

Envelope 1811

[Red Envelope Group of the Three Realms](#)

Chapter 1811: Tribulation Ability

The Dragon's Edge, it transferred all kinds of information to Chen Xiaobei's mind as he held it in his hand. Thanks to that, Chen Xiaobei got to know his Dragon's Edge better.

Heavenly tribulation would land on a person when the person committed sinful activities that went against heavenly rules.

A trial would be encountered by cultivators at key points in their cultivation, in which they must resist and ultimately transcend. Because immortal cultivation (generally) goes against the Will of Heaven, the Heavens would send down tribulation to oppress high-level cultivators who were in the progress of achieving Immortality. This happened often when they entered a new cultivation stage.

Not all cultivators were qualified to enter the heavenly realm even though they had reached high cultivation. Only those who could pass the test of heavenly tribulation would get baptized and be reborn as a supernatural being! If the person failed the test, its cultivation would be decimated and the person's essence would return back to the embrace of mother nature. Dragon's Edge had sent all these to Chen Xiaobei because the sword itself had been greatly involved with heavenly tribulation!

A long time ago, the Demonic Black Dragon made a huge mess out of the four major seas! Thousands of dragons' Blood Essences were consumed by it. During the fight, countless innocent sea creatures were killed. In the end, the Pagoda-Bearing Heavenly King had to work together with God Erlang and 80,000 heavenly soldiers, taking a few months to defeat it.

Once it was captured, the Jade Emperor announced that it should be killed by the Immortal Guillotine. At that time, it had been summoned to a nine-fold heavenly tribulation. In the end, all its flesh was disintegrated; left with only its bones. There were different tiers of heavenly tribulation – three-fold heavenly tribulation, six-fold heavenly tribulation, and nine-fold heavenly tribulation.

Amongst the three categories, they could be further categorized into Ebony Nirvana Tribulation, Bloodbath Tribulation, Life-and-Death Tribulation, Parched Sky Lighting Tribulation, and Eternal Cycle Tribulation!

When Monkey King was captured for messing up the heavenly realm, he was sent to the Immortal Guillotine and nine-fold heavenly tribulation was summoned unto him. However, Monkey King was born from Divine Stone.

Not only did he survive the heavenly tribulation, he even managed to absorb the essence of nature into his body. In the end, his body and mind became even more powerful than before the trials landed on him.

The Demonic Black Dragon was not as powerful as the Monkey King, and that was why it was killed by the heavenly tribulation. Only one bone was left of it. This piece of bone, like Monkey King, had survived the Nine-Fold Heavenly Tribulation. This could only mean that the bone had also absorbed the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura within the Heavenly Tribulation.

The Spiritual Aura itself did not have any attributes nor did it have special abilities.

However, the Demonic Black Dragon bone contained an unlimited amount of Demonic Qi, menace, dominance, and superciliousness!

Monkey King did not have Demonic Qi, which was why his health skyrocketed after absorbing the Heavenly Tribulation's Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura.

The Demonic Qi in the dragon bone, however, had a peculiar reaction with the Spiritual Aura. Not only did it improve the bone into a much stronger Divine Item, but it also produced a unique spirituality, transforming it into a Demonic Dragon Bone!

This unique spirituality originated from the Heavenly Tribulation.

Because of this hidden characteristic, this Demonic Dragon Bone was the only one of its kind in the three realms, and therefore, extremely valuable!

Originally, the Demonic Dragon Bones belonged to the Pagoda Bearing King, Li Jing – his most valuable possession! But little troublemaker NeZha stole it and gave it away during a Red Envelope Snatching Session!

Chen Xiaobei managed to snatch that very Red Envelope containing the precious dragon bone. He then gave it to the Prime of Tongtian, who forged it into the Black Saber!

Not long ago, Chen Xiaobei refined the Green Dragon sword and the Red Dragon sword. The Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura yielded from that awakened the Dragon's Edge's spirituality, and activated its first special ability!

Three Fold Tribulation!

Ebony Nirvana Tribulation!

This special ability could dismiss all attacks that were one level lower than it!

For example, Dragon's Edge was now a Three-star Earth-God Item! That would mean everything that was weaker than it would be destroyed by the special ability!

During the battle just now, the energy of the three pieces of Earth-God Instruments and the three old men's Ethereal Force disappeared because of the Ebony Nirvana Tribulation!

"No wonder...the Primordial Lord of Heaven has been eyeing the Dragon's Edge... If the Dragon Edge's special abilities were completely awakened... with that old crook's cultivation, he would become someone that only the Ancestral Lord can defeat!"

The importance of the Dragon's Edge finally dawned on Chen Xiaobei.

As the saber continued to grow, it would possess the strength of Six and Nine-Fold Tribulations! One could only imagine how powerful it would become.

At the thought of this, Chen Xiaobei promised himself, "The Dragon's Edge must never fall into the hands of either Shen Gongpao or the Primordial Lord of Heaven!"

...

After a while, everyone gradually recovered from their shock.

Chen Xiaobei needed to take care of the enemy first.

He looked around at the enemy soldiers lying prostrate on the ground like obedient dogs, and declared, "I won't kill you, but I want you to remember this. I, Chen Zhufeng, the faction leader of Bei Xuan, hereby reminds all the forces from starfields all around; that Northern Wilderness is my territory! Whoever dares cause trouble, kill, or harm my family and my friends... I will destroy your families!"

Standing with the Dragon's Edge in his hand, everything he said was like holy words. He would not allow anyone to go against him.

"We remember... We'll remember it... We will never, ever forget it... We will never set foot in Northern Wilderness, ever again..."

The soldiers cried, knocking their heads to the ground.

Chen Xiaobei had put the fear of God into their hearts. They would forever fear Chen Xiaobei and would never dare to offend him again.

Left to live, their only value was to make Chen Xiaobei's warning known in every corner of the other starfields, and to tell them that there was a mysterious faction in Northern Wilderness whose leader wielded a Three-star Earth-God Instrument.

If the magnates of Apocalypse Starfield wanted to impose themselves on Northern Wilderness, they would have to consider their strength first!

"You can all buzz off!" Chen Xiaobei said.

His enemies fled the scene immediately.

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Chapter 1812: Crazy Blessings

The enemy fled Silver Plume planet with their mothership faster than you could say Jack Robinson.

Chen Xiaobei's friends were finally allowed to be at ease.

There was a blend of excitement, applaud, curiosity and glory around and about Chen Xiaobei.

It took quite a while for everything to simmer down.

Dong Zhuo suggested that a ceremony be held in Silver Plume city in honor of Chen Xiaobei.

Chen Xiaobei made no protest, so the people of Silver Plume rushed back to the city to prepare for the party.

...

Only a few members of Bei Xuan faction remained.

Chen Xiaobei put away his saber and greeted his people with a warm smile.

After exchanging a few words with Xiangyu and Six-Eared Macaque, Chen Xiaobei turned his attention to Liu Xuanxin. "Lucky Goddess, what are you playing at? You were not wearing a mask just now! Why did you put it back on?"

"Just now?" Liu Xuanxin reached up to touch her mask, feeling self-conscious. "You... You saw my face?"

"Not clearly... No..." Chen Xiaobei shook his head. "When I jumped down from the waterfall, I could see from the corner of my eyes that you were not wearing a mask. But everything happened so quickly that I missed the chance to see your beautiful face!"

Liu Xuanxin exhaled. "That's a relief..."

Chen Xiaobei made a face. "I really don't understand. You're a beguiling beauty. Why are you afraid of showing me your real face?"

