

## Great Ruler 1161

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### Chapter 1161: The Strange Hidden Scripture Pavilion

Zoom!

A few light streams burst out from the Heavenly River and landed on a lonely mountain peak. Appearing there were Mu Chen, Xiao Xiao, Lin Jing, and Nine Nether. The place where they landed was located behind the Heavenly River. A hazy world was in front of them, and deep inside the thick haze, Mu Chen could feel a hidden pressure suppressing the surroundings.

The pressure was not coming from a single source but from various sources, which brought a great load of stress on Mu Chen.

"If we proceed further, we will be stepping into the five hall masters' area," Mu Chen told Xiao Xiao and the rest while pointing forward. The Ancient Celestial Palace, apart from the Heavenly Emperor, was divided into five halls and nine houses. They had surpassed the nine houses, and their next objective was to move closer towards the five hall masters who ranked below the powerful Heavenly Emperor in this Ancient Celestial Palace.

The three ladies looked nervous, because rumor had it that the five hall masters were the loyal assistants of the Heavenly Emperor, and they were as powerful as a Complete Earthly Sovereign. It was said that all five of them were qualified to fight for Heavenly Sovereign status. If these individuals were to be placed in the Great Thousand World, they would definitely be the conquerors of various forces.

"The Fourth Hall Master, unfortunately, has fallen defending the threat by the extraterritorial clans at the North Territory," said Mu Chen.

Nine Nether nodded and said, "With that being said, it would be easier for us to go to the Fourth Hall if we were to hunt for treasure."

Although all of the hall masters had fallen, with their past intelligence, they would have placed some traps to protect their mansions before they passed away. Mu Chen felt that these traps would be extremely complicated.

"Where exactly is the pavilion?" The sudden question from Lin Jing showed that she already knew about the existence of the Hidden Scripture Pavilion in this Ancient Celestial Palace, and she understood the importance of it. After all, if the Heavenly River was the foundation of the Ancient Celestial Palace, then this pavilion would be the root. Even their Martial Border would not dare to ignore this particular root.

Mu Chen shrugged and said, "The map we acquired before is no longer helpful now. It showed nothing regarding the direction to the pavilion."

None of them were able to do anything about it. There were broken spiritual arrays everywhere deep inside the Ancient Celestial Palace. Some of them were completely destroyed, but some still remained effective with support from the spiritual energy in the Ancient Celestial Palace. Almost all of the spiritual arrays placed there were at the Grandmaster level. Although some of them were broken, they would be punished if they were to run into them. It would be tough for them to search for the pavilion under such dangerous circumstances.

Lin Jing shook her head as she heard what Mu Chen said.

Xiao Xiao suddenly spoke as Mu Chen and the rest were struggling to find a solution. "I do know something about the Hidden Scripture Pavilion."

"Oh?" Mu Chen and the rest quickly turned around.

Xiao Xiao smiled with a charming face. "This is what I've heard from my father. People said that the Hidden Scripture Pavilion is strange. Even among the people of the Ancient Celestial Palace, only a few were able to enter."

Mu Chen and the rest were shocked, and their eyes widened. That entire pavilion was a sacred item? This was insane because Mu Chen had never seen a highly ranked sacred item before.

Even the Starry Suppression Tower in the fourth hall master's hands was only a medium ranked sacred item. As for the highly ranked sacred item, even a Complete Earthly Sovereign would be dying to obtain it.

"Then what are we supposed to do? If such a highly ranked sacred item were to hide itself, it would be nearly impossible for us to find it. Even if we succeed, it won't be easy to enter," said Nine Nether.

Their current strength was not meant to face such a highly ranked sacred item.

Xiao Xiao smiled and said, "That pavilion is not aggressive at all, but its hidden ability is phenomenal. If it intends to hide from us, even a Heavenly Sovereign would not be able to find it."

The corner of Mu Chen's eye twitched a bit. This pavilion was indeed strange. Its hidden ability, however, had outperformed some Heavenly Sovereigns. If it was aggressive, then its ranking would be way higher.

"If its hidden ability is mind-boggling, I'm afraid that we will not be able to find it." Mu Chen heaved a sigh. It was indeed way more difficult to obtain the evolution of the Great Solar Undying Body.

Xiao Xiao shook her head. "Although it is extremely difficult to search for this pavilion, there is still a way to get to it. After all, the Heavenly Emperor did not just place it inside the Ancient Celestial Palace as a decoration."

Mu Chen breathed a sigh of relief. Thank goodness there were still ways to get it, because he had come all the way from the Northern Heaven Spiritual Academy to Tianluo Territory just to obtain the evolution of the Great Solar Undying Body. All his hard work was dedicated to that day, so he would never give up, no matter what.

"How are we going to find for it?" Nine Nether asked as she looked at Mu Chen.

Xiao Xiao smiled, and her red lips opened. "It is simple. We will have to pass through a test in the pavilion."

"Test?" Mu Chen and the rest were shocked. "What test?"

Xiao Xiao shook her head and said, "I do not know what the test will be, but I'm afraid that it has already begun from the moment we first entered the Ancient Celestial Palace."

Mu Chen and the rest lost their minds once again.

"The pavilion has its own ingenuity, and it has already noticed our presence ever since we stepped into the Ancient Celestial Palace. All of our actions are being watched," said Xiao Xiao as she looked up into the void.

Mu Chen and the rest were in fear. They scanned across the void, and though they did not feel that they were being watched, after listening to Xiao Xiao's words, they somehow felt that there was an eye staring at them in the dark, making them uncomfortable.

"In the Ancient Celestial Palace, there were times when some young disciples got recognized by the pavilion for their excellent performances. They were then granted an opportunity to enter the pavilion," said Xiao Xiao while smiling.

"With that being said, are we going to showcase our capabilities? But what are we going to show them?" Lin Jing asked curiously as she was getting more excited.

"I'm not sure what exactly we have to show. The disciples in the Ancient Celestial Palace who got recognized, well, some of them obtained specific sudden insight during their cultivation, while some of them obtained insight from specific supernatural power, and some showed extraordinary performance through swapping skills with another disciple... All these cases were different and weird. However, it seemed like the higher the rank of the disciple, the greater the showcase needed. Of course, the power obtained upon entering the pavilion would be greater, too."

Mu Chen and the rest looked at each other. None of them would ever have thought that this pavilion would be so strange.

"Basically, it was all about fate. If you were fated, you could enter the pavilion no matter what. If not, I'm afraid that we might need the help of a Heavenly Sovereign to find out for us," said Xiao Xiao as she waved her hands.

Mu Chen gave a helpless smile. It was out of his range to bring down the great Heavenly Sovereign who was proficient in space passageways. They could only figure the way out themselves.

"If this is the case, let's not care about the pavilion first. Let's try to go directly to the fifth hall and see if there are other opportunities." Mu Chen was decisive after realizing the difficulty of entering the pavilion. After all, they could not just wait there for nothing if the pavilion were to test their capabilities.

There were no objections from Xiao Xiao, Lin Jing, or Nine Nether. Anyway, it would be impossible to gain the pavilion's recognition without doing anything.

"Let's go."

There was no more delaying from Mu Chen. He quickly hopped out and charged towards the deeper site of the Ancient Celestial Palace, followed by Xiao Xiao, Lin Jing, and Nine Nether.

The four of them charged ahead at high speed. Under Mu Chen's guidance, they successfully dodged some broken spiritual arrays along the way. After a few moments, Mu Chen started to feel that the foggy atmosphere in the surroundings had become worse. Under the foggy atmosphere, even the spreading spiritual energy sense was greatly hindered.

"There is a spiritual array in front of us, but it is not dangerous. If I'm correct, it is likely the entrance of the fifth hall," said Mu Chen to the three ladies. Although their spiritual energy senses were hindered, Mu Chen could still feel the weird movement in front of them.

The three ladies nodded as they heard Mu Chen's words.

Swoosh!

They passed without a decrease in speed, and the next second, they felt like they had passed through a watery membrane. The space around them was disorienting, as if it had been transmitted in space.

Mu Chen was calm as they were going through the fluctuation of the disoriented space. He took a glance behind and realized that Xiao Xiao and the rest were gone, separated by the disoriented space.

As Mu Chen was calming himself down, the fluctuation in the surroundings became more intense. Suddenly, there was a radiance of light forming innumerable shadows in front of his eyes. They were shadows of some magnificent halls, and a sense of arrogance radiated from those halls.

Mu Chen suddenly realized that these great halls should be indicating the location of the five halls. Mu Chen calmed himself down as he stared at the flashing pictures, marking them down deep in his mind. These pictures came from the five halls, and if he could find something from them, it would be extremely helpful.

The pictures constantly flashed in his eyes, but at a certain point, a bright light flashed past, and his eyes suddenly narrowed. It was a picture of the deep site of the great hall. It was broken but still magnificent. Inside the hall, there were many terrifying skeletons.

However, Mu Chen did not stop his sight at this picture. He stared at the deepest place of the hall and found out that there was a beautiful flower a few feet tall on the lotus throne made of dark red jade.

Mu Chen was excited as he saw the black flower, because he had already realized something when he first saw the flower...

That flower was Mandela's true form, the Ancient Mandala Flower!

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 1162: The Second Hall**

In the depths of the old hall, there stood a lotus-shaped platform made of dark red jade. The lotus-shaped platform was softly lit and seemed unusually mysterious.

However, Mu Chen's current attentions weren't focused on this extraordinary lotus-shaped platform. Instead, he was staring at the fascinating flowers that were upon to, which were as black as ink.

The flowers were about a dozen hundred feet high, each etched with a pattern that seemed as old as the universe itself. It was as though these flowers had been born out of the existence of the universe, causing them to exude a calm sense of completeness.

However, among these perfect flowers was a broken branch. This ruined the sense of completeness at once.

Mu Chen looked at the broken branch. He knew that when Mandela was seriously injured, she had broken a branch, split the young bud that was upon it, then sealed the original body before using a duplicate body to escape the Ancient Celestial Palace. She did this in order to survive and buy time to wait for a better chance of escape.

At this time, the broken branch was rooted quietly on the lotus-like platform, as if it was in hibernation. But, Mu Chen was still able to feel the faint sense of danger that the bud was exuding. The unfathomable feeling made him shriek inside.

After sighing for a while, Mu Chen smiled, his face showing some relief. He had not expected to find the original body of Mandela.

However, Mu Chen's happiness was short-lived. He quickly readjusted his emotions and carefully glanced across the hall. Since he had the opportunity to observe the place in advance, he must immediately find out all its hidden dangers.

