai Zhanxiong's son, I have to be stronger than him! I need to let that woman know which is the truly useless one!*

He still felt a heavy pressure. He still had no idea how to decipher the secret of the Dragon Seal. If he let ten days pass like this, his entire life might go to waste too!

"What is a Dragon Warrior? My father said that it is a long-lost legend? I've only heard of Beast Warriors and Armament Warriors, but I've never heard of a Dragon Warrior ..."

"Still, my father and Ling Xi did say that the vast land we are on is called the Dragon Continent. Also the legends say that humans are the descendants of the all-powerful Primordial Dragons. The Dragon Warrior must be related to the dragons of the legends!"

After Ling Xi defended him during the Family Meeting, her energy was so spent that she hadn't awakened in three days. Long Chen was extremely worried. *She didn't die from that, right? She must have used up so much of her energy. Since she has saved me twice, she's my benefactor. I've already told her that I would protect her, so no matter what happens I must not let her use her power again!*

He looked at the Dragon Seal in his hand.

*Father wanted me to obtain this martial technique but did not tell me the method to unravel its secret. Looks like I have to work really hard. It would be better if Ling Xi were here. Her true identity is quite mysterious but she probably belonged to a very powerful faction. That would explain why she knows so much about the world. With her knowledge, she can probably help me unravel the secret.*

Long Chen sighed and lay on the bed, covering his face with the Dragon Seal.

"What the ... ?"

Long Chen realized that when he placed the Dragon Seal on his face, the mysterious Dragon Jade Pendant in his sea of consciousness that was usually silent trembled for a moment. But it soon stopped.

Just then, a soft, frail voice said in his ear, "There seems to be a seal on the book ..."

It was none other than Ling Xi, who had transformed into a stud on Long Chen's earlobe. Even though her voice was soft, Long Chen could still hear her clearly.

Long Chen's anxiety lessened. But when he heard how soft her voice was, he knew that she hadn't recovered. "Xiao Xi, how are you feeling? I shouldn't have acted so rashly. I swear that these incidents like that will not happen again. Every time you defend me, you become so much weaker ..."

"It's fine ..." Ling Xi interjected.

Long Chen was touched. Still, he clenched his teeth as he said, "What do you mean that it's fine? Don't butt in next time. If my rashness causes my death, then so be it! But if you die because of me, I will feel guilty throughout my life. I would rather die!"

"Now tell me what is going on."

Ling Xi's voice became softer as she sensed his anger. "My physical body is already gone and everything is dark around me. My spiritual energy is maintaining my Divine Will, but since spiritual power does not regenerate, the more I use it, the less I have left. When I panicked and flew a long distance using the Ling Xi Sword last time, I used up a large portion of my spiritual energy. After using my powers twice and not having any herbs that replenish my Divine Soul, I'm afraid that I'm ..."

Long Chen felt as if the sky were falling on him and shouted, "Why didn't you say so sooner?"

Ling Xi felt wronged and sobbed. "Why are you being so fierce? I just woke up, and if I hadn't stepped in last time, you would be dead. I wouldn't even have the chance to tell you ..."

Long Chen calmed himself down and remained silent for quite some time. "Xiao Xi, thank you, but as a man, I cannot let you risk your life for me. Nor will I let you encounter the same situation again. You said that you need herbs to recover your Divine Soul. I will go find some for you now!"

Ling Xi had almost died from saving him. Even though Long Chen could not express how touched he was, in his heart he already recognized Ling Xi as someone he would risk his life for.

Long Chen put the Dragon Seal in his shirt and walked out. He wasn't familiar with the herbs used by cultivators, and he was only familiar with one person in the Yang family: Yang Lingqing. He decided to look for her.

“Herbs that nourish the Divine Soul are quite rare. They are usually expensive too. Long Chen, have I become a burden to you?”

“What kind of rubbish are you spewing?! You saved my life. I’m just thinking of saving you, so how could you call yourself a burden? Did water enter your head or something?”

Even though his tone was fierce, the way he spoke showed her that he cared for her a lot. As she looked at the determined youth, many thoughts passed through Ling Xi’s mind. Her predicament slowly changed her from a naive girl to someone more mature.

“Wait, you said there is a seal on the Dragon Seal? Can you decipher it?”

Because of Ling Xi’s current condition, he had almost forgotten about this. Now that he remembered, his face was filled with anticipation.

“I don’t have enough spiritual energy left to decipher the seal. If I have some herbs to nourish my Divine Soul, I might be able to give it a try.”

Long Chen was ecstatic! “Ling Xi you are amazing! If only you had a body. I would kiss you as a reward!”

