

Great Ruler 1081

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Chapter 1081: The New Kings

In the depths of the Daluo Territory, silhouettes roared from all sides. Finally, the square, which had been opened up from the top of a giant peak, was occupied.

Compared to a year ago, it was obvious that there had been earth-shaking changes in the Daluo Territory. At this time, the square was now the most prominent place within the entire region of the Daluo Territory.

This was because at every Conference of the Lords, a new king was crowned. This position was very important because, only by becoming king, could one have the qualifications to develop their own powers, while at the same time being able to obtain more resources from the Daluo Territory.

Thus, looking across the entire region, countless strong men were eyeing the king position. Apparently, the battle for the role was even more intense than it had been a year ago!

In the past, as long as one's strength had reached the rank of a Fifth Grade Sovereign, it was deemed as an adequate qualification to compete. Yet now, unless one was a Seventh Grade Sovereign, he would have no courage to fight for it.

At the moment, the huge square was filled with voices, and from time to time, in the distant sky, there would be a great number of silhouettes roaring by. Although these silhouettes' auras were far away, they would attract envious eyes in the square, for in Daluotian, only those who were qualified to travel with such entourages were the various lords and kings.

These silhouettes landed directly at the most central area of the square, which was considered to be the core of the Daluo Territory, amid countless envious glances. What was most conspicuous about the central area was the golden throne at the end of the stone ladder, which seemed to have a sort of inexplicable majesty. Even if it stood quietly, it still garnered countless awed glances from the crowd.

Upon the throne, the Dominator, who was the strongest existence in the North Territory, was perched. Below the golden throne, there were three silver thrones shining in the sun, all of which were equally striking. Within these three thrones, sat three people, who had their eyes slightly closed.

This trio was naturally the three kings, who were able to hold such a position from the very beginning, as they had fought together with Mandela to build an empire. Below the three Kings were a great number of stone thrones, upon which sat extraordinary figures of men, all of whom radiated great spiritual powers.

These were the Lords of the Daluo Territory. Among these lords, the most striking and unexpected ones were not Lord Asura and Lord Mountain Cracker, but the two figures in the front.

One of the figures was old and thin. He looked as if he were withering, as his eyes were drooping and he seemed feeble. However, he still emanated a palpable and oppressive aura. This man was known as the Withered Old Man.

On the right side of the Withered Old Man was a middle-aged man with a solid body, built like an iron tower. He sat on one side of the Withered Old Man, the shadow of his body covering the Withered Old Man entirely.

His arm was particularly unique, as it seemed to be several times thicker than the average person's. His wide palms hung casually to one side, but if one looked carefully, they would see that, when his fingers moved, there was a faint sonic boom that rang out, as if they had enough destructive power to crush mountains!

This man, known as Dragon-Arm Sovereign, was also an extremely powerful person in the North Territory. It is said that his skill cultivation was very unique, and that he had implanted a pair of dragon arms into himself, refining them into his own arms! This had allowed him to have the strength of the Dragon Clan!

The strength of these two men, both of whom were the firsts to enter the rank of Ninth Grade Sovereign, far outstripped the other Lords of the Daluo Territory. As such, even the strongest of the Lords, such as Lord Asura, could only be subordinate to them.

Of course, the two men obviously did not hold the lord position in high regard. They talked and laughed with each other, but occasionally, their sweeping gazes passed through the three figures on the silver thrones in front of them, and when they did, deep in their eyes, an eager provocation and unruly defiance flashed.

This was because, in their views, they were not inferior to the three Kings in the Daluo Territory. Moreover, except for the Sleeping King, who looked perpetually drowsy and gave them a vague feeling of fear, neither of the other two kings intimidated them whatsoever.

With such strengths, they naturally coveted the king position, as it was the only one that could match their prowesses. Above their silver thrones, the Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King also sensed these two subtle yet provocative glances. Although their faces remained nonchalant, they hummed coldly in their hearts.

As the veteran subjects of the Daluo Territory, they were naturally aware of the fierce competition that had grown over the past year, such that even their positions were beginning to be coveted. As such, they could not claim that others were not qualified to covet their positions, for the reputation of the Withered Old Man and the Dragon-Arm Sovereign was indeed stronger than their own.

Furthermore, with the help of the immense amount of resources provided by the Dominator, they had finally broken through their own bottlenecks and made breakthroughs in their own strengths, reaching the rank of Ninth Grade Sovereign. If not for their having received that help this year, they would have been surpassed by these ambitious newcomers! It was in this way that the contradictions between the old and new subjects in the Daluo Territory had begun to spread to their level.

"It seems like these two guys are hell-bent on obtaining the positions of the new kings." The Spiritual Pupil King glanced at those two figures, speaking lowly to the Condor King.

In the past, there were disputes between the Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King, so they were not too friendly with one another. However, with the increasing number of new arrivals from within the

Daluo Territory, their dispute seemed to have dissipated completely. They even showed signs of forming an alliance to defend themselves against the others.

As such, upon hearing the Spiritual Pupil King's message, the Condor King also nodded faintly and said, "These two guys are strong enough, and now that their foundation is growing stable, I'm afraid that they just might get what they want."

At this point, the Condor King pursed his mouth in displeasure. He was thinking that, with the Dragon-Arm Sovereign's and the Withered Old Man's characters, if they became the new kings, the competition with between them all would only become fiercer!

"Oh, what do you think of this, Brother Meng?" The Spiritual Pupil King now turned to address the Sleeping King.

Although he was now a Ninth Grade Sovereign, he was still quite polite to the Sleeping King, because he knew that the Sleeping King had been following the Dominator for many years, and was the most loyal to her. As such, if the Dominator had any idea, the Sleeping King would know something about it.

The Sleeping King's eyes opened for a brief moment. He then smiled casually and said, "The Dominator means for the new kings' positions to be increased by two seats."

The Spiritual Pupil King and the Condor King were both startled by this news. They shook their heads and said at once, as if sharing one voice, "That's really advantageous for these two guys!"

Previously, the two men had tried to compete for the new king's position, but had been denied by Mandela. After all, the position was too important, and the Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man did not have the qualifications and loyalty to match it at that time. However, at this moment, even Mandela was about to relent, so it was natural that they would both be crowned king.

The two Kings sighed. They had been fighting alongside with the Dominator for many years before arriving at their present status, and now these two relative newcomers might be able to sit on an equal footing with them! They felt this was obviously unjust!

The Sleeping King opened his eyes wider, seeming to look towards where the Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man were located. He then smiled inexplicably and said, "The Dominator only said that two seats for the new kings' positions would be opened, but no one said they were for them."

The Spiritual Pupil King and the Condor King heard his words and were stunned immediately. They felt baffled. As they looking out at the entire Daluo Territory, only Dragon-Arm Sovereign and the Withered Old Man had the qualifications to compete for the position of the new king, unless the Dominator planned to let Lord Asura ascend in position.

But, that would inevitably lead to Dragon-Arm Sovereign's and the Withered Old Man's defiances, as Lord Asura was only an Eighth Grade Sovereign and did not command enough respect from the public.

The two Kings looked at each other, about to ask more questions, but the Sleeping King closed his eyes again, leaving the two shaking their heads helplessly.

Bong!

The ring of a bell suddenly reverberated between the heavens and the earth, quieting the excited square immediately, as countless people looked on in awe. Even the Dragon-Arm Sovereign and the Withered Old Man bowed slightly, their faces respectful.

A wisp of splendor seemed to penetrate the entire space, as it had condensed on the bright golden throne in the middle of the square. A petite figure in a black dress then surfaced, her golden eyes opening to survey her surroundings.

A terrible pressure swept by suddenly, and even as powerful as Dragon-Arm Sovereign and the Withered Old Man were, even their powers seemed to stagnate for a moment, rendering them immediately appalled and horrified. This was most certainly the power of an Upper Earthly Sovereign, as with just one glance, they had been rendered defenseless!

As her gaze swept out, Mandela finally waved her small hand. Then, her calm but crisp voice reverberated in the air above the square, causing the excited atmosphere to erupt.

"The Conference of the Lords, commences now!" she announced confidently!

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Chapter 1082: The Fight over Kingships

Just one word from Mandela had caused much excitement at the Conference of the Lords. Many top powers were hyped up, and it was especially so with the rivals of the Lords of Daluo Territory. They were breathing very hard, and they looked ready to remove anyone who stood in their way.

The rules for lordship in Daluo Territory had changed. They had to fight in the arena and be recommended by at least five lords. The main concern was the number of lordships that were available.

There were too many top powers in Daluo Territory currently, and there were not enough positions to go around. If there were too many positions, it would create disputes among the top powers, and a civil war might break out. Mandela had thus set up only a few seats for such important positions. Only five of them would be selected.

Since there were many top powers who were eyeing the five lordships, the drop-out rate would be high. When Mandela waved her hand, majestic spiritual energy burst out instantly, and multiple figures shot out at the same time toward the stone platforms in the large square.

Roar! Roar!

The supporters of the candidates shouted and cheered loudly. After all, once the candidates whom they supported became the Lords of Daluo Territory, they would be rewarded for being supportive. When the candidates became powerful in the future, they would be given many resources to help them quicken their cultivation.

Mandela sat on the golden throne and looked around. She then shut her eyes and rested. From what she could see, it would be a tough battle. She would have let the three kings handle the Conference of the Lords if Daluo Territory had not become so powerful. Moreover, she was not there to watch the fight for the lordships.

As Mandela thought of this, she looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man from the corners of her eyes. They were sitting below her, looking relaxed. They looked as though they had already secured the positions of the new kings. They considered the lords in Daluo Territory as undeserving of the positions, as none of them could possibly defeat them.

Mandela curled up her lips as she watched their behavior. Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man were powerful, but they were too arrogant. It would not do Daluo Territory any good if they became kings now.

The fights on the square were fierce, but they ended quickly. The difference in the strength of these top powers was obvious. After the fights went on for about two hours, five people remained standing on the five stone platforms.

The five people had extraordinary auras, and the spiritual energy fluctuations around them were overbearing. They had just advanced to Grade Eight Sovereign, and their strength was comparable to Bai Ming's, whom Mu Chen had met in the Land of the Divine Beasts. These five people were apparently the new leaders.

Mandela looked at the five of them and nodded. As Daluo Territory had expanded quickly, the quality of the top powers who came and joined them had become better. Daluo Territory had become more attractive than it had been previously.

The strength of the new lords was overbearing. Among the older lords, other than Lord Asura and Lord Mountain Cracker, the rest of them were still Grade Seven Sovereigns. The new and older lords might get into a power struggle due to this.

