

Dragon War God

- Chapter 903 - Boss Jiu

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Long Chen was certain that the white horses were Mech Horses, because yellow runes occasionally flickered on their snow-white skin. The horses also exuded strength. Even though it didn't look like a Mech Horse was suited for battle, Long Chen was certain that they were still strong.

At the very least, the two white horses were at least as strong as Underworld Warhorses.

Beside the carriage were two more identical white warhorses. Further behind them were ten black warhorses. They were Mech Horses as well, but they were completely black. Also, they were slightly weaker than the white warhorses.

Long Chen had a feeling that someone was sitting in the carriage. Beside Lady Ji was a tall and burly man wearing armor. His beard was messy, but his eyes were sharp. Long Chen only needed one look to know that the man was stronger than Lady Ji by a stage.

"Where is Luo Wei?" Lady Ji saw that Luo Wei wasn't with them.

"He didn't follow us. We don't know where he is."

Lady Ji turned and said to the man, "Butler, there's still time before departure. Let's wait for a bit."

The man nodded and said nothing, but his eyes clearly revealed that he was unhappy. He studied the escorts that Lady Ji had recruited, then his gaze landed on Long Chen.

He was confused and whispered to Lady Ji, "Ji Yan, why is one of them at the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage? Is there not at least ten cultivators at the Sixth Heavenly Martial Stage in Scarlet Sun City?"

"About that... Well, I've already recruited him. I like his bravery too, so let's just accept him."

Ji Yan used her sweet voice to convince the butler.

The butler looked at Long Chen once more before becoming silent again.

Time passed slowly.

The time for departure soon arrived, but Luo Wei was nowhere to be seen. The butler waved his arm and ordered, "Depart!"

There was nothing Ji Yan could do if Luo Wei didn't show up.

But just as they were departing, a familiar figure slowly walked up to them. Ji Yan had just mounted her horse when Luo Wei grouped up with Long Chen and the others.

"How dare you arrive late when you are working for us!"

The butler scolded and slapped Luo Wei. As he did, the butler expanded his domain. Everyone was shocked to find that the butler was at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage!

His strength is close to the six from the Demon Tribe!

Long Chen had originally thought the six demons were very strong, but it appeared that they were but minor characters.

There were many people stronger than the six demons in Scarlet Sun City.

But Luo Wei fought back. When the butler slapped him, Luo Wei brandished his green spear and lunged forward. He expanded his domain to clash against the butler's. Unfortunately, Luo Wei was weaker and was thrown backward in the clash, but he turned midair and landed safely on the ground. Still, his face was pale from that clash.

"Not bad. He's indeed a good candidate."

The butler cleared the dust off his palms and mounted the other white war horse, disregarding Luo Wei.

Luo Wei felt prideful for being able to survive an attack from someone at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage. He dusted his shirt and smiled as he regrouped.

"Everyone, please get on the horses. Our mission today is to escort my master safely back to Underworld City. If we succeed, everyone will get fifteen hundred Emperor Crystals. You may also take your Shadow Mech Horses with you afterward. Each of them is worth three hundred Emperor Crystals. So work hard, and I will personally deal with you if you have any thoughts of harming us."

She then urged her white warhorse forward. Both her and the butler rode in front of the carriage to lead the way. Long Chen and the others looked at each other before they each mounted one of the Mech Horses and left for Underworld City.

“I never thought I would be able to have a Mech Horse in my life. I never had enough money to buy one.”

“Lady Ji’s master must be really rich to be able to give each of us a Mech Horse.”

Ah Dong and the others were talking excitedly on horseback. They were very happy with the rewards, and their laughter would make the journey much more bearable.

Luo Wei looked at them with disdain before urging his horse forward. He approached Ji Yan and showed the others how he could converse really well too. In just a few moments, he had made Ji Yan laugh.

It was everyone else's turn to look at Luo Wei in disdain.

Ah Dong spat, “Isn’t he just relying on his cultivation at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage? What’s so good about that?”

The others agreed.

“Wait, Long Chen, you used a spear to block Luo Wei’s spear. Doesn’t that mean both of you are equally strong Armament Warriors?”

“Hehe, even though we both are Armament Warriors, our strength is very different. It was just lucky that I managed to block him from killing that guy last time.”

Long Chen decided that it was not worth it to start boasting now, or Luo Wei would actually come and start trouble with him.

Long Chen had become a very quiet man and chose not to stir up trouble, but if trouble came searching for him, he would have no qualms with solving it permanently.

They talked in the back while Ji Yan and Luo Wei were conversing at the front. They traveled at a very high speed.

Mech Horses couldn’t get tired as the energy they depleted would be replaced by Royal Qi in the air almost immediately thanks to the strange runes on their bodies.

A man wearing black robes smiled when he saw that Ji Yan and the others had left Scarlet Sun City. The man had been standing on the city wall for a long time.

“Boss Jiu, they are gone now. When should we move?” another man, one who looked very threatening, asked the man in black.

The man called Boss Jiu smiled. “No need to be hasty. Once they reach Heavenly Eagle Canyon, we can spring our trap. We should arrive there first to set up our traps and wait for them.”

“Why there? Once they pass that place, they will be at the doorstep of Underworld City. The Iron Blood Association is the main force of Underworld City. What if they escape?”

“They only have a single guard at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage. The other lady might be a manager of Iron Blood City, but she’s just putting up a front. Still, I never thought she would be so lucky as to find such an incredible treasure here.

“They even disguised themselves as a noble family. They must’ve never thought that I had already laid my eyes on them.”

“Boss Jiu, you are indeed wise! The treasure is yours for sure!”

“Of course, but I never thought that something that amazing would appear here in Scarlet Sun City. To think that the tomb of that Alchemist would have such a pill! If it was sold in an auction, it would easily fetch a few hundred Divine Crystals.

“The Divine Martial Condensation Pill! It allows the user to condense their Divine Soul into their Martial Soul to form the Divine Martial Soul! It’s much more valuable than the other Divine-tier pills. There’s only a limited number of them even in the Underworld Estate. Once I get it, I can use it when I’m at the Ninth Heavenly Martial Stage to reach the Divine Martial Realm immediately!”

“Congratulations, Boss Jiu! Once you are there, your position in the Bloody Misfortune Alliance will be greatly improved! Your brothers won’t dare to look down on you anymore!”

“That’s right.”

Boss Jiu leaped down the city walls, and a large, black wolf appeared under him. A gust of wind blew past the land and the wolf disappeared.

As expected, because of the dazzling carriage, a lot of people tried to rob them. This was a dog-eat-dog world where killing others to steal their wealth was the fastest way to become rich. There was no sympathy in the wasteland. Usually, the first words people said to each other out here were, “Give me your Storage Ring!”

Ten days had passed since they started traveling. While Long Chen spent some time talking to them, he spent most of his time researching the Emperor’s Manual as well as the Emperor’s Arrival. As for the Emperor-tier martial technique hidden within the Three Thousand Star Clusters ... He was leaving that for later.

Only Divine-tier martial techniques could help him now.

Long Chen fought bravely against the countless random bandits. He had shown the others that he could beat someone at the Sixth Heavenly Martial Stage. No one believed that Long Chen was only at the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage.

Long Chen had become very familiar with the first stage of the Emperor's Manual.

It was time to cultivate the second stage, Shifting Galaxy!

Emperor's Arrival, Shifting Galaxy, and Crushing Void!

Those were the three techniques of the Emperor's Manual.

Long Chen had a feeling that he would destroy the space around him if he used the final technique of the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. The Emperor's Manual was the strongest technique, so it was natural that it could do so.

Long Chen had learned a lot during his research.

The others were impressed that Long Chen was so hardworking. To prevent others from ambushing them, Long Chen and the others shielded the carriage from the front.

They entered a silent forest and had to slow down.

Soon after, Long Chen sensed the people surrounding them. Bandits roamed the place, so Long Chen was almost certain that they were trying to get their treasures. If one had a lot of treasure, even if the owners were strong, the bandits would risk their lives in order to steal them.