"It's nothing! Hey, aren't you a faction leader? Why are you caught up with a girl's face? Why aren't you more concerned about your disciples? You better take care of them or they'll be very disappointed!"

"Err..." Chen Xiaobei turned around to look at his disciples standing behind him. "How are you guys? Are you all alright?"

"Sifu! We are fine! We're simply exhausted after exerting so much Ethereal Force. We'll be fine after a good rest!" They replied.

Chen Xiaobei nodded and then proceeded to ask, "Oh, I almost forgot. How did the enemy find this place?"

The eldest disciple, Feng Qingyang explained, "Because sifu has taken over Atlantis and has control over the Northern Wilderness Overlord, this place is considered our territory! Some of us would occasionally leave the Secret Space to this forest to hunt for Demonic Beasts or to walk around and relax in the city. It had been fine until today when two of our disciples were followed! Then, that giant mothership showed up, surrounded the waterfall, and jammed our cell signal! Nevertheless, we were so lucky that Ms. Liu was able to get through to you before our formation collapsed! We would've died here today!"

Feng Qingyang spoke with crystal clarity. He even made sure to give credit to Liu Xuanxin.

Chen Xiaobei smiled. "Do you guys understand why I call her Lucky Goddess, now? She always brings me good luck whenever we're paired together!"

"Oh please! Who's paired with you?!" Liu Xuanxin retorted, but her cheeks blushed pink. "Your disciples are watching. Why can't you just be a little more... proper?"

The disciples covered their mouths to muffle their laughter.

Chen Xiaobei signaled for them to stop. "Okay, seriously, the Secret Space is now exposed. I think we should move!"

"Move where?" Xiangyu asked eagerly. "I hope we move to a high-ranking starfield! It'll be filled with opportunities and challenges! That's where I can get stronger faster!"

Six-Eared Macaque shook his head. "You're asking too much of Xiaobei! Not everyone can go to those places! I think it's enough to move to a middle-ranking starfield – somewhere a little better than a low-ranking starfield is still better than nothing!"

Liu Xuanxin showed even more consideration for Chen Xiaobei. "I think Northern Wilderness Starfield is pretty good! Xiaobei is working hard on his own out there! We shouldn't be giving him more to worry about!"

The funny blurb drew more happy laughter.

Liu Xuanxin blushed a furious pink under her mask.

Xiangyu came to her rescue. "That's true! Xiaobei, you make the arrangements! We won't raise any questions. We'll move wherever you tell us to!"

The people of Bei Xuan looked at their fearless leader and nodded in agreement.

Chen Xiaobei shrugged. "I've decided to bring Bei Xuan Faction to the highest-ranking starfield!"

"What?! Highest-ranking starfield? Are you serious?!"

Everyone spoke at once, surprised by his answer.

In their eyes, the idea of moving to the highest-ranking starfield was farfetched. At this point, a middle-ranking starfield seemed like a more viable option.

They had not expected the former to be Chen Xiaobei's answer.

"This is not a joke!" Chen Xiaobei answered. "Here in the Earthly Realm, the highest-ranking starfield is Apocalypse Starfield! It is made up of four major continents – Green Dragon, Vermillion Phoenix, White Tiger, and Black Tortoise! I'm thinking of moving Bei Xuan to Vermillion Phoenix!"

"This... This is great!" Xiangyu, in his excitement, did a little dance. "Xiaobei! You are awesome! You've only been gone for a few months, and you've already made your mark in the highest-ranking starfield! That's above and beyond our expectations!"

"Well said!" Six-Eared Macaque patted his friend on the shoulder. "With Bei Xuan in Apocalypse Starfield, we would be only one step away from the Earth-God realm! Xiaobei, I give you 320 likes!"

Liu Xuanxin was still digesting the news. "Xiaobei... You sure bring us a hell lot of surprises!"

"There's more!" Chen Xiaobei grinned. He took out the three Earth-God Instruments he had just taken from his enemies and another twelve from his personal collection. "Xiangyu, Six-Ear, Lucky Goddess. Each of you, choose one to protect yourselves!"

"What?!" came a loud and uniform gasp, all very aware of how valuable of a commodity an Earth-God instrument was.

Chen Xiaobei's generosity had them all thunderstruck! He was giving away three Earth-God Instruments, and they each got to choose one!

There was no other person in the world as benevolent as Chen Xiaobei!

“Don’t be too surprised!” Chen Xiaobei raised a hand. “Let me just make this official. Should anyone in our faction reach God-Ascension cultivation, they will receive an Earth-God Instrument!”

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Chapter 1813: New Plan

“My god...”

“Sifu... You’re... phenomenal...unsurpassable...”

“It’s no doubt my biggest blessing to be a Bei Xuan disciple...”

The people of Bei Xuan hooted. The atmosphere was jubilant.

From now onwards, each of them would work doubly hard towards God-Ascension cultivation so that they too, could receive the reward of a lifetime from their sifu – an Earth-God Instrument!

No other faction lavished their disciples in such a way! Bei Xuan was the first and only one to do this!

“Bro Bei... What about me?” The Northern Wilderness Overlord asked hopefully.

Chen Xiaobei eyeballed the man and said, “You are not one of us. Also, you have to stay and take care of Northern Wilderness Starfield for me. You don’t need an Earth-God Instrument in a low-ranking starfield!”

“Oh... Okay...” The overlord looked very disappointed as he retreated to one side, shooting envious glances at Xiangyu, Six-Eared Macaque and Liu Xuanxin.

As a close friend of Chen Xiaobei, Xiangyu was not one to show reservation. He selected a Two-star Earth-God Instrument. “I want this saber! It’s really powerful!”

That was the very saber Chen Xiaobei took off the Tenshou emperor.

Six-Eared Macaque picked a Two-star Earth-God Instrument. “I want this longsword! It’s agile – very suitable for me!”

This sword too, belonged to the Tenshou emperor. It was no less powerful than the one Xiangyu picked.

“Lucky Goddess, it’s your turn to choose. Pick one!” Chen Xiaobei smiled.

Liu Xuanxin’s creased her brows. “These gifts are all too valuable... I can’t take them... Keep them...”

“Silly girl!” Chen Xiaobei chuckled. “Your phone call saved everyone here! You deserve to have one of these valuable gifts!”

“Yeah! Miss Liu, just choose one! Or we’ll feel bad for having taken one!” Six-Eared Macaque and Xiangyu urged.

“That’s true! Miss Liu, don’t refuse sifu’s sincerity towards you!” The disciples of Bei Xuan exhorted.

Liu Xuanxin began to panic. It was a good thing she had the mask on.

“Xuanxin!” Chen Xiaobei said. “You’re already one of us! You belong to Bei Xuan and you are already at God-Ascension cultivation! What if something like today happens again? Don’t you think you’ll be able to protect more people with an Earth-God Instrument?”

“Mm... You’re right...” Liu Xuanxin finally conceded.

The truth was, Liu Xuanxin had a very special affinity with Bei Xuan faction.

She was there when Bei Xuan faction was first founded.

Furthermore, the faction’s name had the word ‘Bei’ and ‘Xuan’ in it.

If she needed to become stronger so that she could protect Bei Xuan faction, Liu Xuanxin was more than happy to oblige.

“Choose one then!” Chen Xiaobei encouraged.

“Wasn’t there a ring?” Liu Xuanxin asked.

Chen Xiaobei had taken out fifteen Earth-God Instruments earlier on, and only twelve were on display now.

He could not give the Chaos Blood Sword and the Blood God’s Deity-Killing painting away, of course.

