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Chapter 251: Sovereign Appears

Onom onom.

The space between heaven and earth was overshadowed with darkness as the natural Spiritual Aura of the land turned chaotic. A faint mist began curling up from the earth due to all the Spiritual Aura gathering towards this place.

Everyone noticed the sudden changes and took in the details of the scene, quietly preparing for battle. This was the resting place of a Sovereign; it was best to remain cautious. With their strength, they were only qualified to wander around the White Dragon Hillock; if they ever met a genuine Sovereign, they would be weaker than an ant.

Even though there was no longer a Sovereign here, all they needed was some of his legacy treasures to turn it into a life-threatening situation.

Mu Chen and his companions were also on their guard as they stared into the black basin. The colossal black pillars were beginning to give off light, bit by bit.

As the light grew stronger, they could barely make out a pattern on the surface of the black pillars. A light pattern that seemed alive and wiggling.

Shuuuu!

As the patterns thrashed, the intensity of the light suddenly exploded. The rays raced out from the basin, interweaving and blanketing the basin in thick layers of light.

Rumble!

It sounded like thunder. The natural Spiritual Energy surged and rushed towards the center of the basin in a torrent. Everyone's expressions turned grim, though none of them rashly charged in; they knew that they'd only be crushed to death by the violent surges of Spiritual Energy.

Su Xuan turned her face towards the basin and frowned. "The black basin has been covered." Up ahead, the light was slowly spreading out, until it'd become a solid screen several thousand feet in diameter and blocked their view of the basin.

Mu Chen frowned at the frightening Spiritual Energy rippling from the screen. "This must have been left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign to keep prying eyes away from the place where he fell." This wasn't something he could break. If he tried to force it, he might incur a counter-strike, and he'd be as good as dead.

Guo Xiong smiled bitterly. "This Sovereign Spirit Treasury really isn't easy to reach." They'd already endured so much difficulty to reach this place; they hadn't imagined this light screen to be yet another obstacle in their path.

"Let's study the situation first," said Mu Chen. Su Xuan and the rest nodded in agreement. Right now, the best they could do was observe the changes.

The other experts' faces also turned ugly when they sensed the light screen. How were they supposed to reach the Sovereign Spirit Treasury with this light screen in place?

Numerous pairs exchanged looks and the area grew extremely silent for a moment.

Suddenly, a courageous bark sounded from a skinny, middle-aged man in the crowd. "Hey, everyone! Let's work together to destroy this light screen. Even though this probably belongs to the White Dragon Sovereign, it's still several hundred years old, at least. Plus, there's no one controlling it. With so many of us here, it's possible for us to destroy it!"

His announcement attracted quite a few nods and verbal agreements from the others. After all, the light screen wasn't going to disappear on its own.

The concurring voices increased in volume as more and more people demonstrated their willingness to cooperate.

"Good, we'll act together!"

Tens of thousands of bodies rose into the sky, creating a surge of Spiritual Energy in a majestic scene.

Su Ling'er was eager, as she asked, "Are we going to help out, too?" She was fond of lively events, and the prospect of tens of thousands of people acting together was getting her excited.

Mu Chen helplessly shook his head. Su Xuan also glared at Su Ling'er and said, "Stop being rash. This light screen was left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign to protect the treasures that he left behind. Destroying it with only this many people is nothing but a dream. Those guys don't know how powerful a genuine Sovereign is. There are probably a few among them who know, but they're still just fanning the flames.

Su Ling'er pouted at Su Xuan's lecture, but she did quiet down. She understood that she shouldn't be rash in these situations.

Mu Chen nudged them to look in another direction, where Bai Xuan and his soldiers were looking around with frigid expressions. Bai Dong wore a ridiculing smile as he mocked the experts who were clearly overestimating themselves. "Look at those guys from White Dragon City. They're waiting to watch a good show."

"Watch out for them. If they're really from the Demonic Dragon Palace, then they've probably already prepared something." A dark light flashed through Su Xuan's eyes as she continued, "When he was alive, the White Dragon Sovereign was also from the Demonic Dragon Palace. But for some unknown reason, he betrayed the Demonic Dragon Palace. The Demonic Dragon Palace suffered heavy losses while pursuing him. That was the chance our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was waiting for, so that they could eliminate them with just a single move."

Mu Chen lightly nodded in understanding. Bai Xuan and his experts weren't very surprised by the appearance of this light screen; they already expected it.

