

Dragon War God

Chapter 26 – Blood Red Dragon Scale

The terrifying aura that paralyzed Ling Xi with fear finally disappeared. She thought Long Chen was fine but in the next moment, he was rolling on the ground in pain. Shocked and afraid, she emerged hurriedly from the sword and her tiny body circled Long Chen in a panic. “Long Chen! Long Chen! What happened? Don’t scare me ...”

Her eyes slowly reddened as she spoke. If she could still shed tears, they would’ve been flowing by now. “My skin, it hurts!” Long Chen felt pain all over the surface of his body!

The tiny particle of Inherited Blood Essence had quickly spread across his body like a poison, and the pain was due to the blood touching his skin. “Long Chen, something’s ... growing out of your body!”

Long Chen was still full of agony when he heard Ling Xi’s frantic exclamation. In a panic, his eyes sprang open to look at his arm.

His arm had completely turned blood red and the skin had fractured into countless neat segments, each the size of a fingernail, and something was growing out of them. To his horror, they were blood-red scales!

Long Chen gasped in shock. He looked down at his body despite the intense pain and saw that dense red scales had covered his entire body. A piece of red bone that looked like a sharp knife protruded from each of his fingers, toes, knees, and arms. They looked much sharper than regular blades too!

Long Chen froze in shock when he saw the sharp bones protruding from his fingers. “Is this ... a fucking claw? Did I become a wild beast?”

He felt his back and found a row of sharp spines along it. The blood-red spines also appeared on many parts of his body. His head was also covered in dense scales, his hair had completely disappeared, replaced by terrifying red spines!

Although Long Chen couldn’t see his entire body, from his body and limbs, he could tell that his body had become the perfect weapon. The blood-red scales strengthened his defenses greatly; the spines were great for attacks! “This look ... With the blood red scales ... Well this is dramatic ...” said Long Chen, trying to find something good to say as he stared at his body.

By this time, most of the pain had faded. It looked like his metamorphosis was almost complete.

Ling Xi finally heaved a sigh of relief when she heard Long Chen speaking coherently. She was about to speak when Long Chen asked, "Xiao Xi, do you think I'm handsome looking like this?"

Ling Xi regarded him for a while. Long Chen looked vicious and violent but the lines on his body from the scales to his spines were perfect. It was cool. But what's the use of that? "Long Chen, how ... how are you feeling?"

Long Chen observed the sensations in his body. "I don't know ... but I can feel immense power inside! I feel powerful!"

He was feeling the strength of this body. The particle of the Inherited Blood Essence from the Dragon Seal had penetrated his body and was now headed towards its final destination, his dantian.

Long Chen's body had already been modified into something very strange.

Long Chen could even see that every organ, every bone, even every drop of blood contained a blood-red dragon's shadow twisting and roaring angrily!

Every organ and muscle came alive; his heartbeat grew several times stronger. When the enhanced blood flowed into his organs and muscles, his body practically devoured it! Long Chen had never dreamed of such a strange phenomenon! "Why did I become like this ... What happened to me?" Long Chen mumbled to himself.

While he muttered to himself, the expanding Inherited Blood Essence merged into his Qi, which had attained the Fifth Draconic Stage. In an instant, his Qi changed at lightning speed. A wisp of red appeared in it, and as it changed, the red grew denser!

This process was not painful but Long Chen realized to his shock that ten units of his original Qi had turned into one unit of this blood-red Qi!

This realization had just hit him when a strong wave of hunger crashed through his body and his face contorted.

Ling Xi asked worriedly, "What ... What's going on with you?"

He could feel her concern and saw the worry in her eyes, and he felt a gush of warmth. "I-I feel so hungry I can't take it anymore ... I'm so hungry!"

Long Chen groaned in suffering. Yet they both realized in horror that his groan was actually a dragon's roar!

But Long Chen had no time to concern himself about it. He needed ten units of Qi for one unit of blood-red Qi! The feeling of starvation was due to the lack of Qi. He realized he was like demonic beasts! "I'm so hungry! So hungry ..."

Long Chen collapsed on the ground. He was so hungry that he had no more strength left in him. Ling Xi's mind was a mess after the events of the day. She didn't know how to solve his problem so all she could do was say in a panic, "I-I'm going to get you something to eat!"

If she left, she would have to use the Ling Xi Sword to fly away. She would probably collapse after a while, and there wasn't any hope that she would find him something to eat. When Long Chen heard her say she was leaving, he stopped her, "No, you don't have to! I don't eat that ..."

The sentence seemed to have come out of his subconscious. Ling Xi asked in a panic, "What the hell do you want to eat then?"

Long Chen froze. He too was wondering about that. This hunger arose from insufficient Qi, so ...

Long Chen had more than 500 spirit jades on him. When he remembered this, he fished them out quickly. When he saw them, he realized he didn't want to cultivate the spiritual energy in the spirit jade but to eat them!

To Ling Xi's horror, Long Chen stuffed a handful of spirit jade pieces into his mouth, crushing the Qi-filled jade stones into powder with his sharp teeth. He swallowed huge amounts of nature's spiritual energy, which entered his stomach and his dantian where they were quickly converted into new blood-red Qi!

Long Chen felt like a person who had been starving for several days suddenly receiving a feast! While that person might choke to death if they ate too quickly, that wouldn't happen to him!

His strange body absorbed the spiritual energy extremely quickly. In just fifteen minutes, he had consumed almost 600 jade pieces and turned them all into new blood-red Qi!

Yet he realized the hunger had only been momentarily sated!

The spirit jade didn't seem very effective in making blood-red Qi. Although the amount he had was enough for him to break through the Sixth Draconic Stage if he had cultivated them normally, it was more like a side dish now.