- Chapter 904 - Heavenly Eagle Canyon

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Long Chen saw them approaching their group. There were around ten bandits, which was common as far as group sizes went.

"Someone's here."

Long Chen waved his arm and gestured for the rest to stop. The other escorts trusted Long Chen, so they immediately prepared for a defensive battle.

"Why are you stopping? Move quickly!"

Luo Wei was on very friendly terms with Ji Yan at this point. He was in the middle of telling a joke to Ji Yan when she was distracted by Long Chen's call to stop. Luo Wei got mad because he couldn't make Ji Yan laugh, and he directed his anger towards Long Chen.

He was acting as if he was the employer of Long Chen and the others.

Everyone else was well aware that Luo Wei was trying to butter up Ji Yan in any way he could.

The rest of the escorts had long grown fed up with him, especially after he shouted at them just now.

Ah Dong, unable to hold his anger in, shouted back, "What are you shouting about? You don't have the power to command us!"

Luo Wei scoffed. "Do you want to die? Come here and I will kill you."

Ah Dong was about to shout back when Long Chen pulled him back. "Calm down. Those who deserve to die will die one day. Let's just finish our mission for the sake of the Emperor Crystals. They are paying us to work for them after all, unlike some people, who only know how to bark out orders and flirt with girls."

"Long Chen, what are you implying? Are you saying that I'm not putting in as much effort as you?"

Luo Wei's eyes were cold as he looked at Long Chen.

"Of course. Have you done anything throughout the journey? You've been eating and slacking while enjoying the fruits of another person's labor. Who else but you has been doing that?"

Long Chen was trying to pull Luo Wei's resentment onto himself. Ah Dong and the others were weaker, so Long Chen had to prevent Luo Wei from doing anything to them.

"Hmph!"

Right when Luo Wei was about to attack Long Chen, the bandits came out. There were three of them at the Sixth Heavenly Martial Stage.

"Look closely." Luo Wei chuckled and attacked with his spear. In just a few moments, the bandits were dead. Even though they were already at the Sixth Heavenly Martial Stage, they had been killed in a single move.

"Think about how strong you are before you speak of others. Once I become an Underworld Soldier and have a suit of Underworld Armor, I will be able to kill as many of you as I want. Don't provoke me. I'm not some magnanimous person."

Luo Wei boasted and put his Divine Weapon away after showing off in front of the others.

Ah Dong and the rest were silent. They had to admit that Luo Wei was indeed strong and they couldn't provoke him. But even so, they hated how boastful he was.

They could only bottle their resentment in their hearts.

But to Long Chen, this was only a minor incident. He was just glad that he had become the sole focus of Luo Wei's resentment. If Luo Wei tried to do anything to him, Long Chen would show him a surprise.

"Luo Wei is disgusting."

Late at night, Ji Yan told everyone to set up camp and rest. They had been traveling nonstop for twenty days at this point.

Ah Dong and the others set up a campfire near a river. They sat around the fire to feast and have fun.

But they soon remembered how Luo Wei had threatened them because he was stronger than them. The others felt indignant about it.

"Once I reach the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage, I will make sure to teach him a lesson," one of the escorts grumbled as he chewed on a crispy, golden piece of meat.

Long Chen didn't mind, so he tried to liven up the mood and raised his mug to toast the others. "Come now, let's just have fun and drink some wine. We finally get to rest, so let's not ruin the mood just because of one guy."

Ah Dong nodded. "Long Chen is right! We should just do our own thing. We're making good money, so there's no need to bother with some indecent guy."

Luo Wei walked over from a distance.

"Who are you calling indecent?"

Luo Wei expanded his domain without any warning. The domain of someone at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage pressed on everyone and even extinguished the fire. The delicious meal that they had been preparing for a long time was toppled over too.

Everyone stood up and glared at Luo Wei.

"What? Do you want to come at me together? Aren't you guys being all chummy with each other ..."

The situation was tense.

Just as they were about to fight, Ji Yan came over and rolled her eyes. She then looked at Luo Wei. “My master is calling you. You better put on a good performance.”

“Your master is looking for me?”

Luo Wei was surprised. He had heard her voice in the carriage but hadn’t laid eyes on her yet.

Long Chen and the others never even heard her voice.

“I will deal with you next time.”

Luo Wei huffed and turned towards the carriage in the dark.

Ji Yan scolded Long Chen and the others after Luo Wei was gone. “Don’t provoke him anymore. My master is paying special attention to him. Watch your mouths if you want to live, especially you, Long Chen.”

Ji Yan smiled faintly before leaving.

The other escorts frowned when she was gone.

“What’s her master paying special attention to Luo Wei got to do with us?”

“Who knows. But we have no choice but to trust her.”

“Damn. Aren’t we escorts? Why does it feel so frustrating?”

Everyone’s mood was sour.

Long Chen turned to look at the carriage.

Looks like I was right. This isn’t some noble family. They were recruiting escorts and pretending to be a noble family for some other reason. We are only at the Sixth Heavenly Martial Stage and can therefore only deal with average bandits, so I doubt we would be much help to the others. But what are they hiding...?

Long Chen had kept a low profile up until now because he wanted to find out what was wrong with Ji Yan and the others.

Considering his temper, he would’ve long killed Luo Wei for trying to bully them.

Long Chen was still trying to put the pieces together when the moans of a lady could be heard coming from the carriage. She wasn’t even attempting to hold back, so her moans could be heard from a distance. The voice likely belonged to Ji Yan’s master, and Luo Wei had just entered her carriage ...

Everyone knew what was going on. That was what Ji Yan meant when she said that her master had been paying special attention to Luo Wei,

The escorts felt even more frustrated when they heard the voices.

“Shit. Don’t let me find the chance to kill him!”

Day soon came and everyone continued their journey. Long Chen and the others were still at the front to deal with bandits, while Luo Wei was at the back.

This time, however, he was paying less attention to Ji Yan. He was beaming with joy and pleasure.

He was having the best time out of everyone. He didn’t have to fight during the day, and he would get lucky from time to time at night.

Even though Ah Dong and the others were escorts recruited temporarily and not their servants, they still had to follow the rules of their employer, especially since none of them knew how to get to Underworld City.

Because Luo Wei was now tied up with the master in the carriage, and he was strong to begin with, none of them dared to provoke him anymore.

Luo Wei was now directing all of his attention to the person in the carriage. There was nothing much to do except to bully the others from time to time. Their journey had been smooth; when stronger bandits showed up, the butler, Wei Zhou, would fight instead. Long Chen and the others didn’t have to risk their lives.

Two months passed in a flash.

“We will soon reach Heavenly Eagle Canyon. Once we pass through it, we will be able to see Underworld City. It’s tens of times larger than Scarlet Sun City. Since you guys have been performing well, I will pay you the Emperor Crystals once we reach Heavenly Eagle Canyon,” Ji Yan announced.

She then returned to her position.

“Heavenly Eagle Canyon ...”

Long Chen still hadn't figured out what was going on with Ji Yan and the others, but he had noticed something. Three days ago, he had spotted a group of people who had been following them and observing them. There were many strong cultivators amongst them.

It seems that they are here with a certain objective. They aren't just regular bandits. If Ji Yan and the others have some kind of treasure on them, then it's almost certain that the

enemies are here for it. Heavenly Eagle Canyon is just in front of us, so I think they will ambush us there.

Despite noticing them, he told no one. He never really liked Ji Yan and the others, so he couldn't care less.

But he did care about the escorts he had become friends with. He thought they were cute, so he warned them, "Everyone, Heavenly Eagle Canyon is just in front of us. I have a bad feeling, so if there's any danger, remember to not risk your lives. Just run, it's not worth dying here."

"Long Chen...?" Everyone looked at each other with confusion.

Long Chen appeared to be telling the truth, but they still nodded out of confusion. They steeled themselves for what may come.

Long Chen relaxed a bit after seeing that they were quick to catch on.

