

## Great Ruler 221

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#### Chapter 221: The Luo God Clan

The curtains closed on the fierce battle that took place at the Battle Spirit Stage, leaving many surprised expressions in the crowd. The spectators studied the tattered remains of the battle stage and couldn't help clicking their tongues. They understood that, from this day onwards, the freshman known as Mu Chen would be renowned throughout the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Even though he only had a Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase cultivation, he'd endured two moves from Li Xuantong. Then he'd swapped to offense for the last move, and even then he'd been able to wound Li Xuantong.

Such an accomplishment would make even the seniors exclaim in admiration. A freshman was actually able to do all that! Regardless of whether it was his courage or his methods, they felt admiration towards Mu Chen's qualities.

This didn't mean that Mu Chen was strong enough to take down Li Xuantong, but everyone knew that if he was given another year to train, it might not be impossible.

Within a year, his name would probably appear in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's top 3 Heavenly Ranking.

The battle was finally over. However, everyone understood that the ripples caused by this battle would influence the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for a long time. Mu Chen's fame in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy skyrocketed.

He was well-known before, but this pushed his name to much greater heights. Even though Mu Chen had given an outstanding performance at the Freshmen's Competition and attracted the attention of a few seniors, he still couldn't have compared to Li Xuantong. Back then, there was no way he could've achieved as much fame as he had this time around.

After this battle, Mu Chen's name soared within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

For the few days after the battle, Mu Chen cultivated in a small building. Even though he'd been injured in the battle, it was nothing serious; they were far lighter than the injuries he'd sustained while fighting Liu Jingshan, so he managed to recover in only half a day. However, he knows that this battle had caused huge ripples. He was also too lazy to go out and deal with the people who, undoubtedly, noticed him now.

Mu Chen quietly sat in his room. The Spiritual Energy surged around him. His breathing was as steady as a mountain and had vigour to it. Even though it'd been a desperate battle with Li Xuantong, he'd reaped quite a few benefits from it.

He'd gotten the chance to test the strength of a Heavenly Transform Stage. If he ever faced someone of that cultivation again, he'd know what to expect from his experience. Even though he'd successfully confronted Li Xuantong this time, it also served as a lesson as to how powerful Li Xuantong was.

If it hadn't been for the pact of three moves, Mu Chen would've been forced to borrow the power of the Nine Netherbird to defeat Li Xuantong. However, that wasn't the kind of victory that Mu Chen wanted. Even though Li Xuantong had stood between himself and Luo Li, Mu Chen honestly didn't harbor any ill will towards him. Even though Li Xuantong was his opponent, he was someone worth regarding. If it wasn't a life or death battle, then Mu Chen didn't want to borrow someone else's power to obtain a victory over him. That was his pride, as well as his way of showing respect towards the opponents he acknowledged.

Of course, if his opponent had been someone like Liu Qingshan, then Mu Chen wouldn't have thought twice about whether to play fair or foul.

The reason why Mu Chen treated Li Xuantong as a true competitor was because he wanted to compete against Li Xuantong in a fair fight. Without any restrictions or aids. He wanted a true victory over Li Xuantong.

However, there was quite a distance between them right now. That's why Mu Chen wasn't slacking off after his so-called victory; instead, he was working even harder on his cultivation, so that he might be able to truly overtake Li Xuantong.

The next time they fought, Mu Chen wanted to tell Li Xuantong that he no longer needed this "pact of three moves".

Mu Chen smiled as he thought about that. He glanced to the area right outside the room. Luo Li had gone out earlier. And Mu Chen knew exactly why she'd gone out. He helplessly shook his head and prayed for the unlucky guy. Then, he closed his eyes again.

Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, a certain towering mountain peak

On that mountaintop was Li Xuantong, helplessly face-to-face with a girl dressed in black and an icy-cold expression, who was wielding a dark longsword.

"Was that fight fun?" Luo Li's glass-like pupils coldly glared at Li Xuantong. Her clear voice flowed like a mountain stream, yet it carried a chill.

"If you didn't have enough fun, I'd be glad to play with you."

Li Xuantong scratched his nose and bitterly laughed at Luo Li's words. Sharp rays of light swords tore through the air in a storm.

Li Xuantong tapped his fingers and rays of Spiritual Energy shot out to meet the light swords.

Shhhiiiiinnngggg!

The Spiritual Energy rays were destroyed by the light swords upon contact and put Li Xuantong on edge. Luo Li's Luoshen Art had been trained to a point past perfection. Indeed, she was worthy of her reputation as the rare genius of the Luo God Clan that only appeared once in a hundred years.

Li Xuantong heaved a helpless sigh and backed off, dodging the sword rays. He knew that Luo Li wouldn't listen to anyone when she was angry, so the only thing he could do was let her vent.

The light swords and Spiritual Energy whistled on that mountaintop, causing utter chaos. Anyone who saw the commotion would be astonished. They would know that this mountaintop was part of Li Xuanton's territory. Who would dare scale that mountain to cause trouble for Li Xuanton?

Even though the spectators were surprised, they didn't dare to ascend the mountain to check. They only watched as the sharp rays of sword light rained down like a storm upon that peak.

The torrent carried on for several minutes before settling down. Then, all was peaceful.

However, the scene wasn't as elegant and serene as it had been before; rather, it was in complete disorder. Deep ravines spiderwebbed the ground, clean cuts as if they'd been carved by a razor-sharp weapon.

Li Xuanton stood on a stone platform, his previous confidence and ease were nowhere to be seen. Even his clothes had a few tears to them. His hair draped down<sup>[1. In ancient China, it was customary for men to have long hair in a ponytail.]</sup>, giving him a very sorry appearance. However, it wasn't all because he was allowing Luo Li to vent her anger. Luo Li's strength had truly surpassed his expectations.

He inspected his tattered clothes and the girl with the longsword. Then he cautiously asked, "Are you done venting?"

Luo Li combed and twisted her long hair with her jade-like hands. Her exquisitely charming face was expressionless as she spoke. "Li Xuanton, I hope this will be the last time. I still consider you a friend, but if you take it too far, I may turn hostile."

Li Xuanton bitterly smiled as he seriously replied, "If he couldn't even handle the likes of myself, how could he handle matters in the future? You can't be the one to handle all of it, right?"

Luo Li went silent and didn't respond.

Li Xuanton lightly sighed. "How much longer can your grandfather endure? Two years? Maybe three?"

Luo Li trembled. Her small hands clutched the sword handle so hard that even her fingertips were turning white. Her petite figure suddenly seemed especially frail and pitiful.

"You're the only hope the Luo God Clan has. For how much longer can you remain by his side? You're the Empress of the Luo God Clan and the one with the purest bloodline within the royal family. You have many followers who are loyal to the Luo God Clan's Royal Family, and they have seen you as the Emperor's successor. With your personality, I know you won't be able to abandon everything. Therefore, when the time comes, you'll definitely go back. And at that time, you'll have to leave him. There's no happy ending for the two of you." Li Xuanton said slowly.

"I'll wait for him," Luo Li replied in a soft voice.

"Wait for him to grow? Let's not even mention whether he can actually reach that stage. Even if it were possible, do you have the time to wait? The other three God Clans<sup>[1. Luo God Clan. The 'Shen' also means God.]</sup> are also eyeing yours. The Luo God Clan has fallen, the lion has aged. Right now, you are the only intimidating force." Li Xuanton sighed. Reality was always so cruel.

Luo Li looked up towards Li Xuanton. Her voice was soft and slow as she articulated each word with an unquestionable resoluteness. "I believe in him."

Li Xuantong speechlessly looked at her exquisite beauty.

Luo Li also spoke no more. Her jade hands waved as she skimmed away from the stone stage, turned into a streak of light, and rapidly disappeared.

For the next few days, if things went as Mu Chen expected, the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would be talking about that pact of three move that he'd had with Li Xuantong. Even the entire freshmen's area was talking about it in excitement. There was nothing Mu Chen could do but hole up in the building and seclude himself in cultivation.

Luo Li looked after him for a few days. Only after she was certain he was fine did she head for the Convergence Array to cultivate. Mu Chen could sense that recently, her need to cultivate had become a little more pressing.

Mu Chen could only bitterly smile inwardly at that. Luo Li's dedication to cultivation made his heart ache for her, but there was nothing he could do.

He had no idea about the details of her life, that cultivating was everything. That she had to, because of her responsibility. That's why her world had always been monotone and dull. A character created, but nothing in her heart. A dull character.

It was later, after they'd met, that something had appeared in that girl's heart that allowed her to smile, despite the exhaustion from cultivating.

To her, time was usually the most precious commodity. But she'd still come all the way to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, just for him.

It was another night. Mu Chen was seated in his room, cultivating, when he suddenly opened his eyes. His figure moved and he appeared on top of the building, where he saw Li Xuantong, standing, with his hands behind him.

A crease appeared in Mu Chen's brow when he saw Li Xuantong. "What did you say to Luo Li? Why's she cultivating so hard these past few days?"

Li Xuantong turned around, glanced at Mu Chen, and lightly said, "Rather than saying 'she's cultivating so hard', why not say 'she's trying to lighten your burdens'?"

"What do you mean?" Mu Chen's brows were tightly locked together.

Li Xuantong sat down, looked at the round moon, and lightly sighed, "Have you heard of the Luo God Clan?"

Mu Chen listened with full attention.

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#### **Chapter 222: Eastern Heavens Realm**

"Luo God Clan!"

Mu Chen's eyes concentrated on Li Xuantong. Back in the Spiritual Value Hall, he'd heard that elder mention the Luo God Clan. However, he didn't have much more information on the matter. The Great

Thousand World was simply too vast. Forget about knowing all of the Northern Spiritual Realm, even the realm where they were currently located, the Northern Heavens Continent, where the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was, was only one of the many continents within the Great Thousand World.

There were too many things in this world that Mu Chen was unaware of, nor did he have the necessary connections to learn about them.

“In this Great Thousand World, there are many powerful races with long inheritances. For instance, there’s the Ice Spirit Clan and Fire Spirit Clan. They’re two races that possess great fame in the Great Thousand World.” Li Xuantong lightly carried on. “The Luo God Clan is also one of them. At its height, the Luo God Clan was stronger than any other clan. Even the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, with its deep background, couldn’t claim to be stronger at the Luo God Clan at its pinnacle.”

Mu Chen’s expression was grave. He didn’t have a clear-cut idea of how powerful the Ice Spirit Clan and the Fire Spirit Clan were, but he knew that the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was an extremely terrifying body. He knew that he’d only been in contact with the tip of the iceberg of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. And the Luo God Clan that Luo Li was from actually possessed such terrifying strength?

“But, of course, I also said that was back during the Luo God Clan’s golden era.”

Li Xuantong glanced at Mu Chen and continued, “The Luo God Clan lives in the Fast East Lands of the Great Thousand World, in the Eastern Heavens Realm. The Eastern Heavens Realm has as many continents and forces as there are stars. Of these forces, the Four Great God Clans rule over the Eastern Heavens Realm. Countless other forces have attached themselves to these clans in order to survive. They are regarded as kings.”

“Four Great God Clans?”

“Yes. The Luo God Clan is one of them.” Li Xuantong nodded his head and continued, “The Four Great God Clans have dwelled in the Eastern Heavens Realm for thousands of years, constantly warring with one another, accumulating mountains upon mountains of blood debts that are impossible to wash off. One could say that there’s an irreconcilable feud between them.”

“The Luo God Clan, from previous eras, stood at the top of the Four Great God Clans. They suppressed the other three God Clans who dared not to come within contact of their sharp blades. Pity, they allowed their luck to flourish too much back then and that led to their current withering state. It’s to the point where they must rely on one girl to save them.” Li Xuantong ridiculed as he shook his head.