At least the plate of side dishes was enough to slightly ease his hunger.

He had a feeling that he might die of hunger if he didn't eat anything else that night.

Ling Xi was stunned and speechless when she watched Long Chen eat the spirit jade. Despite her vast experience, she didn't know what was happening at all. Her nerves finally calmed a little when she saw Long Chen returning to normal after eating the spirit jades.

She was about to speak when Long Chen, who had finished his spirit jades, suddenly spoke. "Xiao Xi, get back into the Ling Xi Sword. We need to get out of here. Help me find a herd of nearby demonic beasts! Quick!"

They were still in an emergency situation. Despite her many questions, when she saw the urgency in his eyes, Ling Xi turned into the sword and pierced herself into his ear.

However, Long Chen's scales were so hard that despite being a very sharp sword, Ling Xi had to exert immense effort to stick herself on his ear.

Long Chen ran out without another word. It was late at night and his bloody aura was extremely obvious. However, there was an ancient majestic feeling within the bloodiness. The small demonic beasts could sense this from far away and trembled.

Long Chen headed towards the deeper areas of the Desolate Mountains. After a while, Ling Xi said, "There's an underground burrow in front. I can sense many creatures inside but they seem to be at least Category 5 Yellow-tier beasts. You ..."

Before Ling Xi could finish, Long Chen scurried into the underground burrow. The scent of food was already obvious.

The burrow was damp, with a thick scent of blood. He could faintly see bones sticking out along the way. Very soon, he reached an underground burrow.

It was a large space with a dark pool of mud on the ground. A rotting stench attacked his nose, though Long Chen was unaffected.

The mud was not far from his feet. A blood-red silhouette slowly lifted its head above the muddy surface. A pair of red eyes stared at the intruder coldly. "It's ... an Underground Blood Lizard."

Long Chen's presence was too obvious. Very soon, he noticed a sea of red dots igniting like countless lanterns in the dark. A sense of violent hostility radiated from them.

Whoosh! Long Chen sensed the closest Blood Lizard pouncing at him, a rotting stench wafting from it.

He realized that the Underground Blood Lizards also had blood red scales and bony spines just like he did. However, their scales were rough, large, dirty, and irregular. Their spines were crooked as well. Aesthetic wise, they were as different as heaven and earth!

Long Chen didn't have time to think. The Blood Lizard pounced on him as if it wanted to crush him flat with its huge body. In the past, Long Chen would have destroyed it using combat techniques but this time, he did not.

He felt his blood surge throughout his body. Although the Blood Lizard was dirty, Long Chen had a peculiar feeling that it would be a delicious meal.

Long Chen shot forward, turning into a red shadow. In an instant, his arm stabbed through its abdomen, his claws squeezing its heart!

Chapter 27 - Blood Transmutation

Within Long Chen's sea of consciousness, the bizarre dragon pattern carved onto the mysterious Dragon Jade Pendant was glowing. The black light enveloped the single drop of Inherited Blood Essence beneath it.

The Inherited Blood Essence howled against its restraints as it shook Long Chen's sea of consciousness to no avail. The Dragon Jade Pendant was controlling it.

The drop of Inherited Blood Essence slowly floated towards the Dragon Jade Pendant and merged with it upon contact. The Dragon Jade Pendant was now a blood-red color.

Long Chen also saw that the dragon pattern had turned from black to blood red, and veins now covered it. Upon closer inspection, he realized that the veins on the dragon pattern resembled the dragon vein!

Long Chen didn't have enough time to be surprised. He saw blood-red energy flowing through the dragon veins on the dragon pattern in a distinct direction. Long Chen memorized the pathway, ecstatic.

To think that I will be able to utilize my Qi like a martial technique if I copied that!

Both the Dragon Jade Pendant and the Inherited Blood Essence were extremely powerful items with mysterious backgrounds, thus the path revealed by the Dragon Jade Pendant that allowed him to use his Qi in a specific manner was naturally powerful too.

He quickly memorized it as the blood-red color on the Dragon Jade Pendant slowly faded away. The drop of Inherited Blood Essence separated from it and was suppressed once more beneath the jade pendant.

Long Chen didn't have time to theorize about the Dragon Jade Pendant. He circulated his Qi through his dragon veins, guided by what he had just seen. In that instant, Long Chen felt his soul throb. He immediately knew the name and the effect of the technique.

“Blood Transmutation ... To think that it could refine the blood of my enemies into Qi that I can use. It’s much more powerful than eating spirit jade or refining a demonic core as a Beast Warrior!

“This technique is immensely strong even though it doesn’t have an assigned tier!”

Long Chen used the secret technique on the Blood Lizard’s heart in his hand, exerting a mysterious power on the Blood Lizard.

Long Chen could tell the Blood Lizard was experiencing excruciating pain. He didn’t want it to suffer so he destroyed its heart and killed it in an instant.

When the Blood Lizard died, the Blood Transmutation made its blood fly towards Long Chen.

Every single scale on Long Chen’s body absorbed the blood as if they had grown a giant mouth.

The Blood Transmutation’s powerful influence caused the drops of blood to explode continuously as it expelled the impurities from Long Chen’s body. The blood that was left behind transformed into pure blood-red Qi and merged with Long Chen’s dantian Qi.

The power contained within the blood of the Blood Lizard was comparable to that of a hundred spirit jades. After experiencing the benefits, the hungry Long Chen turned his gaze towards the rest of the Blood Lizards.

With the support of the extremely powerful Blood Transmutation, Long Chen massacred the remaining Blood Lizards. Even though he was only at the Fifth Draconic Stage, he was still stronger than the Blood Lizards, and the bone spines shredded the Blood Lizards as though they were tofu.

