

Great Ruler 231

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Chapter 231: Bai Xuan

The evening colors slowly advanced little by little, at last blanketing the enormous White Dragon City. But even though night was here, it couldn't suppress the liveliness of the city. The sounds of people bubbled up into the skies. Even from far away, others could still feel the flourishing city.

White Dragon City was especially lively today. The cause was the piece of news that'd recently been released from the auction house at noon. It was regarding the Sovereign Spirit Treasury.

A Sovereign Spirit Treasury.

Those few words alone were enough to redden the eyes of many. Everyone clearly understood the weight those words held.

Sovereign, a name meant for the true experts of this Great Thousand World. Only existences of that level could qualify to become the Lord of a Continent. Only people like them possess the qualifications to gain such authority.

Although Heavenly Fusion Stage experts were also very powerful, they were still a far cry from gaining control of an entire continent, or even making others worship them.

As for the Spirit Treasuries left behind by Sovereign level experts, those were, also, clearly incomparable to Heavenly Fusion Stage experts. If someone blindly stumbled upon a Sovereign's inheritance, they'd gain god-like aid on their cultivation path. They would break away from the ordinary.

Half the reason for the White Dragon Hillock's fame was due to the White Dragon Sovereign who had, once upon a time, fallen in this place.

People flocked here in droves in order to search for the Spirit Treasury that he'd left behind. But no one was able to find it in the past few hundred years. And, at long last, there was finally some news of this Sovereign Spirit Treasury. It didn't matter how much of this news was actually true. It was enough to make a lot of eyes turn red.

The entire White Dragon Hillock would be shaken by this news.

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Mu Chen sat in a room in one of White Dragon City's Cultivating Pavilions. His attention was currently focused on the object in his hands — a rusty metal sphere roughly the size of a dragon's eye. The surface of the sphere was decorated with tiny, cryptic patterns.

This was the 'Spiritual Array Seed' that Su Ling'er had bought for him in the auction house, earlier today. Only a Spiritual Array Master could study this; therefore, Su Ling'er had given it to Mu Chen.

Mu Chen was clearly interested in it, as well. Forging a 'Spiritual Array Seed' of this level required a frightening amount of control. It was basically impossible for an ordinary Spiritual Array Master to forge it. Not even for Mu Chen.

“The Spiritual Array carved onto this ‘Spiritual Array Seed’ certainly isn’t of a low rank.”

Mu Chen carefully studied the ‘Spiritual Array Seed’ for half an hour before looking away with a grave expression. Based on those vague patterns, he could tell that this Spiritual Array was at least a Rank 4. It probably wasn’t any weaker than his Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array. But, of course, Mu Chen’s current Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array wasn’t the complete one.

His current attainments in Spiritual Arrays had already reached the level of a Rank 3 Spiritual Array Master. If he entered into the Heart Array state, he could even come in contact with Rank 4 Spiritual Arrays. Usually, a Rank 3 Spiritual Array Master could form a maximum of 99 Spiritual Seals. Once that number reached 100, they’d qualify to be a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master.

And the portion of the Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array that Mu Chen could set was exactly 100 Spiritual Seals. He just happened to land in the latter category.

Of course, with Mu Chen’s current strength, he’d have to exert all his energy, just like when he’d faced Li Xuantong. He’d even have to use the energy he shared with the Nine Netherbird, as well as the Heart Array State. Only then could he successfully form those 100 Spiritual Seals and set up the Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array.

Mu Chen estimated that if he wanted to be able to set up the Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array as easily as he could set up a Rank 3 Spiritual Array, then he’d probably have to wait until he reached the Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase. Only after that would he be able to do it without needing to exert all his energy.

“In order to activate this Spiritual Array Seed, I’ll need to thoroughly understand the Spiritual Array carved into it...”

Mu Chen muttered to himself. Generally speaking, this Spiritual Array Seed would only be useful in the hands of a Spiritual Array Master. Even if a regular person got their hands on it, they wouldn’t be able to activate it without understanding the circulating trajectory of the Spiritual Array. If they recklessly injected Spiritual Energy into it, then the Spiritual Array Seed would explode and they’d only end up hurting themselves.

It wasn’t a simple task to thoroughly understand the circulating trajectory, even for a Spiritual Array Master.

“It looks like I’ll have to take it slow.”

Mu Chen held onto the rusty Spiritual Array Seed and slowly closed his eyes. His mind gradually calmed, until he was as tranquil as a still pond. A sense of brightness slowly lit up and spread throughout his heart. This was the thorough sensing ability of the Heart Array State.

Mu Chen entered the Heart Array State and his mind slowly enveloped the Spiritual Array Seed that was resting in his palm. Traces of fine Spiritual Energy quietly drilled in. Then, he started to carefully explore the complicated Spiritual Array that was carved onto the seed.

This exploration process was extremely complicated. However, Mu Chen already had prepared himself for that. He calmed himself and began exploring it, bit by bit.

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White Dragon City, City Lord's Mansion

In the depths of the mansion, Bai Dong and the grey-robed elder stood in a dimly lit study room. There was a table before them, and behind it was a white-haired, middle-aged man. This man was currently fixing his eyes on the White Dragon Jade Dowel that was flickering with Spiritual Energy pressure.

"This White Dragon Jade Dowel was left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign. It seems like there wasn't any mistake with our intelligence." The middle-aged man said. He lightly smiled as he held onto the White Dragon Jade Dowel.

Hearing his words, Bai Dong and the grey-robed elder released lungs full of stale air.

"Father, this newly emerging Spirit Treasury should be the one left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign, right?" Bai Dong asked in low voice.

"That should be correct." The man who Bai Dong had called "father" was Bai Xuan, White Dragon City's City Lord, of course. He was the overlord-like figure for the area within a thousand li [1. 1 li = 500m] of the White Dragon Hillock.

"White Dragon Sovereign. Did that old fart really think he could hide the Spirit Treasury forever? I built this White Dragon City and searched for decades, all the while waiting for this day." Bai Xuan laughed indifferently. A dense, cold, and brilliant light flickered in his eyes.

"As long as we find that supreme treasure, our mission is complete. When that happens, we'll leave this damned place and go back."

"Father, the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect have also sent their people over. Furthermore, once the news spreads, there might be reinforcements." said Bai Dong.

"Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction, Earthen Way Sect... Haha, just a bunch of small figures. When our Demonic Dragon Palace ruled the Northern Heavens Continent, forces like them could be erased with just the wave of a hand." Bai Xuan's eyes flickered with a chilling light. "If it hadn't been for those Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy bastards, how could our Demonic Dragon Palace land in this situation? Back then, if that White Dragon Sovereign hadn't stolen our supreme treasure and rebelled, and if it hadn't been for those old farts of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, that academy wouldn't have had a chance to rule the Northern Heavens Continent!"

"Hmph, but it doesn't matter. Before long, our Demonic Dragon Palace will rise again. When that day comes, we'll definitely uproot the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!"

The grey-robed elder's eyes flickered. "City Lord, there was a group of youths who recently arrived in the White Dragon City. They aren't very old, but they're extremely powerful. I secretly investigated and learned that they're from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

"Oh?" Bai Dong's brows frowned. Then he laughed nastily. "So they're from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. No wonder they were so arrogant."

“From the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?” Bai Xuan’s brows knitted as he carried on, “Could they be here for the Sovereign Spirit Treasury, as well? Could the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy know about what was hidden? That’s impossible!”

“It doesn’t seem like it. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have sent such a small party.”

The grey-robed elder shook his head and continued, “Among them, there’s a white-dressed girl who’s the Rank 3 of the Heavenly Ranking, Su Xuan. She’s probably at the Heavenly Transform Stage Middle Phase, extremely powerful. Aside from her, there’s Guo Xiong and Li Qing, also ranked in the top 30 of the Heavenly Ranking. The other two were only Heavenly Fusion Stages — ordinary and nothing to fear.”

Based on the grey-robed elder’s words, you could tell that he was very familiar with the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

“Heavenly Transform Stage Middle Phase...” Bai Xuan held the White Dragon Jade Dowel. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy definitely has their methods of nurturing students. They already possessed such frightful power at such tender ages.

“Father, what should we do? Those people from Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy actually dared to step into our territory! We definitely can’t let them go. Furthermore, if they relay the news back to Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and invite genuine experts to reinforce them, the situation could turn extremely unfavorable for us. Who knows if our preparations all these years will turn out to be in vain?” Bai Dong licked his lips. His voice was sinister; however, his eyes were filled with desire.

The grey-robed elder nodded to Bai Dong’s words. “What Young City Lord said isn’t wrong. Those students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy are an unstable factor.”

Bai Xuan’s eyes narrowed. “That Su Xuan isn’t weak. If we force them, she might slip away. If that happens, we’d be inviting even greater trouble.”

“City Lord, among that group of five, the girl with the Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase cultivation is Su Xuan’s biological sister. If we can capture her, Su Xuan will definitely refrain from shooting at the rat for fear of breaking the vases. Won’t they be in our grasp?” The grey-robed elder said in a low voice.

Bai Xuan lightly smiled and nodded to his words. He heavily placed the White Dragon Jade Dowel on the table and said in solemn voice.

“Then let’s get rid of all those unstable factors. Remember, don’t take any actions within White Dragon City, so as to avoid attracting the attention of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

Bai Xuan smiled as he revealed his white teeth and a chilling aura.

“Wait until they exit White Dragon City, then send out the Demonic Dragon Guards to get rid of them. Anyways, there have been quite a number of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students who’ve died by our hands, the hands of the Demonic Dragon Palace...”

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Chapter 232: White Dragon Hillock

Early the next day, Su Xuan's party left White Dragon City for the White Dragon Hillock. Even though White Dragon City was the largest city in the vicinity of the White Dragon Hillock, it was still located some distance away to avoid commotions caused by the local Spiritual Beasts. Therefore, Mu Chen's party had to quickly set upon their journey.

It was only after they left did they realize just how huge an impact the news made — the news that this Spirit Treasury was actually a Sovereign Spirit Treasury.

The wide road to the White Dragon Hillock was jammed with an astounding number of people. So much that even the air was periodically filled with figures that flashed overhead. Everyone was rushing in one direction — towards the White Dragon Hillock, as well.

Mu Chen's group felt helpless at this scene. They originally wanted to quietly explore; they never expected there to be such massive levels of activity.

"We should hurry to the White Dragon Hillock and find somewhere to set up camp, before nightfall. Otherwise, if we move around recklessly, we'll easily attract the attention of the Spiritual Beasts." Su Xuan said with a light voice.

Mu Chen and the others nodded at her words. Shortly after, their figures moved and streaked across the horizon.

As they rushed towards the White Dragon Hillock, they overlooked something. Some distance behind them, a dark gaze had locked onto them.

Mu Chen's party didn't rest at all on the trip; so, by the time dusk arrived, they could see the edge of the White Dragon Hillock.

It was a continuous mountain range with peaks of different heights. Among them was a ten thousand foot peak that soared into the heavens, piercing through the cloud layer and the edge of the sky. From time to time, roars of beasts would resonate throughout the air, stirring the Spiritual Energy in the heavens and earth.

However, even such a towering mountain range couldn't conceal the baleful aura rising from the earth. This aura was left behind from the earth-shaking battle that took place a few hundred years ago. Countless experts had fallen and turned into skeletons.

"It's truly worthy of being a place that a Sovereign expert had once fallen." Mu Chen's group stood on the peak of a distant mountain and sighed at the cruel aura fluctuating throughout the White Dragon Hillock.

"The emerging Spirit Treasury happens to be located in the depths of the White Dragon Hillock. That area is filled with so many Spiritual Beasts that there might also be quite a few Heaven Rank Spiritual Beasts. Of course, we'll also have to take note of other adventurer groups who've come to the White Dragon Hillock seeking treasure. Those people aren't going to be easy to deal with. Furthermore, they'll be extremely ruthless. If we end up offending them, they won't bother about our origins and definitely won't show any mercy for the sake of their interests." Su Xuan stared at the White Dragon Hillock that was streaming with a baleful aura. This wasn't a good place.