Mu Chen’s brows lightly wrinkled together. *Is Luo Li the girl that he’s talking about?*

“The Luo God Clan’s geniuses have been withering these past few hundred years. Most of the core members of the Luoshen Royal Clan are like maggots gnawing on the declining giant. Most of Luo Li’s relatives were decayed by their reputations, submerged in fantasies of past glories with no idea that their Luo God Clan is already full of holes.” Li Xuantong mocked.

“A few decades ago, Luo Li’s father was the most outstanding amongst the Luo God Clan. If he had been able to take over the Luo God Clan, then he could’ve changed their situation. It’s a pity that he suffered heavy injuries and fell during a battle among the Four Great God Clans.”

“His fall was a heavy blow to the Luo God Clan. Luo Li’s grandfather had no choice but to come out to, once again, support the entirety of the enormous clan. At that time, perhaps even he was also in despair. Amongst all the people of the Luo God Clan, there wasn’t anyone who could inherit that great responsibility. Fortunately, as Luo Li grew older, she revealed a talent that far surpassed her father’s.”

“From that point on, even though she was still just a child, it was decided that she’d be the next Empress. She was told that when the time came, she’d receive an inheritance that’d been passed down for thousands of years: that enormous clan with the hopes of billions of people. She will become their Empress and protect them from the cruel Eastern Heavens Realm in order to allow the Luo God Clan to survive.”

Li Xuanton narrowed his eyes as he thought about the little girl who should’ve lived a joyful and carefree childhood without worries, but was, instead, closely supervised by the Luo God Clan. Swinging her longsword under the waterfall, over and over. Huge waves swept over that petite body, wounding her with each impact.

In the end, she’d cried as she held onto her longsword, without consolation but, instead, the strict scoldings of her grandfather. Her father fell when she was very young, leaving a weak-bodied mother to accompany her. Yet, despite her tender age, she was very sensible. Letting her mother see her cry would only cause heartache to her weak-bodied mother; therefore, she endured alone.

The first time Li Xuanton saw Luo Li, she was hiding behind a stone, clinging to her longsword, and crying. But once she finished crying, she dragged her small body and her longsword to embrace the huge waves yet again.

Mu Chen stood on the roof, his heart tightening with indescribable heartache.

“Luo Li won’t have much time by your side...” Li Xuanton said softly.

“Why?!” Mu Chen said in alarm.

“Because Luo Tianshen won’t be able to hold on much longer. His lifespan will come to an end in at most, five years. And before that happens, he will definitely take Luo Li back to accept her inheritance. Furthermore, Luo Li must step into the Sovereign Stage; otherwise, the Luo God Clan will be attacked by the other three Great God Clans. Thanks to that blood feud, the Luoshen Royal Clan will be thrown into utter chaos. Anyone loyal to the Luo God Clan will be slaughtered in a massive bloodbath. These matters are all too common in the Eastern Heavens Realm.” Li Xuanton said lightly.

“Sovereign?” Mu Chen narrowed his pupils. After the Heavenly Completion Stage was the Sovereign Stage. The Sovereign Stage was further split into 9 Grades, from Grade-1 to Grade-9. The stage was further differentiated into Heavenly and Earthly — the so-called Heavenly Sovereign and Earthly Sovereign.

Generally speaking, those who managed to step into the Sovereign Stage were considered true experts inside the Great Thousand World and possessed the strength to become the lord of a continent. Grade-9 Sovereigns were considered the pinnacle of the Sovereign Stage. Earthly and Heavenly Sovereigns were even more fearsome. In the Great Thousand World, anyone who possessed such cultivation would also have renown fame and be hailed as a hero of the present.

And Luo Li had to reach the Sovereign Stage within five years, at the very latest?!

“For powerful clans like theirs, the Sovereign Stage is the minimum requirement for becoming clan leader. Luo Tianshen once possessed the power of an Earthly Sovereign, but he sustained heavy injuries from prior battles. As of now, his life will soon come to an end. That’s why he will resort to any method in order to create a leader who can contain the situation after his death.”

“And Luo Li is the one he chose. Only she possesses the purest bloodline to receive this kind of inheritance. That way, their chances of success will be much higher.” Li Xuantong said, slowly.

“Higher chance of success?” Mu Chen’s face changed. *Does that also mean that there are chances of failure?*

“In this world, there is no such thing as a power that comes without a price. Everything has its risks.” Li Xuantong nodded and continued, “If the inheritance fails, Luo Li will die.”

“However, that’s still the last resort. Luo Li only needs to return to the clan once Luo Tianshen runs out of time. That might be half a year, or maybe an entire year later. But that time will still come.”

Li Xuantong sneered, “Pity. The vast Luo God Clan, at its prime, possessed a Heavenly Sovereign and two Earthly Sovereigns. They were so strong that they intimidated the other three God Clans into submission. They even possessed a great fame throughout the Great Thousand World. Who could’ve imagined that a thousand years later, they’re being supported by one elderly old man who has to put all his hopes on the shoulders of one frail little girl?”

Li Xuantong looked to Mu Chen and spoke with a deep voice. “Now do you know why Luo Li always trains so hard?”

Mu Chen slowly nodded. No wonder Li Xuantong kept saying that he was holding Luo Li back. Time was the most important thing to her. But because of him, she’d come to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. That’s how great her passion was.

“Right now, she’s also doing her best to cultivate for your sake. She probably thinks that by the time you learn of this, she’d be strong enough so that you wouldn’t have to bear the burden. She’d take them upon herself.”

Li Xuantong looked at Mu Chen as the corner of his mouth turned with an agonized expression. “What’s so good about you?”

Mu Chen’s hand were tightly clenched in his sleeves. “When the time comes, does she absolutely have to return to accept the inheritance?”

Li Xuantong nodded. “I wouldn’t think of obstructing her. Otherwise, she wouldn’t be happy at all, just because she’s at your side.”

Mu Chen laughed to himself. “I’m not that selfish.”

“Currently, the Luo God Clan is declining. Their enemies are a pack of wolves and tigers eyeing their properties with greed. However, none of them dare to move. One reason is Luo Tianshen. Even though that tiger has aged, its might is still present. The second reason is because the Luo God Clan landed a

piece of good karma a few dozen years ago. They unintentionally saved a young man from the Lower Planes.” Li Xuanton explained.

“Oh?” Mu Chen was confused. He clearly couldn’t see the relationship there.

Li Xuanton raised his head, his usual indifference was replaced with a trace of reverence. “That young man from back then has become one of the Overlords of the Great Thousand World. He possesses fame that shakes the world.”

“Who is he?” Mu Chen was quite curious.

A look of fanaticism flashed through Li Xuanton’s eyes. “He once freely roamed the Great Thousand World; even the Old Ancestor, a Heavenly Sovereign of the Fire Spirit Clan couldn’t stop him and could only allow him to act as he wished. Right now, he’s the lord of the Endless Fire Territory.”

“He’s the Flame Emperor, Xiao Yan.”

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#### **Chapter 223: Flame Emperor**

The Flame Emperor, Xiao Yan.

When Mu Chen heard that domineering title, he blanked for a brief moment. This wasn’t the first time he’d heard that name; he’d heard of it back in Northern Spiritual Academy. But back then, he’d only had vague impressions of the name; now, he knew a little more about the man behind the name, and what that meant within the boundaries of the Great Thousand World.

The ones who’d shed their shackles, broken through from the Lower Planes, and arrived in this Great Thousand World were all extraordinary figures with top quality characters. Maybe it was because of the ranks of the Planes, but those within the Lower Planes were limited in how high they could reach. However, once they stepped into the Great Thousand World and adapted to it, they would become tigers that’d stepped into the deep mountains, or dragons that’d returned to the sea. They were dazzling figures, even within the Great Thousand World, where great authorities gathered.

This Flame Emperor was one of them, as well as the Martial Ancestor who’d single-handedly challenged the entire Ice Spirit Clan.

The blaze in Li Xuanton’s eyes slightly dispersed as he looked back at Mu Chen.

“This good karma casually fell into the hands of the Luo God Clan. Strictly speaking, what they did couldn’t be considered ‘saving’, but, perhaps, more like ‘aiding’.”

“When the Flame Emperor first broke through the shackles of the Lower Plane and entered the Great Thousand World, he landed in the Luo God Clan’s territory by coincidence. You should know, some of the energies practiced in the Lower Planes aren’t Spiritual Auras. This Flame Emperor, for example, practiced an energy called Douqi in his Plane. After entering the Great Thousand World, his Douqi would gradually convert into a purer form of Spiritual Energy. Most of those who’ve cast away the shackles of the Lower Planes are unfamiliar with this concept. As experts, of course, they’d be unwilling to allow their hard-earned Douqi, or any other energy for that matter, to be converted into something unfamiliar.”

“So, of course, there’d be some conflicts. The conversion of Spiritual Energy might pose a danger to them. The rejection of it might do the same. That’s the first major problem to those who’ve managed to break through from the Lower Planes.”

Li Xuantong smiled. To people like themselves, this was a rather amusing issue. But to those who’d actually cast aside the shackles of the Lower Planes and entered the Great Thousand World, this was quite a headache.

“Luo Tianshen met the Flame Emperor then and helped him successfully convert his Spiritual Energy. He could also see that even though the Flame Emperor was young, he was knowledgeable and experienced. Luo Tianshen knew that anyone capable of breaking the shackles of the Lower Planes would be someone capable. Even though they wouldn’t be too strong when they had just stepped into this Planes, the potential they possessed was extremely frightening. That’s why Luo Tianshen dropped their status difference and befriended him.”

“However, the Flame Emperor didn’t stay in the Luo God Clan for long. He left right after he recovered. It’s said that he went to search for his two wives. For a long time after that, Luo Tianshen didn’t hear any news of him.”

“Not until ten years ago. One day, a certain piece of news spread throughout the Great Thousand World. A man had proclaimed himself the Flame Emperor, fought with the Fire Spirit Clan’s Old Ancestor, and had stepped into the Heavenly Sovereign cultivation stage. It was an earth-shaking battle, and torrential flames had turned the entire abandoned continent into a wasteland. The Fire Spirit Clan’s Old Ancestor couldn’t even harm the Flame Emperor after exerting all his methods. In the end, he was forced to admit defeat with his hands cupped. The Flame Emperor then asked for a flame from the clan, then left carefree and easy. From that day on, the name of the Flame Emperor was widespread throughout the Great Thousand World.”

Li Xuantong’s eyes were blazing again. Heavenly Sovereign. Within the Great Thousand World, that kind of level could make one the absolute overlord of a territory. And when faced with this Flame Emperor, even a Heavenly Sovereign had been forced to cup his hands in defeat. A figure as mighty as him was befitting of the title “Flame Emperor”.

“After that, the Flame Emperor founded the Endless Fire Territory. Experts rushed over like ducks lining up. Not only is the Flame Emperor in control of all the flames between heaven and earth, his skill in refining elixirs is also unparalleled. My experts seized the opportunity and went begging for those elixirs. Thus, the Endless Fire Territory transformed into a colossal existence in only a few decades.”

Li Xuantong clicked his tongue as his eyes filled with admiration. The Great Thousand World was endlessly wide, and all kinds of mighty people were trying to make a name for themselves. However, it wasn’t that simple.

Mu Chen sighed as well. The name of Flame Emperor truly wasn’t in vain.

“Perhaps even Luo Tianshen was shocked after hearing of the Flame Emperor’s accomplishments. He probably never considered the possibility. Back then, that young man had only just arrived in the Great Thousand World, but he’d managed to make a name for himself in only a few decades. However that old

man is prideful down to his bones, so he didn't spend effort on associating with the Endless Fire Territory. Maybe to him, that favor was nothing but a small thing, not worth remembering."