As he consumed more and more of their blood, Long Chen’s hunger slowly dissipated. His Qi slowly returned to its usual amount he used to have before touching the Dragon Seal. However, the quality of the Qi was ten times higher than it used to be!

Ling Xi felt sorry for the Blood Lizards when she observed Long Chen’s frenzy, but in the end, demonic beasts and humans were different species. It was normal for humans to hunt demonic beasts and the stronger demonic beasts killed humans.

The demonic beasts didn’t have intelligence, so she couldn’t say much. Long Chen killed them first before using the Blood Transmutation; at the very least, he wasn’t driven to insanity by the bloody killing intent within the Inherited Blood Essence.

Long Chen was about to stop when he heard Ling Xi’s panicked voice.

“Long Chen, there’s a massive beast underground! It has Category 7 Yellow-tier strength. Should we escape?”

A Category 7 Yellow-tier beast could easily kill Long Chen before he obtained the Inherited Blood Essence.

She had no idea how much stronger Long Chen was now, so she had to check in with him first. Long Chen was surprised by it too.

“A Category 7 Yellow-tier beast. I suppose it's a good subject to test my strength on ...”

A Category 7 Yellow-tier beast was stronger than an ordinary Seventh Draconic Stage cultivator.

The earth shook, and there was a dragon-like roar from below as mud exploded out. A massive blood-red monster appeared in front of Long Chen.

It was much larger than a Blood Lizard, and blood-red scales covered its entire body, which spanned more than twenty meters. Its blood-red eyes were larger than a washbasin. It was a monstrous beast.

“It’s a Underground Blood Lizard King! No wonder there were so many Blood Lizards around here. It was due to the presence of the king!”

Long Chen stood his ground against the intense pressure of the Blood Lizard King.

The Blood Lizard King was furious after seeing Long Chen kill so many Blood Lizards. Even though it felt a mysterious aura from Long Chen, it was not enough to stop its anger.

“Looks like this ugly bastard is trying to kill me. Too bad you are nothing but food!”

Long Chen’s eyes were cold as he moved ten times faster. He was nothing but a blur of red within the cave. However, the tongue of the Blood Lizard King was also very fast.

Long Chen had just taken a step when the blood-red tongue instantly appeared at the top of his head. The power behind the tongue was overwhelming. Long Chen bellowed and punched. To his surprise, the Blood Lizard King’s tongue was almost as strong as he was. Its attack forced Long Chen’s legs to sink into the ground.

“Fine, I just ate and don’t have time to toy with you! I haven’t used the Vast Dragon Seal since learning it, so this is a good opportunity for you to taste its prowess!”

Long Chen lowered his head. His eyes were already blood red when they beamed out a strong, cold light. Even though he had paws for hands, they didn’t affect the construction of the seal. A blood-red stream of air condensed and circulated between

his palms, and he launched a strong force towards the Blood Lizard King as he completed the Vast Dragon Seal.

“Vast Dragon Seal!”

The blood-red Qi transformed into a small dragon, and it coiled around Long Chen’s palm. The Blood Lizard King felt the fear of death, and it retreated.

In an instant, the dim cave was filled with a bright red light. The blood-red dragon launched itself at the Blood Lizard King’s head. When the dragon roared, the sound tore the Blood Lizard King’s head completely apart and it died on the spot.

Category 7 Yellow-tier beast—dead!

It was the most powerful enemy that Long Chen had killed so far. Long Chen estimated that even Bai Shiji would not be able to harm the Blood Lizard King.

Long Chen did not let the corpse go to waste as he sensed the strong energy of its blood. He jumped onto the back of the Blood Lizard King and used Blood Transmutation. A large amount of blood surged out of the Blood Lizard King’s corpse.

There were several tons of blood, but Long Chen was a glutton. He expelled ninety percent of the blood as impurities and absorbed the remaining ten percent and merged it into his dantian.

The blood essence from a Category 7 demonic beast was no joke. Long Chen felt his Qi reach a breaking point.

He had been suffering from hunger but now he was suffering from overeating. It was time for him to break through the sixth dragon vein.

He sat cross-legged on the Blood Lizard King’s corpse. His Qi transformed into a blood-red dragon as it roared and advanced towards the sixth dragon vein.

Long Chen was shocked to find that the blood-red dragon-like Qi possessed a certain amount of intelligence. It was bloody and cruel. The sixth dragon vein was insignificant against the blood-red dragon. Long Chen’s Qi had already reached the limit of a Fifth Draconic Stage cultivator, and it was surprisingly easy for him to break through the Sixth Draconic Stage.

It had not been fifteen minutes when he broke through the sixth dragon vein. A large amount of nature’s spiritual energy surged into his body. He was now a Sixth Draconic Stage cultivator.

He had managed to break through the Sixth Draconic Stage before the Demon Hunting Tournament. Long Chen smiled after sensing the robust strength within him.

Long Chen did not want to linger after making such a large commotion. He immediately exited the burrow and headed towards the opening. Along the way, he worried over his appearance. *What should I do?*

Just as he was racking his brain, he felt a strange itch. The scales and spines slowly disappeared into his body. Soon he was back to his usual appearance.

He felt the Inherited Blood Essence that covered his entire body slowly condense into a small red dot on his forehead.

His blood-red Qi, which was ten times stronger than regular Qi, slowly faded too. But the remaining Qi contained a sliver of the blood-red Qi. He found out that even his regular Qi was four times stronger than ordinary Qi!

The explosive strength that came with his transformation slowly faded.

Still, he was much stronger than other Sixth Draconic Stage cultivators. When he included his cultivation of the Dragon Seal, he was confident that he could fight a Seventh Draconic Stage cultivator like Bai Shiji!

