

God Emperor 551

Chapter 551: Sonic Storms

The incessant roaring of the humanoid fish rose up from below. They flew up from the sea with outspread flame wings, towards Zhang Ruochen and his friends.

Even a single humanoid fish was fierce enough, let alone dozens of them.

“I see. This was where the humanoid fish entered the Xixuan Sea.”

Zhang Ruochen finally understood what was going on. He finally felt wide awake.

The humanoid fish used to live in the lava deep in the earth’s core. They rarely went to the surface, except on special occasions.

The Bloody Trench was incredibly deep, running straight to the earth’s bottom and connecting with the lava layer. The humanoid fish was thus able to burst out of the lava layer through the Bloody Trench to the Xixuan Sea.

Meanwhile, another thing came to Zhang Ruochen’s mind. Since the Xixuan Sea was less than 2000 meters deep, how come the Bloody Trench was tens of thousands of meters deep?

Zhang Ruochen wondered if the Bloody Trench was man-made.

Perhaps the iron pillar that fell from the sky and broke through the body of Xuanwu drove him deep into the sea floor and thus created this trench tens of thousands of meters deep.

How much power would it take to make a pit tens of thousands of meters deep?

“Waah!”

A humanoid fish at the Fifth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm flew to Zhang Ruochen. The humanoid fish wagged its tail and used it to stroke Zhang Ruochen’s neck.

“Shah!” Zhang Ruochen pulled out the Ancient Abyss Sword with grace. He chopped part of the humanoid fish’s tail off with a single stroke.

The humanoid fish let out an enraged cry. It waved its claws quickly at Zhang Ruochen, and then it pushed through his Celestial Bodyshield and hit him on the chest.

Zhang Ruochen held the Ancient Abyss Sword horizontally across his chest. Dozens of flares of sword Qi flew out of the blade and formed a sword curtain to fend off the humanoid fish’s claws.

The humanoid fish used to live in the earth’s core, and it had become used to this kind of hostile environment. Thus, the water pressure had a weak influence on them.

As a result, the strength of its attack was extremely strong, driving even Zhang Ruochen back.

“WHOOSH!”

Zhang Ruochen immediately turned around and rushed into Xuanwu’s left eye.

He stood on the edge of Xuanwu's eye socket, which was like the entrance of a cave in a cliff. Holding his sword with both hands, he stabbed it forward. A sword Qi waterfall came out of his sword and held off the humanoid fish.

"BOOM!"

On Xuanwu's back, Monk Lidi teamed up with the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King to fight Ember Kylin.

In order to survive, they had to team up. Otherwise, the powerful strength of Ember Kylin would tear them both up.

Zhang Ruochen knew very well that it would not take Ember Kylin long to defeat Monk Lidi and the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King.

So, Zhang Ruochen immediately ordered, "Blackie, stay here with me to fight against the humanoid fish. The rest of you, go deeper into the body of Cyan Fire Xuanwu, try to get the Cyan Fire Xuanwu inheritance as soon as possible."

The eye socket of Cyan Fire Xuanwu was such a small entrance that if one man guarded the pass, he could hold it against ten thousand.

So, it was safest Zhang Ruochen and Blackie to guard against the humanoid fish, while Huang Yanchen, Ao Xinyan, and the Orange Star Emissary went for the Xuanwu heritage.

Zhang Ruochen took out an Auspicious Vase at once. He held it in his palm, hurrying to collect Xuanwu Qi that was flowing out of Xuanwu's body.

Zhang Ruochen came to the Bloody Trench mainly for collecting Xuanwu Qi and Xuanwu Sacred Blood. As for Xuanwu's heritage, he was not that interested.

After all, the *Scripture of Emperor Ming's Empyrean* he practiced included extremely high-end practice skills itself. He had no need to modify the incomplete *Xuanwu Sutra*.

Moreover, he also had a Dragon Pearl and the Sarira, which were equivalent to possessing Golden Dragon or Buddhist Emperor heritages.

Neither Golden Dragon nor Buddhist Emperor was weaker than Cyan Fire Xuanwu.

With these inheritances in his hand, Zhang Ruochen could leave the Cyan Fire Xuanwu heritage to Huang Yanchen, Ao Xinyan, or the Orange Star Emissary. He would just wait and see who was lucky enough to get it.

Looking at Huang Yanchen, the Orange Star Emissary, and Ao Xinyan, Blackie said, "The most valuable thing on Cyan Fire Xuanwu's body was the holy source."

"The holy source not only contained all of Cyan-fire Xuanwu's Saint Power and spirit, but it also had his knowledge. Whoever takes Xuanwu's holy source will be Xuanwu's true inheritor."

Xuanwu's body had many treasures, but nothing was more valuable than Xuanwu's holy source.

Xuanwu's holy source was not found on Huang Shenyi's body. His cultivation must have been too low to get the holy source at that time. Therefore, the holy source still had to be inside Xuanwu's body.

Something suddenly dawned on Zhang Ruochen, and he said in a serious voice, "After entering Xuanwu's body, you need to be more careful. If King Jinhuang already has Xuanwu's holy source, do not fight for it."

King Jinhuang had been in the Bloody Trench for a long time, but nobody had caught sight of him.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen doubted that King Jinhuang had come into Xuanwu's body to collect the heritage.

Perhaps those humanoid fish and Ember Kylin had been disturbed by King Jinhuang, so they rushed out of the underground lava and came to Xixuan Sea.

Yet, Cyan Fire Xuanwu Heritage was not very attractive to Zhang Ruochen.

However, for other Monks, and even for Half-Saints, it was a fatal attraction.

King Jinhuang definitely cared about Xuanwu Heritage very much. He already belonged to the Half-Saint Class, and if he had found Xuanwu's holy source, Huang Yanchen, Ao Xinyan, and the Orange Star Emissary would be drawn like moths to a flame.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen gave an order in advance so as to save them unnecessary trouble.

Huang Yanchen, Ao Xinyan, and the Orange Star Emissary moved at once. They made their way deeper into Xuanwu's body through his eye socket.

However, when they came to Xuanwu's throat, something happened.

Xuanwu's body started to shake violently.

The next minute, an earth-shaking roar came from Xuanwu's abdomen.

"WOOSH!"

The howling sound was so loud that it formed a sonic storm.

"Oh no, someone is already in Xuanwu's abdomen! He is trying to block us. Retreat, right now!"

But it was too late to leave now!

"RUMBLE!"

The sonic storm was overwhelming.

Huang Yanchen immediately injected Genuine Qi into the Black Tortoise Armor. It emitted a number of light beams and formed a Qi shield to protect the three of them.

"CLANG!"

The sound wave shredded the shield formed by the Black Tortoise Armor like a sheet of paper.

The person inside was not trying to hold them back, but...to kill them.

Despite their high cultivation, the sonic storm hit them so badly that it broke their eardrums and caused them to bleed from all seven holes in their head. It sent them flying back and made them feel woozy.

Then, they hit a hard bone wall. Their heads were knocked so badly that they passed out and fell limply to the ground.

“Awful.”

When the roar came, it drove Zhang Ruochen’s body a step back.

However, he reacted extremely quickly. He immediately began to use his Genuine Qi, and he stomped his feet with all his might. His legs sunk half a foot deep into Xuanwu’s body like two spikes.

The sonic storm continued to gush out from Xuanwu’s abdomen and hit Zhang Ruochen.

“Space Distortion.”

Zhang Ruochen began to control the Space Domain. He ran the Power of Space slowly, making the surrounding space slightly distorted. In this way, the overwhelming sound wave slid around him.

Xuanwu’s eye socket was like a trumpet, with the sonic storm gushing out. The sonic storm turned into an overwhelming sonic power, going out in all directions.

The humanoid fish that had rushed to Xuanwu’s eye socket were all sent flying by the sonic storm. Their bodies slammed against the stone wall in the distance, leaving a large hole.

“What on earth happened?”

After the sonic storm, Zhang Ruochen’s face was creased with worry for Huang Yanchen. Thus, he immediately rushed into Xuanwu’s body, to look for Huang Yanchen.

In a bone corner, Zhang Ruochen discovered Huang Yanchen, who was unconscious. Her eyes, mouth, ears, and nose were covered with blood. And, he found a fracture on the back of her head that was bleeding profusely.

Zhang Ruochen immediately reached out two fingers and pressed them on Huang Yanchen’s wrist to take her pulse.

Chapter 552: Innate Embryonic Breath

A moment later, Zhang Ruochen pulled his fingers back. Looking at Huang Yanchen lying on the ground, he felt nothing but guilt, panic, and worry. He could not help biting his lips as he said, “It’s all my fault.”

Huang Yanchen was seriously injured. Her five internal organs, six hollow organs, meridians, and Qi Sea had all suffered incurable injuries. Her body was so badly torn that even a Saint could not help.

Unless there was a miracle, it would be almost impossible for her to come to life again.

Zhang Ruochen clenched his fists with great remorse. If he had left Huang Yanchen practicing in the Scroll World in the beginning, she would not be suffering this now.

At that time, he believed that blindly secluding herself for refining was not helpful for her practice. It was counterproductive and she would never become a real superior in this way.

Only through continuous life-and-death battles, the ups and downs of life, and the refinement of human feelings and worldly wisdom could one finally go further along the Holy Road.

Therefore, he told Huang Yanchen to come out to experience more and fight together with him to sharpen her Heart State and hone her will.

However, he never expected that this would happen.

Blackie found Ao Xinyan and Orange Star Emissary, who were seriously injured, and brought them here.

They both had passed out.

However, their physical qualities were special, and their cultivations were much stronger than Huang Yanchen's. They had reached the Third Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, Bone Refining to Jade.

Therefore, although they were seriously injured, they could still recover as long as they took the healing pills and took time to recuperate.

“Go to the Scroll World first.”

Zhang Ruochen took a deep breath and immediately took out the Yin Yang Wooden Graph. He opened the Scroll World and entered the space door with Huang Yanchen in his arms. Then, he arrived at the Sacred Prime Tree and put her on the ground.

The Wood Spirit Qi of the Sacred Prime Tree might be helpful to the condition of her injury.

Zhang Ruochen wiped the blood from Huang Yanchen's mouth and took out an Auspicious Vase. Placing one hand on her back, he lifted her up, separated her lips, and slowly poured the Blood of the Wood Spirit from the vase into her mouth.

Then, Zhang Ruochen straightened Huang Yanchen up and sat behind her. He struck both hands out at the same time, mobilized the Qi of Saint Dragon in the Dragon Pearl, and continuously passed it into her body.

Half a day had passed by and Zhang Ruochen's forehead was continuously sweating. Even his face gradually turned pale. However, the condition of Huang Yanchen's injury showed no signs of improvement.

“No... do not be so...”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head, clenched his teeth, and continued to squeeze the power in his body.

Not only did he inject the Qi of Saint Dragon into Huang Yanchen's body, but even his own Genuine Qi was almost exhausted. His body began to shake and he felt like he might faint at any minute.

After all, Zhang Ruochen had already suffered a serious injury in the previous battle with the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King. The injury was suppressed by the Genuine Qi and the Divine Dragon Strength inside his body.

At this moment, he injected all of his Genuine Qi into Huang Yanchen's body, while his own injury broke out immediately and started to backfire.

“Pfft!”

Zhang Ruochen vomited a mouthful of blood. A strong sense of weakness and pain spread throughout his body. His face was as pale as a sheet of white paper.

His body was off balance and then it fell to the left.

“No... I can't fall... If I fall, who else can help her...”

With a strong will, Zhang Ruochen reached his palms to the ground, set his teeth, and struggled to sit up again.

Just then, when Zhang Ruochen fell, Blackie also checked on the injury of Huang Yanchen. He shook his head and said, “She was so seriously injured. Even if there was a Wood Spirit Qi of the Sacred Prime Tree to nourish her body, she would not last more than three days.”

Blackie looked at Zhang Ruochen's face and added, “However, if we can find Xuanwu's Holy Source, her life might be saved. What she practiced was the Xuanwu Sutra, and fusing it with Xuanwu's Holy Source could enable her to reshape her body and bring her back to life.”

There was no need for Blackie to say anything further. Zhang Ruochen already understood that he had to get Xuanwu's Holy Source within three days.

Needless to say, since such horrible sound waves could be sent out from Xuanwu's abdomen, there had to be a top superior inside who was taking Xuanwu's Holy Source.

Otherwise, he would not send sound waves to injure Huang Yanchen, Ao Xinyan, and Orange Star Emissary, preventing them from going to Xuanwu's abdomen.