The older lords were experienced, but the new lords were powerful. They would have conflicts, but Mandela was not bothered by it. These conflicts might be good for Daluo Territory.

The people shouted for joy as the five lords emerged. They were thrilled.

The three kings stood up and announced the five new lords and their territories before they left. After the new lords left, the atmosphere in the square did not diminish. The people were excited, and the atmosphere was great.

Many people then looked across the horizon toward the center of the square. Two people were meditating on the stone seats. Everyone knew that the Conference of the Lords was only an appetizer. The emergence of the new kings was the highlight of the day!

There were more than 20 lords in the entire Daluo Territory but only three kings. When the Dominator had gone into seclusion, the three kings took charge of the entire Daluo Territory. This showed how powerful this position was.

The fight for the two positions would be fiercer than that for the lordships, and only the top powers at Grade Nine Sovereign were qualified to participate in it. Currently, only Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man possessed the qualification. When both of them assumed kingship, there would be five kings in Daluo Territory. The whole situation would definitely change.

Some of the people were already planning to join Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man once they assumed kingship so that they would look after them.

Mandela opened her eyes and said flatly, "Daluo Territory will have two more kings. Anyone who is capable can go for the positions."

Wow.

There was an uproar and many people looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man. They were still looking relaxed and confident, assuming they would both become kings.

The older lords like Lord Asura and Lord Mountain Cracker sighed helplessly. They were supposed to be the ones to be conferred as kings, but others had surpassed them as Daluo Territory expanded. They had no choice but to accept the cruel fact.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man had proven their strength. Other than being more experienced, the older lords had nothing superior to the rest. Condor King and Spiritual Pupil King looked at each other expressionlessly. However, they knew that with the addition of the two new kings, things would not go so smoothly in the future, and Daluo Territory would not remain so peaceful.

Mandela sat on the throne and looked at the crowd. She repeated flatly, "Anyone can vie for the positions of the two kings."

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man stood up from the stone seats and looked around. Dragon-Arm Sovereign smiled and said, "Is there anyone who wants to challenge me? I will let you take over the position if you defeat me." He sounded indifferent but authoritative. He was confident that no one would be able to compete with him over the kingship.

Lord Asura and the rest of the lords turned pale. They looked at one another and shook their heads. They would be bringing shame to themselves if they challenged the two of them.

There was silence in the square. After a long while, no one said anything. It was apparent that no one was a match for Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man. When Dragon-Arm Sovereign saw it, he broke into a broad smile and said, "Since no one dares to challenge us, we will take up..."

Before Dragon-Arm Sovereign could finish his sentence, someone laughed from afar. "Hohoho, take it easy, gentlemen. Both of us are interested in the positions." A voice resounded in the area and shocked everyone in the square. Lord Asura and the rest of the lords lifted up their heads and saw spiritual light swirling toward them. A bunch of shadows then appeared in the sky.

A handsome man and a beautiful woman were standing at the forefront, and they captivated everyone. Lord Asura and the other lords were stunned when they saw the two of them, and they shouted, "Lord Mu? Lord Nine Nether?"

The people were shocked when they heard it, and there was a commotion. Many people looked at Mu Chen and Nine Nether, and started to whisper among themselves.

"They are Lord Mu and Lord Nine Nether!"

"They have disappeared for almost a year and now they are back!"

"Lord Mu is holding a high position in Daluo Territory. The Dominator was able to break through to Upper Earthly Sovereign because of him."

"Of course we knew that. If not for him, Nine Nether Palace would not be what it is today." This comment was filled with envy.

"Ha! What did Lord Mu say earlier? He and Lord Nine Nether want to become kings as well? He is young and inexperienced. Even if the Dominator favors him, he is not qualified to become king!"

"You are right. It is impossible for him to vie for the position with Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man!"

"..."

The area was bustling with noise, and it was apparent that everyone was scoffing at Mu Chen's remarks.

Not everyone was qualified to be a king.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man lifted up their heads and frowned. Then they smiled as they looked at Mu Chen and Nine Nether, who had kept their spiritual energy within themselves, and laughed mockingly at them.

"I was wondering who it was. So, it is Lord Mu and Lord Nine Nether. I have heard of your contributions to Daluo Territory. However, if you are eyeing the kingships, I have only these words for you..."

"You are too presumptuous!"

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Chapter 1083: Coming on Strong

"You are too presumptuous!" Dragon-Arm Sovereign said flatly. After he spoke, the square suddenly quietened down.

The people had weird expressions on their faces, especially the veteran top powers. Although Dragon-Arm Sovereign had great strength and was well-known, Mu Chen had contributed much to the Daluo Territory.

In fact, if it had not been for Mu Chen, Mandela would not have advanced to Upper Earthly Sovereign during The Big Hunting War. Moreover, the Daluo Territory would not have survived in the North Territory if the Divine Pavilion had won.

As such, everyone in the Daluo Territory was grateful to Mu Chen. Even the three kings were respectful toward him. These people did not look down on him because he was young. Thus, when the people heard what Dragon-Arm Sovereign had said, they were understandably very unhappy.

"Dragon-Arm Sovereign, although you are well-known in the North Territory, to us, you are still a greenhorn. You come here because we are powerful now, but please remember, Mu Chen played an important role in building the Daluo Territory up," Lord Asura said. He was already unhappy with Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man.

"Hohoho, you need to go according to the order of arrival. It is useless to flaunt your seniority in the Daluo Territory," Lord Mountain Cracker said with a smile.

Lord Blood Hawk and the rest of the older lords voiced their agreement with these sentiments as well. Only the new lords looked at one another in silence, not wanting to get involved. They did not want to offend Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man, just in case they became kings and pillars of the Daluo Territory in the future.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man were shocked when they saw that the older lords were reprimanding them. They instantly turned pale.

After all, they were already well-known in the North Territory, so they were naturally proud of themselves. They had become a bit overconfident and been rude to Mu Chen, looking down on him.

They thought that Mu Chen was too young, but he had indeed hit the big time during the Big Hunting War and gained the favor of the Dominator. Even this made them more annoyed with him, as they looked down on people who pulled strings to get protection.

Thus, when they saw that Mu Chen was eyeing the kingship as well, they reprimanded him. It was apparent that they had underestimated Mu Chen's influence in the Daluo Territory. Hence, they were looking only for trouble by making such a comment.

Before Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man could say anything else, the Condor King said, "Lord Mu and Lord Nine Nether have contributed much to the Daluo Territory. The two of you are not kings yet, thus you are of the same status. Please be respectful."

The Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King were already unhappy with Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man. As such, they took the opportunity to add insult to injury when they saw that the two of them were being attacked by the crowd. Even the Sleeping King smiled and nodded his head in agreement.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man turned ghastly pale. They had not expected the crowd to be so infuriated by such a simple remark.

After all, in the pair's minds, especially given their strengths and reputations, it was only right for them to reprimand the younger generation. However, they had not expected things to turn out this way.

They looked at each other and then at Mandela. They hoped that Mandela would speak up for them, but she simply pretended to be asleep. She did not say a word and did not even try to stop the Condor King and the rest from rebuking them.

When Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man saw her passive attitude, their hearts sank. Mandela would rather allow them to be attacked by the crowd than to stick her neck out and support them. This showed how important Mu Chen was to her, as well as how much less they meant in comparison.

All they could do at this moment was to swallow their prides. They lifted their heads to look at Mu Chen and Nine Nether, who were standing in the sky, then forced out two smiles.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign said, "This is my fault. I hope Lord Mu Chen will not hold it against me." They had to give in, as they did not want to have more people rebuke them, which would bring shame upon themselves.

Mu Chen was shocked by this scene. He shook his head and smiled.

"You are unlucky!" Mu Chen muttered to himself. He then shook his head and smiled, refusing to be bothered by what Dragon-Arm had said.

Mu Chen then said, "Since the Dominator has said that anyone can go for the kingships, does that include the two of us?"

Mandela opened her eyes and looked at Mu Chen. Golden light surged in her eyes and she smiled faintly. Although Mu Chen and Nine Nether had hidden their spiritual energy fluctuations, she knew their actual strengths at a glance.

"Yes, you may," She said with a nod.

This announcement caused yet another uproar, where even Lord Asura and the rest of the lords frowned. They had not expected that Mu Chen and Nine Nether would vie against Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man for the kingships.

After all, Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man were Grade Nine Sovereigns and very powerful. Even the Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King were barely on par with them.

They knew that Mu Chen and Nine Nether must have enhanced their strengths this year. When they had left before, Nine Nether had not yet reached Grade Seven Sovereign and Mu Chen was only at Grade Six. At the most, they should have advanced one level up since that time. Yet, even if this was so, they would not be able to defeat Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man.

Light flickered in the eyes of Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man. They did not say a word, but curled up their lips into sneers.

Mu Chen and Nine Nether were well-known in the Daluo Territory. If Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man had used normal means, they would not be able to take back their territories.

However, Mu Chen and Nine Nether had come to them of their own accords. As such, they were eager to find out how these two young people would suffer in their hands. They were fascinated by them, wondering how many times they could afford to bring shame upon themselves!

"Lord Mu, Lord Nine Nether, this is not an easy task. Please consider this carefully," the Condor King warned them.

"Thank you for your reminder, Condor King," Mu Chen replied with a smile, yet did not show any intentions of withdrawing.

Condor King was shocked by this. He could hear the confidence in Mu Chen's voice.

Although this Mu Chen is young, he is prudent. He would not take such a risk, unless he was full of confidence.

Has he acquired some powerful means, which enable him to contend with a Grade Nine top power?

The Condor King became less worried as he thought of the trump cards that Mu Chen had. After all, he was a Spiritual Array Master, a war troop dispatcher, and many other things. Hence, Mu Chen must have a decent chance of winning. Otherwise, he would tarnish the reputation of Nine Netherworld Palace!

"Hohoho, since the two of you insist, I will have to be seen as a bully of the younger generation!"

Withered Old Man laughed hoarsely, then immediately appeared on a stone platform in the square.

He then looked mockingly at Mu Chen and Nine Nether, who were in the sky, and asked, "May I know which of you wishes to challenge me? If I lose, I will hand the position of the new kingship over to you."

The people looked at Mu Chen and Nine Nether. Some of them looked hopeful, some looked doubtful, and some were gloating over the pair's misfortunes.

"I have long heard of you. Let me take you on." Nine Nether smiled and appeared before Withered Old Man. Flames seemed to be burning in her eyes. She was burning with fighting spirit.

