

Great Ruler 1001

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1001: Five Entries

When Mu Chen's last sentence spread from the Thunder Cloud Tower, no one on the stage responded. In addition, outside of the Body-refining Tower there was also a deadly atmosphere...

Everyone was looking at the light screen with shock. They stared at the place where Lu Sui had disappeared, as if they still had not recovered from the result.

When Lu Sui had cast such a terrifying attack previously, most of the people on the scene thought that the outcome of the confrontation was a foregone conclusion. No one would have expected that Mu Chen would once again reverse the situation and kick out Lu Sui, who had seemingly been winning, from the Body-refining Tower.

The powerful people of numerous races had only recovered from their shock after a period of time, and the expressions in their eyes became extremely dignified. Mu Chen had not even used the spiritual array in the fight. With the strength of a Grade Six Sovereign alone, he had defeated Lu Sui, who was a Grade Seven Sovereign. Although this was because the latter had lost his first opportunity, this outcome still revealed how scary Mu Chen was.

Such strength was enough to compete with the top supreme talents in the Body-refining Tower.

At the place where the Heavenly Roc Clan was gathered, Liu Qing's pretty face was pale. Looking at the slender, young figure in the light screen, she gulped and seemed to show signs of fear in her eyes for the first time.

At this point, if she still treated Mu Chen as an ordinary Grade Six Sovereign, then it would be her own stupidity.

Judging from Mu Chen's combat power this time, if he topped up this power with a strong spiritual array, even Zong Teng would have difficulty getting an upper hand against him.

Previously, she kept on sneering and belittling Nine Nether, but at the moment, it was a humiliation. One could tell from all the mocking and satirizing from the surrounding people.

"This guy Mu Chen, how can he be so strong?" Beside Liu Qing, Zong Yan, who had been defeated by Mu Chen before, had a dignified look. He also thought that Mu Chen could only rely on the spiritual array to compete with all the powerful talents, but to everyone's surprise, Mu Chen had actually defeated Lu Sui so fiercely without using the spiritual array.

Another powerful person of the Heavenly Roc Clan also nodded and said, "It seems that only Big Brother Zong Teng can deal with this guy."

Liu Qing gently nodded. In regards to Mu Chen's strength, it was a little of an eye-opener not only for them, but for Zong Teng as well. This guy was really an odd person.

Swoosh!

The outside of the Body-refining Tower was shaking due to Mu Chen's actions. The stone platform outside of the tower suddenly flashed, and a sorry figure appeared.

The figure immediately retreated as it showed up, and then appeared among the powerful people of the Lightning Crow Clan. Revealing itself, it was Lu Sui, who was pale and drained of spiritual energy.

The surrounding gazes were also turned towards that direction.

Lu Sui looked very angry and unhappy. He glared at Mu Chen, then turned his fierce gaze at Nine Nether and Ink Ring. On his side, the powerful people of the Lightning Crow Clan also had ill facial expressions.

However, facing their fierce gazes, Nine Nether was not afraid. She instead sneered and said, "A dog who lost the family still dares to be fierce?"

Currently, Lu Hao was badly injured and had lost fighting power. The rest of the people were even less of an issue. If they had really wanted to rush forward, then Nine Nether would not mind killing them all to avoid trouble later.

Lu Sui gave Nine Nether a sinister stare, but in the end, he unwillingly retracted it and quickly retreated. Thereafter, he sat down cross-legged on a distant ruined building, ready to quickly heal his internal injuries.

The other people of the Lightning Crow Clan appeared around him to provide protection.

Seeing this situation, Nine Nether was not bothered to do anything. Turning her eyes back to the light scene, she stared at the young figure and was finally able to loosen her clenched fists.

The fact that Mu Chen was able to win in such a neat manner was also beyond her expectations. According to her previous estimation, even if Mu Chen was able to hold his ground, it would have been difficult to win with the strength of a Grade Six Sovereign alone. Therefore if the fight dragged on, there might have been some unexpected occurrence.

However, this final result had totally surprised her.

Obviously, Mu Chen had gained considerable benefits in the first three levels of the Body-refining Tower. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to exert such amazing power.

"It is said that the fourth level of the Body-refining Tower is quite wonderful. As long as you can enter, it will certainly provide far more benefits than the first three levels..."

Nine Nether smiled slightly. Looking at the current situation, Mu Chen had entered into the fourth level, so there should be no more obstructions. As for Ink Blade, his strength was at the top level in the battlefield, so it should not be difficult for him to obtain one of the entries.

In the Body-refining Tower, it seemed that the Nine Netherbird Clan could be the biggest winners.

On the Thunder Cloud Tower.

In Mu Chen's case, no one should be aiming at him. Now, even if it was someone as strong as Han Shan, Xu Kun, and others, they all had some fear of Mu Chen. Naturally, they would not be confronting him at this time.

Therefore, after pondering for a moment, the nearby powerful people quickly retreated from the area where Mu Chen was located, indicating that they had no intention of attacking him.

When Mu Chen saw this, his face did not change, but his heart was quietly relieved. Ordinary people only saw that he had beaten Lu Sui with a single punch. However, little did they know that the previous punch was powered by the huge force his body had absorbed in the first three levels.

Before this, Mu Chen's body was like a sponge that was full of water. That punch was like wringing all the water out, and afterwards, his body returned to normal.

Therefore, if Mu Chen were to cast a similar attack now, its power would never reach the same level as before.

This special effect of the body's accumulation of strength was obviously a technique acquired from cultivating the Dragon-Phoenix body. In this case, it could achieve unexpected results most of the time, which could be regarded as a powerful killing technique.

This Dragon-Phoenix Scripture really is amazing. Even Mu Chen was amazed by it. The Dragon-Phoenix Scripture was really a wonderful scripture. According to his estimation, the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture must be at a super power level, and even among the super power level, it was absolutely extraordinary.

Mu Chen was slightly amazed and converged his thoughts. Although now no one was here to provoke him, he did not intend to find trouble with other people. Hence, he just stood still while waiting for the end of the elimination.

As for Zong Teng, Mu Chen knew that the reason Lu Sui gave him trouble must have had something to do with him. However, now was not the best time to deal with Zong Teng, so he could postpone that temporarily.

Despite this, Mu Chen's slightly sharp vision was directly locked onto Zong Teng. The surging spiritual energy around his body made him like a cheetah that was about hunt, full of a sense of urgency.

Mu Chen's actions were also a little uncomfortable for Zong Teng, who was confronted by Ink Blade. He always had to spare some of his mind to lock onto Mu Chen, preventing him from suddenly bursting out his hands and pairing up with Ink Blade to fight him at the same time.

Zong Teng was not able to deal with both of them at once. In the end, he could only grit his teeth before converging his spirit and exiting the area where Ink Blade was.

Zong Teng retreated while saying, "Brother Ink, it's difficult to have results if we fight with each other. How about we find our own opponents and obtain one of the entries?"

Ink Blade glanced at him dully, then nodded. This was because he also knew that it would be difficult to achieve any results if they were to continue. If he joined hands with Mu Chen, it would inevitably arouse Zong Teng's fierceness. They might need to pay a high price for his counterattack.

At the moment, getting an entry to the fourth level was the most important thing.

When Zong Teng saw this, he quietly breathed a sigh of relief before he quickly retreated from the area where Mu Chen and Ink Blade were located. After making a little selection, he went straight for another supreme talent with slightly less strength.

When Mu Chen saw Zong Teng get away, he did not intend to bug him anymore. He glanced at Ink Blade and then smiled at him, as a sign to thank him for helping him to keep Zong Teng busy.

Ink Blade relaxed quite a bit. It seemed that after Lu Sui had been defeated by Mu Chen, he regarded Mu Chen as a figure on the same level with him, so he no longer treated him as coldly as in the past.

Ink Blade also nodded to Mu Chen before he quickly turned around and began to choose his opponent.

Rumble!

As the rest of the people had selected their opponents, the spiritual energy in the Thunder Cloud Tower suddenly whistled violently. The propagating shockwaves made the space continuously tremble.

On the platform where spiritual energy was raging, only Mu Chen's place was unusually peaceful. There was no one in it within 1,000 feet, so he became a spectator at this time, observing the battlefield at the other end. In the meantime, he secretly recorded some of the top people's abilities in his mind.

Although there should be no more conflicts on this level, there were still two more levels in the Body-refining Tower. Who could know how many people would be eligible to enter the next levels?

So, Mu Chen tried to understand the situation as much as possible.

Under Mu Chen's observation, after a period of time, the battle on the Thunder Cloud Tower finally began to end. The final result was not unexpected.

Besides Mu Chen, Han Shan from the Demonic Rhino Clan took the lead in defeating his opponent and taking an entry.

After him, Ink Blade and Zong Teng won soon after.

As for the last entry, it was obtained by Xu Kun, who had lost to Han Shan by a narrow margin outside of the Body-refining Tower. The strength of this person was equally astonishing, as it took a lot of effort even for Han Shan to win.

With Xu Kun's getting the last entry, silence fell upon the huge platform once again. There were five figures standing, rising to the sky with majestic momentum, as if they were fighting for first place.

However, this kind of momentum only lasted for a while, and the five people converged at the same time. Looking at each other, they hesitated no more and flashed out before appearing directly on the five lighting cushions.

Then, their eyes filled with greed and fierceness as they looked at the space behind the platform. A meteor-like ray that covered the sky and earth whistled by.

In that ray, drops of thunder marrow were shining with dazzling luster.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1002: Thunder Marrow Baptism

Behind the platform, the space grew turbulent. Countless streams of light whizzed past. like a meteor shooting star, creating a gorgeous scene.

Within each of the light streams, there were droplets of Thunder Marrows, which were the source of Mu Chen and the others' greedy eyes. In ancient times, it was said that many mythical beasts would use the Thunder Marrow droplets for cultivation, in order to make their bodies as strong as diamonds, or even indestructible.

However, the Thunder Marrow was extremely rare. In the Great Thousand World today, even if you could find it in some large auction house, its price was ridiculous and it would be bid on within seconds. Thus, it was very hard for ordinary people to get it.

At the moment, what appeared in front of Mu Chen and others was an overwhelming amount of Thunder Marrow droplets. They could not even resist the excitement in their hearts.

"Is this the opportunity, which was granted to us upon our acquiring the last five spots?" Mu Chen licked his lips. If they could pass through this space smoothly, it would mean a Thunder Marrow baptism for them, which would grant them an unimaginable level of cultivation!

The Body-refining Tower was full of rare opportunities for them to cultivate their bodies. To outsiders, Mu Chen had spent only a half day's time in the tower. However, the sophistication that his body had already obtained was more comparable to an entire year's worth of hard work!

"No wonder the amount of powerful people gathered in the Land of the Divine Beasts comprises one-third of the whole Divine Beasts Continent...." Mu Chen sighed. With such unique conditions of cultivation, it was no wonder that the qualities and quantities of the powerful people were relatively high.

Zoom!

At the moment Mu Chen sighed, the thunder clouds below their knees began to shake. It then carried them slowly to the space that was full of light streams.

Mu Chen and others were stunned. Then, with their eyes blazing, they quickly adjusted themselves.

Zoom!

As five thunder clouds carried five of them through the space, light streams whizzed by them, coming from all directions. The Thunder Marrows within the light streams brought out the excitement within them.

Han Shan was the first one to act. He immediately turned his palm into a claw, forcing a fierce pulling force to grab one of the light streams, then immediately locking on. The light stream suddenly shifted its direction, then flew towards him like a meteor.