Indeed, there was a large mountain in front of them. Heavenly Eagle Canyon appeared to have been carved out by a large blade.

Let me see what kind of mystery the owner of the carriage is holding on to.

- Chapter 905 - Ungrateful

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Long Chen and the carriage entered Heavenly Eagle Canyon along with everyone else.

There were the perilous mountains on both sides.

"Everyone, once we pass through this area, we will arrive at Underworld City. I thank everyone for their hard work for the past two months. Please endure for the final stretch of the journey!"

Ji Yan smiled and chuckled.

"Lady Ji, you are being far too courteous."

Ah Dong and the others hated Luo Wei, but they still had a fairly good impression of Ji Yan. Everyone except for Long Chen.

Long Chen was using Sight to look around. They were halfway through Heavenly Eagle Canyon when he detected two people at the front. He could see that the two people intercepting them weren't easy foes at all.

So the final bosses are appearing at the final stretch of our journey. As I expected.

Long Chen smiled because he had been waiting for them for a long time. Two months, to be exact.

Because he hadn't fought anyone strong yet, he hadn't progressed from the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage.

The path of cultivation was extremely perilous. Even the geniuses of the Three Emperor Territories took two to three years to advance through each stage of the Heavenly Martial Realm, or maybe even longer.

Unlike them, Long Chen had the True Martial Overlord Soul as his third eye. It allowed him to peek at the Martial Dao of others, making him advance much faster than the others.

Long Chen didn't notify them about the impending danger but instead continued to walk forward. They soon approached the two people on the path.

"Someone's there!" Wei Zhou was the first to detect the danger. Everyone looked towards the end of Heavenly Eagle Canyon and saw two people blocking their way.

The two people were wearing completely black attires with their faces masked. The only things that were exposed were their blood-red eyes. It was clear that they were murderers who could kill without blinking.

"Boss Jiu, they are here."

The younger of the two spoke first.

"I've been waiting for a long time." The person was none other than Boss Jiu of the Bloody Misfortune Alliance from Scarlet Sun City.

The Bloody Alliance was a fairly renowned bandit gang around Scarlet Sun City. The other person was most likely a head of the Bloody Alliance too.

"Tenth Brother, you've just reached the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage, so you should fight Wei Zhou just to test out your new strength. I will deal with the two ladies. Once I'm done with them, I will join you."

"Boss Jiu, I was thinking the same thing."

The younger one smiled and clenched his fists. He was ready to kill.

Long Chen and the others had already noticed them, but rather than escaping, they continued to walk forward.

This was the first time Long Chen saw them up close. The bandits were releasing their intense essence into the air. Their strength made Ji Yan and the others wince in surprise.

The other escorts also noticed how strong the two were. They had a feeling that they could not win at all.

“Those two are at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage,” Long Chen whispered to them as a warning. They trusted him and were shocked by the strength of the two bandits. They had never encountered any opponents on that level on this journey, so they were worried.

They were extremely close to Underworld City, and it was not worth it to lose their lives over fifteen hundred Emperor Crystals. If it wasn't for their sense of duty, they would've scattered already.

Wei Zhou was the only person in their group at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage. Ji Yan and Luo Wei were both at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage, while Long Chen and the others were only at the Sixth Heavenly Martial Stage. Therefore, they would not be of much help. As for the woman inside the carriage, Long Chen estimated that she was weaker than Ah Dong.

The carriage stopped, and Ji Yan tried to talk to them. “Why are you blocking our path? Our master has connections to people inside the mayor's office in Underworld City. Please move aside.”

Boss Jiu laughed. “Ha! You are mere merchants from the Iron Blood Association. Stop putting up that farce. We are here to take that treasure away. Hand it over and we will let you go, or else Heavenly Eagle Canyon will become your tomb.”

Ji Yan and Wei Zhou frowned. Both of them stepped up together and said, “I don't know what you are talking about, but since you won't move away for free, we are ready to offer up to thirty thousand Emperor Crystals. Will you accept our offer and move?”

The two chuckled and waved their hands. “Wei Zhou, stop bullshitting us. I know you very well. This is my tenth brother, Qin Yang. He just reached the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage a couple of days ago. I will let him practice fighting against you today. As for me, I will enjoy myself with the two ladies. Or rather, an old lady and a young one.”

It was clear that Boss Jiu already knew about their plan. Wei Zhou had no choice but to kill the two, or they wouldn't make it out of Heavenly Eagle Canyon alive.

“Luo Wei, come here.” Ji Yan gestured for Luo Wei to get closer. The two of them were at the same cultivation level, so they could barely handle Boss Jiu.

Luo Wei, however, wasn't really willing to do so. He had sensed how strong his opponents were. If it wasn't for the fact that he had been sleeping with the lady inside the carriage

for the past two months, he would've escaped immediately. Unfortunately, he had to take care of his reputation.

He wasn't even certain if he would lose to start with. If he ran now, then everything the lady had promised him would be gone forever.

He hesitated before choosing his side and standing with Ji Yan. He wanted to see how the fight would develop before deciding to run or not. If it went really badly, he would run. He wasn't part of their group to begin with, and his life was more precious.

Ji Yan didn't believe that she and Luo Wei would be able to hold on while Wei Zhou was fighting against the other person.

Just then, Boss Jiu looked at Long Chen and the others.

"You've seen that we are at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage. I've been watching you all for a long time. You aren't their workers to begin with, and they have been humiliating you. I don't think risking your lives for a little money is worth it, and I'm someone who cherishes the bonds between sworn brothers, so you may leave. I will not stop you from heading to Underworld City."

Ah Dong and the others hesitated. Boss Jiu was right—there was no reason for them to risk their lives for merely fifteen hundred Emperor Crystals. They had been fighting for the past two months and knew that their duties were over.

But as escorts, they still felt duty-bound to stay.

Ji Yan was planning to use the nine of them as cannon fodder. Every second they bought counted, so she didn't want to let them run now. "Don't listen to him! How can we lose to them? After we defeat the two of them, I will give each of you another thousand Emperor Crystals."

Three thousand Emperor Crystals were their entire net worth.

They looked at each other and hesitated. Not only did they feel responsible, but they also thought that the reward made it worth the risk.

"You wimps! You become escorts and they bring you along to Underworld City, yet you are ungrateful enough to think about running? I knew you were cowards!"

Luo Wei tried gaslighting them to stay too.

He refused to let them escape when he himself couldn't.

"Who says I'm a wimp? Who says I'm going to escape?" Ah Dong and the others shouted at Luo Wei.

Boss Jiu and Qin Yang frowned. They actually did want to let them live, but they didn't mind killing them.

Long Chen shouted at the last moment, "Everyone, don't throw your lives away because of your emotions. We've already done all that we could. We've swept the roads clear of bandits for them and brought them here. We owe each other nothing. There's no reason for us to risk our lives for three thousand Emperor Crystals. We are not wimps nor cowards, but those who choose to stay and fight are true idiots. If you still think of me as your sworn brother, then follow me!"

Long Chen immediately nudged his Mech Horse to run towards the two bandits.

"Long Chen, you!" Ji Yan had been paying special attention to Long Chen because she thought he was different, but now he was the one leading them to escape!

"Ji Yan, we will not be enticed by your money. My sworn brothers are not your cannon fodder. You cannot buy their lives for merely three thousand Emperor Crystals. Those who don't want to die, follow me."

Long Chen turned around and looked at them.

"Long Chen, shouldn't we return them their Mech Horses?" one of them asked cluelessly, though the others were gradually snapping out of Luo Wei's gaslighting.

"Why should we? We earned them through our hard work. We didn't even ask them for the Emperor Crystals we were promised. We've already escorted them through 99% of the journey, so they should be the ones paying us at least the corresponding amount in Emperor Crystals."

Long Chen laughed and continued to run with his Mech Horse. The remaining eight soon followed him.

- Chapter 906 - Bullying Luo Wei

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They were friends Long Chen had traveled with for the past two months. He felt obligated to take care of them, which was why he was leading them away.