If Zhang Ruochen wanted to take Xuanwu's Holy Source from the hands of that superior, his cultivation had to break through to the Fish-dragon Realm first.

“The Fish-dragon Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen looked serious. He took out the Auspicious Vase, drank some Wood Spirit blood, and started healing his wounds.

Then, he took out a Dragon Pearl and put it into his mouth. He was mobilizing the thin Genuine Qi in his body and began refining the Dragon Pearl to take his step toward the Fish-dragon Realm.

With his current injury condition, it was quite dangerous for him to go for the Fish-dragon Realm.

However, Zhang Ruochen had no other choice. There was not much time left for him. So, despite the danger, he had to go for a higher realm while curing himself.

After refining the first Dragon Pearl, all the Genuine Qi in Zhang Ruochen's Qi Sea had attained perfect completeness.

However, the rushing Genuine Qi was frantically flowing through his injured body, impacting his meridians and internal organs. This made Zhang Ruochen's injury condition even worse.

Blood was spilling from Zhang Ruochen's mouth, but he still took the second Dragon Pearl and continued to go for the Fish-dragon Realm.

He knew that he would be more seriously injured by doing it this way, but he did not hesitate to do so.

Two days passed by and Zhang Ruochen had taken 13 Dragon Pearls in a row. His aura became stronger and stronger. His body was wrapped up with Genuine Qi, forming a huge ball with a diameter of about 100 feet.

Looking from afar, because of the expanding Genuine Qi within, Zhang Ruochen's body was going to burst with bloody lines on its surface, like a cracked ceramic.

If Zhang Ruochen could not break through to the realm, he might burst to death at any minute.

Ao Xinyan and Orange Star Emissary woke up after two days' treatment from Blackie.

They knew exactly why Zhang Ruochen was so desperate to break through to the realm. They also knew that Huang Yanchen was seriously injured and might not survive the day.

Ao Xinyan was not thinking about her own recovery. She was just holding her skirt tightly, worrying about Zhang Ruochen's injury condition worsening or something bad happening while he was making the breakthrough.

Ao Xinyan wished that Zhang Ruochen would take care of himself and not try to break through to the realm until his injuries had healed.

However, it was exactly Zhang Ruochen's special temperament that Ao Xinyan admired so much and, thus, she willingly regarded him as the Group Leader and followed his orders. She had developed some affection for him, but even she herself did not notice it.

Even Orange Star Emissary, who used to frown upon Zhang Ruochen, was now looking at him with shining eyes. At this moment, she also admired Zhang Ruochen for his charming personality.

A real man was not required to be domineering while facing the weak, but to take his due responsibilities when he was in need. A real man was expected to face up to the stronger enemies and severe challenges to protect his loved ones.

"Boom!"

All of a sudden, the Genuine Qi surrounding Zhang Ruochen's body exploded and turned into streams of Genuine Qi, continuously flowing toward the middle of his eyebrows.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen finally broke through the human limit and reached the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, Innate Embryonic Breath.

Using the so-called Innate Embryonic Breath, one would swallow one's Internal Qi and hold it. Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi could be used as one's food and the Foodless Realm would be reached.

Upon reaching this realm, one would not starve to death or die from thirst, even without eating or drinking anything for a year.

"I finally made it!"

Zhang Ruochen opened his eyes and took a deep breath. Thus, the Spiritual Qi within 10 miles was immediately breathed into his body and stored in the Qi Sea.

After reaching the Fish-dragon Realm, he absorbed the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi faster. The Genuine Qi in his body was running all the time in his meridians, forming an internal circulation. So, there was no need to worry that the Genuine Qi would run out.

Zhang Ruochen stood up, walked over to Huang Yanchen, and leaned over. He put his finger on her wrist to check on the condition of her injury.

After a while, he withdrew his hand and said softly, "Wait for me. Cough, cough!"

Zhang Ruochen's injury was aggravated by just saying a few words. He wiped the blood from his mouth that he coughed up.

"Group Leader, let me go with you to get Xuanwu's Holy Source." Ao Xinyan rose and went up to Zhang Ruochen at once.

He looked at her and replied, "Stay here to recover. Let me handle this. Cough, cough!"

Zhang Ruochen took a deep breath and suppressed his injury for the time being. Then, he opened the door of the space and walked out of the Scroll World.

Two days in the Scroll World was just four hours in the external world.

Zhang Ruochen clenched his fist tightly and said, "There are only two hours left. I must get Xuanwu's Holy Source and I surely will."

Zhang Ruochen lifted his chest and tried to stand up straighter. He dragged the Ancient Abyss Sword to Xuanwu's abdomen.

Chapter 553: King Jinhuang Turned Evil

Cyan-fire Xuanwu was one of Mythical Beast Xuanwu's three off-springs. Although it was not as strong as Mythical Beast Xuanwu, it was still a formidable monster by human standards.

Although the Cyan-fire Xuanwu at the bottom of the Bloody Trench had been dead for many years, its internal body was still burning with blazing cyan flames.

The closer one gets to the abdomen, the cyan flames become hotter and more exuberant.

Zhang Ruochen propped up a 10-meter diameter Space Domain to block out the cyan Xuanwu flame.

It took him 15 minutes to get through the layers of obstacles and arrive at the abdomen of Cyan-fire Xuanwu.

What he saw was a rusty iron pillar that had penetrated through the body of the Cyan-fire Xuanwu. At the center of its abdomen where the iron pillar was standing, streaks of dark Death Qi was pouring out.

A burly man in a golden armor was sitting cross-legged in the midst of the dark Death Qi. He was two meters tall and looked like he was around 40 years old. He had sharp features, a foot-long beard, and appeared to be hale and hearty.

Hanging on his waist was a token from the Ministry of War.

It turns out that he was also a soldier of Primitive World.

There was a terrifying aura emanating from him, one that was much more powerful than that of Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King. They could guess that he was probably a Half-Saint.

The only human monk who had reached Half-Saint realm throughout the entire Xixuan Sea was King Jinhuang.

This makes it easy for people to guess his identity and it would soon be exposed.

Zhang Ruochen instantly recognized him, and said, "King Jinhuang had arrived at the bottom of the Bloody Trench a long time ago."

A spot of light appeared between King Jinhuang's eyebrows.

In the spot of light between his eyebrows, there was a Qi Sea. There was a blue star in it and the star was emitting a formidable, powerful Holy Qi.

Zhang Ruochen took a step forward with caution.

"Swoosh!"

In an instant, the blue star in between King Jinhuang's eyebrows exuded ripples that propagated towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen felt the pressure coming from King Jinhuang, it was pressing on his body, and he felt as if he was being pushed down by force 10 times stronger than gravity.

When Zhang Ruochen took another step forward, the pressure doubled. It felt like there was a force 20 times stronger than the force of gravity pressing down on his body.

Zhang Ruochen took nine steps forward, but his body felt like he was holding up pressure that was nearly a 100 times stronger than that of gravity.

Zhang Ruochen looked intently at the spot in between King Jinhuang's brows and thought to himself, "Although King Jinhuang has a reasonably high level of cultivation, he had only reached the Half-Saint Realm. It is not possible for him to possess the Holy Aura. The blue star in the Qi Sea between his brows must be the holy source of Xuanwu, and that must be how he had gotten so powerful."

Half-Saint enables the progression of Martial soul into the Divine Soul.

When triggered, the Divine Soul could explode with Holy Aura. Hence, monks who wished to come near to it could not help but feel a sense of fear and awe towards it.

However, a Half-Saint is still one step behind a Saint. The power of the Holy Aura still has its limitations.

One could only be deemed a true Saint if he can condense the holy source.

The Holy Aura of a Saint would be much more powerful.

When a Saint becomes infuriated, his emotion alone could disturb the nature's law of heaven and earth, striking fear in all living creatures, propelling them to bow down in fear.

Just as Zhang Ruochen neared King Jinhuang, King Jinhuang suddenly opened his eyes to glare at Zhang Ruochen.

There were no pupils in King Jinhuang's eyes because the whites of his eye have turned black. His eyes looked like two black holes emanating massive death Qi.

"This is bad. King Jinhuang's body had been taken over by the Death Qi of the iron pillar; thus he has become an evil Half-Saint now." After realization hit him, Zhang Ruochen's face fell, and he quickly retreated.

King Jinhuang has conquered the holy source of Xuanwu and wanted to keep it in the Qi Sea. At the same time, he also wanted to take possession of the iron pillar filled with evil Qi.

The iron pillar was indeed a powerful warrior. The evil Death Qi contained in the iron pillar had amazing strength, and King Jinhuang would not be able to suppress it.

For this reason, King Jinhuang has lost control of himself and surrendered to the power of the iron pillar instead.

"Swoosh!"

King Jinhuang's black eyes shot two beams of chilling light, resembling two lightning bolts. The rays of light struck Zhang Ruochen on his chest.

Zhang Ruochen had no choice but to escape by opening the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, injecting Genuine Qi into it and using it to defend himself.

The inscription on the scroll instantly emerged, sending out streaks of white light that collided with the two black light beams.

"Ch-ch!"

Zhang Ruochen was pushed five feet backward before he found his footing again.

The two light beams that shot out from King Jinhuang's eyes gradually faded with the white glow that was emitted by the Yin Yang Wooden Graph. They disintegrated into black light spots that eventually dispersed in the water.

Yin Yang Wooden Graph possessed the power of suppressing evil Qi, just like how the Blood Spirit Queen was once suppressed by it.

Caught by surprise, King Jinhuang said, "Young man, you may possess remarkable skills, but I would advise you to leave this place as quickly as you can. If not I might strike again and you will not escape death."

Zhang Ruochen held the Yin Yang Wooden Graph in one hand and the Ancient Abyss Sword in the other and took a step forward. He said, "King Jinhuang, you are the one who should be leaving, not me. You

weren't even aware that your heart had been taken over by the evil Death Qi contained in the iron pillar. I am afraid you have become an Evil Slave to the iron pillar."

King Jinhuang roared with laughter and confidently said, "As a king, I have accumulated a 100 years of experience in the Battlefields of the Primitive World, fought through countless bloody fights. My mind is steadfast and unwavering. What can the evil power of the iron pillar do to me?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "If only you have a mirror in front of you right now, you will be able to see how hideous you look."

As Zhang Ruochen finished his sentence, he lifted his finger and pointed it forward.

"swoosh!"

A halo started diffusing out of his fingertips and condensed into a circular spirit light mirror that was suspended right in front of King Jinhuang.

The moment King Jinhuang saw his reflection in the mirror, his expression was painted with horror.

The person in the mirror was wrapped entirely in dark Evil Qi, his eyes were so dark that the pupils were not visible, and all the meridians on his face were swollen. He resembled an evil ghost.

King Jinhuang shook his head violently, unable to accept that the person in the mirror was himself. He roared with a hoarse voice and said, "No... Not me... That is not me..."

"I am the king of the army of the Battlefield of Primitive World. I have never lost a single battle. How is it possible for Death Qi to invade my body? It was you; it was definitely you. How dare you play a prank on me? I am going to cut you into pieces once I finish refining this iron pillar."

"Bam!"

As soon as Zhang Ruochen closed his fingers, the light mirror dissipated into thin air.

Zhang Ruochen took yet another step forward and said, "Look, King Jinhuang, I am one of the soldiers of Primitive World, and you are the Commander in Chief of the soldiers of Primitive World; but here you are, and you want to kill me. This goes to show that evil Qi of the iron pillar has corrupted your heart and you are now addicted to killing."

As King Jinhuang felt more distressed than ever before, he clenched his teeth and his intention to kill swelled.

With a twisted expression, King Jinhuang said coldly, "Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King, go and kill this young fellow for me."

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King?

Zhang Ruochen's heart dropped upon hearing this. He became alert and quietly mobilized his Genuine Qi.

All he could see was King Jinhuang stretching out his arm and a shadow of a red python emerging from his sleeve.

“Roar!”

The three-foot-long redcloud python flew in circles around the iron pillar, sending out a scarlet glow that formed a bright ball of light.

Moments later, the body of the redcloud python swelled and condensed into a human form. He flew out of the ball of light and landed on the ground. As he knelt on one knee in front of King Jinhuang, he said, “My greetings, master.”

It was indeed the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

Earlier, in the Scroll World when Zhang Ruochen was in the process of reaching the Fish-dragon Realm, the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King had dashed into the abdomen of Xuanwu with the intention of forcefully taking possession of the holy source of Xuanwu from King Jinhuang.