Long Chen felt a bit of regret as his bizarre appearance faded. It was his strongest form but he couldn't walk around people looking like that, so he had no choice.

I wonder if I can transform like that again. I should be able to do it with the help of the mysterious Dragon Jade Pendant.

Still, he was strong enough to win the Demon Hunting Tournament even without transforming.

It was silent after he transformed back. Then, Ling Xi asked him excitedly. "Long Chen, what type of dragon gave you the Inherited Blood Essence?"

Chapter 28 - Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon

Even Long Chen didn't know what had happened to him. He reached the cave and sat down. As he examined his body, Ling Xi emerged from the Ling Xi Sword.

The horrifying scene had scared her. Her face was pale as she inspected Long Chen with concern.

Long Chen had broken through the Sixth Draconic Stage. He now had as much Qi as Yang Lingyue and the others. However, the quality of his Qi was four times better than theirs.

In terms of pure Qi, Long Chen could utilize four times the strength of a Sixth Draconic Stage cultivator. That was almost half the strength of an ordinary Seventh Draconic Stage cultivator.

In addition to the Constellation Body and the martial techniques he'd already mastered, he had utmost confidence in fighting Bai Shiji.

If he could transform back to his monstrous form, his Qi would be ten times stronger and his physical body would be significantly tougher. He could fight an Eighth Draconic Stage cultivator in that form.

Long Chen's heart shook at that thought. He was already so strong with only a thousandth of the Inherited Blood Essence. What realm would he reach if he absorbed all of it?

Judging from the Blood Transmutation technique, the Inherited Blood Essence had many other secrets. If he had the complete legacy, how much stronger would he get?

Long Chen was in a daze as he thought about the possibilities. He snapped out of it after some time and asked Ling Xi.

"Xiao Xi, am I considered a Dragon Warrior now?"

Ling Xi was relieved to see Long Chen finally react. She nodded. "Even though I don't know much about Dragon Warriors, you should be one based on what we have seen. Oh right, I wanted to ask you: what kind of dragon is the Inherited Blood Essence from? Was it a Ghost Blood Dragon? Your form is like the ones that I've seen in books."

Naturally, Long Chen didn't know what kind of dragon it was. He was just about to say he didn't know when words appeared mysteriously in his mind. Long Chen said them out loud without thinking.

"Ancient ... Bloodsoul ... Dragon ..."

When he finished reading the words, the blood in his body mysteriously boiled up, as if it were excited, and he felt an insurmountable pride. Even Long Chen's confidence shot up.

"Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon?"

Ling Xi muttered to herself as she scanned her memories. Her eyes suddenly widened in disbelief as she stared stupidly at Long Chen, her jaw falling to the ground.

Long Chen thought she was cute even though she was making a very unsightly face.

"What's wrong, miss? Are you attracted to me?"

Ling Xi ignored him as her voice trembled. “You ... Are you sure it's the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon?”

Long Chen felt something was off. He stopped joking around and got serious. “Yeah, I'm sure of it. What's wrong?”

Ling Xi still looked at him in disbelief as she shook her head. “No, impossible. The Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon is a legend among legends ... This is impossible ...”

Even though Ling Xi was in denial, Long Chen was very sure the Inherited Blood Essence belonged to the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon. “Xiao Xi, please tell me, is there something wrong with the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon?”

Ling Xi mumbled. “You don't understand. Legends say that dragons ruled over the Dragon Continent. There were trillions of species of dragons! Do you know what that means? The vast Dragon Continent was saturated with myriads of dragons. The total number of dragons was ten times more than the total number of humans today, and each one was the pinnacle lifeform of the continent!

“Ever since the dawn of mankind, no one in history has ever reached the strength of the strongest dragon species. During the Ancient Ages, when the Dragon Continent was still new, ten dragon bloodlines were at the pinnacle of all dragons. The ten strongest dragons were entities that defied the heavens. They were called the Ten Dragon Ancestors!”

Ling Xi raised her head and stared at Long Chen. She said slowly, “The Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was the Dragon Ancestor that was one of the Ten Dragon Ancestors and ruled over blood and massacre!”

Long Chen was stunned. He had no concept of how important they were. Even though Ling Xi had explained so much, he only had a vague feeling that the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon had once been at the apex of the Dragon Continent. As for how strong it was, he had no clue.

Ling Xi shook her head. “That's why I said it was impossible. The Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon has vanished for millions and millions of years. How could its Inherited Blood Essence be contained within a normal martial technique book? The seal on it was so simple that even I could decipher it ... So, I don't think it's possible ...”

Her words plunged him into uncertainty.

Never mind. No matter what kind of dragon it was, the Dragon Jade Pendant suppressed it. Now that I've completed my father's instructions and become a Dragon Warrior, my cultivation speed will skyrocket! The Blood Transmutation will play an important role too. The Qi that my father left for me to cultivate can no longer support the speed of my cultivation!

But the quality and strength of my Qi has increased fourfold. The obstacle to break through to a new stage will increase four times too. Heck, it could even be ten times harder. I cannot be complacent ...

Long Chen stood up and carefully cupped Ling Xi in his hands. “Young lady, now that I’ve grown stronger, I will be able to protect you better. Who cares what kind of dragon it was? Also, I will get you as many herbs to nourish your Divine Soul as you need. You’ve saved me twice, so it’s time I pay you back!”

Ling Xi finally snapped out the shock she’d felt when she heard it was the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon. She collected herself and saw the confidence in his eyes. She felt confused. Even though she was beside him, she could not uncover the secrets of his body.

He will have a bright future as a Dragon Warrior and with that technique. Maybe he can even find a way to recover my physical body ...