Inside the hall, many white bones were scattered around, and there were traces of intense war in every corner. Obviously, unimaginably intense battles must have occurred here.

The entire hall was silent. However, Mu Chen instinctively felt a sense of danger.

Mu Chen glanced around the hall. After ten breaths, his eyes finally focused intensely on some white skeletons that were gathered under the hall's stone pillars.

As many remains littered the hall, the bones weren't particularly eye-catching. However, when Mu Chen carefully examined them, he found that these particular bones were not scattered. Instead, rather the skeletons' bones were arranged as if they were sitting cross-legged at the bottom of the stone pillars!

While their positioning seemed to be a bit messy, there were faint signs of a spiritual array shape. If Mu Chen had guessed right, the skeletons were maintaining the formation of a spiritual array. If that was the case, this spiritual array should be very formidable!

Mu Chen's eyes flashed rapidly. Before this, Mandela had told him that she was seriously injured by Lu Hengyu's sneak attack. If the latter was going to kill her, she could have only chosen to seal herself. Then, she must also have had a certain degree of protection.

Hence, Mu Chen surmised that Mandela had placed her hope in these bones and the formation of the spirit array. However, this only caused Mu Chen to laugh bitterly, as these obstacles that were protecting Mandela were now obstructing his progress!

"This could be troublesome," Mu Chen mumbled to himself. According to his estimation, even if he asked Xiao Xiao and Lin Jing for help, it would still be impossible to cross the hall and retrieve Mandela's body.

The situation irritated Mu Chen, as he had not yet entered the Celestial Emperor Mausoleum. Thus, it was impossible for him to directly teleport Mandela in here.

"We need some powerful external assistance." Mu Chen squinted his eyes. Then, after a long while, an idea flashed in his head...

As Mu Chen's palm suddenly tightened into a fist, an ancient token appeared in his grip. The commander's seal was the exact one that he had obtained during the auction. It had belonged to the Second Hall Master! And, the army belonged to the Second Hall lord, so it was a token of the Spirit-slaughtering Troop!

As Mu Chen looked at this ancient commander's seal, he couldn't help but hesitate. According to Mandela, although the Spirit-slaughtering Troop had been annihilated, the second main hall lord must have had some special reason to retain a small number of them.

Perhaps it was for the purpose of guarding me?

If he could control the Spirit-slaughtering Troop with this token, it might be possible to get through the hall and bring out the original Mandela. Moreover, Mu Chen thought that the trouble he had encountered recently was providing him with the opportunity to shine. It was his chance to prove his ability to the Hidden Scripture Pavillion!

Mu Chen eyes lit up. Just as a flicker of light appeared in front of his eyes, he glanced over to see Mandela's body seal. This was a miraculous coincidence of timing! Instead of believing that this was a coincidence, Mu Chen really believed that there was a bigger power controlling all of this, and that the bigger power was probably the mysterious Hidden Scripture Pavillion!

He thought this because he knew that the Hidden Scripture Pavillion wanted to evaluate his performance and see whether or not he could successfully retrieve Mandela's body. If he succeeded, he would probably be recognized and given the chance to enter The Hidden Scripture Pavillion!

Of course, if he failed and lost Mandela's body, he would then lose the means to evolve the Great Solar Undying Body! This consequence was simply unacceptable to Mu Chen!

When Mu Chen thought of this, his face tensed up. If he could not retrieve the Mandela's body, the Emperor of the Great Xia Dynasty would certainly not spare his life! However, the Mandela's strength as an Upper Earthly Sovereign could only counter Emperor Xia. To worsen matters, Mandela had an archenemy, the Saint Demon King of the Saint Demon Palace. So, he must succeed!

Suddenly, Mu Chen gripped his fists. The expression on his face also became solemn. Immediately, his eyes swept through the light rays in the ancient hall. He figured that this hall was located within the residence of the First Lord, as the word "First" was inscribed everywhere on the stone pillars.

First, I must find the second residence and obtain the remaining Spirit-slaughtering Troop...

While Mu Chen's thoughts were surging through his head, he immediately felt a strong fluctuation in the space around him. Suddenly, the scene in front of him shifted!

A misty sky emerged in front of him. Under the sky, a grand mountain emerged, and Mu Chen was standing on the top of that mountain!

Among the mountain peaks, there were neverending halls. These halls stood tall and emanated ancient airs. From the peak of the mountain, Mu Chen glanced at the most magnificent hall, which was so enormous, people looked like ants in front of it!

On the top of the hall, a plaque was hung. It was inscribed with golden characters that read "Second Hall." A golden light was faintly emanating from the plaque.

"Is this the Second Hall?" Mu Chen looked at the big hall and couldn't help but grin.

He headed straight toward the temple as fast as lightning. After a few minutes, Mu Chen appeared in front of the main hall and began to carefully examine it. He found a seal on the bronze door, which made it impossible for him to open the door.

He frowned, trying to think of some solution. After a while, his gaze suddenly fell on the plaque above the bronze gate. His eyes flashed and he gripped his fists, the Golden Dragon Disciple token appearing immediately in his hand.

The token flashed with a golden light, which directly shone onto the plaque. Suddenly, shiny shreds of light fell from the plaque, then landed on the locked door.

Click.

The bronze gate, which had been firmly locked for thousands of years, was finally opening at this very moment! When Mu Chen realized what was happening, he could not help but let out a huge sigh of relief.

The bronze door opened very slowly, and a flood of ancient air swept through his body. At that moment, Mu Chen seemed to hear countless battle cries in the background, all of which were extremely brutal!

After the door was completely opened, he stepped directly into the Second Hall. The hall was extremely spacious, but this once magnificent temple was a complete mess. Cracks were everywhere, which were telltale signs that this place had experienced a great battle.

However, Mu Chen's current attentions were focused at the end of the temple, where there was a golden throne. A figure that was wearing a purple robe stood in front of the throne. His aura was strong and dignified.

The aura that that swept over the figure caused a change in Mu Chen's expression, as the figure with the purple robe was not a virtual shadow, but real flesh and bone! Mu Chen knew that this Second Grand Hall could not house anyone with such an imposing manner other than the Second Hall master! It could be no one else!

Could it be that the Second Hall master was still alive???

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 1163: Phoenix Bug**

The figure clad in purple robes stood in front of the throne. His majestic aura swept out, and a terrifying oppression engulfed the entire palace hall. Mu Chen entered the great hall and was shrouded by the terrible pressure. Immediately, his body became tense, and the golden light on the surface of his body circulated. The sound of the dragon's roar and phoenix's cry resounded in his body as his flesh became as solid as a Vajra.

In the face of this unknown situation, Mu Chen obviously dared not relax in the slightest. These former formidable characters could make him pay a very heavy price with the flick of a finger.

With his best efforts to activate a defense, Mu Chen cast a watchful look at the purple-robed figure. An appalled glint flashed in his gaze. In the moment before, he was clearly aware that there was a wave of life in the Second Hall Master's body.

Has the Second Hall Master not fallen completely? But he doesn't seem like he still has a sense of rationality in him...? Mu Chen frowned and walked around so he could see the Second Hall Master's face clearly. When Mu Chen caught a clear glimpse, his face changed dramatically as he gasped.

The Second Hall Master's face was determined, his eyes glaring furiously as he raised his head to look at the sky. However, what caused Mu Chen to feel horrified was not his frozen expression, but the fact that there was a dark bloody gash on the Second Hall Master's forehead.

The bloody gash was about the size of a finger, seemingly unremarkable. However, Mu Chen knew that this was a force that had instantly destroyed all traces of life in the Second Hall Master.

It was hard to say how strong a Complete Earthly Sovereign was, but he knew that in today's Tianluo Continent, there were only a handful of them. However, such a terrifying existence had been wiped out by one finger. How powerful must that person have been to do so?

Chills surfaced on Mu Chen's skin, and he looked up into the dome of the great palace hall. Spiritual light condensed in his eyes as he surveyed the surroundings before his gaze stopped at a particular spot.

The dome had an equally dark little black hole. The black hole was as small as a needle in the great dome of about 1,000 feet, but at the sight of it, Mu Chen's hair stood up.

There was an indescribable rush of fear.

At that moment, Mu Chen's mind visualized the scene then, when the Extraterritorial Race invaded Tianluo Continent, and an unimaginable and powerful presence landed in the Ancient Celestial Palace. The moment he appeared, he casually struck before the Heavenly Emperor could do so.

He just dealt a blow so casually, then a small black hole appeared on the Second Hall's dome. When the Second Hall Master, who had just noticed it, stood up, a bloody gash suddenly appeared on his forehead, and it was in this moment that all traces of his life were completely destroyed.

With one finger, a Complete Earthly Sovereign was annihilated.

Mu Chen took a deep breath and exhaled. Such a terrifying power... Other than the Demon Emperor who had perished together with the Heavenly Emperor, who else would be capable of this? What's more, he was able to take a step ahead of the Heavenly Emperor, which was all the more frightening.

There is such a presence in the Extraterritorial Race. It is no wonder that it was possible to force all the creatures of the Great Thousand World to ally together. Mu Chen's face was solemn, and there was a growing sense of the Extraterritorial Race's terror and strength in his heart. This was the true enemy of the Great Thousand World, indeed.

Even now, the Extraterritorial Race was still eyeing the Great Thousand World covetously, trying to launch a total invasion to occupy it. Mu Chen sighed before concealing his emotions. The Extraterritorial Race was too powerful for him, and he was still too weak. Even such a powerful figure like the Second



Hall Master was killed with one finger. Only a true Heavenly Sovereign could become the top power and be a formidable asset in the war.

After managing his emotions, Mu Chen's gaze shifted away from the Second Hall Master as he looked at the other places in the great hall. After all, the most important reason why he came to the Second Hall was not for the Second Hall Master. He needed to search for the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop.

As Mu Chen began to survey the surroundings, he rediscovered the vastness of the great hall. Previously, the Second Hall Master's fate was so shocking that he had ignored everything else.

The Second Hall Master stood in the center of the great hall, and under his throne was a 100-foot-tall stone ladder. Behind it appeared black figures who were clad in heavy armor. When Mu Chen saw the figures, his eyelids twitched quickly, his heart beat faster, and his gaze swept towards them eagerly.

More and more black-armored figures appeared in his sight like a silent army standing behind the Second Hall Master, guarding him. There were about 5,000 people dressed in heavy black armor, and their faces could not be seen. There were dark red runes engraved on the heavy armor. The runes looked as if they were made from blood, and they emitted an ominous aura. The figures also held heavy halberds with crimson tips, as if a bloody aura surrounded them.