The other Earth-God Instruments that he kept away was the Frozen Heart Spiritual Ring that he had embellished.

Chen Xiaobei stammered, “Erm... That ring... has an owner already!”

Liu Xuanxin saw right through him. “Hmph! You womanizer! I bet you’re going to use that ring to woo women!”

“Er...” Chen Xiaobei was at a loss.

“Hmph! I knew it!” Liu Xuanxin said sourly. “I was going to be sparing and choose the smallest one! But I guess there’s no need for that anymore! I will choose a Two-star Earth-God Instrument! This machete!”

“No problem! It’s yours!” Chen Xiaobei handed the purple machete to her.

After that, Chen Xiaobei relinquished his connection with the three Earth-God Instruments so that they could acknowledge their new owners.

...

Chen Xiaobei had one Three-star Earth-God Instrument, three Two-star Earth-God Instruments and twelve One-star Earth-God Instruments left in his possession.

The Dragon’s Edge, Chaos Blood Sword, Blood God’s Deity-Killing painting and the Frozen Heart Spiritual Ring were not to be given away.

Chen Xiaobei had decided to refine the remaining two Two-star Earth-God Instruments and eleven One-star Earth-God Instruments into Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura.

Having experienced the power of the Dragon's Edge, Chen Xiaobei finally understood the importance of Earth-God level instruments!

Compared to his Dragon's Edge, all the other lower-grade Earth-God Instruments were nothing to him!

Even if all of them were added together, they would never be able to compare to the Dragon's Edge!

So, why not turn them into Spiritual Aura to upgrade even bigger Earth-God Instruments?

Even if there was Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura, it would still not be enough to upgrade Dragon's Edge but the Chaos Blood Sword and Blood God's Deity-Killing painting had the potential to become divine relics – they were worth investing in!

Come to think of it, he could even upgrade the Somersault Cloud.

As a flying Spiritual Item, its Special Ability to fly was irreplaceable.

If he could transform the cloud into an Earth-God Instrument and he would be able to travel at Earth-God speed, faster than any high-ranking starfield's spacecraft!

When he had finished with the upgrades, he could even use the remaining Spiritual Aura to upgrade his strength!

As soon as that thought crossed his mind, Chen Xiaobei brought out the Heaven and Earth Cauldron and began the refining process.

After the necessary arrangements had been made, Chen Xiaobei gathered everyone still in the secret space.

Everyone from Bei Xuan faction was going to attend Silver Plume city's party that night.

The dinner was abuzz with excitement and happy chatter. It was as lively as a New Year's celebration.

Chen Xiaobei, Ning Yuchen, and the others chatted over wine as Chen Xiaobei invited his Silver Plume friends to join Bei Xuan faction in Apocalypse Starfield.

Ning Yuchen, Liu Chen, Hu Ben, Wenren Muyue, and Miao Yiyue accepted and joined Bei Xuan on the spot.

Although it might have been a little awkward to call Chen Xiaobei 'sifu', they found it hard to turn down such a great opportunity. Their future was more promising than ever now that they were a part of this phenomenal faction!

The ceremony lasted late into the night.

Chen Xiaobei had not forgotten about important matters though – he made plans with Qin Yitian, where all of them would head to Vermillion Phoenix tomorrow!

Chapter 1814: Heading Towards Vermillion Phoenix

The very next morning, Chen Xiaobei moved Bei Xuan faction and the people of Bei Xuan into his Green Jade Gourd.

That way, they could move freely while Chen Xiaobei traveled.

When everyone was safely tucked away, Chen Xiaobei took out the returning bracelet. Its last location was marked at the secret cultivation room in the Tenshou Imperial Palace.

...

Upon arriving at the palace, Chen Xiaobei summoned the Tenshou emperor Wugui Osama.

As per Chen Xiaobei's instruction, the emperor planted all 200 nuclear warheads in various army camps, armories and ordinance factories throughout the entire starfield.

A remote fuse was attached to the warheads so that they could be detonated simultaneously from a safe distance.

As a result, Tenshou's military forces would be completely destroyed.

Chen Xiaobei took the detonator with him before giving the Tenshou emperor another secret mission.

It would be on hold and kept classified until the end of Saint Duke's betrothal.

With all the preparations done and dusted in Tenshou, Chen Xiaobei had another eight days until the deadline of the betrothal. He was going to present Puti with the most staggering and mind-blowing gift ever.

...

After that, Chen Xiaobei left Tenshou via the portal in the imperial city and travelled to Black Tortoise, which was at the lowest-level of Apocalypse Starfield.

Further up was White Tiger, then Vermillion Phoenix, before finally reaching Green Dragon which was also the continent closest to the Earth-God realm.

This time, Chen Xiaobei's destination was Vermillion Phoenix where the Qin Family was.

Qin Yitian had proven herself to be reliable. Settling Bei Xuan faction within the Qin Family's territory would ensure the safety of Chen Xiaobei's people.

On top of that, they could also enjoy the dense and pure Spiritual Qi available in the top-ranking starfields.

With the Primordial Jade Divine Skill, the people of Bei Xuan could increase their cultivation as quickly as possible!

...

Qin Yitian was waiting for Chen Xiaobei in Black Tortoise.

"Ms. Qin! Why are you here? Haven't I told you I can manage on my own?" said Chen Xiaobei with a smile.

Qin Yitian shook her head. "You've never been to Vermillion Phoenix before. It's unfamiliar to you. I would feel much better getting you there myself."

“Alright, since you’re here already, I’ll go with you!” Chen Xiaobei shrugged.

“Good, let’s get to the portal!” answered Qin Yitian who then lead Chen Xiaobei to a high-tier portal.

Although all four continents belonged to the same starfield, great distance divided them.

Even the portal that connected them had to be of a higher grade as one went upward.

A bright light flashed, and Chen Xiaobei and Qin Yitian were sent to Vermillion Phoenix.

After that, they journeyed using Qin Yitian’s red spacecraft.

The Green Dragon spacecraft that Chen Xiaobei saw last time flew at a demigod speed and was fueled by high-grade Spiritual Stones.

Qin Yitian’s spacecraft only used medium-grade Spiritual Stones and moved faster than a cultivator at the peak-phase of Ethereal Cultivation.

The surface area of Black Tortoise was equivalent to 30,000 Neptune Capital Planets, with Vermillion Phoenix three times of that!

Although Qin Yitian’s spacecraft was fast, it still took them a day and a night to reach Qin Family’s territory.

Supposedly, upon arriving in Vermillion Phoenix imperial city, they could have gone to Qin Family’s place through a portal but they had chosen to travel by spacecraft as Chen Xiaobei wanted to familiarize himself with the environment.

Instead of cultivating like he normally did on trips like this, Chen Xiaobei listened to Qin Yitian introduce the surroundings of Vermillion Phoenix.

“The first thing you need to know is that the Vermillion Phoenix imperial city is the indisputable force of the continent!” Qin Yitian said. “The most powerful cultivators in our continent congregate in the imperial city. It has the largest resources, the most developed economy, and the most advanced technology. All in all, the best things are all in the imperial city!”

Chen Xiaobei nodded, “It’s like ‘the’ imperial city!”

Qin Yitian continued, “Our family is considered the most powerful within the imperial city! But then again, Vermillion Phoenix is so vast that there are at least nine other forces who are on an equal footing with us! There are also countless families, factions, organizations, and groups under these ten most powerful forces!”

Chen Xiaobei asked, “So, will my Bei Xuan faction be also one of these?”