"But ten years ago, when Luo Li's father fell, the entire Luo God Clan was close to death. On Luo Tianshen's birthday, the Flame Emperor sent someone to express his good wishes. The gesture shocked the other three God Clans, who were like tigers staring down their prey. Perhaps none of them expected the Luo God Clan to have such an ally."

"After that, Luo Tianshen had to borrow the Flame Emperor's prestige in order to barely keep the Luo God Clan afloat for another ten plus years."

Li Xuantong sighed and carried on, "However, once Luo Tianshen's lifespan comes to an end, the situation will definitely collapse. Even though the Flame Emperor's name is far-reaching, the Endless Fire Territory is, after all, still too far from the Eastern Heavens Realm. Furthermore, the three God Clans aren't that easy to deal with. Even if they're afraid of the Endless Fire Territory, if the Luo God Clan has declined to the bottom, they definitely won't hesitate to move."

"It'd also be tricky to try and solve the Luo God Clan's situation with outside force. You could save them once or twice, but not forever." Li Xuantong faintly summed up. Right now, most of the core members of the Royal Family were useless, aside from Luo Li who possessed the qualifications to inherit the clan as Empress. Such vermins. If Luo Tianshen passed away before Luo Li assumed full control, then the Luo God Clan would probably be in danger.

The situation was simply awful. Mu Chen felt heartache as he thought of the burden Luo Li carried on her tender shoulders. However, he knew that there was no way he could keep Luo Li from going back.

Mu Chen clenched his fist. In the end, he was still too weak to help Luo Li.

It looked like he had to speed up his cultivation over the next five years. He had to be of some real help once Luo Li took control of the Luo God Clan! Even though that'd be difficult, he wasn't going to give up.

Li Xuantong saw Mu Chen clench his fist and spoke, "You have five years, at most. However, I don't think you'll be able to truly help her within only five years."

"Who knows what the future will bring?"

Mu Chen only smiled. The future was too unpredictable and difficult to judge. But he knew that he'd do his best to reach his target. No matter how rough the road might be, he definitely wouldn't give up.

Otherwise, how would he fit next to such a lovable and dear girl?

Li Xuantong looked at the youth before him. The latter's smile was faint, but there was an unquestionable resolve in his eyes. Li Xuantong knew that it was impossible to get Mu Chen away from Luo Li.

Once in a while, this youth does show some charm. His resolve and confidence. Maybe that's why he obtained the favor of that girl who bears so much on her shoulders.

"I promised Luo Li that I wouldn't interfere in your matters anymore. However..."

As he spoke, his expression turned sharp as he glared at Mu Chen, "I hope that you won't let me down. I'm not asking you to provide much help to Luo Li. I only ask that you don't drag her down. Her responsibilities are too large and cruel that the slightest pause will mean destruction."

Mu Chen raised his head to the starry skies and slowly declared, "I feel more sorry for her, than you do."

"Li Xuantonq."

He lowered his head then looked back towards Li Xuantonq with a serious expression. This was also the first time he'd called Li Xuantonq's name without a prefix. "There'll be a day where I'll stand beside her once more. Anything that grieves her, I will reduce to ashes!"

Li Xuantonq looked at the youth's face, which was calm, but held an endless ripple in his eyes. He wanted to say something, ended up only nodding. "I hope you'll actually be able to accomplish that. There's still time for you to grow."

Mu Chen replied with a small nod and a smile. Then his expression recovered as he inhaled a deep breath and inquired, "What's the Flame Emperor's level? If you compared him to the Martial Ancestor who challenged the entire Ice Spirit Clan, who's stronger?"

"The Flame Emperor made that Old Ancestor of the Fire Spirit Clan, a Heavenly Sovereign, admit defeat with cupped hands. However, this isn't a kind of news that's heard often. With his talent and a few decades to cultivate, there's no way he's still stuck in the same spot. Who knows, he might've even surpassed the Heavenly Sovereign stage and stepped into an even higher level. After all, the Great Thousand World is endlessly vast. The road to the peak is long, even for heroes like the Flame Emperor."

Li Xuantonq smiled. "As for that Martial Ancestor, he's also extremely frightening. He managed to single-handedly overturn such a large existence like the Ice Spirit Clan. However, those guys from the Ice Spirit Clan are also very cunning. After the Martial Ancestor broke through their defences and invaded their grounds, they managed to suppress their anger and did their best to comply with his requests. After that, the Martial Ancestor established the "Martial Border", one on par with the Endless Fire Territory. Right now, the Ice Spirit Clan has an extremely close relationship with the Martial Border. Those who were planning to attack the Ice Spirit Clan, now have to consider the figures behind them: the Martial Border, as well as that Martial Ancestor.

"It's not easy to say which one of them is more powerful. After all, the two of them have never fought before. Most people keep their opinions to themselves."

Li Xuantonq rubbed his chin, "However, I'd really like to see which one is stronger, between the Flame Emperor and the Martial Ancestor."

Mu Chen also couldn't help laughing as he looked up to the endless starry skies. The Great Thousand World was endlessly vast, filled with many brilliant things he'd never known. However, he believed that one day, he'd be qualified to stand at the heart of the Great Thousand World, and have a great battle with the Sovereigns from the Lower Planes.

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### **Chapter 224: Heaven Rank Mission**

In the end, Li Xuanton left. However, Mu Chen's heart was still beating wildly with all the information that he'd just gotten. What Luo Li had on her shoulders was far heavier than he thought, giving him even more of a heartache.

Towards that silly girl who could put down such an important matter to meet him in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he was deeply moved. Nothing could be greater than a beauty's grace.

Siiuuuuu!

Shortly after Li Xuanton left, a streak of light flew over under the night. A slender figure landed on the building. It was Luo Li, who'd just returned from cultivating.

When Luo Li saw Mu Chen standing there, she was slightly baffled. Yet, she still showed him a gentle smile as clear as a spring flowing across the mountains, softening the hearts of any who saw it.

Mu Chen's eyes were fixed on the beautiful girl before him, who gave off a distant sense of tranquility. The deep emotion within his eyes made the girl's face flush red.

"What happened?" Luo Li asked as she touched her exquisite face.

Mu Chen slowly approached Luo Li under her bashful gaze. He extended his arm and embraced her slender and delicate waist.

Luo Li's face blushed red as she glanced around. Only after making sure that there was no one else there did her struggles weaken as she buried herself into his embrace. That familiar scent lightened the exhaustion that she'd accumulated from cultivating for the past few days.

"Sorry." Mu Chen lightly said as he buried his face into her long, fragrant hair.

Luo Li was slightly startled. "What are you saying, all of a sudden?"

"Before, you told me that falling in love with me would hinder your cultivation. I thought that was a joke. I never imagined that it'd truly bring you trouble." Mu Chen still recalled their time on the Spirit Road— This girl's reason for chasing after him for half a year. Back then, he'd found it rather amusing. But after learning Luo Li's situation, he realised that she hadn't been joking when she'd said those words. Because of him, she sacrificed much of her important cultivating time.

Luo Li used her slender arms to push herself away from Mu Chen's chest. However, her delicate face remained in a frown as she stared at him and said, "I don't like what you're saying."

It was easy to see that she was upset with the way he was mocking himself, saying he was only hindering her.

"What did you hear?" After all, Luo Li was an intelligent woman. She could tell that Mu Chen was acting strange. She swept her charming eyes over the roof and asked, "So, Li Xuanton visited you? What did he say?"

Her anger flared as soon as she finished those words. *What did that Li Xuanton do?! Did he really think I would have a fall-out with him?*

Mu Chen smiled, extended his hand, and brushed Luo Li's exquisite face. His voice was gentle as he replied, "Don't blame him. I should've known all of that. One fine day, I'll be able to stand beside you and tear all those matters to shreds!"

Luo Li softly sighed as she threw herself back into Mu Chen's chest and lightly nipped him [1. Something like a love bite, but probably not strong enough to leave a hickey.], "Let's not talk about that."

Those words were too heavy; she felt tired just thinking about them. She also didn't want to drag Mu Chen into this anymore.

Mu Chen smiled as he tightened his arms around her. "Rest assured. What's done is done. I won't let you go. In this lifetime, you're already mine. Mu Chen's woman."

"What do you mean by 'what's done is done'? That sounds so horrible. This has nothing to do with you." Luo Li lightly laughed as she rolled her eyes at him. Her charming air made Mu Chen restless.

"You're in my arms, and still you dare to say that 'this has nothing to do with me'? Someone needs a smack." Mu Chen darkly chuckled. The hand that'd been tangled around her waist casually slipped down to her backside and gave a light tap.

Luo Li's tender face stiffened and turned red. She bashfully bit Mu Chen's chest again, this time a little harder.

Mu Chen held the girl, raised his head to the starry skies, and sighed a deep breath. When he spoke next to Luo Li's ear, his voice was filled with resolve. "Luo Li, I might be weak right now, and you cannot depend on me. But trust me, one day, I'll truly stand by your side. When that time comes, I'll handle all the waves coming at you. Anyone who's bullied you and aggrieved you, I'll shred to pieces!"

"Luo Li, please wait for me. Wait for me to become an absolute expert."

Towards the end, his voice was as soft as a whisper; however, it conveyed an unswerving determination from the deepest parts of his heart.

Luo Li's eyes turned red at the soft whisper in her ears. A warmth rippled through her body from the deepest parts of her heart.

She extend her jade-like arms, embraced Mu Chen's waist in return, and made a soft "en" in acknowledgement. She then raised her face towards Mu Chen, stood on tiptoe, and kissed him on the lips.

*Mu Chen, I will wait for you. I don't care if you're an ordinary or an absolute expert. I'll still be waiting for you.*

...

The next day, Su Ling'er paid a visit to the freshmen's area and found Mu Chen, who was still cramped up in his building.

"You have something for me?"

Mu Chen was rather surprised by Su Ling'er's sudden appearance. The girl held her hands behind her back as she looked at the small building with interest. A smile filled her face.

"I came looking for you with some good news." She smiled and continued, "Can you take a trip with me? My big sister wants to see you."

"Your big sister? Su Xuan?" Mu Chen blanked. Su Xuan was looking for him? The two of them had never really interacted before, nor had he been acquainted with her in the past.

"En."

Su Ling'er nodded. "Rest assured, it's nothing bad. Other people might not even get such an opportunity, even if they begged," she said as she walked. Mu Chen hesitated, then followed after her.

Under Su Ling'er's lead, the two of them left the freshmen's area and headed towards the north area of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. After about half an hour, Mu Chen followed Su Ling'er as they descended towards a lake. At the heart of the lake was a small island that was populated with only a handful of neat houses.

At this moment, a white-clothed girl stood in front of one of the bamboo houses. Her charming face held a sweet-tempered smile as she watched the two descend.

"Big sister." Su Ling'er waved towards the girl in white.

Mu Chen was rather taken aback by the appearance of this astonishing beauty within the grounds of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Her white dress was delicately wrapped around her exquisite, yet full, body. Her long hair was as dark as ink, and her sweet demeanor was truly beautiful.

"Senior Sister Su Xuan." Mu Chen cupped his hands towards the girl.

"You don't have to be so polite." Su Xuan lightly smiled and continued, "I summoned you today because I've accepted a Heaven Rank mission from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. I wanted to see if you're interested."

"A Heaven Rank mission?" Mu Chen blanked and awkwardly replied, "I don't seem to possess the qualifications to join a mission of this rank, right?"

Of course, he knew about the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Mission Hall, which was in charge of distributing all sorts of missions. Those who could complete these missions would receive huge rewards. The rewards were differentiated into three ranks. The Heaven Rank mission that Su Xuan spoke of was a high rank. This kind of mission not only required strength, but also sufficient experience. Even if a freshman like Mu Chen possessed the requisite strength, he still wouldn't have the qualifications to accept the mission.