If that didn't work, Long Chen would stick them in the Primordial Realm. He would never let them become cannon fodder.

Ji Yan, who usually was calm, was utterly angered at this point.

“Long Chen, you ungrateful bastard! You are a coward!”

Luo Wei put on a fake front. “Yan’er, he’s just useless garbage. No need to get angry over him. You still have me.”

“Who said you could call me ‘Yan’er?’”

“Alright, the show’s over here. You in the carriage, get out and show us the treasure. Tenth Brother, go and fight Wei Zhou. I will handle the two ladies.”

Boss Jiu and his companion got started the moment Long Chen and the others left.

The peaceful Heavenly Eagle Canyon turned into a battlefield.

“Long Chen, should we really just leave like this? Don’t we need to go back?”

Ah Dong wasn’t sure if they were doing the right thing. He was worried.

“Didn’t I tell you clearly before?”

Long Chen suddenly stopped and chuckled at him.

“Why are you stopping?”

“You guys ... Do you all hate Luo Wei?”

Everyone was silent. Only one of them answered, “I would kill him if I were stronger than him, but I have to admit that he has some guts for staying behind today.”

The others nodded.

“You are overestimating him. Watch closely.”

Long Chen turned and looked back. At this point, they were already close to the exit of Heavenly Eagle Canyon.

Everyone was puzzled. “What is Long Chen doing?”

Soon, the sound of galloping hooves could be heard. Everyone looked towards the depths of Heavenly Eagle Canyon and saw Luo Wei fleeing. Judging by the dust on his clothes, it appeared that Luo Wei had escaped after just a few rounds of battle.

Everyone laughed when they saw Luo Wei’s pitiful state.

“Brother Long Chen, we had no idea you understood Luo Wei so well.”

“He called us cowards, but he escaped too. He intended to run the moment we were confronted by the bandits. He even scolded us just now! What a deplorable bastard.”

Still, they kept their voices down to a minimum. They were still weaker than Luo Wei, so they dared not anger him.

Luo Wei reached them, and everyone kept quiet after seeing his angry face.

It was wise not to provoke him further.

He was staring at them with his resentful eyes. “Are you guys talking shit about me?”

Ah Dong scoffed. “Who’s talking shit about you? We are all escaping together. No one has the right to be talking shit here.”

“You better keep your mouths shut.”

Luo Wei huffed and was about to continue his journey to Underworld City when Long Chen blocked him. “You want to go to Underworld City and become an Underworld Soldier, right?”

“What’s your problem?”

“You won’t be able to go there.”

Long Chen approached Luo Wei menacingly.

Everyone else was puzzled by what Long Chen was doing. Luo Wei was dangerous, and everyone wanted him to leave as soon as possible. Why was Long Chen provoking him for no reason?

“Brother Long Chen ...”

Ah Dong was trying to pull Long Chen back, but then he saw red scales slowly covering the latter’s body. An aura exuding incredible bloodlust burst forth.

Long Chen’s weak frame instantly became a towering behemoth.

“What are you thinking?”

Luo Wei wasn’t scared—he was actually happy. Long Chen was finally going to fight him!

But Luo Wei didn’t have time to register the first hit. Long Chen was so fast that he turned into a blood-red light and punched Luo Wei’s Mech Horse. The Mech Horse exploded into

pieces and Luo Wei flew backwards from the impact. He rolled several times on the ground before he caught his footing and stood back up.

Luo Wei was covered in dirt and his hair was a mess. He looked like a homeless beggar.

Everyone was stunned to see what had happened. They knew that Long Chen was special, but they thought Long Chen was at most as strong as them. Seeing him fight against Luo Wei at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage ...

He might have surprised Luo Wei with that attack just now, but could he withstand Luo Wei's retribution?

They had safely made their escape, but now Long Chen had provoked Luo Wei. This was nothing short of suicide ...

Everyone was worried when they saw Luo Wei's face burning bright red from anger. They all tried to shield Long Chen, but the latter waved them away.

"Don't worry. Since I attacked him voluntarily, I naturally have the strength to deal with him. You guys can just sit and watch."

Long Chen, whose face was covered in red scales, was grinning with contempt.

Everyone hesitated.

To Luo Wei, this was a big insult. Long Chen had once prevented him from killing someone, and Luo Wei had been secretly holding a grudge for that. He tried finding ways to kill Long Chen during the journey but failed to do so.

And now Long Chen had attacked him first.

Luo Wei roared in anger. His veins bulged while he glued his eyes on Long Chen. Everyone thought Luo Wei was going to belch out fire.

The green spear appeared in Luo Wei's hands again. Wind gathered around his body.

"Long Chen, I've underestimated you."

"No. You've overestimated yourself. Someone like you would've died by my hand much earlier."

Long Chen then brandished the Three Thousand Star Clusters. The starlight gathered in his hand and turned into a spear.

It was gold and black in color, with the Yin and Yang energy circulating through it. It had grown stronger than its previous form.

“Stop talking bullshit.”

Even though he had been humiliated, Luo Wei remained cool and collected. He gathered all of his strength and poured it into a single lunge.

He then turned into a green light and aimed for Long Chen’s head.

“First stage of the sword path. Not bad, but do you know what stage I am at?”

Long Chen was a special case. He had merged two third stages together, which meant he was comparable to someone at the fourth stage of the sword path.

Luo Wei’s spear left afterimages from the incredible thrusting speed.

“Domain!”

Luo Wei’s domain covered Long Chen.

“I will kill you in one strike! Green spear, Reversing the Rivers!”

Luo Wei’s spear spun and turned into a green whirlpool. It was definitely an advanced Emperor-tier martial technique.

“Three Thousand Star Clusters Spear Manual!”

Long Chen did not hesitate to use the Three Thousand Star Clusters Spear Manual. Thanks to his cultivation level, the starlight broke Luo Wei’s technique down. Long Chen had killed Zhao Kongming, who was also at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage. Luo Wei didn’t even have a Divine martial technique, so how could he ever hope to win against Long Chen?

Even though Luo Wei’s Divine Weapon was an advanced Emperor-tier, it was blown away by Long Chen’s attack.

“What’s happening?!”

Luo Wei was shocked when Long Chen stabbed his body numerous times with the cold tip of the Three Thousand Star Clusters.

He fell to the ground, landing on the tip of his own spear. Luo Wei tried to get up, but Long Chen stopped him from doing so.

“How are you that strong?”

“Too late. I promised my brothers that I would slap you. I hope you can survive this.”

Smack!

Long Chen slapped Luo Wei, leaving a big, bloody print on his cheek. Luo Wei shouted in pain as he flew in the air, turned a few times, and fell to the ground.

His face was blood-red as he spat out blood. Rather than anger, he was now looking at Long Chen with fear.

“Don’t kill me! Long Chen, I will follow you!”

He now realized that Long Chen was secretly very strong.

“I was arrogant and I’ve offended you! I’m sorry for being arrogant! If you spare me, I will become your arms and legs from today onwards!”

Luo Wei staggered backwards out of fear.

Everyone else was shocked.

Long Chen had defeated Luo Wei in the blink of an eye. A man who they thought was strong was groveling and begging for mercy.

But Long Chen ignored Luo Wei and slapped him again.

Luo Wei shouted and flew into the air again from the impact. Everyone felt their skin crawl when they heard him scream.

Long Chen proceeded to slap Luo Wei numerous times. Luo Wei kept crying out of pain and shock until he became silent on the eighth slap.

Long Chen kicked Luo Wei over. “He can’t even survive a few slaps.”

Luo Wei’s body was battered and lifeless at this point.

- Chapter 907 - Divine Martial Condensation Pill

Chapter 907 - Divine Martial Condensation Pill

Everyone was staring at Long Chen in shock.

Long Chen expected them to react like this, so he didn't mind one bit. He climbed back onto his own Mech Horse and said, "Everyone, Underworld City is just up ahead. You guys can go on your own. I will head back for a moment."

"You want to go back?"