“Of course not.” Qin Yitian shook her head. “You’re an incredible Traditional Chinese Medicine doctor! That alone will make Bei Xuan the most powerful force in my family’s territory. Your faction will rise to fame very quickly and be known throughout the entire Apocalypse Starfield!”

Chen Xiaobei smiled politely. “I don’t wish for Bei Xuan faction to be famous. I only want my family, friends, and disciples to live safely and peacefully in Vermillion Phoenix!”

“Don’t worry, Childe Chen,” Qin Yitian assured. “I guarantee that no one would dare touch a single hair on them while they are in my family’s domain!”

“I feel much relieved now having heard that from you!” Chen Xiaobei nodded. “Oh, by the way, you’ve completed the purchase of the Spiritual Items for me, right?”

“Yes! I’ve used all 13 trillion Spiritual Stones! I bought 200,000 Five-star Spiritual Items for 1 trillion low-grade Spiritual Stones, 100,000 Six-star Spiritual Items for 3 trillion, 60,000 Seven-star for 420 billion...”

Chen Xiaobei cut in, “You don’t have to give me a detailed account. I trust you! Helping me spend all the Stones is already a very big help!

Qin Yitian looked at him in surprise. “Childe Chen, you’re really generous! I was so afraid that I couldn’t spend everything! Luckily, the population here in Vermillion Phoenix is dense and their resources abundant! I’m glad I didn’t end up disappointing you!”

“Thank you so much!” Chen Xiaobei nodded. “Oh, isn’t that your family’s territory in front? I can see a flag with the word ‘Qin’ printed on it!”

“Yes! We’re here!”

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Chapter 1815: Settling Down

Up ahead, a large walled city came into view.

The walls stretched tens of thousands of miles around a city with a landmass of an astonishing 100 million square kilometers!

That was 10 times the size of the largest country on earth, and this was only the capital city at the core of the Qin Family territory!

The Qin’s entire terrain was ten times that of earth’s!

It was unimaginably big.

Though, having seen the imperial cities of Black Tortoise and Vermillion Phoenix, Chen Xiaobei was not surprised.

“Childe Chen, our capital city may not live up to the imperial city’s standards, but it is vast. We also have a lot of places with good fengshui in the city. I’ll bring you around later. You can choose whichever piece of land that you like!”

Qin Yitian flew her spacecraft closer to the ground and had a closer look at the city.

Chen Xiaobei nodded. “I have a question: Is there a Spiritual Channel underground?”

“Of course!” Qin Yitian said. “In their early establishment, all the forces would choose good fengshui for their places with Spiritual Channels as the foundation of their forces! Not only can the Spirit Qi from the channels help speed up the people’s cultivation, they can also cultivate health and prolong life! This is vital to the growth and continuation of a force! It’s extremely important! Normally, the bigger the force,

the higher the grade of Spiritual Channel they'll occupy! Fights may even break out between forces for the best Spiritual Channel!"

Chen Xiaobei frowned. "Do outsiders have access to the Spiritual Channel?"

"No..." Qin Yitian shook her head. "Only the core members of our family can use the capital city's Spiritual Channel. Outsiders can only use the spillovers which are extremely little!"

Chen Xiaobei considered this and then said, "Ms. Qin, I don't want Bei Xuan to be in the capital city!"

"Why is that?" Qin Yitian asked.

"Because I need an independent Spiritual Channel that my faction can have absolute control over!"

It was understandable since Chen Xiaobei had given three of his people a two-star Earth-God Instrument each. Without a Spiritual Channel supplying Spiritual Qi, they would not be able to wield the instruments, not with their cultivation at least.

"I'm afraid that's not going to be easy!" Qin Yitian sighed. "There's a limited number of spiritual channels, and they are even harder to come by than Earth-God Instruments. It's almost impossible to find one that has not been claimed already. Even if you do find it, you would have to fight someone else for it! It's a lot of trouble!"

Chen Xiaobei fell into deep thoughts upon hearing this.

On one hand, he had hoped his faction would have their own Spiritual Channel so that Xiang Yu and the others could protect themselves.

On the other hand, he was worried that their Spiritual Channel would draw enemies, thereby putting his people in danger.

"I have a suggestion!" Qin Yitian piqued. "You can temporarily place Bei Xuan faction in the city so that it'll be protected! Then, you can take your time and find a suitable place. You can move out when you find it!"

"Mm, good idea!" Chen Xiaobei nodded. "I'll do just that!"

After all, Vermillion Phoenix was an alien environment to Chen Xiaobei and his people. There was still a lot of unknown enemies out there. Safety was a better option!

...

Under Qin Yitian's guidance, Chen Xiaobei chose an empty plot north of the city.

It was a vast land with a superb environment. Within walking distance, there were many commercial shops selling all kinds of goods and services, a very accessible spot.

The only drawback of that location was that it was a little too far from the city center.

There was not much that could be done, however. The capital city had been around for thousands of years. All of the prime areas of the city had already been long occupied.

The area of the capital city was huge. This plot of land was thousands of miles away from Qin Yitian's mansion.

When compared to earth, it would be equivalent to intercontinental travel between several countries.

In fact, it was so vast that the people from the north, south, east and west cities had all developed different traditions and cultures! The people from these cities may not even meet each other for an entire lifetime!

Some of the low-level citizens were not even aware of Qin Yitian's existence.

Of course, this did little to thwart Qin Family's authority. It was the Qins' territory after all. Should anything happen, one call to Qin Yitian could solve the problem. There was nothing to worry about.

...

After that, Chen Xiaobei moved the entire Bei Xuan faction to the vacant plot and had everyone settle down.

Of course, the Blackwater Mystical Snake and the three God-Ascension Beast Kings could not stay in the city due to their size, so Chen Xiaobei kept them inside his Myriad Beasts Ring.

Xiao'bai and Sirius too. To speed up their cultivation, Chen Xiaobei had them remain inside the Myriad Beasts Ring as well.

Right now, there were Twelve Golden Winged Cicadas, a Giant Barbaric Tiger, Xiao Bai, Sirius, the Blackwater Mystical Snake and the three Beast Kings inside the Myriad Beasts Ring!

With so many Spiritual Beasts inside, the consumption of Spiritual Qi soared.

In order to maintain the beasts' cultivation at an accelerated rate, Chen Xiaobei was obliged to part with 39,000 medium-grade Spiritual Stones.

390 million low-grade Spiritual Stones was enough to keep the Spiritual Beasts cultivating for a long time.

After that, Chen Xiaobei gave Xiang Yu, Six-Eared Macaque and Liu Xuanxin 10,000 medium-grade Spiritual Stones each.

Before locating a suitable, independent Spiritual Channel, the three of them would have to use Spiritual Stones to power their Earth-God Instruments.

Now, he only had 20,000 medium-grade Spiritual Stones and 130 million low-grade Spiritual Stones left.

The Dragon's Edge alone required 100 million low-grade Spiritual Stones to work.

Chen Xiaobei was in a shortage of Spiritual Stones and he needed to figure out the fastest way to earn more.

Luckily, before he left Tenshou starfield, he had taken 30 billion low-grade Spiritual Stones. Also, there was still 200 million low-grade ones inside the Dragon's Edge.

He was not short on Spiritual Stones for combat-use. It was the Spiritual Stones for daily expenditure that he needed to find a way to obtain.

He had not much left because he had used most of his stones to buy Spiritual Items. Crazy as it may seem, these 100,000 over Spiritual Items was going to bring Chen Xiaobei a huge return, far more than the value of the Spiritual Stones he used!

...

With everything settled down, and Qin Yitian sent off, Chen Xiaobei went to his private cultivation room and brought out the Heaven and Earth Furnace.