Han Shan grinned. He spread his arms to absorb the power from the light stream, without using any spiritual power. He knew that a mysterious item like Thunder Marrow could not be contaminated by spiritual power.

There was only one thing that could contain its power, which was the true flesh of bodies. Therefore, to absorb the Thunder Marrows, one would have to catch it with his body.

Bang!

The light stream eventually blasted on Han Shan's chest, causing a low sound to suddenly arise. The blast caused a few blood holes on his chest, which had thunder clusters inside of them. The thunder clusters then quickly integrated into his flesh and blood.

Han Shan's face was distorted, as he was obviously suffering from extreme pain. When the Thunder Marrow entered his body, it would melt his flesh and blood, bit by bit.

The twisted agony on Han Shan's face continued for half an hour, before it gradually faded away. When he finally awoke, he was sweating, and the blaze in his eyes had faded a lot. Apparently, the pain that the Thunder Marrows brought was not something an ordinary person could handle.

This only further proved that Han Shan had an extraordinary perseverance and strong will within him. However, he could only continue to absorb the Thunder Marrows after his body was allowed a slight cooldown.

At the same time, Mu Chen, Mo Feng, and the other two guys began to absorb the Thunder Marrows, too. Their results were the same as Han Shan's. The extraordinary pain caused their faces to twist, and all of them shook as the Thunder Marrows entered their bodies.

While they were waiting for the pain to go away, Mo Feng and the others had haunted looks. However, Mu Chen was the exception. When he opened his eyes, there was a weird light ray that passed through his black pupils.

He lowered his head and looked at his chest. The blood holes were rapidly recovering, and the wounded area was being covered with silver lights. These were the results from the fusion of Thunder Marrows and his body's flesh!

Mu Chen could clearly feel that the area on his body that had absorbed the Thunder Marrows was more tenacious and strong than any of the other parts of his body. However, it was not these changes that raised the pastoral thoughts within Mu Chen's mind. Instead, it was the moment when it first entered his body that he could clearly feel that almost the entire force of the Thunder Marrow was absorbed by the Dragon-Phoenix mark under his skin!

Mu Chen looked at his arms and the Dragon-Phoenix mark that was entrenched there. Silently, he could feel that the mark was now extremely active and was showing a sense of desire for more. The mark on his arms was eager for more of the power!

"You don't feel enough, do you?"

Mu Chen mumbled to himself. He finally could feel how difficult it was to cultivate the Dragon-Phoenix mark. Ever since he started cultivating the mark, he had never slacked off. He had even invested a lot of resources into it, but he still could not bring it to the next level.

According to Mu Chen's estimation, if he could not break through the cultivation level of the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture in this tower, it would require another year. This was a tremendous discouragement for Mu Chen. What he lacked the most now was time!

Therefore, since there were such huge resources available at the moment, he would never let this opportunity slip away. At this point, Mu Chen did not hesitate any longer. Striving to grab this chance,

he unleashed his spiritual power to form a strong attraction force, hoping to suck in all of the light streams that were nearby.

Zoom! Zoom!

At that moment, ten light streams charged towards him, with the droplets of Thunder Marrows rolling along with them, creating loud thunderclaps. Everyone was shocked to see Mu Chen absorbing the Thunder Marrow in such a manner. They quickly stepped away to avoid being absorbed along with Mu Chen's attractive force!

They clearly understood the feeling of pain that occurred whenever the Thunder Marrow entered the body. It was best to take it in slowly, when it came to such extreme cultivation as that. If one was too hasty, one's body would be the first to fall, due to the pain that resulted from the melting Thunder Marrow.

Vroom! Vroom!

The light streams bombarded Mu Chen's body like cannonballs. At the moment, the stream blast caused numerous blood holes to appear on his body. He looked like he was comprised of nothing but blood and pulp!

The silvery Thunder Marrows then blended in with the flesh and blood, and the new mixture continued to flow into his body. The pain caused his eyes to turn red.

He clenched his teeth, while sweat was dripping down from his forehead. His face was horribly twisted, and a low-pitched voice was trying to suppress the pain, like a growling, wounded beast.

Sha...sha!

He could clearly hear the weird voice, which had obviously been made from the fusion of his flesh and blood with the Thunder Marrow. The sensation felt like his flesh was being melted off.

An indescribable and tremendous pain kept on surging, causing Mu Chen to almost faint. However, just when Mu Chen was unable to withstand the pain, the Dragon-Phoenix mark started to glow. In that instant, a roar arose from the dragon and phoenix, resounding from Mu Chen's body.

Shoo...

The roar of the dragon and phoenix forced the blood flow in Mu Chen's body to escalate. At the same time, the pain in his body was suppressed. Mu Chen finally felt a sense of relief, as the pain gradually faded away. Mu Chen would have lost all consciousness, had it not been for the help of the mark!

At the very moment he breathed out, the Thunder Marrow that was fused with his flesh turned into silvery lightstreams, which eventually got absorbed by the Real Dragon and Phoenix mark on Mu Chen's arms.

As Mu Chen opened his eyes, there was a silvery flash in them. His body, which was originally full of blood and pulp, started to repair itself at a tremendous speed. His skin was also flashing with a faint thunder light. Apparently, his body had gone through cultivation!

"He is still alive?" Zong Teng, Han Shan, and the others were shocked by Mu Chen's fast recovery. If they were in Mu Chen's shoes, they could not withstand the level of Thunder Marrow erosion that he had been subjected to just now.

How did Mu Chen handle it and recover in this short timeframe?

"How is this guy's body more powerful than ours?" Xu Kun asked, dumbfounded. They all had the bodies of Divine Beasts, which made them naturally strong. However, they could not understand how Mu Chen could be tougher than them, as he only had a human body!

Mu Chen did not bother with their consternation or judgments. Instead, he looked at the mark on his arms, which had started to glow. The purplish gold colored lines were getting brighter and the sharp dragon scales and phoenix feathers were exuding a powerful aura. It almost felt like they were about to be resurrected.

Mu Chen's spirits were uplifted, as he noticed the mark had advanced. He licked his lips and looked up at the space, which was filled with light streams.

He could see that there was a huge aperture not too faraway. It seemed to be the entrance to the fourth floor of the tower.

The thunder cloud beneath them was carrying them slowly towards the entrance. They could not control the cloud, so they knew that, if they wanted to obtain more Thunder Marrow baptism, they had to do it before the cloud reached the entrance.

The four others also clearly understood this. Therefore, their eyes were filled with jealousy, when they saw Mu Chen absorbing such a great amount of ray marrows.

Now, they were like a pack of hungry wolves looking at a group of sheep, but they could only eat them slowly, bit by bit, unlike Mu Chen, who had the ability to put them all into his belly at once!

With this in mind, they decided to unleash their spiritual power to enhance the force of their absorbing the Thunder Marrow. This huge absorption came with a price, which was much screaming and yelling in pain, due to their having to take on the blast of the Thunder Marrows with their bodies head-on...

Mu Chen smiled, as he heard them screaming in pain. He then closed his eyes and opened his arms, unleashing his spiritual power. He then immediately started to absorb the Thunder Marrows.

At that moment, all of the thunder streams around him were attracted to his power. He was like a giant magnet, allowing the light streams to crash onto his body.

While looking at Mu Chen's ability, which was only getting stronger and stronger by his absorbing the power of the Thunder Marrows, those four people around him, who were suffering from tremendous pain, could not help but shout out to him.

"You ain't no human!"

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1003: The Harves

Countless light streams whizzed in the space warps. Within every stream of light, there were droplets of Thunder Marrow shimmering with silvery light, making a low rumble of thundering noise along the way.

Zoom!

Among the light streams in the sky, there were five colored lights flying quickly across the space. They seemed to carry strong attraction force which absorbed all the light streams around at once.

Bang! Bang!

As soon as the light stream got attracted and blasted into the light, it yielded a few painful screams of sorrow, as if a ghost were mourning. The screams were so mournful that it made the space more sullen and creepy.

However, Mu Chen was leading the way in front of these lights. He sat quietly on the thundercloud while absorbing the power of the light streams with his powerful attraction forcefield. Due to his overpowered attraction force, he was the one who absorbed the most light streams of all.

With the Real Dragon and Real Phoenix mark as his shield, he did not have as many scruples as Han Shan, Ink Blade, and others. He just wanted to fully enjoy reaping the opportunities.

Pew! Pew!

Lines of Thunder Marrow struck Mu Chen's body like a meteor shower. The Thunder Marrow erosion followed by the tremendous pain had turned his body into nothing but blood and pulp. None of his body parts were unscathed upon getting blasted by countless drops of Thunder Marrow.

Underneath the blood and flesh, the Dragon-Phoenix mark on his arm was shimmering with purplish gold light. It seemed like it was cheering as it greedily devoured the Thunder Marrow power that surged into Mu Chen's body. At the same time, it released the cry of the Dragon and Phoenix to suppress the pain that Mu Chen was suffering.

However, even with the help of his mark, the pain was still heavily torturing Mu Chen, almost making him faint. He could only depend on his instinct and obsession to insanely absorb the light streams that passed through.

Moreover, his absorption speed was getting faster and faster, and eventually, almost each and every light stream that passed over him got absorbed by his flesh and blood.

Seeing Mu Chen go mad as he was absorbing the power, Han Shan, Zong Teng, Ink Blade, Xu Kun, and others were feeling chills running down their spines. They were having palpitations when they saw Mu Chen's figure turn into blood and pulp on the thundercloud.

This guy is out of his mind!

They, who had the body of the Divine Beast, did not dare to consume such a huge amount of light streams, but Mu Chen with his human body was tough enough to do it. Seeing this, Han Shan and the rest started to doubt themselves...

Who are the mythical beasts here, actually?

Han Shan and the rest looked into the distance, realizing the aperture was getting closer and closer. They had passed more than half of the distance of the space and therefore, they would be reaching the fourth stage of the tower in a short while. By that time, the opportunity of getting the Thunder Marrow baptism would be gone, too.

Although they understood they were running out of time, they still shook their heads silently. They began to slow down their absorbing speed because they noticed that their bodies could not resist the pain that resulted from the melting of the Thunder Marrow.

If they insisted on continuing the absorption, their bodies would be damaged, and it was not worth the price.

As for Mu Chen at the front... he must be using some special techniques. Otherwise, he would not be able to achieve that kind of madness.

"This is too rewarding for him!" Zong Teng's face was gloomy. He had not cared about Mu Chen before entering the Body-refining Tower, but Mu Chen's ability had surpassed his time and time again, causing him to lose his status.

I have to figure out a way to get rid of him when we reach fourth floor. Zong Teng intended to kill Mu Chen because he had been getting too many rewards. If this situation continued, he would be one step behind Mu Chen if there was any chance of getting a legendary item later on.

The five thunderclouds underneath them continued to move towards the entrance but this time, Han Shan and the others' ability to absorb the light streams began to slow down. On the other side, Mu Chen's consumption was getting stronger and faster. It seemed like he could not wait to consume the countless light streams in the entire space.

Han Shan and the others were too jealous when they saw what was happening. Therefore, they decided to close their eyes and pretend not to see what he was doing.

Time passed as the clouds moved closer and closer to the entrance. After a long while, Han Shan and others opened their eyes and noticed the view of the aperture leading to the fourth floor was getting clearer, while the amount of light streams was decreasing.