She had spent two years cultivating in the God Sea. With the help of the Inherited Blood Essence of the Undying Bird and the guidance from the Sovereign Beast, her strength had increased tremendously. As such, she needed an opponent that was on par with her to verify her strength, so Withered Old Man was a good candidate.

Withered Old Man looked carelessly at Nine Nether and then frowned. He had noticed that Nine Nether had kept her spiritual energy within her.

"Have you hidden your spiritual energy?" Withered Old Man asked in shock.

Nine Nether smiled and did not reply. Instead, she stepped out, a horrifying spiritual energy exploding from her body like a volcano.

The heavens and the earth quaked and a majestic spiritual energy swirled out. A horrifying spiritual energy oppression then burst out from Nine Nether's body.

Many people were shocked as they looked at Nine Nether, especially Lord Asura and the rest of the lords. The Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King turned pale, looking at Nine Nether in astonishment. The Condor King then took a deep breath and muttered, "She has had a breakthrough... To Grade Nine Sovereign!"

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Chapter 1084: The Undying Fire God's Shield

"Grade Nine Sovereign!"

Many people looked shocked as they stared at Nine Nether. They found it hard to believe. They had heard that Lord Nine Nether was only a Grade Six or Grade Seven Sovereign, but she had now become so powerful!

Lord Asura, Lord Mountain Cracker, and the rest of the lords were shocked as well. Nine Nether had great strength, but she could only be ranked third or fourth among the lords before she had left them. However, she had now advanced to Grade Nine Sovereign before Lord Asura!

Someone in the crowd asked, "Has she used some temporary means to bring up her level?"

"This is impossible! If she has done that, she will have difficulty controlling her spiritual energy. However, her spiritual energy is not chaotic, and it indeed belongs to her!"

"This is incredible! How could she possibly do it in less than a year!?"

The crowd whispered among themselves, and even the lords were taken by surprise. They shook their heads, as they did not know what Nine Nether had gone through in order to advance to such an amazing level.

Withered Old Man stood on the stone platform and looked at Nine Nether with disbelief. However, as he was experienced and knowledgeable, he quickly collected himself and no longer looked down on Nine Nether. He looked grave now. He could feel the intimidating aura that Nine Nether exuded.

He had heard that Lord Nine Nether was from the Netherbird Clan, and she had the Divine Beast's Constitution. She had such a strong combat force, and even Withered Old Man, who was also a Grade Nine Sovereign, no longer had confidence in defeating her.

They now knew why Mu Chen was so confident. Lord Nine Nether had reached Grade Nine Sovereign, and she had the capability to fight for the kingship.

"It was my fault earlier. Let me have a taste of your skills." Withered Old Man looked at Nine Nether, and then put his palms together. Bright light seemed to burst out from his eyes.

Boom!

The moment Withered Old Man finished his sentence, majestic spiritual energy burst out from his skinny body. It was gray in color, and as the spiritual energy swept out, even the land dried up. Withered Old Man indeed possessed special power.

These people who had advanced to Grade Nine Sovereign and created a name for themselves in the North Territory were indeed powerful. Vast spiritual energy burst out in the area, and even before the two of them struck, the strong oppression had caused fear among the top powers.

Withered Old Man's dull eyes suddenly brightened up. He stepped out, and vast spiritual energy surged. It then turned into a gray light and whizzed out toward Nine Nether. The spiritual energy light rainbow was withered and wherever it passed, the space would wane.

"That is Withered Old Man's Withered Spiritual Energy. Anyone who is struck by it will be dried up, and even spiritual energy will be contaminated and wane." Many top powers looked at the gray light rainbow and were fearful. They would be severely injured if they were hit by it, and their bodies would weaken.

Nine Nether looked flatly at the powerful attack. She stretched forth her hand and pressed down telekinetically.

Boom!

Vast spiritual energy whizzed out like a tidal wave at a high temperature, causing even the air to be aflame.

Swish! Swish!

The two vast spiritual energies clashed against each other, but surprisingly, there was no explosion. They continued to attack each other and created dark cracks in the space. The gray light rainbow whizzed down like a meteorite, but no matter how strong the rotten force was, it could not get near Nine Nether.

Although Withered Old Man's spiritual energy was weird and horrifying, Nine Nether's spiritual energy was special as well. She had cultivated the genuine Undying Flame under the guidance of the Undying Bird Beast, and that brought about a tremendous change to her spiritual energy.

The Undying Flame was unperishable, and it was more overbearing than the Withered Spiritual Energy. Although Withered Old Man's spiritual energy could encroach on the other top powers' spiritual energy, it could not do so with Nine Nether's.

The top powers turned grave when they saw that no matter how hard Withered Old Man tried, he could not attack Nine Nether.

"Withered Old Man, if this is what you are capable of, I am afraid that it will be tough for you to secure the kingship," Nine Nether said with a smile. Although it looked as though Withered Old Man had attacked her with great force, he was merely testing her out.

Withered Old Man started to look serious. He then nodded and formed a seal with his hands. Majestic spiritual energy swirled out like a windstorm, and a humongous spiritual energy shadow appeared behind him.

The spiritual energy shadow was unique. It took the form of a human, but branches were growing out of it. From afar, it looked like a towering old tree that was swaying. However, this old tree exuded a withering force that weakened the spiritual energy in the area.

"That is the Withered Celestial Body that Withered Old Man has cultivated!" The top powers shouted out in shock when they saw the towering old tree behind him.

The Withered Celestial Body was intriguing and ranked number 61 on the List of 99 Sovereign Celestial Bodies. In order to cultivate it, one had to absorb the different withering forces in the heavens and earth. Withered Old Man had spent years in the desolated land to cultivate it before he could possess this Celestial Body.

Every single move carried a withering force. If it invaded one's body, the flesh would dry up. This Celestial Body was overbearing and vicious, and it was Withered Old Man's trump card. However, no one expected him to use it right from the beginning. It was apparent he knew that he could not use ordinary means to deal with Nine Nether after testing her out earlier.

Withered Old Man rose up slowly and landed on the towering old tree. He looked down at Nine Nether and said in a hoarse voice, "If Lord Nine Nether can counter my withering power, I will admit defeat."

Nine Nether looked up and stared at the towering old tree to feel the withering power. She was not alarmed by it, but instead, she smiled and said, "If you can counter my fire with your Withered Celestial Body, I will admit defeat, too."

Having said that, the spiritual energy above Nine Nether gathered together to form a giant black bird. As it spread out its wings, it looked like clouds. As the giant bird cried out, fire spurted out from its mouth. The flames were transparent, and they looked amazing.

Undying Fire God's Shield! Nine Nether called out in her heart, and the fire instantly swirled out. Space warps were formed, and the fire turned into a huge Fire Shield that engulfed the Withered Celestial Body.

Crackle! Crackle!

As the transparent Fire Shield came down on the Withered Old Man, his face twitched. He said, "Lord Nine Nether is over-confident. Do you think that you can trap me with this Fire Shield?" He sneered within himself and immediately looked stern. He changed his seal at lightning speed, and the towering old tree started to sway. Gray light whizzed out and covered the area.

"Hand of the Withered Willow Whisking the Heavens!" As the gray light gathered together, it formed a gigantic, withered gray hand. It caused the sky to darken as the withering power emitted from it.

Many top powers were shocked when they saw it. Withered Old Man was well-known for using this means. Even a Grade Eight Sovereign who was struck by this vicious attack would have his flesh weakened and die instantly.

Although Withered Old Man refused to admit it, he was wary of Nine Nether. He was afraid of being overthrown by her if he was too careless.

Boom!

The Withered Gigantic Hand brushed casually across the horizon. It looked light, but its power inflicted fear among the top powers.

As the Gigantic Hand dashed toward the Fire Shield, ripples started to form above the Fire Shield. Fire twirled around it, and transparent flames spurted out and hit hard against the Withered Hand.

Boom! Boom!

High temperature raged out as the two collided. Withered Old Man turned pale, as his Withered Hand seemed to have met its nemesis. As the transparent flame swirled toward his Withered Hand, his Withered Hand started to burn up like dead wood.

"What an overbearing fire!" Many top powers shouted as they were taken aback.

Condor King and Spiritual Pupil King were amazed as well. Even they felt threatened by the transparent flame.

"This, this, is this the genuine Undying Flame!" Withered Old Man was dumbstruck by the transparent flame, and his voice suddenly became sharp. His Withered Celestial Body was vicious and strange, but it was afraid of power that was filled with vitality. The Undying Flame was a nemesis to his withering power no matter how hard he tried to encroach upon it.

Nine Nether smiled as she looked at Withered Old Man, who had turned ghastly pale. This Undying Fire God's Shield was passed down to her by the Undying Bird Sovereign Beast. Although she could not cause severe injury to him, she could use it to entrap him.

"Withered Old Man, you can go on trying," Nine Nether said.

After a while, Withered Old Man smiled wryly and shook his head. He said, "Lord Nine Nether is indeed talented. I have lost to you."

Wow!

There was an uproar in the square, as no one had expected Withered Old Man to admit defeat so easily. Withered Old Man knew that he was totally restricted by the Fire Shield. He could have given his all to break out of the array, but he would need to spend much time to do so. This would give Nine Nether an advantage over him, as he would have exhausted his energy. Even if he managed to break out, he might not be able to defeat Nine Nether afterward.

He would rather admit defeat than waste his effort.

"Thank you for letting me win." Nine Nether smiled and waved her hand. The giant Fire Shield then turned into transparent flame as Nine Nether gulped it into her mouth. In an instant, the temperature in the area went back to normal.

Withered Old Man darted out of the stone platform and landed beside Dragon-Arm Sovereign, who looked pale. He looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign and said in a low voice, "Lord Nine Nether is powerful. I don't think Lord Mu is easy to deal with, either."

"This is a load of crap!" Light flickered in Dragon-Arm Sovereign's eyes as he looked sharply at Mu Chen, who was smiling from afar. He rebuked Withered Old Man and said in a cold voice, "It is tough to deal with Nine Nether, as she is a Divine Beast and possesses the Undying Flame. Mu Chen is a human being, and I don't believe that he can have the power of a Grade Nine Sovereign within only a year!"

Having said that, he snorted. He stamped his feet and appeared on one of the stone platforms. He looked fiercely at Mu Chen and said in a flat voice, "Lord Mu, if you wish to take away the kingship from me, you have to prove to me that you are capable of doing so!"