“Therefore, everyone has to work as one during this trip to the White Dragon Hillock. No one is to act on their own.” Su Xuan said as she directed her line of sight towards Su Ling’er. Her charming eyes stared and continued, “Understood?”

Su Ling’er pouted. Was that directed at her? Was she really that unreliable?

The other three couldn’t help smiling from the side.

“Let’s move out. We’ll search for a safe place to set up camp in the White Dragon Hillock.” Su Xuan waved her jade-like hands. Then, her figure took the initiative and shot away, heading directly towards the baleful White Dragon Hillock. Mu Chen and the other three followed closely behind.

When they entered the White Dragon Hillock, they instantly felt a surge of ice-cold air shroud them. This was thanks to the baleful aura of the White Dragon Hillock. If they allowed this to enter their bodies, it’d corrode them. Therefore, when parties entered this area, they usually had to circulate their Spiritual Energy to prevent the baleful aura from invading their bodies.

Mu Chen’s group quickly flew over the White Dragon Hillock, encountering many adventurer parties along the way. When those blood-lusting adventurer groups saw their party, their eyes instantly lit up. Their gazes couldn’t help moving all over Su Xuan, Su Ling’er, and Li Qing.

These people rarely ever saw such beautiful girls. Now that they encountered one, their hearts naturally itched.

But, even though their hearts itched, none of them were blind. Especially the leaders of their groups. They all stared at Su Xuan and her party in fear, with eyes on full guard. They barked, warning their members to keep their eyes peeled and avoid offending this party.

And because of that, their party didn’t meet any trouble, even though Su Xuan and her companions were quite eye-catching. In addition, they were still in the outer borders of the White Dragon Hillock, so there were very few powerful Spiritual Beasts. Therefore, by the time night fell, they managed to find a good campsite.

They laid out their small camp in the middle of the desolate forest. The bonfire’s flames soared and dispersed a faint light into the darkness.

The bonfire illuminated Su Xuan’s gentle and charming face. She smiled and said, “Tonight, Guo Xiong is on guard duty. Remember not to let your guard down. Danger could appear at any time in a place like this.”

Mu Chen and the others nodded. On their journey here, they’d already noticed a few adventurer parties with decent strength. Those parties still couldn’t compete with theirs, even at their peak strength, but those parties had greater numbers. Furthermore, they were the ruthless-types who were used to blood. If there was a conflict, things could get troublesome.

After Su Xuan finished her instructions, she entered a tent with Su Ling’er. Mu Chen and Guo Xiong made some light conversation, before Mu Chen returned to his tent, as well. Mu Chen continued studying the Spiritual Array Seed. With just a little more time, he should be able to grasp the seed’s method of use.

As the bonfire flared, the small camp gradually quieted down. On a small hill a distance away, the shadow of a group appeared like a specter in the night.

Bai Dong stood at the front of that group, dressed in white, and coldly smiling at the scene before him. His tone was cold as he asked, "Elder Qiu, is everything ready?"

"All preparations are complete." The one named Elder Qiu spoke from behind him.

"Then, move out. Act according to the plan. Don't hurt my beauties." Bai Dong licked his lips as the lust soared within his eyes.

"Yes!"

The group behind him responded with deep and low voices. Then, there were a few sonic booms as they shot out into the night like spectres.

Bai Dong stood on the hill, staring ahead with his lustful expression. He smiled and said, "Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Hmph! There have been no less than thirty Northern Heaven Spiritual Academy students who've died in the hands of our Demonic Dragon Guards. Now, it seems a few more lives will be added to that number."

"Let's see how you run this time!"

In the quiet camp, Guo Xiong sat cross-legged, periodically glancing at the dark forest with alert eyes. He tightly gripped a long, black blade. Spiritual energy surged around him.

"Mhm?"

Suddenly, Guo Xiong's eyes focused on something. His majestic Spiritual Energy burst out in an instant. With a quick flex of his fingers, the black longsword sharply hacked downwards.

Daaaang!

The black longsword cut downwards, and the sounds of metal on metal resounded as a black spear split in two.

"Who's there?!"

Guo Xiong instantly stood up and barked towards the dark forest.

The tents instantly opened as Su Xuan, Su Ling'er, Li Qing, and Mu Chen quickly flew out. The four of them had just entered their cultivating states, but had instantly awoke when they heard the commotion.

"Ambush! Be careful!" Guo Xiong saw Su Xuan and the others emerging and immediately shouted.

Shiiiiinnngggg! Shhhiiiiinnngggg!

As his voice landed, several black and sharp rays shot out from the forest. Spears containing majestic Spiritual Energy rained on their camp from all directions.

"Hmph!"

A cold aura flashed through Su Xuan's eyes. Her figure flashed away. Her jade-like hands flicked and surges of Spiritual Energy swept out, turning into a Spiritual Energy whirlpool a few dozen feet wide.

Chhhhhh! Chhhhhh!

The black spears flew into the Spiritual Energy whirlpool and were destroyed.

"Which sneaky bunch are you? You don't even have the guts to show yourselves?!"

Su Xuan's charming eyes coldly looked into the dark forest. Then, her figure moved. She turned into a streak of light as Spiritual Energy tore apart the darkness, blasting over it without mercy.

Bang! Bang!

Her aura boiled over the forest, destroying it. Su Xuan moved again and disappeared into the darkness. She had to get rid of these mice. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to have any peace.

Mu Chen and the others watched Su Xuan give chase and moved themselves to tightly guard the camp. Su Xuan was a Heavenly Transform Stage Middle Phase; those who wanted to harm her wouldn't have an easy time of doing so.

Boom!

They turned towards the front, when several Spiritual Energy Ripples suddenly emanated through the air. Within these Spiritual Ripples were actually two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phases!

Mu Chen and the others changed their expressions when they sensed those Spiritual Energy ripples. Two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase experts? Just who was this enemy? For them to actually be able to bring out such formations!

"We have to go help her!" Li Qing's face was frosty. She growled and flew out. Guo Xiong saw her go and quickly moved to follow. But, before he left, he said to Mu Chen and Su Ling'er, "The two of you will hide here, for now. We'll return as soon as we take care of those guys!"

Rustle!

The moment his voice landed, Guo Xiong and Li Qing flashed away through the dark forest, quickly rushing towards the origins of those Spiritual Energies.

Mu Chen took note of the situation and couldn't help furrowing his brows. Even though their party was rather small, they were still quite strong. Who actually dared to move against them?

Based on their formations, their enemy shouldn't be an ordinary force.

"Mu Chen, what should we do now?" Su Ling'er watched Su Xuan and the others give chase, then moved closer to Mu Chen.

"Don't panic. We'll quietly wait for their return. They shouldn't have gone too far; they should return soon." said Mu Chen.

Su Ling'er nodded. She couldn't help pulling on the hem of Mu Chen's clothes with her small hands. In the White Dragon Hillock, danger came layer upon layer. While Su Xuan wasn't around, she could only rely on Mu Chen.

Mu Chen's body suddenly tensed as his keen eyes scrutinized their surroundings. He circulated his Spiritual Energy, preparing to deal with any situation that arose.

Shiiiiinnng!

As Mu Chen swept his eyes around, a sudden and urgent break of wind resounded in his ears. A sharp gale tore through the air, bringing an ear-piercing sound.

Mu Chen slightly narrowed his eyes, and hugged Su Ling'er's slim waist with a turn of his hand. The tip of his foot tapped the ground and his figure flew several dozen feet in the air.

Bang!

A black spear as thick as an arm mercilessly impaled the place where the two of them had been standing moments before. The spear had penetrated half a meter into the ground and vibrated with a buzzing noise.

Mu Chen studied the black spear with a chill in his heart. He raised his head. Only the fine sounds of the wind whistled through his ears. Four figures appeared in the huge tree in front of them. Four chilling gazes fixed onto them, filled with baleful aura.

"Four Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phases?"

Mu Chen's gaze swept over the four figures and he felt a jolt in his heart. Which force was this? To actually bring out such experts to deal with them...

Mu Chen glanced in the direction that Su Xuan and the others and disappeared in, and his heart inevitably sank. Was all of that was just to lure the tigers from its mountain?

The other party seemed to be targeting the two of them!

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Chapter 233: Night Attack

It was night. The four figures stood like spectres in the huge tree. Their bodies were hidden from head to toe in black robes — even their faces couldn't be seen. The only parts of their bodies that were exposed were their eyes, which were filled with baleful aura.

Frightening Spiritual Energy ripples fluctuated around the four of them. Based on those levels, all of these people had reached the Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase!

Mu Chen narrowed his eyes at their formation. If you put them in with any of those previous adventurer parties, they'd definitely take the lead position. So why had four of them suddenly appeared?

They hadn't provoked any powerful forces along their journey, so why was trouble knocking on their door?

“Who are you?!” Mu Chen’s voice was solemn as he coldly growled. If he’d been facing just a single Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase opponent, he could’ve defeated them without much effort. But there were four of them. Furthermore, from the looks of it, those four were highly experienced. The baleful aura in their eyes had obviously been earned through long years of knowing massacre. They were completely different from the Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase upperclassmen of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!

However, those four black shadows acted as though they hadn’t heard Mu Chen. On the other hand, the baleful aura within their eyes grew even denser.

Mu Chen’s and Su Ling’er’s hearts sank at seeing their formation. Those guys were excellently trained, not an ordinary adventurer party.

“Kill them!”

An ice-cold sound suddenly came from the mouth of a black shadow. Then, the four of them exploded in motion. With a flex of their fingers, black spears materialised in their hands. Their Spiritual Energies surged, melting into multitudes of illusionary spears that covered the skies and the earth, enveloping the two of them.

Mu Chen’s expression changed at the straightforward actions of the four shadows. He formed a claw, condensing with dark light. The Nine-layered Pagoda surfaced in his palm, exploding with a downward force.

Dang! Dannng!

Numerous spears hit the Nine-layered Pagoda, but only caused it to shake a little. The surface of the pagoda wasn’t damaged in the slightest.

Rustle!

But, the four of them weren’t the gentle and kind types; the moment they saw Mu Chen’s impenetrable defense, two of them changed direction. The spears made a detour around Mu Chen and shot towards Su Ling’er, who was being protected behind him.

Su Ling’er responded to the situation by hastily putting her jade-like hands on the long fire-red whip at her waist. With a shake of her jade-like hand, the whip whistled out like a fiery python. It carried surges of Spiritual Energy and collided with the two spears.

Bang! Bannng!

A berzerk Spiritual Energy emanated from the collision, toppling the large trees in the vicinity. The two spectre-shadows skimmed forward, pressing closer to Su Ling’er. The tips of those spears shined with a chilling light and were aimed at Su Ling’ers vitals.

Faced with two Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phases, Su Ling’er had instantly landed herself in a very disadvantageous position. It was even more dangerous when you compared the ruthlessness of their attacks against her own. Her delicate face turned a little pale.

Shhhuuuu!

Two chilling spears shot forward and penetrated the defense that Su Ling'er had set up with her fire-red whip. The spears shot towards her shoulder at lightning speed, bringing a strong and sharp gale.

Su Ling'er's enthusiasm had declined as she faced those fearful attacks. She quickly stepped back, then jumped as she realized that she'd already backed up into the trunk of a tree. Her charming face turned exceptionally pale.

Daaang!

However, just as the spear was about to hit Su Ling'er, the Nine-layered Pagoda descended from the sky and enveloped her.

Daang!

The black spears that had flown with their frightening Spiritual Energy ripples heavily collided with the pagoda; however, they were dispersed by the rippling layers of dark light.

The pagoda made of dark light rapidly shrank. A figure flew up to Su Ling'er and pulled her into his embrace by her slender waist. Then, the figure fled into the dark forest, like a cunning rabbit.

"Chase them down!"

When the four figures realised what'd happened, they growled and quickly gave chase.

Mu Chen held onto Su Ling'er as he flashed through the forest. He lowered his head, glanced at the slightly pale and shaking young girl as he asked, "Are you alright?"