They turned around and looked at the space full of light streams that they had left behind. They could not help but sigh. Nevertheless, they were able to recover quickly from the dull feeling and continued to seek advancement for their bodies because they were not normal human beings.

After this investigation, the four of them showed happiness in their faces because they could clearly perceive the incredible power in their flesh and blood. Their bodies had gone through cultivation, making them tempered and even stronger than ever.

The Thunder Marrow baptism indeed brought them benefits that were beyond their imagination.

While they were pleasantly satisfied with their efforts, Mu Chen, on the other side, had been meditating on a thundercloud. He opened his eyes, and the moment he did so, he noticed that his body was glowing with golden light.

Underneath the golden shimmering skin, his bloody body was recovering at an incredible speed. Above his epidermis, golden glowing lines could be seen, and those lines looked like dragon scales and phoenix feathers. It was absolutely amazing.

Mu Chen looked at the Dragon-Phoenix mark on his arms and noticed that the purplish golden glow had become clearer. The dragon claw had become even sharper with the purple light lingering around it. There was an extraordinary, indescribable aura emitted which was sharp enough to tear the void apart.

The phoenix's wings had become even more beautiful than before. As it unfurled its wings, it seemed like it could fly 1,000 miles away, and its huge wings could even cover the entire earth...

In particular, the eyes of the Dragon and Phoenix had become even bigger and brighter. Underneath their eyelids, majestic golden light could be seen, leaving people in awe.

This Thunder Marrow baptism had clearly enhanced the power of the Dragon and Phoenix mark to a great scale.

Seeing this bodily transformation, Mu Chen could not suppress the joy inside him. He slowly clenched his fist tightly, converging devilish power that seemed to be strong enough to destroy mountains.

Mu Chen let out a light punch and wherever the wind of the fist passed through, the space was twisted and distorted. He was only using his mortal body to release the punch, but this weak punch could easily knock out a Grade Six Sovereign without any issue.

Mu Chen showed satisfaction on his face. It seemed like all the pain he suffered had been worthwhile. The benefits granted by the Thunder Marrow were even stronger than the overall power from the previous three levels.

However, if he had not experienced the hard times from the previous three stages, even with the help of the Dragon-Phoenix mark, he could not have survived under the extreme absorption of the huge amount of Thunder Marrow.

Upon examining the enhancement of his power, Mu Chen stood up from the thundercloud and took a glance at the aperture leading to fourth floor.

Nearby on Mu Chen's left and right sides, Han Shan and the three others had caught up. They scanned Mu Chen from top to bottom. Although there was no expression on their faces, deep inside their hearts, they were slightly terrified.

This was because they could feel that the Mu Chen they were looking at now was way more dangerous than before.

Obviously, this guy had gone through some high levels of cultivation during the Thunder Marrow baptism.

Zong Teng's eyes had shown some signs of chill. Mu Chen seemed to become stronger every time he passed through a level in the Body-refining Tower. Before entering the tower, Zong Teng did not regard him as worthy opponent, even though he had the ability to unleash a spiritual array.

However, after conquering three levels in the tower, Mu Chen had become more than a threat to him with this level of improvement, making him terrified.

"We have to find a chance to eliminate this guy!" Zong Teng clenched his teeth, unleashing the murderous intent within.

Mu Chen, who was standing on the thundercloud, noticed the change in expression on Zong Teng's face. Mu Chen glanced over at the moody Zong Teng, and noticed that his eyes had become colder. Zong Teng had been creating trouble for him all this time. Perhaps he should find a chance to settle the issue.

He would have to remove this kind of enemy once and for all.

However, now was not the time. Zong Teng was nothing when it came to the opportunity given by the Body-refining Tower, and Mu Chen clearly understood this.

As Mu Chen was analyzing the situation, Han Shan was staring at the aperture leading to the fourth floor. He then took a leap and immediately dove into the aperture, disappearing in front of them.

Zong Teng, Ink Blade, and Xu Kun also entered the aperture one by one after Han Shan.

Mu Chen smiled as he saw their disappearing figures. There was a hint of expectation in his black eyes. He had already gained so much power through the previous three levels, what kind of challenges would he face in the fourth level?

He gently touched his arm with his palm. He used to have doubts about forcing a breakthrough on his Dragon-Phoenix scripture before entering the Body-refining Tower, but now he had absolute confidence to achieve that.

Once his Dragon-Phoenix scripture managed to break through, Zong Teng would not be a threat to him anymore, and it would be a piece of cake to get rid of him.

At this point, Mu Chen chuckled and hopped with his toe from the thundercloud, diving towards the aperture like a hawk and directly entering the fourth level.

Fourth level, please do not disappoint me.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1004: The Dark Monumen

As Mu Chen was passing through the aperture towards the fourth level of the Body-refining Tower, the light suddenly dimmed. Then, the surroundings became totally dark.

However, this did not last long. As the darkness faded away, he saw that the space in front of him had completely changed.

The scenery that reappeared was beyond his expectation. It was not any cruel environment, but an ancient square. He was standing at one of the corners of the ancient square, and he could see Mo Feng and the rest in the distance.

"So, this is the fourth level of the Body-refining Tower?"

Mu Chen was terrified, as he looked around the environment. This place was extremely old. Its ground, which was paved by ancient rocks, was full of traces left as time had passed by.

What made this place different from the previous three levels was that the ancient square was peaceful. There seemed to be nothing strange in this place, which was what made Mu Chen feel puzzled.

"This is indeed the fourth level of the Body-refining Tower," a voice said from behind him. It was Mo Feng, who was slowly walking towards him with a calm expression.

Mu Chen frowned, then asked, "Is there any mystery here?"

Since this was the fourth level of the tower, it would definitely not be as simple as it seemed to be. Mo Feng nodded and pointed towards the center of the ancient square.

"Look there..." he instructed.

Mu Chen projected his vision towards the direction where Mo Feng was pointing. As he was focusing on the direction, he noticed that there was a black stone located at the center of the square. The black stone was not huge, therefore it was easily overlooked in this big ancient square.

So, this black stone is the challenge in the fourth level of the Body-refining Tower?

Mu Chen was confused.

"It is a monument," said Mo Feng.

"A monument?" Mu Chen was still confused, as he did not know much about the Land of the Divine Beasts.

"The rules in this fourth level are simple. We only have to place a punch on that monument, using the power from our mortal bodies," Mo Feng said plainly. "Did you see the bronze lamps on top of the monument?"

Mu Chen nodded. The lamps were already there, even before he saw this black monument. At the very front of the monument, nine bronze lamps were mounted, but they were all dark, without flames.

"That is the sign that measures the strength of our mortal bodies. The ultimate goal is to light up all nine of them, but that is impossible. Even a Grade Nine Sovereign would fail to do that."

Mu Chen was shocked, because even a Grade Nine Sovereign could not get all nine of the lamps to light up with full power.

How could this normal-looking monument withstand such tremendous power?

"According to the rules, we would have to light up six of the bronze lights to move on the next level."

"We only need to light up six of them?" Mu Chen held his fist, showing his eagerness to give it a try. If the challenge was to test the pure strength within his mortal body, Mu Chen would be at the same level with the rest. He was excited to see what his Dragon-Phoenix body could do with pure strength from his mortal body!

Mo Feng quickly placed a reminder to him, as he saw his excitement growing. "Do not be careless. According to the information that I received, over the past few years, there were more than ten extraordinary warriors who entered this round, but all of them eventually failed."

Mu Chen nodded. He would not be careless, but the advice given by Mo Feng surprised to him. It seemed like the difficulty to light up six bronze lamps was on an entirely other level!

"What do we get after conquering the fourth level?" Mu Chen suddenly asked the most critical question. The cruel environment at the previous three levels had tempered their mortal bodies.

So, at the fourth level, I surely won't be leaving without getting anything, according to the rules in the Body-refining Tower, right?

"The benefit is on top of the monument." Mo Feng smiled, looking towards the monument. Not sure whether it was an illusion or not, but Mu Chen thought he saw great excitement in Mo Feng's eyes as well.

This monument was not as simple as it looked...

"Do you know how this monument was built?" Mo Feng asked.

Mu Chen shook his head, as everything here was unfamiliar to him.

"It was made from the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast's flesh and blood."

"Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast?" Mu Chen repeated the words Mo Feng has just said, shocked. He then became greatly interested in the beast.

The Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast was born from the heavens and sent down to the down to the earth, so it was not from any bloodline. Its rarity was even greater than any Divine Beast of any other level. Moreover, it had only appeared once during the ancient times, and now, its appearance was never even heard of.

This Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast could swallow the entire sky, once it gone mad. Even the Heavenly Sovereigns were afraid to encounter it!

Mu Chen had only obtained a little bit of information about the beast from some ancient books, but surprisingly, this inconspicuous black monument was made from the flesh and blood of the great Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast!

"Unbelievable." Mu Chen gave a sigh. The Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast was too overpowering, even the Dragon and Phoenix should be wary of it.

"And once this monument was bombarded by a powerful force, it would release the essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast. The nature of the essence released was always dependent on the power of the force. In other words, the more lamps were lit up, the stronger the released essence. So, this would be the trophy for conquering the fourth level. Are you clear on all of that?" Mo Feng said slowly, his eyes full of excitement.

Mu Chen was a little shocked, as he nodded slowly. If he could absorb the essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast, the cultivation that his body would go through was going to be so incredible!

This was something even more powerful than the lightning marrows! No wonder Mo Feng was so excited. Every level in this Body-refining Tower really offered a good reward!

During the conversation between Mo Feng and Mu Chen, three others, namely Han Shan, Zong Teng, and Xu Kun, were greedily staring at the black monument. The group then slowly walked closer towards it.

As they got closer to the monument, Mu Chen noticed that there numerous dense fists and palm prints on the it. These were obviously left by those previous competitors, who were trying to get through the test.

The monument was extremely hard, making it difficult to believe that it was made of flesh and blood. However, the color of darkness on it contained an aura, which would give one heart palpitations!

Mu Chen knew that it must be the leftover breath of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast. Although there was just a little amount of it, it could still cause them to have difficulty breathing.

The most surprising thing was that, as he was getting closer to the monument, the spiritual power inside his body went stagnant, making him it hard for him to utilize his power. It felt as if he was being suppressed by a horrible force field.

"My spiritual power was suppressed. As expected, we could only possess the power of our mortal bodies." Mu Chen held his fist, trying to release his spiritual power, but it was tough work and nearly ineffective.

Looking at Mo Feng and the rest, the spiritual aura surrounding them was obviously gone. However, they were calm, as they had already expected that this would happen.

Although the black monument was right in front of them, they did not attack it carelessly. Instead, they sat down cross-legged on the ground to regulate their body conditions.

This was because, according to the rules, each of them was only allowed one opportunity to make an attempt. If they failed, they would be eliminated directly, then sent out of the Body-refining Tower. Therefore, that one shot would surely be given their maximum strengths from their pure mortal bodies!

Before that happened, however, they had to gather their power. As such, everyone knew that it would be unwise to take any action towards any of them now.

Therefore, the atmosphere was surprisingly peaceful. None of them showed any hostility towards each other, but instead, they were meditating together to speed up the process of their body regulation.

At the moment, this ancient square became a silent hill. Only the subtle breathing of the five people present could be heard.

...