Her feelings for Long Chen were changing day by day. She found out that at this point she did not want to leave him anymore.

He gingerly placed her on his shoulder and smiled. “Alright. The issue with the Dragon Seal had been dealt with. The Demon Hunting Tournament is coming soon, so I will use the next few days to fortify my cultivation.”

Bai Shiji’s visage appeared in front of him. He clenched his fists and smiled coldly. *Let’s see which technique is stronger next time, your Abyssal Heaven Fingers or my Dragon Seal! You think you can defeat me, but I will give you a nasty surprise!*

Long Chen spent the last eight days cultivating and fortifying himself. On the eighth day, he stood and left for the Yang Residence.

After increasing his strength, he was very confident about the Demon Hunting Tournament.

I already injured Bai Zhixing and Bai Shidong nine days ago. I’ve even humiliated Yang Xueqing in public. They will probably cause some trouble with me once I get back, but I am Long Chen, and I will never be afraid.

It was close to noon when he finally entered the Yang Residence. The guards came up and informed him, “Young Master Chen, the patriarch is hosting a banquet for the Bai patriarch and his family. They are starting soon. The patriarch has instructed you to immediately go to the Grand Martial Pavilion the moment you return.”

The Grand Martial Pavilion was where the patriarch hosted important guests.

Long Chen felt repulsed. He knew that Bai Zhanxiong and the rest would be there too.

Long Chen did not understand what the Yang Patriarch was thinking since the Demon Hunting Tournament was approaching. But then, the Yang patriarch had a good relationship with the Bai patriarch. Both of them were sworn brothers and had been legends in Baiyang Town.

Long Chen soon arrived at the Grand Martial Pavilion. It was very lively, and a variety of food was spread out over two large sandalwood tables. Beautiful servants traversed the tables.

At the head of the table was the Yang patriarch as well as Yang Qingxuan and his siblings. On the other side was a naive-looking, short and fat old man. His hair was completely white but his face was ruddy. He was old, but he was healthy.

It was the Bai patriarch. Even though he had aged, his strength had not diminished. His cultivation was the highest within Baiyang Town.

Beneath him were two middle-aged men. One was Bai Zhanxiong, the third son of the Bai family. The other was Bai Zhanfeng, the fourth son.

They had appeared at the Family Meeting. Bai Shidong, whom Long Chen had traumatized, was Bai Zhanfeng's son.

The other table was for the younger generations. On the Yang family side were Yang Wu, Yang Lingyue, and Yang Lingqing. The Bai family had Bai Shiji, Bai Zhixing, and Bai Shidong. There was another man who was handsome despite his cold expression. Long Chen felt a hint of danger from him.

Long Chen assumed that he was the infamous Bai Shichen, the strongest of the younger generation of Baiyang Town.

The strongest people of both families were present.

The banquet had already started. Both the Bai and Yang patriarchs were laughing happily. When Long Chen entered the place, their smiles froze.

Numerous gazes fell on him.

The Bai patriarch was unfazed but others were not. Both Bai Zhanxiong's and Bai Zhanfeng's faces turned gloomy while Yang Yuntian's and Yang Xueqing's expressions were even worse. Yang Qingxuan had the same faint smile as his father.

The younger generations of the Bai family hated Long Chen's guts, especially Bai Shiji. His eyes seemed like they would burn holes in Long Chen. However, both Bai Zhixing

and Bai Shidong were slightly afraid of Long Chen. It was also Bai Shichen's first time meeting Long Chen. Even though his gaze was calm, it was as sharp as a sword.

Long Chen had arrived at an awkward time, resulting in an uncomfortable atmosphere. The Yang patriarch reacted first and laughed cheerfully. "Chen'er, you are back! Now, everyone is here. Chen'er, go and sit at that table."

Almost everyone at the other table glared at Long Chen.

"Hey, I think your social skills are shit. Only Yang Lingqing approves of you ..." Ling Xi gloated.

Chapter 29 - Bai Shichen

After Yang Lingqing waved him over, Long Chen sat next to her. The Yang patriarch's table continued to celebrate but the table's festivities had been permanently interrupted.

The whole table looked at each other. No one picked up their chopsticks.

The other table saw their situation but pretended not to and carried on drinking.

Long Chen hated awkward situations like this. He would rather drink with the girls at Jade Palace Brothel instead of here.

After a while, he stood and said, "I've eaten enough. It's time for me to go."

With the parents from both sides present, Bai Shiji and the others couldn't do anything to him so they too couldn't wait for him to leave.

They were all delighted to see him exhibiting such rude behavior.

As expected, the Yang patriarch looked at him and said, "Chen'er, don't go yet. Come here."

Long Chen walked over, unsure what the old man's intentions were. Everyone put down their bowls and chopsticks as the Bai patriarch looked at him with a grin.

The Yang patriarch patted Long Chen's shoulder. "I heard you had an argument with Zhixing and Shidong?"

Long Chen said mildly, "I wouldn't dare."

The Bai patriarch smiled. "My brother, they're young and passionate. Arguments are very normal, it's fine as long as no one gets seriously hurt or no lives are in danger. Weren't we like this growing up too? Shidong, Zhixing, come here you two ..."

When the Bai patriarch called them over, the two teenagers approached fearfully. They stood in front of Long Chen, not daring to look at him directly.

The two young men from the Bai family couldn't help but frown when they saw their younger relatives behaving like cowards. The Bai patriarch was more forgiving, smiling as he said, "Don't be nervous, kids. Arguments are very normal. I only got to know Brother Yang because we fought! Come, let's apologize to each other and you'll be great friends in the future."