It was clear that when the army had been alive, they had emerged victorious in countless bloody battles, and even Earthly Sovereigns had been wiped out by them.

Mu Chen's gaze blazed, and he clenched his fists as he looked at the army. This army must be the Spirit-Slaughtering troop that he had been looking for! However... Mu Chen's excitement quickly waned, for his Spiritual Energy Sensor detected that amid this 5,000-man-strong Spirit-Slaughtering troop, there were no hints of fluctuations at all.

This Spirit-Slaughtering troop had been utterly destroyed.

Mu Chen's expression turned downcast. If he could not control the Spirit-Slaughtering troop, he could not bring Mandela's actual form out from where it was heavily guarded.

"How did that happen?" Mu Chen's brows knit together tightly. As a matter of fact, for such elite troops, when there were soldiers who were at their dying breath in battle, most of them would activate their black magic and deprive themselves of life. They would then transform into corpse soldiers, so even if they were dead, they could still be a member of the army. These corpse soldiers, to some extent, were no longer living creatures, so they could withstand the erosion of time. In that case, why couldn't Mu Chen detect any life from them? It was as if they were truly dead.

As Mu Chen ruminated, a gentle laugh rang from behind him. "That's because this army is lacking a trigger to activate them."

Mu Chen's eyes narrowed as he turned around slowly. A slender and graceful figure stood at the door. It was Su Qingyin.

Who would have thought that she had arrived at the Second Hall, too?

Mu Chen's expression was calm, but spiritual energy circulated in his body. Although he and Su Qingyin were not enemies, they were not friends, either.

Su Qingyin smiled as she saw Mu Chen's wariness. "Don't be so nervous. I don't want to fight you right now, so let's work together. I think it might be better."

"Work together?" Mu Chen's eyes narrowed.

Su Qingyin glanced at Mu Chen as she said meaningfully, "Your target is this army? Haha, you are ambitious, indeed. This army cannot be controlled by anyone."

"I believe that has nothing to do with you then," Mu Chen replied nonchalantly before he asked, "What did you mean by trigger?"

Su Qingyin smiled casually and said, "This army has not yet been completely destroyed. When the Second Hall Master was killed, the army burned their spirit directly and poured its strength into the Second Hall Master, trying to preserve traces of his life. If you want this army, you have to give them their strength back."

Mu Chen frowned as he said, "Preserving a Complete Earthly Sovereign's traces of life just by doing so? That's too simple."

Su Qingyin nodded and said, "Of course it's not possible just by doing so, but the Second Hall Master has a Phoenix Bug, which is a rare Spiritual Bug. This worm can revive once for its master to restore vitality, but it needs an extremely large force to support it."

"Phoenix Bug?" Mu Chen's heart jolted. Were the traces of life from the Second Hall Master the supposed Phoenix Bug? In this way, does the Second Hall Master have a real chance of resurrection?

"The Second Hall Master has fallen completely and will not be resurrected again." As if aware of Mu Chen's thoughts, Su Qingyin lightly shook her head and said, "The attack on the Second Hall Master was too destructive, turning everything inside him into ashes, so even the Phoenix Bug can't save him."

Turning to Mu Chen, she said, "My target is the Phoenix Bug. As long as I can get it, I can use black magic to push out the strength of the army it absorbed, and then you will be able to get that army."

"So, we can work together." Mu Chen's gaze flickered, and a moment later, he said, "Then what do I need to do?"

No matter whether it was true or false, he didn't mind trying, and if the girl tried to deceive him, he would make her pay.

Seeing that Mu Chen was convinced, Su Qingyin smiled happily, and then she looked solemnly at the great palace. She pointed a finger, and a beam of spiritual energy surged out.

Buzz.

When the spiritual energy rushed into the hall, suddenly the whole hall vibrated. Countless rays of spiritual power condensed in mid-air, and suddenly there was the sound of a dragon's roar as a huge spiritual array enveloped the entire hall.

Looking at the terrifying spiritual array, Su Qingyin said softly, "I need you to break this spiritual array apart for me."

Mu Chen looked up at the great spiritual array, and a look of astonishment and shock appeared on his face, for he found that the spiritual array before his eyes was so familiar. That was clearly a Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array! However, this spiritual array was complete!

### The Great Ruler

#### **Chapter 1164: Collaboration**

A violent spiritual energy raged out in the large hall, as spiritual energy light runes appeared in the void, then took the form of a dragon. The deep cries of the dragon resounded, shaking the entire hall.

"Nine Dragon's Deicide Array..." Mu Chen murmured to himself. He was shocked to see the familiar and powerful spiritual array. He had never expected that the second hall would be protected by this particular array.

Moreover, it was a complete Nine Dragon's Deicide Array! Mu Chen was amazed that the array had engulfed almost the entire hall. As compared to the defective array that he had set up, this array was so powerful, he was dumbfounded by it! Even after so many thousands of years, the spiritual light runes in the spiritual array had remained clear and bright, and the array still exuded a terrifying fluctuation.

If an Upper Earthly Sovereign got trapped in this Nine Dragon's Deicide Array, he would not be able to get out of it, Mu Chen thought as he licked his lips.

From the looks of it, this complete Nine Dragon's Deicide Array would be ranked among the middle or top grades. Generally speaking, the middle grade Ancestral Master's Spiritual Array was powerful enough to deal with any Upper Earthly Sovereign.

The second hall master was standing at the center of the Nine Dragon's Deicide Array. Given his strength, and with help from the spiritual array, even if a Complete Earthly Sovereign stepped into the hall, he would be easily suppressed by the second hall master.

However, it was a pity that, when Demon Emperor had arrived, all of Mu Chen's preparations had come to naught. Mu Chen sighed, as he looked at the Nine Dragon's Deicide Array.

When Su Qingyin, who was beside him, saw his discouragement, she asked anxiously, "What now?"

Mu Chen looked at her and asked, "What do you mean? Do you think I can destroy this grade of spiritual array?"

"Of course not," Su Qingyin said. As she did not in a dreamworld, so she knew that even an Upper Earthly Sovereign would not have the audacity to barge into this type of spiritual array.

She then added, "Although the spiritual array is powerful, no one is controlling it. Since you are a Spiritual Array Master, I hope that you can try to find a way to create a hole for us to get in, so that we can get the Phoenix Bug out of it."

Mu Chen flicked his fingers and thought for a while. He then said, "It is possible to do that." After all, he had attained a few things in the Nine Dragon's Deicide Array, so it was possible for him to find a way out with the help of such things.

"Oh, really?" Su Qingyin was elated when she heard this good news.

"I can try." Mu Chen nodded. He then looked at Su Qingyin and asked with a smile, "But, why should I trust you?"

Even if they had obtained the Phoenix Bug, he would not be able to bring the Spirit-slaughtering Troop together again. If Su Qingyin went back on her word after getting ahold of the Phoenix Bug, Mu Chen's efforts would be in vain. After all, Su Qingyin was not Xiao Xiao or Lin Jing, so he did not trust her.

Su Qingyin was not upset that Mu Chen doubted her. She simply smiled and said, "My teacher is a disciple in an ancient sect. During the Primordial Age, the second hall master obtained the Phoenix Bug from our sect, which is why I know so much about it."

She then added, "Moreover, what I have said is true. If you want to bring the Spirit-slaughtering Troop together again, you will need to tap into the power of the Phoenix Bug. In order for you to force out the power that is within the Phoenix Bug, you will have to depend on my black magic. So, I don't see any reason for you to reject this collaboration."

As Su Qingyin and Mu Chen looked at each other, time seemed to stand still. After a long while, Mu Chen nodded and said, "Alright."

What Su Qingyin had said was true. If he wanted to put the Spirit-slaughtering Troop together again, he would have to collaborate with her. If things got out of hand later, he would deal with any issues as they arose.

"I hope that we will have an enjoyable collaboration," Su Qingyin said with a smile, feeling confident that Mu Chen would not reject her.

"I need some time." Mu Chen said, then immediately turned to walk toward the spiritual array.

He shut his eyes, and a spiritual light glittered on his fingertips, while spiritual seals flew out and merged into the Nine Dragon's Deicide Array. With Mu Chen's new understanding and attainments, which he had received from the Nine Dragon's Deicide Array, it was not difficult for him to create a hole in this spiritual array.

However, he would not be so silly as to reveal it to others. Thus, he was cautious about it.

"I will guard you," Su Qingyin said, then moved back a few steps to stand in front of the door to prevent anyone from barging in and disturbing Mu Chen.

She was not discouraged by Mu Chen's low efficiency. After all, this was an Ancestral Master's Spiritual Array. If he was able to master it without any problem, she would have become suspicious.

Su Qingyin sat cross-legged near the bronze door and looked at Mu Chen. She then turned to look at the gigantic second hall master, who was standing in the center of the hall.

"Phoenix Bug..." She mumbled, while her eyes glittered and she put on a smile.

She was excited. Once she had obtained the Phoenix Bug and refined it with her black magic, she would be able to advance to Earthly Sovereign-level!

Time passed, the hall remaining in a dead silence. After about an hour, Mu Chen opened his eyes.

At that time, Su Qingyin went up to him and asked anxiously, "How is it going?" If Mu Chen had failed to master the array, she would not be able to get ahold of the Phoenix Bug!

Mu Chen smiled and flicked his fingers, sending spiritual energy ripples raging out into the spiritual array. This caused a hole that was about five feet high to slowly appear.

"It is as I have promised," Mu Chen said with a smile.

When Su Qingyin saw it, she was overjoyed.

"I need to take care of the hole, so I will leave the Phoenix Bug to you," Mu Chen said to Su Qingyin with a smile.

He did not know if there were traps in the main hall, and he had no intention of taking any risks. Thus, he decided to leave the task to Su Qingyin.

Although Su Qingyin knew what he was thinking, she did not object to his plan. Since Mu Chen had handled the most important task, it would be her duty to get ahold of the Phoenix Bug.

Su Qingyin nodded decisively, then stepped into the Nine Dragon's Deicide Array. Although there was a slight friction when she stepped into the array, she was not being attacked.

Su Qingyin treaded carefully. She was glad to find that there were no obstructions in the spiritual array. Soon, she had arrived safely before the throne.

As she went nearer to the gigantic figure, she heaved a sigh of relief. Then, with a solemn look, she formed a seal.

Pfft.