Su Ling'er shook her head and replied, "Thank you. What should we do now?"

Their opponents were four Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase experts. Between the two of them, Su Ling'er was also a Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase, but she wasn't very experienced in combat. She probably couldn't even defeat one of the four. Meanwhile, Mu Chen had quite a few cards up his sleeve, but he knew he wouldn't have time to prepare them; their opponents weren't looking for a fair and honorable fight.

Their situation was extremely unfavourable.

"Can we last until Big Sister and the others find us?" Su Ling'er asked in a low voice. If Su Xuan and the rest were with them, they wouldn't have to fear those four.

"Our opponents are very experienced. Their target is clear. First, they lured your sister and the others so that they could easily deal with us. They probably planned to capture us first, then restrain your sister and the others." Mu Chen's deep reply came as he continued to flash through the forest, like a hunting leopard.

"If I take you with me, they'll probably catch up soon."

Su Ling'er showed an anxious expression at Mu Chen's words. "What should we do?"

"I'm going to put you down, first." Mu Chen cautiously looked behind them. Four figures were rapidly catching up.

“Ah?” Su Ling’er looked confused. Her delicate face instantly turned as white as snow and her beautiful eyes surged with moisture. She grabbed Mu Chen’s clothes, “Mu Chen, you bastard! Fine! Put me down now, I don’t need you to save me!”

Mu Chen didn’t know whether to laugh or cry at her expression. He helplessly replied, “What are you thinking? If I take you with me, they’re going to overtake us sooner or later. The only thing I can do is hide you somewhere, while I lure them away. After that, you need to find your sister and the others as soon as possible.”

Su Ling’er’s delicate face turned red; however, she still couldn’t care about anything else as she anxiously said, “No, it’s too dangerous for you to lure them all by yourself.”

She’d just witnessed the strength and intimidation of those four. Their bloodlust was surging and their methods were ruthless. You couldn’t get that way just by sparring with the upperclassmen of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

“I know what I’m doing.”

Mu Chen shook his head with an unquestionable tone in his voice. His figure continued to flit across the forest. With a pulling motion of his palm, he drew out some sort of green leaf from among the underbrush. Then, he quickly ground the leaves and sprinkled the peculiar-smelling juices over Su Ling’er.

“These juices will conceal your scent. Later, when I leave you somewhere, you’ll need to hide yourself and suppress your Spiritual Energy. That way, they won’t be able to find you.” Mu Chen explained as he finished what he was doing.

Su Ling’er dazedly watched Mu Chen complete the task with an extremely proficient technique. She slightly raised her head and saw Mu Chen’s handsome face under the shine of moonlight. However, the current Mu Chen was filled with a cold intent, replacing his usual gentleness. The sharpness was like a polished longsword, quietly hiding its edge within its scabbard.

“Mu Chen, this is a Middle Rank Spiritual Artifact that I exchanged at the Spiritual Value Hall. You should use it.” Su Ling’er brought out a cyan longsword. A vague, but piercingly sharp sword aura emanated from it.

Mu Chen nodded. He’d never used a Spiritual Artifact before, but one had suddenly appeared before his eyes. At least he could use it to increase his fighting strength by a bit.

“Be careful.”

Mu Chen’s speed abruptly increased. With a turn of his body, he leaned slightly. The instant he had entered the darkness, he threw Su Ling’er from his arms.

Su Ling’er twisted her body in mid-air and quietly landed in a large tree. Then, she concealed herself within the tree’s dense foliage. She also quickly suppressed the Spiritual Energy circulating in her body.

She nervously directed her line of sight downwards. Soon, four spectre-like shadows bypassed her in their pursuit. When they arrived in the area, their bodies slightly paused and their eyes swept the area. Then, they resumed their pursuit in the direction that Mu Chen had gone.

As they distanced themselves, Su Ling'er faintly heard a deep and low voice that sounded on the wind. "Quick, we're running out of time. We have to get rid of those two as soon as possible!"

Su Ling'er didn't immediately leap down from the huge tree; instead, she remained among the leaves for a period of time. She knew that Mu Chen had placed himself in great danger just to get her to safety. She couldn't be reckless and cause Mu Chen's plan to fail.

"Mu Chen, you have to be careful!"

Su Ling'er's small fists were tightly clenched as her charming eyes looked in the direction that Mu Chen and those four specter-like shadows had disappeared in. Her eyes were filled with nervousness and worry.

Rustle!

She waited for quite a while more. Once she was sure that everything had calmed down, she leapt vigorously from the tree. Then, she rapidly skimmed in the direction of their camp.

"Mu Chen, you have to hold on there. I'll get my sister and the others to rescue you right away!"

Mu Chen's figure moved like a black leopard among the shadows of the gloomy forest as he quietly skimmed through. His palm slowly clutched the cyan longsword at his waist as he looked behind him. Back there, the sonic booms sounded even more urgent than before. Four bodies were faintly discernible as they gave chase.

"So, they're here?"

Mu Chen said to himself in a soft voice. Then, he stuck out his tongue and licked his lips. A trace of scarlet light surged forward in his black pupils. He was like a fierce and malicious wolf about to set upon its prey.

"It's been a long time since I've been like this. Since you guys are chasing so hard and unwilling to let go, let's find out who's the real hunter!"

An excited curve rose on Mu Chen's lips. He'd already been suppressing the urge to hunt for quite a long time now. When he was in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he'd had the identity of a student. But, out here, there was nothing he had to worry about anymore!

Moonlight shined down through the tiny cracks in the forest, forming a chilly arc of light on his handsome face. That side appeared very cold at this moment.

Now, the Blood Calamity of the Spirit Road was going to reveal his fangs.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 234: Reverse Killing

Four specter-like shadows quickly and violently flashed through the forest. Their expressions were like those of wolves, fixed upon their target that was a short distance ahead — a lone figure fleeing in a sorry state.

"Let's see how far you can run!"

The hearts of those four were filled with the sounds of cold laughter as they abruptly increased their speeds. They noticed that their target had started showing frantic movements and clumsier steps — likely out of dread for the inevitable.

If you couldn't preserve a clear mind under such a brutal pursuit, then the consequences went without saying.

A cruel light passed through the eyes of the four shadows. These Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students were quite gifted; but, unfortunately for them, talents were useless in life-or-death exchanges. The most important factors that determined the outcome of a life-or-death struggle were merciless needs to kill and keen senses.

Rustle!

Disdain flashed through their hearts as they watched the pitiful figure turn a corner and disappeared from their sights. They immediately followed.

Their figures flew over a cluster of trees.

When they passed through that patch of forest, the shadows from the dense branches and leaves dispersed from their eyes. In that moment, a shadow pounced on them, entering the embrace of one of the four.

The four shadows' expressions changed at the sudden event. The shadow that'd collided with their comrade was still for a moment, before it sharply snarled. Their comrade reflexively aimed his black spear towards the person in his arms.

Shiiiiing!

But the instant the spear thrust forward, a sharp longsword mercilessly pierced his heart with a majestic Spiritual Energy. The sword tip penetrated through his back and fresh blood poured down.

The shadow widened his eyes in disbelief at the cold-eyed youth in his embrace. The boy's expression was exceptionally frigid, as though it'd been crafted from ice.

Never, in his wildest imaginations, would he consider this turn of events; the youth who'd only been running from their pursuit had suddenly turned back. The unexpected surprise had broken all of their guards.

Furthermore, this youth's ruthlessness surpassed their own. He'd instantly penetrated the shadow's vitals, severing his life.

"He did that on purpose!"

The shadow's vision gradually turned black, with the youth's indifferent expression as his last living memory. Just a short while ago, this youth had been panicking under their pursuit. But how was that expression from someone that was panicking from running?

So, this youth had been putting up a façade, and made the experienced experts lower their guards. Then, he'd launched his counterattack!

Neat and tidy, without the slightest hint of sloppiness.

“You...!”

Everything happened in an instant. By the time the other three shadows realized what'd happened, Mu Chen's blade had already run itself through their comrade's heart.

The three of them glared with dark eyes filled with rage. The spears in their hands turned into sharp attacks, enveloping Mu Chen with threats to his vitals. This brat actually dared to kill one of their comrades right before their eyes. How could they possibly let him escape?

Mu Chen faced the three's attacks and pulled out his longsword with a flick of his wrist. His Spiritual Energy circulated. Cyan light glinted off the longsword as he burst forward with a razor-sharp sword energy and light, resisting the numerous spear images.

Shhhuuuuu!

The three of them were well coordinated. A few rays of cold light still managed to break through Mu Chen's defense and flew towards his chest.

Mu Chen dragged the corpse of the shadow that he'd killed back into his arms, and used it as a meat shield.

Chhhhhhh!

The sharp spears pierced through the dead shadow with a majestic Spiritual Energy. The tips of the spears drew thin lines of blood on Mu Chen's chest.

Mu Chen's eyes were cold as he stepped forward. The corpse was heavily tossed to the side, sailing into that black shadow.

A dark malevolence showed itself in the eyes of that shadow. He threw out a fist, which impacted with the flying corpse. A surge of violent Spiritual Energy erupted, badly mutilating the body.

Chhhhhhh!

But the moment the fist struck the corpse and tore it to pieces, cold rays of light flicker within the corpse's chest. The tip of a sword, wrapped in black-coloured Spiritual Energy with black flames throbbing of it tunneled through the corpse's chest and thrust towards the black shadow with lightning speed.

The offence was too quick, violent, and sharp — so much so that even the black shadow was taken by surprise. That shadow threw out a punch as his Spiritual Energy surged as one could even hear the roar of a dragon within it. The majestic Spiritual Energy had turned into spiritual fist with the shape of a raging dragon and collided with the sharp light that burned with black flames.

BANG!

Black flames swept out as the two heavily collided, quickly igniting the violent gale of Spiritual Energy wrapped around the fist.

Rustle!

The sword light pierced the gale and swung down on the black shadow's wrist as he watched with a shocked expression.

Sword light flashed. Blood splattered. Blood flowed from the places where the five fingers had been severed.

Mu Chen cultivated quite a tyrannical Spiritual Energy. By adding the Middle Rank Spiritual Artifact that Su Ling'er had given him, his offense definitely wasn't something that an ordinary person could withstand.

"Arghhhhhh!"

The black shadow miserably shrieked, mercilessly thrusting the spear in his left hand towards Mu Chen's throat. He was trying to take Mu Chen down with him.

Ding!

But since Mu Chen had already gained the advantage during that exchange, he wasn't willing to risk getting a heavy injury. With a flick of his hand, the longsword flew back. His fingers clamped over the cutting edge of the sword and slanted the blade to the side, just so that it managed to block the spear.

Sparks flew.

Mu Chen borrowed the force of the impact and let himself fly out, gaining distance. He entered the forest like a bat into the night, disappearing in the blink of an eye. "Damned brat!"

The three shadows looked at the cold corpse in front of them, their eyes were filled with rage. The four of them were Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase experts, and had a rich amount of experience under their belts. They never imagined that this barely Heavenly Fusion Stage brat could reverse the situation and put them in such a miserable position.

Not only had they lost a member, but one of the remaining shadows had also lost a hand. Their fighting strength had declined!

"We can't forgive him!"

The three of them snarled, especially the black shadow that'd lost his hand to Mu Chen. His eyes turned sinister.

The three of them exchanged looks, then flew out at the same time. But this time, their bodies were tense as they circulated their Spiritual Energies to their limits. They were expecting an attack at any moment as they advanced.

That lightning exchange earlier had forced them to understand that even though this youth may be young, he wasn't the gentle type. Not only did he have vicious eyes, even his offense was fierce. His actions were direct and straightforward, without the slightest bit of sloppiness. He was definitely different from the other Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students, who were usually low on experience in terms of fighting and killing.

If they still had any contempt for him in their hearts, then they'd probably suffer a defeat tonight.

Mu Chen flashed through the forest, lightly wiping traces of blood from his chest. It was just a flesh wound, nothing much. His reversal of the earlier situation had been extremely successful. It looked like his previous acting had produced quite an effect.