Shuuuu! Shhhhu!

As Mu Chen and his allies conversed, the tens of thousands of experts had already finished gathering their Spiritual Energy into one. In the next instant, they fired it with an earth-shattering cry. Even the

heavens and earth trembled as the tens of thousands of separate Spiritual Energies streaked across the sky and continuously rained down on the powerful light screen. The sheer volume of their attacks filled the entire black basin with a monumental air.

Mu Chen fixed his eyes on the scene. Even a Heavenly Completion Stage expert would try to avoid having tens of thousands of people bombard them. He wondered whether the White Dragon Sovereign's light screen would withstand such a bombardment.

Rumble!

Tens of thousands of attacks hammered down, and the light screen suddenly fluctuated and rippled. Rays of light began gathering at the screen's middle, before they slowly took on the fuzzy shape of a human figure.

The light slowly died as the figure appeared — a handsome youth, white-robed and slender with his long hair draped around his shoulders. However, there was no black in his milky-white eyes. An extremely odd detail.

The white-robed figure was quietly seated over his screen of light. A few stray lines of light circled around him, like a roaring white dragon.

With the appearance of this white-robed spirit came an indescribable movement in the natural Spiritual Energy. One filled with palatial might.

Even the heavens and earth seemed to tremble under the pressure of his aura.

The natural Spiritual Energy coiled around him, allowing him free reign over it.

“Sighhh.”

His white pupil-less eyes stared at the Spiritual Energy barrage raining down on him. Then, he lightly waved his palm, as if he was only sighing in dismissal.

Onom! Onom!

A hundred feet away from where he sat, the overflowing Spiritual Energy froze in an instant. The next instant, it seemed as if the space around it had frozen as well.

Sssss!

Everyone instantly drew in a breath of cold air.

The white-robed figure lightly flicked his fingers and the silent Spiritual Energy suddenly became unstuck. Even as they watched, the energies suddenly reversed their paths and turned on the ones who'd launched them.

Pffft!

A cloud of blood rose up in the sky as half of the ten thousand experts coughed blood and fell back. The remaining half turned pale and retreated of their own will, with shock in their eyes.

“That's...!”

Someone cried out in a frightened voice as he indicated the white-robed spirit seated before the light screen. Fear filled his eyes as his voice trembled. "That's the White Dragon Sovereign?!!"

The White Dragon Sovereign!

It seemed as if the entire sky had fallen silent just to hear those words. Countless faces turned pale and filled with fear, their owners regretting their rash actions.

"That's the White Dragon Sovereign?" Su Ling'er said in surprise as she looked at the figure.

"That's indeed the White Dragon Sovereign. However, I'm afraid that's only a remnant Spiritual Energy image." Su Xuan sighed. "Just a remnant Spiritual Energy image and yet it possesses such power. Sovereigns are fearsome, indeed."

Mu Chen also nodded his head slowly. This was the strength of a Sovereign? It was power truly worthy of ruling a territory of this large continent.

Around the black basin, many bodies were paralysed with fear, too afraid to even move. They knew this figure wasn't the real White Dragon Sovereign, but also knew that it'd be all too easy for them to be slain.

As everyone was feeling terrified by the light spirit, a low mocking laugh sounded out. "Haha! It's just a Spiritual Energy image that'll soon disperse. White Dragon Sovereign. How impressive."

In their stupor, everyone turned their eyes towards the source of the laughter — the City Lord of White Dragon City. Bai Xuan slowly walked forward as he coldly regarded the spirit.

"Is he crazy?" A confused expression crossed everyone's faces. Even though Bai Xuan was considered powerful among them, he was still nothing more than an ant to this remnant Spiritual Energy image of the White Dragon Sovereign. Yet he actually dared to provoke the White Dragon Sovereign?

The white-robed spirit directed his pupils towards Bai Xuan and everyone sensed the natural Spiritual Energy churn violently in response.

His voice rang in the air. "The Demonic Dragon Palace really has sent someone."

"White Dragon Sovereign, since you've already betrayed the Demonic Dragon Palace, then I don't need to pay my respects you. What a pity that the Sovereign of a generation fell here. What a pity." Bai Xuan coldly smiled.

"Return the treasure that you stole from the Palace. Your actions back then caused our Demonic Dragon Palace to lose to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. With the Overlord position lost, you've practically become the sinner of our Demonic Dragon Palace!"