When they were meditating, the environment outside of the Body-refining Tower was bustling with noise and excitement. A lot of curious pairs of eyes were staring at the screen of the fourth level, as it was projecting everything that was happening in the tower. Therefore, the people outside of the tower could witness the five of them meditating peacefully.

"That must be the monument that we heard of from the rumors."

"Rumors also said that, only those who manage to light up six of the bronze lamps will be allowed to pass through to the next stage."

"The majority of the supreme talents in the past were eliminated here. It was definitely not easy for them to light up the six bronze lamps, even with the pure strength of a Grade Seven Sovereign."

"Yes! I wonder how many of them will make it to the next level?"

"Han Shan should make it through. As for the rest of them, it will depend on their techniques. Although they can only use the strength from their mortal bodies, there are ways to bypass this, like some secret techniques that instantly boost the power of a mortal body. I believe they must all have this in mind..."

The people started whispering. They were indeed visionary, so what they said was actually pretty reasonable.

Nine Nether and Mo Ling glanced at each other, then looked at the two shadows of human figures in the screen of the fourth level. This level would test the strength of the mortal body, but according to what they had observed, Mu Chen's body was at a disadvantage. However, after experiencing the changes in the previous levels, none of the people on the scene would ever doubt his body's strength, at least when comparing it to a Divine Beast's body.

Therefore, the outcome of this test was utterly unpredictable. As the people were trying to predict what was going to happen, they suddenly noticed that the five of them, who were meditating in level four earlier, had just opened their eyes at the same time.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1005: Ignite the Bronze Lamp

The five silhouettes that were sitting cross-legged silently at the ancient plaza seemed to open up their eyes all at the same time. The moment their eyes opened, the surface of those five people's bodies was actually suffused with a dull red light. That was not the light of spiritual energy, but rather a type of sign shown when the vital energy and blood in one's body had reached its peak condition.

Clearly, the condition of those five people had reached its peak after a period of regulation.

The dull red light lingered. Then at that moment, Xu Kun of the Demonic Elephant Clan directly took the lead and stood up. He looked at the black stone tablet with a searing gaze and smiled as he said, "Since you all are not taking any action, then let me try and find out how incredible this rumored force monument is!"

When Mu Chen and the other three saw this, they did not speak. It was clear that their actions could be considered a silent acquiescence. After all, there was no point in fighting for priority at such times when everyone would only have one chance to make their move.

When Xu Kun saw that no one was opposing him, he immediately took a step forward before finally stopping in front of that black stone tablet. He sucked in a deep breath and immediately tightly clenched both his fists.

Boom!

A red light burst out from within Xu Kun's body. Then, it began to expand at a rapid pace. The muscles all over his body piled up together like a piece of iron while his veins were like a dragon writhing beneath his skin.

Although there was no spiritual energy fluctuation, the energy Xu Kun's body emitted at this moment was still so brave and persistent that it affected the others.

However, even after shifting the energy in his body to its peak, Xu Kun did not stop. Instead, he suddenly formed a seal with his hands and immediately, the light of vital energy gathered on the surface of his body. Finally, it actually turned into bloody red lines on the surface of his skin, and those lines caused Xu Kun to instantly look more violent.

Ink Blade, who was beside Mu Chen, whispered, "That is the bloodline of the Demonic Elephant Clan. When the blood vessel is triggered, it can temporarily elevate the strength of the flesh."

Mu Chen nodded. He could feel that Xu Kun's flesh had most certainly become slightly stronger. At that moment, he was rather jealous. These fellows with the body of a Divine Beast certainly have blessed conditions in their flesh.

I wonder how many bronze lamps this Xu Kun can ignite? Just when this thought went through Mu Chen's heart, Xu Kun stomped on the ground violently, and immediately the ancient plaza trembled. Then, Xu Kun's body shot out vigorously. That fierce aura was like a demonic elephant walking on the sky with the intention of destroying the world.

Boom!

When Xu Kun shot out his punch, the crimson strength of vital essence and blood began to bind his fist. The space was shaking where the punch had passed, and it had actually produced the sharp sound of an explosion. Behind Xu Kun, a humongous double image of a demonic elephant appeared. That demonic elephant was so ferocious and aggressive, it made people's hearts palpitate in fear.

Boom!

The punch that contained all of Xu Kun's energy finally burst through the air and viciously landed on that black stone tablet right in front of Mu Chen and the rest as they watched intently.

The moment the punch and tablet collided, a low sound rang out. What seemed to be ripples began to transmit outwards on the surface of that black stone tablet, but the stone tablet itself remained unmoving.

Whoosh!

The ripples transmitted out. Then, Mu Chen and the rest could see that at the top part of that black stone tablet, a flame had instantly risen from the first bronze lamp. It blazed up with a puff!

The flame appeared crimson in color and was filled with the fluctuation of vital energy and blood. It was as if it had been created due to the convergence of Xu Kun's earlier punch.

Puff! Puff! Puff!

After the first bronze lamp blazed up, the second, third, and fourth lamps were also easily ignited immediately after. However, when it came to the fifth lamp, that speed had finally decreased and only red smoke could be seen floating up from that fifth bronze lamp. Small sparks appeared and finally, after a period of cohesion, it completely blazed up with a puff.

The fifth bronze lamp had been ignited!

Although Mu Chen and the others were expressionless, their eyes were still fixated on the sixth bronze lamp. Based on Xu Kun's capabilities, they had certainly expected five lamps to be ignited. However, the crucial part was whether or not a sixth lamp could be ignited.

Sizz!

After the fifth lamp had been ignited, sporadic sparks were also beginning to emerge within the sixth bronze lamp. They attempted to converge with much difficulty, and finally, within Xu Kun's fiery crimson gaze, the light of a flame began to slowly burst out.

However, just when that flame was beginning to brighten up, the sparks were suddenly shaken. In the end, it extinguished at a rapid pace and completely returned to darkness.

The sixth bronze lamp failed!

When Xu Kun saw this, his complexion immediately turned pale while his face was filled with the expression of disbelief. How could it be that the punch he had poured all his energy into could not even ignite the sixth bronze lamp?

When Mu Chen and the rest saw this, their expressions also became sullen. According to their expectations, Xu Kun should have had more than a 50 percent chance of igniting the sixth bronze lamp. However, they did not expect him to fail through lack of final effort.

Buzz.

While they were still in shock due to this occurrence, that black stone tablet suddenly began to shake. Then, a slightly muddled air current began to flow out from within before finally probing into Xu Kun's nose after following the trail of his breath.

Xu Kun's body froze immediately, and the vital energy and blood surrounding him began to move at a rapid pace with waves of crimson air sweeping out from within his body. After just a short period of time, the strength of vital energy and blood spreading out from Xu Kun's body was greatly strengthened.

"Is that the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast's vital essence?" When Mu Chen saw this scene, there was a flicker in his eyes and soon after, a coveted expression had also swept across his gaze. This was because he was aware that the increase in strength of Xu Kun's flesh in just that short period of time was more powerful than the strengthening given after passing through the Thunder Marrow's baptism.

As expected, this Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast's vital essence was truly an object of great help to the flesh.

If the current Xu Kun could obtain another opportunity to make his move, perhaps there would be an 80 percent chance that he could ignite the sixth bronze lamp and acquire the qualification to enter into the final level.

But unfortunately...

Xu Kun clearly understood this point as well. Thus, he was upset and could only unwillingly grit his teeth. Soon after, a light blossomed from around his body, and he disappeared. Clearly, right after his failure to ignite the sixth bronze lamp, he was immediately eliminated and kicked out of the Body-refining Tower.

Mu Chen and the rest could only watch helplessly as Xu Kun's failure led him to be kicked out of the Body-refining Tower. It was silent for a time, but their expressions were gradually getting more and more sullen.

This type of silence continued for a moment before Zong Teng stepped forward slowly and said with a slight smile, "I'll be the second one to make a move."

The moment he finished speaking, he stepped out and stood right in front of that black stone tablet with his expression slightly sullen. Soon after, a light suddenly erupted from within his body and then, while that light was erupting, his body directly turned into a Heavenly Roc which was about 10,000 feet high.

Zong Teng had actually changed to his original shape!

As the Heavenly Roc stood still in the air, a light shade of gold could be seen on those huge wings, and it seemed to be both majestic and overbearing.

Caw!

A bright and sharp cry resounded through the world. In a split second, the huge claw of that golden-colored Heavenly Roc suddenly struck down, as if it had penetrated the air. That claw was enough to shatter mountains and split seas.

Boom!

The huge claw, which was fully covered with golden scales, struck heavily upon that black stone tablet. The stone tablet was only a few feet long, and it seemed extremely tiny under the huge claw. However, it was precisely this tiny stone tablet that remained quietly still in the plaza. Even that huge Heavenly Roc could not shake it the slightest bit.

Nonetheless, an enormous amount of energy was transmitted from the huge claw and rushed into that black stone tablet.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Thus, the bronze lamps on the black stone tablet were instantly ignited at a rapid pace.

In just a short period of time, five bronze lamps blazed up. That sort of speed was clearly faster and more vigorous than Xu Kun's.

After the fifth bronze lamp had been ignited, sparks also began to appear within the sixth lamp. Finally, the sparks agglomerated and thoroughly combusted right before Mu Chen and the others' eyes.

The sixth bronze lamp was successfully ignited!

As expected, the moment this sixth bronze lamp was ignited, there were sounds of exclamation outside the Body-refining Tower. Quite a number of strong people were amazed by this. Zong Teng was definitely not an ordinary person. Xu Kun's earlier failure had not made him feel daunted at all.

While the world was covered in the sound of exclamations, Liu Ching and the rest were looking pleased as they could finally put down some of their resentment caused by Mu Chen's repeated suppressions.

"This fellow is actually quite impressive." At the ancient plaza, Mu Chen could not help but nod as well. Although this Zong Teng was a nuisance, his capabilities were excellent.

Ink Blade also nodded slightly, as he could not deny Zong Teng's capabilities.

Buzz!

While they were speaking, that black stone tablet with its six lit bronze lamps shook once again. Then, a seemingly muddled breath gushed out and rushed towards the humongous Heavenly Roc.

The Heavenly Roc sucked in a breath and swallowed the vital essence of that Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast into its body. Immediately, golden light shot out from within its body, and the original golden color of its wings seemed to turn darker.

As the golden light surged, the Heavenly Roc shrank at a rapid pace. Finally, it turned back into its human form and appeared above the plaza.

Zong Teng stood with his hands clasped behind his back accompanied by a slight smile on his face. He looked towards Ink Blade, Mu Chen, and the rest before saying with a smile, "Next up will be your performances."

While his words seemed insipid, there was still an unavoidable tone of proud contentment.

Ink Blade glanced at him and did not reply. Instead, he immediately walked out.

He stood in front of the stone tablet. However, he showed no signs of wanting to change from his original form but instead, he shot out a punch. Although this punch may have seemed delicate, the moment this punch shot out, Ink Blade's fingers turned exceptionally sharp. The golden colored feathers of a phoenix appeared and were stuck on his palm like a phoenix-feathered glove.

When this palm burst out, the cries of a phoenix reverberated.

Dong!

The blow of the palm struck heavily on that stone tablet and caused its surface to surge. Then, the bronze lamps could be seen as they began to ignite.

Within just a short period of time, five bronze lamps ignited!

Immediately after, sparks began to emerge in the sixth bronze lamp before finally burning up in an abrupt manner as well!