Unfortunately, after King Jinhuang took hold of the holy source of Xuanwu, the level of his cultivation elevated so quickly that the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was suppressed by King Jinhuang.

Also, King Jinhuang used the Inscription of Beast Taming to make the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King his riding vehicle.

After some careful studying, Zhang Ruochen realized that the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s aura was erratic and its eyes were lifeless. It was evident that he had sustained some serious injuries.

Moreover, there were streaks of Inscription of Beast Taming on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s eyeballs. He has submitted himself to King Jinhuang and has become one of King Jinhuang’s war beasts.

Zhang Ruochen started to get an idea of what happened. He looked at King Jinhuang and said, “I didn’t come here to fight with you, King Jinhuang. I am here to do a transaction for the holy source of Xuanwu. I would like to use Dragon Pearl for exchange.”

Zhang Ruochen could easily summon the Dragon Pearl out of his body since he had reached the Fish-dragon Realm.

“Who do you think you are? Did you think you were worthy enough to make deals with me?”

King Jinhuang had no intentions of dealing with Zhang Ruochen. With a smirk, he commanded, “Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King, kill him for me, and you can have the Dragon Pearl on his body.”

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King eyes sparkled, and his expression turned greedy.

It belonged to the dragon species, which meant that if he ingested a Dragon Pearl, he could morph into a flood dragon, which was a Seventh Level Savage Beast.

“Thank you, Master. I will do my best to get rid of this fellow.”

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King bowed to King Jinhuang, took out the Roaring Flame Hammer and walked towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen wavered a little. He knew that there was no way he could negotiate a deal with King Jinhuang now that the iron pillar has corrupted king Jinhuang’s consciousness and turned him into an evil monster.

The only thing he could do now was to take it by force.

Zhang Ruochen steadily lifted the Ancient Abyss Sword and said, "You are injured, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King. You are not my match on the sea. I would advise you to flee now."

"Haha, human boy, aren't you injured as well? Do you seriously think that you can defeat me using the water pressure of the sea? Let me tell you honestly. Even if I were to be suppressed by the water pressure of the sea, I would still be the Lord of Flood Dragon, and to me, you are only a mere ant," laughed Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

Despite the environmental constraints, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was confident of his abilities. He was confident that a human junior would not be able to defeat him.

Time was running short, and Zhang Ruochen did not want to waste his energy on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King. With some footwork, he enacted nine bodily transformations and executed twelve streaks of sword Qi with one wave of his sword.

Having broken through to the Fish-dragon Realm, Zhang Ruochen's Genuine Qi was on another level. To top that, he possessed powerful Martial Soul far surpass the Ninth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, so he could greatly rouse the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi.

His skills allowed him to activate more inscriptions from within the sword, and the Ancient Abyss Sword could manifest its fullest potential power.

The power that can be manifested from a Holy Weapon differ depending on whether you are a warrior of Heaven Realm or a monk of the Fish-dragon Realm; the power would be vastly different.

"Bang bang!"

There were 12 streaks of sword Qi, each 10 feet long, that were arranged into the shape of an arc. It created a potent attack and struck the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King, causing him to fall.

Chapter 554: Battle with the Lord of Flood Dragon

"How did the level of cultivation of this human boy become so powerful?"

To resist Zhang Ruochen's Sword Qi, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King wielded the Roaring Flame Hammer twelve times. However, not only did it fail to block Zhang Ruochen's Sword Qi, but it was also pushed back by twelve steps.

At this moment, its arm was tingling with pain, and the Roaring Flame Hammer in its hands kept shaking.

Even if Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King were unscathed by such great power, it would not be able to match Zhang Ruochen's skills, even at his prime.

It was not difficult for Zhang Ruochen to defeat Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King because they were fighting at the bottom of the sea, where Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's strength was suppressed to its lowest level.

Zhang Ruochen made a tremendous jump to the next realm by breaking through to the Fish-dragon Realm, so his level of cultivation had increased by leaps and bounds.

In comparison, the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was no match with Zhang Ruochen.

“Swosh!”

Taking advantage of this fact, Zhang Ruochen executed Space Moving and teleported himself to appear above Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King. Holding his sword with both hands, he struck out a long ray of sword light.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King refused to give in and continued its attack by wielding the Roaring Flame Hammer.

“Boom!”

A powerful shockwave reverberated from between the Ancient Abyss Sword and the Roaring Flame Hammer.

The Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King took another few steps back before lifting up the Roaring Flame Hammer so it could have a look. What it saw was a white crack on the hammer’s surface.

It is common knowledge that the Roaring Flame Hammer is a Holy Weapon.

The fact that a human boy’s sword made a crack in the Holy Weapon was incredible. Zhang Ruochen’s sword must have been an excellent weapon of the Divine Troops.

Not even the dragon scales on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s body could protect him if that sword struck him.

“If we were on the surface of the earth, it would only take me one breath to blow you to ashes,” the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King said coldly.

“Well, unfortunately, we are not on the surface of the earth right now,” Zhang Ruochen responded.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, the Cyan-fire Xuanwu’s body started shaking violently.

Both Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King and Zhang Ruochen lost their balance and started swaying.

What was going on?

As Zhang Ruochen turned to look at King Jinhuang, he realized that King Jinhuang’s hands were grasping the top of the iron pillar and was slowly lifting it up.

It was not the Cyan-fire Xuanwu that was shaking, but the iron pillar that penetrated the Xuanwu’s body.

This was not good.

King Jinhuang was about to seize the Iron Pillar and make it his war weapon.

If he succeeds, he will become even stronger. By then no one would be able to defeat him.

“I am your opponent, human boy.”

When Zhang Ruochen turned to look at King Jinhuang, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King grabbed the opportunity to strike with the Roaring Flame Hammer to hit Zhang Ruochen’s head.

Zhang Ruochen realized how dangerous it was so he quickly mobilized space power and performed Space Moving to teleport himself behind Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

“Swift Swordsmanship.”

With a flash of sword radiance, the Ancient Abyss Sword, carrying with it the power of time, hacked down Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s head.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s heart almost jumped out as it did not expect Zhang Ruochen to wield his sword with such speed. It instantly dodged to the left with the typical posture of a flood dragon.

When it realized that it was not injured, it was able to calm down and regain composure.

Then Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King said, “The speed of your sword technique was indeed very fast. Unfortunately, you lack accuracy.”

Zhang Ruochen replied saying, “Is that so?”

“Swoosh!”

All of a sudden, a breach appeared on the crown of Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s head.

Crimson blood gushed out of the breach.

The wave of the sword had cut off Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s fleshy crown. The crown was only coming off now because the sword moved too fast.

A flood dragon’s fleshy crown, also known as ‘Redcrown Mushroom’ condenses all of the flood dragon’s spirit and wisdom. Once damaged, it will lose a massive amount of principal Qi.

“How dare you...you...human boy...ah...”

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King became hysterical and cried out in agony.

Pieces of scarlet scales grew from within its skin. Its body continued to expand; palms spread open to turn into claws and legs turned into a dragon tail. Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King transformed into an enormous red dragon.

“Bang!”

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King sprang upwards and dragged along the Cyan-fire Xuanwu as it slowly rose to the top.

Although Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was furious because its fleshy crown had been severed, it was wise enough to be aware of its disadvantage in confronting Zhang Ruochen from the bottom of the sea. After all, it was Lord of the Flood Dragons...

It can only exert its full power and kill Zhang Ruochen if it returned to the surface of the sea.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King is a Sixth Level Savage Beast. After transforming to its true form, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's physical strength increased tremendously, so much so that it was able to drag the body of Cyan-fire Xuanwu.

At the same time, the iron pillar flew upwards under the command of King Jinhuang.

When Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's power and King Jinhuang's came together, they quickly rose towards the surface and arrived at the midsection of the Bloody Trench.

"This won't do. I have to kill Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King as soon as possible. If we were to return to the surface of the sea, I would be compromised."

Zhang Ruochen took off on his feet and started skipping. He gathered his powers and struck his combat sword towards the neck of Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

"Poof!"

With one stroke, the Ancient Abyss Sword cut through the top layer of scales on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's neck. The dragon's skin split open and left a bleeding wound.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was physically very strong, so even the Ancient Abyss Sword would be unable to sever its head with one stroke.

Just as Zhang Ruochen was about to wield the second stroke, a breath of Gold Inferno was blown by Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King, condensing into a giant pillar of fire directed towards Zhang Ruochen.

Gold Inferno is a superior level Beast Fire. Only Sixth Level Savage Beasts that have absorbed huge amounts of metal and fire nature can condense the natures and form this fire.

Since the pressure of water has decreased dramatically, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was finally able to wield the Gold Inferno.

If they continue to move towards shallow waters, the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King would be able to summon more powerful attacks.

Zhang Ruochen did not dare touch the Gold Inferno, so he shrank the Space Domain into a circle three-meter in diameter and wrapped it around him.

While the coverage of the space domain shrunk, the power of the space domain increased immensely.

With the protection of the Space Domain, Zhang Ruochen passed through the Gold Inferno and was able to wield his sword and struck the neck of Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King once again.

"Poof!"

A deep cut appeared on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's neck, and blood gushed out from within its skin like a red waterfall.

Just one more strike from the sword is enough to cut off Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's head.

When Zhang Ruochen was about to strike for the third time, the power on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King increased dramatically.

A layer of crimson holy light poured out of Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King and wrapped around its body.

“Boom!” A loud noise resounded.

The layer of holy light was able to block the Ancient Abyss Sword from striking Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s neck. The holy light tremored, creating ripples.

“Roar!”

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King stretched out his claws and pressed them down on Zhang Ruochen’s head.

At this point, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King had brought Cyan-fire Xuanwu’s body towards the sea surface until they were less than 10,000 meters away from the sea surface.

A cloud of Gold Inferno wrapped around the claws, forming a fire cloud.

Before the dragon’s claw struck Zhang Ruochen, a strong gust of wind came from different directions and circled Zhang Ruochen’s body. The suppressive force was so intense that Zhang Ruochen could not even move a limb.

“Swosh!”

Zhang Ruochen performed the Space Moving technique to move past the claws. He landed on top of Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s head, then tapped on Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s forehead with his finger.

“Space collapse.”

A massive force from within the space exploded and surged towards Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

Where the space power progressed, gaps started to appear; forming a network of cracks that kept spreading. The cracks exposed a dark, chaotic void.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King immediately mobilized Holy Qi to form a seven-layer defense light and pushed it forward to block Zhang Ruochen’s Power of Space.

A series of crackles sounded. As space collapsed, the seven-layer defense light disintegrated above Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

“Bang! Bang!”

As space fell apart and disintegrated, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s head started breaking; there was a network of bloody cracks all over.

At the same time, the battle have moved to shallow waters.

“Roar!”

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King’s powers were elevated to the next level.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King gave a deafening roar and threw a punch with its claws, producing fierce flames that struck Zhang Ruochen. The blow sent Zhang Ruochen flying 33 meters back. He landed with a thud against a bone wall.

The collapsed space restored its calm when it broke free from Zhang Ruochen's control.

Zhang Ruochen got up from the ground and spat out a mouthful of blood. He muttered, "Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was already wounded by King Jinhuang and even had its fleshy crown cut off. Also, its neck was almost chopped off by the Ancient Abyss Sword. Despite all of that, once we returned to shallower seas, it was able to restore and manifest unparalleled strength."

"Can a Fish-dragon Realm monk ever match up to a Half-Saint? Would it even be possible for a fatally injured Half-Saint to easily defeat a superior of the Fish-dragon Realm?"

Earlier, when the space collapsed, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King's head was fractured, and even parts of its skull and teeth were exposed.

However, Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King continued to survive with the support of the Holy Qi.

The power emanating from Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was like a towering mountain, which was something people could only admire from afar. Every time he moves his claws, it manifests an earth-shattering power.

"Whoa!"

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King let out a breath that instantly condensed into thousands of wind blades. They gathered to form a huge torrent of wind blades, that made noisy clanking sounds. The wind blades were all flying towards Zhang Ruochen.

The breath of a Half-Saint could be more terrifying than a violent storm.

"Swish swish!"

Zhang Ruochen quickly wielded his sword, and countless streams of sword Qi started to intertwine together, forming a tight sword net in front of him.

"Bang!"

In an instant, the torrent of wind blades shattered the sword net and flew directly to Zhang Ruochen. Zhang Ruochen was thrown back from the impact.

Under the impact of the wind blade torrent, Zhang Ruochen flew out of the body of Cyan-fire Xuanwu and landed on the sea surface.