The two Two-star Earth-God Instruments and ten One-star Earth-God Instruments had been completely refined in the past two days.

Twelve rays of rainbow Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura lit up the furnace.

“Next, it’s time to upgrade my core item!” Chen Xiaobei rubbed his hands excitedly. “Which one should I start with? Somersault Cloud or Chaos Blood Sword?”

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Chapter 1816: Fully Upgraded

“We’ll start with the Somersault Cloud!” Chen Xiaobei said.

It was then when Yun Zhongzi plucked the Prosperity Cloud to make this instrument. Although the cloud was currently at the level of a Spiritual Instrument, it was actually a Divine Tier item. There was still much room for improvement.

Moreover, Flying Spiritual Items were also very rare; their Flying Special Ability irreplaceable.

If the Somersault Cloud could be enhanced to a One-star Earth-God Instrument, it would be able to fly at Earth-God speed, faster than Qin Yitian’s spacecraft!

It was for these reasons that Chen Xiaobei chose to upgrade the Somersault Cloud first.

Three One-star Earth-God Instruments worth of Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura found their way into the Somersault Cloud at Chen Xiaobei’s will.

Then, the Somersault Cloud’s Spirituality gradually grew stronger.

From a Seven-star Spiritual Instrument, it went to Eight, Nine until it finally reached a One-star Earth-God Instrument level!

“It worked!” Chen Xiaobei’s face lit up. “The Somersault Cloud is now a One-star Earth-God Instrument! I can now fly as fast as a One-star Earth-God on the Somersault Cloud! But even if a One-star Earth-God Instrument cannot fly, I still could! If a fight breaks out, I can attack, retreat and fly! How useful! However, it will take three One-star Earth-God Instruments’ Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura to upgrade it to One-star Earth-God Instrument! That’s not a small price to pay!”

“That means I need three Two-star Earth-God Instruments to get the Somersault Cloud to Two-star! The Dragon’s Edge will need three Four-star Earth-God Instruments to get to a Four-star level! That’s

basically using three Earth-God Instruments to exchange for one Earth-God instrument of the same level! On the surface, it doesn't seem very cost-effective, but if don't use the Spiritual Aura, I will have to look for specific Earth-God grade materials to upgrade my Somersault Cloud! That will require a lot of time, energy and wealth!

In fact, I might not even find any! Using the Spiritual Aura from the Earth-God Instruments would mean I can save a lot of money! More importantly, Spiritual Aura upgrades the instruments immediately. This will save me a lot of time! The instruments that I'm refining are all crappy Earth-God Instruments! Using trash to groom a Divine Item is a loss at all! You win some, you lose some!"

After reasoning with himself, Chen Xiaobei put the remaining Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura, two Two-star Earth-God grade, and seven One-star Earth-God grade Instruments into the Blood-God's Deity-Killing painting.

"I want to make it Two-star Earth-God level! This instrument can only bind those who are below a One-star Earth-God level. Once it's upgraded, it'll be able to shackle people below a Two-star Earth-God level! It's going to be really useful in a large-scale battle!"

The One-star Somersault Cloud was good enough at its current One-star level.

The Chaos Blood Sword was a close-range weapon. There was no rush to upgrade Chaos Blood Sword – Chen Xiaobei had the Dragon's Edge.

The nine Spiritual Aura entered the Blood-God's Deity-Killing painting!

"I can feel the painting's Spirituality strengthening! But these nine Spiritual Aura are not enough to upgrade the painting! According to my calculation earlier, I need three Two-star Earth-God grade Spiritual Aura to get it to Two-star. Among these nine Heaven and Earth Spiritual Auras, only two are Two-stars. The rest are only One-star! Ten One-star Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura is equivalent to one Two-star Spiritual Aura! That means I still need three One-star Spiritual Aura!"

Chen Xiaobei took out the storage bracelet that Qin Yitian had returned to him. Inside were more than 100,000 Spiritual Items worth 13 trillion Spiritual Stones.

At his command, 25 five-star Spiritual Items and 20,000 six-star Spiritual Instruments were delivered into the Heaven and Earth Furnace.

The Transmogrifying Flame was lit up and the refining began.

Refining Spiritual Items did not take long. When it was done, fine strands of Spiritual Aura appeared in the place of the items.

From the looks of it, they appeared to be equivalent to three One-star Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura. Combined with the seven One-star Spiritual Aura earlier, they total up to one Two-star Spiritual Aura.

"Its Spirituality is escalating!" Chen Xiaobei exclaimed.

The Blood-God's Deity-Killing painting was now a Two-star Earth-God Instrument.

Originally, One-star Earth-God Instruments could vanquish the blood-red ocean of fire that confined the enemy.

From today onwards, however, both One-star Earth-Gods and One-star Earth-God Instruments would be helpless under the painting's restraints!

"Now, I have 80,000 Six-star Spiritual Items, 60,000 Seven-star Spiritual Items, 30,000 Eight-star Spiritual Items, 10,000 Nine-star Spiritual Items..." Chen Xiaobei listed. "After I've refined all of these, I can upgrade the Somersault cloud one more time, and still have a bit of Spiritual Aura left!"

At that thought, Chen Xiaobei placed everything from his storage bracelet into the Heaven and Earth Furnace and began the refining process.

The Spiritual Items' value were not going to appreciate in storage anyway. It only made sense to refine them all.

Once the Somersault Cloud was upgraded, Chen Xiabei would be able to fly at a Two-star Earth-God speed.

After a while, the Spiritual Items were all refined.

Fine strands of Spiritual Aura tunneled their way into the Somersault Cloud and upgraded the One-star Earth-God Instrument.

Dragon's Edge, Three-star, focused on small-scale battles.

Blood God's Deity-Killing painting, Two-star, for the large-scale battles.

Somersault Cloud, Two-star, specialized in speed.

"Now, I can win any battle below a Three-star Earth-God! In fact, I can even fight Three-star Earth-Gods!" Chen Xiaobei was in a good mood. "There's still a few more strands of Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura left inside the furnace. I can use these to increase my strength!"

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Chapter 1817: The Betrothal Finale

Chen Xiaobei inhaled the leftover Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura from the furnace into his Dantian.

Ding!

[Cultivation: Early phase of God-Ascension cultivation; Lifespan: 10,100 years; Health: 1,096,000; Combat power: 700,000]

"Sweet!" Chen Xiaobei was exultant. "That's 32,000 increase in both my combat power and health! That's even better than eating a 9,000-year-old Saturn Peach!"

Even with the boost of Heavenly Path's reward, a 9,000-year-old Saturn Peach can only add 18,000 to his health and combat power each; and here was this surplus of Spiritual Aura instantaneously increasing to nearly double that.

He did not even need to cultivate at all.

When he finally calmed down from his excitement, Chen Xiaobei came to a decision, "I've used up all the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Aura. I need to earn more Spiritual Stones and accumulate more wealth

so that I can do this more often! Of course, I still have the 800 Earth Crystal Essence which is a Two-star Earth-God material Monkey King gave me! But this material's Special Ability is very extraordinary – it contains unlimited life force! I might have use of it in the future like the Living Soil. For now, I shouldn't refine it. I should just save it for a rainy day!"

...

Nearly a day had passed by the time Chen Xiaobei settled his affairs.

There were only three days to the submission day of Saint Duke's final betrothal contest!

Chen Xiaobei decided to spend one day with his parents, Bei Xuan faction friends, disciples and familiarizing himself with the new surroundings.

After that, he left for Saint Duke starfield. To avoid any delay in time, he decided to use the portals.