Mu Chen glanced behind himself. Those three should be acting much more cautious now. But that also meant that they'd slow down their chase, providing him with a little more time.

"Now, let's see who's the true hunter."

Mu Chen muttered as he observed the forest before him. He could vaguely make out the scarlet pupils of several beasts. Those must be the Spiritual Beasts of the White Dragon Hillock.

He watched the scarlet eyes of the beasts residing in the depths of forest, and the corner of his mouth rose into the trace of a smile. He didn't avoid the area; on the contrary, he changed directions and headed towards them.

Night enveloped the forest as three shadows rapidly flashed through it. One in front, while two followed behind — a triangle formation. Their tensed bodies overflowed with Spiritual Energy as they cautiously kept an eye on their surroundings.

"Mm?"

As the three of them moved along, their eyes were suddenly drawn to something. The one in front waved his palm and the three of them landed on a clear patch of ground. Some distance away were two beast corpses that were spilling fresh blood. It was clear that they'd been recently killed.

"Must be the brat."

The black shadow who'd lost his fingers to Mu Chen clenched his teeth and said, "It looks like he was surrounded by Spiritual Beasts. That means he's probably slowed down his pace. We must make use of the opportunity."

"En."

The other two nodded. Then, the three figures flashed away, resuming their chase.

Over the next few minutes, they saw a series of freshly-killed beast corpses. Among the corpses were shreds of cloth — Mu Chen's clothes.

Based on these signs, Mu Chen must have encountered more and more Spiritual Beasts. Furthermore, he'd also sensed that the three shadows were already nipping at his heels. The signs showed that he'd quickened his pace a little, so much so that he couldn't afford to clean up the traces of the battles.

After giving chase for another ten minutes, the three shadows stopped, once again, in a clearing. On the ground before them was the corpse of a large golden lion. The Spiritual Beast was clearly dead, with a cyan longsword thoroughly impaled in its large, sinister maw.

"This belongs to the brat."

The three of them stopped next to the huge lion corpse and studied the familiar longsword.

One shadow coldly smiled. "This kid's luck is so bad. He actually ran into a Gold Flame Lion. This beast is as strong as a Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase. Even we'd have to waste a bit of effort to deal with it. No wonder he decided to discard his Spiritual Artifact."

"Roar!"

Suddenly, a deep and low roar resounded from deeper within the forest. Vaguely, ripples of Spiritual Energy were carried over.

"He's encountered another one. Quick, we'll be able to catch up to him this time!" The three of them delightedly exclaimed as they heard the sounds.

"En!"

The three of them nodded. Two of the three were about to give chase, while the last one took two steps over to the corpse to grab the cyan longsword. This was a Middle Rank Spiritual Artifact, a powerful object. It'd be a pity if they left it here.

Bang!

As his fingers closed around the sword's hilt, intending to pull it from the Gold Flame Lion's corpse, in that moment, the corpse exploded. Fresh blood splattered about as a bloodied figure charged out from the fleshy remains. The figure curved two fingers. A gold light rushed forward, bringing an extremely sharp ripple with it. The black shadow watched with a startled expression as it went through his throat.

The black shadow trembled and fell to the ground, his widened eyes filled with disbelief.

The blood-covered figure lowered his head and retrieved the longsword. He slowly raised his head and looked to the figure that'd already stopped moving, then turned around to find the other two shadows watching him in utter shock.

Mu Chen wiped the fresh blood from his face and lightly smiled at the two remaining shadows. From the perspective of the two shadows, that smile was as frightening as a demon's.

They'd been acting so cautiously, but they'd still fallen for the brat's scheme!

His methods were simply impossible to defend against!

"Now, it's your turn."

Mu Chen lightly rapped on the sword blade, making clear and crisp sounds as he did so. He'd already killed two out of the four. The ones left were one crippled, and one whole expert. But their formation itself had been crippled, as well, and it was no longer strong enough to force him to run.

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Chapter 235: None Left

"You damned brat!"

Night covered the forest. The two black shadows ground their teeth as they watched the bloodied Mu Chen eerily smile at them. His eyes were filled with dense bloodlust.

They never imagined that things would turn out like this!

Shouldn't they be able to easily dispatch a Heavenly Fusion Initial Phase brat? How did the situation progress to this point? The four of them were Demonic Dragon Guards with a rich amount of experience under their belts. Who knows how much blood was stained on their hands? But, during tonight's pursuit of this youth, two of them had been slain, and one had been heavily injured.

Even if they'd been sent to take down a Heavenly Transform Stage expert, they wouldn't have paid such a miserable price, right?

"Surprised?"

Mu Chen pick up his cyan longsword. A pitch-black Spiritual Energy flared and formed irregular sword lights at the blade's tip. He smiled. With his entire body drenched in blood, it was a frightening spectacle.

"The number of people I killed on the Spirit Road alone is more than the total you've killed between all of you." Mu Chen smiled and pointed the longsword towards the two as he continued his speech. "Now, shall we end this comedy of a pursuit?"

"Yes, it's about time to end this. We won't give you another chance to flee!"

The two black shadows eerily replied. Then, one shadow ducked left, while the other went right, sealing off Mu Chen's path of retreat. They'd already had a taste of Mu Chen's many tricks during their earlier pursuit. In order to guard against that, they couldn't be careless and give him another chance. Otherwise, they could fall into his traps at any moment.

"Really?" Mu Chen smiled. He tightened his grip on the longsword as a majestic Spiritual Energy poured out like black smoke and surged towards the sky.

"Kill him!"

The two black shadows went silent as their eyes turned cold. They burst forward simultaneously. The two black spears in their hands were venomous snakes darting from their nests, sweeping towards Mu Chen in a violent gale.

Mu Chen also flew forward in the same instant. The light of the sword surged as the black flames ascended. Even though he faced two attackers, he didn't show the slightest hesitation.

Dang! Daaaang!

As the three of them intertwined, a violent Spiritual Energy burst outwards. Dried leaves swept over the ground and turned into dust. One large tree collapsed after another.

Mu Chen's attacks were ruthless. He'd gone with full force, straight towards the unharmed black shadow. He paid no attention to the one with the crippled hand. It looked like Mu Chen planned to exert all his power to kill the unharmed black shadow.

However, the latter clearly wasn't someone who was easy to deal with. The shadow released his Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase strength, without restraint. His attacks were sharp and all aimed at Mu Chen's vitals.

The sword light and spear image whistled through the air. Frightening Spiritual Energies collided and dispersed multiple times.

Dang!

Mu Chen's expression was indifferent as he thrust his sword forward, bringing the surges of Spiritual Energy and flaring black flames with it. The blade was like a black horse, running as fast as lightning towards the black shadow's chest. However, the latter had already swept up his spear to block Mu Chen's attack.

"A Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase wants to fight me head-on? What wishful thinking!" That black shadow coldly smiled.

Mu Chen's expression was as placid as ever as he pulled back the sword and then dived forward, like an eagle. His fingers clenched as he threw out a punch.

Boom!

Spiritual Energies fluctuated. Mu Chen's pitch-black Spiritual Energy was like a storm as it rapidly gathered around his fist. Six Limitless Death Seals seemed to have formed in an instant.

As the six Limitless Death Seal appeared, the natural Spiritual Energies from the forest grew more chaotic. A black-coloured light seal flew out, like a black comet, as it streaked across the night sky towards the black shadow.

Boom!

Cracks appeared in the ground, forming a huge ravine.

Shock appeared in the eyes of the black shadow. He'd sensed a fatal amount of danger from that attack.

"Black Dragon Fiend Spear!"

Spiritual Energy swept out from the body of that black shadow. His hand trembled as the black-coloured spear flew from his hand. The energy went wild, turning into a black dragon a few dozen feet long. It bared its fangs, brandished its claws, and charged.

Bang!

The comet formed from the Limitless Death Seals didn't give the slightest pause as it mercilessly collided with the black light dragon, causing a huge crash to resound. The black shadow watched as the black comet sailed on like an irresistible force, instantly destroying his black dragon. Even the black spear that'd formed the dragon's core had been sent flying.

Boom!

The comet pierced through the dragon and whistled towards the shadow, as the shadow, himself, watched with an expression of fear plastered all over his face.

"Arghhhh!"

A miserable shriek shook the earth as a huge crater appeared on the ground. In the center of the crater was the black shadow's corpse, now more of an indistinct mess than a human being. He'd died instantly.

Mu Chen's six Limitless Death Seals had been enough to withstand one of Li Xuantong's attacks. Now, the execution of it had instantly killed a Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase expert.

"Haaaaaaa."

Mu Chen also deeply exhaled a deep breath. His aura was slightly sluggish. That attack had drained a lot from him.

Mu Chen stood high up in the air. With a flick of his wrist, the Nine-layered Pagoda appeared in his palm, then flew behind him to block the attack of the remaining black shadow with the crippled arm.

Mu Chen slowly turned around to face the frightened black shadow and lightly smiled, "It seems like you've have chosen the wrong target."

"So, do you still want to resist?"

The black shadow slightly trembled. The eyes that'd been filled with a sinister aura were now filled with fear. Today's events were truly too horrifying to speak of.

"Who are you?! Your name wasn't in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Heavenly Ranking!" the black shadow severely retorted.

When Mu Chen heard that, he furrowed his brows. He coldly stared at the person before him. "I take it that you're familiar with what goes on in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy? I wonder, who are you?"

The black shadow was shocked. He never thought that his simple remark would raise the suspicions of this youth before him. This fellow was simply too hard to deal with.

"No. It's impossible to complete tonight's mission. I can only return and report that we made a mistake in estimating our target's strength!" The shadow ground his teeth. The black spear in his hand shot towards Mu Chen as the shadow, himself, took the opportunity and flew away.

The pagoda in Mu Chen's hand expanded and blocked spear like a huge shield. He watched the black shadow escape towards the forest with a blank expression. With a flick of his finger, the Nine-layered Pagoda expanded, again. The first layer exploded with golden lights. A roar sounded as the light turned into a golden dragon that tore through the forest. The black shadow couldn't dodge in time as the dragon collided with him.

Bang!

A violent shock wave leveled the surrounding trees. That black shadow coughed up fresh blood as his wretched figure flew backwards and landed at Mu Chen's feet.

Rustle!

The cyan longsword stopped at the shadow's throat. Mu Chen lightly smiled and said, "Now, will you tell me where you're from?"

“You must be dreaming, if you think you’re going to get anything out of me!” The shadow’s eyes were dark as he laughed. “Brat, don’t be complacent. None of you will escape!”

Mu Chen looked uninterested as he drove the longsword through the shadow’s throat. He’d decided that he couldn’t extract any more information from the shadow. In that case, there wasn’t any point in keeping him alive.

“Huu.”

Mu Chen straightforwardly killed the last person, then sat down and panted heavily. He felt a little beaten after the night’s battle of wits and merciless wills.

Rustle!

After he got rid of the last person, a series of sonic booms echoed from the distance. Mu Chen looked up in surprise and clutched the longsword in his hand. But loosened his grip when he realised that it was Su Ling’er.

“Mu Chen!”

Su Ling’er landed on a patch of empty ground and took in Mu Chen’s bloodied state with a single glance. She was instantly startled and her charming face lost its color as she anxiously hurried over to him.

“I’m fine.”

Mu Chen waved his hand towards her.

Su Xuan, Guo Xiong and Li Qing followed after Su Ling’er, their faces were also filled with anxiety. They let out relieved sighs when they confirmed for themselves that Mu Chen was still alive.

They looked at the two corpses with blank expressions, then back at Mu Chen with confusion in their eyes. “You killed these two? What about the other two? Didn’t Ling’er say that there were four?”

“All dead.”

Mu Chen was a little shaky as he stood up. He looked over his own blood-soaked body and gave them a helpless smile.

“All dead?”

Su Xuan, Su Ling’er, Guo Xiong and Li Qing’s faces changed as they looked at Mu Chen in disbelief. “You did this?”