Zhang Ruochen's body was immediately covered with dozens of bloody wounds. One of the injuries was so deep it had cut through two of his ribs and almost injured his internal organs.

Back on the surface of the sea, the sun was so bright that he could barely open his eyes.

"Boom!"

In the distance, King Jinhuang pulled out the iron pillar that penetrated the body of Cyan-fire Xuanwu and flew to the clouds.

Black Death Qi was flowing from his body condensed into a cloud. At that moment, King Jinhuang looked like a statue of the Demon Lord. He carried the iron pillar on his shoulder and looked down at Zhang Ruochen, grinning, he said, "Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King, I am handing Zhang Ruochen over to you. When you have killed him, remember to bring the body of Cyan-fire Xuanwu back to Huangyu Island for me."

When King Jinhuang had finished speaking, he rode on a dark cloud and left.

"King Jinhuang, leave the Xuanwu holy source behind..."

Zhang Ruochen was about to catch up when suddenly, a deafening roar sounded. The Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King flew out from the left eye socket of the Cyan-fire Xuanwu and was suspended mid-air, struggling frantically.

He fully transformed to his true form. He resembled a crimson mountain ridge suspended in mid-air, and he was blocking Zhang Ruochen's way.

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King stared at Zhang Ruochen below and said, "Human boy, on the sea surface, you are a mere ant to me. All I need to do is let out one breath, and you will turn into a bloody fog."

Zhang Ruochen could only watch as King Jinhuang disappeared into the horizon. Zhang Ruochen clenched his fists in helplessness, stared at Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King and said, "Is that it? It seems that I have to unlock the second level seal of Sarira to get a hold of the Xuanwu holy source."

"It's no use. You will die trying if you try to resist."

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King swung its huge tail, hoping to smack it on Zhang Ruochen, believing that it would kill him.

However, the moment the tail reached Zhang Ruochen, he caught it with one hand.

"This...this can't...be..."

Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King was shocked. He looked towards Zhang Ruochen and saw streaks of faint Buddha's light emitting from his body.

Chapter 555: Power of Half-Saint

"Swoosh!"

As the second seal of Sarira had been unlocked, the golden Buddha's light emerged on Zhang Ruochen's body.

A lot of Buddhist patterns, sanskrit, and sutras soared out of the Sarira. Finally, with a hum, they all condensed into a virtual shadow of a 333-meter-high golden Buddha.

Zhang Ruochen stood absolutely still on the surface of the sea and slowly lifted his right arm.

The golden Buddha shadow also extended its huge hand, in sync with Zhang Ruochen. Furthermore, it grabbed the Black Skeleton Dragon King's tail to prevent its attack.

"Crack!"

He seized the tail of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King and rendered it immobile. Zhang Ruochen dragged its body and threw it violently. The body flew straight into the clouds.

Since Zhang Ruochen was powerful enough to lift a huge mountain easily, let alone the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King.

When the Golden Dragon handed the Sarira to Zhang Ruochen, he made four levels of seals and the first three seals all possessed temporary great power.

The power of the first Sarira seal would be comparable to a Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm.

The power of the second Sarira seal was comparable to a Half-Saint, for a little while.

The third Sarira seal could make him temporarily more formidable than a Saint.

In the Heaven Realm, Zhang Ruochen only owned the power of the first Sarira seal. Afterwards, in Fish-dragon Realm, the second seal granted him two hours of Half-Saint Class power.

Billions of warriors in Kunlun's Field spent their lifetimes pursuing the unobtainable power of a Half-Saint.

However, Zhang Ruochen could own two hours of Half-Saint Class power in his twenties.

Zhang Ruochen would have entirely different understanding of the Holy Road by this opportunity

If a Monk of the Fish-dragon Realm is like an ant, then a Half-Saint is like a man.

[Remove]

It would be as difficult for an ant to become a man as it would be for it to climb into heaven.

However, if the ant could be a man for even two hours, it would develop a broader understanding of the worldview and power of a man.

When it changed back into an ant, it would practice properly and be a Half-Saint more easily and successfully.

Right now, Zhang Ruochen was an ant.

In the next two hours, Zhang Ruochen needed to both capture Xuanwu's holy source and to understand the power of a Half-Saint better.

The formidable power of Zhang Ruochen shocked the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King.

After it had stopped its body from struggling, it sought to launch a counterattack.

However, it could find no trace of Zhang Ruochen on the sea.

Where had the small boy gone?

“Don’t waste anymore time. I am above your head.”

Zhang Ruochen lifted his Ancient Abyss Sword high above the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King.

“Swoosh!”

Because of the great power of its inscription, the Ancient Abyss Sword expanded to ten feet long, and it hit the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King heavily.

“Pffff!”

The body of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King broke into two parts.

Blood flowed out of the corpse like a waterfall.

The corpse rushed into the sea with a big splash. Moreover, one piece of the corpse hit a small island, causing it to sink.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew his sword with a splatter of blood.

Then, he flew extremely quickly at an altitude of hundreds of meters to chase King Jinhuang.

...

...

King Jinhuang needed to return to Huangyu Island and to refine the disobedient Iron Pillar. As a result, he had only ordered the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King to kill Zhang Ruochen.

However, King Jinhuang felt that he was disconnected from the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King shortly into his flight.

“What had happened?”

King Jinhuang stopped and looked backwards.

The Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King had become his personal warbeast, under the control of his Inscription of Beast Taming.

However, the connection between the owner and the warbeast could be destroyed in only two ways.

First, the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King may have refined the Inscription of Beast Taming and escaped.

Second, the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King may have been killed.

King Jinhuang had not considered the true reason, because the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King was a Sixth Level Savage Beast and its power was comparable to a Half-Saint . Therefore, in Xuanwu Primitive World nobody could kill him so easily.

King Jinhuang wanted to return to figure it out.

From the distance came some ethereal music which sounded like thousands of chanting Buddhists. Many sound waves moved around the King of Jinhuang surrounded with the clouds and the sea.

The evil black Qi emanating from King Jinhuang gently touched the sound waves. With a squeaking sound, it dissipated immediately.

“Was it possible that a holy Buddhist monk had come to Xuanwu Primitive World?”

King Jinhuang was so alert that he pressed the Iron Pillar with palms, ready to start the battle.

“Swoosh!”

In the sky, a 333-meter-high Buddha shadow was formed under a golden Cloud of Buddhism and it looked solemnly down at King Jinhuang.

Zhang Ruochen stood still in the palm of the Buddha, covered with gold from the Cloud of Buddhism, and showed his great determination.

“It’s you?”

When King Jinhuang felt the waves of power from Zhang Ruochen with a glance, he suddenly said with amazement, “It is really interesting that you have such a precious power from the Sarira of the Buddhist Emperor. If it belonged to me, I would be able to reach the realm of the Saint.”

Zhang Ruochen was the Buddha Emperor’s descendant, and everybody, including King Jinhuang, knew it.

Zen-like, Zhang Ruochen said, “King Jinhuang, you had owned the holy source of Xuanwu, so it is too greedy of you to crave the Sarira of the Buddhist Emperor. If you have both, you will probably explode and die because of the collision of the two power.”

“Ha ha!”

King Jinhuang laughed loudly and said, “The holy source of Xuanwu and the Sarira of the Buddhist Emperor are so priceless that I desire them both. Zhang Ruochen, since you had the power to kill the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King, I would allow you to leave without the Sarira of the Buddhist Emperor.”

“That is totally impossible,” said Zhang Ruochen.

King Jinhuang held the Iron Pillar firmly and his long hair stood straight up.

Inky, dead Qi circulated around his body like a cluster of evil, whirling clouds.

In the distance, numerous golden and black clouds collided, turning the entire sea half golden and half black.

Instantly, Zhang Ruochen launched the attack first without excessive words.

“Swift Swordsmanship.”

He unhesitatingly used one of his unique techniques at first.

If possible, he wished to conquer King Jinhuang by one move.

“Swish!” Zhang Ruochen used the Space Moving technique once again to teleport before King Jinhuang. He integrated a Time Mark into his sword movements and stabbed King Jinhuang between the eyes.

King Jinhuang was truly the Commander in Chief of the Primitive World. He had the experience of surviving thousands of wars. Therefore, when the tip of the Ancient Abyss Sword was only an inch away from his face,

King Jinhuang moved the thick Iron Pillar horizontally, blocking the Ancient Abyss Sword.

King Jinhuang quickly retreated and touched his forehead stained with blood.

Zhang Ruochen’s sword move had broken through his defense and left a six-centimeter-long cut on his forehead.

“You are really a talent from the Saint Academy. You can control the space, and you can also manipulate the power of time. I underestimated you.”

King Jinhuang breathed deeply and inhaled the Death Qi from the Iron Pillar.

His body turned as black as if he were died. His skin shone like black metal, and he looked just like he was made from the same material as the Iron Pillar.

It meant that he would soon become an evil slave of the Iron Pillar.

Once he was enslaved, King Jinhuang would become an unconscious puppet of the Iron Pillar.

“You must die!”

King Jinhuang moved the Holy Qi in his body from his palms into the Iron Pillar.

Many evil imprints began to appear on the thicker Iron Pillar. The Iron Pillar became an evil, indomitable pillar which linked the sky and the sea.

A grayish black shadow of an undead soul flew from the top of the pillar.

The temperature dropped suddenly.

At the same time, the blowing wind was bleak in the black sky and the surface of the sea turned into hell on earth for 50km in every direction.

Such a horrible evil weapon seemed able to penetrate the world. Even the Ancient Abyss Sword began to tremble and scream.

Also, Zhang Ruochen could not clearly know King Jinhuang’s full power, which was unimaginable.

What kind of evil weapon was it?

“Swoosh!”

The Iron Pillar vibrated, creating a current of strength Qi like a wave of water that attacked Zhang Ruochen.

Holding the sword in both hands, Zhang Ruochen quickly gathered his strength to hack forward.

With a “bang,” the evil Qi crushed Zhang Ruochen’s sword Qi in a flash.

The formless, evil Qi swept towards Zhang Ruochen.

In an instant, all the illusions formed by the evil Qi disappeared. Instead, it turned into hundreds of thousands of roaring undead soldiers. They rushed down on Zhang Ruochen from the sky as if to devour him.

The Heart of the Sword between Zhang Ruochen’s eyes began running quickly.

He held the sword horizontally with both hands.

In an instant, many flying sword shadows turned into a sword wall, suspended in thin air.

“Crack!”

All the sword shadows were suddenly crushed.

A huge evil force hit Zhang Ruochen and broke through his Buddha’s light. As a result, he flew several kilometers away and fell.

Chapter 556: Capture the Holy Source

Zhang Ruochen’s legs sank, but he regained his footing. An icing air gushed out from his feet, turning seawater into thick ice.

Standing on the ice, Zhang Ruochen held his aching chest with one hand and stared at King Jinhuang.

“The iron pillar is too powerful; no one can go against it. The iron pillar was shaking, and it sent out a shockwave with such tremendous force. If it falls down, I’m afraid all Saints will be killed.”

During the blow, a shockwave from the pillar broke throughout the defense of Sarira, hitting Zhang Ruochen and wounding him.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen’s clothes were painted with bloodstains. Even his hair was dripping with blood.

However, Zhang Ruochen could see that King Jinhuang was not capable of controlling the Iron Pillar.

The pillar has the potential to become extremely powerful, but it needed a lot of Holy Qi to activate it. Due to King Jinhuang’s limited cultivation, he could only exert a small percentage of the Iron Pillar’s full strength.

Unfortunately, even the little bit of power that was exerted was almost strong enough to kill Zhang Ruochen.

King Jinhuang, whose body was as dark as charcoal was majestically floating. He stared at Zhang Ruochen and shouted, “I have the Pillar of the Vicious Sea. Even if ten Half-saints come here, they will not be able to beat me. You are a young boy with limited cultivation, how dare you to fight against me?”

Zhang Ruochen mobilized the Buddhist spirit of the Sarira to suppress his injury temporarily. He said fearlessly, "King Jinhuang, if the Death Qi had not invaded you, you could have relied on your cultivation and rich fighting experience, you could defeat me. Even with the help of Buddhist Emperor's Sarira, I would not be a worthy opponent for you."

"However, you have been invaded by Evil Qi, and now you are only a puppet controlled by an evil weapon. It will be easy for me to beat you."

King Jinhuang laughed, "Are you kidding? I have the help of Pillar of the Vicious Sea, am I still not good enough to fight you?"

"Yes."

Zhang Ruochen said loudly.