Long Chen laughed after saying that.

“Hmph! Dream on! You’re not worthy! But since you need me to decipher the seal, I need a lot of herbs. I’m quite a glutton. If you need my help, you’d better prepare a lot of herbs!”

“Fine, fine, you herb hogger.”

After they joked around, the atmosphere was not as heavy as it had been. However, Long Chen knew that after today, his burden had increased.

Not only did he have to become stronger, he needed to earn more money to buy the herbs that nourished the Divine Soul and kept Ling Xi’s alive.

*Baiyang Town is such a small place. Will it really have herbs that nourish the Divine Soul?*

Long Chen was worried.

As he walked into the courtyard of the Yang family, he ran into some guards and servants. They forced smiles on their faces, but that was worse than if they cried.

Long Chen’s performance at the Family Meeting had secured him an excellent standing within the Yang family. Additionally, his strength and brutal personality had caused

those in the lower ranks to fear him. No one dared to be rude to him anymore. It would be suicidal!

In a corner, Yang Wu saw the guards bowing to Long Chen. Yang Wu's eyes darkened.

*This slave took away what was supposed to be Yang Lingyue's prize. Look at you, acting all high and mighty, I wonder how much longer can you act like this?*

*Grandfather might value you, but he's also just using you. Second Uncle has been working hard all these years. Even though he is only at the Seventh Draconic Stage, more than half of the family business is under his jurisdiction. He has accomplished so much for the Yang family. Can a mere black sheep that has sullied the name of the Yang family like you believe that you'll be able to rise to the top?*

Long Chen knew that Yang Wu was staring at him but he couldn't be bothered to care.

If anyone bullied his sister, Long Chen would've killed them. This was why he was well aware of the thoughts running through Yang Wu's mind.

"Xiao Xi, do you see that guy staring at me with resentment?"

"I do, but it doesn't seem like resentment."

"You don't know the truth. He's actually a pervert who has fallen in love with me. Unfortunately, because we are both guys, he can't say it out loud. But I know the feelings he has for me are real ..."

"Ew, gross. I'm going to vomit!"

*Chapter 20 - Warrior's Market*

Both Long Chen and Ling Xi stopped talking when they found Yang Lingqing.

Rather than being depressed, Yang Lingqing was even more motivated than before after losing to Yang Lingyue at the Family Meeting. When Long Chen found her, she treated him coldly as her heart was conflicted.

"What do you want from me?"

Yang Lingqing knew about the grudge between Long Chen and her brother, but they had always had trivial fights. She hadn't felt anything wrong about Long Chen stripping her brother naked in front of a crowd. It's not as though her brother had been some damsel. Who would have guessed that he couldn't face the humiliation and killed himself? That was how things got complicated.

Yang Lingqing knew that this was unintentional from Long Chen's end, but Yang Zhan was still dead. Even though she hadn't seen eye to eye with her brother ever since they were little, he was still her biological brother.

When he sensed the anger in Yang Lingqing's eyes, Long Chen knew that he had caused a lot of pain for the girl. He felt guilty too. "I'm sorry about your brother. I never would've thought he would do that. I'm here today to ask you about something."

Yang Lingqing replied plainly, "What do you want to ask? I'm still busy cultivating. The Demon Hunting Tournament is about to start soon and I don't want to lose to the Bai family."

"I need herbs that nourish the Divine Soul. Do you know where I can get it? Or do we have it in our family?"

Long Chen asked with anticipation. Yang Lingqing was giving him the cold treatment so he was worried that she might not help him.

But he was merely gauging the heart of another with his own measure.

"Our family doesn't stock such herbs, but you can try visiting the herb stores at the market. The shops usually sell herbs bought from cultivators or from larger towns so they probably have it."

Yang Lingqing thought for a moment.

Long Chen had never been to the market before. Ever since he was young, he had always traveled from the inn and the brothel. "Where is the market?" he asked curiously.

Yang Lingqing said in an unfriendly tone, "The Warrior's Market is indeed located somewhere slightly hidden. Fine, I will accompany you there."

Long Chen looked at her with gratitude. Even though she hated him somewhat, she still helped him to the best of her ability when he needed her help. She was much kinder than Yang Lingyue and Yang Wu.

Yang Lingqing and Long Chen walked together. They attracted some gazes but the onlookers did not comment since the two were still the young master and young mistress of the Yang family.

Long Chen's reputation was also spread throughout Baiyang Town for the past few days. Almost every home in Baiyang Town knows about him now. In the past, Long Chen was a person that everyone rejected, but in just one month he had turned his reputation around, becoming one of the rising stars amongst the younger generation of Baiyang Town.