He arrived in the capital city on the evening of the second day.

Chen Xiaobei freshened up and then spent 20 hours of the third day cultivating.

Because he had no more Demonic Beast Essence, he had to resort to using Spiritual Qi.

That would mean 20 hours, or 2 billion low-grade Spiritual Stones (which was the same as 20 high-grade Spiritual Stones).

This time, Chen Xiaobei focused on refining his health. With the added boost of the Heavenly Path's reward, it earned him an increase of 4,000.

Ding!

[Cultivation: Early phase of God-Ascension cultivation; Lifespan: 10,100 years; Health: 1,100,000; Combat power: 700,000]

"After such a long wait, it's finally the day I get to see Puti again!"

At first light, Chen Xiaobei was already making preparations. He cleaned himself up and changed into his upgraded Nightstalker Outfit.

From head to toe, Chen Xiaobei looked dashing dressed in black.

His good looks turned heads as he walked the streets, especially those of younger girls. They appeared to be bedazzled like crazy fangirls.

Of course, Chen Xiaobei's heart was in Saint Duke's palace, completely ignorant of his surroundings as he made his way there.

...

Eighth Wangye and Luo Shanhe were waiting at the entrance as Chen Xiaobei arrived at the Saint Duke royal palace.

Chen Xiaobei had performed exceptionally well in the first two contests. It would not be right for the Saint Duke royalty to disregard Chen Xiaobei.

“Childe Chen! Please, come in!” Luo Shanhe’s tone was polite but his eyes were cautious.

“How many contenders do I have today?” Chen Xiaobei asked, giving the place quick sweep.

He could see that the number of guards in the palace had tripled; each of them clad in heavy armor and fully armed to the teeth. All of them were in their battle stance!

Chen Xiaobei knew that Saint Duke had suspected him to be Tenshou’s mole.

Today was the final round of the betrothal contest; it was only natural for Saint Duke to take extra precaution.

Chen Xiaobei had already expected this but he could not be bothered to explain himself.

The truth shall prevail.

Shortly, Chen Xiaobei would prove their misgivings with a gift that would shock all of Saint Duke.

Luo Shanhe answered, “Childe Tulong, Childe Changxiao, and Childe Chongwu! All three of them will be joining the third round! They’re already in the palace!”

“Huh?” Chen Xiaobei raised an eyebrow. “It’s unlike Helian Tulong to arrive this early!”

Luo Shanhe smiled, “That’s because he’s prepared his betrothal gift in advance.”

“Oh really?” Chen Xiaobei’s lips curved into a knowing smile.

He did not even have to crack his head to know that for the sake of reaping the biggest benefit, the imperial family of Saint Duke had already decided Helian Tulong as the default winner of the contest.

Helian Tulong had come a few days before the appointed time. Who knew, they might have already discussed the wedding plans and the terms of collaboration between Saint Duke and the Helian family.

To put it plainly, today’s submission was just a mere formality; to give an account of the events to the people of Saint Duke and the rest of the universe.

Chen Xiaobei, Feng Chongwu, and Yun Changxiao were just supporting characters in this written script. None of them were going to be chosen.

Of course, although Chen Xiaobei saw through it all, he made no mention of it.

He had come today with absolute confidence that he would be able to change this already predetermined conclusion!

...

The main hall of the royal palace was abuzz with activity.

Since this was the last round of the betrothal contest, the royal family and hundreds of civil and military officials were present, lined up neatly on both sides of the square.

The Emperor of Saint Duke had also decided to grace them with his presence. He sat in the chief’s seat in the center.

“Childe Chen has arrived!” a chief manager announced.

Immediately, all eyes turned to the handsome black-robed young man.

They gave him all kinds of looks: curious, puzzled, caution, measured, hostile, and even murderous.

Most people would have been scared half to death under such circumstances, but Chen Xiaobei’s mindset was as solid as a rock. The strange looks he received did not falter him at all, and he was as calm as a millpond as he strolled across the plaza.

When he reached the front, Chen Xiaobei raised a hand-in-fist gesture towards the emperor and greeted in the politest voice, “The leader of Bei Xuan faction, Chen Xiaobei, is here to meet the emperor!”

“Audacious little thief! How dare you not bend your knee before the emperor of Saint Duke?!” an angry voice scolded.

Chen Xiaobei looked and saw that it was his adversary, the champion of the Nine Zones Earth Leaderboard, Helian Tulong who had spoken.

Everyone, including the Saint Duke royalty, stood on their feet whereas Helian Tulong sat on the left-hand side of emperor Luo Qiongcang.

Feng Chongwu and Yun Changxiao were also seated but a little further behind from where Helian Tulong was seating.

Chen Xiaobei answered stubbornly, “I’m not a citizen of Saint Duke. Why should I kneel? In fact, I should be seated like the three childe!”

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Chapter 1818: Making Things Difficult

“Heh. What makes you think you’re qualified to be on par with us?” Helian Tulong sniffed. “You have two options: either kneel or get out of here!”

Feng Chongwu and Yun Changxiao laughed mockingly at the side. “What a joke! Has he even seen himself in the mirror?”

Ignoring the jibes and insults, Chen Xiaobei looked at the Luo Qiongcang. “Your grace, my name is Chen Xiaobei, has Princess Puti never mentioned me?”

Luo Qiongcang looked taken aback. “What? Chen Xiaobei? Aren’t you Chen Zhufeng?”

Chen Xiaobei’s brows furrowed, “My surname is Chen. Xiaobei is my given name, and Zhufeng is my alias!”

Luo Puti did not reveal this fact to anyone to protect Chen Xiaobei.

With Saint Duke knee-deep in war, he would be in grave danger should the enemy find out about his real identity.

Luo Puti was absent so she could not confirm Chen Xiaobei’s identity.

Luo Qiongchang said, "I don't care if you're called Chen Xiaobei or Chen Zhufeng. Today, you will do as Childe Tulong says!"

A satisfied grin played on Helian Tulong's lips, his chin tilted upwards.

He was clearly trying to humiliate Chen Xiaobei in the worst way possible.

The hundreds of people around him looked amused as if Chen Xiaobei was the stand-up and them, the audience, waiting for the punchline.

Chen Xiaobei was obstinate. "There's a rumor going around that Helian Tulong has already been preordained to be the next Fuma candidate! I didn't want to believe it at first, but it looks like the rumor was true! The distinguished Saint Duke Starfield opened the betrothal contest to all Nine Zones but at the end of the day, it's just a shameless farce! How laughable! How pathetic!"

"Nonsense!" Luo Qiongchang boomed. "This betrothal contest is fair, impartial and transparent! There's no predetermined fuma!"

"Heh!" Chen Xiaobei sniggered. "The people's eyes are clear. The way you treat me today will be made known throughout the entire Nine Zones by tomorrow! Not only will the people say that Saint Duke had already predetermined a fuma, but they would also say you have already predetermined its future emperor!"

"You presumptuous fool! I'm not dead yet! Who dares become the new emperor of Saint Duke? Who?" Luo Qiongchang thundered. He was so angry he was on his feet.

Luo Qiongchang was the second most powerful elite on the Nine Zones Heaven leaderboard, the imposing presence he exuded was extremely powerful.

The people fell silent at this display of wrath.

Only Chen Xiaobei was unshaken. "You are the emperor but yet, you've allowed Helian Tulong to make the decisions! If I didn't put it out there, many people would have still said that Helian Tulong will be the new emperor of Saint Duke!"

"You..." Luo Qiongchang began but could not find the right words.

Indeed, gossip was a fearful thing! Whatever that rolled off the tongues of people was impossible to control!