Then, he put the Yin Yang Wooden Graph in his left hand and started injecting Buddha spirit into it.

Suddenly, space inscriptions on the surface of the scroll lit up with glowing white light.

Even the pattern in the center of the scroll gradually came to life. At first, a golden leaf stretched out from the scroll. Then, a branch followed the leaf, and an over 33-meter golden treasure tree grew out of the surface of the scroll.

The Yin Yang Wooden Graph did contain not only an internal space but also a space treasure that was refined by Saint Monk Xumi who had solid defensive and attacking skills.

In the past, Zhang Ruochen's cultivations were too weak to manifest the real power of Yin Yang Wooden Graph.

"It is useless. Any weapons will be vulnerable compared with the Pillar of the Vicious Sea."

"Bang!" King Jinhuang's hands clapped on the Iron Pillar.

The pillar shook again and gushed out a layer of strength, which became tidewater that struck towards Zhang Ruochen.

The attack was more powerful than any of the previous attacks.

Zhang Ruochen grasped the Yin Yang Wooden Graph and started to control the 33-meter golden treasure tree. He jerked the tree forward to disperse the power of the Iron Pillar quickly.

"How... How did this happen?" King Jinhuang's face changed.

"You are using the power of the evil weapon. Why can't I make use of the power of the Divine Tree?"

Zhang Ruochen exerted Divine Dragon Transformation, summoning a dragon that was over 33-meter long. The dragon stretched out its paw, grabbed the treasure tree, passed through layers of Death Qi, before appearing right above King Jinhuang.

"Swoosh!"

The golden treasure tree swept forward and scattered all the Evil Qi of the Iron Pillar.

At the same time, the golden dragon spat out a fist-sized Dragon Pearl. “Whew!” The pearl turned into a golden light shuttle that struck King Jinhuang and pushed him back flying.

The power of the Dragon Pearl was so strong that one strike was enough to push King Jinhuang’s chest downward.

King Jinhuang spat out black blood and fell into the Xixuan Sea.

“Ouch!”

The golden dragon let out a cry and rushed into the sea. Soon after, it found King Jinhuang and struck him with its claw. King Jinhuang’s armor was smashed, and lines of bloody wounds appeared on his body.

Then, the golden dragon’s body shrunk to become a human figure again.

Zhang Ruochen rushed forward, grabbed King Jinhuang by the neck, dragged him to a small island, and suppressed King Jinhuang with the golden treasure tree.

Zhang Ruochen used his right hand to hold down King Jinhuang’s shoulder. With his left hand, he curled his fingers into a claw shape and struck between King Jinhuang’s eyebrows.

“Swoosh!”

Under the attack of Zhang Ruochen, King Jinhuang’s Qi Sea has torn apart and a breach formed.

Zhang Ruochen’s hand reached into the center of King Jinhuang’s eyebrows, grasped the Xuanwu holy source in his Qi Sea and took it out.

The Xuanwu holy source was as bright as a gem and was shining with a dazzling light.

However, after looking closely, one could see black lines on the surface of the Xuanwu holy source indicating that it contained some Death Qi, making people feel somewhat repulsed.

When Zhang Ruochen held the holy source in his hand, a stream of murderous, greedy, insidious and negative emotions filled him.

In a flash, Zhang Ruochen’s eyes turned gray. His expressions would change: sometimes gloomy, sometimes greedy, or sometimes even murderous.

“Zhang Ruochen... You will fall into evil... Wake up at once...”

A dignified and cold voice slapped Zhang Ruochen in the face, causing Zhang Ruochen to shudder.

Then, Zhang Ruochen felt a stream of Holy Qi coming from his vest, rushing into his meridians, pouring into his Qi Sea, and expelled negative emotions in his mind.

“Swoosh!”

A wisp of black gas was released from Zhang Ruochen’s head.

In a flash, Zhang Ruochen woke up and immediately threw the holy source on the ground.

“Crash! Crash!”

The sound of corrosion was heard immediately. The majority of the island's mud turned black instantly.

Zhang Ruochen looked at his palm, where a faint black mark remained.

He only felt cold all over his body, frightened. He breathed out a sigh of relief, "What a terrible Evil Qi that was. It almost made me lose consciousness."

"King Jinhuang have developed a strong will after experiencing countless bloody battles on the Battlefield of Primitive World. He has a rock-solid will and has encountered life-death situations. The king, who has Half-Saint Class cultivation, even had the power of the iron pillar with him. Even with all of that, he is still unable to bear the Evil Qi on the Xuanwu holy source. For a young fellow like me, it is almost a given that I could not resist its command.

A deep voice came from behind him.

Zhang Ruochen turned around and saw King Jinhuang standing behind him with a trace of Holy Blood dripping from his mouth. It was obvious that King Jinhuang was seriously injured.

Zhang Ruochen bowed and said, "Predecessor, thank you for your help. Without your help, I'm afraid I would be an Evil Slave now."

After being taken out the Xuanwu holy source, King Jinhuang's will was able to suppress Evil Qi. He was fully conscious.

It was King Jinhuang who had awaken Zhang Ruochen.

"Your kindness and hatred have been distinguished. It's no wonder that you can become a descendant of Buddha Emperor. As expected, those men in powerful saint families cannot compare with you."

King Jinhuang stared at Zhang Ruochen with a look of appreciation and smiled, "You do not have to thank me. I have to thank you. Thanks to your help, I can maintain my reputation."

King Jinhuang fought for mankind in the Battlefield of Primitive World, made numerous military achievements, and opened up vast territories of the Primitive World. He deserved to be a cautious and conscientious general.

If he was really controlled by the Evil Qi and turned into an Evil Slave, he could have ruined his reputation and brought trouble to his family.

Regardless, Zhang Ruochen saved him. He owed Zhang Ruochen a huge favor.

Zhang Ruochen stared at the holy source on the ground and hurriedly asked, "Predecessor, how could the holy source have such evil power?"

King Jinhuang's eyes were also fixed on the holy source on the ground. He squinted his eyes, shook his head and sighed, "The Xuanwu holy source has no evil power, but the Pillar of the Vicious Sea is a monstrously evil thing. It suppresses the body of Xuanwu in the bottom of the water for many years. As a result, it corroded the Xuanwu holy source."

"When I got the holy source, I did not know that Evil Qi had corrupted it. After refining it, my will was affected by it."

“Later, my greed grew stronger and stronger. After taking the Pillar of the Vicious Sea, the Evil Qi in my body became more and more intense. Finally, I walked on a road of no return.”

King Jinhuang asked, “Boy, you already have the Buddha Emperor Relic. How could you be so greedy that you fought so hard to capture the Xuanwu holy source?”

Zhang Ruochen said, “I want to use it to save people. I am afraid it is too late.”

King Jinhuang wrinkled his eyebrows and said, “I was the first one to find the holy source, so the holy source is rightfully mine. However, since you saved me, I can give it to you.”

“Predecessor, why would you want to return the favor this early?” Asked Zhang Ruochen.

King Jinhuang was slightly embarrassed, but he still said with awe, “The truth is... That’s what I should have said, but what I wanted to say was... I saved you at first and gave you the holy source, so we are even now.”

In a different scenario, Zhang Ruochen might have argued with King Jinhuang because he would never let King Jinhuang return the favor to him that easily.

After all, Zhang Ruochen had the chance to kill him before, but he only chose to extract the holy source without hurting King Jinhuang.

At the moment, however, Zhang Ruochen had no time to talk about this because he still had more important things to do.

Zhang Ruochen held the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, crouched down and wrapped the holy source in the scroll. Then, he gently unfolded the scroll and laid it flat on the ground.

“Swoosh!”

Zhang Ruochen sat on the ground and mobilized Buddha’s spirit. He released a golden Buddha pillar with both hands, injecting it into the Yin Yang Wooden Graph. Relying on the special powers of the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, he started to refine the Evil Qi in the Xuanwu holy source.

He can only give the Xuanwu holy source to Huang Yanchen after he has refined the Evil Qi.

Chapter 557: Saving People

The black evil Qi on the Xuanwu holy source was refined by the light on the Yin Yang Wooden Graph. The evil Qi gradually dissipated, turned invisible, and became crystal-clear and shining again.

Strong Holy Qi gushed out on the surface of the holy source. After contact with the air, the Holy Qi instantly condensed into charmingly fragrant droplets.

Every drop was a drop of Sacred Liquid.

Taking the Sacred Liquid would benefit the warriors of the Four Mortal Realms very much.

Originally, it had been difficult for Zhang Ruochen to get a drop of Sacred Liquid. Now, more than 100 drops of Sacred Liquid were suspended in the air like nectar, gleaming brilliantly.

“Only the Holy Qi from the Xuanwu holy source could condense into so much Sacred Liquid. How much power does the Saint Academy contain?”

Zhang Ruochen waved his sleeve and gathered over 100 drops into fist-sized blue water polo ball. Then, he swallowed the ball.

After swallowing more than 100 drops of Sacred Liquid at one time, a popping sound came from his body. The Genuine Qi Zhang Ruochen had consumed recovered completely.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen felt like his cultivation had improved a little.

“If my Senior Sister swallows the Xuanwu holy source, will she... will she be refined by Holy Liquid all the time? How fast will her cultivation speed be improved?”

The old Saints would pass on their holy source to the new generation of successors in powerful families after their death.

However, powerful Saint families would have more than one successor. In order to have more new Saints in their families, these families would divide the holy source into several parts.

In this way, at least one could reach the realm of the Saints.

If a powerful Saint family could not produce a saint, the family would decline rapidly, and its wealth would be divided by other forces.

Cultivating a Saint was extremely difficult. Even a little mistake could result in no Saints in a powerful family.

In many powerful Saint families, new Saints would be born after an old Saint's death. They could break through to the Saint realm when they took part of the holy source.

Therefore, if a complete holy source was born, many powerful families would fight for such a precious resource.

The Cyan Fire Xuanwu holy source was more powerful and precious than other holy sources.

If Huang Yanchen could take the holy source, her status in her family would increase greatly. She would become part of the core group of descendants, and she would have a chance at supreme authority in future.

Zhang Ruochen looked in the direction of King Jinhuang. After a while, he still did not open the internal space of Yin Yang Wooden Graph in front of King Jinhuang.

Although King Jinhuang owed Zhang Ruochen a favor, he also knew that Zhang Ruochen could control the Power of Time and Space.

As the saying goes, “Never relax vigilance against evil-doers.”

Zhang Ruochen and King Jinhuang had only met recently, so Zhang Ruochen did not know what kind of person he was. For now, Zhang Ruochen wanted to keep the secret of the internal space to himself.

Zhang Ruochen greeted King Jinhuang, and then he rushed forward, flew thousands of miles away, and dove to the bottom of the sea. After he had completely left King Jinhuang's sight, he opened the door of space and entered the internal space.

Huang Ruochen, like a sleeping beauty, lay quietly under the new seedlings of Sacred Tree with her long, royal-blue hair spread on the ground and her eyes gently closed.

Fortunately, in the world of the Sacred Prime Tree, Blackie had powerful cultivation. He ignited the Wood Spirit of the Sacred Tree and infused Huang Yanchen's body with it to save her life.

"Zhang Ruochen, if you came back two hours late, I'm afraid that I would not be able to keep her alive," Blackie said.

"Thank you," Zhang Ruochen said.

Then, Zhang Ruochen hurried to help Huang Ruochen to take the Xuanwu holy source. Afterward, he sat in front of Huang Ruochen with his legs crossed, holding her hands up tightly.

Later, Zhang Ruochen mobilized the Buddha spirit in his body and poured the Buddha spirit into Huang Yanchen's body through his palm.

"Swoosh!"

A blue column of light flashed out from Huang Yanchen's body, like a lightsaber passing through her chest and back.

Then, dozens of columns of light shot out, centered on the Xuanwu holy source.

The columns condensed to form an illusory image of Xuanwu, over 33-meters tall, which wrapped itself around her body.

The surrounding air condensed into drops of Sacred Liquid. At first, there were dozens of drops, then hundreds, then thousands, then tens of thousands...

The Sacred Liquid, like raindrops, completely covered the space around Huang Ruochen.

Huang Ruochen began to absorb the Holy Qi of Xuanwu holy source according to the exercises of the Xuanwu Sutra. The Holy Qi *circulated through Huang Ruochen's* meridians.

"I finally did it!"

Zhang Ruochen was relieved to know that Huang Ruochen had passed the dangerous period. He slowly withdrew his palm.

The power of the Sarira receded like the falling tide.