Ah Dong and the others were worried about Long Chen. "It's best if you don't go back. Almost everyone there is at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage."

"Do you think I'm too weak to go?"

Long Chen chuckled and pointed at Luo Wei's corpse.

Indeed, he was stronger than Luo Wei. In the end, Ah Dong and the others conceded.

"Alright, it's your choice. We will wait for you at Underworld City!"

"Sure."

Long Chen said nothing else and ran back into Heavenly Eagle Canyon. Everyone else turned to look at each other.

"I never would've guessed Long Chen was an expert in disguise. It's an honor to be sworn brothers with him."

"Should we go back and check on him? What if he's in danger?"

"No. We would become liabilities for him. He led us all the way here, and you want us to go back? Is that how we will be repaying his kindness?"

"Haha..."

They then left for Underworld City.

Long Chen wasn't that far away from the fight. A few minutes after he separated from the rest, he heard the sound of fighting. Even though the terrain in the Three Emperor Territory was unnaturally dense due to the Royal Qi, the fight still shook the ground itself.

Long Chen could run faster than the Mech Horse, so he dismounted, stored it in the Primordial Realm, and sprinted the rest of the way.

He was still transformed, so he looked very different. He was confident that no one would recognize him.

Ji Yan was most likely part of a faction in Underworld City, but Long Chen had no idea how strong they were. He dared not risk exposing his identity right now.

He ran and hid himself when he saw the battlefield.

Wei Zhou and Qin Yang were fighting viciously. On the other hand, Ji Yan was losing against Boss Jiu. A beautiful lady was standing outside of the carriage. Her face was pretty with her soft lips and bewitching eyes, but unfortunately, they were marred in fear right now.

The woman most likely held a higher position in the Iron Blood Association, but she was only at the Fifth Heavenly Martial Stage.

While she might've been able to be called a god in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, she was only considered a low-level worker here.

Wei Zhou was feeling anxious because Ji Yan was going to lose to Boss Jiu while he was being tied up by Qin Yang. The item they were transporting was beyond precious to the Iron Blood Association. How could they just let it be taken after going through so much to obtain it?

Ji Yan was already severely injured. Boss Jiu was not holding back just because she was a woman. He continued to attack her again and again. She would've been killed long ago if it wasn't for her Empowering Talismans. Unfortunately, she already used two of them and only had one left.

Each Empowering Talisman was worth at least five thousand Emperor Crystals, and they weren't easy to buy. Ji Yan had to use some of her connections to get the ones she had on hand.

But now she was down to her last one.

"Mistress, run away!"

Ji Yan was hoping to use the last talisman to buy some time for her mistress to run to Underworld City. Maybe she would make it.

"Run? Run where?" The lady was so scared that she couldn't think properly. She had been pampered all her life and worked a cozy job, so she couldn't move a single muscle when there was danger.

Ji Yan was angry. *To the Underworld City, you idiot! It's the only safe place.*

Normally, someone at the Fifth Heavenly Martial Stage could've made it.

But she had lost the chance.

“All you have are a couple of Empowering Talismans. Do you really think that you can stop me?”

Boss Jiu chuckled before attacking again. “To think that I would have to use a Divine-tier martial technique to deal with you girls. Consider it an honor to die to one.”

Boss Jiu stomped heavily onto the ground. The earth shook, a testament to his strength.

“Bloody Misfortune Mantra, Myriad Blood Hands!” he roared as he shot out numerous blood-red palms. They shot toward Ji Yan and surrounded her completely. Someone at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage like her couldn’t deal with a Divine-tier martial technique.

Ji Yan smiled bitterly when she saw her surroundings covered in blood. She gave up on resisting, because there was only one way out of this—death.

She regretted not being able to take the Divine Martial Condensation Pill to Underworld City and losing it to the Bloody Misfortune bandits. She had even gotten tricked by Luo Wei!

“Ji Yan!” the other lady cried out in shock. She knew that it was going to be her turn if Ji Yan perished.

At the last moment, a blood-red figure ran out and saved Ji Yan from the entrapment.

Ji Yan was saved in just a single move!

She rolled on the ground a few times and was surprised to see that she was still alive, albeit wounded. She ignored the pain and looked at the blood-red figure.

Ji Yan's joy was short-lived when she saw the person in front of her. *Who is that person? Why does he look familiar?*

“Who are you?”

Boss Jiu was naturally upset to see someone save Ji Yan. His cold gaze locked onto Long Chen, and his anger was soon replaced with confusion.

“A Beast Warrior?”

Beast Warriors were the least favorable cultivators in the Three Emperor Territories. Most beast souls were useless to them unless they were exceptionally strong souls, but unfortunately, the Demon Tribe from the Desolate Royal Territory would never allow a human to possess such a beast soul.

“Who are you? Why are you interfering?”

Boss Jiu realized that Long Chen wasn't as strong as he thought, so he asked just to be sure.

Long Chen was standing close to the lady near the carriage. While Boss Jiu was questioning him, Long Chen approached the lady in the blink of an eye.

“Ah!”

The lady thought Long Chen was sent by the Iron Blood Association to rescue them, so she never thought he would attack her. Long Chen grabbed her Storage Ring and checked it, finding nothing interesting in it.

“Where did you hide it?”

Long Chen didn't wait for the lady to answer—he instantly tore her clothes apart. He soon found another Storage Ring in the lady's stomach band. He checked it and found a pill inside that was emanating a fragrant scent. It was most likely the item that everyone was looking for.

Long Chen wasted no time; he ran off the moment he got it.

The lady stood there in a trance, unable to process what had happened. She looked down and let out a high-pitched scream when she realized she was naked.

“The Divine Martial Condensation Pill! He took it!”

The lady picked up her tattered clothes while screaming as if Long Chen had tried to kill her.

Long Chen had acted very fast and had found what he needed instantly. Ji Yan and the lady had thought he was their savior, so they had let their guard down.

Boss Jiu was enraged by Long Chen's actions.

He quickly ran after him.

Ji Yan was safe for now. She could only hope that the two of them would get injured during their fight.

Wei Zhou was still fighting against the other person at this point.

“Give me the Divine Martial Condensation Pill!” Boss Jiu shouted while he chased Long Chen. He unleashed his Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage domain while launching numerous attacks.

The Divine Martial Condensation Pill? What is it? What effects does it have?

Long Chen had no clue what the pill did.

But there was no way he would hand it over so easily.

Long Chen put the Storage Ring in the Primordial Realm, then gold and black light flashed on his fists. A pair of gloves, one hot and one cold, appeared.

“A Divine-tier Divine Weapon that’s also a glove?”

Boss Jiu’s eyes went wide with greed.

Divine-tier martial techniques were fairly easy to find, but Divine-tier Divine Weapons were very rare. Long Chen’s gloves were top-tier equipment.

“It belongs to me!”

“You can have it if you can pry it from me. If not, you have to give me your life.”

Long Chen chuckled and readied himself for battle.

“True Martial Overlord Soul, activate!”

The gray line on his forehead opened to reveal a gray light.

An Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage cultivator was indeed a good opponent.

Long Chen had obtained what he wanted, and he was confident in his strength. The confidence he was exuding made Boss Jiu wary.

- Chapter 908 - Underworld City

Chapter 908 - Underworld City

Ji Yan and the lady were huddled together. They were feeling helpless after everything that had just happened.

When Ji Yan looked at Long Chen, she felt a familiar aura.

The lady was anxious. “Ji Yan, what should we do?”

Ji Yan actually resented the lady a bit. The lady was very bossy at work, but at the most critical moment, she was meek and useless. She was a useless woman who had reached her position through looks and sex.

“What can we do? The Divine Martial Condensation Pill has been taken. We will be punished when we get back. Now we can only pray that the two of them will be injured in their fight.”

Ji Yan sighed. Unfortunately, she didn’t have connections, which was how she was ranked lower than the lady.

The lady was still panicking, so she didn’t notice Ji Yan’s uncourteous tone.