She bit her tongue and spewed out a mouthful of blood essence, which froze to form red elixir pills that exuded a strange scent. As the strange scent spread, a red dot appeared on the second hall master's forehead. The red dot traveled then traveled a ways across his face, then came out from the black hole at his brows.

The red dot was actually a red light beam, and a pretty bug was within it! The bug had a pair of delicate wings, which looked like those of a mini phoenix.

The bug had its eyes shut, as it was clearly in a deep sleep. However, its instincts had brought it to the red elixir pills, and it subconsciously opened its mouth to swallow them up.

Su Qingyin opened her palms, and the red light beam landed on them. She looked excitedly at the pretty bug.

She had gotten ahold of the Phoenix Bug effortlessly! Although the Phoenix Bug was in a deep sleep, Su Qingyin could feel the powerful energy in its tiny body.

She took a deep breath, while she carefully held the Phoenix Bug. She then got ready to leave.

"Miss Su, please hold on." As she was about to leave the spiritual array, Mu Chen suddenly spoke to her from outside the spiritual array.

Su Qingyin lifted her head and looked at Mu Chen. She smiled and said, "Brother Mu, when I am out, I will definitely force out the energy from the Phoenix Bug with my black magic, then help you reform the Spirit-slaughtering Troop."

She was talking and walking at the same time. She looked more relaxed now, as she had the Phoenix Bug with her. Although it was in a deep sleep, as long as she activated it, she would have no problem dealing with the top powers, who were all below the Earthly Sovereign-level.

Before this, she had been afraid of Mu Chen, but now, she no longer was. As Mu Chen looked at Su Qingyin, who looked confident, he smiled. He then waved his sleeve, and the hole in the spiritual array immediately disappeared.

A horrifying spiritual energy windstorm immediately whizzed out and formed spiritual energy dragons in the air. They looked intensely at Su Qingyin, who suddenly froze in amazement.

"How did you manage to control the spiritual array?" Su Qingyin stammered. Her expression changed, and she was filled with disbelief. The Nine Dragon's Deicide Array had been brought to life!

Apparently, Mu Chen had activated it. Su Qingyin finally realized that Mu Chen had pretended to find the spiritual array too difficult at first. However, when Mu Chen had opened the hole in the spiritual array, he might have already obtained the control of it without her knowledge!

Mu Chen did not reply directly to her question, but simply smiled at her. He then asked gently, "Miss Su, can you help me put together the Spirit-slaughtering Troop now?"

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### **Chapter 1165: Put Together the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop**

The spiritual array engulfed the large, rundown, ancient hall. As the violent spiritual energy raged out like a windstorm, nine huge dragons appeared in the space and lingered around it, exuding a horrifying fluctuation. The space did not seem able to withstand their power and started to quake continuously.

Su Qingyin's whole body trembled as the nine huge dragons looked at her with intensity. She lifted up her head to look at Mu Chen, who was standing outside the spiritual array with his hands behind his back. He had a smile on his face, but Su Qingyin felt that his smile was cold.

"I never thought... that you would be able to bring it up to this level!" Su Qingyin said, as she bit her lips in disbelief.

She was utterly shocked by Mu Chen. She had been wary of him from the beginning, but she had never expected him to possess such a powerful trump card. The spiritual array was too horrifying.

Even now, she still found it hard to believe that Mu Chen was able to control the Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array. After all, this was an Ancestral Master's Spiritual Array that even an Upper Earthly Sovereign could not contend with. However, with Mu Chen's attainment in the spiritual array, he was able to control it. Could he be a Spiritual Array Ancestral Master?

Mu Chen could see that Su Qingyin was in a flustered state, but he could not be bothered with it. He simply looked at her and asked again with a smile, "Miss Su, can you help me put together the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop now?"

Su Qingyin looked deeply into Mu Chen's eyes and smiled. She nodded and said, "Of course I will, Brother Mu. I will not go back on my word. I will carry out what I promised you earlier."

Upon hearing it, Mu Chen did not say a word but extended his hand as a gesture to invite her to proceed.

Su Qingyin turned around and stretched out her hand. The Phoenix Bug was in a deep sleep as it appeared again at the center of her palm. As she looked at the pretty Phoenix Bug, she felt sorry for it. The energy could have been used to help it evolve and grow, but since the energy would be forced out, it was apparent that the Phoenix Bug would have to suffer. However, in the face of such a horrifying spiritual array, she had no choice but to acquiesce to Mu Chen's request.

Mu Chen is too cunning. Su Qingyin sighed within herself and without hesitating any further, she changed the seals with her hands. The tip of her finger broke open, and a stream of blood shot out toward the Phoenix Bug. It landed on the Phoenix Bug's body and entered it. As the stream of blood entered the bug, it indistinctly started to form runes.

Chirp! Chirp!

The Phoenix Bug suddenly cried out loudly. It seemed to be in great pain. It shivered as blood rays spurting out of its body and covered the area. The blood rays swirled around the large hall and moved straight toward the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop which was at the back of the main hall.

As the blood rays entered the bodies of the Spirit-Slaughtering troop, Mu Chen sensed that the bodies started to possess some strength.

Su Qingyin heaved a sigh of relief and wiped away the sweat from her forehead. She turned to look at Mu Chen and said with a smile, "Brother Mu, as I have promised."

However, Mu Chen looked at her smiling face and remained expressionless. He continued to stare at her.

When Su Qingyin saw it, she stopped smiling.

"Miss Su, out of the 5,000 Spirit-Slaughtering Troops, you have only helped me recover 200 of them. Although I have lost some of them due to many other reasons, don't you think that the loss is too great?" Mu Chen asked flatly.

When Mu Chen sensed the troop earlier, he managed to sense that only 200 Spirit-Slaughtering Troops had regained their strength. As the quantity was too small, they would not be of much use to Mu Chen, even if he was able to control them.

Su Qingyin turned pale. She had indeed preserved too much energy. After all, the energy was precious to the Phoenix Bug. After she stepped into the Earthly Sovereign-level, she could refine it. It would then be of a great help to her in perfecting her strength.

Mu Chen stared at Su Qingyin. He stretched out two fingers and said, "Miss Su, my limit is 2,000 Spirit-Slaughtering Troops. As long as you can help me recover this number, I will let you go."

"You are crazy!" The expression on Su Qingyin's face changed, and she shouted angrily, "You are still not capable of controlling 2,000 Spirit-Slaughtering Troops. You are not able to stomach it!"

If she had used the power to help Mu Chen recover 2,000 Spirit-Slaughtering Troops, the energy in the Phoenix Bug would have been almost used up. This was too much for Su Qingyin to accept.

"Whether I can stomach it is my problem," Mu Chen said calmly. He then stared at Su Qingyin and said, "Miss Su, I believe you know jolly well how valuable this Phoenix Bug is since you have come to the Ancient Celestial Palace because of it. However, the power in the Phoenix Bug does not belong to it. Why are you so greedy? Two thousand is what I can accept. I will not change my mind."

After Mu Chen said it, he shut his eyes. Apparently, he had no intention of bargaining with Su Qingyin. According to his estimation, if he was unable to control this number of Spirit-Slaughtering Troops, he would not be able to bring Mandela's actual body out from that place.

Su Qingyin gritted her teeth and looked angrily at Mu Chen, who still had his eyes shut. She knew that there was no point arguing with him. She snorted and formed a seal with her hands. Once again, the Phoenix Bug shrieked, and more blood rays shot out from its body.

As the blood rays spurting out, the Phoenix Bug, which had been shining brightly before, suddenly dimmed down at a great speed. When Su Qingyin saw it, her heart broke. The blood rays continued to enter the bodies of the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop, and one body after another slowly regained its light.

"It is enough." Mu Chen opened his eyes and smiled. He nodded at Su Qingyin and said, "Thank you for your help."

Su Qingyin immediately stopped the spurting blood rays and put away the Phoenix Bug. She looked coldly at Mu Chen and said mockingly, "Why not let me continue with it? I should be able to help you recover more."

Mu Chen smiled and said, "If there are more, I will really not be able to stomach it." Two thousand Spirit-Slaughtering Troops was the maximum number that Mu Chen could deal with.

"You sound as though you are able to stomach it now." Su Qingyin sneered at Mu Chen. Apparently, she did not think that Mu Chen was able to control 2,000 Spirit-Slaughtering Troops. After all, the troop was trained by the second hall master, and it had probably killed more than ten Earthly Sovereigns back then.

Although the troop had lost its vitality and spiritual intelligence, and the overall combat force had weakened due to the great reduction in numbers, it could still have the ability to contend with a Lower Earthly Sovereign if one was able to control it well.

Mu Chen smiled and ignored her. He waved his sleeve, and there was a fluctuation in the Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array. The hole appeared again. When Su Qingyin saw it, she quickly dashed out.

Su Qingyin had felt tense earlier, but she loosened up after she came out of the spiritual array. She then looked at Mu Chen with animosity, unhappy with what had happened. However, when Mu Chen saw her looking fiercely at him, he simply smiled and looked at her without showing any sign of fear.

Horrifying spiritual energy exuded from their bodies as their eyes met. Su Qingyin held the red Phoenix Bug and asked coldly, "Without the spiritual array, how do you intend to fight me?"



Mu Chen smiled and said, "I should be no match for you." If Su Qingyin used the Phoenix Bug to deal with him, he would probably be at a great disadvantage.

When Su Qingyin heard Mu Chen's reply, she was taken aback. She then became less harsh, as she did not completely trust what Mu Chen had said. After all, he was too cunning. If she were to take him on, she did not have absolute confidence that she could kill him, even though she had the Phoenix Bug.

For people like Mu Chen, if she was unable to kill him, it would be better not to make him her enemy. If she had him as an enemy, she would not be able to have any peace. After all, Mu Chen had killed Xia Yu without batting an eye. He was so resolute in his fight that even Su Qingyin was taken aback. Her instincts told her that it would be best not to set herself against Mu Chen if she could help it.

After weighing the pros and cons, she came to a decision. "I helped Xia Yu previously because he had given me some benefits. I will take this as a write-off," Su Qingyin said coldly as her expression changed. She then withdrew her spiritual energy.

"Thank you for your help." Mu Chen smiled. He did not hold it against Su Qingyin for holding Nine Nether back. After all, if she had joined forces with Xia Yu to take him on, Mu Chen would not have been able to kill Xia Yu. Thus, he would not treat Su Qingyin as an enemy because of her small collaboration with Xia Yu.

When Su Qingyin heard it, she got ready to leave. She looked at the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop and said, "Since we have collaborated before, let me warn you. Do not be too greedy. This Spirit-Slaughtering Troop is not so easy to control." Having said that, she turned around and dashed out of the large hall. She turned into a stream of light and disappeared into thin air.