The power in Zhang Ruochen's body disappeared in a flash.

A feeling of weakness, pain, and exhaustion flooded over him. His brain became groggy. His eyelids grew heavier and heavier and finally closed completely. He fell forward.

Suddenly, a beautiful, white hand stretched out from the side to hold Zhang Ruochen's arm. Concerned, Ao Xinyan said, "Group Leader, what's wrong with you? Wake up!"

Ao Xinyan had not healed herself. From beginning to end, she stayed next to Zhang Ruochen in case there were any accidents.

She saw Zhang Ruochen's face turn pale suddenly, and she knew that it was not good. So, she rushed over and kept Zhang Ruochen from falling.

Blackie sashayed over and said evenly, "Girl, do not worry about him. He was hurt badly, and he used the power of Buddhist Emperor Sarira. So, he became very weak."

Ao Xinyan held Zhang Ruochen in her arms and continued to infuse Zhang Ruochen's body with Genuine Qi. She said eagerly, "You know, the leader has not fainted from a serious injury before. He was really badly hurt this time. Now, what should we do if his injury worsens without the protection of Genuine Qi?"

Blackie said, "For anybody else, this injury would prove fatal. However, Zhang Ruochen is not just anybody."

"A mark of the gods guards Zhang Ruochen's Qi Sea. The Dragon Pearl guards his body. Unless his head is cut off, no serious injury can kill him."

Attracting the Chord of the Gods was equivalent to having the gods protect the body, which was very beneficial.

Simply put, monks had greater life force than ordinary people.

Also, because Zhang Ruochen had attracted the Chord of the Gods four times, his vitality was naturally stronger. Because of this, he could cure many injuries by himself without taking pills.

Although Zhang Ruochen had been invaded by evil Qi, it did not matter much.

Even if King Jinhuang had not rescued him, the mark of the gods in his Qi Sea would have expelled the evil Qi from his body. The evil Qi could not hurt him at all.

Blackie had already gone past, but when he returned, he saw Ao Xinyan still holding Zhang Ruochen and said, "Tch! Why do you care about him so much?"

Ao Xinyan was frozen. She looked away, pursed her lips, and said, "Group Leader... Group Leader... saved my life..."

Blackie understood Ao Xinyan's actions. He laughed, and said, "Ha ha! Zhang Ruochen is indeed very good. I have met several girls who love him. However, Zhang Ruochen has never been tempted by any of them, or he has suppressed his emotions and forced himself not to be tempted by any of them."

"Some of those girls have already left or have stopped hanging around Zhang Ruochen. I'm afraid it will be difficult for them to see Zhang Ruochen again in the future."

"Some girls still act as friends. They insist on staying with him. As a result, they suffer a lot."

"In a word, Zhang Ruochen has a lot of secrets. He is not the charming prince you are looking for. I advise that you stay away from the fire pit to avoid loneliness and sorrow in the future."

Ao Xinyan looked somewhat flustered, and she said, "It's not what you think. I... I only admire the leader."

Three days later, Zhang Ruochen regained consciousness.

He sat up slowly with his hands. His whole body was still weak, but his injuries had recovered a lot. He was almost healed.

Before fainting, he vaguely remembered hearing Ao Xiyan's voice.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen did not think much of it. He only thought that when he passed out, Ao Xinyan had given him some pills. Therefore, his injuries had recovered so quickly.

Zhang Ruochen looked around and saw that Ao Xinyan and the Orange Star Emissary were healing. Huang Yanchen was still wrapped in the illusory image of Xuanwu. She had not woken up.

"Stabilize the injury first, and then go out."

Zhang Ruochen immediately raised his arms and hands to mobilize the Genuine Qi in his Qi Sea to run nine circulations through his body according to the operation mode of *Scripture of Emperor Ming's Empyrean*.

Four hours later, Zhang Ruochen's tiredness was swept away and he became fresh. His eyes became sharp.

Although his injury had not recovered yet, his power had recovered by 20 to 30 percent.

Zhang Ruochen walked out of the Scroll World alone.

His feet stepped on the bottom of the sea, and his body rushed out of the water like an arrow from a bow.

When Zhang Ruochen came to the island again, King Jinhuang had completely expelled the evil Qi from his body. His appearance was dignified and solemn.

Wearing broken armor, King Jinhuang stood upright on a black rock with his hands behind his back and looked at the Pillar of the Vicious Sea.

The Pillar of the Vicious Sea had been inserted to the bottom of the over 10,000-meter deep sea. So it was silent.

King Jinhuang pulled it out of the Bloody Trench and brought it to where the sea was shallow. He also injected a large amount of Holy Qi into it, which immediately aroused the Vessel Spirit of the pillar.

The aura of the pillar had become more and more horrible.

Even with King Jinhuang's cultivation, he did not dare to approach the pillar in case he was invaded by evil Qi again.

Chapter 558: Another Meeting with an Ember Kylin

King Jinhuang knew that Zhang Ruochen had already returned, but he did not turn around. "The person you wanted to rescue, are they alright?"

Zhang Ruochen stood behind King Jinhuang and also stared at the Pillar of the Vicious Sea. He said, "Fortunately, she was given the Xuanwu holy source quickly. The period of danger has already passed."

A moment later, King Jinhuang said, "The power of time and space is uncommon. Rumors say that only those who have activated a time and space Sacred Mark are able to control these two powers. Since ancient times, only two people have activated a time and space Sacred Mark. That makes you the third, right?"

To become a Half-Saint, one had to be broadly knowledgeable, with a thorough knowledge of martial arts and the profound mysteries in the world.

It was actually a very normal matter for King Jinhuang to have heard the rumors concerning the time and space Sacred Mark.

Zhang Ruochen said without surprise, "What are you talking about?"

King Jinhuang's aura was distinctive. He naturally emanated an aura of awe. He smiled and said, "I am saying this to tell you that I have not activated a time and space Sacred Mark. I will not covet your unique techniques in time and space."

"Furthermore, we were familiar with each other at first glance. Without discord, there would be no concord. In the future, you don't have to treat me as an elder, we can talk as equals."

After reaching the Half-Saint realm, a Monk's life expectancy would increase greatly.

Among them, some long-living Half-Saints could live to over two hundred years old.

On the surface, King Jinhuang looked about 40 years old. In reality, his true age was over one hundred. He was even older than Zhang Ruochen's grandfather.

Zhang Ruochen smiled, "If the fact that I speak on equal terms with a Half-Saint got out, there would probably be countless people who would say that I am an arrogant scoundrel who has an exaggerated opinion of his own abilities."

King Jinhuang said, "If I remember correctly, you are the Commandery Prince of an inferior commandery and a Baron of the First Central Empire. I am also a Baron, so how can we not be considered peers? Furthermore, you are a disciple of Sword Saint Xuanji, perhaps your seniority may exceed mine."

Zhang Ruochen and King Jinhuang were indeed both Barons. However, Zhang Ruochen was the lowest "inferior commandery prince," while King Jinhuang was an "inferior domain king," a full three noble titles above him.

Ranks were very strict in the First Central Empire. A difference of one title of nobility was already the difference between heaven and earth, much less three noble titles.

However, if King Jinhuang did not care about such mumbo-jumbo then Zhang Ruochen would not be so pretentious. "Alright! Since you have already said so much, then I will daringly call you brother."

King Jinhuang laughed loudly and patted Zhang Ruochen's shoulder. "Since you called me brother, then of course, I will have to protect my little brother's secret."

Afterward, King Jinhuang withdrew his smile and said solemnly, "I won't tell anyone your secret of activating a time and space Sacred Mark."

Zhang Ruochen nodded. Staring at the Pillar of the Vicious Sea, he asked, "How are you going to deal with this evil weapon?"

King Jinhuang's brows locked together and he said, "Given my cultivation, I can't restrain it. Earlier, I used a signal flare to send a message to the Ministry of War to send a Saint to restrain it."

Even with King Jinhuang's cultivation, he did not dare to touch the Pillar of the Vicious Sea. Zhang Ruochen's cultivation was not even one percent of King Jinhuang's, so he did not even dare to go near it.

Only a Saint would be able to contain such an evil weapon.

King Jinhuang suddenly thought of something and said, "The flesh of a sixth level redcloud python and the body of a Cyan Fire Xuanwu are rare treasures for you. You have to move quickly. Don't let the fellows from the Ministry of War take advantage."

If the masters from the Ministry of War arrived, they would certainly not stop at taking the Pillar of the Vicious Sea. They would probably also take the bodies of the Cyan-fire Xuanwu and the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King.

It was for this reason that King Jinhuang reminded him.

Zhang Ruochen understood tacitly, and he immediately triggered the Dragon Pearl Qi of Saint Dragon. The flesh on his back opened and formed into a pair of massive dragon wings.

"Whoosh!"

The dragon wings spread out and gave off streaks of golden light. Zhang Ruochen controlled the wings and flew up, leaving a shadow on the ocean.

A moment later, he arrived at the bodies of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King and the Cyan Fire Xuanwu. He withdrew his dragon wings and landed on the shell of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu.

The fleshy crown of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King had reverted into its true body after Zhang Ruochen landed. It turned into a Redcrown Mushroom that was nine meters in diameter. It looked like a bloody red flower.

Zhang Ruochen found the Redcrown Mushroom inside the body of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu and put it away in his Storage Ring.

When he drew down the Chord of Gods for the fourth time, Zhang Ruochen's Spiritual Power had increased a great deal. He was very close to the 44th level.

For a Monk of Spiritual Power, this Redcrown Mushroom was a priceless treasure. Once it was refined, it would not be difficult for Zhang Ruochen to break into the 44th level.

Of course, there were many other treasures in the body of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King, such as a Dragon Pearl, as well as flood dragon blood, tendons, bones, and scales.

Each could be sold for an immense amount of money.

Particularly the Dragon Pearl. It was a treasure that could raise cultivation. Even a Half-Saint would be tempted.

Of course, all the treasures in the body of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King could not compare to one claw of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu.

The body of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu was a full 10 kilometers long. Lying on the water, it was like a green island.

The Cyan Fire Xuanwu had died many years ago. 90% of its Sacred Blood had been lost. The remaining 10% had been corrupted by the Pillar of the Vicious Sea. It could be used only by refining the evil Qi with the Yin Yang Wooden Graph.

What Zhang Ruochen valued more highly was the outer shell of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu. This was more precious than any weapon-refining material.

Only a two-meter square piece of outer shell was needed to create a suit of Xuanwu Armor that even a Holy Weapon would be hard-pressed to destroy.

Such a massive shell would be able to create at least 100,000 Xuanwu Armors, and it could be used to cultivate a Xuanwu army.

If the elders in the Ministry of War saw the body of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu, they would definitely be very greedy.

Although the Xuanwu Armor could not compare to armor at the level of a Holy Weapon and had limitations in its defensive power, it was easy to make and enough material for many.

Zhang Ruochen could create 100,000 suits of Xuanwu Armor, but which power could create 100,000 suits of Holy Weapon armor?

Thus, the body of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu was extremely precious.

King Jinhuang was able to let Zhang Ruochen have the body of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu because he had something even better.

The Pillar of the Vicious Sea.

The Pillar of the Vicious Sea was a very precious treasure. As long as Saint from the Ministry of War came to collect it, then King Jinhuang would have achieved a great military exploit. He would certainly receive a large reward.

Thus, he and Zhang Ruochen each had what they wanted.

Zhang Ruochen took out the Ancient Abyss Sword, circulated his Genuine Qi, and struck down abruptly.

“Snap!”

The tip of the Ancient Abyss Sword clashed against the outer shell of the Cyan Fire Xuanwu and created sparks.

Zhang Ruochen felt like he had struck an iron wall. It created an ear-splitting shriek and the vibrations hurt his arms.

However, he only left a scratch on the shell.

And this was only because the Ancient Abyss Sword was very sharp. If he had used another Hundred Inscription Weapon, it probably would not have damaged the shell at all.

The cultivation of a Cyan Fire Xuanwu far surpassed that of a Saint. It had certainly reached the Eighth Level of Savage Beast.

The fighting strength of a Seventh Level Savage Beast was already more than of a Saint.

An Eighth Level Savage Beast surpassed the king of Saints, who was known as the "Saint King."

With nourishment from Holy Qi, any part of its flesh contained the power of the Holy Road. Also, its shell had the most defensive power.

"The Ancient Abyss Sword was not yet strong enough to damage the tortoise shell. In the future, it may be of great use."