The Yang patriarch smiled too. "Right, Chen'er has caused some injuries so he should apologize and we'll forget about this. Both the Bai and Yang families are as close as brothers, we should forgive each other a little more easily, right?"

The Yang patriarch was speaking pointedly to Long Chen.

The Yang patriarch had given Long Chen the Dragon Seal, providing him with immense benefits. Long Chen wasn't ungrateful either. Since the Demon Hunting Tournament was approaching soon, he was determined to kill Bai Shiji so he did not want to cause trouble at the moment.

He smiled like the two old men and said, "Grandfather's right. How could a man be so calculating? Come, Brother Shidong!"

Long Chen pulled Shidong hard into a hug before Shidong could come to his senses and patted his back.

"I hurt the dazzlingly beautiful Miss Bai and I felt very bad about it. This flower's for you, it's an apology for what happened!"

Long Chen groped her for a second and noted that she felt better than the girls at the brothel. He let go, then fished out a wilted wild chrysanthemum he'd picked out of boredom that morning on the way back. He stuffed it into Bai Zhixing's palm.

Bai Zhixing's back was towards the elders so it seemed to them that Long Chen had only given her a light hug. Yet things were very different for the youth of the Bai family. Everyone saw the groping very clearly. Their eyes widened. Long Chen was bolder than they ever imagined.

He saw killing intent in Bai Shiji's and Bai Shichen's eyes.

Long Chen felt them locking him in as a target. Yet, he was nonchalant. He turned his cheek and eyed them with contempt, even meeting Yang Lingqing's embarrassed gaze. She quickly pulled her neck in.

Bai Zhixing stared at Long Chen with the flower in her hand. She never imagined Long Chen would be this bold and had even forgotten to scream.

Long Chen turned hurriedly to the two patriarchs and said, "I've got matters to attend to so I'll have to excuse myself."

The Bai patriarch gave a small smile. "Mm, go ahead then."

Ignoring all the different gazes within the Grand Martial Pavilion, Long Chen left through the door. Bai Shiji and Bai Shichen exchanged a look, then smirked as they watched him leave. *You're the one looking for death here, so don't blame us for it ...*

When he left the pavilion, Long Chen was about to laugh when he felt a stabbing pain in his ear. It was so painful that his facial muscles twitched. He heard Ling Xi scold coldly, "You bastard, that must've felt good, right?"

Long Chen's delight in himself disappeared and he quickly comforted her, "Darling Ling Xi, I ... I did that only to anger Bai Shiji, that's all ..."

"Do you think I'm an idiot? I'm not talking to you anymore!"

Long Chen was sweating and about to explain himself when he saw Yang Lingqing catching up to him. He saw her solemn expression and he knew something bad was about to happen.

Yet, the first thing Yang Lingqing said was, "I've attained the Sixth Draconic Stage."

The girl's aura was much thicker than before. She was almost on par with Yang Lingyue.

She seemed to have a strong karmic connection with Long Chen. Not only were they born on the same day, but they attained the Sixth Draconic Stage almost at the same time too.

Now that she was at the Sixth Draconic Stage, she was less likely to be in danger at the Demon Hunting Tournament. To be honest, she was the only one in the Yang family that Long Chen cared about. Her achievement made Long Chen less worried to venture out on his own. "That's great! With you there to kill a few more demonic beasts, we might even be able to surpass the Bai family. "

Yang Lingqing looked at him hopelessly. "Why are you still laughing? Don't you understand? Although you all shook hands at the feast just now, Bai Shiji and Bai Shidong would never let you go easily. I know you've been improving lately but you're still no match for them!"

Yang Lingqing spoke urgently. When Long Chen saw that she was truly concerned for his well being, he couldn't bear to make her worry and said, "I have indeed become much stronger. Although I can't say that I can beat them, I definitely have no problem

running away. I don't even have to fight them directly! Your Brother Chen is a person with many tricks up his sleeve! How is it possible that I'll die in their hands?"

Yang Lingqing didn't agree. She knew how powerful someone at the Seventh Draconic Stage was. They could definitely defeat someone at the Sixth Draconic Stage easily, much less Long Chen, who was at the Fifth Draconic Stage.

She was about to speak but Long Chen's gaze turned cold. He patted her shoulder and said, "Go home, I'll talk to you later."

Yang Lingqing turned around to see Yang Xueqing standing behind her. Knowing the strange relationship between Long Chen and Yang Xueqing, she didn't dare involve herself. After whispering for him to be careful, she left.

Long Chen's good mood turned to irritation when he saw her.

Yang Xueqing took a few steps forward, then eyed him for a while. Her expression wasn't as stone cold as before, though still impassive. "Do you know why my father held the feast today with the Bai family? It's because both sides are already preparing for the wedding. Three days from now, you all will enter the Desolate Mountains and I will marry into the Bai family." Long Chen had long guessed it so he stared at her without a word.

Wait till I kill Bai Shiji and the news gets out. How will you get married then?

When she saw that Long Chen did not react, Yang Xueqing could not be bothered. She continued, "After the Demon Hunting Tournament, give the Lingwu family members the demonic cores you retrieve. Then, leave Baiyang Town. I heard you received 500 spirit jades in addition to the Dragon Seal. The Yang family has treated you with generosity, I hope you won't overstay your welcome.

"The Yang family still intends to pass the Dragon Seal down to the next generation. Give it to me now and I'll return it to my father after you leave."

Yang Xueqing's tone sounded like she never thought of Long Chen as part of the Yang family at all. Thankfully, Long Chen never felt like he belonged to the family anyway. Since he had already dug out all the secrets of the Dragon Seal, it was useless to him. Thus, he took it out and tossed it into her hands. *I've taken what I needed to take. Do you think I want to stay in a place like this? I still need to look for spiritual medicine for my precious Xiao Xi. Wait till I kill Bai Shiji, I'm looking forward to your reaction very much, though none of you will be able to find me even if you want to kill me ...*

Long Chen turned and left without a word.