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1085: The Power of Dragon-Arm

Dragon-Arm Sovereign placed his hands behind his back and stood tall on the stone platform. He was like a mountain, causing the earth underneath his feet to quake.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man were the masters in the North Territory, but Dragon-Arm Sovereign was more successful than Withered Old Man. It had been rumored that even the Divine Pavilion had wanted to recruit him, but were unsuccessful in their attempt.

The Divine Pavilion had sent a Pavilion Master to spar with Dragon-Arm Sovereign, but he had lost to Dragon-Arm Sovereign. This was proof of Dragon-Arm Sovereign's strength and reputation in the North Territory.

As compared to Dragon-Arm Sovereign, Mu Chen had been viewed by most as a mere youth with great potential. Although he had made a name for himself in the North Territory, most people felt that it was impossible for Mu Chen to vie against masters like Dragon-Arm Sovereign.

When Dragon-Arm Sovereign went up to the platform and looked at Mu Chen, all of the onlookers' eyes turned to Mu Chen as well. No one dared to mock him, especially after Nine Nether had turned the tables around.

Moreover, given his character, Mu Chen would not be rash enough to challenge Dragon-Arm Sovereign, unless he possessed the adequate means to do so. As such, all of the people were interested to find out just what means Mu Chen possessed that could help him deal with Dragon-Arm Sovereign.

As the people looked at him eagerly, Mu Chen remained calm. He then looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign and smiled. In a flash, Mu Chen then appeared on the stone platform.

"Lord Mu, have you camouflaged your spiritual energy? Have you reached Grade Nine Sovereign? I will be impressed if so!" Dragon-Arm Sovereign asked mockingly, then fixed his gaze on Mu Chen.

Although Nine Nether had taken them by surprise earlier, he believed that it was impossible for Mu Chen to have reached Grade Nine Sovereign within such a short period of time. Even if he had done so, his foundation would be weak, so it would be impossible for him develop further. As such, there was nothing for Dragon-Arm Sovereign to be worried about.

When Mu Chen noticed his attitude, he was not enraged. Instead, he smiled and said softly, "You are right. I have not reached Grade Nine Sovereign."

When Dragon-Arm Sovereign heard this, he loosened up. As long as Mu Chen had not reached Grade Nine Sovereign, he had no need to be afraid of him. Some of the people also heaved sighs of relief, including some of the lords.

"After all, it is not easy to reach Grade Nine Sovereign." Mu Chen lifted up his head and looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign, who now looked at ease. He then said slowly, "That is why I am still half a step away!"

Boom!

After Mu Chen said that, majestic spiritual energy burst out from his body and swirled around the area. It was like a tidal wave that engulfed the whole area, sending a strong gale across it.

Although there was no wind around Mu Chen, his robe still flapped. He smiled and a strong oppression exuded from his body.

All of the top powers suddenly froze. They were shocked by such a strong oppression!

Although the spiritual energy fluctuation was not yet that of a Grade Nine Sovereign, it had surpassed that of a Grade Eight! Clearly, Lord Mu was only half a step away to Grade Nine Sovereign!

Lord Asura, Lord Mountain Cracker, Lord Blood Hawk and the rest of the lords looked stunned. Before Mu Chen had left them, he had just entered Grade Six Sovereign. However, in less than a year, his strength had shot up to a Half Step to Grade Nine!

It made sense for Nine Nether to advance to Grade Nine Sovereign, as she was a Divine Beast. There was a difference in the cultivation of a Divine Beast and a human being. However, it puzzled them that Mu Chen was able to have such an accelerated advancement as a human being!

Many top powers were dumbfounded. Even the three kings looked grave. The Condor King looked especially perplexed.

When Mu Chen first came with Nine Nether to the Daluo Territory, he had just condensed the Sovereign Celestial Body. However, in only a few years, he had almost caught up with him, now being only half a step away from him!

"I knew back then that he was extraordinary, but I never expected him to progress so quickly!" the Condor King exclaimed. Given Mu Chen's current progress, he would soon surpass the Condor King!

Mu Chen had a great future and, given enough time, he would not only reach Grade Nine Sovereign, but he could even be on par with the Dominator! The Condor King finally knew why the Dominator treated Mu Chen differently. She had foresight and saw the great potential that was within him.

Thus, she had never treated him as a subordinate, but rather as a friend, even though there was still a great disparity in their statuses. In any case, no one who have expected that Mu Chen would reach such a high level in just a few years.

There was a sudden uproar, and as Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked at Mu Chen, his face twitched. Although he had predicted Mu Chen's strength, when he saw it right before him, he could not help but feel shocked.

Mu Chen was still so young, yet he was already a Half Step to Grade Nine. He was indeed amazing!

Dragon-Arm Sovereign found it incredible that the spiritual energy from Mu Chen's body was so rich and flowed so steadily. There was not a single sign of superficiality within it, and it was firm and stable.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign found it hard to imagine how Mu Chen had managed to advance three levels in less than a year. Even if he had consumed some sacred treasures to increase his strength, he would have had difficulty controlling his spiritual energy. However, it was clear that Mu Chen could easily maneuver his majestic spiritual energy, as it was not even chaotic!

"This chap..." Dragon-Arm Sovereign frowned and became wary. He no longer looked down on Mu Chen, now starting to take him very seriously.

"Lord Mu is indeed well-prepared." Dragon-Arm Sovereign took in a deep breath and suppressed his emotions.

He then became expressionless, no longer concerned with how Mu Chen managed to increase his strength so quickly. Dragon-Arm Sovereign focused on the future, determined that he would not forego the kingship, as he wanted to have more power and resources in the Daluo Territory.

Although Mu Chen's spiritual energy was stable, he was still only a Half Step to Grade Nine. Thus, there was still a gap between his skills and that of a Grade Nine Sovereign. In light of these facts, as long as he was careful, he believed that he could still suppress Mu Chen!

At this thought, Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked at Mu Chen and said, "It is really impressive for Lord Mu to have reached the realm of a Half Step to Grade Nine at such a young age. However, if you want me to let you have the kingship, you have to show me what you are capable of!"

Buzz!

Light flashed across Dragon-Arm Sovereign's eyes, while a vast spiritual energy swirled out across the horizon. There was a gale, then the clouds gathered in large numbers, causing the sky to darken. The ground under his feet started to buzz and quake, almost seeming like it was wailing!

Dragon-Arm Sovereign had a burly build to start with, but he had become even larger now! As the people watched him, they felt breathless, as they felt a strong oppression exuding from him.

The spiritual energy oppression that had burst out from Mu Chen's body was swept away instantly. Dragon-Arm Sovereign had a strong aura, which caused him to appear like a God of War. His look was intensely intimidating!

The moment Dragon-Arm Sovereign struck, he showed an astounding strength. In fact, the oppression in his power was stronger than even that of Withered Old Man!

The top powers looked respectfully at Dragon-Arm Sovereign, while he slowly grasped his fists together. At that moment, a majestic spiritual energy burst out and formed ancient spiritual runes on his body. Then, a red light burst out from his arms and the cry of a dragon resounded throughout the area.

Bang!

As Dragon-Arm Sovereign's arms trembled, the clothes that were touching his thick and strong arms turned into ashes and disappeared. Then, red dragon scales appeared on his arms, and his fingers became sharp, like a dragon's claws!

When the Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King saw his arms, they turned pale and became wary. They had heard that Dragon-Arm Sovereign's arms possessed the power of the Dragon Clan.

In fact, legends told that he had sparred with a master, who was at the same level as him, and that he had blasted the master's Sovereign Celestial Body with only his arms! Thus, many Sovereigns, who had just stepped into Grade Nine, were wary of Dragon-Arm Sovereign, whose arms were powerful beyond description!

It was apparent that Dragon-Arm Sovereign took Mu Chen seriously, as he immediately displayed his Dragon-Arm. He intended to give this battle his best shot and defeat Mu Chen quickly.

"Dragon-Arm Sovereign is cautious. Mu Chen is in grave danger now." The Condor King and the other kings looked at one another, their expressions grave. Mu Chen was at a disadvantage, as he was only at a Half Step to Grade Nine.

As the top powers watched Mu Chen, he took a deep breath. As he did so, flames seemed to gather in his dark eyes.

"Is that the power of the Dragon-Arm?" Mu Chen muttered to himself. He then slowly grasped his fists. As he did so, the spirits of the real dragon and real phoenix on his arms started to open their eyes.

Let me see if your Dragon-Arm is stronger than my real dragon and real phoenix!

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Chapter 1086: The Fight with a Grade Nine

Roar!

Dragon-Arm Sovereign stood proudly on the stone platform. Dragon scales appeared on his red arms making them look like ferocious Dragon-Arms, and the cry of a dragon was indistinctly heard. It sounded frightening.

Many top powers looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign's arms with respect. Dragon-Arm Sovereign was made famous by them, and of course, he was named after them. He had defeated many top powers with this pair of arms and had become well-known in the North Territory.

Mu Chen was in front of Dragon-Arm Sovereign, and he let his hands down, looking calm. He gently closed his eyes, and majestic spiritual energy circled around him, causing the space to shake. He exuded extraordinary aura as well.

Boom!

Dragon-Arm Sovereign glanced at Mu Chen. In the next instant, light burst out from his eyes, and he put forth his foot and stomped on the ground.

Dong!

As Dragon-Arm Sovereign stomped his foot, the mountain in the square quaked. The hard slab stones under his feet cracked, and gravel flew out all over the place. It carried with it a horrifying force that tore apart everything that came its way.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign's blow was brutal and overbearing. Those who were observant would know that even if more than ten Peak of Grade Eight Sovereigns had joined forces to counter the attack, they would be smashed into pieces.

As the ground continued to crack toward Mu Chen, he slowly opened his eyes. His dark eyes seemed to turn fiery, and he took a step forward instead of dodging out of the way. He stomped his foot, and majestic spiritual energy penetrated into the ground, causing a large crack to form. Majestic spiritual light surged within as the powerful spiritual energy gathered together.

In the face of Dragon-Arm Sovereign's brutal and overbearing attack, Mu Chen had chosen to go head-on with him! The two fiery cracks moved from the two sides of the stone platform and hit hard against each other at lightning speed.

Boom! Boom!

When they clashed together, gravel flew all over the area. Cracks started to form from the center of the stone platform and tore it apart as it exploded. Visible powerful shockwaves raged out and threw Mu Chen and Dragon-Arm Sovereign backward.

Dong! Dong!