Mu Chen looked around and replied, “Is there anyone else here?”

Su Xuan and the other three were speechless as they watched Mu Chen with strange expressions. According to Su Ling’er, those four should’ve been Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase killers with extremely cruel and rich experiences. Su Xuan could’ve killed them straightforwardly, but even Guo Xiong and Li Qing, who were Quasi-Heavenly Transform Stages, would’ve withdrew back. There was no way they could’ve killed the assassins.

But Mu Chen had accomplished it?

“Formidable!” Guo Xiong exclaimed in admiration as he gave Mu Chen a thumbs up. Mu Chen had clearly gained his respect by accomplishing such a feat as only a Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase.

Li Qing’s eyes were also filled with amazement as she looked at Mu Chen.

“Haha, it looks like I truly made the right choice in choosing you as our companion.” Su Xuan sweetly smiled. However, her charming eyes still held a peculiar expression as she looked at Mu Chen.

“Stop teasing me. I only fought for my life, nothing particularly amazing. I was just a little more ruthless than they were.”

Mu Chen shook his head, then asked, “Do you know who they are? Why would they attack us? Such formations probably don’t belong to an ordinary force, right?”

The longsword in Su Xuan’s hands tore open the shirt of a black shadow’s corpse, revealing a tattoo on his chest — a palace carried on the backs of dragons. A baleful aura slowly emanated from it.

Su Xuan stared at that tattoo as a cold light flashed across her eyes.

“They’re from the Demonic Dragon Palace.”

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Chapter 236: Demonic Dragon Palace

“Demonic Dragon Palace?”

Mu Chen frowned at Su Xuan’s words, as he was unfamiliar with that name. Furthermore, he didn’t remember offending some Demonic Dragon Palace on their way here. Right?

“Are they really from the Demonic Dragon Palace?” Guo Xiong and Li Qing’s faces changed, going cold, “No wonder they had such a ruthless formation. So, it’s them.”

Su Xuan lightly nodded. “The ones who intercepted us earlier were two Heavenly Transform Stages and three Quasi-Heavenly Transform Stages. Not many forces within a thousand miles of the White Dragon Hillcock are capable of sending out such a formation.

She smiled at the slightly frowning Mu Chen as she spoke. “You’re new to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, so it’s not strange that you don’t know about the Demonic Dragon Palace. A few hundred years ago, one powerful force ruled the entire Northern Heavens Continent — the Demonic Dragon Palace.”

“Are they stronger than the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?” Mu Chen blanked as he considered the inconceivable.

“No. Even though our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy resided on the same continent, we never had any thoughts of ruling. We didn’t meddle in the events that went on. That’s why the Demonic Dragon Palace seized the opportunity to rise, and became the overlord of the Northern Heavens Continent.”

Guo Xiong smiled, “However, the Demonic Dragon Palace wasn’t satisfied, even after they became the overlord of the continent. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy at the center of the continent was a

thorn in their side. They knew that they could only become true overlords by removing the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. They wanted to use the continent as their headquarters as they invade and attack other continents.”

Mu Chen swept his tongue around his mouth. How ambitious of the Demonic Dragon Palace. Forget about ruling the Northern Heavens Continent, they actually dared to take action against the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

“As a result, the Demonic Dragon Palace began attacking the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy a few hundred years ago. That battle was truly world-shaking and countless experts fell. The entire continent was embroiled in battle.”

Mu Chen seemed shaken. The strength of Demonic Dragon Palace was definitely frightening to be able to rule the entire Northern Heavens Continent. Meanwhile, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had contentedly and stably sat at the center of the Northern Heavens Continent for thousands of years. Their foundation was just as deep and unmeasurable.

The collision of such two forces would definitely result in devastating destruction.

“That battle carried on for years. In the end, Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy stood victorious, while the Demonic Dragon Palace withdrew in defeat, their might declined. Those forces that they’d once suppressed retaliating against them. The Demonic Dragon Palace’s ruling seat had been utterly shattered.”

Su Xuan stared at the corpses and said, “However, a centipede dies but never falls down. Even though the Demonic Dragon Palace was defeated, they weren’t destroyed. They’re still hiding out on the Northern Heavens Continent, recuperating, while they wait for an opportunity to arrive.”

“Over the years, the students of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy who’ve gone out for training would often encounter various attacks. Half of those are from the Demonic Dragon Palace.”

“Every year, about half of the students who’ve died out on the Northern Heavens Continent were at the hands of the Demonic Dragon Palace.”

Chill gathered on Su Xuan’s sweet-tempered face as she spoke. She clearly, and bitterly, despised the Demonic Dragon Palace.

“Has the academy taken any measures?” Mu Chen asked with furrowed brows.

“You know that nothing is gentle after you leave the borders of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. At the same time, it serves as an experience — the only way you can become a true expert is by experiencing the need to kill for yourself. That’s why they send students out to train. In this world, how could anyone grow stronger without paying a price?”

“Furthermore, our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s Mission Hall has a special board — the Bounty Board. All the names on it are well-famed, as many students who’ve left to train have died by their hands. That’s why our academy issues bounties for them. Students who kill those bounty targets will be heavily rewarded.”

“Bounty Board?” Mu Chen was confused. He’d never even heard of this board before. Clearly, only students whose strength have reached a certain level could gain the access to go after the terrible people on the Bounty Board.

“Each target on the Bounty Board is a ruthless figure, so much so that they’re even known within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. All of those missions are extremely dangerous and difficult; that’s why they’re known as the most painful missions of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

Guo Xiong stood to the side licking his lips. “What’s engraved in my mind was the event that shook our entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Back then, Shen Cangsheng had just come out of his seclusion and took on one of these bounty missions. Furthermore, the one he’d accepted was a Rank 3 of the Bounty Board, an extreme talent from the Demonic Dragon Palace — Blood Demon Dragon - Yu Yuan.”

“Blood Demon Dragon, Yu Yuan...” Mu Chen muttered.

“This Yu Yuan was extremely powerful. Before this, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had sent out a party of twenty out for training, including two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase upperclassmen. Even the worst among them was a Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase. Such formation is already formidable, but when they encountered Yu Yuan, only one Senior Sister escaped, protected by the others.”

“After that, our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy attempted an unsuccessful hunt; two of the hunting party ended up killed instead, increasing Yu Yuan’s fame. After that, no one else dared to accept his bounty mission.”

Guo Xiong had an expression of admiration. “Until Shen Cangshen came along.”

“Shen Cangshen still wasn’t Rank 1 back then, only somewhere in the top 10 of the Heavenly Ranking. He often hid away by himself, but, that day, he came out of seclusion and exploded. With his spear, he soared to Rank 1 of the Heavenly Ranking.”

“After that, while the student body was in shock, he accepted Yu Yuan’s bounty mission. 10 days later, he returned with his spear over his shoulder and Yu Yuan’s head on the end of it.”

Guo Xiong’s eyes boiled with excitement as he recalled the huge shock that’d brought to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

“Everyone had been dumbfounded as they raised their heads towards the war god returning with the spear on his shoulder. They were in extreme shock.”

Mu Chen looked at Guo Xiong, whose eyes were still boiling and Li Qing, the ice beauty who seemed faraway at the moment. He could see that this Senior Brother, Shen Cangsheng, who he’d never met before, possessed an extremely high position in the eyes those students.

He was curious. How powerful was this legend-like figure? How strong was he compared to Li Xuanton?

“Shen Cangsheng is indeed a powerful individual,” Su Xuan confirmed with a soft voice. “You could think of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy as a gathering place for geniuses. He Yao, Xu Huang, and the others are also fairly outstanding. There are many who’ve hidden themselves from the public, waiting

for the day they amaze the world with a single brilliant feat and become powerful figures soaring to the heavens. Even still, no matter how outstanding they were, they still can't shake the Heavenly Ranking's peak, that majestic war god."

"Most of the targets on the Bounty Board are from the Demonic Dragon Palace. They're the only ones who'd try to kill our students by any means."

Su Xuan looked at Mu Chen, "Now you know about the blood feud between our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and Demonic Dragon Palace?"

Mu Chen nodded. It seemed that this Demonic Dragon Palace shouldn't be underestimated. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy allowed this to happen was for the sake of their students' training, but also possibly because they had no way of pulling up the Demonic Dragon Palace by its roots.

"This time, it seems the Demonic Dragon Palace has noticed us." Su Xuan's charming facial features drew together. "As far as I know, the White Dragon Sovereign who fell here was once a high-ranking member of the Demonic Dragon Palace. However, he betrayed them. It's likely that the Demonic Dragon Palace sent their experts because of the appearance of this Sovereign Spirit Treasury. When the time comes... we'll have to be careful."

Mu Chen, Guo Xiong, Li Qing, and Su Xuan all nodded. They felt the inconvenience. It seemed that this mission wasn't going to be as easy to complete.

"We should move. We'll take advantage of nightfall and the fact that we've just thwarted the Demonic Dragon Palace. Best if we lose them completely." Su Xuan said.

None of them had any objections. They tried to tidy up the area, then headed deeper into the White Dragon Hillocks with increased vigilance.

...

Mu Chen's party headed deeper into the hillocks. Meanwhile, Bai Dong stood in the forest on a faraway slope, his color turning steel-grey.

"Trash, trash! Four pieces of trash! Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase strength and they couldn't even dispose of a girl who wasn't even a Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase and a Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase boy!"

Bai Dong look down at the four black-colored jade tokens in his hand, which was completely shattered. It showed that those four had already been killed.

The grey-robed elder stood next to Bai Dong, his expression bewildered. "How is this possible? How could the two of them kill four Demonic Dragon Guards?"

He was familiar with the strength of the Demonic Dragon Guards. Even he'd have to bide his time if he wanted to deal with the four them together. But now, a boy and a girl, still smelling of their mother's milk, kill them?

Bai Dong was so angry that he crushed the jade shards in the his hand. Then, he looked to the depths of the forest with a sinister look in his eyes.

“Inform my father. It looks like we don’t need to worry about being exposed, anymore. As long as we obtain what’s in the Spirit Treasury, we can withdraw from this place. But, before we leave, I want those irksome things exterminated!”

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 237 Lion Tiger Regiment

Daylight intensified as the vast White Dragon Hillock shedded the shroud of night. Wind abruptly screeched throughout the mountain range. Vaguely, there were shapes of countless figure moving within in the forest. They stormed through like a swarm of locusts, all heading in the same direction — towards the depths of the White Dragon Hillock.

That was where the Sovereign Spirit Treasury would appear!

And in response to the sudden locust swarm of people, the White Dragon Hillock, itself, quickly exploded. Countless angry Spiritual Beasts hissed in anger as they rose to face the intruders. There wasn’t even a shred mercy in those hearts and their Spiritual Energies rushed towards the skies as they hissed. For a moment, it felt as if the entire mountain range was trembling.

Ah!

Once in awhile, a mournful or blood-curdling wail would slice through the mountain range — likely belonging to some unlucky fellow who was being torn to pieces by those Spiritual Beasts. At the same time, even more Spiritual Beasts were being exterminated by the rushing mob of experts. Tremendous bodies rolled and writhed in splashes of newly spilled blood, before finally collapsing to the ground with deep rumbles.

Such events were occurring throughout the mountain range. The stench of blood saturated the air.

Shuuuuu!

In the forest, Mu Chen’s party of five was swiftly moving along. The White Dragon Hillock currently had a very different air than the one of tranquility from the night before. As night retreated, the numerous experts and other unknown things had started to show themselves. The vigorous Spiritual Energies rose and fell in violent cycles, showing just how many experts this rumored Sovereign Spirit Treasury had attracted.

Su Xuan’s lovely face turned to face four different directions. She’d also noticed the White Dragon Hillock’s commotion. She waved a jade-like hand and spoke in a tender voice, “We should increase our pace.”

As her voice landed, the five of them sharply increased their speed, turning into five streak of lights that swept past the forest of towering trees.

“Roar!”