"In terms of strength, you possess quite a bit. As for experience, I can handle that for you." Su Xuan said lightly.

"Why did Senior Sister Su Xuan ask me?" Mu Chen said in confusion. Heaven Rank missions were rarely seen. Not just anyone could accept one. Even though there were some risks associated with the mission, the rewards were ample. If Su Xuan wanted to advertise that she was looking for partners, there would definitely be mobs of powerful students rushing over.

Su Xuan glanced at Su Ling'er. The reason why she'd asked for Mu Chen personally was because Su Ling'er kept suggesting him, of course. In addition, she didn't have a bad impression of Mu Chen. This offer could be considered her acknowledgement of that; therefore, she had summoned him.

"Your performance during the Spiritual Battle Stage is why I sought you out. Perhaps there are others who also possess sufficient strength; however, I don't have very high opinions of them." Su Xuan lightly shook her head and continued, "This Heaven Rank mission is restricted to a team of five people. Counting you, we already have four. If this mission is a success, then each person receives 1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points."

"1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points? So many?" After hearing that, even Mu Chen had to take in a lungful of chilly air before returning to his usual calm. That was the reward for a Heaven Rank mission? 1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points all at once. If he did that three or four more times, wouldn't he be able to purchase the Northern Sea Dragon's Blood Essence?

"That actually isn't very much. The Heaven Rank mission that we accepted is only a Low Grade. If it'd been a High Grade Heaven Rank mission, the reward could be up to 8,000,000. However, only one person has ever managed to complete such a mission in recent years." Su Ling'er smiled.

"8,000,000..." Mu Chen's mouth couldn't help twitching and he bitterly smiled. "Was it Shen Cangsheng who completed it?"

"En, only that guy could accomplish such a task." Su Xuan lightly nodded. Her tone contained a small amount of lamentation. Even though she was Ranked 3, she understood that there was quite a bit of distance between herself and Shen Cangsheng.

"In addition, this Heaven Rank mission that I accepted is rather special. It's not a kill or arrest bounty mission; it's a spirit treasury hunting mission. In other words, we're supposed to search for hidden places that's been passed down since ancient times. Generally speaking, there should be many Spiritual Arts, Artifacts and all sorts of treasures left behind by ancient predecessors. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy isn't requiring us to hand over everything we find. We can actually keep the treasures."

Su Xuan smiled, "Therefore, spirit treasury hunting missions are the most popular ones within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. We're basically taking information from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and reaping all the profits."

Mu Chen was interested in Su Xuan's words. He wasn't really interested in the treasures; it was actually those 1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points that stirred him.

"Senior Sister Su Xuan..."

Mu Chen hesitated for a brief moment, then said, "I'm rather interested in this mission. However, can I take the liberty of making a request?"

"What is it?" Su Xuan smiled.

Mu Chen gave a rather embarrassed smile and said, "Could I reserve an extra spot on this mission?"

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### **Chapter 225: Spirit Treasury Hunting**

“You want another spot?”

Su Xuan was rather surprised by the request. She hesitated for a brief moment before replying, “There is only one spot left and the candidates have already been determined.”

She spoke in a somewhat apologetic tone as she looked at Mu Chen.

There was nothing Mu Chen could do. He originally wanted to recommend Luo Li, but since the team was already full, the only thing he could do was forget it. He was only worried that if he left Luo Li alone in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, she wouldn't have him to distract her anymore; she'd definitely enter an intense cultivating state. Mu Chen didn't know whether that was good or bad.

“Aside from the two of us who are on this mission, there's also Senior Sister Li Qing, Rank 23 of the Heavenly Rank. She's the famed ice beauty of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

“The other is Guo Xiong, Rank 20 of the Heavenly Rank. I already chose them a while ago, so it wouldn't be nice to change it now.” Su Ling'er said.

“Then, it seems I've been rude.” Mu Chen smiled.

“Since you don't seem to have a problem with it, then our teammates are settled. We'll head out in three days. When the time comes, we'll gather back here,” Su Xuan said with a nod.

Mu Chen nodded back. It seemed like he'd have to leave the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for a while. Mu Chen was also curious about the Northern Heavens Continent that laid outside the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. How could he possibly reject such a good opportunity to go outside?

He continued chatting with Su Xuan, until both sides became a little more familiar with each other. Since this seemed to be the sisters' home, at last, Mu Chen decided to end his stay and was about to leave after cupping his hands.

However, a sonic boom sounded, forcing him to stop in his tracks. The boom turned into a figure and landed on the small island; it was a slender youth with green hair and a rather demonic facial feature.

This green-haired youth was the Rank 4 of the Heavenly Ranking, He Yao. When he appeared, he only glanced at Mu Chen with a smile on his face. However, there was also a trace of cryptic brilliance hidden deep within his eyes.

“Haha, Su Xuan, how's the matter from before?” He Yao looked at Su Xuan as he smiled.

When Su Xuan saw He Yao, her sweet-tempered face still had a smile on it, but Mu Chen could tell that there was definitely a rather disaffected courtesy. She smiled and replied, “I apologize, but the members for this mission have already been determined. He Yao, you are too strong for this mission to be a challenge to you. If you joined, how could it possibly have any effects to train?”

Mu Chen understood the situation. It looked like this He Yao wanted to join the mission; however, Su Xuan was rather skilled with her words. She was clearly rejecting him, but she was putting it in such a nice way.

But, He Yao wasn't a nobody, either. Of course, he wouldn't lose his temper over such a simple sentence from Su Xuan. He lightly smiled and said, "Don't put it like that. Even though this spirit treasure mission is better suited for profits than training, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy only provides you with the most basic amount of information. No one knows how difficult the mission might actually be. Besides, if some other powerful experts find out about the treasure, things might get dangerous. If it ended up in a fight, wouldn't it be safer with a second guard?"

Su Xuan's pupils slightly focused as she faintly smiled, "I doubt we'd have the fortune to find a spirit treasure valuable enough to warrant such a situation."

"Everything begs for stability." He Yao smiled. His line of sight shifted towards Mu Chen. A trace of brilliant light flashed through his eyes as he recognized Mu Chen. After all, the battle that day left him with a deep impression.

"Haha! This must be Junior Brother Mu Chen. I'm He Yao."

He Yao approached Mu Chen with a gentle smile. Su Xuan's expression slightly changed as she saw him shift his attention towards Mu Chen.

"So, you're Senior Brother He Yao."

Mu Chen glanced at Su Xuan and noticed the changes in her face. However, he showed a light smile and cupped his hands politely. So, this guy was the Rank 4 of the Heavenly Ranking, He Yao. An influential figure of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

"I won't beat around the bush." He Yao showed a full smile and politely said, "I wish to join Su Xuan's team on this mission. I believe Junior Brother Mu Chen has a spot. I hope Junior Brother Mu Chen could let me have it. I'd definitely repay you greatly for this favor."

Mu Chen frowned. He Yao had indeed targeted him for the position.

He Yao smiled again when he saw Mu Chen furrow his brows. "Junior Brother Mu Chen, I'm well aware that this mission has a reward of 1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points. You can rest assured. If this mission is successful, I'll share half of the Spiritual Value Points with you. That way, you'd be able to obtain 750,000 Spiritual Value Points without having to do anything. I believe that's not a bad deal, right?"

"How generous."

Mu Chen inwardly smiled. He Yao really seemed to want this spot. Too bad. Mu Chen absent-mindedly looked at the lake, but in reality, he was paying attention to the sisters. He could tell that Su Xuan couldn't stand He Yao. It'd be inappropriate for him to give the spot to him.

"I apologize, Senior Brother He Yao. This spot was given to me by Senior Sister Su Xuan and I do not possess the rights to give it to someone else. If Senior Brother He Yao can convince Senior Sister Su Xuan, then I can give it to you without any conditions. I have no need for that half of the Spiritual Value Points." Mu Chen lightly smiled.

Mu Chen hadn't been very polite about it, he'd blatantly refused the request without leaving He Yao with any face, and he'd thrown the issue back at Su Xuan. But with Su Xuan's personality, He Yao definitely wasn't getting that spot.

“Cunning.” Su Xuan’s lips slightly curved upwards. Her charming eyes glanced at Mu Chen, filled with an extremely charming smile.

Of course, He Yao could tell that Mu Chen was only giving excuses. Although He Yao had smile on his face, his eyes flashed with a chill deep down. “Junior Brother Mu Chen should give me some face. In the future, if you need any help in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, I’ll definitely do my best to help you.”

Mu Chen lightly shook his head while keeping his attention. He could sense the darkness deep within He Yao’s eyes. Then, he understood why Su Xuan didn’t like him. This person’s scheming heart ran deep. Even though he seemed easy to get along with, he actually had a rather dark character. He wasn’t someone who was easy to deal with.

He Yao’s smile disappeared a bit at Mu Chen’s continued rejection. However, he was still courteous as ever. He didn’t flare as he replied, “If that’s the case, it seems like I was being pushy.”

He Yao turned back to Su Xuan and said, “Su Xuan, I will not go this time around. I hope that you all will return safely. If there’s a chance next time, please inform me. With me around, I’ll definitely be able to protect you.”

His facial features were excellent and rather charming when he cared to be gentle. However, none of them were fooled. Of course, they wouldn’t fall for his theatrics.

Su Xuan lightly nodded but said nothing.

“Then, I’ll take my leave first.”

He Yao smiled towards Su Xuan and gave a meaningful look at Mu Chen before, cupping his hands and leaving.

Mu Chen looked into He Yao’s slightly dark eyes and lightly shook his head. It seemed like he’d offended someone, again. Aside from Su Xuan of the top five of the Heavenly Ranking, he’d already fought with Li Xuanton and never even seen Shen Cangsheng. As for Rank 4 He Yao and Rank 5 Xu Huang, they weren’t on good terms with him.

“An unexpected calamity has descended from the heavens.” Mu Chen said helplessly as he sighed.

Su Xuan covered her mouth as she lightly laughed, “Of course, you’d be the one who could challenge Li Xuanton. I was worried that you might let him have the spot.”

“I risked my life just to exchange three blows with Li Xuanton. I don’t consider this a challenge at all.” Mu Chen shook his head and continued with a small amount of doubt in his voice. “Senior Sister Su Xuan, He Yao is much stronger than me. If he went, then the success rate of this mission would be increased by many folds. Why did you reject him? Furthermore, he seems to be interested in Senior Sister Su Xuan, as well.”

“In the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there are way many people who are fond of my sister. Should she accept them all?” Su Ling’er snorted.

“At least there aren’t many who can compare to He Yao.” Mu Chen smiled.

Su Xuan lightly shook her head and lightly replied, "He Yao's scheming runs too deep. I don't like it. That kind of person isn't suitable as a trustable companion."

"Then, it sounds like I'm worth trusting," Mu Chen smiled. "I'm overwhelmed by the favor."

Su Xuan laughed and gently said, "You're still under observation. As for trust, we'll have to see."

Mu Chen laughed and said no more. Then, he waved his hand and flew off. Since he might leave the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he'd have to let Luo Li know about it.

In the forest outside the lake, He Yao's face was cold as he watched Mu Chen flying overhead. His eyes were filled with a chill and darkness.

"Boss, that Su Xuan didn't let you join the mission?"

The voice came from a skinny youth next to He Yao. "That woman really doesn't know how to be tactful. With boss' help, what kind of mission wouldn't be easy? But boss, that Heaven Rank mission wasn't terribly uncommon. I heard that it's just a spirit treasury hunting mission. Just an ordinary spirit treasury."

"What do you know?!"

He Yao waved his sleeves and coldly barked, "Su Xuan's mission is in the White Dragon Hillock. Even though the mission's description only mentioned "a wealthy Spirit Treasury", I've secretly checked. A few hundred years ago, there was a pinnacle expert who appeared in the White Dragon Hillock. His name was Sovereign White Dragon. He also fell in the White Dragon Hillock. However, his gravesite has never been found. With the spirit treasury appearing now, there's a possibility that it was left behind by this Sovereign White Dragon."