Zong Teng furrowed his eyebrows slightly. Although he knew how impressive Ink Blade was, he did not expect for him to be able to ignite six bronze lamps so easily. Contrary to what he expected, such a result was similar to his own.

However, just after this thought went through his mind, his eyes narrowed. This was because he saw that after the sixth bronze lamp blazed up, it did not stop there. Instead, he could see sparks sporadically appearing within the seventh bronze lamp. Nonetheless, these sparks were too few and scattered, and thus, after persisting for a short while, they disappeared.

Nevertheless, this scene was clearly far more outstanding than his earlier performance!

This Ink Blade actually had the capacity to attempt to charge towards the seventh bronze lamp!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1006: Seven Lamps

Above the black stone tablet, the sparks in the seventh bronze lamp dissipated after flashing for a while. This situation clearly showed that they had failed to ignite it, but Ink Blade still remained calm and did not feel dismayed. He slowly retracted his palm, the golden Phoenix feather on his arm gradually disappearing.

His previous blow seemed to have been too casual, but he knew that it had contained all of his physical strength. Behind him, Zong Teng looked at this scene, his face steely.

When he clashed with Ink Blade, they had fought each other to a standstill, but now, when it came to pure physical strength, he was slightly inferior. Although this did not mean that Ink Blade's real fighting capacity was stronger than him, Zong Teng, who was an arrogant person, still felt uncomfortable.

"Haha, Brother Ink's blow was really fierce, but there was a cry of a phoenix when you executed that blow, so it seems that Brother Ink had deep associations with the Phoenix Clan?" Han Shan's gaze flashed, as he smiled.

Ink Blade was non-committal, choosing not to pay too much attention to his words. Instead, his eyes stared at the black stone tablet before him, a scorching gaze flashing in them.

Buzz.

Under Ink Blade's intense gaze, the black stone tablet stirred. Its surface started shaking and an aura of chaos surged out. This time, the stone tablet spewed out the vital essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast, which, when compared with what Zong Teng had gained, was clearly more intense!

Ink Blade looked at the aura of chaos and opened his mouth to inhale it, swallowing it. Immediately, it seemed that crimson flames were ablaze in his eyes, as wisps of flames rose on the surface of his body and a majestic aura slowly emanated from him.

The fluctuation in Ink Blade's body lasted for a dozen minutes. He then opened his eyes, as a faint sense of oppression emanated from his body. Apparently, absorbing the vital essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast had greatly enhanced his abilities.

After the fluctuations in his body calmed down, Ink Blade retreated from the black stone tablet. As he retreated, only two people in the ancient square, Han Shan and Mu Chen, had not made a move. Mu Chen glanced towards Han Shan, as the latter smiled. "After observing two rounds, I'm also itching to try, so may I go the next round?"

Mu Chen nodded gently in agreement. Han Shan stepped out, and as he walked, everyone's gazes converged upon him. From a certain perspective, among the ten supreme talents who entered the Body-refining Tower, Han Shan should be regarded as one of the top characters.

Even those who were proud, such as Zong Teng, had to admit that, if it came to mere physical power, Han Shan, who came from the Demonic Rhino Clan, would have the upper hand. Of course, physical strength was only part of one's real combat power. Therefore, characters who had overbearing physical force might not necessarily be able to win the final victory in a real life-and-death struggle.

Thus, supreme talents like Zong Teng had have some means to make up for the gap in physical strength. Han Shan's figure, under many gazes, stood before the black stone tablet. He stood with his hands clasped behind his back, looking up at the stone tablet. He was standing there so carelessly, but there was a frightening sense of oppression that emanated from him.

At this moment, it was as if he was a primordial rhinoceros demon about to collide with heaven and earth, and where his hoofs passed, the mountains and rivers would fall apart. Han Shan's eyes gradually closed, as his body slowly turned crimson red.

These were the signs of the blood in his body, which was beginning to surge frantically. Finally, the blood seemed to flow through his body, then out of it, as it condensed into a blood red giant rhinoceros behind him!

The giant rhinoceros stepped on the earth, and on its head, a blood red horn stood tall, its sharp peak shaking slightly, causing even the space to be torn apart. This revealed its terrifying sharpness!

The giant rhinoceros stood quietly behind Han Shan, its front hoofs slowly rubbing against the ground. Although there was no sound, everyone was aware that the momentum of the giant rhinoceros seemed to be surging frantically. The blood-like aura surrounding Han Shan's body also grew, gradually becoming richer.

His eyes suddenly opened at this time, his pupils having turned blood red. In the next moment, he stepped out and crooked two of his fingers to strike at the black stone tablet.

Behind his back, the blood red rhinoceros also rushed out, directly piercing through Han Shan's body. Its head then drooped, its rhinoceros horn facing up, perfectly integrating with Han Shan's two fingers. That finger was like a rhinoceros demon that was destroying the world, the raised rhinoceros horn threatening to penetrate any defense in the world!

Dong!

Han Shan's two fingers pierced through the void, and under countless gazes, landed heavily on the stone tablet. That impact caused the flesh on his fingers to split into a gash, blood seeping out from it immediately.

However, the whole surface of the stone tablet shook, as visible ripples could be seen, even by the naked eye. The ripples then spread out rapidly on the surface of the tablet. That kind of movement was far more powerful than that of Ink Blade's and the two others before!

Mu Chen's gaze stared, fixated above the stone tablet. There, ripples spread out and a brilliant flame swept out of the final dark bronze lamp!

Ablaze!

In just the time it took to inhale a breath, the first five bronze lamps ignited at the same time, followed by a slight pause in the sixth bronze lamp. Then, a crimson red flame appeared in a puff, as the lamp was ignited entirely.

When the sixth bronze lamp was ignited, Mu Chen and the others' gazes locked onto the seventh lamp. This was because they could feel that Han Shan's power had not yet been expended completely.

Under their gazes, in the seventh bronze lamp, there were indeed sporadic sparks of flames, which, at last, began to gather at a slow pace. That speed, although slow, was much more stable than during Ink Blade's attempt.

Whoosh!

As the sparks increased and were condensed to a certain extent, they completely bloomed and became ablaze. Thus, the seventh bronze lamp was ignited successfully!

Woah!

Outside the Body-refining Tower, an uproar burst out, and all the powerful characters were amazed. This Han Shan was indeed worthy of being the most outstanding supreme talent of the Demonic Rhino Clan! With one blow, he had outperformed Zong Teng and Ink Blade completely.

"This Han Shan is formidable indeed." Even Nine Nether nodded in admiration.

Although the stone tablet only depended on one's physical strength, she was aware that Han Shan's overall combat prowess, even among the Seventh Grade Sovereigns, was not weak.

"He actually managed to ignite seven bronze lamps!"

Ink Ring was impressed too. Even her elder brother had only been able to ignite sparks in the seventh bronze lamp, but even then, he was not able to ignite it completely. Clearly, when it came to physical strength, Han Shan had an edge over Ink Blade.

"Now, only Brother Mu Chen has yet to make his move. I wonder what he's going to achieve," Ink Ring said curiously.

Nine Nether shook her head, as she did not know much about Mu Chen's physical strength. The only thing she knew was that this guy had never slacked in the cultivation of his physique. From the Thunder God Physique in the past to the Dragon-Phoenix Body now, these were some of the most mysterious Body-refining techniques, and Mu Chen had attained much in every one. Thus, although Mu Chen was not a Divine Beast, his physique was stronger and more domineering than most Divine Beasts.

"With his ability, passing the test of the fourth level should not be difficult. But, as to whether he can compare with Han Shan, that remains to be seen," Nine Nether said.

Han Shan's achievements, according to what had heard, were already considered outstanding. Whether or not Mu Chen could surpass them, she really could not determine.

As the uproar outside of the Body-refining Tower continued in that ancient square, the blood red rhinoceros behind Han Shan also dissipated. He slowly retracted both fingers, and as he shook them, the wounds on his fingertips healed rapidly. He stared at the seven burning bronze lamps with a faint smile, apparently not surprised by what had just transpired.

Buzz.

The black stone tablet began to tremble, followed by the appearance of some faint blood runes on its surface. Wisps of an aura of chaos permeated the space, but this time, it contained hints of dark red, too.

"That's..." Mu Chen gazed at the vital essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast, which seemed to be different from the previous rounds, a glint in his eyes.

"That's the blood energy that's contained in the flesh of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast! It's purer than even its vital essence! However, only those who performed very well can get it," Ink Blade explained calmly.

Not far away, Zong Teng's eyes stared at the aura of chaos greedily, with a burning gaze. Mu Chen nodded slightly. It seemed that only those who lit the seven bronze lamps would receive this prize.

Standing before the stone tablet, Han Shan took a deep breath, sucking the slightly reddish aura of chaos in entirety. Then, his body suddenly turned blood red, and behind him, the blood red giant rhinoceros, which had dissipated, once again condensed. Then, it grew bigger, its ferocious aura growing in intensity.

Phew.

The great rhinoceros' change lasted a few moments, then gradually dissipated, as Han Shan's body returned to his original state. He looked down at his palm, smiled slightly, then turned away. Apparently, he was immensely satisfied with the benefits that he had just gained.

Following Han Shan's retreat, Zong Teng and Ink Blade directed their glances towards Mu Chen. At the same time, outside the tower, curious glances also made their ways towards Mu Chen.

Obviously, they wanted to know, what results the black horse, who had been rising in the Body-refining Tower, could achieve in this test.

Would this black horse be reduced to his original state? Or achieve an impressive feat again?

Regarding this subject matter, everybody expressed immense anticipation and curiosity. Under the scrutiny of countless gazes, Mu Chen took a slow step towards the black stone tablet.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1007: Mu Chen Strikes

Mu Chen stood still as he gazed at the numerous imprints on the surface of the black stone tablet. It was as if he could feel the innumerable powerful figures who once stood here, as they condensed all the strength of their physical bodies, dealing their strongest blows.

It was said that in those primordial times, there were once powerful characters who lit all nine bronze lamps, which really amazed Mu Chen. Of course, he also knew that the man who could ignite the nine bronze lamps must have surpassed all of them in strength, or even very likely must have been an Eighth or Ninth Grade Sovereign.

Coupled with the ancient powers of the Land of the Divine Beasts that could strengthen the physical body, many of the most powerful characters in the Land of the Divine Beasts were extremely strong, and Mu Chen had no doubt that they had been able to light nine bronze lamps.

Moreover, ever since the Land of the Divine Beasts had been shattered, only a handful of the supreme talents who had entered the land to find opportunities had been able to light the nine bronze lamps on the fourth floor of the Body-refining Tower.

Those people were illustrious talents in that generation, and even the supreme talents of various clans dimmed in comparison.

As for lighting the nine lamps, Mu Chen also knew how terribly difficult it was. Even Han Shan, who was strong and had expended all his power, had barely lit the seventh lamp, which was a far cry from lighting all nine lamps.

Thus, even though Mu Chen could not estimate what results he could achieve, no matter what, this time he would certainly go all out in order to break through to the second level of the Dragon-Phoenix Scriptures in this Body-refining Tower!

Phew.

Mu Chen's mind gradually calmed down. He took a deep breath, and his fists clenched tightly amid countless gazes.

A faint golden light began to emanate from Mu Chen's body. His skin, however, seemed as if rendered from gold, and with the passage of time, it grew darker and darker, like a statue of gold sculpted from a long time ago.

He activated the Dragon-Phoenix Body and gradually extricated all the power from the depths of his flesh and blood. This time, he wanted to fully exert the power of the Dragon-Phoenix Body to its limit!