Mu Chen looked at Su Qingyin and did not stop her from leaving. After waiting for a while, he turned to look at the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop. Excitement was burning deep within his dark eyes.

If he could control the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop, he would be able to contend with the masters who were at the Earthly Sovereign-level, even if he was not yet at the Earthly Sovereign-level himself. To Mu Chen, it would be a great leap for him. When he could control the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop, he would become one of the masters in Tianluo Continent.

As Mu Chen thought of it, he took a deep breath to calm himself down. He moved forward, stepped into the Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array, and made his way toward the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop.

Su Qingyin had left with her treasure. Now, it would be his turn to receive the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop.

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 1166: Elder Zuo**

"So, he's just a semi-disabled Lower Earthly Sovereign." Mu Chen's whispering laughter, though faint, still spread in the silent and dilapidated hall.

The sarcastic smile on Garuda's face seemed to freeze. He turned to look at Mu Chen, and a sarcastic smile rose at the corners of his mouth. "Are you so frightened that you are spouting nonsense?" Garuda smiled and looked at Mu Chen with pity. Apparently, he treated Mu Chen's abnormal reaction as a sign of panic. After all, he could not have imagined that in less than half a day, Mu Chen had obtained a terrible trump card powerful enough to counter a Lower Earthly Sovereign.

Next to Garuda, the man dressed in a black and white robe looked up at Mu Chen. With his perception, he naturally saw through Mu Chen's strength as a Complete Grade Nine. However, this hardly allowed him to have the slightest hint of emotion in his eyes. After all, with his usual status, a Complete Grade Nine was like an ant in his view.

A Lower Earthly Sovereign who wanted to wipe out a Complete Grade Nine could do it effortlessly, even though at this time his strength was less than 50% of what it was in his heyday. The gap between a Complete Grade Nine and a Lower Earthly Sovereign was so huge that it led many to despair.

The man named Elder Zuo glanced at Mu Chen, then turned to Garuda and said slowly, "Garuda, go ahead. Since I have taken orders from the Palace Master, I will not let a fly in here."

When Garuda heard the remark, he nodded with a smile and said, "In that case, I will go first. Haha, I am going to take the opportunity to look for the Sacred Artifact left behind by the First Hall Master." When he finished speaking, he walked straight to the big door where Mu Chen was. After a few steps, he appeared beside Mu Chen.

He turned his head, smiling at Mu Chen as he said, "It is a pity. I wanted to have a real fight with you, but you fell into our death trap. Don't worry, when you die, Saint Demon Palace will destroy your Daluo Territory. Then, they'll all join you." Garuda smiled unsettlingly, revealing his white teeth. A chilling aura radiated from him.

However, in the face of such chilling murderous intent, Mu Chen also looked at him, smiled slightly, and said, "Maybe. I'll see you next time."

See you next time?

Garuda was stunned, and his sarcastic smile grew more intense. He shook his head pityingly. This fellow actually looks forward to the next chance. How naive.

It seemed that such a desperate situation had caused Mu Chen to lose his usual calm and spout cryptic nonsense. With this thought, Garuda's heart became more gleeful. He ignored Mu Chen and went straight past him, stepping out of the ruined hall to begin his search for the Sacred Artifact left behind by the First Hall Master.

Mu Chen did not stop him from leaving, as his main opponent at the moment was still Elder Zuo of the Saint Demon Palace. As for Garuda, they would meet again.

With Garuda's departure, the hall became silent once more. Elder Zuo slowly raised his head. His expression was deadpan as he looked at Mu Chen and said, "I am in charge of dealing out punishment in Saint Demon Palace. People who have died at my hands have tasted immense pain and suffering and begged for death. So if you kill yourself now, I will make it easier for you to die." His voice was hoarse, but the chilling intent was creepily unsettling.

It was apparent that Elder Zuo was not in a good mood. After all, anyone who entered this Ancient Celestial Palace to carry out his task after paying such a price would not be in a good mood. However, in the face of Elder Zuo's eerie tone, Mu Chen smiled instead and said, "It seems that my luck this time is not bad."

This was his true sentiment, because if Mu Chen had met this situation half a day ago, the chances of survival would be extremely low. Even if he had used up all his trump cards, he would have had no qualifications or power to challenge Elder Zuo. Fortunately, he had acquired the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop half a day ago. As a result, the outcome began to change.

However, when Elder Zuo heard Mu Chen's words, he nodded in agreement.

"You are lucky indeed, to be able to die easily at my hands," he said.

Clearly, he had thought that Mu Chen was relieved that he had given him an easy way to die. It was true that under normal circumstances, as a matter of common sense, even death was a relief to a Complete Grade Nine at the hands of a Lower Earthly Sovereign.

Upon hearing his words, Mu Chen was also shocked, and he couldn't help laughing. A moment later, the smile gradually dissipated as he said coldly, "You weakened old man, if you scam now, perhaps you can still live."

The look on Elder Zuo's face seemed to freeze, and a moment later, he came to his senses and looked at Mu Chen in disbelief. This boy who is as weak as an ant dares to speak to me in such a tone?

Elder Zuo's face twitched, his hands seemed to tremble, and a terrible spiritual energy fluctuation burst out of his body in a ferocious manner.

Boom!

The space in the great hall shattered, and dark runes emerged as if space itself could not bear the terrible spiritual energy scourge. In the midst of such terrible spiritual energy fluctuations, Mu Chen was like a faint flame in the wind. Just blowing at it a little would leave no bones behind.

Mu Chen's expression turned grave. Under that terrible pressure, the flesh of his whole body was experiencing a tingling feeling that horrified him. A Lower Earthly Sovereign's power was terrifying indeed, and compared to a Complete Grade Nine, the difference was like a firefly and a bright moon.

As the vast expanse of spiritual energy madly swept through, Elder Zuo glared ferociously at Mu Chen. "I will make you suffer terribly, and you will know by then, even death would be a great luxury!"

Clearly, Mu Chen had really enraged him. Originally, he thought that letting Mu Chen die himself had been considered a gift to him, but he had not expected the boy to court his own death.

"Is that so?" However, in the face of Elder Zuo's spiritual oppression, which was horrifying enough to make an ordinary Complete Grade Nine tremble, Mu Chen grinned. An ancient Commander's Seal appeared in his hands.

"Haha, I yearned for the Earthly Sovereign's power long ago, but I did not expect that today my wish would actually come true." He smiled at Elder Zuo, and a light bloomed out of the Commander's Seal as countless streams of light suddenly burst out.

Boom! Boom!

The streams of light swept out and landed. Suddenly, the main hall's stone floor shattered, and smoke and dust permeated the surroundings. Silent figures clad in heavy armor appeared in the hall. With the

appearance of these figures, a bloody fighting intent rose from their bodies, causing Elder Zuo's terrifying spiritual oppression to dissipate.

Before the stone door, even with Elder Zuo's calm composure, his face changed seeing this scene. Finally, for the first time, a dramatic change took place. Elder Zuo looked at the silhouettes in the main hall clad in heavy armor and could not help but exclaim in an appalled tone, "This is... an army?!"

It was indeed an army, and it was an extremely elite army. The terrifying fighting intent that emanated from them was absolutely capable of competing with a true Earthly Sovereign!

"You... How can you have such an army?" Elder Zuo exclaimed in disbelief. Such an army was extremely rare, even within Tianluo Continent. Even Saint Demon Palace does not possess such an army, so why does a mere Complete Grade Nine have one?

Mu Chen stood behind the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop. He felt the vast expanse of horrifying fighting intent as his palms clenched, and he trembled from sheer excitement. How many times had he longed for such power?

And now, he had finally obtained it!

"What? Is it very surprising?" Mu Chen looked back at Elder Zuo, who was flustered, with a hint of sarcasm in his smile.

Elder Zuo's face changed as a multitude of expressions flickered on it. A moment later, he sneered and said, "You met with a good opportunity and unexpectedly obtained such an elite army. No wonder you are so arrogant, but you fool, even if you have obtained it, did you think you could bring its full power into play?"

Even the most powerful army must have a strong enough war troop dispatcher. Only when the two are combined will the true power of fighting intent then come into play. In order to take control of this elite army, it would take a million-battle-rune war troop dispatcher to be able to do it. Such a level of war troop dispatcher was extremely rare. This young boy obviously could not be one of them.

"Oh, really?" However, upon hearing Elder Zuo's words, Mu Chen smiled gently and raised his palm. Looking at the smile on his face, Elder Zuo's eyes suddenly narrowed slightly, and a deep sense of uneasiness grew in his heart. In the next moment, his uneasiness was completely revealed.

He saw that when Mu Chen slowly raised his palm, the terrible army in the hall, which frightened even him, stomped with heavy halberds in their hands. A terrible crimson fighting intent condensed into thick blood clouds above them in a frenzy.

A chill ran down his spine and surged towards his head from the soles of his feet. Terror and fear finally emerged on his face. At this moment, he finally realized this unremarkable boy in front of him could truly control this terrifying army!

But... how could this be possible!?

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 1167: First Battle with an Earthly Sovereign**

Roar!

Inside the dilapidated hall, the two thousand strong Spirit-slaughtering Troop roared, only to see a bloody torrent of fighting intent sweeping out from their crown. The torrent then formed a massively thick cluster of blood clouds above them.

That horrendous fighting intent was far beyond any army that Mu Chen had ever commanded. Even a Lower Earthly Sovereign would not dare underestimate it.

The fighting intent surged, as the surrounding space collapsed continuously. Dark spatial cracks spread out, revealing how domineering and tough the fighting intent was.

As he stood before the stone gate, Elder Zuo of the Saint Demon Palace looked at the scene before him in shock. His high and mighty demeanor had vanished entirely.

He gazed in horror at the bloody clouds of fighting intent that enveloped the whole hall. He then turned his attention to Mu Chen, whose face was calm as he stood behind the Spirit-slaughtering Troop. Until now, he would never have believed that Mu Chen could command such an elite army.

"How is this possible?" There was a tremor in Elder Zuo's hoarse voice.

The present situation had changed too fast! Originally, he had thought that he could end Mu Chen easily, but in a blink of an eye, Mu Chen now held a terrifying power that frightened him!

"You seem to be disappointed that I am able to command this army." Mu Chen looked at Elder Zuo's face and smiled, his heart fluttering with excitement.