Qin Yang and Wei Zhou stopped fighting. Since the Divine Martial Condensation Pill was no longer in their hands, Qin Yang would gain nothing from this fight, even if he killed Wei Zhou.

“Ji Yan, recover for now. I will watch over you.”

Wei Zhou went closer to guard them. His breathing was laborious by this point.

“The guy called Qin Yang ... To think he's as strong as me even though he's so young. He's incredible.”

“Uncle Wei, do you feel a familiar aura coming from the Beast Warrior?”

“Hm?” Both Wei Zhou and the lady looked at Long Chen more closely, but they found nothing significant.

“I’ve never met him, though he is strong. For some reason, his aura is unstable. He doesn’t look strong, but thanks to his Divine Weapons, he can fight toe-to-toe against someone stronger. It’s quite surprising.”

The three of them were indeed surprised.

They would be even more surprised if they found out that the Beast Warrior was Long Chen.

While Long Chen was fighting against Boss Jiu, he gleaned a lot from his opponent’s movements. Long Chen had to admit that the True Martial Overlord Soul was indeed amazing. While he was fighting, his comprehension of the Heavenly Martial Realm started to grow rapidly.

Minutes passed, and Boss Jiu was starting to panic. They had been fighting for a long time right outside of Underworld City. It was detrimental to stick around here, so Boss Jiu used his killer move.

“Myriad Blood Hands!”

He used the technique that had defeated Ji Yan and his domain at the same time. Long Chen felt a lot of pressure acting on his body.

Long Chen saw nothing but bloody hands around him. Each subsequent one was stronger than the previous. The energy coming from the technique started corroding his body.

“So is this how strong someone at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage is? I thought he would be stronger.”

The six demons that had brought Long Chen here weren’t as strong as he had thought. Long Chen had improved a lot during the short time he had spent in the Three Emperor Territory.

If he had reached this level before, Xiaolang wouldn’t have been taken away.

“Emperor’s Manual, Emperor’s Arrival!”

Long Chen swung his golden fist at Boss Jiu. He appeared to have become the ruler above all life who looked down on others. The golden fist crashed into the Myriad Blood Hands. For a few seconds, the two attacks were equal. While Emperor’s Arrival was of a higher grade, Long Chen didn’t have sufficient essence to back it up. But thankfully, the Emperor’s Vanquishers and his understanding of the fist art helped cover the gap.

Bam!

While Long Chen’s right fist exuded unparalleled Yang energy, he quickly unleashed another Emperor’s Arrival with his left fist. Another punch, one filled with unyielding Yin energy, quickly followed.

Long Chen broke through the Myriad Bloody Hands with his right fist while his left fist nailed Boss Jiu directly.

Boss Jiu coughed up blood from the impact and died immediately. His body was a wrangled mess.

With a *splat*, Boss Jiu’s mutilated body collapsed onto the ground.

The battlefield went silent after Long Chen killed Boss Jiu. The others looked at Long Chen with stunned expressions. Qin Yang wanted to run away, but before he did, he reached Boss Jiu’s corpse, confirmed his passing, and stored the corpse in his Storage Ring.

“Run if you don’t want to die.”

Qin Yang knew he was no match, because he was roughly equal to Boss Jiu. If Long Chen could kill Boss Jiu, he could kill Qin Yang too. Qin Yang had no choice but to retreat.

“I will remember you.”

Qin Yang retreated after saying that.

Long Chen looked at Wei Zhou and the rest once before running towards Underworld City.

Ji Yan was so surprised that she unconsciously asked, “Wait, who are you?”

She didn’t want to give up on retrieving the Divine Martial Condensation Pill, and she also had a feeling that she had met the mysterious man in front of her before.

“Do I know you?” Long Chen chuckled. “This pill is mine now. Thanks!”

Long Chen ran and soon disappeared.

“He’s heading to Underworld City. There’s a chance we will meet him again. Quickly, send a message to the bosses. Let them search for a Beast Warrior that matches his features in Underworld City. That person’s transformation is very unique, so it should be easy for us to track him down.”

The lady, who was previously paralyzed from fear, finally got her wits together after Long Chen left.

Ji yYan sighed and nodded helplessly. Unfortunately, the lady was her superior, so she couldn’t retort. The three of them then set out for Underworld City. They had lost the Divine Martial Condensation Pill, and they were uncertain what kind of punishment awaited them when they reached the Iron Blood Association.

Ji Yan was deep in thought while on her white Mech Horse.

The Beast Warrior’s aura and demeanor reminded her of someone.

Is he Long Chen? That can’t be. Even though they are similar, Long Chen shouldn’t have that kind of strength ...

Ji Yan shook her head and continued traveling without saying another word. Just then, they passed by a corpse that appeared to have been beaten up. Based on the corpse’s clothes, the person was Luo Wei!

The lady in the carriage glared and spat on Luo Wei’s corpse. “How dare you betray me! Good riddance!”

Wei Zhou murmured, “That’s strange. It seems he died from getting slapped. Didn’t he escape? Who would be strong enough to slap him to death? Was it the Beast Warrior?”

It was an innocent remark, but Ji Yan shouted in surprise. She knew that Luo Wei and Long Chen had a grudge with each other, and Luo Wei's corpse confirmed her suspicions.

Wei Zhou was confused. "What's wrong, Ji Yan?"

"Nothing."

Ji Yan shook her head, but her heart was beating fast.

It really is him! I can't believe he's such a schemer! He was so patient with his revenge. His strength is also not to be underestimated ... Luo Wei had been bullying him for so long, and yet he managed to endure until now. What a guy ...

Rather than reporting this, she chose to play innocent. She wouldn't get any exemplary rewards if they managed to recover the Divine Martial Condensation Pill to begin with. Only the lady in the carriage would benefit greatly. Therefore, Ji Yan chose to be silent.

Nevermind. Let's just say that it's a gift for him. He did save my life just now.

Ji Yan's mouth curved up into a smile.

"Fat Cat, what does this pill do?"

Long Chen was currently hidden near a mountain. He looked around to check his surroundings, but even when he saw that there wasn't anyone nearby, he chose not to take it out. Instead, he threw the Storage Ring into the Primordial Realm directly.

He was afraid that the scent of the pill would attract some unseen experts.

Underworld City was just in front of him, and there were a lot of experts at the Divine Martial Realm there.

They were beings on the same level as the Five Emperors, but even so, they were only qualified to hold the title of Thousand-Sergeant.

Fat Cat chuckled. "Ten thousand Emperor Crystals for a single question."

"Go kill yourself! That's too expensive!"

"No, it's not! I saw you stealing a hundred thousand Emperor Crystals just now! Bring them out for me! My appetite has grown a lot. I need ten thousand Emperor Crystals to fill my belly. The more you give me, the stronger my illusions become. Only then will I be able to fight someone strong."

Long Chen had indeed grabbed a hundred thousand Emperor Crystals from the lady's Storage Ring. Although the lady had nothing useful, she did have a lot of money. Long Chen had a feeling that the money she held was most likely a part of the Iron Blood Association's funds.

A hundred thousand was not a small sum anymore.

Long Chen only needed ten thousand or so for himself.

In the end, he gave the crystals to Little Cat. "So... The Divine Martial Condensation Pill. Is it useful for me to advance into the Divine Martial Realm?"

"Not bad. You think fast. Indeed, once you reach the Ninth Heavenly Martial Stage, you can use it to condense your Divine Soul and put it into your Martial Soul to form a Divine Martial Soul. As long as your Divine Martial Soul is intact, you will never die."

Little Cat paused before continuing, "Of course, there are idiots with very bad comprehension that can't reach the Divine Martial Realm even with the help of the pill. You are only at the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage right now, so it's best to set it aside. You will be able to use it later on."

Little Cat's explanation confirmed Long Chen's assumption.

After understanding what the pill was used for, Long Chen decided he would wait until the next day before he entered the city. During that time, he slowly recalled his battle with Boss Jiu to increase his understanding of the Heavenly Martial Realm.