Not far away, Zong Teng, Han Shan, and Ink Blade looked at Mu Chen. Their eyes were all narrowed. They could detect that Mu Chen, who was just standing there, emanated a heavy aura of oppression.

It felt as if a towering mountain stood in heavens and earth.

With the gradual activation of the Dragon-Phoenix Body to the extreme, the real dragon and phoenix runes on Mu Chen's arms quivered. Then, the roar of a dragon and the cry of a phoenix rang from his body. His flesh vibrated as the power within his body began to increase at an alarming rate.

The roar of a dragon and cry of a phoenix grew louder and clearer, as the vibration became more and more rapid. Mu Chen's flesh gradually began boiling in that vibration. The real dragon and phoenix runes on Mu Chen's arms became scorching hot like a soldering iron.

His breath grew heavier as the gold light in his eyes glowed, for the strength of his body at this time had gathered to a rather terrible degree. This force was more powerful than before when he had injured Lu Sui!

Han Shan and the two others looked at that figure as the golden light emanated from him, and their gazes grew solemn. That kind of golden light was not transformed from spiritual energy, but from the agglomeration of energy and blood in Mu Chen's body. To their surprise, however, the light of Mu Chen's blood and energy was rather strange and seemed to contain a kind of fluctuation that they felt was rather oppressive.

"I didn't expect that with the strength of a Sixth Grade Sovereign, he could condense it with such a terrible momentum..." Han Shan's sharp gaze focused on Mu Chen. Although he had never underestimated Mu Chen, he also had not expected his ability to be so outstanding. He had a hunch that with Mu Chen's strike, he would at least surpass Zong Teng, Ink Blade, and maybe... even him!

This man was not simple.

However, Mu Chen did not sense Han Shan and the others' solemn glances. The blood and flesh in his body were boiling. He found that he was seemingly shielded from outside movement, and he was alone in this whole wide world.

This state allowed Mu Chen to condense all his energy and spirit to their peak.

Like the golden essence of the light that had materialized, it spewed out of Mu Chen's eyes. The strength of his body had reached its peak, and even the body's flesh and bones were sending out a faint tingling of pain.

Those were the signs of reaching the limit.

Since he had reached the limit, then it was time to strike!

Mu Chen's expression was calm. His right hand clenched, and then he dealt a fierce punch with his fist.

At the same time, the real dragon and phoenix runes swam on his right arm as they circled together. The purple gold light radiated, and the golden claws of the dragon and the phoenix spread out, covering Mu Chen's fist.

Roar!

The moment the blow struck, the loud and clear roar of the dragon and cry of the phoenix were no longer concealed by Mu Chen's body as they reverberated and resounded in the ancient square.

Han Shan, Ink Blade, and Zong Teng's bodies froze stiffly, as they could detect a terrible pressure frantically sweeping out of Mu Chen's body.

That kind of pressure made their blood tremble.

That was the suppression of a bloodline!

However, this suppression caused the three to be in immense disbelief, because their own bloodlines belonged to higher-ranking bloodlines and were at the top of the Land of the Divine Beasts. Now, the pressure emanating from Mu Chen's body resulted in the suppression of a bloodline?

Only a Sovereign Divine Beast's Sovereign Bloodline could make this possible!

Mu Chen's fist looked as if it had been cast from gold with the real dragon and phoenix runes wrapped around it. In one heart-stopping moment, that fist detonated the space, finally carrying layers of gold ripples as it landed brutally on the black stone tablet.

Crash!

At the moment of bombardment, they could clearly feel that the whole ancient square was shaking. Even the firm black stone tablet, which had always been as stable as a rock, seemed to quiver slightly.

Han Shan and the others' glances were transfixed on Mu Chen's fist and the black stone tablet's point of contact, and then their eyes sharply narrowed.

Where the golden ripples spread from the impact, Mu Chen's fist split open. Blood splattered out, even vaguely showing his bones, which demonstrated that Mu Chen's punch had been so strong, that even his body found it unbearable, and the force of the countershock directly shattered his fist.

However, even though his fist was splattered with blood and his bones revealed, Mu Chen showed no sign of stopping. Instead, he roared, and all the power in his body surged out madly from his fist.

The golden ripples emanated from Mu Chen's fist as they swept the entire stone tablet's surface.

The ancient ground under his feet also silently cracked.

Buzz!

Under the terrifying impact, Han Shan and the others suddenly saw that above the stone tablet, there was a flame that appeared in the bronze lamp, and the sound of flames igniting rang continuously.

The bronze lamps were quickly lit!

In a short moment, six bronze lamps lit up at the same time!

After the sixth bronze lamp was lit, sparks began to emerge rapidly in the seventh bronze lamp and finally, with a burst of shock from countless gazes, it lit up.

"I can't believe it. He lit the seventh bronze lamp!" In the Body-refining Tower, the sound of exclamations rang through, and all the powerful characters were in disbelief, for Mu Chen had lit the seventh bronze lamp faster than Han Shan!

Han Shan's expression also changed. He then fixed his glance on the eighth bronze lamp, and though it was dark, he felt vaguely that Mu Chen's power was not finished.

As Han Shan stared at it, the eighth lamp remained dark for a few moments, but sparks finally emerged...

Upon seeing the sparks, Ink Blade and Zong Teng immediately could not help but inhale in shock. Mu Chen's power actually caused sparks to emerge in the eighth bronze lamp?!

This was something that even Han Shan had failed to accomplish!

Drip.

Blood dripped down from Mu Chen's fist. The bones could vaguely be seen, but he was motionless. Beneath the golden fist, golden light rippled as the impact surged madly into the black stone tablet.

Whoosh!

In the eighth bronze lamp, a weak spark began to emerge. Then a second spark... then a third spark...

The sparks began to emerge amid Han Shan and the others' widened eyes. They finally converged and with a poof, turned into flames.

The eighth bronze lamp was lit!

At this point, they looked at the burning eighth bronze lamp in utter disbelief, and then looked at the rock-like young figure in front of the stone tablet. Their inner shock was evident.

Who would have thought that Mu Chen could actually succeed in lighting the eighth bronze lamp?!

How terrifying was the power in his fist?!

That kind of power... even they had to expend all their force to deal with it.

It turned silent both inside and outside the Body-refining Tower the moment the eighth bronze lamp was lit.

However, even as they were speechless because of shock, standing before the black stone tablet, Mu Chen's golden eyes stared at the stone tablet as he ignored the sharp pain from his fists. His mind, too, was a little empty because of the ultimate force he had expended.

However, his instincts told him that this was not over!

He could vaguely feel that he could control the power of his previous punch that surged into the black stone tablet, as if it were a strange force.

If it erupted, this force would cause a more alarming amount of destruction.

Maybe even the ninth bronze lamp could be lit!

The golden light spurted out from Mu Chen's eyes and without any hesitation, he pressed his fist hard on the stone tablet, and then a hoarse voice gurgled from his throat.

"Erupt!"

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1008: Mu Chen Strikes

Mu Chen stood still as he gazed at the numerous imprints on the surface of the black stone tablet. It was as if he could feel the innumerable powerful figures who once stood here, as they condensed all the strength of their physical bodies, dealing their strongest blows.

It was said that in those primordial times, there were once powerful characters who lit all nine bronze lamps, which really amazed Mu Chen. Of course, he also knew that the man who could ignite the nine bronze lamps must have surpassed all of them in strength, or even very likely must have been an Eighth or Ninth Grade Sovereign.

Coupled with the ancient powers of the Land of the Divine Beasts that could strengthen the physical body, many of the most powerful characters in the Land of the Divine Beasts were extremely strong, and Mu Chen had no doubt that they had been able to light nine bronze lamps.

Moreover, ever since the Land of the Divine Beasts had been shattered, only a handful of the supreme talents who had entered the land to find opportunities had been able to light the nine bronze lamps on the fourth floor of the Body-refining Tower.

Those people were illustrious talents in that generation, and even the supreme talents of various clans dimmed in comparison.

As for lighting the nine lamps, Mu Chen also knew how terribly difficult it was. Even Han Shan, who was strong and had expended all his power, had barely lit the seventh lamp, which was a far cry from lighting all nine lamps.

Thus, even though Mu Chen could not estimate what results he could achieve, no matter what, this time he would certainly go all out in order to break through to the second level of the Dragon-Phoenix Scriptures in this Body-refining Tower!

Phew.

Mu Chen's mind gradually calmed down. He took a deep breath, and his fists clenched tightly amid countless gazes.

A faint golden light began to emanate from Mu Chen's body. His skin, however, seemed as if rendered from gold, and with the passage of time, it grew darker and darker, like a statue of gold sculpted from a long time ago.

He activated the Dragon-Phoenix Body and gradually extricated all the power from the depths of his flesh and blood. This time, he wanted to fully exert the power of the Dragon-Phoenix Body to its limit!

Not far away, Zong Teng, Han Shan, and Ink Blade looked at Mu Chen. Their eyes were all narrowed. They could detect that Mu Chen, who was just standing there, emanated a heavy aura of oppression.

It felt as if a towering mountain stood in heavens and earth.

With the gradual activation of the Dragon-Phoenix Body to the extreme, the real dragon and phoenix runes on Mu Chen's arms quivered. Then, the roar of a dragon and the cry of a phoenix rang from his body. His flesh vibrated as the power within his body began to increase at an alarming rate.

The roar of a dragon and cry of a phoenix grew louder and clearer, as the vibration became more and more rapid. Mu Chen's flesh gradually began boiling in that vibration. The real dragon and phoenix runes on Mu Chen's arms became scorching hot like a soldering iron.

His breath grew heavier as the gold light in his eyes glowed, for the strength of his body at this time had gathered to a rather terrible degree. This force was more powerful than before when he had injured Lu Sui!

Han Shan and the two others looked at that figure as the golden light emanated from him, and their gazes grew solemn. That kind of golden light was not transformed from spiritual energy, but from the agglomeration of energy and blood in Mu Chen's body. To their surprise, however, the light of Mu Chen's blood and energy was rather strange and seemed to contain a kind of fluctuation that they felt was rather oppressive.

"I didn't expect that with the strength of a Sixth Grade Sovereign, he could condense it with such a terrible momentum..." Han Shan's sharp gaze focused on Mu Chen. Although he had never underestimated Mu Chen, he also had not expected his ability to be so outstanding. He had a hunch that with Mu Chen's strike, he would at least surpass Zong Teng, Ink Blade, and maybe... even him!

This man was not simple.

However, Mu Chen did not sense Han Shan and the others' solemn glances. The blood and flesh in his body were boiling. He found that he was seemingly shielded from outside movement, and he was alone in this whole wide world.

This state allowed Mu Chen to condense all his energy and spirit to their peak.

Like the golden essence of the light that had materialized, it spewed out of Mu Chen's eyes. The strength of his body had reached its peak, and even the body's flesh and bones were sending out a faint tingling of pain.

Those were the signs of reaching the limit.

Since he had reached the limit, then it was time to strike!

Mu Chen's expression was calm. His right hand clenched, and then he dealt a fierce punch with his fist.

At the same time, the real dragon and phoenix runes swam on his right arm as they circled together. The purple gold light radiated, and the golden claws of the dragon and the phoenix spread out, covering Mu Chen's fist.

Roar!

The moment the blow struck, the loud and clear roar of the dragon and cry of the phoenix were no longer concealed by Mu Chen's body as they reverberated and resounded in the ancient square.