Zhang Ruochen opened the Yin Yang Wooden Graph and stored the bodies of the Black Skeleton Flood Dragon King and the Cyan Fire Xuanwu in the world inside.

He was going to collect the Half-Saint flood dragon blood and the Xuanwu Sacred Blood after he returned to the Saint Academy.

Zhang Ruochen had just walked out of the inner world when a painful wave of heat washed over his face.

"Rumble!"

"Rumble!"

...

Wash-basin sized bubbles appeared in the roiling sea.

The air above the sea was also unusually hot.

"Ouch!"

In the distance, a red fire cloud surged over the flat surface of the sea.

The figure of a beast appeared in the cloud and let out an ear-splitting roar.

Zhang Ruochen stared at it and felt his heart jump in surprise. "An Ember Kylin!"

Thick flames emanated from the Ember Kylin's body. Its four legs, as thick as columns, moved quickly in Zhang Ruochen's direction as it came bounding over.

Right now, they were not at the bottom of the ocean and there was no pressure from the sea water. Furthermore, Zhang Ruochen was unable to use the power of the Sarira, and he could not have the fighting strength of a Half-Saint a second time.

At present, Zhang Ruochen was only a Monk in the First Change of the Fish Dragon Realm. How could he defeat an Ember Kylin? It was a Sixth Level Savage Beast!

Just as he was about to hide inside the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, he realized that the Ember Kylin was not charging at him. It was following Monk Lidi.

Monk Lidi flew away quickly. Seeing Zhang Ruochen in front of him, he said breathlessly, "Alms Giver Zhang, help me defeat this Kylin quickly."

"Teacher, please don't make such a joke. Given my feeble cultivation, how could I challenge an Ember Kylin? It is better if you defeat it yourself. It will better demonstrate your power," Zhang Ruochen said.

What a joke, to have Zhang Ruochen defeat the Ember Kylin?

Zhang Ruochen knew himself well. He would not attempt something he could not do.

Of course, he also did not leave. He only stood to the side, quietly observing. If Monk Lidi was truly in danger, naturally, he would not stand aside and do nothing.

The Ember Kylin chased Monk Lidi and circled around Zhang Ruochen a few times.

It was very strange. It seemed that the Ember Kylin could not see Zhang Ruochen, and it only chased Monk Lidi.

Monk Lidi chanted Buddhist sutras non-stop as if he wanted to give it redemption.

However, the Ember Kylin's mouth only revealed sharp teeth, and it let out an ear-splitting, angry roar occasionally. It was very clear that it wanted to eat Monk Lidi.

Actually, the Ember Kylin chased Monk Lidi because he had melded with the Buddhist Emperor's golden body.

For the savage beast, Monk Lidi was just human-shaped holy medicine. Eating him would allow it to become a Saint.

Zhang Ruochen observed for a while, stroked his chin, then nodded his head. "Monk Lidi was worthy of having reached the realm of his flesh becoming holy. Although he could not perfectly circulate the power of his body, his escape was top notch. Even an Ember Kylin Could not catch up to him."

Probably no one would believe that a Half-Saint Class Kylin could not catch up to a Monk in the First Change of the Fish Dragon Realm, even if it got out.

However, reality was happening in front of Zhang Ruochen's eyes.

The Ember Kylin chased Monk Lidi around hundreds of times. Not only could it not catch him, it tired itself out.

It stopped and stared at Zhang Ruochen.

He just now noticed that there was another human around.

Chapter 559: Sword Practitioner

Ember Kylin's eyes were like two burning copper bells, shining with multicolored lights. However, as it stared at Zhang Ruochen, it emanated a beast-like nature and savage aura.

"Boom!"

The Ember Kylin stretched out its four iron heels and charged toward Zhang Ruochen.

It seemed that it wanted to eat Zhang Ruochen first to recover some of its energy before continuing to deal with Monk Lidi.

Monk Lidi stopped. He breathed heavily and used his kasaya to wipe the sweat from his head as he reminded Zhang Ruochen in a loud voice, "Be very careful, that Kylin is not easy to beat, you are no match for it."

"Ouch!"

The Ember Kylin opened its enormous mouth and gave an earth-shattering roar, overpowering Monk Lidi's voice.

The Kylin's cry formed sound waves and condensed into ripples of sound.

Each ripple was more powerful than a full-powered attack from a warrior in the Ninth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm.

Hundreds of thousands of sound waves rippled forward endlessly. They struck against the surface of the little island and in a flash, cracking sounds could be heard.

The five-kilometer long island abruptly became mudstones and shattered rock, disappearing into the sea.

Earlier, the Ember Kylin's roar had been focused on Monk Lidi. Zhang Ruochen stood far away and used Space Domain to block the sound waves that reached him.

However, at this moment, the Ember Kylin's main target became Zhang Ruochen. Only now did he realize that its power was so terrifying.

The sound waves from the roar were strong enough to kill a Monk in the Ninth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm.

Zhang Ruochen could use the power of space warps to move the sound wave behind him. However, if the other party's power was much stronger than Zhang Ruochen's, even if he used space warp, he would not be able to block his opponent.

This was exactly what Zhang Ruochen was experiencing at the moment. Ember Kylin's sound waves had far surpassed what Zhang Ruochen could endure.

Zhang Ruochen was not a match for him.

He took control of the Power of Space and prepared to execute Space Moving to avoid the Ember Kylin's sound wave attack.

At this moment, a red shadow flew overhead and out of the clouds. In a cold voice, it said, "Reckless beast, how dare you injure my disciple."

"Swoosh!"

A white Holy Sword flew down like a shooting star and struck Ember Kylin's head with a loud swash.

The white Holy Sword was only a 3.3 centimeters long, but when it landed on the Ember Kylin's head, it expanded to tens of thousands of times in size and became a giant sword.

Thousands of sword Qi exploded out of the Holy Sword. With a series of swishing sounds, they all landed on the Ember Kylin's body and sliced open its thick scales, piercing through its head.

"Pffff!"

The white Holy Sword flew out from the bottom of the Ember Kylin's neck with a large swathe of fresh blood and returned to the air.

Ember Kylin let out a wretched scream. It suffered from heavy injuries and eventually stopped attacking Zhang Ruochen.

Ember Kylin raised its head and looked at the red-clothed woman hovering in mid-air. Ember Kylin was angry and roared at the sky.

About 333 meters away from the sea, the girl with red clothes hovered in the air as her feet rested on a wisp of white cloud like a Sword Fairy.

The red-clothed woman was only 23 centimeters tall. She stretched her arm forward, and the white Holy Sword flew toward her and floated above her palm.

This person was Elder Xuanji's fifth disciple, Demi-saint Lingshu.

Zhang Ruochen saw Demi-saint Lingshu and let out a sigh of relief. He released the Power of Space and called her, "Fifth senior sister apprentice."

Demi-saint Lingshu nodded toward him, and had a glimmer of joy, "King Jinhuang told me that you were in this area so I came to find you. Junior fellow apprentice, I am relieved to see that you are alright. Let me defeat Ember Kylin so we can return to Myriad Chaos Mountain."

Zhang Ruochen reminded her, "The Ember Kylin's power is very strong. You must be careful."

"You are underestimating me. You should know that I am a sword practitioner. What would hold me back from defeating a mere level six Savage Beast?"

Demi-saint Lingshu stretched out a slender arm and grasped a Holy Sword that was hundreds of times larger than her body. A powerful gust of Holy Qi surged through her palm and entered the blade of the sword.

A mighty sword Qi broke out of her body, and like a white rainbow passing through the sun, it shot into the sky and pierced through the clouds.

“Clang!”

Affected by Demi-saint Lingshu’s Sword technique, the Ancient Abyss Sword in Zhang Ruochen’s hands trembled as if it wanted to fly out of his hands.

“Senior sister apprentice’s sword technique comprehension is very powerful. She only needs one gust of Sword Comprehension to beat him hollow.” Zhang Ruochen silently thought.

Having reached the Intermediate Stage of Heart Integrated into Sword, Zhang Ruochen thought his achievements in sword techniques were very high and were even comparable to most Half-Saints.

However, Demi-saint Lingshu’s realm of Sword Comprehension was even more tremendous; her skills exceeded Zhang Ruochen’s by a long shot.

She was a true sword practitioner.

No one could compare to a true sword practitioner in the same realm who was ranked first in an attack.

“Watch carefully! I am going to show you what true sword technique is all about.”

“Yin and Yang split the heavens and earth, naturally, sword techniques are endless.”

Demi-saint Lingshu slowly swung the Holy Sword to move heaven and earth Spiritual Qi, forming a large circular sword Qi in front of her, seemingly forming a Tai Chi Eight Trigrams.

Before Zhang Ruochen got the chance to see the movement clearly, she had disappeared.

“Swoosh!”

The circle of sword Qi fell on the Ember Kylin’s body and made crackling noises. The sword Qi severed all the scales on the Kylin’s body and sent them flying outward, leaving a bloody body with no skin.

Right after, Demi-saint Lingshu stood proudly on the head of the Ember Kylin. She raised her sword, pointing it between its brows, and said, “Acknowledge your defeat or die?”

The Ember Kylin had no more fight left in it and it gave a low and trembling roar. It immediately crouched on the ground and gave a pitiful look to the Demi-saint.

“At least you know what is good for you.”

The Holy Sword in Demi-saint Lingshu’s hand returned to become one inch in size and was returned to its sheath.

Afterward, she waved her arm and turned into a gust of Qi billow, collecting all the Kylin’s scales.

Kylin’s scales had various sizes, but gradually they started to shrink under the power of her Holy Qi until they were the size of fingernails, after which they flew to a silver thread bag.

Demi-saint Lingshu patted her bag, and a rattling sound came from it.

She looked toward Zhang Ruochen and smiled, "Junior fellow apprentice, I still haven't given you anything nice. Once we are back in the Saint Academy, I will ask the Sword Sanctum's Master Weapon's Refiner to make a Kylin Armor for you."

Zhang Ruochen looked at the silver thread bag at Demi-saint Lingshu's waist. He thought for a moment then took out a red colored Storage Ring and handed it to her, "Senior sister apprentice, let me give you a gift first."

Demi-saint Lingshu's eyes rose and stared at the Storage Ring. She opened her mouth in anger and said, "Don't be like this. The other elder brother apprentices have always treated me like a junior sister apprentice, giving me all kinds of gifts. When Master has finally taken in a junior brother apprentice, he allowed me to leave the younger generation behind. For once, just let me be a good senior sister apprentice and let me give you a gift."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "It is just a small plaything, it cannot compare to the Kylin Armor that you are planning to give to me."

Demi-saint Lingshu quietly thought about it; that it was only a ring, and it would not do harm to accept it.

As a Half-Saint, she had seen all kinds of treasures. In her eyes, the ring that Zhang Ruochen gave her was just an exquisite accessory.

If someone else had given her an accessory, she would not even care to glance at it. However, Zhang Ruochen was a disciple that Master was the proudest of and was also her only younger brother apprentice.

Regardless of how cheap his present was, it showed how he cared for her.

Demi-saint Lingshu stared at Zhang Ruochen and accepted the red jade ring. Smiling. She said, "The elder brother apprentices all gave Holy Weapons, armor, medicinal pills, and other practice treasures. "You are the first one to gift me an accessory. Looks like that the rumors in the external world are not wrong after all. You are indeed a sentimental man. You know how to make a girl happy."

Zhang Ruochen smiled awkwardly and said, "Please don't believe such rumors. Those rumors are purposely made by Saint Xu Gentry attempts in using someone else to do their dirty work."

"Why are you so nervous? I am only joking... but since Saint Xu Gentry dared to harm you, I will remember their debt to me! Hng!"

Her gaze suddenly switched and became unusually cold and sharp. The fingers of her right hand squeezed the red jade ring tightly and a wave of Holy Qi surged out. She had unintentionally activated the Inscriptions of Space in the ring.

"Swoosh!"

A red light appeared on the surface of the ring and spread outward like water ripples.

Demi-saint Lingshu noticed something strange about the Storage Ring. She gasped, shocked at what she had seen. When she reached out with her left hand, she plunged it deeply into the light and discovered that there was a giant internal space that existed inside the ring.

“This is... a Space Treasure, a Storage Ring...”

Demi-saint Lingshu’s eyes lit up and she looked toward Zhang Ruochen with disbelief.

In the entire Kunlun’s Field, there were very few Space Treasures. Although each was a holy item of astonishing power, no one would use to them carry personal items.