“Oh, right, since you learned the Meteor Fist in such a short amount of time, what about the Dragon Seal? Did you learn much about it?” Yang Lingqing asked suddenly as they walked on the road.

Long Chen smiled lightly. “Why? Do you want to learn it too? I can teach you but you have to call me Big Brother Chen.”

Yang Lingqing turned around and scoffed. “I’m only at the Fifth Draconic Stage. I don’t have enough Qi to cultivate the Dragon Seal. Also, I want to obtain the Dragon Seal with my own strength!”

Looking at her gaze, which was filled with conviction, Long Chen was secretly impressed.

They walked for a bit before Yang Lingqing asked another question as she furrowed her brows. “You are also at the Fifth Draconic Stage. The Dragon Seal is an advanced martial technique so you can’t cultivate it either. Why not give it to Sister Lingyue? She’s very close to the Seventh Draconic Stage so she might have some hope ...”

It was indeed an advanced martial technique, and he did only have the strength of the Fifth Draconic Stage, so Long Chen was not surprised that Yang Lingqing was looking down on him. He smiled lightly and remained silent.

“Long Chen, do you know about the Demon Hunting Tournament? The Bai family is stronger than our Yang family. If they obtain the right to rule over Baiyang Town, our family might be in danger. Everyone in Baiyang Town more or less knows that the Bai family will become part of the Lingwu family from Yuanling City if they rule Baiyang Town. At that point, they will be able to exercise the authority of the Lingwu family.”

Long Chen had heard of the Lingwu family from Yuanling City. It was the strongest family within Yuanling County, personally selected by the royalty of the Cangyang Kingdom themselves! They had complete authority to rule over the entire Yuanling County and were more or less their overlords. The family that ruled Baiyang Town would undoubtedly receive protection from the Lingwu family as well as countless benefits.

Even though the patriarchs of the Yang and Bai families were close, they still intended to fight for the chance.

Long Chen laughed. “That’s only because they don’t have any wisdom.”

Yang Lingqing tucked the long strands of hair on her face back behind her ears. Her eyes were filled with exasperation when she said, “Of the younger generation in the Yang family, the stronger ones are Elder Brother Yang Wu, and Sister Lingyue. Including you, at most we have a Seventh Draconic Stage and two Six Draconic Stage cultivators.

“The Bai family have two Sixth Draconic Stage and two Seventh Draconic Stage cultivators. Bai Shiji is somewhat acceptable as he more or less has the same strength as Elder Brother Yang Wu, but Bai Shichen attained the Seventh Draconic Stage at only seventeen years old. He broke through the Seventh Draconic Stage the earliest, and his cultivation is still unfathomable. He has always been the strongest among the younger generation of Baiyang Town.”

Long Chen was confused. “He’s only at the Seventh Draconic Stage. What’s so special about Bai Shichen?”

Yang Lingqing shook her head. “Don’t you know? There were rumors that he almost broke through the Eighth Draconic Stage and that he had cultivated the Bai family’s advanced Yellow-tier martial technique, the Abyssal Heaven Fingers, up to the second finger! The Abyssal Heaven Fingers is stronger than our Dragon Seal. Also, the Dragon Seal only has two techniques while the Abyssal Heaven Fingers has three. The strength of the second technique of the Abyssal Heaven Fingers eclipses the strength of the Vast Dragon Seal! Unfortunately, Elder Brother Yang Wu has only managed to cultivate the Vast Dragon Seal.”

When Yang Lingqing was describing Bai Shichen, her voice was filled with helplessness.

“Seventh Draconic Stage, Abyssal Heaven Fingers? Sounds scary but I, Long Chen, only lose to him in terms of Qi.”

Yang Lingqing turned and stared at him. “He and Bai Shichen have the potential to hunt down a category eight Yellow-tier demonic beast. Tell me, how will our Yang family be a match for them?”

Long Chen didn’t know how to answer her. “There’s no need to feel dejected about it. You are a coward if you surrender before it starts. I, Long Chen, am not a coward. Who cares about the Bai family? Even if it’s Bai Huahua, I would just smack him till he becomes Hei Youyou! [1]”

Yang Lingqing couldn’t stand Long Chen’s occasional lack of seriousness. She rolled her eyes. “You still haven’t changed your problem with boasting. They have a grudge against you, which means you are in the most danger during the Demon Hunting Tournament. You should cultivate properly and hide somewhere far away during the tournament or you might get humiliated ...”

“Alright, alright, auntie. This humble person understands.”