However, the moment they crossed a certain patch of forest, a fierce sound carried over from their right. They turned their eyes in that direction, only to see a massive fire-red Spiritual Beast watching them with a sinister gleam in its eyes and a severed limb hanging from its mouth. It was clear that it’d

recently devoured a human being. When this animalistic brute saw Mu Chen's party intrude on its territory, it gave a thunderous roar and sprang on them with its body still reeking of blood.

"A Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase Spiritual Beast dares to get in our way," Mu Chen commented upon seeing that. He smiled, flicked his fingers, and the Nine-Layered Pagoda appeared. The headwind sharply increased. In an instant, it transformed into a massive black tower, creating an impression of fearful might, like that of a lofty mountain. Then it cruelly weighed down on the body of blood-red Spiritual Beast.

Boom!

Even the ground crumbled as the Nine-Layered Pagoda ruthlessly descended. The massive blood-red Spiritual Beast exploded with a mournful snarl — it'd been directly crushed to death under the pressure.

A look of surprise passed through the eyes of the other members of Su Xuan's party. Even though this blood-colored Spiritual Beast only had the strength of a Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase, it'd still had an extremely strong defense. They hadn't expected Mu Chen to take care of it in just one stroke.

"Hmm? Treasure!" Su Ling'er only glanced at the corpse of the blood-red Spiritual Beast before turning her line-of-sight to another spot ahead. Clinging to one of the cliffs of fractured stone and earth was a blood-red zoysia^[1. A type of grass.] gently swaying in the breeze. A fragrance dispersed in the air.

"Blood Spirit Zoysia?" Su Ling'er's lovely face instantly lit up. Crafted from the heavens, a wealth of the earth^[2. A figurative expression showing just how valuable this treasure is. It is not literally crafted from the heavens.] — such a treasure would undoubtedly be hard-won under any other circumstance. It could have considerable effects on one's cultivation.

Swish.

Her image flashed away and landed on the large cliff. Then, she bent down and plucked the Blood Spirit Zoysia.

Shuuuu!

However, the moment she picked the Blood Spirit Zoysia, a pointed screech rose and resonated. The only thing they saw was a line of frigid light launching towards Su Ling'er as fast as lightning.

"Watch out!" Su Xuan's lovely eyes focused as she pointed a jade finger into the air and tapped. A line of Spiritual Energy raced out, intending to shatter the frigid light that was heading for Su Ling'er.

Guo Xiong And Li Qing simultaneously entered combat mode, eyes coldly watching the direction that the frigid light had come from. They saw human figures flash through the forest. About 20 people quickly emerged and landed on the patch of broken stone.

Each of them had a sword or knife in hand and wore an arrogant expression. Traces of fierce aggression showed in their auras. One look would tell you that they weren't the type to play nice — they were probably one of the stronger adventurer parties.

They were led by two men in their thirties, who looked rather similar to each other. Likely brothers. Their eyes shined with a savage craftiness.

“What do you think you’re doing?” Guo Xiong coldly barked as he looked at those unkind fellows.

Mu Chen’s eyes were drawn in the same direction, then his brows slightly knitted. This adventurer party wasn’t weak. Their two male leads were Quasi-Heavenly Transform Stages. As for the rest, around eight were at the peak of the Heavenly Fusion Stage, while the others were at the Spirit Stage.

You could say that this battle line-up of adventurers was rather formidable.

One of the skinny males in the adventurer party couldn’t help running his eyes all over Su Xuan, Su Ling’er, and Li Qing. He chuckled. “Hehe. My friends, I’m afraid we’ve already had our eyes on this Blood Spirit Zoysia for an entire day. We finally managed to clear out the Spiritual Beasts in this area, but before we could get to it, you slipped behind our backs and picked it, anyway. Isn’t that a little too much?”

“This is a heaven-made treasure of the earth. The ones who win it are the ones who deserve it. You guys loitered around for an entire day; that’s probably because you couldn’t do anything.” Su Ling’er’s rosy little lips twisted as she mocked them. You could tell that they weren’t the savoury types just by looking at them. Only an idiot would believe them.

“You! The little wench wants to die!”

“The little wannabe lady is still young, but she’s already so ill-behaved. Let this older brother teach you a few manners!”

The party hissed in anger. Their aggression started to show in their eyes as they hurled back all sorts of obscenities.

“Get lost!” Mu Chen’s expression was frigid, but he didn’t care to waste any more words on the likes of them.

“What attitude from that kid!”

The adventure party’s leader eyed Mu Chen with a cloudy expression as he slowly replied, “Our Lion Tiger Regiment has been in this White Dragon Hillock for many years; even the three major forces wouldn’t dare to speak to us like that.”

Of course he could sense Su Xuan’s astonishing strength; however, he had more people on his side. In addition, his experts were all experienced in battle. He didn’t think these tender-looking little boys and girls would be able to gain anything if it came to a fight.

“That’s why we’re not from the three major forces,” came Mu Chen’s indifferent remark.

A man with a scarred face and an exceptionally fierce expression sternly shouted, “The fact remains that you dared to caw your little mouth. Do you believe that this uncle will dice you up? A Heavenly Fusion Stage dared to provoke us in our territory?! Reckless idiots!”

Swish!

Mu Chen’s expression turned to ice. No more useless words. His image exploded forward like a Great Roc^[3]. Some sort of legendary bird.] setting upon its prey. His fist burst into black flames as a wild Spiritual Energy erupted and roiled.

“Courting death!”

The scarred man gave a severe shout. He was a Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase; how would he fear Mu Chen, who was only a Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase!

He moved forward in a single step. His hand formed a claw and Spiritual Energy surged, until it was sharp and pointed. The Spiritual Energy seemed to turn his hand into the claw of a light eagle. It tore through the air towards Mu Chen.

Thump!

The fist and claw firmly collided and the churning Spiritual Energy swept outwards. The scarred man’s expression changed in an instant. A moment later came a pitiful howl. A snapping sounded from his finger. His body quaked so hard it seemed as if he would fly backwards.

Swish!

Mu Chen’s expression was still indifferent. He grabbed his opponent’s hand, halting the man’s movements; with a forceful jerk, the man fell flat on his face, like a dog eating shit. Mu Chen stepped forward again and his foot sailed out, kicking the scarred man squarely in the face. The punt sent him flying back by several hundred feet, heavily collided against the trunk of a huge tree. Instantly, not even sounds of miserable shriek was issued from him.

Mu Chen’s movements had been crisp and accurate — not a single wasted move. By the time the others registered what was going on, the scarred man was already unconscious. His body had been left in a wretched state and was covered in blood.

“Boy, such nerve!”

One of the Lion Tiger Regiment’s leaders was also angered. He moved forward in a step and his Spiritual Energy swept out. When his fist flashed out, the only thing they could see was his Spiritual Energy melting into the form of a roaring lion. The energy churned as it directly roared towards Mu Chen.

Bang!

Even the ground had been split by this leader’s move. It looked like he wasn’t weak.

Mu Chen saw the leader’s ferocious offensive, but his expression remained just as frigid as before. He closed his hand and black flames boiled out as he threw a punch.

Six Limitless Death Seals formed under Mu Chen’s fist. Between the ripples of Spiritual Energy, something like a black comet shot out.

Bang!

Their fists met with a sweeping wind, violently clashing in the middle of the broken land. A startling wave of wind and energy swept out. The shattered stones that’d littered the ground instantly turned into dust, then rose into the air as a dark cloud.

The members of the Lion Tiger Regiment urgently backed away, though their eyes stayed firmly locked on the situation in front of them. Through the bursts of wild Spiritual Energy, one could see the vague outlines of two figures. Both were ferocious enough that it sent shivers down their spines.

Between the quaking of the ground they could see their leader's shoulders shake as he was shoved back several dozen steps. His feet were planted firmly in the ground and the brace marks under his feet were roughly half a foot deep.

Meanwhile, the young man he faced had only taken two steps back.

"How is that possible!" they cried. This boy couldn't be past the Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase, but he'd forced their Quasi-Heavenly Transform Stage leader backwards with a single fist?

The other Lion Tiger Regiment leader also watched with wide eyes. Mu Chen had displayed a combat strength that far surpassed what they'd seen on the surface.

They weren't the only ones shocked. Even Guo Xiong and Li Qing were staring at Mu Chen in amazement. They knew he wasn't weak when he single-handedly killed four Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase assassins the night before. But now, they'd personally seen Mu Chen force back an opponent of their own level. They couldn't help the feeling of discomfort in their hearts.

Mu Chen unhurriedly pulled back his fist. He watched the other members of the Lion Tiger Regiment with an indifferent expression. The members tried to avoid his eyes as they realised their place and no longer dared to recklessly provoke Mu Chen. They usually were a cruel and violent bunch, but this handsome looking youth had turned out to be even more cruel and violent than they were. Once he moved, there was no such thing as mercy.

"Now will you get lost?" Mu Chen slowly asked.

Su Xuan stood behind Mu Chen and extended a slender jade hand. A smooth and ancient-looking jade bead slipped into her palm. A startling Spiritual Energy churned, but the sense of it was vague as it slowly spread through the air. A cold look surfaced on her sweet-looking face.

From the looks of it, even she'd grown annoyed.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 238: Emergence of the Spirit Treasury

Mu Chen's party wore bitter-cold expressions. A surprising amount of Spiritual Energy surged from Su Xuan, Guo Xiong, and Li Qing; it was clear that they'd decided to act, too.

The expressions of the two leaders changed when they saw that and they scrutinized Mu Chen and Su Xuan. Looks of fear flashed through their eyes.

Su Xuan was far stronger than they were. If it came down to a fight, they probably wouldn't be able to win, even if they teamed up against her. Then, there was the youth who looked gentle on the surface, but was ruthless underneath. They'd probably have to pay a huge price for fighting him, too.

On top of that, the Spirit Treasury was due to appear soon. It'd be unwise for them to exhaust their strength here and now.

If they wanted to take back their pride, they'd have to wait until they could ally with another powerful adventurer party.

The two leaders of the Lion Tiger Regiment exchanged gloomy looks as they rumbled in deep tones, "It's a small world. Our Lion Tiger Regiment won't leave it like this."

"Let's go!"

The two of them signaled a retreat to the other Lion Tiger Regiment members, who were boiling with resentful auras. Soon after, their party quickly disappeared from view.

Su Ling'er snorted as she watched the party leave, then she turned back to face Mu Chen and smiled. "I didn't know you could be so dashing when you're angry."

Mu Chen showed her a smile and a shrug. Behind him, Su Xuan clutched the ancient jade pearl as she also looked at him. "You are truly deserving of your title as the 'Blood Calamity of the Spiritual Road'."

Those words told Mu Chen that she knew something about his background, but he wasn't terribly surprised about it. It's obvious she'd conducted a background check before she asked him to join her party.

"Let's move on. It looks like we'll be able to enter the depths of the White Dragon Hillock soon." Mu Chen stated as he looked ahead, though he stopped at that. It was obvious that he was interested in the rumored Sovereign Spirit Treasury.

Su Xuan nodded, then moved and flitted away.

They didn't meet any major obstacles for the rest of their journey. There was one powerful Spiritual Beast, but Mu Chen had killed it faster than was thought possible. Roughly half an hour later, they entered the deepest area of the mountains.

Clouds and mist swirled around the towering peak that rose to meet the heavens. A huge waterfall tormented downwards, its rumbles echoing throughout the mountains.

Mu Chen's party skimmed up the green slopes as they kept an eye on their surroundings. The nearby hills and plains were dotted with countless shapes of people, while even more were flying in from the distance. The entire landscape looked like it was a majestic portrait.

"So, there were this many people." Guo Xiong couldn't help smacking his lips. It looked like every expert and decently sized force within a thousand miles of the White Dragon Hillock had deigned it necessary to rush to this particular location. The attractiveness of a Sovereign Spirit Treasury was truly worth its name.

"It's said that this is where the White Dragon Sovereign fell."