Mu Chen moved back several steps, leaving behind deep footprints on the ground. At the last step, even his ankle went deep into the hard slab stone. Dragon-Arm Sovereign, on the other hand, moved back only one step.

At their first exchange of blows, it was apparent that Dragon-Arm Sovereign was slightly superior to Mu Chen. However, the outcome took everyone by surprise, including Dragon-Arm Sovereign.

Although Dragon-Arm Sovereign had not used his deadly kick, the blow was destructive enough, and any Half Step to Grade Nine Sovereign could not possibly counter it. Mu Chen had not only countered it, but he had only moved back a few steps. Dragon-Arm Sovereign was obviously not getting the upper-hand.

Condor King and Spiritual Pupil King looked at each other and became more grave. If they were the ones to receive the blow from Dragon-Arm Sovereign, they would probably be in the same state as Mu Chen. Mu Chen was only a Half Step to Grade Nine, but he could counter the attack so well. It was apparent that his combat force was more powerful than what he let on.

"This is interesting." Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked fiercely at Mu Chen and smiled. He then suddenly shot out. The air exploded under great pressure. Dragon-Arm Sovereign's speed was quick, and only a few people managed to catch a glimpse of his shadow.

Many of the top powers shouted, "He is so quick!"

Mu Chen was shocked when he heard the sound of the wind and thunder. He then crossed his arms in front of his body to protect himself.

Boom!

The space before him tore apart, and a fist that was covered by red dragon scales punched his arms. The power was so great that it could smash a mountain.

Bang!

There was an air blast, and Mu Chen was thrown back as he was hit hard by the powerful attack. The aftermath of the force continued to cause an air blast in the sky around the area.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign sneered and shot out again. He did not give Mu Chen any time to react.

Boom! Boom!

His fist was like a dragon's claws, and he punched out hard toward Mu Chen's chest. The space before the fist was suppressed so much that it caved in. Just as the Dragon Fist was about to hit Mu Chen, a slender hand suddenly appeared out of nowhere and fended off the Dragon Fist. It covered the ferocious Dragon Fist with its palm.

Buzz!

A deep sound traveled out, and there was an air blast that astonished all the top powers in the square.

Two figures were seen hitting each other in the sky, with Dragon-Arm Sovereign maintaining his punching posture, and Mu Chen covering the fist with his palm. His palm was like a chasm, and regardless of the power of the punch, it got stuck within.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign's expression changed. He stared at Mu Chen's palm, and at such a short distance, he could see dark golden dragon claw light runes coming out from Mu Chen's sleeve, covering his fingers up. Dragon-Arm Sovereign could indistinctly feel the oppression from the dragon claw light runes. His red Dragon-Arm seemed to dim under the oppression.

Mu Chen lifted up his head and looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign. He said calmly, "You are not the only one to possess the power of the dragon."

"Oh?" Dragon-Arm Sovereign gritted his teeth and sneered. He was proud of the power of the dragon. Although he did not know how Mu Chen managed to possess it, he believed that Mu Chen could not be better than he was.

"You are just a young chap. What do you know about the power of the dragon? Ridiculous!" Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked vicious. He used his mind power, and the dragon scales became more reddish. They seemed to turn into magma and were boiling. The cry of a dragon resounded and triggered a destructive force.

Crackle! Crackle!

From far, Dragon-Arm Sovereign's arms looked as though magma was flowing on them. An overbearing power emitted from them, and even Condor King and the other masters were wary of the fluctuation.

"Get off!" Dragon-Arm Sovereign shouted, and a horrifying power burst out from his arms. His fist shook and broke away from Mu Chen's palm.

After Dragon-Arm Sovereign's fist broke free from Mu Chen's captivity, he stepped forth. He waved his fists like a red dragon that was dancing around and formed fist shadows that carried with them destructive power. These fist shadows moved toward Mu Chen to cover him up. Each fist shadow was powerful as it smashed the void.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked frantic. Even those who had just stepped into Grade Nine Sovereign would not have dared to take him on.

Bang! Bang!

Dragon-Arm Sovereign's brute-force attack once again suppressed Mu Chen. As the fist shadows whizzed past, Mu Chen was taken aback, and he quickly moved back in a sorry state. He groaned every time there was a clash.

As the two of them exchanged blows in the sky, horrifying power raged out and caused the space to crack. This inflicted fear in the top powers.

Dong!

When they clashed once again, Mu Chen did not seem able to take the blow, and he was thrown back. As he landed on the stone platform, two deep cracks formed on the stone platform.

It was tough for Mu Chen to stabilize himself. His clothes were a little torn, and blood stains appeared on his arms. However, he was not dispirited. In fact, he was filled with fighting spirit and burning with excitement. This was the first time that he had fought with a Grade Nine Sovereign.

Although the fight was fierce, Mu Chen was thrilled. He was overjoyed with the improvement in his strength. He used to find Grade Nine Sovereigns beyond his reach and felt that they were peerless. However, Dragon-Arm Sovereign was now having only a slight edge over him, even though he had shown the astounding power of the dragon.

Mu Chen finally had a distinct feeling from this fight that all his years of training and cultivation had paid off. He was now a different person.

Ha!

He felt so excited that he curled up his lips into a smile.

"Are you still smiling even now?" Dragon-Arm Sovereign said coldly as he looked down from the sky at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen lifted up his head and looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign. His dark eyes gradually turned deep. He then smiled and grasped his fist tightly and said, "Now, I shall send you flying off with a punch. If I am unable to do that, you win."

"Presumptuous!" Dragon-Arm Sovereign squinted and mocked Mu Chen.

Roar!

The cry of a dragon suddenly sounded out from Mu Chen's body. Dark golden light burst out from his body, and a humongous golden Nine-Clawed Dragon appeared behind him. As the Nine-Clawed Dragon took its form, the imposing aura of the dragon raged out like a windstorm.

When the aura of the dragon advanced toward Dragon-Arm Sovereign, his hair stood up, and he squinted. His voice suddenly turned sharp. "Is that the real dragon!?"

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Chapter 1087: Securing the Kingship with One Punch

The dark golden dragon cried out from behind Mu Chen, sending forth a strong oppression that shocked the top powers.

"Is that the real dragon?" the Condor King asked. He and the Spiritual Pupil King were freaking out at the sight! After all, the real dragon was the king of the Dragon Clan, meaning that it possessed the supreme power of the Heavenly Sovereign!

"This is not the real dragon, but it has a portion of it within it," the Sleeping King said, then added, "If I have guessed correctly, this is the effect of the Dragon-Phoenix Body that Mu Chen has cultivated. I am surprised that he could bring it up to this level in only a year."

The Condor King and the Spiritual Pupil King gazed at Mu Chen. They knew about the Dragon-Phoenix Body that Mu Chen possessed, but were surprised at how his strong oppression had grown from a year ago.

"Judging from the power of this real dragon, Mu Chen is well above any ordinary Half Step to Grade Nine Sovereign," the Condor King said.

Then, the two kings sighed within themselves. They now knew why Mu Chen was not afraid of Dragon-Arm Sovereign. He indeed had some trump cards up his sleeve. Specifically, with the power of the real dragon, he possessed the ability to contend with the top powers, who had just stepped into Grade Nine Sovereign!

Mandela sat on the throne, remaining very still. She was also a little shocked by the shadow of the real dragon that had emerged behind Mu Chen.

She was aware of the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture that Mu Chen had cultivated, so she knew that the real dragon shadow must have been formed by the real dragon symbol on his body. Although the dragon symbol was helpful to Mu Chen, it did have its limitations. However, the real dragon shadow at present possessed a spiritual body and was very powerful.

What has he gone through within this past year? How did he manage to bring the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture up to this level?

Mandela was puzzled. She knew how tough it was to cultivate the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture, let alone to bring it up to a higher level. Such necessary conditions were rigid, and in order to bring it to the current level, Mu Chen would have had to absorb a ton of Divine Beast Blood Essence.

Could he have collected all of the corpses of the Divine Beasts in the Land of the Divine Beasts?

As Mandela was wondering about these things, Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked gravely at the real dragon shadow. He was wary, as he knew what was before him was not an illusion. It indeed possessed the aura of the real dragon!

Specifically, the aura was that of the oppression of the Supreme, which stifled the torrential power of the dragon in Dragon-Arm Sovereign. The real dragon was the lord of the Dragon Clan, so its bloodline was royal and mighty.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign's arms were from a Flame Dragon. Although its bloodline was powerful, it was nothing compared to the real dragon.

At the moment, Dragon-Arm Sovereign found it hard to believe that a human being like Mu Chen could possess the aura of a real dragon. As such, he had previously scoffed at Mu Chen, but now, he had to take Mu Chen seriously. After all, if he was careless, he would be defeated by Mu Chen.

Hoof.

As Dragon-Arm Sovereign thought of this, he took a deep breath to calm himself down. With a stern look, he slowly grasped his fists together. As he did so, the red light on his arms brightened even more, and his arms started to expand.

His fingers became sharper and were covered by dragon scales. When glimpsed from afar, his arms no longer looked like those of a human being, but had turned into the claws of a ferocious Flame Dragon!

As Dragon-Arm Sovereign was activating his power, Mu Chen lifted up his head to look at the real dragon shadow, his gaze turning sharp.

Buzz!

At that moment, a bright golden light burst out from Mu Chen's body, causing him to look like a golden God of War! He then grasped his fists and punched outward. The blow was slow and as heavy as a mountain.

As Mu Chen punched outward, the golden light on his body started to shift. It flowed like a tide along his arms, moving toward his fists.

As the golden light gathered together, his fists became hard like gold. Then, the wind blast of his fists fluctuated, smashing the space up entirely.

The Real Dragon's Punch!

Mu Chen recognized it instantly. Right then, the wind blast of the fists surged and a majestic golden light shot forth from them. The light then turned into golden light fist-shadows.

Roar!

The real dragon shadow roared mightily in the sky. It then whizzed down and entered the golden fists. After which, golden dragon scales grew on the golden fists, thus increasing their power. Wherever the wind blast of the fists past, the space cracked.

When the top powers saw the golden fists, they were startled. Even the three kings looked grave and fearful. They felt threatened by this simple punch that Mu Chen had just thrown out.

Boom! Boom!

The golden Real Dragon's Punch pierced through the void and appeared instantly before Dragon-Arm Sovereign. Golden light then shone out, leaving no escape route for him.

As the vast wind blast of the fists hovered above Dragon-Arm Sovereign, golden light filled the area, asserting its sovereignty over the entire place. As it did so, Dragon-Arm Sovereign's hair stood on end.