Han Shan, Ink Blade, and Zong Teng's bodies froze stiffly, as they could detect a terrible pressure frantically sweeping out of Mu Chen's body.

That kind of pressure made their blood tremble.

That was the suppression of a bloodline!

However, this suppression caused the three to be in immense disbelief, because their own bloodlines belonged to higher-ranking bloodlines and were at the top of the Land of the Divine Beasts. Now, the pressure emanating from Mu Chen's body resulted in the suppression of a bloodline?

Only a Sovereign Divine Beast's Sovereign Bloodline could make this possible!

Mu Chen's fist looked as if it had been cast from gold with the real dragon and phoenix runes wrapped around it. In one heart-stopping moment, that fist detonated the space, finally carrying layers of gold ripples as it landed brutally on the black stone tablet.

Crash!

At the moment of bombardment, they could clearly feel that the whole ancient square was shaking. Even the firm black stone tablet, which had always been as stable as a rock, seemed to quiver slightly.

Han Shan and the others' glances were transfixed on Mu Chen's fist and the black stone tablet's point of contact, and then their eyes sharply narrowed.

Where the golden ripples spread from the impact, Mu Chen's fist split open. Blood splattered out, even vaguely showing his bones, which demonstrated that Mu Chen's punch had been so strong, that even his body found it unbearable, and the force of the countershock directly shattered his fist.

However, even though his fist was splattered with blood and his bones revealed, Mu Chen showed no sign of stopping. Instead, he roared, and all the power in his body surged out madly from his fist.

The golden ripples emanated from Mu Chen's fist as they swept the entire stone tablet's surface.

The ancient ground under his feet also silently cracked.

Buzz!

Under the terrifying impact, Han Shan and the others suddenly saw that above the stone tablet, there was a flame that appeared in the bronze lamp, and the sound of flames igniting rang continuously.

The bronze lamps were quickly lit!

In a short moment, six bronze lamps lit up at the same time!

After the sixth bronze lamp was lit, sparks began to emerge rapidly in the seventh bronze lamp and finally, with a burst of shock from countless gazes, it lit up.

"I can't believe it. He lit the seventh bronze lamp!" In the Body-refining Tower, the sound of exclamations rang through, and all the powerful characters were in disbelief, for Mu Chen had lit the seventh bronze lamp faster than Han Shan!

Han Shan's expression also changed. He then fixed his glance on the eighth bronze lamp, and though it was dark, he felt vaguely that Mu Chen's power was not finished.

As Han Shan stared at it, the eighth lamp remained dark for a few moments, but sparks finally emerged...

Upon seeing the sparks, Ink Blade and Zong Teng immediately could not help but inhale in shock. Mu Chen's power actually caused sparks to emerge in the eighth bronze lamp?!

This was something that even Han Shan had failed to accomplish!

Drip.

Blood dripped down from Mu Chen's fist. The bones could vaguely be seen, but he was motionless. Beneath the golden fist, golden light rippled as the impact surged madly into the black stone tablet.

Whoosh!

In the eighth bronze lamp, a weak spark began to emerge. Then a second spark... then a third spark...

The sparks began to emerge amid Han Shan and the others' widened eyes. They finally converged and with a poof, turned into flames.

The eighth bronze lamp was lit!

At this point, they looked at the burning eighth bronze lamp in utter disbelief, and then looked at the rock-like young figure in front of the stone tablet. Their inner shock was evident.

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How terrifying was the power in his fist?!

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It turned silent both inside and outside the Body-refining Tower the moment the eighth bronze lamp was lit.

However, even as they were speechless because of shock, standing before the black stone tablet, Mu Chen's golden eyes stared at the stone tablet as he ignored the sharp pain from his fists. His mind, too, was a little empty because of the ultimate force he had expended.

However, his instincts told him that this was not over!

He could vaguely feel that he could control the power of his previous punch that surged into the black stone tablet, as if it were a strange force.

If it erupted, this force would cause a more alarming amount of destruction.

Maybe even the ninth bronze lamp could be lit!

The golden light spurted out from Mu Chen's eyes and without any hesitation, he pressed his fist hard on the stone tablet, and then a hoarse voice gurgled from his throat.

"Erupt!"

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1009: Nine Lamps Ignited

"Erupt!"

When Mu Chen's hoarse voice emitted from his throat, a bright golden light burst out on top of the black stone tablet in front of him. It did not bloom from the surface of the stone tablet, but rather exploded from the depths of it.

Any object, no matter how sturdy it was, would be relatively fragile inside, and so it was with the black stone tablet that was before them. So, when the golden light exploded, the stone tablet also trembled violently. The arc in which it vibrated was far beyond any other time before.

Not far away, Han Shan looked at the black stone tablet. His mind was blank, as he was also aware of the sudden explosion of power from inside the tablet. With his experience, he naturally understood that the force would be the one that had bombarded and been absorbed by the stone tablet.

However, Han Shan did not understand why the force that had already been absorbed by the stone tablet could have been detonated by Mu Chen. Under normal circumstances, any force that was bombarded on this stone tablet would be absorbed and digested directly, because the tablet was built by the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast's flesh, which gave it the terrifying ability to digest anything. As long as it did not exceed its upper limit of power, it would be swallowed up in a moment.

So why was Mu Chen's power not engulfed, but instead controlled and detonated this time?

Dong!

In the blankness of Han Shan's mind, above the stone tablet, the last bronze lamp, which was still dark, seemed to quiver suddenly. In the next moment, Han Shan and the others' eyes focused their gazes on the ninth bronze lamp. There, in the darkness, a few tiny sparks appeared.

Although the sparks were tiny, they were real. That is to say, Mu Chen was trying to ignite the ninth bronze lamp! And, looking at this momentum, he actually had some chances of success!

But... how is this possible?!

Zong Teng's face was twisted, as he poured all of the strength of his flesh into causing an effect. Yet, he only was able to light six bronze lamps. Even the powerful Han Shan could only light seven.

However, Mu Chen had directly lit eight, and he now showed signs of lighting the ninth!

At the thought of this, Zong Teng's heart was filled with a chill. Over the years, many of the supreme talents of the clans had entered the Land of the Divine Beasts. However, he knew that those people, who were able to achieve the level of nine lights burning together on the fourth floor of the Body-refining tower, were extremely rare, and that the characters on this level were all extremely formidable.

Now, a human, who is a mere Sixth Grade Sovereign, is about to accomplish this step?

Impossible!

Zong Teng gnashed his teeth, as envy arose in his heart. He could grudgingly acknowledge that Han Shan was a little better than him, but it was absolutely intolerable that a human being, who was only a Sixth Grade Sovereign, would have surpassed him. Otherwise, what would he, the supreme talent and pride of the Heavenly Roc Clan, be? A joke?

Zong Teng stared at the ninth bronze lamp, a chilling glint in his eyes, as if he was wanting to blow out the scattered flames. Oddly enough, the ninth bronze lantern grew dimmer under Zong Teng's intense stare. It was as if the sparks were about to be squelched entirely.

Upon seeing this scene, Ink Blade's gaze grew solemn.

It seems that Mu Chen's power will be depleted soon. If this goes on, I'm afraid the ninth bronze lamp will not be lit entirely.

As such a thought skimmed past Ink Blade's mind, Mu Chen's fist, which was touching the black stone tablet, suddenly shook, causing the flesh and blood on it to be broken into pieces. Blood flowed across his fist, revealing white bone.

Instantly, Mu Chen's face became ferocious, and he bellowed out, "Ignite!"

Boom! Rumble!

The roar fell, and all of the forces that he had previously burst into the stone tablet erupted wildly, the resulting rumbling reverberating in everyone's ears. As the deafening sounds rang out, Ink Blade and the others were appalled to see that the sparks, which had been dimming in the ninth bronze lamp, now brightened again. The sparks then began to spread quickly, before finally bursting into flames and igniting the ninth bronze lamp.

The ninth bronze lamp has successfully been lit!

When the ninth bronze lamp was ignited, a strange silence enveloped the entire Body-refining Tower. Han Shan and the others stared at the burning ninth bronze lamp, their faces full of horror. Even Ink Blade's expression was one of complete shell-shock. After all, no one had thought that Mu Chen could really ignite the ninth bronze lamp.

Outside the Body-refining Tower, there was a deathly silence, as everyone stared at the light screen, which was depicting the scene. Their mouths were wide, their eyes fixed on the ninth bronze lamp.

Liu Ching and the strong men of the Heavenly Roc Clan were dumbfounded. As they stared at the lamp, the burning flames were reflected in their pupils. As it flickered, it filled their hearts with an endless chill.

Zong Teng, who had ignited six bronze lamps, was already the leader of the younger generation in the Heavenly Roc Clan. However, this so-called leader was nothing in front of Mu Chen, who had now ignited nine bronze lamps!

Even those who had not entered the Body-refining Tower were well aware of the difference between the two men now, and although the stone tablet only recognized the power of the flesh, they did not doubt that, with Mu Chen's previous punch, even a Seventh Grade Sovereign would be severely injured if hit by it head-on.

With the strength of a Sixth Grade Sovereign, one punch could severely injure a Seventh Grade Sovereign!

What kind of a monster was this?

Zong Huo had gone pale. If Mu Chen had directly used this punch on him during their previous battle, he would either be dead, or if he was fortunate, crippled...

At the thought of the sarcastic remarks that they had made before, the onlookers felt their breaths stop. Then, when the ninth bronze lamp was ignited, they all knew that the supreme talents here would be overshadowed by Mu Chen's light.

"This person... How is he so terrifying..."

Liu Ching's face was pale as she struggled to speak. At this point, even if she had a sharp tongue, she would be afraid to make any sarcastic remarks. The strength that the latter had shown had truly frightened her!

This kind of person is too terrifying...

Beside her, the strong men of the Heavenly Roc Clan were also speechless. They also could not understand how Mu Chen could have attained such a terrifying achievement with the strength of a mere Sixth Grade Sovereign.

"Big Brother Mu is too powerful... Much more powerful than our Big Brother." As Liu Ching was horrified, Ink Ring's black eyes were wide open, gazing at the ninth bronze lamp that was ignited in the light screen.

Adoration appeared on her beautiful little face. She had always thought that Ink Blade was extremely outstanding among the young generation. But now, when he was compared to Mu Chen, there was a clear disparity between the two.

Nine Nether's expression was also one of momentary shock. She then gradually recovered.

Upon hearing Ink Ring's words, she could not help but laugh and said, "You are speaking badly about your big brother so soon?" The reason why Mu Chen could ignite those nine bronze lamps was probably because he used some secret means, and besides, this is only the physical body performance. Thus, it does not mean that Mu Chen is stronger than Han Shan and Ink Blade."

Ink Ring nodded after hearing these words, but the look of worship on her small face did not decrease much. Nine Nether smile and said no more, but her heart, which had been tense before, slowly relaxed.

She looked at the tall and lithe figure of Mu Chen in the light screen, pride rising in her heart.

Some elders of the clan have always looked down on Mu Chen, but when they learn of his accomplishments in this Body-refining Tower, they will surely have to reconsider their judgments!

...

Before the black stone tablet, nine lights were ignited.

The flames flickered before Mu Chen's eyes, then gradually broke his empty state of mind, as the heavens and earth appeared clearly again in his perception. Then, the sharp pain in his palm caused his face to twist.