Afterwards, he walked towards Underworld City. Right now, he was at the peak of Heavenly Eagle Mountain. Beneath him, covered in dark inky clouds, was a large city.

It was a hundred times larger than Scarlet Sun City. This was the city that housed five hundred thousand Underworld Soldiers.

It was also the biggest city Long Chen had ever seen.

"So this is Underworld City?"

- Chapter 909 - Five Hundred Thousand Underworld Soldiers

Chapter 909 - Five Hundred Thousand Underworld Soldiers

There were millions of people in Underworld City, but because it was a large city, it wasn't too crowded.

Once Long Chen descended from Heavenly Eagle Mountain, he saw an incomprehensibly large city wall that stabbed into the black clouds above. He couldn't see where the wall ended.

He had to raise his head and look up to see the city guards. They weren't Underworld Soldiers, but their gear was elite. At the very least, the weakest guard was at the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage.

The Underworld Soldiers are probably the forces of the Underworld Estate. The reason they are stationed in large cities is most likely to intimidate and control the City Lords while also defending the cities. The usual duties of a guard like maintaining the peace are most likely the job of those city guards.

That was Long Chen's thought as he looked around. Ninety million Underworld Soldiers were the main force of the Underworld Estate. They were precious manpower used to protect the land.

Long Chen was now in Underworld City, one of the hundred largest cities of the Underworld Estate.

He looked at the people coming from all different directions to enter the city. Heavenly Eagle Canyon was but one of the smaller routes.

Long Chen joined a group of people and headed towards Underworld City. In a city where experts were everywhere, Long Chen was almost invisible.

Hundreds of thousands of people flowed in and out of the city on the daily.

Long Chen noticed that the people entering were all much more refined than those from Scarlet Sun City. Those who traveled from faraway places had Mech Horses or demonic beasts. There were some who appeared weak, but their auras revealed how strong they actually were. Long Chen took special care to avoid people like them.

I need to enter the Underworld Battlefield to reach the Divine Martial Realm! I shouldn't go to the Underworld Estate until I do that. Only then will I feel safer.

While Long Chen was planning his future, he followed the people and successfully entered Underworld City. There were tens of thousands of city guards, and all of them were sweeping the crowd for anyone suspicious. Everyone felt their scalps growing numb.

Who would be stupid enough to cause trouble here with all of the guards?

Even a tiger would retract their claws.

After passing through the thick, ink-colored city wall, Long Chen finally reached the inside of Underworld City. The city walls had been reinforced by runes.

Long Chen had a feeling that he couldn't break the walls at all, given how thick they were and how the Scribes had reinforced them with runes.

Underworld City was very organized, and each street had a sign. The buildings were large and sturdy with runes carved on them. The entire city was as strong as steel. It was stronger than even the Metal District of the Ancient Graveyard.

Underworld City was being managed strictly and properly by the City Lord. Through the militaristic way of managing it, very few people would dare to fight openly in the city.

That was why it was so peaceful.

There were a lot of people walking on the main street. The main street was further subdivided into numerous smaller streets. Most of the buildings beside the main street were shops, each peddling different wares. There was everything a cultivator would ever need here, from medicines to Divine Weapons to martial techniques.

I need to find out where the Underworld Soldiers are stationed so I can ask about the selection process to join them.

Ah Dong and the others were already in the city, but Long Chen chose not to look for them. Due to the True Martial Overlord Soul, Long Chen's journey would be different from theirs. Even though he was in the Three Emperor Territory, Long Chen's potential was still very incredible.

Everyone had their own destiny. Long Chen had already helped them enough by saving their lives.

Long Chen found a tea shop and sat down inside. He listened to the conversations of the people and observed them. There were a lot of experts here. Most children were at the Earthly Martial Realm, while regular adults were at the Heavenly Martial Realm, with a majority of them falling in between the First and Third Heavenly Martial Stages.

Everyone here was cultivating to some degree. Even a lady chopping up vegetables had an understanding of her own martial arts.

There were also a lot beyond the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage. Long Chen encountered a lot of people at the Seventh or Eighth Heavenly Martial Stages too. There were even some who were comparable to the six demons that had brought Long Chen here.

People like them were legends in the Ancient Graveyard, but here, they were nothing but regular people.

Once the tea was served, Long Chen took the chance to ask, "Do you know where the Underworld Soldiers are stationed?"

The shopkeeper smiled and took out a piece of paper effortlessly. "I've written all of the answers here. There are a lot of young cultivators like you who came from outside to join the Underworld Soldiers. At least ten people ask me about it every day, and let's just say I'm so tired of being asked that I wrote down everything one would want to know about the Underworld Soldiers. You can read it on your own."

"Thank you."

Long Chen chuckled sheepishly. Indeed, he would be very tired too if tens of people kept asking the same questions every day. But that also meant that a lot of people wanted to join the Underworld Soldiers. That was how the Underworld Soldiers maintained their numbers even though a lot of them died every year.

"But, young man, you don't look too strong. I've seen a lot of experts at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage being sent back every year. Are you here just to watch? It won't be easy to become an Underworld Soldier. Even someone at the Seventh Heavenly Martial Stage will be sent back if they don't have a Divine-tier martial technique. It's very difficult to join them!"

"I'm just here to learn more about them. I want to try joining them in ten years. Thank you for warning me."

"I see. The Underworld Soldiers are the main force of the Underworld Estate. No one would dare to fight against all ninety-million of them. That's why their selection process is very rigorous. I wanted to join them when I was younger, but I couldn't reach the Fourth Heavenly Martial Stage even though tens of years had passed. That was why I gave up and opened up a tea shop here."

The shopkeeper sighed and looked at his shop with a solemn gaze.

The world was cruel. Long Chen shook his head and read the paper that the shopkeeper had handed him.

Underworld City has four districts named after the four cardinal directions. The Underworld Soldiers are stationed at the east district. The entire district is closed off and no one can trespass into it.

Every month, on the fifteenth, the Underworld Soldiers open up the registration process to join them. Thousands sign up, but ultimately, only a hundred are chosen.

The selection process takes place in the Ghost Arena. There are four judges to assess the candidates. The candidates showcase their strength by battling either feral beasts or mech beasts.

The judges give scores based on battle experience, strength, spirit, strategy, potential, and mental strength to determine the candidate's worth. A candidate can only successfully join the tentative group if at least three of the judges approve them.

If more than a hundred candidates pass the first round, another selection process is conducted until only a hundred candidates remain. Those who are successful then become the fresh blood of the Underworld Soldiers.

The four judges are all Thousand-Sergeants. Each of them commands a thousand Underworld Soldiers, and they are also experts at the First Divine Martial Stage.

Long Chen slowly read the information on the paper and then consolidated what he had learned. He checked the date and realized it was already the thirteenth. There were two more days before the registration would be opened.

He decided to find out more information for the next two days, such as the kinds of beasts they had to fight during the selection.

Long Chen expected that they would be fighting against a feral beast at the Category Seven Emperor-tier. Additionally, there could be a chance that he would be disqualified if his performance wasn't jaw-dropping even if he killed the feral beast. He needed at least three of the judges to approve!

Still, Long Chen was confident in his strength and was certain that he could win since he could defeat someone at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage.

He wanted to thank the shopkeeper after reading the information, but a large commotion suddenly started outside. Long Chen sipped his tea and looked out.

The other customers in the tea shop were also staring outside.

Surprisingly, the city wasn't in chaos even though the commotion was huge. This was a testament to how well-managed the city was.

Long Chen noticed the shopkeeper looking out there excitedly.

"Shopkeeper, what's going on outside?"

"Oh right, you are an outsider, so you don't know what's happening here."

The shopkeeper wasn't in a hurry since the person of interest wasn't here yet. "I'm much older than you, so you can just call me 'Old Wang.'"

Old Wang then pointed towards the city gates. "I've heard that the City Lord's brother is arriving here today from the Underworld Estate. Looking at the commotion, I suppose that he's already outside."