Thus, the Storage Ring was only an item of legend for a Half-Saint.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said the words he had prepared long ago, “Perhaps you don’t know about this but I once found a secret mansion from the Middle Ancient Times. In there, I obtained a number of usable Space Treasures. This Storage Ring is one of them.”

Demi-saint Lingshu did not ask further questions. After all, the only reason Zhang Ruochen could find the secret mansion and obtain the treasures was luck.

Actually, she had also discovered a few secret mansions and had obtained many benefits that could not be told to others.

For him to be able to take out a Storage Ring and give it to her, showed that he was not a selfish person.

Without knowing it, their relationship grew a little closer.

Demi-saint Lingshu looked at the Storage Ring that Zhang Ruochen was wearing on his finger and realized that he must have other Space Treasures for himself, so she calmly accepted his gift.

She wore the red Storage Ring on her right wrist; it was as if the bracelet was explicitly made for her, it was a perfect fit.

She placed the silver thread bag with the Kylin scales into the internal space and nodded with a smile, “You have given me such a precious gift. I wonder if the elder brother apprentices would be jealous after seeing it?”

“Master and elder brother apprentices are all in the Myriad Chaos Mountain. We should hurry there.”

“You broke into the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm and drew down the Chord of Gods, you have brought us more pride. Knowing Second Senior Brother Apprentice’s personality, he will certainly host a large banquet tonight to welcome you back.”

Chapter 560: Senior Brother and Senior Sister Apprentices

Zhang Ruochen leaped onto Ember Kylin’s back and looked out to the sea, but there was no trace of Monk Lidi.

The monk must have left.

“Swoosh!”

Ember Kylin’s had its wings spread out and Zhang Ruochen was riding on its back. They flew through a strong gust of wind, and the Ember Kylin brought Zhang Ruochen and Demi-saint Lingshu soaring to the sky, in the direction of Huangyu Island.

There were flames blazing on the Ember Kylin's wings, and they were extremely hot. However, after Demi-saint Lingshu tamed the creature, the fire had become much calmer, without a hint of aggression.

The Ember Kylin was flying on the sea area where the Pillar of the Vicious Sea used to be, but at that moment the sea area was calm.

Demi-saint Lingshu seemed to know what Zhang Ruochen was thinking. She said, "When I was searching for you, I had seen the three War Saints, who were stationed by the Ministry of War at Myriad Chaos Mountain. All had arrived at the same time. They took over the Pillar of the Vicious Sea."

Zhang Ruochen was beating around the bush when he remarked, "Senior Sister apprentice, that is an extremely powerful evil weapon. Its method of forging seems quite different from what is employed throughout Kunlun's Field."

Demi-saint Lingshu glanced at Zhang Ruochen, and raised her head to watch the boundless sky. She said to herself, "This kaleidoscopic universe contains all sorts of wonders. Kunlun's Field is limitless and even the Eastern Region's borders extend vastly. There are so many places that are not known, even to Saints."

"Junior Fellow Apprentice, you have barely traveled and have only been to a couple of places. How would you know that Kunlun Field's unique way of forging weapons doesn't exist anywhere else?"

"Only by reading thousands of books, traveling thousands of miles, observing and undergoing myriad worldly experiences, could you reach the Half-Saint realm. Let me give you a suggestion. When you return to the Saint Academy, don't just stay inside. Go out and experience the world. That might make it easier for you to comprehend this world."

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head, keeping Demi-saint Lingshu's words close to his heart.

In his previous lifetime, Zhang Ruochen had spent so much time practicing; he had almost never traveled alone outside to gain experience.

In this lifetime, Zhang Ruochen had merely accumulated military merits in the Battlefield of Primitive World. For him, it was simply an orgy of killing—one after another. He had only read about scenic spots and historical sites but had never gotten the chance to visit any. Even when he needed to learn how to function in society, he gained it from reading books. He had not had any opportunity to experience them himself.

Read a thousand scrolls of books, travel a thousand miles.

Maybe he really ought to go out and travel. Experience the countless wonders of this boundless universe. Perhaps he would encounter the schemes and deceptions of humanity, or he might even lose himself to temptation.

It takes experience to prove that you have once existed in this world.

Demi-saint Lingshu then revealed to Zhang Ruochen, "In fact, there are things which I can't tell you right now, because I'm afraid they might hinder your cultivation progress."

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Demi-saint Lingshu, but she had shut her eyes close. So he didn't ask her any further questions.

After swallowing one mouthful of the Blood of Wood Spirit, Zhang Ruochen started to heal himself.

Under the escort of Demi-saint Lingshu, it was a remarkably smooth journey, without any bumps or danger. Zhang Rouchen arrived safely at Myriad Chaos Mountain.

Thousands of miles of military camps could be seen from the Myriad Chaos Mountain, and there were dozens of palaces hanging in midair.

Each palace looked like a deity's mansion. A common soldier of the Primitive World could only admire it from afar. They would never get the chance to enter these palaces, and they would never know the big shots that resided within the palaces.

The Qinghe Palace was over 300 meters high, cast out of dark steel and entirely black. Its roof tiles, rafters, pillars, and windows were all interconnected, giving off an imposing, solemn atmosphere.

The owner of the Qinghe Palace, Saint Qing Xiao, was a War Saint at the Ministry of Military Affairs. He was the eldest disciple of Elder Xuanji.

Zhang Ruochen and Demi-saint Lingshu entered Qinghe Palace. Both bowed and said in unison, "Your disciples hereby pay our respects to Master."

Dressed in a white robe, Elder Xuanji stood at the center of the hall. He turned around and scrutinized Zhang Ruochen. He laughed. "Ten years make up a decade, and a 100 years make up a century. 70 years ago, Little Holy King Wan Zhaoyi massacred three realms in the Lingchuan Primitive World. He slaughtered all indigenous creatures who had reached beyond the Completion of the Earth Realm. The act allowed him to break into the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm. Everyone believed that he owned the century. No one could surpass him. But as your teacher, I feel your potential exceeds even Wan Zhaoyi's.

Zhang Ruochen said humbly, "No one knows how many talented geniuses were born in Kunlun's Field within the past 100 years. This small achievement of mine is not comparable to others'."

In the past 50 years, aside from Little Holy King, there have been over 100 Saintly Beings born in Kunlun's Field. Every one stands heads over shoulders amongst other men. I need to work harder to catch up with everyone else."

A loud, boisterous laugh erupted from the left of the hall. "Youngest Junior Brother, you are too modest! No one knows who will be the ultimate winners or losers in this century, but I know that this decade belongs to you. As your Second Senior Brother apprentice, I think you are unbeatable."

Within Qinghe Palace there were two more persons besides Elder Xuanji.

Sitting on the left was Zhu Hongtao, Zhang Ruochen's Second Senior Brother apprentice.

Zhu Hongtao was a big man. He was a hefty four meters and thirty centimeters tall, and had large ears and a fleshy face. His waist was as thick as a millstone, and he wore a scarlet pair of pants. His upper body was draped with a green silk garment. He bared his chest as he sat at the teal wood table, chewing meat vigorously and swallowing wine in big gulps.

Zhang Ruochen felt the powerful aura peculiar to a savage beast. He knew that Zhu Hongtao was not human.

It wasn't uncommon for humans to accept savage beasts as disciples. So Zhang Ruochen wasn't surprised.

Sitting on the right was Zhang Ruochen's Third Senior Brother apprentice, Wan Ke.

He was well bred and gracious. He wore a white gown, with every button meticulously buttoned, and every strand of hair on his head meticulously combed. No one strand went loose.

He looked almost 30 years old, with a handsome, refined countenance. Without a strand of facial hair, his features were delicate and his actions were courteous. He always had a modest smile lingering at the corner of his lips.

Demi-saint Lingshu had spoken to Zhang Ruochen about the distinguishing features of his elder brother apprentices, so it was not hard for him to tell them apart. He quickly bowed and paid respects to his Second and Third Elder Brother apprentices.

Second Senior Brother apprentice waved his hand and laughed again, "Don't be too formal. After all, it's just between us fellow apprentices. Hey Youngest Junior Brother, I heard you have captured Orange Star Emissary from Black Market Excellence Hall, and have made her your wife. I've got to hand it to you. Shouldn't we exchange some pointers over this?"

"Ahem!"

Third Senior Brother apprentice Wan Ke gave two dry coughs and glared at Zhu Hongtao. He then said, "Second Senior Brother, our youngest fellow apprentice doesn't have a poor taste like you. From what I could gather, his fiancée is the favored daughter of the East Region Saint Mansions. They are getting married soon. Wouldn't you make his wife angry, if you bring him to visit those place you frequent?"

Zhu Hongtao's eyes lit up, and he riveted his sight upon Zhang Ruochen. "Are you telling the truth? Our junior brother here's getting married so soon? As far as I know, the cellars of the East Region Saint Mansions have some rare wine brewed by Feng Zuisheng, and the wine is immortal. Could it be that I'm getting a rare treat?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "According to the marriage pledge, it is indeed almost time we are wedded. I believe we shall start making preparations for this matter after I return."

At first, Zhu Hongtao was excited, but then he realized something and puckered his brows. He sighed. "Ah! The marriage... well, if you have decided, Youngest Junior Brother, I wouldn't talk you out of it. Don't hesitate to ask me for any help. Many will still give me some face in the Eastern Region, I believe."

Wan Ke pondered for a moment, and said, "At first I was thinking of presenting my junior brother with a gift or two upon our first meeting. But as I came in some haste this time, I forgot to prepare one. On your wedding day, Youngest Junior Brother, I shall make up for it with a lavish gift."

Demi-saint Lingshu laughed and said, "Third Senior Brother, aren't you just a little bit stingy? A meeting gift should count as a meeting gift. You shouldn't mix it up with a wedding present."

"I remember this Shooting Star Invisible Cloak of yours: it can render a person invisible and mask his body scent for over 30 meters. Even a Saint's five senses can't detect it."

Wan Ke felt a stab of pain. The Shooting Star Invisible Cloak ranked top three in the number of treasures he owned within his arsenal.

The Shooting Star Invisible Cloak had many wonderful properties. It wasn't just an invisible cloak, but also a defensive holy weapon, which could help a Monk withstand 90% of any attack.

After putting the cloak on, a Monk could fly ahead with the speed of a meteor.

This meant that the cloak could help people escape attacks, even when attacked by a Saint.

Wan Ke had attained the Ninth Realm of the Half-Saint Realm, he was only one step away from reaching the Saint Realm. The Shooting Star Invisible Cloak offered little use to him now.

He wanted to wait and present the Shooting Star Invisible Cloak to Zhang Ruochen as a wedding day gift.

He hadn't expected Demi-saint Lingshu to bring it up this soon

If he were to gift Zhang Ruochen with the Shooting Star Invisible Cloak now, what would he give for his wedding? Certainly, he could not give anything worse than a Shooting Star Invisible Cloak!

Headache!

What a headache!

Just as Wan Ke was facing this dilemma, Zhu Hongtao gave a roar. "Never mind! Third Senior Brother is a well-known scrooge. But I am certainly not one! I can offer nothing less to my junior brother!"

After saying that, Zhu Hongtao spat out a golden ball from his mouth.

The ball gyrated in midair with a humming noise. Textured lines on its surface glittered incessantly, forming unique characters on the surface.

Demi-saint Lingshu was somewhat astounded. "The Golden Beast Essence Pill!" she shouted.

Zhang Ruochen was also surprised. He took a step forward, and said in haste, "This gift of yours is too expensive, Second Senior Brother. I can't accept it."

Only savage beasts of archaean survival could absorb the quintessences of sun and moon and condense them into a Golden Beast Essence Pill.

Archaean survival beasts were rarer than the offsprings of Mythical Beasts. They had immense fighting strength.

In the same realm, one archaean survival beast could rival two offsprings of Mythical Beasts and a Mythical Beast offspring could easily defeat ten ordinary savage beasts within the same realm.

Nowadays almost all savage beasts practice their holy source, but only very few could condense their quintessence into a Golden Beast Essence Pill.

As a matter of fact, a Golden Beast Essence Pill was no different from a holy source. It also contained an immense amount of Holy Qi, as well as a great deal of knowledge. The only differences lay in the facts that a Golden Beast Essence Pill was easier to absorb for a Monk and that the Pill would not be rejected within a Monk's body.

Even an archaean survival beast would take a hundred years to cultivate one Golden Beast Essence Pill. Anyone could tell that it was a rare item.

For Second Senior Brother apprentice, a valuable treasure like that could be offered casually as a gift. But Zhang Ruochen simply could not accept it.