Yang Xueqing didn't expect Long Chen to hand it over without a fuss. She looked at the Dragon Seal, then at the arrogant way he left, and smirked mockingly. "What a childish

brat, getting triggered so easily. The two main techniques of the Dragon Seal can't be mastered in just a few days!"

Her gaze darkened. "After he hurt Shixun, Shiji and the others will definitely take their revenge during the tournament. He's only at the Fifth Draconic Stage. He won't be a match for them relying on one intermediate body tempering technique. Although he lacks ambition, he's still made from my flesh. Alright, I'll help you beg Shiji for mercy ... I hope you won't be ungrateful this time."

Turning into a long hallway, Ling Xi repeated Yang Xueqing's words to Long Chen, who only smiled. "Hey, do you really not care that your mother underestimates you so much?"

Long Chen replied flatly, "I'll only feel bad if I care, so why would I suffer for nothing? She thinks I'm no match for them; flying into a rage is the idiotic option, what I must do is to defeat Bai Shiji completely."

"Alright, then I won't bother you about it. But if I were you, I'd cry so hard ..."

Long Chen turned to look at the Yang residence's courtyard. He'd lived here for years. A foreign yet familiar place.

This was supposed to be his home but he'd never felt safe here. The people closest to him could not make him feel safe.

He'd once felt sad but he was now numb and would never be stupid enough to show his feelings on his face. "You'll beg him for mercy to save me, but who will beg me for mercy to save him?"

Chapter 30 - Lord Wolf

The day of the Demon Hunting Tournament and the wedding arrived. The youths participating in the tournament were nervous while everyone else was all smiles in anticipation of the grand celebration.

The Yang patriarch had waited a long time to see his daughter in a happy marriage. He was constantly smiling each day leading up to the wedding.

Early that morning, Long Chen followed Yang Lingqing, Yang Lingyue, and Yang Qingxuan to the town gates leading to the Desolate Mountains.

As for the other progeny of the Yang family, they were too weak and it would be difficult to defend themselves in the Desolate Mountains. They could even become burdens so both families agreed not to let them go.

Coincidentally, each family was sending four people. The Yang family was a little weaker as a team but hunting demonic beasts also relied on luck so it was difficult to predict who would win.

However, both the Yang and Bai patriarchs were not hostile towards each other like the rulers of other towns. This tournament was just a small interruption to the wedding ceremony. They were fully focused on wedding preparations, and they let the younger ones fight for the right to rule Baiyang Town for the next twenty years.

Along the way, Yang Lingyue and Yang Wu walked together while Long Chen and Yang Lingqing followed behind them. “Hey, are you sure you can protect yourself?” asked Yang Lingqing, concerned.

“They’re just a few clowns from the Bai family; they’re no match for me!”

Long Chen smiled mysteriously.

Yang Lingqing huffed helplessly, “Alright, I’m not going to argue. If you’re in danger later, just shout and I’ll try to help if I hear you.”

Long Chen nodded. He truly liked this little sister. If they weren’t blood related, he would’ve dated her already.

When Yang Wu and Yang Lingyue heard Long Chen’s arrogant declarations, they both turned and eyed Long Chen mockingly. They quickly turned their heads back and Yang Lingyue whispered to her brother, “Elder Brother, remember what you promised me.”

Yang Wu nodded. “If the Bai family doesn’t do anything, I’ll teach him a lesson.” The two of them whispered very softly so Long Chen and Yang Lingqing didn’t hear them.

They arrived at their destination fairly quickly but Long Chen realized the people from the Bai family had already arrived.

Leading them was the fourth son of the Bai family, Bai Zhanfeng. The other four were the same people who met Long Chen during the feast. When they saw Long Chen, Bai Shiji snickered coldly and stuck out a finger at him.

Long Chen knew he was referring to the Abyssal Heaven Fingers.

Long Chen didn’t see their most obvious insult though. He only took a moment to look at Bai Shiji before turning to the person standing at the very front—the overseer of the Demon Hunting Tournament from the Lingwu family of Yuanling City.

This person was wearing a black cloak, their face covered by the hood. Long Chen couldn’t place a finger on the faint aura that radiated from this person. “This person is very powerful to you people,” said Ling Xi.

“How powerful?”

“It’s difficult to explain to a village boy like you. All I can say is that he can defeat your grandfather in one strike.” Ling Xi’s casual remark made all his hairs stand!

Perhaps defeating his grandfather in one strike was a very normal thing to Ling Xi but in Long Chen’s world, the Yang patriarch was the ultimate master. How terrifying it was to hear that someone could defeat his grandfather with one blow!

His eyes fixed on that person, who also turned to look at Long Chen. The person seemed to be slightly surprised, though he didn’t pay Long Chen any more attention.

Yang Qingxuan saluted the person and said, “Lord Wolf, the youth of the Yang family have all arrived.”

“Alright, then we shall leave for the Desolate Mountains. You two may return. The Lingwu family will guarantee fair results for this tournament.”

Yang Qingxuan and Bai Zhanfeng both obeyed without a word. Ling Xi’s words had to be true.

Long Chen realized from the person’s voice that he was very young. Perhaps almost the same age as they were. “You must know that there is always someone better than you. The prodigies of Baiyang town are nothing in big cities.”

Ling Xi’s words made Long Chen aware of his shortcomings and expanded his horizons. Long Chen had great respect for anyone who could achieve such great cultivation at his age.