"Do you think you can defeat me so easily?" Dragon-Arm Sovereign shouted, then threw out a punch instantly.

Boom!

Red light burst out and a large Flame Dragon flew out from Dragon-Arm Sovereign's palm. Fire swirled around the area, as though it would be burning the entire place down!

Boom! Boom!

The golden punch and the Flame Dragon collided with each other, creating a thunderous sound. At the point where the two met, it looked as though a bright sun was rising up. Space warps started to form, covering a large area, while the terrifying clashes continued to rage.

Bang! Bang!

The stone platforms below turned into powder, as they were affected by the shockwaves. Upon seeing the scene, the top powers in the area turned pale and retreated in sorry states.

After seeing the horrifying shockwaves, Mandela flicked her fingers. As she did so, a spiritual light appeared in the area and a light shield came down from the heavens, covering the center of the square. Somehow, the light shield was able to withstand the horrifying attacks that also came down on the square.

The top powers heaved sighs of relief once they saw that Mandela had stepped in. They quickly looked at the square, where the golden light was raging. At this instant, the golden light engulfed the red light.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign turned ghastly pale. He realized that he had underestimated the power of Mu Chen's punch.

Boom!

Before he could do anything, the golden light had whizzed toward him. As it swept past him, it hit him, sending him flying backward in a pathetic state.

Swoosh!

The top powers saw Dragon-Arm Sovereign fly backwards, the air behind him exploding as he went. Even the space started to crack in his wake!

Dong!

After flying a far distance, Dragon-Arm Sovereign threw out a blow with the back of his hand. After that, the space cracked and he managed to stabilize himself.

Blood flowed from the corner of his mouth, but he ignored it. He was looking into the distance at the mountain where the square was. He had been thrown out of the mountain by Mu Chen, with just a single punch!

Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked ghastly pale. He had never expected to be thrown out by Mu Chen with just one punch. As he stood in the sky, there was excitement in the square, as the top powers widened their eyes to look at him.

They looked at one another and gasped. Mu Chen had thrown a Grade Nine Sovereign out with only a punch! If this had happened to any one of them, they would have turned into ashes instantly under the horrifying power!

They then turned their gazes toward the center of the square. As the smoke dissipated, the figure of a youth appeared.

Mu Chen maintained his punching posture, blood dripping from his fists. His earlier punch was too forceful, which had obviously caused some repercussions.

At the moment, the majestic real dragon shadow was nowhere to be seen, and even the overbearing spiritual energy around Mu Chen had disappeared. He slowly lifted up his head, showing his young and handsome face.

He looked at Dragon-Arm Sovereign, who was in the sky at a distance. Then, with a smile, he asked, "Dragon-Arm Sovereign, what do you think of this punch?"

Mu Chen had garnered all of his strength for that punch, and with the additional power from the real dragon shadow its power had been immense. Even a true Grade Nine Sovereign would have been afraid of such a punch.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign looked at Mu Chen, tempted to strike again. However, he restrained himself, as he no longer had confidence that he could defeat Mu Chen.

Although he had not yet used all of his trump cards and strength, he knew that this same condition might apply to Mu Chen as well. If they were to meet in a life-and-death fight right now, he might not be able to get out alive!

After pondering this for a while, he said in a low voice, "The kingship is yours."

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1088: The Relic

There was an uproar when the crowd heard what Dragon-Arm Sovereign had said. However, they were no longer surprised but were making all sorts of remarks.

Mu Chen had already proven his strength. As a Half Step to Grade Nine Sovereign, he possessed the combat force to contend with a Grade Nine Sovereign! He indeed deserved to be conferred as king.

"He is so amazing," Lord Asura exclaimed as he looked at Mu Chen, who was standing among the mess. He usually looked stern, but he was now touched by Mu Chen. When Mu Chen first came to Daluo Territory, he was just a commander. In just a few years, he had surpassed all of them and assumed kingship.

The rest of the older lords were touched as well. They had witnessed how Mu Chen had worked his way up to become what he was this day.

"Lord Blood Hawk, do you still remember that you had a lot of grudges against the two of them previously?" Lord Mountain Cracker teased Lord Blood Hawk as he glanced at him. When Nine Nether first returned to Daluo Territory, Lord Blood Hawk had had a lot of conflicts with her and created a lot of trouble.

Lord Blood Hawk became embarrassed when he heard it. If Mu Chen and Nine Nether were as powerful when he had first met them, he would not have had the audacity to offend them. He was glad that he had not gone overboard back then. Otherwise, he would be trembling with fear now.

The other new lords were whispering among themselves. They had not expected Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man to fail in securing the kingship. Mu Chen and Nine Nether would become the fourth and fifth kings in Daluo Territory.

There would be a change in the power structure of Daluo Territory with the addition of the two kings. After all, kings had great power, and they could even decide on the allocation of resources for the lords. The new lords were secretly wondering if they should pledge allegiance to the two new kings to get protection from them.

The square was boisterous, and everyone had his own thoughts. Condor King, Spiritual Pupil King, and Sleeping King were smiling. Nine Nether and Mu Chen were not new to them, and the three kings were more ready to accept them as kings than Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man.

Mandela stood up from her throne. She was petite and inconspicuous, but when she stood up, the square instantly quieted down. The older lords and the new lords turned to look at her with great respect.

Mandela was a prominent figure in the North Territory given her status as an Upper Earthly Sovereign and as the top guy in the North Territory.

"The fight for the kingship has come to an end. From now on, Daluo Territory will have two additional kings. They are King Mu and King Nine Nether," Mandela announced.

"Congratulations, Lord Mu and Lord Nine Nether for assuming kingship!" The people in the square started to congratulate Mu Chen and Nine Nether, and many people looked at them with admiration. Both of them were the youngest kings that Daluo Territory had ever had.

As the people were filled with admiration for Mu Chen and Nine Nether, they were shocked as well. The two of them possessed such great talents and strength at such a young age, and had even prevailed over the two long-standing top powers like Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man. They were astoundingly talented.

Mandela turned to look at Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man, and comforted them saying, "Both of you need not be dismayed. You indeed possess the capability to become king. You only need a bit more experience and time." Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man were Grade Nine Sovereigns, after all. They were important to Daluo Territory, thus Mandela had to appease them to prevent them from bearing any grudges.

The two of them were new. If they had become kings, they would have become proud, and this would not do Daluo Territory any good. Mandela was thus happy that Mu Chen and Nine Nether had secured the kingships.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man felt a little better after hearing Mandela's consolation. After this experience, they had mellowed out. When they had first come to Daluo Territory, they were prideful. Other than Mandela, they were only wary of Sleeping King, and were not even afraid of Condor King and Spiritual Pupil King. When they were at Grade Nine Sovereign and became masters in the North Territory, enjoying all the attention, Condor King and Spiritual Pupil King were only at Grade Eight Sovereign.

They had thus presumed that they would naturally assume the kingship and be second only to Mandela. They thought no one was capable of vying for the positions with them. However, they had not expected Lord Mu and Lord Nine Nether to appear and put them down so thoroughly.

From the look of it, Daluo Territory indeed had strong foundations and must not be taken lightly. They would have to behave themselves. As they thought of this, both of them nodded and bowed to Mandela. Their attitude had changed, and they had become more respectful and submissive.

The square was still filled with excitement. The Conference of the Lords had come to an end with the emergence of the two kings. Mandela looked at the crowd and suddenly said, "I believe all of you know about the Ancient Celestial Palace Relic which was a hot topic in Tianluo the Great Six." The square suddenly became silent at these words. Many top powers were filled with excitement. Everyone in Tianluo the Great Six, including the North Territory, had been talking about the Ancient Celestial Palace.

From old, the Ancient Celestial Palace was the only supreme power that had dominated Tianluo the Great Six, and it was prominent among the top powers. Its founder was one of the nine emperors, known as the Heavenly Emperor!

After the Extraterritorial Race invaded the Great Thousand World during the Primordial Age, the Ancient Celestial Palace had ceased to exist. There were mentions of its relic once in a while, but after some time, they had been proven to be inauthentic. However, everyone knew that this time around, it was for real!

The supreme forces in Tianluo the Great Six who had the ability to track the relic had been paying close attention to the direction where the relic was located.

"There are many opportunities in this grade of relic, and even I am interested in it. I have come to an agreement with the other top forces in the North Territory that we will form an alliance to participate in this fight over the Ancient Celestial Palace!" As the top powers heard what Mandela said, they became even more zealous.

They did not doubt Mandela. The opportunities in the Ancient Celestial Palace that had been left behind by the Heavenly Emperor were much coveted by everyone. Not only an Upper Earthly Sovereign, but a Complete Earthly Sovereign or even a Heavenly Sovereign would be interested in them.

Needless to say, the top powers were excited about it. The Ancient Celestial Palace was peerless in Tianluo the Great Six. If they could obtain some opportunities from it, their strength would increase, and they could be like Mu Chen and Nine Nether.

They had to form an alliance, as North Territory was not a great force in Tianluo the Great Six. There was no overlord, as there had been constant struggles. If the Dominator had not reached Upper Earthly Sovereign, they would not even have the chance to form an alliance. They would not be able to fight with the other Earth class top forces in Tianluo the Great Six based on their own power, thus an alliance was necessary.

Dragon-Arm Sovereign and Withered Old Man looked at each other and were intrigued by it. They had stagnated as Grade Nine Sovereigns for many years, which was a common setback for many of them. They had no confidence of breaking through the bottleneck to step into Earthly Sovereign, but if they could enter the Ancient Celestial Palace Relic, they would have more chances of doing so.

The two of them immediately cupped their fists and said, "We support the Dominator's decision and will do our best to assist you!" After the two of them had spoken, the rest of the top powers echoed the sentiment. The scene was truly majestic.

Mu Chen took a deep breath when he saw it. Although he looked calm, his trembling fingers gave him away, revealing his excitement.

When he left the Northern Heaven Spiritual Academy and followed Nine Nether to Tianluo the Great Six, North Territory, and Daluo Territory, he had continually honed himself. His status had been enhanced at the same time. He had gone through all of it simply for this very day...

The Ancient Celestial Palace possessed the means to evolve the Great Solar Undying Body, and if Mu Chen could possess it, his Sovereign Celestial Body could be transmuted. Although the Great Solar Undying Body was special, Mu Chen would soon unearth all of its potential as his strength advanced. He knew that when he stepped into Earthly Sovereign level, the Great Solar Undying Body would become less useful to him. After all, it was still a fundamental Sovereign Celestial Body regardless of how profound it was.