He slowly pulled back his fist, as the golden light began to surge. But this time, his strength had obviously been expended to its limit, so the muscles in his body were powerless. As such, he found that he could not even move his feet!

This was a clear sign that he had overexerted his strength. Mu Chen's mouth twitched, as he barely pulled himself up to stand in front of the stone tablet, willing his body to stay upright and not fall...

Buzz.

As Mu Chen's body was powerless, the black stone tablet in front finally moved a bit. Bright red runes emerged on the surface of the tablet, as if they were blood veins.

The stone tablet then vibrated, as wisps of scarlet chaos aura exuded forth from the stone tablet. The aura of chaos contained an extremely rich essence.

It seemed that the essence of the blood of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast was gathered in it, so after Mu Chen had only inhaled a single breath, his bloody fists were entirely restored.

The flesh and blood of his whole body were boiling and making ravenous sounds, as if they were going to devour this aura of chaos madly! Mu Chen's eyes were bright, recognizing that this aura of chaos, compared to the previous ones that Han Shan, Ink Blade and Zong Teng had received, was almost a dozen times richer!

This was the reward for igniting all of the nine bronze lamps. It was indeed a luxurious reward, which everyone desired immensely.

Mu Chen's heart was filled with ecstasy. Then, without hesitation, the bright red aura of chaos was inhaled entirely into his body.

While Mu Chen was absorbing the aura of chaos, a cold glint flashed in Zong Teng's eyes, as he was standing nearby. He saw Mu Chen's weakness at this time, and figured that he could now take the opportunity to wipe the latter out with a single finger!

At this thought, Zong Teng was no longer hesitant, but stepped out abruptly.

I will snatch that aura of chaos!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1010: Sneak Attack

Dong!

The ground trembled as Zong Teng's figure suddenly burst out like a sharp arrow and charged towards Mu Chen, who was standing silently in front of the stone tablet. Majestic spiritual force surged, and murderous intent permeated the atmosphere.

Zong Teng's sudden movement immediately drew numerous cries of surprise from outside the Body-refining Tower. Nine Nether and Ink Ring's expressions changed instantly. Even though they were not at the scene, they could still see that Mu Chen was nearly exhausted and at his weakest state.

If Zong Teng wanted to land a fatal blow at this time, it would be a great threat to Mu Chen.

"Zong Teng!" Nine Nether gnashed her teeth, and the chilling glint in her eyes surged.

Although she was furious, Nine Nether did not panic, because Mu Chen was not alone on the fourth floor. Although Ink Blade's temperament was cold, he absolutely would not sit and watch while Zong Teng intended to hurt Mu Chen.

Like Nine Nether had expected, when Zong Teng made his move, a solemn glint flashed in Ink Blade's eyes. In a flash, he appeared like a specter in front of Zong Teng. Fierce spiritual energy surged as he stared at Zong Teng with a cold and sharp glare.

"Get back! Take one more step forward and don't blame me for striking!" Ink Blade's voice was chilling, and his gaze was as sharp as a blade as he glared at Zong Teng.

Zong Teng's expression was dark as he said threateningly, "Ink Blade, this Mu Chen is not a member of the Nine Netherbird Clan and is just a mere human. Are you sure you want to make enemies with my Heavenly Roc Clan over him?"

Upon hearing this, Ink Blade's expression twisted sarcastically. His disdain was apparent, as he simply did not bother to answer. However, his glare towards Zong Teng grew increasingly fierce, making the latter understand that if he dared to take a step forward, then he would directly attack.

Murderous intent surged in Zong Teng's eyes, and he suddenly looked at Han Shan, who had been watching with cold eyes. He said, "Brother Han, you should have been the worthy victor of the Body-refining Tower's test. Can you put up with this Mu Chen, a mere human, snatching the opportunity from the Divine Beasts Clans?"

Upon hearing Zong Teng's provocative words, Ink Blade's face immediately fell. If it had been just Zong Teng, he could intercept him, but with the addition of Han Shan, he could not protect Mu Chen.

When Han Shan heard Zong Teng's words, he froze. His eyes immediately narrowed as he replied nonchalantly, "This is a grudge between the two of you. Why should I also be involved?"

Zong Teng replied, "Isn't Brother Han interested in the essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast? If you can absorb it, I'm afraid you will find no more adversaries among the Seventh Grade Sovereigns. Even if you meet the top supreme talents of the Dragon and Phoenix Clans, you will not need to be afraid of them anymore."

Han Shan's gaze flickered. He glanced at the bright red essence that Mu Chen was absorbing, and a covetous glint flashed in his eyes. He naturally knew how precious the essence Mu Chen had received was.

It was far beyond what they had gained before.

If he could really absorb it, Zong Teng's words would not be false.

At this point, Han Shan's face was also cloudy and uncertain, but he was obviously convinced. Ink Blade's heart could not help but sink upon seeing his reaction.

Outside the Body-refining Tower, Nine Nether's beautiful eyes narrowed at the scene on the light screen. Although she could not hear them, from Zong Teng's movements and Han Shan's reaction, she

naturally guessed what Zong Teng wanted to do. At once, her expression became colder, and a chilling aura emanated from her body. She was clearly enraged.

If Han Shan chose to intervene at this time, then it was absolutely a great threat to Mu Chen.

"D*mn it, Zong Teng!" Nine Nether gnashed her teeth and had a murderous expression on her face.

At the same time, worry surfaced on Ink Ring's face. Mu Chen had no combat power in his current state. Her elder brother would not be able to protect Mu Chen from Zong Teng and Han Shan's alliance.

At this time, the strong men of the other clans were also aware of the changes in the fourth level, and immediately they all hummed with speculation. Some people even lamented Mu Chen's fate. Was the black horse who stood out about to be wiped out just before he reached his peak?

Not far away, Lu Sui, who had recovered from his injuries while being guarded by several powerful people of the Lightning Crow Clan, also opened his eyes. He looked at the scene on the light screen and immediately coldly scoffed. Mu Chen, let's see how you are going to remain arrogant! I'm afraid the reward you've worked hard for will have to be given to someone else!

Outside the Body-refining Tower, countless lamenting and gloating glances were cast upon the light screen.

Under the countless lamenting and gloating glances, Han Shan's gaze flickered, and he seemed unable to make up his mind.

"Brother Han, there is no time to waste, or there will be nothing left of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast's essence for you." Seeing that Han Shan was slightly swayed but still showed no sign of action, Zong Teng could not help but urge him on.

If they let Mu Chen restore his strength and ally with Ink Blade, even if Han Shan wanted to strike, it would be futile.

Hearing Zong Teng's urging, Han Shan frowned. His eyes turned to Mu Chen, but the latter was still standing quietly before the stone tablet. Bright red spirit surrounded his body, and a mysterious aura emanated from him.

Han Shan, who had endured countless years of wars and battles, was intuitively sensitive, and this time he was aware of something different from the young man at hand.

It was a deeply restrained sense of danger.

That feeling made him understand that if he really chose to strike today, he could not show mercy, because if he let Mu Chen escape alive, then he would have a hard time in the future.

Was it worth it to devour the essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast and offend such a dangerous enemy?

Han Shan's gaze flickered rapidly, and the atmosphere become particularly silent in the square. Zong Teng and Ink Blade were both tense, for they knew that Han Shan's decision would suddenly change the situation.

After a few moments, the repressed silence was finally broken by the sound of Han Shan inhaling a long, deep breath. He slowly raised his head, smiled at Zong Teng and Ink Blade, who were watching him, and shook his head. "This Heaven-Devouring Spirit is rare indeed, but it seems that I do not have the good fortune to enjoy it, so I can only accept your kindness."

Although greed made Han Shan want to devour the essence of the Heaven-Devouring Divine Beast, the sensitivity of his intuition eventually prevailed, so he chose not to act.

Zong Teng's expression twisted with rage.

Upon hearing his words, Ink Blade heaved a quiet sigh of relief. His always calm, handsome face became a lot more relaxed as he nodded at Han Shan as a sign of gratitude.

"Since Brother Han is not interested in this, I can only stop. Brother Ink, sorry for the offense." Zong Teng's face was steely with rage for a while, but he eventually recovered and stepped back.

Feeling the retreat of Zong Teng's momentum, Ink Blade's tense heart was relieved.

Boom!

However, just as Ink Blade relaxed, murderous intent suddenly erupted in Zong Teng's gaze. His figure suddenly shot out, transforming into silhouettes of afterimages.

"Zong Teng, how dare you!"

A touch of rage flashed in Ink Blade's eyes as he stepped out, appearing in front of the silhouettes of afterimages. With a blow, the cry of a phoenix resounded, and scarlet flames swept out, carrying a magnificent spiritual energy as a fist shattered the remnants of the afterimages.

In the shattered afterimages, one figure was forced to reveal himself. Zong Teng dealt a backhanded blow as a golden light surged, incomparably sharp, like a thousand swords rushing to tear the world apart.

Crash!

The fist and palm clashed brutally, and immediately the spiritual energy waves rolled and spread. The space fluctuated as the two silhouettes trembled, and a fist immediately caused Zong Teng's figure to directly explode and transform into a golden light.

At this moment, however, Ink Blade's eyes narrowed as he saw that the golden light had suddenly penetrated the space before him in an extremely strange way before appearing behind him.

"The Golden-winged Roc's Super Power, Spatial Teleportation?!"

Ink Blade's expression was dark. He delivered a backhand blow without hesitation, and a terrible wind caused spatial cracks to emerge, directly charging towards the golden light behind him.

Whoosh!

However, the golden light did not acknowledge his attack as a sharp light suddenly burst out and then pierced through the air, heading straight towards Mu Chen. The sharp light was a dark golden feather. It

was a few feet long, and looked like a supreme divine sword. An air of unparalleled power emanated from it.

It was a divine feather that had fallen off of the Sovereign Divine Beast, the Golden-winged Roc. After being strengthened by the Heavenly Roc Clan, its sharpness was comparable to that of a Magnificent Grade Divine Artifact. If a Seventh Grade Sovereign was stabbed by it, he would be pierced through entirely.

Zong Teng's intention had been extremely clear. Even though he risked being wounded by Ink Blade, he was hell-bent on killing Mu Chen.

The feather pierced through the air, and Ink Blade's expression became extremely ugly. He could tangle with Zong Teng, but he could not stop the fierce sword feather heading towards Mu Chen.

In Mu Chen's current state, he would be pierced by the feather.

This kind of mistake frustrated Ink Blade as murderous rage surged in his heart. It seemed that today, no matter what, he could not let Zong Teng off.

Buzz!

However, no matter how vexed he was, he could not change the direction of the sword feather. As Nine Nether and the others watched with pale faces, the golden light appeared like lightning behind Mu Chen, pointed straight to the back of his head, and tried to penetrate.

Looking at this scene, countless strong people lamented. Was this black horse about to fall here?

A sardonic smile surfaced on Zong Teng's face. No matter how talented you may be, you will perish here today!

However, the smirk on his face suddenly froze!

Mu Chen had been silent, but the moment the sword feather was about to penetrate through his head, he suddenly reached out his palm. In it he held the sword feather, and a purplish gold light shined on it.

The sword feather that was strong enough to pierce through the defenses of a Seventh Grade Sovereign could not budge at all in the grasp of that pale and slender palm!

Zong Teng's expression gradually stiffened.

The palm's owner opened his eyes, which were flickering with golden light, and turned slowly, his expression nonchalant.