"Wouldn't that be a Sovereign Spirit Treasury then?!" The skinny youth was shocked.

A spirit treasury of this level wasn't ordinary; it'd be enough to make many forces drool. It was far from being a Low Grade Heaven Rank mission.

He Yao sneered and directed his gaze back to the lake. In his eyes flashed a trace of ruthlessness.

"If it really is a Sovereign Spirit Treasury, then Su Xuan's team isn't going to have it easy. I'll see how many of them can come back alive! Hmph! Not knowing how to appreciate favors!"

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 226: Northern Heavens Continent**

The next morning

Mu Chen was prepared to leave. A slender, elegant girl stood before the building, watching him with bright eyes. Last night, Mu Chen had informed her that he was going on a mission with Su Xuan's party. Even though they'd only be apart for a short while, the girl was still rather reluctant to let him go. But ultimately, she didn't hinder Mu Chen. She, too, needed some time to quiet down and cultivate.

"Then, I'll be going."

Mu Chen lightly smiled as he moved closer to the girl.

“Okay. Be careful.” Luo Li lightly nodded. Her hands straightened out the wrinkles in Mu Chen’s clothes, like a newlywed wife. The gesture filled Mu Chen’s eyes with gentleness.

“Don’t push yourself too hard in cultivation, while I’m not around. It’s true that ‘learning is moving forwards and not advancing is moving backwards’, but you still can’t be too hard on yourself. It’ll have a negative effect, instead.” Mu Chen sternly reminded.

“I know.” Luo Li nodded.

Mu Chen decided it was time to stop loitering around. He waved his hand and his figure turned into a streak of light. Under Luo Li’s watch, he flew towards the interior of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Mu Chen flew through the skies of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. About ten minutes later, he arrived at the forest outside the lake and descended.

When he landed on the small island, he noticed that there were two strangers present, aside from Su Xuan and Su Ling’er.

A man and a woman. The man had a towering, ape-like figure, and emitted a sense of barbaric oppression. He had a thick brow and a stern face that held a straightforward smile, entirely different from He Yao’s. Even Mu Chen had a feeling that he liked the guy, just by seeing him.

The woman wore tight-fitting cultivation clothing. She had a tall build and was rather well-developed. The cultivation outfit exaggerated her sexy curves — anyone would be dizzy just from looking at her. Mu Chen shifted his line of sight upwards and met an icy face. Her long, naturally curly hair gave her a rather charming air, but the effect was lost in her ice-cold expression.

In terms of demeanor, she was probably less than Su Xuan. But with her fiery figure gave her the capital to compete against Su Xuan.

Upon seeing them, Mu Chen understood what was going on. They must be the remaining two companions for this mission. Guo Xiong and Li Qing.

When Su Xuan saw that Mu Chen had arrived, she lightly smiled, motioned towards the other two companions, and introduced them. Indeed, they were exactly the ones Mu Chen had predicted.

Finally, Su Xuan motioned towards Mu Chen and introduced him to the other two. “This is our last companion, Mu Chen. Even though he’s just a freshman, he can’t be underestimated.”

When Guo Xiong heard that name, he immediately looked back at Mu Chen. A strange look also flashed across Li Qing’s icy face as she looked to him.

“Haha, you must be that Mu Chen that took three moves from Li Xuantong! I never expected someone who looks so weak and feeble would be able to attain such a manly achievement.” Guo Xiong laughed. His voice was loud like thunder as it resounded near Mu Chen’s ears.

Mu Chen helplessly smiled.

“Since Su Xuan invited you, you must have some strength. We’re all in this together. I hope we can attain mutual trust and help each other.” Guo Xiong said with a straightforward laugh.

“Then, I’ll have to trouble Senior Brother Guo Xiong to take care of me.” Mu Chen laughed. He’d developed a good impression of this loud and robust man. He could sense that this Guo Xiong before him definitely wasn’t weak. He’s much stronger than the usual Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase expert. Based on the ripples that Guo Xiong were giving off, he probably already had one foot on the path to the Heavenly Transform Stage. You could probably count them as Heavenly Transform Stages, anyways. The only thing he lacked was the opportunity to fully boost him there. Within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, that was quite decent.

From the looks of it, Mu Chen was the weakest link on this mission. A Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase wasn’t terribly outstanding. Even Su Ling’er had already stepped into the Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase. However, Guo Xiong and the rest didn’t underestimate him because of that. Even though they hadn’t personally witnessed Mu Chen’s pact of three moves with Li Xuanton, they’d heard about it through the rumors. That was already enough to surprise them.

Who is Li Xuanton? He’s the Rank 2 of the Heavenly Ranking! Even though Guo Xiong and Li Qing only ranked in the twenties, they were well aware of the gap between themselves and Li Xuanton. If they’d been in Mu Chen’s position, they might not have even been able to withstand those three moves.

“It’s about time. Let’s get ready to move out.”

Su Xuan lightly smiled, “I’ll fill you in on the mission details along the way.”

Mu Chen, Guo Xiong and Li Qing nodded. No objections.

“Let’s go.”

In response, Su Xuan fell silent. Her figure moved and took the lead as she flew towards the exit of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Mu Chen and the rest followed.

Since coming to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Mu Chen had never left the grounds. Therefore, he was unfamiliar with everything that was going on, and could only follow the lead of Su Xuan and the rest. As they flew, he gained a sense of just how vast the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was, for the first time. They only saw the boundary of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy after flying for several hours. As they approached, Mu Chen looked up at the sky and noticed the peculiar ripples of Spiritual Aura. Upon a closer look, he could sense the clouds rushing about through those strange ripples. These ripples were from Spiritual Arrays.

These Spiritual Array ripples were as broad as the ocean, cryptic, and extremely complicated. Mu Chen’s face changed with just a glance. He could feel his Spiritual Energy turning chaotic; he immediately suppressed it.

“This is where the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy intersects with the outerworld. With this Spiritual Array protecting the academy, it’ll be easy to leave the grounds, but not the other way. In order to enter, you’ll have to obtain the “Institution Guide” to enter the Northern Heavens City. Otherwise, you’d be slaughtered by the Academy Guarding Spiritual Array.” Su Xuan explained to Mu Chen, when she saw him looking up at the sky.

“The Northern Heavens City?” Mu Chen immediately asked in doubt after nodding to her explanation.

“It’s an enormous city that stands outside of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. It’s well-known throughout the Northern Heavens Continent. It’s also considered the academy’s number one defence.”

“We’re heading to the White Dragon Hillock, which is located at the center of the Northern Heavens Continent. It’s about a three-day journey from here. We should hurry straight there.”

Su Xuan looked at Mu Chen and said, “Mu Chen, this is your first time outside of the academy grounds. I should fill you in with some information about the Northern Heavens Continent.”

Mu Chen nodded, with eyes filled with interest.

“The Northern Heavens Continent is extremely vast. Our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy sits at the heart of the continent and is also the largest force on this continent.”

Su Xuan’s voice was as gentle as running water, pouring across the heart. “But, don’t assume that’s going to make our trip any smoother.”

“The Northern Heavens Continent conceals many talents. There are as many forces as there are stars in the sky — dragons and snakes mingled together, if you will. No one knows how many powerful figures are hidden around. Furthermore, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy has its own rules; any students who’ve ventured outside its borders are to rely on themselves. Unless you die, the academy won’t interfere.”

“Of course, the academy isn’t going to ignore matters of life and death regarding its students. The moment one of its students dies, the academy is sure to investigate. When they find the murderer, they’ll issue an order of arrest in the form of a mission. They’ll chase the killer to the ends of the earth, leaving them nowhere to hide.”

“Even so, every year, there are a few students who lose their lives to other sorts of mishaps while journeying out in the Northern Heavens Continent. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy can only avenge a few among them; there are also others who’ve died in vain.”

As she spoke of that, Su Xuan’s gentle face turned stern. “Therefore, when journeying out in the Northern Heavens Continent, we must be extra careful. If the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy is the ivory tower, then this is the genuine slaughter house. A slight carelessness could mean loss of life.”

Mu Chen lightly nodded. Now that he’d left the grounds of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he was no longer bound by their rules. On the flip side, it meant that the academy wasn’t going to protect him, either. Survival and success on this Northern Heavens Continent would depend on his own capabilities.

There were many talented individuals hiding in the Northern Heavens Continent. Even though the academy was considered the strongest force, it had yet to claim the entire continent for itself. After all, their first priority was to nurture its students. From a certain angle, you could say that the academy needed the ruthless training grounds of the wild Northern Heavens Continent. They knew that students would never become genuine experts if confined to cultivating inside the academy.

Only by undergoing endless trials of blood and fire could you temper a tenacious character. Moving forward bravely on the path of cultivation and never falling back.

And the other forces probably knew that. That's why they didn't fear the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, even though they knew of its size and strength. That's why so many students had left their bones buried in the wilderness of the continent.

Mu Chen gradually restrained the ripples in his heart. The smile and gentleness on his face also slowly and unconsciously vanished. As his smile disappeared, his expression turned much deeper.

It felt as if the clouds around were towering, lofty peaks that had just cleared a little.

The Blood Calamity of the Spiritual Road had let go of his restraint. Now, on the Northern Heavens Continent, he'd be able to exert his full strength with nothing to fear.

Although these changes were very tiny, Su Xuan, Guo Xiong, and Li Qing all noticed it. A strange look immediately flash through their eyes. Right now, Mu Chen gave off an air of someone who was well-experienced and had lots of training behind him, not someone who'd just left the grounds of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. No. Even those who were experienced didn't have such sword-sharp eyes.

"This Mu Chen isn't a simple guy."

This sentence flashed through all their hearts. Su Xuan lightly smiled and waved her jade hands.

"Let's head for the White Dragon Hillock."

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 227: White Dragon City**

The White Dragon Hillock was located slightly west of the center of the Northern Heavens Continent. This was a rather unusual place with some decent fame throughout the Northern Heavens Continent; it's rumored that countless experts once fell here during a centuries-old, earth-shaking battle. These rumors also claimed that the fallen included a Sovereign level expert.

When those experts fell, they left everything they had buried within this place. Since then, countless treasure hunters have gathered there, endlessly searching the White Dragon Hillock. There have actually been a lucky few who've managed to discover rather ample rewards. Some even managed to win those fallen experts' inheritances. From that point on, they soared from their former status as nameless nobodies, gaining some amount of renown within the Northern Heavens Continent.

When people heard that, the White Dragon Hillock's fame suddenly surged. In addition to the vastness and strangeness of the White Dragon Hillock, there were also many Spiritual Beasts wandering the area. That's why even though the White Dragon Hillock wasn't extremely famous, it still had quite a local reputation.

Not far from White Dragon Hillock, several lights suddenly streaked across the horizon. The outlines of a massive city could be seen in the distance.

"We'll reach White Dragon City next. It's the largest city in White Dragon Hillock. Everything in this area is controlled by White Dragon City Lord. Rumor has it that this person possesses the strength of a Heavenly Transform Stage. He's certainly not weak. You could say he's a small overlord of this territory."

As they flew on, Su Xuan's soft voice sounded in their ears.

“We’ll first find lodging in White Dragon City and gather information. Usually, there are some abnormalities when a Spirit Treasury emerges. It’d definitely attract a lot of people. We’ll have to take note of which forces we need to be careful of.”

Su Xuan was evidently experienced with these sort of missions; she was especially thorough with her plans. Mu Chen heard her and formed no opinions, of course. He nodded his head.

Su Xuan lightly smiled at that. Her figure moved and descended, landing outside the city.