Mu Chen had to successfully evolve the Great Solar Undying Body in order to pursue the legendary Primitive Celestial Body, the Primordial Immortal Body. This was the perfect Celestial Body that even a Heavenly Sovereign yearned to have. It was also Mu Chen's ambition to possess it.

When he had succeeded in doing so, he could easily move around the Great Thousand World and be unstoppable. He would not be afraid of the mysterious clan that his mother was in. Mu Chen was looking forward to the Ancient Celestial Palace more than anyone else.

As Mandela looked at the people, she saw the excitement in them. When she saw Mu Chen's calm look, she smiled. She could tell from his eyes that he was excited. Everyone seemed interested in the Ancient Celestial Palace!

She then tilted her head and looked into the distance. She seemed to have pierced through space and seen the Ancient Relic. Since the Ancient Celestial Palace Relic had appeared, that person would appear as well. She knew how important the Ancient Celestial Palace was to that person.

As Mandela thought of this, she touched her wrist to recollect the curse that had inflicted the excruciating pain on her. Cold light flashed in her golden eyes.

It was about time to settle the old scores!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1089: The Strength of the Ancient Celestial Palace

Even after the princes' meeting ended, the atmosphere in Daluotian remained highly charged. Part of the reason for this intensity was due to the appointing of the new princes, but the most important factor was the appearance of the Ancient Celestial Palace Relic.

Almost everyone knew how mighty the Ancient Celestial Palace was. No other forces had ever reached its status or strength, even throughout the current Tianluo Continent!

Hence, wherever the relic was concerned, everyone was interested. In fact, if one had enough luck within this ancient relic, he could leap to greater heights and rise with the wind. From then onwards, he would shine.

Therefore, the battle in this Ancient Celestial Palace Relic was the most exciting and competitive battle that the Tianluo Continent had witnessed in a thousand years! Any forces, even those with the least strength, would not want to miss it. After all, the attractiveness of the Ancient Celestial Palace was too overwhelming.

While all of the people in the Daluo Territory were discussing the Ancient Celestial Palace, Nine Nether Palace was also engaged in spectating. Ever since Mu Chen and Nine Nether had been crowned with prince status, Nine Nether Palace had suddenly become the strongest among the forces in the Daluo Territory. After all, there had never been a force having two princes at the same time.

So when the meeting ended, Nine Nether Palace soared in both status and popularity. All of the top powers from various teams came to visit, with the intention to forge alliances and seek refuge. They also figured that, if they could get the support of the two new princes, they could save themselves a lot of trouble in the future.

However, this also made Mu Chen and Nine Nether vexed, as they soon grew exhausted by these endless visits. After all, they were not good at socializing to begin with.

Eventually, they convinced their majordomo, Tang Bing, to handle the situation, while the pair announced themselves as being in a closed-door meditation. This clever ploy finally provided them some peace.

Nine Nether Palace, in the backyard.

The stone pavilion and the running stream created an elegant and peaceful environment within the secluded backyard. Nine Nether sat on the rocks alongside the stream.

Her body was curvaceous and slender, the sexy outline of which was hidden underneath her clothes. Her eyes were closed and her spiritual energy circulated gracefully around her.

There seemed to be a transparent flame burning around her. Although there was no high temperature being exuded, the flame continuously twisted and had a daunting oppression.

After quietly meditating for quite some time, she opened her pretty eyes and stretched her back lazily. As she extended her body, her overwhelmingly curvy lines only grew more alluring. This attracted a stare from the direction of the stone pavilion.

Somehow sensing the stare, which turned out to be coming from the eyes of Mu Chen, Nine Nether threw a death stare back at him at once. Mu Chen cleared his dry throat and acted like nothing had happened. He then quickly turned towards the scroll on the Spiritual Array in his hand.

"The crowd outside of Nine Nether Palace is making a lot of noise, whereas the both of you are hiding here in the peace and quiet!" Suddenly a playful voice, belonging to Mandela, was heard in the pavilion.

As a space rippled above the stream, Mandela appeared in her black dress and bare feet. A faint smile spread across on her small delicate face.

"My respects to the Dominator," Nine Nether said, immediately standing up.

Mu Chen put down his scroll and said, "The preparation for the alliance of the North Territory... Has it been completed? If not, how would you have time to drop by here?"

"There isn't much to prepare. Those fellows are not idiots! Given their individual strengths and knowing how tempting the Ancient Celestial Palace is, they knew they were not qualified to vie with other top-notch forces of the Tianluo Continent. So, they naturally would be even more concerned about the alliance," Mandela said casually, while sitting on a stone.

She then soaked her feet in the cold stream water and asked her own question of Mu Chen. "How about you? Aren't you the one who has been waiting for the appearance of the Ancient Celestial Palace? Now that it has finally revealed, how are you still keeping your cool?"

Mu Chen laughed. "I'm faking it. The appearance of it has stirred up quite a commotion. I wondered how many top-notch forces would be coming after it. My half-step Grade Nine Sovereign could barely be useful."

As the news regarding the Ancient Celestial Palace spread, Mu Chen had initially been very excited. By now, he had calmed down. Although he had been waiting for this day ever since he obtained the Great Solar Undying Body, he knew how competitive it would be to fight for it. Under such circumstances, even Mandela, who was an Upper Earthly Sovereign, did not have absolute confidence of winning a victory, let alone a half-step Grade Nine Sovereign like himself.

Mandela smiled when she heard this, then said, "The evolution method of the Great Solar Undying Body is of no use to common people. Only those who have been practicing it can cultivate it successfully. Hence, most of the people would not fight with you."

At this point, Mandela changed her tone. "Even though the competition is small, it means that its difficulty level is higher."

Mu Chen nodded slightly. Those who were fighting for the evolution method must be those who had been practicing the Great Solar Undying Body for some time. It also meant that his opponents would have some extraordinary talents. Otherwise, they would not have been able to maintain the stringent conditioning required for cultivating the Great Solar Undying Body.

The difficulties in fighting with these elites would be far greater than any of the previous battles that Mu Chen had undertaken. But, he has no fear about it.

"Just how powerful was this Ancient Celestial Palace?" Mu Chen pondered aloud. He thought it was essential to have sufficient understanding of the strength of this old dominator, so that he could decide the best strategy for the relic.

"The Ancient Celestial Palace was divided into five halls and nine mansions. The one we met previously at the Big Hunting War was the Fourth Hall Master of the Ancient Celestial Palace. All five hall masters were Complete Earthly Sovereigns in their primes. The nine mansion masters, although they were weaker, were all Earthly Sovereigns, the Upper Earthly Sovereign being the highest ranking among them," said Mandela slowly.

At this point, Mu Chen and Nine Nether could not control their expressions. That line-up was already terrifying!

"That isn't even the scariest part! There are another three Heavenly Sovereigns in the Ancient Celestial Palace above these people!" Mandela wore a solemn expression.

Phew...

Mu Chen and Nine Nether drew in cold breaths. This piece of news was definitely unexpected.

Are there two more top powers in the Ancient Celestial Palace, apart from the Heaven Emperor himself?

Mandela seemed to know what they were both thinking and shook her head. "The other two Heavenly Sovereigns were also transformed from the Heaven Emperor."

"Transformed from the Heaven Emperor?" Mu Chen repeated in surprise.

Both he and Nine Nether were a little stunned. Apparently, they could not understand what she meant by this.

Mandela looked at the stunned duo and asked, "Did you know that there were 36 volumes of Rare Super Powers, and that the Heaven Emperor was practicing one, which was known as the A Qi Into Trinity? He could actually split himself into three parts by creating another two clones! Each clone was independent, marvelous, and even possessed the power of a Heavenly Sovereign! As such, even though there was only one real Heaven Emperor, it was basically as good as having three Heavenly Sovereigns!"

"Wow...36 volumes of Rare Super Power..." Mu Chen swallowed his saliva with difficulty. The only Super Power that he knew of had three different levels, which were known as the Minor Super Power, Grand Super Power, and Supreme Super Power. The difference between the standards was as evident as night and a day.

This was the first time he had heard of the 36 volumes of Rare Super Power, however. But, when he thought of the Super Power Art known as Self-Sacrificing Demonic Fist, its power was already shocking to most people, despite its being an incomplete Grand Super Power Art. When he thought of the Rare Super Power that was two levels higher than that, Mu Chen could somehow understand its mightiness a bit better.

After all, even as an Upper Sovereign, Mandela had been tempted by the Grand Super Power, and she had never had her hands on the Supreme Super Power before. So, if this was the case, the 36 volumes of Rare Super Power could be the highest level that a Heavenly Sovereign might achieve. This lofty ideal might still be a bit too far out of Mu Chen's reach currently.

"The Ancient Celestial Palace, which rules the entire Tianluo Continent, is understandably a treasure land for countless people. Hence, if you were to enter it, you must find its two treasure spots," Mandela said, while looking at Mu Chen.

"Which two?" Mu Chen was still a little stunned.

"The Super Power Hall and the Sky Pool," Mandela said. "The Super Power Hall was the place where the super powers were stored in the palace. There were many different types, but all of them were strong super powers. You can explore and see if you can find the evolution method of the Great Solar Undying Body there, too."

"As for the Sky Pool, it is even more important. This is because it is the treasure spot coveted by countless top powers in the Ancient Celestial Palace. The Sky Pool possesses a strong deity power that could further secure one's spiritual foundation, allowing an upgrade to make a breakthrough and increase the success rate of overcoming any spiritual calamity. Back in ancient times, only those who had contributed the most to their society would be able to access to the Sky Pool in the Ancient Celestial Palace."

At first, Mu Chen and Nine Nether were rather calm as they listened. But, as Mandela continued talking, they both could not help but reveal the passion burning in their eyes.

As everyone knew, only those who had reached the level of Earthly Sovereign would then be known as one of the rulers in the Great Thousand World. Any level below that, including Grade Nine Sovereign, was simply incomparable.

Although becoming an Earthly Sovereign made one quite powerful, less than 10 out of 100 Grade Nine Sovereigns would ever make it. The main reason for such a low number was because of the strong Earthly Sovereign Shackle. Before they could break through the shackle, they would need to go through the daunting Spiritual Calamity, which might cause them to become paralyzed, or worse yet, to die.

Such a low success rate was the barrier to most of the Grade Nine Sovereign top powers who had reached their peaks. They did not dare attempt to make a breakthrough to the Earthly Sovereign, as if they did not make it through their Spiritual Calamity, they would be ruined completely. Both Mu Chen and Nine Nether knew a little about this process, as neither were far from it now.