In the past, if Mu Chen had encountered a Lower Earthly Sovereign, the only option would have been to escape as fast as he could. Now, he was able to see fear in the eyes of this Lower Earthly Sovereign!

Mu Chen glanced at the ancient Commander's Seal, which he held tightly in his hand. Although he was only able to contend with a Lower Earthly Sovereign when he relied on the Spirit-slaughtering Troop, he was still confident that he would soon have the kind of strong force that emboldened him to act on his own accord.

"Are you still going to try to stop me here?" Mu Chen smiled at Elder Zuo and asked.

"Don't be arrogant, kid, there's nothing that I haven't seen before. If you want me to retreat on the mere basis of one army, that would be too naive of you." Elder Zuo's gaze was chilling.

He was indeed shocked by the cards that Mu Chen had shown, but he still a true Lower Earthly Sovereign. As such, he refused to retreat.

After hearing his words, Mu Chen smiled and said, "Then, I would have to ask you to test how much power this Spirit-slaughtering Troop really has."

Boom!

When Mu Chen finished speaking, he stepped out among the Spirit-slaughtering Troop, then sat down and closed his eyes. As he did this, his mind power gushed out and converged with the majestic blood clouds.

Roar! Roar!

As Mu Chen's mind power mingled with the Spirit-slaughtering Troop's fighting intent, roars that were filled with fighting intent echoed in his mind. He then felt a force of terror surrounding his mind power, which was at his disposal.

Rumble!

The thick blood clouds loomed, as tens and thousands of bloody waves surged forward. The space shattered and enveloped Elder Zuo immediately.

As the bloody waves rolled in, Elder Zuo's face grew extremely solemn. He could sense the horrifying power they contained.

"This brat!" Elder Zuo gnashed his teeth, enraged.

He then stretched out his palm. His delicate skin was as smooth as a baby's, and his fingers had a glossy shine to them, as if they'd been made of jade.

He stretched out his palm and it expanded in the wind. In a flash, it pressed down, crushing the space, then landed on the tumultuous blood waves.

Clash!

The two forces clashed together harshly, as massive stone pillars crumbled in the hall. Visible ripples spread, layer by layer, causing the space to distort and shatter.

The terrible spiritual power swept through the hall, and Elder Zuo's body suffered a shock. He took half a step back, his face gloomy.

It was obvious that, in the previous exchange, he had faintly shown signs of losing. If he had been in his heyday, he would have had no fear of this Spirit-slaughtering Troop.

But now, because of the great price he had paid for entering the Ancient Celestial Palace, his strength was less than half of what it usually was. As such, he knew that he would not be able to resist this horrendous aggression of fighting intent.

Boom! Boom!

After Mu Chen had felt the horrifying power of the fighting intent, he still felt that his desire had yet to be satisfied. That kind of power obviously made him envious.

As soon as he waved his sleeve, the heavy blood clouds surged and countless blood red fighting intent spears were condensed. There were at least a few hundred thousand battle runes on the spears, each spear having enough power to make a Complete Grade Nine feel intense fear.

"Go!" Mu Chen flicked his finger, sending countless fighting intent spears whistling out like a rainstorm of arrows. The spears then completely enshrouded Elder Zuo.

"Appearance of the Heaven and Earth!" Mu Chen shouted, as blood-red silhouettes pierced through the space.

Elder Zuo did not dare underestimate this attack. He stomped his feet and roared ferociously.

Meanwhile, the spiritual energy in the heavens quickly converged, then condensed into a huge mountain. The mountain peak was crystal clear and colorful, as it had been condensed by the purest spiritual energy between heaven and earth. Only an Earthly Sovereign could accomplish this.

Clang clang clang!

The spiritual energy mountain was like a barrier, blocking Elder Zuo, while also acting as a shield to stop the countless fighting intent spears that were charging towards it. However, when the fighting intent spears fell, the spiritual energy mountain burst into bright spots of spiritual light, then dissipated into the sky.

"You arrogant brat, did you think that I would fail to suppress you?" After Mu Chen's aggressive attacks, Elder Zuo's face was calm.

He snorted coldly, then turned his jade-like palm over. As his palm turned over, Mu Chen felt as if the whole world had shrunk.

In the darkness of heaven and earth, a boundless jade pillar fell from the sky, suppressing Mu Chen, who was under the guard of the Spirit-slaughtering Troop. Such an attack was extremely overbearing, and without the Spirit-slaughtering Troop's protection, Mu Chen would have had no way of escape. He would have been reduced to ashes!

"Well, if you were operating at your full strength, I'm afraid that it would be hard for me to defeat you today, but in your current state, how can you match me?" Mu Chen looked up at the boundless jade pillar that was descending upon him. He knew that it had been sent by Elder Zuo.

Mu Chen took a deep breath, then roared, "Spirit-slaughtering Troop, kill!"

Boom!

Two thousand Spirit-slaughtering Troop soldiers suddenly opened their eyes, then raised their heads and looked at the boundless jade pillar. The bloody fighting intent in their eyes surged, transforming into two thousand fighting intent ribbons that swept through the space.

Boom!

The blood-red fighting intent howled, and the boundless jade pillar burst into pieces. The darkness between heaven and earth dissipated rapidly, and Mu Chen found himself returning to the hall.

The dark scene of the past was like an illusion, and when he looked at Elder Zuo, he could see that one of his fingers was quivering slightly. Upon it, a faint red stain of blood could be seen.

One finger, which possessed such powerful means, shook Mu Chen to the core. Elder Zuo was indeed an Earthly Sovereign!

Envy surged in Mu Chen's eyes. In these short encounters, he had experienced the overwhelming power of an Earthly Sovereign, which was simply not comparable to a Complete Grade Nine.

However, it was about time...

Mu Chen licked his lips and smiled at Elder Zuo, then said, "Although I would like to experience more of an Earthly Sovereign's power, my time is precious, so I won't play with you anymore."

He bit his fingers, causing red blood to flow from his fingertips. He then drew patterns gently on the space in front of him, which formed an ancient blood rune.

"Spirit-slaughtering Battle Array!" he yelled.

The blood runes then fell into the thick red clouds of blood, while countless beams of bloody light swept out. These crimson beams of light gradually formed a huge blood-red battle array.

Upon seeing the blood-red battle array, Elder Zuo's expression twisted terribly. He could sense the aura of death from this battle array!

## **The Great Ruler**

### **Chapter 1168: Sovereign Celestial Appearance**

Whoosh!

Countless beams of bloody light surged out from above the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop like ribbons. Those bloody lights pierced through the space, emanating a terrifying fluctuation as they linked to one another.

Mu Chen's expression was solemn as the seals constantly changed. Majestic ribbons of bloody light constantly condensed as they gradually formed a huge and unparalleled array above the great hall.

That was a battle array!

It was a battle array unique to the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop called the Spirit-Slaughtering Battle Array! Mu Chen was no stranger to this battle array, for the eight Earthly Sovereigns had fallen in this battle array, showing how terrifying it was.

Although the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop was no longer at its peak, it was clear that as an opponent, Elder Zuo was in no better shape than the eight Earthly Sovereigns who had been exterminated. Therefore, when the blood-red aura filled the great hall as countless beams of bloody light surged, Elder Zuo's expression turned gloomy. His eyelids trembled slightly, and deep in his eyes, a thick haze of horror emerged.

The present situation had ended up far beyond his expectations. He had never thought that the rabbit he could easily kill would turn into a ferocious tiger that could devour him instead. The bloody battle array caused him to feel the aura of death. Today, if he was not careful, he would really fall there.

At the thought of this, Elder Zuo sensed that he had been driven to the brink of death by a brat who was a mere Complete Grade Nine. However, no matter how ridiculous he thought it was, he knew that if he did not deal with this carefully, he would really fall here under such ridiculous circumstances.

"You brat, you have gone overboard!" Elder Zuo barked loudly. At once, his foot stomped, and an earth-shattering force burst out of his body. The spiritual energy converged directly behind him, transforming into a spiritual energy silhouette that was massive enough to reach the heavens and touch the earth. The silhouette swallowed clouds and fog as it suppressed everything.



Mu Chen's expression changed as he looked at the massive silhouette. He could sense that the silhouette should be the Sovereign Celestial Body practiced by Elder Zuo.

When the Sovereign Celestial Body appeared, Elder Zuo suddenly roared and opened his mouth. An incredible scene followed as he swallowed the massive silhouette.

This Elder Zuo actually swallowed his Sovereign Celestial Body?!

Boom!

In the midst of Mu Chen's incredulous wonder, Elder Zuo's body expanded in the wind, and in a few short moments, it turned into a 1,000-foot-tall giant. His huge body was actually covered with spiritual energy light runes. Each rune was transformed and compressed by extremely strong spiritual energy.

Huff!

Elder Zuo stood between heaven and earth. With a puff, there was the birth of clouds, and within the clouds, there was a strong wind. Thunder and lightning roared and reverberated continuously. It was as if Elder Zuo controlled the world. He could create everything, and a sense of mystery emanated from him.

Is this the rumored Sovereign Celestial Appearance that only an Earthly Sovereign can cultivate? Mu Chen looked at Elder Zuo's gigantic body and could not help but take a deep breath.

It was said that after becoming an Earthly Sovereign, the Sovereign Celestial Body would gradually change, too. When the time came, the flesh body and the Celestial Body would merge, and the product of the fusion would no longer be the pure Celestial Body, but would be called the Celestial Appearance. The Sovereign Celestial Appearance would appear under command.

Elder Zuo pointed his finger at Mu Chen and roared violently, "Spiritual Energy Deprivation!"

Between heaven and earth, there seemed to be a mysterious wave fluctuating and spreading. Mu Chen could suddenly feel that the spiritual power between heaven and earth seemed to have some sense of resistance to him, which made him unable to absorb the slightest amount of spiritual energy from outside.

Is this the Celestial Command of Earthly Sovereigns? Mu Chen's face was grave. If he were only an ordinary Complete Grade Nine, he would have fallen into despair after Elder Zuo's Celestial Command. There was an insurmountable gap between an Earthly Sovereign and a Complete Grade Nine, indeed.

Fortunately, however, he had no intention of relying on his own spiritual energy in this battle. What he relied on was the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop's fighting intent, and it was obvious that it could not be stripped away by Elder Zuo's capability.

"Thunder!" Elder Zuo roared fiercely again as numerous thunder-like dragons roared in the world, appearing out of nowhere. They charged towards Mu Chen ferociously with a destructive force.

In the face of such a violent offensive attack, Mu Chen dared not have the slightest neglect. He immediately urged the formation of layers of fighting intent as protection, like a tortoise shell, protecting the Spirit-Slaughtering Battle Array, which had not yet been completely formed.