Still, he smiled coldly in his heart. *Hide? That’s not my style.*

Long Chen’s nonchalance left Yang Lingqing speechless.

Soon Long Chen followed Yang Lingqing into a tall tower. They wove through some corridors and entered through a door before reaching a large open space.

Long Chen was in a daze as he stared at the rows of shops and the streets in front of him.

“This is the Warrior’s Market. I’m not sure where the herbs that nourish the Divine Soul are, so you should go ask for them yourself. You’ve been smart ever since you were young so you probably won’t get fooled by anyone. I’m almost at the Sixth Draconic Stage but I still need an opportunity. Since I’m already here, I might as well as go find it myself; otherwise I might die from anger because of you.”

Without waiting for his reply, she walked off and turned into one of the streets.

There were quite a few cultivators in Baiyang Town. Long Chen stared at the streets and roughly estimated that a few hundred people were shopping where he was. Everyone was a cultivator, and some of the stronger ones were even hiding within the crowd.

“The Warrior’s Market is indeed a place where the strong hide among the weak. Xiao Xi, can you feel where the herbs that can nourish your Divine Soul are?”

Ling Xi’s faint voice spoke in his ear. “You need to get closer. I can’t sense them if we are too far. There shouldn’t be too many herbs that can nourish the Divine Soul in such a small town. I need to search carefully ...”

Ling Xi’s voice was getting fainter, and Long Chen grew more anxious. He prayed in his heart continuously in hopes of finding such a herb.

Long Chen decided to enter the first herbal shop. There were many different kinds of shops in the Warrior’s Market. Some of them sold weapons while others sold herbs. There were even pawn shops.

The pawn shops mainly purchased materials collected from demonic beasts and some other rare materials. Naturally, people purchased those items too. Most of the things that a cultivator needed could be found here.

Long Chen was engulfed in the fragrant smell of herbs the moment he entered the first herb shop. He guessed that the shop would have many herbs at the same level as the demonic ginseng. Long Chen realized that most of the transactions were done with spirit jades. Not many of them traded with gold and silver. He only had 500 spirit jades so he needed to be careful how he spent them.

The Yang patriarch had given him 500 spirit jades for his cultivation, but he didn’t mind spending all of it for the sake of Ling Xi’s life.

Long Chen walked around the shop as if he were inspecting the items but it was actually Ling Xi scanning the herbs. After circling the entire shop, they didn't find what they needed.

Long Chen was panicking a little. He approached the shopkeeper, a middle-aged man with a grim face, and asked, "Are you selling any herbs that nourish the Divine Soul?"

The shopkeeper was slightly surprised. "I'm sorry, but we don't have any."

Long Chen was disappointed.

"Young man, it's almost impossible to sell a herb that nourishes the Divine Soul in such a small town like Baiyang Town. Most of the shops like mine don't keep stock or sell them. If you are desperate for it, it's better if you hurry along and ask the other shops."

Long Chen nodded and thanked him. He had just walked out of the herbal shop when he anxiously asked Ling Xi. "Based on what he said, it seems that Baiyang Town doesn't have any herbs that nourish the Divine Soul. Xiao Xi ..."

"What should we do ..."

Xiao Xi was panicking too. Baiyang Town was even more remote than she'd thought.

Long Chen clenched his fist. "No, we haven't checked the other shops so we can't give up now. Let's go to the other shop. There has to be at least one in such a large market."

He entered shop after shop. There were more than fifty herbal shops in the Warrior's Market. Long Chen was wasting a lot of time going into each shop one by one and asking the shopkeepers. But what was more worrying was that none of them had it.

"I'm sorry, but we don't have it."

"We don't usually keep stock of such herbs."

"It doesn't sell well."

Long Chen's face became grimmer as he got more and more anxious.

"It's fine if you can't find it. Ever since my physical body was destroyed, I know I wouldn't have much time left. But it's nice knowing you, Long Chen ..."

Long Chen's eyes progressively got more bloodshot as he growled softly. "Don't say such nonsense. We still have more shops to go. I do not believe that I can't even accomplish such a small task. If we can't find it in Baiyang Town, we can visit other places. I don't care about the Demon Hunting Tournament!"

“No, we can’t do that. I still have to help you unlock the seal ...”

Just as the two of them were worrying about their predicament, there were several explosions a distance away. The shoppers moved towards the source of the explosion. Long Chen was ignoring the noise but someone suddenly said, “Looks like one of the young ladies from the Yang family is fighting with the Bai family!”

“Yang Lingqing?”

1. The author is trying to make a name joke. Even if he’s shining white (Bai Huahua), I’d make sure he’ll end up super dark (Hei Youyou)! ?