"Of course, apart from this, you still have to beware of Garuda. He might be the strongest opponent in your Ancient Celestial Palace trip this time." Mandela squinted her eyes slightly and spoke slowly.

"Strongest opponent?" Mu Chen was confused. He then realized what she was saying, his eyes narrowing immediately.

If Mandela had made it a point to mention this person to him formally, this Garuda must have practiced the Great Solar Undying Body too!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 1090: Garuda

"Garuda."

In the tranquil garden, Mu Chen looked solemn. The sharp radiance in his eyes surged as if he had met his biggest match. He lifted his head and looked at Mandela. "Who is he?"

The North Territory was constantly chaotic, and it was not a significant region among the many regions in the Tianluo Continent. The news about other regions was not as frequently updated. Hence, this was the first time Mu Chen had heard of this name.

"He is the Holy Son from the Saint Demon Palace of the South Region in the Tianluo Continent. Heh, Garuda is much more renowned than you are in the Tianluo Continent." With a teasing look, Mandela continued, "The South Region is bigger than our North Territory. Garuda has made tremendous contributions in expanding their territory by wiping out numerous sects and forces. Not only do the various forces in the South Region tremble upon seeing him, but even those forces around the region are wary of him.

"He's now a Grade Nine Sovereign. I heard that he wasn't afraid of the top powers at the peak of Grade Nine Sovereign when he was just a beginner in Grade Nine Sovereign. That's scary.

"Some of the nosy people even created a ranking chart for those young generations in the Tianluo Continent. Garuda was ranked third on it."

Mu Chen had a slightly shocked expression in his eyes. Ranking third place among the young generation in the Tianluo Continent was quite a thing. After all, the Tianluo Continent was a supercontinent in the Great Thousand World. It was not easy to stand out among those talented and skillful people.

Nine Nether suddenly smiled and asked, "How about Mu Chen's ranking?"

Mandela darted a look at Mu Chen. "No one seems to have counted him in yet."

Mu Chen was embarrassed when he heard this. The North Territory was not very significant in the Tianluo Continent. There was no overlord due to the endless disputes. Hence, no one would pay much attention to the North Territory. Moreover, he was always missing in action. His contributions were not flashy enough to attract any attention. Thus, it would not seem possible to have a ranking on the chart.

Nine Nether and Mandela knew this very well. However, they purposely put up a show to tease him. Mu Chen shook his head helplessly.

As powerful as Garuda was, he only ranked third among the young generation in the Tianluo Continent. From this, Mu Chen could tell how strong the young generation was. Those people he met in the Land of the Divine Beasts were not a match in comparison.

Despite this, Mu Chen also understood that those people he had met in the Land of the Divine Beasts might not be the top-notch players, even though they were the supreme talents from their various Divine Beasts clans. However, they were just not the best in terms of overall performance. Like Bai Ming, he did not seem to be the main supreme talent in the Phoenix Clan.

"How about Saint Demon Palace?" Mu Chen shook his head and changed the topic.

The smile on Mandela's pretty face seemed to have vanished. A cold radiance flashed in her golden eyes. She said indifferently, "Saint Demon Palace is the true overlord in the South Region. The master of the palace is Lu Yuan, commonly known as the Saint Demon King. He became an upper Earthly Sovereign a few years ago."

"Lu Yuan, the Saint Demon King? Do you have any grudges against him?" Mu Chen was stunned by the domineering nickname. As sensitive as he was, he sensed the change in Mandela's tone and had to ask.

The South Region and the North Territory were poles apart with numerous lands and districts in between. Even an Earthly Sovereign would require a long time to travel that kind of distance. How could both bear grudges against each other?

"We're old friends," said Mandela coldly. "He tricked me and planted that curse in my body back then."

Mu Chen's expression changed. The curse in Mandela's body had been torture for her. Previously, she fell into deep sleep for a long period of time because of it. If she had not met Mu Chen, she might still be sleeping even now. However, Mu Chen never thought that the curse had something to do with the Saint Demon King, Lu Yuan.

Mu Chen looked at Mandela's cold face and said helplessly, "It seems like we have some affinity. The Holy Son of the Saint Demon Palace would be my sworn enemy, and the Saint Demon King is your sworn enemy, too."

"Therefore, you must get the evolution method of the Great Solar Undying Body. It can never be in Garuda's hands!" said Mandela seriously.

Mu Chen nodded gently. His pitch-black eyes were determined, as he knew very well how important the evolution method was. He had been making plans for this throughout the years. Now, he finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel. Therefore, he would not give up easily. Regardless of the fame that Garuda had in the Tianluo Continent, Mu Chen would fight until the end as long as he dared to vie with him.

"Garuda might have information from Lu Yuan about the Super Power Hall and the Sky Pool that I mentioned to you. You just need to watch out."

Mu Chen nodded, but he had his doubts. "Since the Ancient Celestial Palace disappeared thousands of years ago, such news would be concealed. Why would you and Lu Yuan know about it so well?"

Mandela looked sombre when she heard this. She kept quiet for a moment before she finally said slowly, "Because both of us came from the Ancient Celestial Palace."

"What?" Both Mu Chen and Nine Nether stared hard at Mandela with looks of disbelief. She came from the Ancient Celestial Palace? Didn't all the people of the Ancient Celestial Palace perish along with the death of the Ancient Heavenly Emperor after the ancient grand war? How had Mandela and Lu Yuan managed to walk out of there?

The news must have been highly confidential. They bet no one knew about this in the entire Tianluo Continent. Otherwise, Mandela and Lu Yuan would not be enjoying their peace now.

"It's a complicated situation. I can't explain it. Those memories during that period are rather vague now. I only knew all this information based on bits and pieces from my memory." Mandela waved her little hand. She did not want to explain further.

Seeing that Mandela did not wish to continue, Mu Chen and Nine Nether had to suppress their shock and curiosity. Only now did they understand why Mandela had such insightful information regarding the Ancient Celestial Palace. She was from there herself.

"Who are the stronger forces that are eyeing the Ancient Celestial Palace this time?" Mu Chen asked, changing the topic once again.

"Those who can eye the Ancient Celestial Palace are all very strong." Mandela continued, "From the information that I got, the Saint Demon King from the South Region will surely be there. The Xia Dynasty from the East Region, the Antiquity Sect from the West Region, the Myriad Beasts King from the Grand Million Mountain, the lord from the Netherworld Stream, and more will be there, too."

"All these lords from the various forces possess the daunting strength of an Upper Earthly Sovereign. Their foundations are strong. Apart from that, other secluded top powers in the Tianluo Continent and the renowned people from outside of the Tianluo Continent who have heard about the news will be there as well."

Mu Chen was slightly shaken. The line-up was daunting. Most of the top-notch players in the entire Tianluo Continent would not be missing out on this. It would be truly destructive when the fights broke out.

"Will there be any Heavenly Sovereigns?" Mu Chen asked softly. Although at their level, any ordinary relic would not be attractive to them, the Ancient Celestial Palace was different. That was the place where the Heavenly Emperor perished. In those ancient days, the Heavenly Emperor was considered to be a top-notch player among the Heavenly Sovereigns. The skill he was practicing, Qi into Trinity, was one of the 36 volumes of Rare Super Power. Any Heavenly Sovereigns would be tempted by these rare arts.

Mandela pondered for a while and said, "According to the rumors, vast spiritual energy burst the space and created great amounts of turbulence in the space where the Ancient Celestial Palace was rediscovered. On top of this, the Ancient Celestial Palace is a creepy place. There were a lot of secret moves used during the destructive war between the Heavenly Emperor and the Demon Emperor from the Extraterritorial Race back then. These secret moves were threatening to the equally-powerful Heavenly Sovereigns. Hence, even though they might be tempted, I think they might not want to risk entering the palace."

Mu Chen felt relieved after hearing this. If those big shots at the level of Heavenly Sovereign made their moves, they would be out of the show. Despite the fact that the line-ups from the various forces seemed domineering, it was nothing in the eyes of any Heavenly Sovereign. Even so, the battle in the Ancient Celestial Palace would be the most competitive and aggressive the Tianluo Continent had seen in the last 1,000 years.

Mandela looked at Mu Chen with her golden eyes as she reminded him, "In the Ancient Celestial Palace, I will also be tied down. When it's time to vie for the evolution method of the Great Solar Undying Body, I will not be able to help. You have to depend on yourself. The only help I can offer is to stall those people such as Lu Yuan."

"That will suffice!" Mu Chen nodded and laughed. Apart from raising his status, the reason why he joined Daluotian Territory was for Mandela's promise today. He knew very well that, without any background or the help and support from an Upper Earthly Sovereign, he would not be able to take away the evolution method successfully, even if he got it by chance.

Mandela nodded her delicate chin. With a flick of her finger, a beam of golden light headed towards Mu Chen. Mu Chen received it in his palm. It was an ancient golden scroll. He gave it a quick look. His expression could not help but freeze slightly as he sensed a familiar fluctuation from it. It was the Spiritual Array.

"Is this the Heavenly Grade High Ranked Spiritual Array?" Mu Chen looked at Mandela in shock.

"Your skill level with Spiritual Arrays is getting better, and such a high-ranking Spiritual Diagram Array is becoming rare. I started collecting them quite some time ago, but I only managed to get one scroll," said Mandela indifferently.

"Although you're now a half-step to Grade Nine Sovereign, the opponents you are meeting this time will be those top powers of the young generations from the entire Tianluo Continent. They are not any ordinary characters like those in our North Territory. Hence, you need to be more prepared."

Mu Chen slowly clenched the golden scroll. He looked at Mandela and nodded formally. "Thank you."

He could sense the effort from Mandela. She must have done her best to help him. If she had not searched the entire Tianluo Continent, it would have been difficult to find a diagram array at such a ranking.

Mandela did not make a big deal about it as she waved her hand softly and left. While she was walking away, her voice slowly resounded. "Prepare yourself during this period. We will be making our way to the Ancient Celestial Palace relic in half a month!"

Mu Chen looked at her disappearing figure. His hands were tightly clenched. Blazing fighting desire was burning in his pitch-black eyes. Although he was going to face the young top powers from the Tianluo Continent, it was impossible for Mu Chen to concede defeat. Let us have a fierce battle and see who the final winner will be.

Mu Chen wet his lips. Somehow, he had high expectations of the upcoming battle in the Ancient Celestial Palace.