- Chapter 910 - Beautiful City Lord

Chapter 910 - Beautiful City Lord

Old Wang then pointed at the City Lord's home. "Someone is heading over there to notify the City Lord. The reason why everyone's excited is because our beautiful City Lord is finally heading out. We rarely get to see her since she's always so busy. Her name is Ye Xuan, and she is the idol of every man in this city."

"The Lord of Underworld City? How strong is she?"

Long Chen didn't care how pretty she was, but he was interested in her strength. Normally, only exceptionally strong individuals could hold such a position.

Old Wang wasn't sure. "I'm afraid I don't know. I've only heard rumors that the City Lord is even stronger than General Su Mo, who commands a million Underworld Soldiers. General Su Mo is a genius youth who came from an influential family living in the Underworld Estate. I think he has a predecessor who is one of the Eight Underworld Emperors."

"General Su Mo?"

City Lord Ye Xuan and General Su Mo were most likely the strongest individuals in Underworld City. Long Chen wanted to join the Underworld Soldiers, and their leader in this city was General Su Mo. He had a feeling that he would get to know General Su Mo later.

According to Old Wang, General Su Mo was the most talented individual in the Underworld Soldiers.

A true genius of the Three Emperor Territory.

Luo Wei was nothing compared to Su Mo.

Old Wang explained, "Strength is an important factor to hold a high position in Underworld City. To become a general, one must be at least at the Fourth Divine Martial Stage. Those below it cannot be a general no matter what. Since City Lord Ye Xuan is rumored to be stronger than him, she should be at the Fifth Divine Martial Stage."

Someone at the Fourth or Fifth Divine Martial Stage wasn't someone Long Chen could fight right now.

"Within the ranks of the Underworld Soldiers, someone at the Eighth Heavenly Martial Stage can be a Squad Sergeant. Those at the First Divine Martial Stage can be Hundred-Sergeants. Those at the Second Divine Martial Stage can be Ten-Thousand Sergeants.

Those at the Third Divine Martial Stage can be Underworld Admirals. Each Underworld Admiral commands a hundred thousand troops. We have five of them here in this city, and they work under General Su Mo. There are five more Underworld Admirals, but they are dispersed amongst some of the moderate-sized cities controlled by Underworld City. As for the Eight Underworld Emperors as well as the one-and-only Underworld Overlord... They are monstrous beings that have lived for thousands of years. They are nothing short of legends.”

Old Wang’s explanation stunned Long Chen.

The world was huge, and there were a lot of experts living here.

Underworld City was much stronger than he had thought.

Those at the Divine Martial Realm were considered gods in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, but they were everywhere here.

“Young man, you can be proud of yourself even if you only become a Squad Sergeant within years of joining the Underworld Soldiers. After you die, your family will be able to enjoy the protection of the Underworld Soldiers without worry. Your descendants will also be able to enjoy some form of dedicated training before being prioritized in joining the Underworld Soldiers. Work hard now while you are still young!”

Long Chen smiled. “Thank you, Old Wang. I will work hard.”

He didn’t want to stand out for now, so he acted humble.

“Oh right, I haven’t asked for your name yet.”

“I’m Long Chen.”

Old Wang smiled. “Not a bad name. That said, City Lord Ye Xuan is coming out soon. General Su Mo never leaves her alone, so he should make an appearance too. Let me tell you something interesting.

“There are rumors that General Su Mo is City Lord Ye Xuan’s childhood friend. He has always been chasing her. Back when he was being assigned to a district to work in, General Su Mo had to spend a lot of energy and effort to convince his higher-ups to allow him to get assigned to Underworld City.

“The two of them are considered the greatest love story of Underworld City. I’ve seen General Su Mo once. He’s indeed a man amongst men, and also very kind. He treats his subordinates well, and everyone looks up to him. There are even some who say that he might become the next Underworld Overlord after another thousand years or so. He’s indeed someone who would fit well with Ye Xuan.

“Everyone here expects them to get married one day. Funnily enough, City Lord Ye Xuan set a rule with him stating that she would marry him when his cultivation catches up to hers. That’s why he has been working hard for the past few years, it’s all to catch up to his beloved.”

Old Wang’s mouth never stopped as he gossiped. Long Chen wasn’t interested in any of that, however. He only cared about how strong Ye Xuan or Su Mo was, and he was certain that he couldn’t beat them right now. He could only join the selection process of the Underworld Soldiers and then head out to the Underworld Battlefield for training. He didn’t have time for gossip.

Old Wang was just getting excited with his gossip when the people outside clamored. Everyone looked towards the City Lord’s residence at the same time. Long Chen walked out and almost ran away from shock when he saw the skies filled with incredibly strong experts.

Only those at the Divine Martial Realm could resist the Royal Qi in the air and fly in the Three Emperor Territory.

Roughly a hundred old men were walking out of the City Lord’s residence. They wore simple clothes, but Long Chen was certain that they were incredibly strong.

They must be the followers of the Underworld City Lord. Even a City Lord has hundreds of experts at the Divine Martial Realm under them. There must be more inside the residence. Combined with some other influential families, and disregarding the Underworld Soldiers ... Doesn’t that mean that there are more than a thousand people at the Divine Martial Realm here in this city?

Long Chen felt suffocated when he stared at the black dots slowly walking out and the experts floating in the air. They were much stronger than the six demons from before. Any single one of them could kill Long Chen within a moment. But now there were hundreds of them! Each of them was exuding a divine pressure that fell from the sky.

Those are Divine Martial Realm experts?

Long Chen could sense an intriguing aura coming from their bodies. The pressure they emitted wasn’t strong, but it was mysterious, as if they weren’t from this world. Their auras were flickering, but they were somehow fused with the world.

Long Chen was excited.

He had felt this exact sensation once! It was when he had met the two people who took Ling Xi away back in Baiyang Town. One was Ling Xi’s grandmother, and the other was Wang Chao.

They had given off the same feeling as what Long Chen was sensing right now!

That meant the two of them were at the Divine Martial Realm.

Long Chen cheered excitedly in his heart and his blood rushed towards his head. He was silently shouting with joy.

Xiao Xi, I'm finally near your realm! I'm here in the Three Emperor Territory now! I'm sure that you never thought I'd be on my way to meet you! Once I become stronger and reach the Divine Martial Realm in the Underworld Battlefield, I will come and find you!

Both Ling Xi's grandmother and Wang Chao were far out of Long Chen's reach at the time. He had been trying to guess how strong they were, and now he finally had his answer.

That meant that all his hard work was worth it. He was very close to taking Ling Xi back right now.

Long Chen finally saw hope in front of his eyes.

His biggest advantage right now was the treasure the Five Emperors had given him, the True Martial Overlord Soul.

And the Inherited Blood Essence of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was his biggest trump card.

"The City Lord is here! She's still so pretty! She's the prettiest woman I've ever seen in my life!"

"Yes! She's still so pretty even after all these years."

While Long Chen was feeling excited over learning how strong Ling Xi's family was, the others were busy talking about the City Lord.

Amongst her entourage, her beautiful face outshone everyone. She was the strongest here in Underworld City, and she was the City Lord, Ye Xuan!

In the sky, the beautiful City Lord was wearing a lilac dress that showed her white skin. Her dress fluttered in the wind like a blossoming flower. Her hair was so long that it reached her feet like a black waterfall. It fluttered in the wind and plucked the men's hearts. She was indeed a goddess.

"Is that Ye Xuan?"

She was the strongest person Long Chen had seen ever since he came here. Ye Xuan was indeed beautiful. Her body was toned and her face was pretty. All traces of childishness had faded with age, and she was a mature beauty. Her eyes were clear and bewitching, her nose was just right, and her smile could melt the hearts of others.

It was no wonder almost every man had fallen for her. They admired her from the bottom of their hearts. Ye Xuan wasn't just pretty, but also strong and held an esteemed position. No one dared to sully her even in their thoughts.

Long Chen had an interesting thought: it was technically one of the citizens' privileges to be able to live in the same city as Ye Xuan.