The white-robed figure casually looked over Bai Xuan. From his posture, one could tell that he disliked the argument; even still, as a Spiritual Energy image left behind by a Sovereign, he still possessed part of the original's pride and might.

"Hmph."

The corner of Bai Xuan's mouth rose into a strange smile at the White Dragon Sovereign's aversive expression.

"It looks like the White Dragon Sovereign isn't very interested in me. In that case, allow me to invite someone you'd be more interested in speaking to."

Bai Xuan tightened his fingers and a black light spread from the center of his palm. The light gathered and condensed, until it became a dark pearl the size of a dragon's eye, emanating a frightening Spiritual Energy.

Kacha.

Bai Xuan chuckled as he shattered it.

Boom!

The moment Bai Xuan destroyed the black pearl, a towering black pillar soared into the air. An indescribable pressure shrouded them.

A dark misty figure materialised from within the black pillar and strolled out. Everything trembled beneath his feet.

He flashed a casual smile as he spoke to the white-robed figure in a voice that echoed through all the space between the heavens and earth.

"Haha. White Dragon, it's been few hundred years since we last met. I trust you've been well since then."

Mu Chen, Su Xuan, and their party dropped their jaws. This figure of dark light was actually a Sovereign too?!!

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Chapter 252: Black Dragon, White Dragon

When the figure of black light appeared, the natural Spiritual Aura roared and turned violent. A pressure weighed down on them so heavily that even the heavens would tremble at it.

Everyone felt as if their very skin was being peeled away; they could no longer access the natural Spiritual Aura of this place.

It seemed as though the natural Spiritual Aura was being taken over by this black spirit.

"That's...a Sovereign Clone?"

Countless experts were frightened into despair and their legs turned to jelly as they watched the black spirit. The sudden appearance of this being, who was on par with the White Dragon Sovereign, had made them lose their composure.

Astonished emotion took over their rationality.

None of them had ever imagined that Bai Xuan could summon forth a Sovereign Clone. Didn't that mean that there was a Sovereign standing behind White Dragon City?

Was that really possible? If White Dragon City possessed such strength, why would they hole themselves up in the tiny White Dragon Hillock?

Shock overtook those from the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and Earthen Way Sect. This was news to them as well — White Dragon City's position as one of the three major forces of this hillock wasn't truly what they thought it was.

"Didn't the White Dragon Sovereign's remnant image mention the Demonic Dragon Palace, earlier?"

"Could he be talking about that the powerful force that was only a step away from becoming the Overlord of the Northern Heaven Continent a few hundred years ago? That Demonic Dragon Palace?"

"White Dragon City...was a chess piece set up by the Demonic Dragon Palace?"

"..."

Emotions rose like tidal waves in their hearts as their faces glazed over with shock. Once this news spread, there'd be major shifts on the Northern Heavens Continent.

Bai Xuan couldn't care less about the shocked gazes coming from all over the place. He only raised his head towards the black spirit with reverence in his eyes. As long as he completed this task, he'd be able to return to the Demonic Dragon Palace. It wouldn't matter anymore whether his identity was revealed or not.

"That's a Sovereign Clone..."

With an unconcealable expression of shock, Su Xuan's charming eyes solemnly turned to the sky. "I never thought that Bai Xuan would actually have such a trump card. It seems like they're determined to win the White Dragon Sovereign's Spirit Treasury."

Mu Chen, Li Qing and the rest also nodded their heads in shock. Bai Xuan's trump card was too powerful. However, it's fortunate for them that he'd only revealed it to deal with the Spiritual Energy image left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign.

"Black Dragon..."

The White Dragon Sovereign's white pupils stared at the black spirit as ripples finally appeared on his face. "I never thought that you'd actually dare to appear. Aren't you afraid of the ones from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?"

"Haha, this is just a clone. I doubt they'll be able to detect it." The spirit called Black Dragon lightly smiled as he looked at the White Dragon Sovereign. "White Dragon, you've hidden the supreme treasure of my palace for so long. It should be about time for you to return it."

"After so many years...you're still concerned about it." the White Dragon Sovereign lightly sighed.

The Black Dragon Sovereign lowered his eyes as his voice slowly sounded out, "White Dragon, we were once the greatest of friends. However, you betrayed me. The pain of our clan perishing, have you forgotten it?"

"You were already deceived by hatred." The White Dragon Sovereign said with another sigh.