Su Xuan pointed ahead with a slender finger towards five majestic peaks in the distance. A waterfall flowed like the Milky Way down from each of the five peaks and into a large lake at the foot of the mountains. The lake was as clear as a mirror as it changed its colors to reflect the vibrancy of the peaks that surrounded it.

“Mhm?” Mu Chen raised a curious eyebrow towards the lake, but he couldn’t detect anything unusual from its surface.

Su Xuan lightly smiled. “You won’t be able to see it. Who knows how many experts have explored the area in the past few hundred years? None of them managed to find anything. From the looks of it, it’s still not time yet. If that expert, who had reached such heights, wanted to conceal this Spirit Treasury from others, then it won’t be easy to find.”

Mu Chen nodded. That was an existence powerful enough to become the overlord of an entire continent. His very name intimidated others everywhere and he’d commanded millions of people. Obviously, his Spirit Treasury wouldn’t be easy to find.

“For now, we’ll just have to wait until the Spirit Treasury appears. I’m guessing that it should be soon.” Su Xuan’s charming eyes scanned the five towering mountains.

The party quietly sat themselves down on the green slope to wait. As time passed by, the number of experts in the area slowly swelled, making this part of the White Dragon Hillock more lively than ever.

Shhhhuuu!

Mu Chen silently sat on the mountain's peak as he scanned the area with narrowed eyes. Suddenly, he widened his eyes as a powerful Spiritual Energy rippled from his right, accompanied by the sounds of screeching wind.

From the place where Mu Chen had been watching, two groups of nearly a hundred people each appeared out of nowhere and landed on one of the nearby peaks.

Mu Chen was familiar with them; they were the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect. However, their current formations were far more intimidating than the last time he’d seen them. They’d clearly received their reinforcements.

The sheer number of people between the two forces wasn’t something to be dismissed, either, and the Spiritual Energies that rippled from them were exceptionally powerful. As a result, they’d attracted quite a few looks as the leaders of several other forces in the area frowned at the scene. It looked like the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect had both put quite a bit of money into this expedition.

“Both forces have two Heavenly Transform Stage elders!”

Li Qing looked over with her charming eyes and frowned. The Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect probably wouldn’t rank among the Northern Heavens Continent’s most powerful forces, but they were still the local bosses of the White Dragon Hillock. They were the only forces who could send out so many people on such short notice. If any treasures appeared in this Sovereign Spirit Treasury, they’d be the ones with the power to seize them.

Su Xuan nodded. There was little she could do; the information they’d been given for the assignment only said that it was a “Wealthy Spirit Treasury”, and that was what they’d had in mind as they built their party. Who would’ve thought that once they reached their destination, the supposed Wealthy Spirit Treasury would turn into a Sovereign Spirit Treasury?

“Just do your best. All we need is a single item from the Spirit Treasury to prove that we’ve been here. Mission complete. As for the other treasures, that’ll depend on the situation at the time.”

Everyone nodded at Su Xuan’s words. That’s all they could do given the current situation, since Su Xuan was the only member of their party with exceptional strength. The other four weren’t terribly outstanding among all the experts gathered there.

Shhhhhhhuu!

The screeching of the wind interrupted their conversation again. Everyone looked in the direction of the sound and saw nearly a hundred bodies rushing over and landed on another peak.

“They’re from White Dragon City.” Mu Chen scanned the crowd and picked out Bai Dong, the Young City Lord, standing at the front. Next to him was that grey-robed elder and behind them were nearly a hundred people dressed in white robes that were decorated with patterns of soaring dragons. They stood silently behind Bai Dong with knife-sharp glints in their eyes as they glanced around. An aura of bloodthirst surged around them.

Mu Chen couldn’t stop his frown as he watched the white-robed figures. Even though their Spiritual Energies weren’t terribly impressive, they didn’t make him feel too comfortable.

“It’s that despicable guy.” Su Ling’er had also noticed Bai Dong’s arrival. A look of disgust crossed her face.

Su Xuan also frowned the moment she looked over. Even though White Dragon City’s army wasn’t a small force, they only gave off ordinary Spiritual Energy ripples. The strongest one was probably the grey-robed elder — a Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase. Their formation was definitely weaker than the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction or the Earthen Way Sect. But for some reason, Su Xuan felt that they were the greater threat.

“Hehe.”

When Su Xuan and her party spotted Bai Dong, the latter had done the same to them. An eerie smile spread over his face, but he didn’t provoke them for the moment. He knew this wasn’t the place to start a fight.

Mu Chen slowly pulled his eyes away and looked back at the lake, waiting for something to appear.

The day wore on and night cloaked the mountain range. A full moon hung high above the horizon and spread its ice-cold light over the sky and earth.

Everyone held their breath; all conversations ceased. An excitement swept over them.

There were no movements from the depths of the mountains, even as the light of the moon grew ever colder. Some of them began growing impatient. Was today not the day when the Spirit Treasury would appear?

Enraged voices sounded low as they spread on the night wind.

Mu Chen calmly focused on the moon’s reflection on the lake. That was when the moon on the lake, emitting a peculiar glow.

The glow rose from the lake water and formed a faint mist on the glassy surface.

“Something’s happening!”

Mutters of excitement passed through the crowds. The strange signs had appeared again!

As the forces grew excited, the Spiritual Aura between heaven and earth suddenly turned a little violent and collected above the lake with an impossible velocity.

Shhhhhuuuu!

The moon shined brilliantly on the lake’s surface. Watched by countless awestruck expressions, the light slowly formed into the shape a humanoid figure.

The lake-being wore a white robe. The details of his face were indistinct, but the patterns on his robe were those of vivid and lifelike dragons. A frightening pressure had rippled over the land.

“Roaaaaar!”

The snarl of a dragon echoed with the appearance of the light entity. The area around the lake quaked violently as the mist gathered again to form a white dragon that spiraled around the figure.

“That’s...!”

Everyone watched the white figure and his dragon with expressions of shock. An emotion of joy and awe flushed through the crowd.

“It’s the White Dragon Sovereign!”

Su Xuan’s jade-like hands were tightly clenched. Expressions of surprise, happiness, and helplessness were simultaneously shown in her charming eyes.

The Spirit Treasury that was appearing was indeed a Sovereign Spirit Treasury!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 239: Fire Spirit Lotus

The light gathered on the surface of the clear lake. When the figure of light appeared with his white dragon spiraling around him, the atmosphere around the White Dragon Hillock finally exploded.

Countless eyes turned red and their breaths turned heavy as they stared at the illusory light spirit. A look of intense delight welled up in their eyes.

The Spirit Treasury appearing this time was actually the Sovereign Spirit Treasury!

When they’d first arrived in the area, they’d only heard a few rumors about the Sovereign Spirit Treasury. No one was certain that the Spirit Treasury emerging this time would actually be the one left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign. They’d been trying their luck by coming here and their bets had finally paid off.

Lips were licked. So, it was a Sovereign Spirit Treasury. If the news spread, some true major forces might even be moved to action. But luckily, the news hadn’t spread so rapidly this time. By the time a few of the major forces receive the news, the Sovereign Spirit Treasury would be cleaned out.

“It really is the White Dragon Sovereign.” Bai Dong’s eyes also turned red as he watched the light spirit. His dark eyes stared out from among the white-robed figures. A trace of excitement flashed across his eyes.

“That’s the White Dragon Sovereign?”

Mu Chen also watched with a curious expression. It was impossible to get a clear glimpse of the light spirit’s features, but the dragon still spiraled with a fleeting, yet intimidating, demeanor that rippled between heaven and earth. It was a sight that struck fear and awe into the hearts of any who saw it.

“Onom.”

The illusionary White Dragon Sovereign raised his hand and the white dragon roared. A burst of myriad color erupted like the burning sun and rose over the lake. The water instantly frothed and boiled.

Shuu! Shhhuu!

Five colors were shining brighter than any others and shot towards the five mountain pillars.

Chiii!

Each pillar of light touched one of the Milky Way waterfalls and split them open. The colors illuminated the cliff faces behind the waterfalls.

Kachaa!

The cliff faces tumbled down, one massive stone after another, revealing five huge seals to the eyes of the observers.

“Thats...”

Everyone stared at the seals in shock.

“Onom.”

The five ancient seals glowed with brilliant light and left their cliff faces like living creatures and gathered above the lake.

“Roarr!”

The moment the five seals gathered, the white dragon lifted its muzzle, roared towards the sky, and charged into the seals. There was a flash of light and the space began to distort, turning into a vortex of light a few dozen feet wide.

Shuuuuu!

Another beam of light rushed out from the vortex and into the sky, bearing the image of a huge white dragon. The roars of dragons echoed for hundreds of miles. It was truly a spectacular sight to anyone in the White Dragon Hillock.

“The Sovereign Spirit Treasury has appeared!”

Everyone's heartbeats quickened. The Sovereign Spirit Treasury that'd been hidden for several hundred years had finally appeared!

"Charge!"

Someone shouted. Then countless figures rose up and rushed like locusts towards the vortex.

Mu Chen's dark pupils burned with excitement as well; he was very interested in the rumored Sovereign Spirit Treasury. He wanted to take the opportunity to make himself even stronger.

Thanks to Li Xuantong, he knew little more about Luo Li and her Luo God Clan. More importantly, he knew that he needed to become even stronger. That was the only way he could help Luo Li, so that she wouldn't have to bear the burden of saving millions upon millions of her clansmen. And to have her sink into despair while he helplessly watched.

However, he was still too weak. Even Li Xuantong could easily beat him. He had to grow stronger.

On the roof of that small building, the young boy had told the young girl that he would become a supreme expert.

He still had a long way to go before he got there. But luckily, there was still time for him to grow.

"Let's go."

Mu Chen looked up and took in a deep breath of chilly air. Something reflected in his black pupils. His voice rumbled deep and low with resoluteness that couldn't be heard. His road would be hard, but in this world, there was still something that he was willing to chase after, even if it required him to give everything he could.

Su Xuan also nodded as she reminded, "Be cautious. A Sovereign Spirit Treasury is no less dangerous than a dragon's pool or a tiger's cave. It won't be easy to obtain the treasures the Sovereign left behind."

She lightly inhaled a breath of air, then became the first to move out. Counting Mu Chen and the other three, the four streaks of light entered the earth-shaking mass of bodies that flowed towards the huge glowing portal.

The moment Mu Chen entered the portal, he felt his surroundings ripple with chaos. His vision blacked out for a moment, then returned. At the same time, a surge of heat blew directly on his face.

Mu Chen opened his eyes with an expression of astonishment. Before him was a vast lake of magma and he was standing on a platform in the middle of it all. Flashes of light continued at regular intervals as one figure after another materialised on the platform.

Mu Chen swept his eyes around the island and suddenly realised that all of his party members were missing.

"Were we separated by the portal's space ripples?" Mu Chen frowned. This Sovereign Spirit Treasury was indeed worthy of its name. This was a man-made dimension. He was shocked by just thinking about how it could've been created. However, Mu Chen knew that one would have to be exceptionally powerful to open a space in a place such as the Great Thousand World.

Even a Heavenly Completion Stage expert wouldn't be able to accomplish that.

The Great Thousand World was a place where a host of other planes intersected, and as a result, the stability of this place was far greater than average. Experts who were powerful enough to tear apart space in the Lower Planes wouldn't make so much as a crack in the Great Thousand World. And if an expert from the Great Thousand World ever visited a Lower Plane, they'd easily cause a major disaster.

Mu Chen shook his head. It looked like they'd been temporarily separated; however, they'd probably run across each other, sooner or later. They were strong enough, as long as they didn't encounter any peculiar troubles. But, right now, he had to take care of himself, first.

Mu Chen looked around. The stone platform he stood on wasn't the only one in this gigantic lake of magma. The sounds of a commotion drifted from somewhere far away.

"I should leave this place, first."

Mu Chen took two steps forward and his line of sight was drawn to the other end of the magma lake. That place should be connected to the depths of the Spirit Treasury.

"Hmm? What's that?"

Just when Mu Chen was about to skim off, a few cries of surprise sounded from his stone platform.