Mu Chen followed. As he approached, he sensed just how majestic this city was. The city walls were built from Black Stones and were several hundred feet tall. It was a towering structure, giving off an impenetrable feeling.

In terms of both scale and name, this city was several dozen times greater than their Mu Territory’s city. Mu Chen couldn’t help sighing. Compared to the Northern Heavens Continent, not to mention a small Northern Spiritual Realm, the Hundred Spirit Continent could only be considered ordinary.

After all, even if the Mu Territory did control a decent-sized territory, Mu Feng was still only at the Spirit Stage Late Phase. However, even the City Lord of White Dragon City already possessed the strength of a Heavenly Transform Stage. If this lord had lived on the Hundred Spirit Continent, he would’ve already become the Lord of several Realms.

Streams of people constantly flowed throughout the city entrance. The bustling noise informed them of the character of the city.

“Let’s enter the city as well.”

Su Xuan lightly waved her jade hands as she led Mu Chen and the rest of the group into the city. As they walked in, the air became even more vigorous.

“We’ll search for a place to lodge and then head for the trading sector of the city. It’s the area with the most information flow, as well as the largest auction house. That’s where we’ll make our preparations for this spirit treasury hunt.”

First, Su Xuan led her team in search of an inn. Then, they headed towards the trading sector that was located at the heart of the city. This should be the most flourishing part of White Dragon City. All sorts of Spiritual Artifacts, Soul Essences, Spiritual Arts, and various other treasures were on sale. As long as you could afford it, it was yours.

Su Ling’er’s feminine side was excited and enamoured with the dazzling pieces on display. However, Su Xuan pulled her back with a helpless smile. “Most of these are just ordinary things. There’s an auction house in the deepest part of the trading sector; that’s where you’ll find the good stuff. In a while, we’ll also head over there for a look. We’ll also be able to see which forces and experts have gathered here.”

Su Ling’er nodded with reluctance and let Su Xuan pull her away, deeper into the trading sector.

As they walked, their group gathered quite a bit of attention. It had nothing to do with Mu Chen or Guo Xiong; it was solely because of Su Xuan, Su Ling’er, and Li Qing. Their characters were entirely different; sweet-tempered, pampered and charming, and ice-cold. Anyone would be dazzled with just a look.

Mu Chen and Guo Xiong followed behind them, feeling the glares of heated from all around. They helplessly exchanged looks and smiled. No matter where they were, beautiful girls always attracted attention.

The five of them quickly moved through the trading sector, only slowing once they reached the heart of it. Here stood a majestic hall, with endless streams of people moving about. At the entrance stood fully-equipped guards. Anyone who wanted to enter the auction house would have to pay 10,000 Spirit Coins. This standard was clearly different from any other auction house they'd known before.

Su Xuan paid the entrance fee for five people with a wave of her hand, then led the four of them into the huge hall. As they entered the hall, their lines of sight expanded. They could see a vast auction hall at the end of the other passage. Currently, the auction hall was filled with people, clearly showing how popular the place was.

The party moved towards the front and found seats. Mu Chen swept his eyes around. Usually, you'd have to possess quite a bit of power and status to sit in these kinds of seats.

As of now, there were already people lazily slouching or idly staring at nothing, waiting for the auction to begin.

Mu Chen swept his sharp eyes towards the front, quickly finding a white-clothed youth, who was seated in front, towards the left. He was leisurely fanning himself. Beside him were two very sexily-dressed ladies, who were snuggling up to him, lightly smiling as they teased.

Next to that white-clothed youth, sat a withered grey-robed old man. His eyes were shut as though he was blind and deaf as he sat beside that youth. From the looks of it, he seemed to be in-charge of protecting that youth.

"That should be the Young City Master of White Dragon City." Su Xuan said suddenly clarified in a soft voice.

"Senior Sister Su Xuan knows him?"

"His sleeves have white dragons embroidered on them. That's the symbol of White Dragon City. Furthermore, the old man next to him is a Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase. Aside from the Young City Master, I'm afraid no one else in this city could get such treatment." Li Qing lightly explained. Her voice was light but cold, filled with dense loathing. It wasn't directed at Mu Chen, but at that youth who had two girls snuggling up to him with their ample figures. It was clear that she was disgusted by such a lecher.

Only after that did Mu Chen get it. He'd already noticed that the grey-robed elder wasn't quite ordinary. However, this was his first time here. Of course, he didn't know about the symbol of White Dragon City.

Su Xuan's expression quivered as she looked ahead, towards the right. "Even the Heavenly Dipper Sword Sect's members are here." She was looking at several figures, the leader of whom wore yellow clothes. He was thin, but had especially sharp eyes. Based on the faintly discernible Spiritual Energy ripples he was giving off, he wasn't any weaker than that grey-robed old man. Next to him were several young girls and boys. Each of them wore the symbol of a golden sword on their chest.

“The Heavenly Dipper Sword Sect?” Mu Chen followed Su Xuan’s gaze. But since this was his first in the Northern Heavens Continent, he was clearly unfamiliar with other forces’ symbols.

“Within a thousand miles of White Dragon Hillock, there are three forces that are considered the strongest. White Dragon City, the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction, and the Earthen Way Sect. Usually, they’d be guarding their own territories and wouldn’t bother showing up in each other’s territories. But now, they’ve actually gathered here. I wonder if they’re also here due to the appearance of the Spirit Treasury.” said Su Xuan.

“Can’t be helped. The appearance of a Spirit Treasury usually attracts some abnormal movements. They’re also locals of the White Dragon Hillock. How could they let themselves miss out on such a good opportunity?” Guo Xiong helplessly replied. If the Spirit Treasury attracted too much attention, then their harvest would naturally decrease.

“Now, let’s see if the Earthen Way Sect shows up.”

Su Xuan lightly nodded. However, before she could finish her words, her expression changed. Mu Chen noticed the change and turned to look. Not far away, there was a group of people wearing earth-yellow clothes approaching. The one leading them was a skinny old man with sunken eyes. He slowly strolled towards the auction house and sat down in the frontmost seats.

Mu Chen understood just by looking. Those people should be from the Earthen Way Sect that Su Xuan had just been talking about.

This time, all three major forces within a thousand miles had gathered in White Dragon City.

Xu Suan, Guo Xiong and Li Qing exchanged glances and slightly frowned their brows. It seemed that the difficulty of their mission had just increased.

Mu Chen also stared at the three forces; he noticed that the moment all three leaders arrived, everyone suddenly started staring straight ahead at the auction stage. Rays of light flashed in the depths of their eyes.

“These guys...”

Mu Chen knitted his brows and also looked towards the auction stage as rays of light flashed through his mind.

“Are we waiting for the auction to start? What’s caught everyone’s attention?”

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 228: Spiritual Array Seed**

Shiiiiii!

The sounds of bells and drums echoed throughout the huge auction house. Many people sat up in an instant, straightening their bodies as they directed excited expressions towards the auction stage. They knew the sign — the auction was starting soon.

Numerous adventure teams had gathered in White Dragon Hillock. Each day, they hunted ferocious Spiritual Beasts, while also searching for Spiritual Treasuries. Once the harvest passed inspection, most

of it ended up at the auction house. All the good stuff within a thousand miles of White Dragon Hillock ended up at this particular one.

Many people had come here for that. After all, a High Rank Spiritual Artifact could save a life in desperate fights. To many of the smaller adventure teams, it was absolutely crucial. In the end, life is the most important.

When Su Xuan and the rest heard the sound, they also focused their attention. Especially Mu Chen, who'd noticed the strange air between the three major forces; he paid extra attention.

Watched by a hall full of eyes, a fat middle-aged man slowly walked onto the spacious auction stage with a face full of smiles. He cupped his hands towards the crowd and said, "Haha. Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Bi Sheng, Chief Auctioneer of the Nine Xia Merchants' White Dragon City auction house. First, allow me to thank everyone on behalf of the Nine Xia Merchants for attending this event."

"So, the auction house here is managed by the Nine Xia Merchants." Su Xuan said softly as she heard the name.

"The Nine Xia Merchants are famous in the Northern Heavens Continent?" Mu Chen asked in a low voice.

Su Xuan lightly smiled. "The Nine Xia Merchants are one of the three largest mercantile groups in the Northern Heavens Continent. What do you think? They possess powerful strength. Although the overlord of White Dragon Hillock is only really a local overlord — he can't hold a candle to the Nine Xia Merchants."

Mu Chen understood that. No wonder the Young City Lord of White Dragon City was keeping to himself over there.

At least the auctioneer named Bi Sheng didn't get too long-winded with this speech. He made a quick transition and moved over to the main topic. With a wave of his hand, a sword case appeared onstage.

The sword case opened, revealing a three-foot-long green blade, rippling with a dense green luster. As the green energy poured out, it showed the image of a large green eagle on the blade. The eagle flapped its wings, creating wind blades, engulfing everything. Sonic booms sounded so loudly, it seemed as if the air had cracked.

This clearly wasn't a Low Rank Spiritual Artifact; there was even a Spiritual Beast's Soul Essence sealed within the sword. It wouldn't be weak.

"Haha. Ladies and Gentlemen's, this is the Azure Eagle Sword. It's a Middle Rank Spiritual Artifact. Sealed inside is the Soul Essence of an Azure Light Eagle, with strength comparable to a Heavenly Fusion Stage. As everyone knows, the Azure Light Eagle is known for its speed. At its fastest, even a Heavenly Transform Stage expert would have a hard time hunting it. It has now been refined into this sword, enhancing its power by several folds. If there's any friend here today who's an expert with swords, don't miss out on this opportunity!" Bi Sheng said with his eyes narrowing as he smiled.

"The starting bid for this sword is 150,000 Spirit Coins."

The auction hall was briefly silent by such an expensive price. However, the lull was soon broken with all sorts of voices. A Middle Rank Spiritual Artifact with the Soul Essence of an Azure Light Eagle was indeed worthy of such a price.

Mu Chen looked around the auction house, hearing all the yelling. He couldn't help making a bitter smile for a brief moment. When he left the Northern Spiritual Realm, Mu Feng had prepared 150,000 Spirit Coins for him. That was already a decent sum for the Mu Territory. But here, it was the lowest starting price for a Middle Rank Spiritual Artifact.

The yelling continued around the auction house for several minutes, before slowly dying down. In the end, the "Azure Eagle Sword" was sold for 190,000 Spirit Coins to a skinny middle-aged man.

Once the "Azure Eagle Sword" had been sold, the atmosphere in the auction house gradually rose. The auctioneer Bi Sheng was clearly experienced with these sort of auctions. Next came a series of decent quality items. Most were Spiritual Arts, all of those were High Rank Spiritual Tiers. Each priced over a million.

Spiritual Arts were rather good treasures to many people of this area; however, Mu Chen, Su Xuan, and the others who'd come from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would find them ordinary. Especially Mu Chen, who'd had a glimpse of the Spiritual Arts Hall's vast collection. It was harder for him to see much more value in these things.

"There's nothing good." Su Ling'er muttered. She clearly wasn't very satisfied with the quality of the auctions.

"Let's wait a little longer. The good things are usually towards the end." Su Xuan lightly smiled. She wasn't impatient.

Mu Chen also nodded. He'd noticed that the members of the three major forces were still quietly seated. Even up until now, none of them had made a move. They were obviously still waiting for the better pieces to appear.

"Haha, the next item for auction is a little special. A team adventuring in the White Dragon Hillock managed to find it by sheer luck. By our appraisals, it should be an item left behind by a High Rank Spiritual Array Master."

On the stage, Bi Sheng's pair of hands carefully held up a jade box, the middle of which was decorated with a metal spheres. However, what confused everyone was the fact that none of them could sense any powerful Spiritual Energy rippling from it.

"Haha. Everyone, please don't underestimate this. If we've appraised correctly, then these should be "Spiritual Array Seed" that only powerful Spiritual Array Masters can create."