When Yang Qingxuan and Bai Zhanfeng left, Lord Wolf headed to the Desolate Mountains without a word. The juniors of the Bai and Yang families looked at each other, then hurried after him.

Yang Wu and Yang Lingyue quickly walked with the Bai family members. When Yang Lingqing saw Long Chen alone at the back, she struggled internally, then chose to stay with him.

Yang Lingyue was giggling and chatting away happily with Bai Shiji until she saw Yang Lingqing walking with Long Chen. Her embarrassment turned to rage and she said, “Lingqing, Brother Bai Shichen wants to get to know you better.”

Next to her, Bai Shichen, whose cultivation exceeded Bai Shiji’s, smiled warmly at Yang Lingqing. He looked like a god smiling under the morning sun, and even Yang Lingyue’s heart skipped a beat.

But Yang Lingqing wasn't convinced and said hesitantly, "Sister Lingyue, I need to discuss something with Brother Chen ..."

Yang Lingyue's mood turned sour because she had been embarrassed before the two young Bai men. When Long Chen saw Yang Lingyue's face turn stony, he said suddenly, "Lingqing, go before they decide not to let you follow them."

He was going to work alone. The Desolate Mountains were filled with countless dangers, it would be bad news if Yang Wu and Yang Lingyue abandoned her.

Yang Lingqing also had the same thought and gave Long Chen an apologetic look before walking ahead. Yang Lingyue finally smiled and introduced her to the two Bai males.

Yang Lingqing was more attractive than Yang Lingyue so the usually silent Bai Shichen began to tell stories of his glorious twenty-plus years of life. *You think you can flirt with my sister? I'm going to castrate you later*, thought Long Chen maliciously.

They arrived at the Desolate Mountains very quickly.

Lord Wolf turned and said, "You must come back here before sunset and give your demonic cores to me for inspection."

His voice turned stern and cold. "I am a member of the Lingwu family so don't try pulling any tricks! I will be watching your every move so only demonic beasts you personally kill will count. For every demonic core you obtain through illegal means, I will kill one of you!

"Don't waste time trying to figure out how I'm watching you. If you want to look for a loophole, be my guest but don't blame me if you die. Also, you are allowed to snatch demonic cores from each other, and killing each other is permitted by the Lingwu family!"

There was a peculiar magical power in Lord Wolf's voice. Even the most powerful cultivator there, Bai Shichen, had beads of cold sweat on his face.

Before the tournament, their own family elders had already briefed them on the same rules. They had an idea of the Lingwu family's power and naturally didn't dare pull any tricks. "Previously, someone tried burying demonic cores in the tournament area but in the end, for every core they buried, one person was killed ..."

"If there are no objections, the tournament starts now! Use your time wisely!"

Long Chen understood that under Lord Wolf's supervision, there were only two ways to obtain demonic cores. First, kill a demonic beast. Second, snatch a core from the other team.

Bai Shiji and the rest looked at Long Chen coldly, then entered the Desolate Mountains first. Yang Wu and his team followed quickly behind. Although Yang Lingqing was worried about Long Chen, she gave him a few more reminders and left with them. *Eight hours. That's enough time for me to kill Bai Shiji and take his demonic cores.* With this thought, Long Chen was about to enter the Desolate Mountains when Lord Wolf stood in front of him and regarded Long Chen from head to toe. "It hasn't been a month and you've already passed four Draconic Stages, even attaining the Complete Constellation Body?"

Long Chen froze.

How did this mysterious Lord Wolf know him so well that he even knew about his Constellation Body?

Long Chen was about to ask when Lord Wolf said, "I won't waste your time, go. I see that the Bai family intends to kill you, so be careful."

Whoosh! Lord Wolf disappeared in a flash, right before Long Chen's eyes. "He even knows I completed the Constellation Body and is concerned about me. Both his voice and stature are so familiar, this person ..."

Long Chen suddenly recalled the young man who gave him the Constellation Body and almost gasped out loud. He was certain that Lord Wolf was the man who was prettier than most girls, the man even Long Chen wasn't sure was a man!

At the time, I did think he must've had a powerful background but I didn't expect he would be from the Lingwu family. It's no wonder he was in Baiyang Town. He must've been here to get to know the place and also investigate the two families' strengths. Nonetheless, the Constellation Body he gave me has helped me immensely and he even went out of his way to warn me just now. Looks like I've been lucky in meeting people, Long Chen thought, delighted with himself as he dashed quickly into the Desolate Mountains and hid.

To anyone who shows me kindness, I will return the favor a hundred times over! Ling Xi, Lingqing, and Lord Wolf have been unconditionally kind to me. I won't let them down!

Now that he was stronger, Long Chen could travel at high speed. "With Ling Xi here, it's going to be easier for me to find Bai Shiji than it will be for him to find me. Whatever, I'll wait until they're exhausted and injured from fighting beasts. I'll take a stroll around the Desolate Mountains before going to kill him."

With Ling Xi's powerful senses, Long Chen could easily avoid any demonic beasts that were too powerful for him. As he trekked deeper and deeper into the forest, the trees became taller and the coldness around him grew heavier. "We're nearing the deeper parts of the Desolate Mountains, also the Desolate Beastlands. The last time I exited

the Desolate Beastlands, I took another direction so I didn't pass the Desolate Mountains ...

"But this eerie energy is thickening, I think we're very near the Desolate Beastlands ..."

Ling Xi suddenly said, "Hey, I think I sense a human aura in front. In a very hidden cave."

Long Chen froze. "Lord Wolf?"

"No, this guy's at the Ninth Draconic Stage. There's also a weird fragrance coming from that direction. I know, he must be guarding an unripe herb!"