Boom boom boom!

The fierce bombardment continued as the layers of fighting intent blood clouds retreated under its impact. However, the blood clouds continued to surge, displaying an unusual tenacity.

"Wind! Fire! Mountains!" Elder Zuo also launched an increasingly violent attack, mobilizing the spiritual power of the whole world. It created a terrifying wind and fire attack as it raged with a destructive force, charging towards Mu Chen.

Facing such an offensive attack, the bloody red fighting intent was finally losing ground. However, when the fighting intent was defeated, there was not much panic in Mu Chen's eyes, for the Spirit-Slaughtering Battle Array had begun to take shape. With Elder Zuo's present state, even with the help of the Sovereign Celestial Appearance, it would fail to break through the protection of the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop's fighting intent.

Elder Zuo was obviously aware of this, and so his face became increasingly grave. His eyes were filled both with unwillingness to back down and fury. He did not think that he would fail to crush Mu Chen after summoning the Sovereign Celestial Appearance. The destructive attack between heaven and earth finally gradually weakened.

Mu Chen raised his head and looked at Elder Zuo nonchalantly, then with a wave of his sleeves, the layers of blood clouds outside retreated and dispersed. The ferocious blood-red battle array that had formed completely emerged.

"One should give as good as one receives. Elder Zuo, please receive the power of my battle array." Mu Chen smiled, but there was not much warmth in his eyes. He clenched his fist as unparalleled blood-red light erupted from the battle array. The blood-red light soared towards the sky, shrouding the world in a sheen of crimson. The light continued to spread, enveloping Elder Zuo within.

Once Elder Zuo entered the battle array's range, Mu Chen planned to launch the battle array thoroughly and let its power erupt at full force.

The light was rapidly magnified in Elder Zuo's eyes. His face twisted dramatically, and after inhaling deeply, his original huge body shrank in an instant and became normal. He then stomped on the soles of his feet, and the space around him twisted. His body became a flash of light soaring towards the sky.

Boom!

Above the hall, the space shattered, and Mu Chen stared at the stream of light that disappeared from view at a startling speed.

Elder Zuo has escaped?!

Mu Chen stared dumbfounded at the scene before him. That was an Earthly Sovereign? He just escaped like that?

Mu Chen was shocked for a long time before he came back to his senses. A depressed and gloomy feeling surged within. He had put his best efforts forth to show his trump card of the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop. He was prepared to show their prowess, but Elder Zuo had just chosen to swiftly escape. Mu Chen felt as if he had gathered up his force but ended up punching cotton instead. How unsatisfying.

"How decisive." Mu Chen sighed and could only give such an assessment. These Earthly Sovereigns were quick to make up their minds, and when they saw the situation go wrong, they chose the most rational way out.

After all, Elder Zuo was in very poor condition. If he had really wanted to fight, maybe Mu Chen would have paid a price, but Elder Zuo would have ended up paying the heaviest price, possibly even falling there. So, after weighing his options, between his task and his life, he chose the latter without hesitation.

Even if Lu Heng punished him, it would not kill him. However, Mu Chen had dared to really kill him.

"What a pity though." Mu Chen shook his head regretfully. Originally, when the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop launched the Spirit-Slaughtering Battle Array, he wanted to see for himself how strong it could be.

However, the emotion just flashed by for a moment, and then he was relieved. After all, to clash with an Earthly Sovereign was no easy matter. Elder Zuo was able to walk away rationally, and as far as Mu Chen was concerned, this was also a very good result.

If the fact that Mu Chen had intimidated a Lower Earthly Sovereign in one battle spread back to Tianluo Continent, Mu Chen's reputation would grow increasingly renowned.

Mu Chen sighed, then with a wave of his sleeves, the blood-red fighting intent dissipated. He raised the Commander's Seal to retrieve the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop and moved, appearing before the stone door. Behind this stone door should be the place where Mandela's original form was.

Mu Chen pondered before his body tensed. Without hesitation, he reached out his hands to push the stone door, which had been closed for tens of thousands of years, open bit by bit.

As the stone door opened, an ancient aura surged towards him. The light spread out of the open stone door, and Mu Chen immediately glanced into it. At the end of the dilapidated square, he caught sight of the primordial ink-dark flower!

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 1169: The Method of Breaking an Array**

The thick stone door slowly opened, while the light shone through the seam. Behind the stone door, there was a ruined hall that had apparently experienced a terrible war.

Inside the hall, a vast square with huge pillars of stone stood tall. The earth was covered with deep cracks, and the ground had clearly been reinforced by a spiritual array. Even so, it was now completely destroyed.

In the hall, some bodies were seen flickering with a bright white light. Several of these bodies were skeletons, and even after thousands of years, they still exuded an oppressive aura. Clearly, they had been powerful existences when they were alive.

The whole square was in a tragic state. However, Mu Chen did not care about the tragedy in this dilapidated square, as his eyes were focused at the end of the square. There, on the lotus platform that was carved out of blood jade, a dazzling flower that was as dark as ink sat quietly.

A circle of light bloomed faintly around the flower. The light was extremely dark, as if it could swallow all of the light rays. Within the dark light, many ancient runes emerged, revealing the flower's extraordinary and divine nature.

Mu Chen stared closely at the devilishly charming flower, as he knew that this flower was Mandela's original form, the true Ancient Mandala Flower!

"At last, I found it." Mu Chen gazed at the flower, then lifted his head and exhaled a long breath.

As long as he took Mandela's original form away, he would no longer have to fear Emperor Xia. However, even though Mandela's original form was in front of him, he did not approach it recklessly.

Mu Chen surveyed the surroundings, his gaze stopping beneath the eight stone pillars. Under these pillars were eight corpses that looked like ordinary skeletons. However, Mu Chen knew that these eight skeletons were at the center of that spiritual array, which meant that they were the source of its strength!

"This spiritual array is no less powerful than the complete Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array," Mu Chen murmured.

The spiritual array seemed to have no fluctuations, but once someone broke into it, it was bound to launch a destructive offensive attack. In that case, even an Upper Earthly Sovereign would be in danger!

"No wonder Mandela chose this place to hide! Otherwise, it would have been impossible to stop Lu Heng!" Mu Chen sighed helplessly.

This spiritual array had successfully blocked Lu Heng back then, but it was also blocking him now! It could thus be determined that Mandela and Lu Heng were only Upper Earthly Sovereigns at that time.

Gazing at the spiritual array, which currently enshrouded the square, Mu Chen remained silent for a moment. He then sat down at the edge of the spiritual array, closed his eyes, and began to explore it with his senses.

No matter how strong the spiritual array was, he must crack it. Otherwise, he would have to give up Mandela's original form, which was right in front of him!

As his eyes closed, his Spiritual Energy Sensor spread out, and gradually, he could detect traces of the vast array clearly. The embryonic form of a spiritual array appeared in his mind.

This spiritual array was so majestic and mysterious, the domineering aura it radiated caused Mu Chen to tingle in fear. It was apparent that this spiritual array was a Middle Grade Ancestral Master Spiritual Array.

Back in the Second Hall, Mu Chen was able to break through the Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array because he had obtained the incomplete Diagram Array of the Nine Dragon Devouring Fairy Array. He had been studying hard for a long time, and it was only then that he was able to use some of its flaws to break through the spiritual array and control it.

However, this was an Ancestral Master Spiritual Array that Mu Chen was unfamiliar with. Thus, it was unlikely that he could crack it in such a short time.

Instead of being impatient, however, Mu Chen continued to explore every nuance of the spiritual array. If he wanted to break it, he had to know everything about it! That was the only way that he could find its weakest point.

As Mu Chen sat down and closed his eyes, the dilapidated hall fell once again fell silent. Mu Chen's meditation took an entire day...

During this day, his body was as still as a rock and surrounded by an aura of spiritual light. There was a constant convergence of spiritual light before him, which seemed to be building a spiritual array model.

However, the model was obviously incomplete at first, so it was constantly crumbling, but Mu Chen just kept rebuilding it. This spiritual array model was clearly modeled after the powerful spiritual array that was now enshrouding the square.

Mu Chen then tried to look for flaws. While he worked, time passed quietly in the silent hall, and another half a day passed.

Buzz.

All of a sudden, the spiritual light in front of Mu Chen bloomed, and as it surged, an extremely complex spiritual array model completely condensed. Although it was only a model, astonishing fluctuations emanated from it.

Mu Chen's eyes slowly opened, revealing traces of exhaustion. He had just spent nearly two days in analysis, which had left him fatigued.

However, Mu Chen knew that this was not the time for rest, so he immediately concealed his exhaustion. He cast his eyes on the spiritual array model in front of him, seeing that a strange light had just emerged within it.

"It's a Middle Grade Ancestral Master Spiritual Array indeed! How complex!" Mu Chen sighed.

He had only worked out a model according to the spiritual array in front of him, and that had already exhausted him. If he had to lay out such a spiritual array, even if he used all of his remaining energy, it still would not succeed.

This was because this spiritual array would require at least a million spiritual seals. moreover, even a single misalignment of the various connections could lead to the entire collapse of the spiritual array!

However, Mu Chen's time of analysis was not entirely in vain. Mu Chen's eyes turned to the huge spiritual array above the square. From his previous analysis, he knew that, besides breaking it apart with brute force, he could only break its roots.

Mu Chen's gaze turned towards the skeletons that were sitting cross-legged under the eight stone pillars. The power of the spiritual array came from them, and they formed a very balanced link between each other, which made the spiritual array even more powerful.

Due to this balance, no matter which direction Mu Chen forcefully invaded, the eight corpses would easily counterattack him. If this balance could be broken, then the unattended spiritual array would be in chaos, which he could then use to his advantage!

It may sound easy, but this would be extremely difficult to do. After all, as long as Mu Chen showed any slight sign of attack, it would trigger the spiritual array's fierce counterattack, and that level of counterattack was something that he could not bear, even with the Spirit-slaughtering Troop!

Mu Chen's brows knit together, his gaze flickering continuously. He thought over his plan, obviously considering which method to use in his attempt to destroy the balance.

I can't strike at the spiritual array straightaway, as that would trigger a counterattack.

The balance of the spiritual array comes from the control of the center, which for the moment, are the eight skeletons and the pillars behind them. The skeletons are the source of the spiritual power and the pillars are the passage that connects the spiritual array.

So, if I can separate the skeletons from the pillars, the balance will be broken!