Bi Sheng narrowed his eyes and smiled. "Only Spiritual Array Masters with extraordinary abilities can carve such complex and frightening Spiritual Arrays onto this small metal spheres. When facing opponents, all they have to do is throw this "Spiritual Array Seed", which will instantly form Spiritual Arrays. It's really mysterious and unusual."

From one of the front seats, the Earthen Way Sect's skinny old man glanced at the rusty metal balls and sneered. "Hehe. Hey Fat Bi, it's true that these 'Spiritual Array Seed' must be created by High Rank

Spiritual Array Masters. But you'll still have to check the level of the Spiritual Arrays carved on these 'Spiritual Array Seed'. If they turn out to be only Rank 1 or 2 Spiritual Arrays, then, what's the point?"

"You'll also need a special method to activate them. Even if you have a 'Spiritual Array Seed', you won't be able to activate it if you aren't familiar with it."

Everyone in the auction house nodded as they listened. Bi Sheng had been vague on purpose; he was clearly digging a hole and hoping that people would jump in.

"Haha, Brother Tu truly has a vicious foresight. No wonder you're an Elder of the Earthen Way Sect." Even though he'd been exposed, Bi Sheng wasn't enraged at all. Instead, he nodded and smiled. "These 'Spiritual Array Seed' are rather ancient. We invited a Rank 3 Spiritual Array Master to study them, but even he couldn't understand them. The only thing he said was that these Spiritual Arrays definitely surpassed his rank. It's true that they'll only serve the purpose of being decorations; but, of course, to some people, they could also be a formidable treasure."

"Let's not say any more. The starting price for this "Spiritual Array Seed" is 30,000."

"Hissss."

As Bi Sheng's words landed, the auction crowd hissed. This guy hadn't even clearly stated the rank of the Spiritual Arrays carved on these "Spiritual Array Seed" and was daring to ask for 30,000 for just one seed.

However, there was quite a number of Spiritual Array Masters among the auction crowd who were rather interested in it and started bidding. But once the price had reached 50,000, the voices quieted down.

"Haha, this friend over here has offered a price of 50,000. Is there anyone who is willing to go even higher?" Bi Sheng smiled.

Mu Chen stared at this particular "Spiritual Array Seed" and his eyes narrowed as a strange light flashed through his eyes. He'd already entered the Heart Array State to observe the "Spiritual Array Seed". The complicated patterns clearly surpassed the category of Rank 3. According to Mu Chen's speculations, the Spiritual Array carved on this "Spiritual Array Seed" might be compatible to a portion of his "Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array".

This really was some good stuff.

A thought flashed over Mu Chen's heart and he lightly smiled. "60,000."

The sudden sound in the quiet auction house attracted quite a bit of attention. So much so that even the members of the three major forces also turned their heads in his direction.

Even the white-clothed youth, with two beautiful girls hugging him, also lazily glanced at Mu Chen. Then his eyes focused. A blaze was lit within his eyes.

"Premium qualities." His eyes were fiery as he looked at Su Xuan, Su Ling'er, and Li Qing sitting next to Mu Chen. His heart pounded. Compared to the two girls in his embrace, those three were on another level.

“Since when did our White Dragon City have such premium qualities?” That white-clothed youth let go of the two girls in his embrace and licked his lips. His eyes were filled with unconcealed lust for the three girls.

“What are you staring at? You don’t want your eyes anymore?!” Su Ling’er was the first to sense the white-clothed youth’s covetous gaze. Her face turned cold as she coldly growled. Her personality was violent to begin with; back in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, she was already so hard to deal with. Now, upon seeing the gaze coming from this white-clothed youth, she was even more furious. Being frank and outspoken, she naturally didn’t give him any face.

Su Xuan also glanced at the youth with indifference. However, she did not speak. Meanwhile, the loathing in Li Qing’s eyes was unconcealed as she glared back at him, it was so hard that you could sense the bloodthirst.

“Haha, a little chili pepper with just enough spice. I like it.”

Even though Su Ling’er had shouted at him, he wasn’t angered. Instead, he licked his lips and lazily waved his hand. “100,000 Spirit Coins. I, the Young Master, want that Spiritual Array Seed.”

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 229: White Dragon Jade Pillar**

100,000?

When the white-clothed youth announced his price, a commotion broke out in the auction house. Such a sum clearly surpassed the estimated price of the Spiritual Array Seed by a long shot.

Eyes shifted between the white-clothed youth and Mu Chen, then to Su Xuan and the other two girls, who currently had angry wolf-like expressions. Then, they understood what was going on.

Most of the people in this auction hall had lived in White Dragon Hillock for quite some time. Of course, they knew that the Young City Lord was very lustful. Who knows how many girls had fallen into his hands over the years? From the looks of it, these three unfamiliar, but beautiful, girls had caught his attention, so he’d purposely stirred matters up.

Mu Chen slightly furrowed his brows. He never thought that the smooth auction might be interrupted by this guy. Mu Chen, himself, also didn’t possess much wealth; even if he tried to compete, he knew he wasn’t going to win.

The white-clothed youth laughed at Mu Chen’s frown, showing off his status as a hedonistic rich-kid.

Su Ling’er’s shapely brows lightly moved. She saw the proud look from that youth. A little Young City Lord of White Dragon City dared to put on an act before her?

“150,000.” Su Ling’er coldly said.

A commotion broke out in the auction house again. Quite a few people were looking over in interest. From the looks of it, this pampered-looking young miss wasn’t someone easy to deal with.

Those from the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect also looked over at Mu Chen’s group and showed surprise. Then, the middle-aged man of the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and

skinny old man from the Earthen Way Sect stopped their eyes on Su Xuan. They'd clearly sensed her strength.

A trace of astonishment flashed across their eyes. This girl was clearly quite young, but she was already so powerful? These youths definitely weren't simple.

That white-clothed youth was also dazed for a moment. The eyes that'd been watching the exchange with amusement suddenly flashed with gloom. No one in White Dragon City would dare to go against the Young City Master like that.

"200,000." He said after glancing back at Su Ling'er.

"250,000." Su Ling'er added. Her charming eyes were filled with mockery. Now, she'd put him on the stage where he couldn't back down.

"YOU...!" The youth raged. The moment he let out that furious bark, the grey-clothed elder pressed him on the shoulder.

The grey-clothed elder opened his eyes and said, "Young City Lord, there's no need to make trouble. They aren't ordinary people. That girl in white is so powerful that even I might not win. Just let it go. Our target isn't this Spiritual Array Seed, so, please, don't make unnecessary trouble; otherwise, I wouldn't be able to face the City Lord."

When the white-clothed youth heard the elder's words, his face changed through several shades of green and red. He never expected to embarrass himself in front of so many people. However, he only nodded, as he didn't dare to ignore this elder. He then threw a ruthless glance towards Mu Chen's group, before looking away.

"Hmph, a little Young City Lord of White Dragon City dared to be arrogant before me?" Su Ling'er snorted as she saw how suffocating that youth was acting.

"This price is already a little high." Mu Chen helplessly smiled. The information on the Spiritual Array Seed wasn't complete, after all. By spending 250,000 Spirit Coins, he felt like they'd lost a little.

"It's his fault for having such dirty eyes." Su Ling'er twisted her lips into a pout, but then smiled, "I'll gift this Spiritual Array Seed to you. I'm not a Spiritual Array Master, so I won't have a use for it."

"Then, you have my thanks. I don't have the money right now, but I'll return it to you next time." Mu Chen didn't reject the offer as he was still rather interested in this Spiritual Array Seed. He only thought of owing a favour this time.

"Who asked you to return it? We're companions, right now, so helping each other is natural." Su Ling'er said as she rolled her eyes at him.

"What Ling'er said is correct. This Spiritual Array Seed shouldn't be ordinary. If you can study it, who knows? It might be of huge help to us." Su Xuan lightly smiled. Her gentle smile moved many hearts around them. A woman like her was considerably outstanding. No wonder even Bai Dong couldn't endure it.

Mu Chen smiled, nodded, and stayed silent.

The auction continued, but Mu Chen didn't find anything else interesting after his Spiritual Array Seed, and was slightly disappointed. The three major forces sitting in front of them didn't buy anything, either. It was clear that they'd each come for a specific target, and it seemed that their targets lied in a similar direction.

The auction gradually wound towards its end; however the atmosphere became increasingly excited. Bi Sheng stood onstage with a full smile on his face as he swept an eye over the three major forces without making it clear that he was looking at them. Then, he retrieved an object from his sleeve with exasperating slowness.

The moment that object came out, Mu Chen felt brilliant rays of light as they rushed forth in the eyes of the three major forces. The grey-robed elder next to the white-robed youth hadn't moved at all, until this point, but now, even he was tightly focused.

Mu Chen followed their eyes back to the stage and saw a jade rod appear in Bi Sheng's hand, roughly 2 inches long. The surface of the rod seemed to be decorated with a barely visible engraving of a white dragon in flight. On the head of that dragon was the vague impression of a person sitting cross-legged.

The moment this White Dragon Jade Dowel appeared, it started to vibrate. As powerful lights were emitted, what seemed to be the mournful cries of a dragon tore through the hall. It was a misery too strong for words, like a tsunami bearing down upon them.

The misery quickly permeated the hall. Within a few moments, everyone's faces were white, as if their Spiritual Energies had stopped flowing. The pressure was filling them with a dread born from the pits of their hearts.

What is this?!

What terrifying pressure!

Cries of alarm rose and fell. Everyone eyed the White Dragon Jade Dowel with shaken hearts. Was this the last item left for the end of the auction?

"What is that?" Su Ling'er also watched with curiosity. Something that surprised her had finally appeared in this auction.

Under such spiritual pressure, Su Xuan's lovely eyes also stared at the White Dragon Jade Dowel. She lightly said, "I'm afraid this item probably belonged to a Sovereign."

"A Sovereign?!"

Mu Chen, Guo Xiong, and Li Qing felt light jolts in their hearts upon hearing those words. An item left behind by a Sovereign? Such a treasure actually made its appearance here?

"Haha. Ladies and Gentlemen, this White Dragon Jade Dowel was discovered in the depths of White Dragon Hillock. We have concluded that this White Dragon Jade Dowel was most probably left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign who fell several hundred years ago in White Dragon Hillock." Bi Sheng said as he lifted the White Dragon Jade Dowel with great caution.

"The White Dragon Sovereign?!"

The entire auction was shocked. Countless eyes had turned red. As everyone knew, among the experts who'd fallen in the White Dragon Hillock, the White Dragon Sovereign was the most famous. Back then, the White Dragon Sovereign was an extremely powerful existence, even for the entire Northern Heavens Continent. However, no one had ever managed to obtain his inheritance after his death. But now, it's finally been discovered?

An item left behind by a Sovereign was more than enough to make them go crazy with greed.

Recently, there had been a rise in the level of abnormal activity in the depths of White Dragon Hillock. It only took a little thinking for everyone to understand that these were signs that a Spirit Treasury was emerging. Furthermore, the White Dragon Dowel had appeared with amazing timing. It was highly likely that this new Spirit Treasury might be the one left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign. The information bomb that Bi Sheng had tossed instantly exploded in the auction house. Countless breaths grew heavier.

A lot of people had already noticed the abnormalities in the depths of White Dragon Hillock; however, even if they knew that a Spirit Treasury was about to appear, most of them thought it would only be an ordinary Spirit Treasury. Therefore, most people didn't think too much about it and only focused on trying their luck out there. After all, there were many Spiritual Treasuries that would periodically emerge in White Dragon Hillock. Most of those were ordinary, anyways. However, now, it looked like this new Spirit Treasury might be the one left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign. Wouldn't that be a Sovereign Spirit Treasury?