If this matter was leaked to the public, Luo Qiongchang and the entire Saint Duke Starfield would become the topic of ridicule in the entire Nine Zones!

Chen Xiaobei pressed on. "Being laughed at is nothing! Being seen as the enemy is even scarier!"

"Wh... What do you mean?" Luo Qiongchang's heart was in his throat.

Saint Duke was already in a precarious circumstance and could barely cope with their existing enemies. They would not dare acquire more.

"In the preliminary competition, tens of thousands of people went all out to join the betrothal contest. How many people sold their family's fortune to bring you Earth-God materials during the first

elimination round? How many people have risked their lives to hunt for the Giant Barbaric Tiger in the mountains during the second elimination round?” Chen Xiaobei asked. “If all these people who paid such a high price to participate in the betrothal contest find out that it was all a fictitious scheme, your grace, can you guess how many of them would see Saint Duke as the enemy?”

Luo Qiongchang inhaled sharply.

All the other members of the imperial family and officials were disquieted.

What Chen Xiaobei said was the fact of the matter!

The betrothal contest’s participation was widespread, and the participants made many sacrifices, in their wealth and safety – just to be a part of it!

If these people, some of whom have come from powerful families or organizations, were to discover that all the money and blood they shed were all for a fraudulent cause, Saint Duke would find themselves with hundreds and thousands of additional enemies!

Luo Qiongchang understood the delicacy of the situation so he quickly changed his tone. “Alright! You don’t have to do as Childe Tulong says! Chen Xiaobei, you don’t have to kneel!”

The smile on Helian Tulong’s face froze before transforming into a cringe.

Even so, Luo Qiongchang was not to be trifled with. “You don’t have to kneel but if you want to have a seat, you must have the corresponding qualifications!”

“What are they?” Chen Xiaobei asked.

“First, you have to come from a faction!” The emperor said.

Chen Xiaobei answered, “I am the leader of a Bei Xuan faction!”

“What? What faction is that?” Helian Tulong cut in, his tone thick with contempt. “I’ve never even heard of this hogwash faction, and you have the nerve to even mention it.”

“Bei Xuan faction?” Feng Chongwu piled on. “Your name is Chen Xiaobei? Did you just make it up?”

Yun Changxiao scoffed, “The three of us are disciples of Heaven Dominating Faction! Compared to Heaven Dominating Faction, Bei Xuan faction is trash! The scum of the universe!”

Laughter could be heard roaring in the hall.

Most of them present have never heard of Bei Xuan faction. To them, Chen Xiaobei was just making a fool of himself.

Chen Xiaobei was not in the mood to argue. “Have the three of you forgotten about the existence of the Saint Duke emperor?”

“We...” Helian Tulong, Feng Chongwu, and Yun Changxiao pursed their lips together, bereft of speech.

No matter what, they were in Luo Qiongchang’s territory. If word spread about how they stole Luo Qiongchang’s spotlight in front of so many people, Luo Qiongchang was not going to be happy.

Chen Xiaobei continued, "Your grace has only said that I need to belong to a faction. You never said what kind of faction."

Luo Qiongcang frowned. "It must be overseen by at least one Earth-God!"

Chen Xiaobei answered, "From what I know, you haven't reached Earth-God cultivation yourself, have you?"

Luo Qiongcang said sourly, "I don't but I have Earth-God Instruments to keep my people safe!"

"Oh, is that so? I have a Giant Barbaric Tiger. It can also guard my faction. Does that count?"

"You..." Luo Qiongcang could feel the blood rush into his head. The plan was to make things difficult for Chen Xiaobei but he was able to find a way around it.

Chen Xiaobei smiled. "If you don't believe me, I can take my little tiger out so he can say hi to everyone!"

"You... What are you doing...?" Luo Qiongcang was suddenly nervous.

Chen Xiaobei smiled. "It looks like everyone knows how powerful my tiger is. Stop all this nonsense and bring me a chair! Let's get down to business as quickly as possible! Let's see whose betrothal gift can win Princess Puti's heart! Your grace, you want the betrothal competition to draw to a close as quickly as possible, right?"

Luo Qiongcang deliberated for a bit before quickly instructing his men to bring Chen Xiaobei a chair.

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Chapter 1819: Empty-Handed

Immediately, someone brought a chair to Chen Xiaobei.

Once he was seated, Chen Xiaobei said, "Hurry! Bring Princess Puti out! I can guarantee that she will be moved by my betrothal gift!"

Helian Tulong hissed, "Your skin is so thick! You want to move Princess Puti's heart? Haha! You're building castles in the skies!"

Feng Chongwu and Yun Changxiao sniggered. "We've spent a lot of our factions' resources, and have brought extremely valuable betrothal gifts! You won't be able to compete with us!"

Chen Xiaobei shrugged. "The three of you better talk a little lesser. The more you talk, the more painful your face will be when Princess Puti comes!"

"Pretentious idiot!" Helian Tulong gave Chen Xiaobei the stink eye. "Let's have Princess Puti come out now! It's time to shake you off of your daydream!"

Helian Tulong was so self-assured because he was the default fuma-to-be.

No matter how valuable Chen Xiaobei's gifts were, Luo Puti was still going to choose the preordained candidate – Helian Tulong.

Feng Chongwu and Yun Changxiao were unaware of this fact. “Yeah! Let’s get the princess out! Let her make the final decision!”

“Guards! Bring the princess!” Luo Qiongcang instructed. Then he turned to the four candidates. “Please take out your gifts. The officials and I will assess them!”

“Me first!” Feng Chongwu stepped forward with a green longsword in his hand. “This sword is called ‘Green Bamboo’. It’s my sifu’s one and only One-star Earth-God Instrument. My sifu nearly lost his life to get his hands on this instrument. It is a very significant piece!”

The crowd began to discuss amongst themselves in excitement.

“My God! That... That is indeed the legendary Green Bamboo Sword! I’ve heard of it before but today, I finally have the opportunity to see it in the flesh!”

“Good sword! Very good! Its Spirituality is very strong! It’s one of the highest grades of One-star Earth-God Instruments!”

“Childe Chongwu has really put in a lot of effort to marry the princess!”

...

“That’s nothing!” Yun Changxiao stood up, holding an ancient gold mirror. “This mirror is called the Sunlit Mirror! It’s also a One-star Earth-God Instrument! My sifu spent all the wealth he’d accumulated over the years just to get this mirror!”

All the attentions were steered towards the mirror in Yun Changxiao’s hand.

“My god! Sunlit Mirror! That’s the Sunlit Mirror handed down from the Earth-God Realm! Who knew it would show up here today!”

“The Sunlit Mirror is also one of the highest grade One-star Earth-God Instrument! What a generous gift!”

“Yeah! Here in Saint Duke, we only have seven One-star Earth-God Instruments! These two gentlemen brought one each! This just shows how sincere they are!”

The officials and the royal family members exclaimed in their excitement.

Earth-God instruments were rare and valuable no matter where one was!

The kingdom of Saint Duke only possessed seven One-star Earth-God Instruments. If they did receive another one, it would be like adding wings to a tiger!”

The people of Saint Duke found it hard to tear their gaze away from both Earth-God Instruments.

Helian Tulong stood up and announced, “These two childe are very earnest but pale in comparison to me!”

This drew everyone’s attention to him.

He was the prodigy of the Helian family of Apocalypse Starfield! The core disciple of Heaven Dominating Faction! The champion of the Nine-Zones Earth Leaderboard!

Helian Tulong had every right to act so overweeningly, and he was definitely capable of taking out a trump card that would shock everyone.