Mu Chen was alerted by those cries and his eyes snapped back to the source. A fiery-red lotus was blooming on the surface of magma. The center of the flower blazed with flames and within those flames were more thumb-size lotuses of fire.

Ripples of astonishing Spiritual Energy fluctuated throughout the space. The air itself felt like it was on fire.

"That's..."

Mu Chen looked at the floating fiery-red lotus and, at first, drew a blank. Then, he recognised it and asked, "Is that the Fire Spirit Lotus?"

The Fire Spirit Lotus was an extremely rare treasure. Its seeds were formed from the purest Flame Spiritual Energy that could be found between the heavens and earth. It possessed a god-level effect for refining the physique and also had great benefits towards cultivation.

Even in the auction house, the price of such a treasure wouldn't be low. But, right now, there were so many of them floating on the magma lake.

"That's the Fire Spirit Lotus?!!"

When Mu Chen identified the burning lotus blossoms, a surge of surprised cries burst out from the experts around him. A heavy feeling of greed settled within countless pairs of eyes. Never could they have imagined such wealth just after entering the Spirit Treasury. The Sovereign Spirit Treasury was, indeed, worthy of its name.

Mu Chen licked his lips as he swept his eyes over the vast lake of magma. His heart jumped at seeing so many Fire Spirit Lotuses.

As far as he knew, it was rare to find Fire Spirit Lotuses growing in such large clumps. But, if they did, then there was a chance that another rare treasure would be born.

The Fire Celestial Lotus.

It was an evolved form of the Fire Spirit Lotus. It could greatly enhance the progress of those who cultivated fire attribute Spiritual Arts. Although Mu Chen didn't cultivate that particular aspect, it'd be a great benefit to the Nine Netherflames that he'd merged with.

"There are so many Fire Spirit Lotuses growing in this place, so there must be one that's succeeded in its evolution!"

A look of determination flashed through Mu Chen's eyes. Just as he was prepared to leap, a loud laugh burst out from someone behind him. Then, a figure leaped before him, heading directly towards one of the Fire Spirit Lotuses.

"Haha! So many Fire Spirit Lotuses! What luck!"

The figure was heading directly towards the Fire Spirit Lotus. Mu Chen narrowed his eyes.

Rustle

The figure landed on top of the Fire Spirit Lotus and clutched at it while laughing. However, the moment he prepared to pluck it, the magma underneath him burst upwards and a scarlet shadow twisted itself around his legs. With a violent jerk, he was dragged into the magma.

"Arghhhhh!"

He cried mournfully. A green smoke rose from the spot he'd disappeared.

Mu Chen, and any others who'd been ready to act, instantly recalculated with different expressions on their faces. So there was such vicious creatures lurking under the magma?

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 240: Encounter

"What's that?!"

Everyone stood on the stone platform staring down into the magma in shock at the unforeseen event that'd just occurred before their eyes. Scarlet shadows flashed under the surface of the magma.

The boiling liquid moved and gave the spectators a preview of a massive horned python covered in fiery-red scales. The boiling flames didn't cause it the slightest discomfort; on the contrary, it seemed quite content with its environment.

These snakes roamed freely below the surface of the magma. One glanced at the human figures standing the stone platform with a cold, savage light in its eyes.

"Those are Flame-Eating Pythons!"

Someone cried out in alarm when they recognized the savage creatures hiding within the magma. These Spiritual Beasts were creatures that possessed the ability to control the magma from the moment they were born within it. As they're hidden under the magma, they were also extremely difficult to deal with.

"If there's a treasure, then there's always something guarding it. It looks like these Flame Eaters are guarding the Fire Spirit Lotuses." Mu Chen nodded to himself. However, there was nothing here that he feared. It was true that Flame Eaters weren't easy to deal with, but they weren't enough to make him pull back, either.

"Hmph, just a few little Flame Eaters wants to keep us from acquiring the Spirit Lotuses?"

The cold snort sounded from a short distance away — a man with a cold laugh on his face as he released rippling, potent Spiritual Energy. He moved in a burst towards the magma.

Tshhhhhh!

Right before he was about to pluck the Fire Spirit Lotus, several scarlet lights burst from underneath the surface of the magma lake. A wild gale sprung up.

"Hmph."

The man barked a laugh and a long blade appeared in his clenched fist and flickered with spiritual light. The blade trembled as he cast several razor-sharp blade-like images, which soared out and cut deeply into the scarlet lights.

Clang!

The sounds of metal on metal rang out. Lines of blood appeared on the bodies of the Flame-Eaters as they whined mournfully and fell back into the magma.

After pushing back the Flame Eaters, the man extended his hand, clutched the Fire Spirit Lotus, and plucked the Fire Seed from the heart of the flower.

The spectators became riled up when they saw the man obtain the Fire Spirit Lotus. The ones with decent strength were the first to leap out. After that, an earth-shaking number of figures began rushing towards the magma lake.

Mu Chen also burst forward with them. He put one foot on the empty air and used the foothold to drive his body straight towards the center of the lake.

Even though Fire Spirit Lotuses were decently-prized treasures, the one that Mu Chen wanted was the Fire Celestial Lotus. If he could get his hands on that, then he'd be able to strengthen the Nine Neatherflame inside him, while also charging directly towards the Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase.

Even though Mu Chen had quite a few tricks he could've pulled, he knew that his physique still wasn't strong enough. If he ended up fighting an opponent who far surpassed him in strength, things could get troublesome.

Rustle!

Those thoughts further fueled Mu Chen's desire for the Fire Celestial Lotus and he abruptly quickened his pace.

Tssssshhh! Tssssh!

The moment Mu Chen upped his speed, the magma below him suddenly boiled upwards. A pillar of liquid stone rose into the air by several feet and ruthlessly aimed towards him.

Mu Chen moved to evade as he activated the Shadowspirit Step and his body split into several illusions as he avoided the pillar of magma. The maneuver hadn't slowed him in the least as he continued towards his target.

The surface of the magma lake bubbled with noise as figures shuttled back and forth. Each Fire Spirit Lotus blooming on the lake's surface had already been targeted by more than one person. Chaotic battles broke out over who would be the one to keep the treasures.

These fights also attracted the Fire-Eaters hidden under the magma. If they discovered an opening, they'd burst up with ruthless attacks.

As a result, the battles were accompanied by shrieks of misery as one body after another fell into the lake. Even though one could keep the burning liquid at bay with their Spiritual Energy, they'd be overwhelmed with despair and fear once they had fell into it, as a result of being attacked by the Fire-Eaters.

Mu Chen watched the scene unfold with apathy and his steps didn't show the slightest pause. He wasn't fighting over the Fire Spirit Lotuses, so he was using his energy to boost his speed to the max as he headed towards the center of the lake.

One could expect the natural Spiritual Aura to be even more chaotic around the center of the lake and the Spiritual Beasts hiding in that area to be even more savage and ruthless. The other experts probably wouldn't head in that direction for a while, so Mu Chen had the opportunity for first pick.

In just a few short minutes, Mu Chen had already approached the center of the lake. He kept his eyes peeled for the possible existence of a Fire Celestial Lotus.

However, his first search didn't bear fruit. The center of the lake only bubbled and burst with blazing hot scarlet magma.

"There aren't any here?"

Mu Chen knit his brows as a look of disappointment flashed across his face.

Shhhhhhuu.

As Mu Chen was feeling disappointment from the lack of a harvest, a screeching wind blew by his ears. There were people heading in his direction and it was clear that their target was the same as Mu Chen's — the Fire Celestial Lotus. They must have good foresight.

Mu Chen looked them up and down and realised that these newcomers weren't weak. However, he knitted his brows when his eyes reached the end of the line. There were a few familiar figures.

It was a group of five or six people led by someone dressed in white — the Young City Lord of White Dragon City, Bai Dong. Next to him were several white-robed underlings and the grey-robed elder.

Mu Chen and Bai Dong recognised each other at the same time. A contemplative smile crossed the latter's dark eyes.

"Haha. Brother, are you alone? It looks like you've been separated from your friends." Bai Dong's face was plastered over with a smile as he approached Mu Chen.

The grey-robed elder and the underlings spread out in a circular formation as they slowly advanced towards Mu Chen.

Mu Chen's eyes dulled at the sight of them; however he displayed a smile on his handsome face as he moved towards Bai Dong. He cupped his hands and said, "So, it's the Young City Lord who I've heard so much about. Please forgive me for my lack of respect back at the auction house."

Bai Dong gave Mu Chen a blank look as he studied the slightly regretful expression on Mu Chen's face. He couldn't help puffing out his chest and raising his head. Even though Bai Dong still intended to kill Mu Chen, he thought he'd at least spare his enemy some suffering in return for his tact.

"Haha, it was just a small disagreement... I, Young City Lord of the White Dragon City..." Bai Dong smiled, but before he could finish his sentence, the face of the grey-robed elder abruptly changed.

Rustle!

Mu Chen moved like ghost and approached Bai Dong in only a single step. A cyan longsword appeared in his fist and flashed towards Bai Dong's throat in a ruthless swing.

Mu Chen's actions were so unexpected that both Bai Dong and his grey-robed elder had been taken by surprise. Not only did this little Heavenly Fusion Stage Initial Phase manage to escape their clutches earlier, but he dared to strike right before their eyes!

"Shhhhhhu!"

Of course, Mu Chen's blow was difficult to avoid, given such a short distance. There was nothing that Bai Dong could do except watch as the sharp sword glinted towards him.

Baaang!

But right before Mu Chen's glowing sword cut through Bai Dong's neck, the grey-robed elder forced a palm towards Bai Dong and sent him flying backwards at an angle.

The blade streak across Bai Dong's face and sliced off his ear. Fresh blood welled up from the wound.

Since Mu Chan had failed to kill his target with that strike, he immediately backed away. Nothing rippled in his dark pupils and the cold smile on his face had turned even more frigid. The warmth from before was entirely gone from his face.

"Haha, you can thank your dumb luck." Mu Chen's longsword trembled as he smiled at Bai Dong, who'd lost an ear and had blood all over his face.

"Bastard...bastard, little trash...my ear..."

Bai Dong's expression was savage and the blood made his expression seem even more twisted. He covered his missing ear with one hand as he pointed at Mu Chen with a trembling finger and roared with the desire to tear Mu Chen apart.

He never imagined that someone like Mu Chen would be able to do something like to him!

"Elder Qiu! Catch him, catch him! But, don't kill him! I want to chop his limbs off one by one!" Bai Dong snarled as his eyes turned scarlet red.

"Brat, it looks like we really can't underestimate you. So cunning and ruthless at such a tender age." The grey-robed elder darkly stared at Mu Chen. Now he knew why those four Demonic Dragon Guards had wound up dead instead. This brat was a few years younger than Bai Dong, but he's as cunning as a fox and ruthless to the extreme. How could an ordinary student of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy have learned such ruthlessness?

"You've left a blood trail all the way to my doorstep. Did you think I was going to offer you tea and shout '1,2,3' before we started?" Mu Chen laughed in ridicule.

The grey-robed elder had darkly stared at him and coldly laughed in reply. "No worries. Either way, nothing can change your fate. You managed to escape last time; but this time, you won't be so lucky."

Mu Chen's pupils slightly shrank. "Last time?"

He stared into the eyes of the grey-robed elder. Then Mu Chen's gradually turned from bewildered to cold.

"So, you were the ones who sent those people... which means that your White Dragon City is, in fact, from the Demonic Dragon Palace?" Mu Chen's heart jolted. This secret Demonic Dragon Palace was indeed powerful and far-reaching. Even the White Dragon City was one of their chess pieces.

"What a smart brat."

The grey-robed elder smiled indifferently. He never thought that this slip of his tongue would give so much away to this youth. But what the kid learned wouldn't make a difference right before he died.

"Go, kill him."

The grey-robed elder waved his hand and the white-robed subordinates advanced towards Mu Chen with icy expressions and bloodthirsty auras — exactly the same as the four who they'd encountered in the forest!