Mu Chen raised his head, light shining in his eyes. He stared closely at the eight pillars and skeletons. After a while, a smile finally appeared on his young face.

He then stamped on the ground gently, feeling the hardness of it under his feet. "It was so simple," he said with a smile.

As he smiled, Mu Chen stood back. With a wave of his sleeve, the Commander's Seal appeared.

As the blood light glowed, the Spirit-slaughtering Troop flashed out again. Mu Chen's mind power then melted into the Spirit-slaughtering Troop's fighting intent, activating them.

Roar!

The Spirit-slaughtering Troop broke out in a low roar, and the majestic blood clouds howled and surged, transforming into a crimson red python. Upon the python, many countless battle runes flickered with light.

The python roared and swooped down, yet it did not strike at the spiritual array. Instead, it assaulted the north-west corner of the square.

Boom!

The python thundered down, and suddenly, the whole hall was shaken. Although the ground had been tempered by spiritual power and was as hard as iron, the fierce bombardment of the Spirit-slaughtering Troop had still caused a huge pit to emerge.

The place was filled with smoke and dust, but Mu Chen did not take his gaze away from the stone pillar in the square. Mu Chen's plan was simple, since he could not attack the spiritual array directly, he had launched an attack from the outside, transmitting the power into the spiritual array.

However, this transfer of power was bound to be extremely weak because of the isolation of the spiritual array. However, if it worked, the spiritual array's balance would be successfully pierced.

Mu Chen stared intently at the skeletons beneath the pillar, calculating the time of the transfer of power. Eight seconds passed.

Mu Chen stared closely at the skeletons, his pupils contracting suddenly.

This was because he saw that the skeletons, which had been sitting under the pillars for thousands of years, had shaken imperceptibly, their positions moving just a little bit forward.

Although the movement was negligible, Mu Chen grinned. He knew that he had found a way to break through the spiritual array!

### The Great Ruler

#### **Chapter 1170: One Blow**

Mu Chen broke out into a smile when he heard the roaring sound continue to linger in the rundown square. With the help of the power ripples, he had achieved amazing results as he had anticipated.

The corpse sitting cross-legged under the stone pillar had started to move slightly under the power of the ripples. Although the movement was small, it had given Mu Chen hope that he could destroy the spiritual array.

Mu Chen knew very well that what he had done was just a small trick. If the corpses still had their mind power, his method would not work on them. The power ripples would not have any effect on the corpses if they made an effort to fight against them.

However, it was apparent that Mu Chen was in luck. After thousands of years had passed, the corpses' power had dwindled. They no longer possessed their mind power, and what was left behind was only enough for them to support the spiritual array. This had helped Mu Chen find the loophole.

Mu Chen was able to achieve this because of the time he had spent studying and practicing setting up the spiritual arrays. After all, one would not be able to do it simply by blasting the spiritual arrays without proper procedures.

Mu Chen had to take note of the areas where the power ripples were unable to penetrate into the spiritual arrays and avoid them, as well as identify the exact spots to blast. If he could put those together, he would be able to transfer the remaining power ripples to the corpses.

Hoof.

Mu Chen took a deep breath, and without any hesitation, he triggered his thoughts to activate the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop. The fighting spirit swirled out and turned into fierce attacks. They blasted hard on the previous spot.

Boom! Boom!

The entire square started to quake vigorously. Violent shockwaves raged out one after another continuously and tore the ground apart, creating large cracks everywhere. However, although the cracks continued to spread out, they were unable to penetrate into the region of the spiritual array. They could only surround it. They moved around outside the spiritual array like a ferocious dragon.

As the shockwaves continued to blast one after another, Mu Chen saw a corpse shaking continuously under a stone pillar to the northwest. It then started to move slowly away from the stone pillar.

The blast continued for one whole hour.

After that, Mu Chen started to breathe heavily. It was a burden to him to activate the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop in such a manner. At this moment, the outer range of the square was already filled with holes and was a mess. Mu Chen fixed his gaze on the corpse that was moving and estimated the distance. He then squinted.

"Just a bit more, and the corpse will not be connected to the stone pillar," Mu Chen muttered to himself as his body started to tense up. He triggered his thoughts, and the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop let out a cry as a strong fighting spirit swirled out. The fighting spirit was like a huge dragon, and it blasted hard on the ground.

Dong!

The ground quaked, and the corpse shook again and moved forward a little.

Done!

Mu Chen was elated. He looked up and saw that the spiritual array had suddenly started to shake. The even-keeled powerful spiritual energy started to become chaotic, and the flawless spiritual array started to waver. The eighth stone pillar instantly broke down, and cracks started to spread out. The stone pillar showed signs of falling apart after it had lost the corpse's protection and support.

The spiritual array had depended on the eight stone pillars to act as a device to transmit its power. Now that the eighth stone pillar had lost its support, there was a defect in the flawless spiritual array. Savage spiritual light swirled out continuously from the spiritual array and flashed in Mu Chen's eyes as he looked at it. He had sensed that the spiritual array that had put him at his wit's end was now vulnerable.

Mu Chen waved his sleeve and stowed the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop in his Commander's Seal. He walked to the border of the spiritual array, and after chanting for a while, he flicked his fingers. Red armor appeared on his body and covered him up. This was the Scarlet Dragon Battle Armor that Mu Chen had obtained from Xia Hong. It had good defensive power and would protect Mu Chen when he went into the spiritual array.

After he was done with all the necessary preparations, Mu Chen took a deep breath. Without any hesitation, he stepped into the range of the spiritual array.

Hoof! Hoof!

The moment Mu Chen stepped into the spiritual array, a horrifying spiritual energy windstorm swirled out. The oppression was so strong that it weighed him down, and he felt as though a mountain was over him. Mu Chen moved slowly, taking one step at a time.

He moved so slowly that he seemed to be under great pressure with every step that he took. Red rays of light burst out from the Scarlet Dragon Battle Armor that he had put on, but they seemed to have been suppressed. They were trapped within and could not be diffused. There were faint creaking sounds coming from the armor as well.

As the spiritual array was in chaos, Mu Chen was safe from the attacks of the eight corpses. However, the horrifying spiritual energy in the spiritual array made it difficult for him to move on. He had to keep changing his position to find the spots where the spiritual energy was less forceful. If he did not do so



and made a wrong move, he would get into the powerful spots of the Spiritual Energy Windstorm and get himself badly hurt.

Although it was not a huge spiritual array, Mu Chen spent almost two hours moving to the last section of the spiritual array. By the time he reached it, he was sweating all over. When he was at the last section, he was coming close to the beautiful mandala flower. However, Mu Chen did not let down his guard. Instead, he became more tensed up. He looked at the last stone pillar of the spiritual array and saw a corpse sitting cross-legged under the pillar. If he could get through the range of this stone pillar, he would be out of this spiritual array.

However, Mu Chen furrowed his brows when he saw the corpse. It had intercepted the only route to the mandala flower. Savage spiritual energy raged on the two sides, and if Mu Chen was swirled into it, he would be killed. Under such conditions, Mu Chen could not summon the Spirit-Slaughtering Troop. The spiritual energy was too forceful, and he would trigger the spiritual array. If that happened, the area would be under attack. His Spirit-Slaughtering Troop would gradually be worn out and destroyed, and he would lose the troop. He had no choice but to barge in based on his own strength!

Mu Chen pursed his lips and started to look serious. Although the spiritual array was powerful, the corpses had been dead for thousands of years. He believed that he would not be stopped by a corpse that was unable to make drastic movements.

As he thought of this, Mu Chen immediately stomped his feet. He shot out at lightning speed toward the corpse. Mu Chen was quick, and in an instant, he was standing in front of the corpse. He did not linger around but quickly went past it. The corpse had had its eyes shut but opened them at that instant. Spiritual light burst out from its eyes. It stretched forth its shriveled hand and gently hit Mu Chen on his right side.

Boom!

The space cracked when the corpse hit Mu Chen. A horrifying spiritual energy burst out. When Mu Chen noticed the astounding spiritual energy, his face turned pale. Without further delay, he activated his Dragon-Phoenix Body, and the spirits of the real dragon and real phoenix lingered outside his body. Their golden lights turned his body a golden color.

Snap!

The shriveled palm hit the Scarlet Dragon Battle Armor on Mu Chen's body, and Mu Chen felt as though there was a volcano eruption on his back. His body shot out straight to the front toward the end of the square, and he was out of the realm of the spiritual array.

When Mu Chen landed on the steps, his body froze. A shriveled palm print could be clearly seen on the back of the Scarlet Dragon Battle Armor, and blood rays quickly formed on it. Soon after, the armor exploded!

Boom!

When the blood rays whooshed out, wailing sounds seemed to be heard coming from the Scarlet Dragon Battle Armor. It then broke into pieces and flew all over the place! A powerful Quasi-Divine Artifact had been utterly destroyed.

Pfft. Pfft.

Mu Chen could not hold it any longer, and he spewed out a mouthful of fresh blood when the Battle Armor exploded. His body rapidly dimmed down. The spirits of the real dragon and real phoenix lingering on his body also dimmed down tremendously at this moment. They disappeared a little at a time before ultimately dying down.

Mu Chen's face turned pale. He was still fluttering with fear when he turned to look at the corpse that was sitting cross-legged under the stone pillar. It was still once again, but the powerful blow that it had thrown still lingered in Mu Chen's mind. If he had not been cautious, putting on the Scarlet Dragon Battle Armor and activating the defense on his body to the optimum, he would have been killed by the blow.

This is so frightening. When these eight corpses were still alive, they must have been powerful people who had reached the Earthly Sovereign-level, Mu Chen exclaimed. He was, once again, amazed by the power of the Ancient Celestial Palace. Currently in the Tianluo Continent, a Lower Earthly Sovereign could set up his power and become an overlord. However, in the Ancient Celestial Palace, a Lower Earthly Sovereign was simply a high level Sovereign.

Although the Ancient Celestial Palace was powerful, it had been wiped out when the Extraterritorial Race invaded it. One could tell that the Extraterritorial Race was of great might. The Extraterritorial Race was the arch-enemy of all the living creatures of the Great Thousand World!

Mu Chen pursed his lips and had a solemn look on his face. After a while, he pushed away the thoughts and calmed himself down. He then lifted up his head and saw that at the end of the stone steps where the blood-jade lotus platform stood, the dark, ancient, captivating flower sat quietly on it, exuding a dark light.

When Mu Chen looked at it, his tensed body began to loosen up. He took a deep breath and heaved a sigh of relief as though a burden was being lifted off of him.

"I have finally found you."