He took out a longsword and a crystal. "This sword is called 'Flying Rainbow'. It is a pinnacle-phase One-star Earth-God Instrument! This crystal is a Two-star Earth-God material! I don't need to tell you how much these two items are worth!"

That created a ripple effect among the observers.

"Heavens! A pinnacle-phase One-star Earth-God Instrument – the Flying Rainbow sword! That's really close to becoming a Two-star Earth God Instrument!"

"Yeah! The Flying Rainbow sword is unmatched by other weapons of the same rank! The two Earth-God Instruments the other two childe presented are no match for it – not even when they are combined!"

"Most importantly, Childe Tulong also brought a Two-star Earth-God material! That is such a lavish gift!"

"I know, right! Two-star Earth-God materials are as rare as hens' teeth!"

"Needless to say, among all the contesters, Childe Tulong's gift is the most valuable!"

"Yeah! He has the highest chance of winning Princess Puti's heart! I'm on his side!"

"Me too!"

"I support Childe Tulong too!"

Nine out of ten members of the royal family and officials of Saint Duke greatly expressed their support of Helian Tulong.

Even Luo Qiongcang nodded surreptitiously. He was clearly very pleased with the gifts the childe had brought.

"Hey, kid!" Helian Tulong jutted his chin and challenged. "Where is your betrothal gift? Aren't you going to show us? All of us can't wait to see it!"

The relatives of the emperor whispered amongst themselves. "We all know what that kid's gift is going to be! It's going to be an Earth Crystal Essence! How could he even compete with Childe Tulong?"

The officials agreed. "Helian Tulong's gifts are a Two-star Earth-God material and a pinnacle-phase One-star Earth-God Instrument! The best Chen Zhufeng could present is an Earth Crystal Essence! There's no way he could have a One-star Earth-God Instrument!"

Luo Qiongcang squinted. "Everyone, please don't speak as if it's set in stone. If Childe Chen brings enough Earth Crystal Essence, he stands a chance at winning!"

Helian Tulong snickered. "A Two-star Earth-God material is not something you can just buy from the market! I think that that idiot had already used up all his Earth Crystal Essence during the first elimination round! There's no way he has more of it!"

"Hold your horses, Childe Chen!" Luo Qiongcang said. "Today is the last day of the betrothal contest! No one is going to come empty-handed! Childe Zhufeng, please bring out your betrothal gift!"

Everyone turned to look at Chen Xiaobei.

Instead of presenting a gift, Chen Xiaobei shrugged and said, "I'm sorry. I came here empty-handed today!"

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Chapter 1820: Princess is Here

"What? Empty-handed?"

Chen Xiaobei had always been one to shock people.

That one simple sentence had everyone stunned into silence!

Blood was rising up Luo Qiongcang's face. "You're just trying to make a fool out of me! How dare you come to the betrothal contest empty-handed! This is lying to the emperor!"

The people all around also expressed their dissatisfaction with Chen Xiaobei.

"Idiot! How dare you poke fun at our emperor and all of us!"

"Son of a bitch! A nobody who tries too hard to be somebody! The other three children brought invaluable betrothal gifts and this bastard came with nothing! He's just trying to provoke us!"

"Your grace! Please allow me to drag this man aside and beat him to death! We cannot allow outsiders to think that they can bully Saint Duke!"

"Yeah! This is outrageous! This kid crossed the line! Killing him is the only way to safeguard our dignity!"

Evidently, Chen Xiaobei was the most hated person in the room right now.

Helian Tulong took this opportunity to fan the flames. "There are rumors out there that he's actually a Tenshou spy! I didn't believe it at first but now I do! He didn't come to join the betrothal contest today! He came here to provoke Saint Duke!"

"Yeah! Tenshou is an old rival of Saint Duke's!" Feng Chongwei said. "We should just do it now! Get rid of this Tenshou spy now! Send his head to Tenshou at the beginning of the war!"

Yun Changxiao was even more minacious. "Your grace, just give the word and I'll behead this kid! His head will be part of my betrothal gift!"

"I've already investigated him, and I can confirm that he's a spy!" Luo Qiongcang boomed. "I was going to kill him early on. But I wanted to see what betrothal gift he was going to bring today. Alas, he came here empty-handed! There's no need to keep him alive..."

Zing! Zing! Zing!

Immediately, weapons and knives were brandished; their sharp tips pointed at Chen Xiaobei.

The three thousand heavily armored guards closed in on Chen Xiaobei.

To the people of Saint Duke, today was the last day of the betrothal contest, and also Chen Xiaobei's last day alive!

Most people would have wet their pants in fear and begged for mercy, trying to explain themselves, but Chen Xiaobei did not so much as flinch. "I came empty-handed here today not because I'm a spy for Tenshou, and definitely not because I want to provoke you!"

Luo Qiongcang spat, "There's a war coming! I would rather kill the wrong person than letting him go! Do you think that I would believe you just because you say you're not a Tenshou spy? You will die today!"

"His head is mine!" Yun Changqiao said eagerly.

Feng Chongwu argued, "No! It's mine!"

Helian Tulong broke in, "Stay back, the both of you! None of you are as fast as I am!"

The three thousand people around Chen Xiaobei were ready to attack at the emperor's orders.

"Stop!" A woman's voice called out suddenly, so chilly, it caused the people to shudder.

However, there was also a melodious ring to the voice; pure and untainted – comparable to the goddesses in heaven.

It belonged to a very attractive-looking woman carrying her fiery red dress as she ran into the plaza.

Because today was a special day, she made an effort to dress up.

She ran so quickly that the beautiful gown she wore wrinkled up and its sequins and beads fell to the ground. On top of that, she was not wearing any shoes!

It was disgraceful for a woman to appear in such a manner in front of public eyes. All that virtue would have flown right out of the window!

Outsiders might have taken her for a crazy woman from a common family to make a spectacle of herself!

But by her stunning good looks, the people could tell that she was the leading lady in today's betrothal contest – the one and only in Saint Duke! The angel-faced Princess Puti carrying Saint Duke's bloodline!

"My god! Is that Princess Puti! She looks even more beautiful in person! She's a goddess! No! Even goddesses don't look as beautiful! She's too stunning..."

Except for her relatives, the officials, guards, and the three children were all completely mesmerized by Luo Puti's breathtaking beauty.

Feng Chongwu's eyes might as well have been crossed. "Princess Puti is here! She's running towards me! She must like my gifts the most!"

"Nonsense!" Yun Changxiao hissed. "She's running towards me! My good looks have won her heart! Look, she's looking right at me!"

"Stop dreaming the both of you!" Helian Tulong smiled confidently. "My betrothal gift, family background, patrimony, faction, looks, qualities, and wealth are the most outstanding! Princess Puti is 100% coming towards me!"

With the exception of his personality, Helian Tulong was excellent in every aspect. Most women would have thrown themselves at him.

What's more, the fuma candidate had already been chosen.

Helian Tulong's confidence was not unfounded.

"Come to me, my baby, Puti! The most beautiful woman ever to live! Come into my arms and make all men envious of me!" Helian Tulong spread his arms wide open. "You will also have the most outstanding man, that you'll be the envy of every woman alive! We are a pair made in heaven! There is no better choice for you than me! Come come! My arms are wide open! Hahaha..."

"I'm sorry, can you please step aside!" Luo Puti moved past Helian Tulong. She did not so much as glance at him.

"That..." Helian Tulong's body went rigid like a stone statue.

Did Luo Puti just ignore him?

How awkward. How extremely awkward.