There were huge differences between Spirit Treasury of that level and ordinary ones. It was enough to shake the entire White Dragon Hillock.

Mu Chen's group also exchanged looks as chaos broke out around them.

"Didn't the information say it'd be a Wealthy Spirit Treasury? How'd it turn into a Sovereign Spirit Treasury?" Guo Xiong asked blankly.

Su Xuan also slightly knitted her brows. "It seems that there was a mistake in our information. It'll be troublesome this time. If it'd been only a Wealthy Spirit Treasury, then our mission would've been a smooth one. But, since it's a Sovereign Spirit Treasury, it'll probably attract more experts, or even the three major forces. When the time comes, a great battle will be unavoidable."

Even though their party wasn't weak, they were still low in numbers. Trying to confront the powerful local forces with only the five of them would be rather difficult. Furthermore, there were still many powerful adventurer teams in White Dragon Hillock. Those people weren't easy to deal with, either.

"It might not be a genuine Sovereign Spirit Treasury. Who knows, that fat-ass probably just said that to drive up the price," Su Ling'er muttered.

"That's possible," Su Xuan lightly nodded. Then, her charming eyes focused on the White Dragon Jade Dowel on the stage. "We'll wait and see how the situation plays out."

Guo Xiong and the rest of them nodded. Right now, that was the only thing they could do.

Mu Chen also directed his attention towards the White Dragon Jade Dowel on the stage and noticed the nervous expression coming from the three major forces. His heart, however, sensed Bi Sheng's words

were probably all true. The Spirit Treasury that'd emerged this time might really be the one left behind by that White Dragon Sovereign.

"It looks like our mission just gained a lot more twists and turns."

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 230 Competition**

With the appearance of the White Dragon Jade Dowel, the entire auction house boiled over with an impassioned gaze. Many lines of sight fixedly stared at the dowel. Even though Bi Sheng hadn't been terribly clear with his words, the effect was the same — if the new Spirit Treasury in the White Dragon Hillock really was a Sovereign Spirit Treasury, then this White Dragon Jade Dowel might be a crucial object for it.

If they could get their hands on this White Dragon Jade Dowel, wouldn't you be able to increase their chances of finding the Sovereign Spirit Treasury?

Quite a few of those stares were heated and filled with greed. If they could find the Sovereign Spirit Treasury, then their cultivations could scale the skies in a single step. If they could get their hands on the White Dragon Jade Dowel, then they'd require an even shorter time to soar through the heavens in this Northern Heavens Continent!

Bi Sheng gave the auction crowd a narrow-eyed smile and said, "Haha. Of course, we cannot neglect the connection between this White Dragon Jade Dowel and the White Dragon Sovereign. But, as to whether the true usage of it, we cannot say for sure, either. Only the one who wins this piece in today's auction may study it."

"Now, we'll start bidding. The starting price is 3,000,000 Spirit Coins."

Bi Sheng waved his large hand and slightly raised the White Dragon Jade Dowel, spreading and shrouding the hall with its radiance. The faintly discernible pressure seemed to have traces of freezing the air inside the auction house.

"3,500,000."

The white-clothed youth named Bai Dong was the first to speak, displaying White Dragon City's determination to win this piece.

"4,000,000."

But this time, it looked like White Dragon City wasn't going to have an easy time. The moment Bai Dong's voice landed, the Heavenly Dipper Sword faction followed. The one who spoke was the middle-aged man with eyes as cold and sharp as the edge of a steel blade.

Bai Dong heard that and shot them a vicious glare; however, the middle-aged man appeared not to have noticed it. His eyes were focused only on the White Dragon Jade Dowel. White Dragon City may be powerful, but the Heavenly Dipper Faction wasn't afraid of them.

And, just as Bai Dong was giving off the vicious stare, the old man wearing a yellow robe from the Earthen Way Sect parted his lips. He flashed his large yellow teeth and said with a beaming smile, "4,500,000."

A collective sigh seemed to pass over the audience as they watched the three major forces engage in a bidding war. They understood that they didn't stand a chance against those three wealthy and imposing forces.

Su Ling'er seemed to have her curiosity aroused by the White Dragon Jade Dowel. Just when she was getting ready to call out her own price. However, Mu Chen stopped her.

"What are you doing? If we can get our hands on that White Dragon Jade Dowel, then we might be able to find the Sovereign Spirit Treasury," Su Ling'er said as she pouted.

"That thing is a hot potato. We can't take it." Mu Chen replied as he shook his head.

Who knows how many people had their eye on that White Dragon Jade Dowel? If their party bought it in such a public place, then they'd probably be followed by numerous people, once they left the auction house. Forget about finding the treasures. Once they left the city, the trouble would start like an endless stream. There were only five of them; they had no hope of dealing with it all. Even with Su Xuan's Heavenly Transform Stage strength, she couldn't possibly intimidate everyone who came after them.

"En. Mu Chen is right." Su Xuan lightly nodded her head in agreement and glared at Su Ling'er, who was still pouting. "Don't mess around. Otherwise, I won't take you out on any more missions."

Only after being threatened by Su Xuan, did Su Ling'er duck down her little head.

"What's your opinion on the situation?" Su Xuan looked to Mu Chen with a faint smile. Even though Mu Chen was about the same age as Su Ling'er, she could tell that his actions carried great experience behind them. Almost like an upperclassman who was used to going outside for training.

"We'll watch for any changes. If this White Dragon Jade Dowel really is connected to the newly emerged Spirit Treasury, then, when the time comes, there'll be an intense battle. We're low on manpower, so we'll have to stick to the shadows and watch for opportunities. If we get caught in heavy fire, we'd only have to immediately abort the mission. Otherwise, we'll suffer disastrous losses." Mu Chen muttered.

Guo Xiong, who was sitting next to him, nodded in agreement. Li Qing gave Mu Chen a second look. Who would've thought that this freshman actually had a skill or two?

Su Xuan nodded her delicate head and looked towards at the three major forces, who were really starting to get into their bidding war. She lightly smiled and said, "Then, for now, let's just sit back and watch the show."

Mu Chen responded with a laugh and pointed his eyes towards the front. Within a short few minutes, the Young City Lord of the White Dragon City had already hiked the dowel's price up to 6,000,000 Spirit Coins. That price certainly wasn't low anymore. If this was back in the Northern Spiritual Realm, his Mu Territory wouldn't even be able to scrape up so much wealth in one sitting.

When the price reached 6,000,000, the eyes of the middle-aged man from the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction turned gloomy. Light slightly flickered in his eyes. Then, he spoke in a low, gravely voice, instantly inflating the price by another million. "7,000,000."

Some members of the audience secretly licked their lips. It looked like this Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction had also come prepared.

When 7,000,000 was announced, even White Dragon City and the Earth Way Sect quieted down for a brief moment. Shortly after, the Young City Lord exchanged a look with the grey-robed elder sitting next to him and coldly smiled, "Elder Chen Kun has quite the resolve."

The middle-aged man named Chen Kun lightly smiled and replied, "We wouldn't dare to compare ourselves against the rich and imposing White Dragon City."

"My White Dragon City is determined to win this White Dragon Jade Dowel. If you want to compete, then my White Dragon City will accompany you to the end." Bai Dong coldly laughed and waved his hand. "8,000,000."

The Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction's Chen Kun frowned at the new price.

"Haha. If the White Dragon City has such confidence, then my Earthen Way Sect will give you another push." The yellow-robed elder showed a mischievous smile and said, "9,000,000. If your White Dragon City can get over that price, then we'll give up on the White Dragon Jade Dowel."

"9,000,000..."

A massive sigh exploded in the auction house. It's no wonder why these guys were hailed as the three strongest forces within a thousand miles of the White Dragon Hillock. To people like themselves, these prices like those meant nothing more but words.

They remembered that a year ago, a Quasi-Deity Tier Spiritual Art had wound up in this auction house. Back then, it sold for about 10,000,000 Spirit Coins. And now, this White Dragon Jade Dowel will soon reach 10,000,000, and no one even knew how to use it.

"That god damned Huang Tu, old demon." Bai Dong sent another vicious glare towards the yellow-robed old man and gnashed his teeth. Even though White Dragon City had some inside connections, 10,000,000 Spirit Coins wasn't cheap for them, either. But, if they wanted the White Dragon Jade Dowel, then they had to match the price. And Bai Dong's father had already given the order — they were to get that White Dragon Jade Dowel at any cost.

"10,000,000!"

Bai Dong stood up and barked. The audience immediately sucked in a cold lungful of air. Did White Dragon City have to act as if their life depended on it? Why did they have to spend 10,000,000 Spirit Coins to buy an object that no one even knew how to use?

10,000,000 Spirit Coins should be worth half a year's revenue for White Dragon City, right?

"How generous." Guo Xiong also smacked his lips. He was surprised that White Dragon City was willing to hand over such wealth.

Mu Chen also nodded. 10,000,000 Spirit Coins. Even Mu Territory's yearly revenue could never reach such a number.

When Bai Dong smashed the sky high price of 10,000,000 down. Even the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect seemed to have their fires put out. This price was already at their limits. The most important thing was whether or not they could match White Dragon City's

determination. This made them realize that it was useless, even if they continued to compete at their limits.

Bi Sheng stood on stage with his thin-eyed smile, watching the show play out. He waited briefly, until he was sure that no one else was willing to raise the price. Then, he raised the auction gavel, made the last three calls, and heavily brought down the gavel.

When the auction gavel landed, the crowd knew that this White Dragon Jade Dowel had landed in the hands of White Dragon City.

“Ah, ah. The Young City Lord has quite the resolution. I hope this Spirit Treasury really turns out to be a Sovereign Spirit Treasury. Otherwise, you’ve really taken a huge loss this time.” The Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction’s Chen Kun stood up and turned to smile at Bai Dong’s party of two. Then, he led his own party straight out of the hall.

“Haha. It looks like White Dragon City has really paid with their blood. I hope my Earthen Way Sect will be able to pick a few scraps out of the mess. I suppose we’ll take our leave.” The Earthen Way Sect’s yellow-robed old man gave Bai Dong a squinty smile, waved, and led his party out.

Bai Dong gave the evil-eye to their retreating backs and gnashed his teeth. “Be cocky all you want. There’ll be a time when you will cry.”

“Let’s go.”

Su Xuan rose, called to Mu Chen and the others, and headed outside the hall. Behind them, Bai Dong longed after that graceful and nimble figure of hers. He felt like there was a blazing fireball in his heart. This sweet-tempered and cute little girl... would this flower pale and lose her color once he put himself on top?

But, when his insatiable eyes landed on Su Xuan’s lovely body, he suddenly sensed someone shoot a razor-sharp killing intent in his direction. He slightly turned his head and saw Mu Chen, standing behind Su Xuan, staring back at him with unsympathetic eyes. That icy expression chilled his heart.

Bai Dong started to feel rather uncomfortable under Mu Chen’s glare. His own expression dimmed, and the corner of this mouth lifted into a cruel smile. He lifted a hand and made a light slashing motion towards Mu Chen’s neck.

Mu Chen saw the motion, but his expression was still apathetic. Then, he turned away. Completely ignored Bai Dong.

Bai Dong turned green when saw that Mu Chen had completely disregarded his threat. He leaned his back and spoke to the grey-robed elder in a dim voice, “Elder Qiu, run a background check on those guys. I’d like to find out where this trash came from, for them to be daring enough to go against me inside this White Dragon City.”

The grey-robed elder gave a slight nod. Those strangers didn’t look like a party of adventurers. Not only that, they were quite powerful. Indeed, he’d need to do some research on their origins, in order to be on the safe side.

Bai Dong waved his sleeve and left the auction house through the opposite door. His expression was incomparably dark. He was going to make those guys understand just how stupid they were to provoke him within the walls of his White Dragon City.