“Who cares about the methods on the road of revenge?” The Black Dragon Sovereign smiled and sighed in regret. “I never thought that you’d refuse to wake up, even after your death. Forget it. Today, I’ll get rid of your remnant image. After getting the supreme treasure back, we’ll once again, rule over even the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. When we have truly grown strong, we’ll begin our true revenge.”

His words landed with a clear finality. Then, he took a step forward. The earth trembled as a boundless Spiritual Energy surged and gathered behind him, as endless as the seas.

Roar!

Within the sea of Spiritual Energy came tyrannical dragon roars. One massive dragon clad in cold black scales charged out. Its large body was slender and powerful, with the power to destroy the heavens and annihilate the earth.

The Black Dragon Sovereign’s figure trembled as he turned into a ray of black light and became one with the colossal black dragon. As one, they charged towards the White Dragon Sovereign on the light screen.

Boom!

It was like a frightening tornado had torn through the heavens and earth. Even the ground began showing cracks.

“Sighhh.”

The White Dragon Sovereign sighed again as his boundless Spiritual Energy rippled out. His body trembled and started to glow with a white light, and a massive white dragon appeared, one no smaller than his opponent’s black one. The white scales flickered with a dazzling glow as the creature breathed out, turned into a cloud, and drifted to meet the threat.

A frightening Spiritual Energy swept through the entire heavens and earth.

Roar!

The roars of dragons resonated through the skies as the black and white dragon flew in unison, colliding again and again in ferocious strikes. Thunder roared and the heavens and earth trembled as though wrought under a violent gale.

Mu Chen and the rest watched the frightening confrontation occurring up in the skies. Even from such a distance, the Spiritual Energy impact still made them tremble a little.

Furthermore, the two of them were only wisps of the two Sovereigns. If they’d been fighting with their main vessels, the entire sky would probably shatter.

“The light screen has weakened a little.” Su Xuan suddenly said.

Mu Chen and the few others immediately looked over and confirmed that as the battle in the sky intensified, the originally powerful light screen that covered the black basin was starting to ripple. Its originally brilliant glow had also dulled a little.

“The White Dragon Sovereign has died, after all. His strength is limited. Furthermore, he’s fighting the Black Dragon Sovereign’s Clone, so he’s definitely exhausting a lot of energy. That’s why the light screen is rapidly weakening,” Mu Chen clarified.

Su Xuan also nodded. “It might not be long before the light screen becomes weak enough for us to pass through.”

“Everyone must be cautious while collecting treasures. White Dragon City is extremely well-prepared and they’re glaring like tigers. They’re definitely the strongest contestor out there.”

Mu Chen smiled when he heard that and swept his eyes around the basin. “Even still, their very strength may get in their own way; some of the other forces are likely to take precautions by allying to deal with them. Who knows if we could take that chance to collect the treasures?”

“We’ll see how it goes. If we can’t get any treasures, then we’ll retreat first. Our lives are the priority.” Su Xuan said lightly.

Mu Chen and the others nodded. Treasures were great, but lives were still more important.

The other forces had also sensed the changes to the light screen and their expressions immediately heated up. The terrifying White Dragon Sovereign was currently occupied. From here, the only thing that mattered in winning treasures was their personal abilities.

Even though many were still shocked by the secret nature of White Dragon City, Bai Xuan and his experts weren’t actually enough to make them fear. And even though the Demonic Dragon Palace was powerful, they and the Northern Heavens Academy were like fire and water; the Demonic Dragon Palace wouldn’t do anything rash.

“Get ready to act.”

Bai Xuan closely scrutinised the powerful light screen fluctuating with ripples and said with a low voice, “We’ll kill all those who dare to get in our way.”

“Yes!”

A ferocity flashed through the greyed-robed elder when he heard Bai Xuan’s orders.

Bai Dong’s cold eyes glanced in Mu Chen’s direction. He’d wait until they entered the black basin. If there was an opportunity, he definitely wasn’t going to let that kid go!

Countless numbers of experts quietly waited around the black basin, barely restraining the excitement in their hearts. The skies above them rolled with clouds as the black and white dragons tore at each other. Frightening Spiritual Energies rippled through the heavens and earth.

This wait lasted for more than ten minutes before the powerful light screen lost the stability it once possessed and took on an illusionary quality, as though it was on the verge of collapsing.

Everyone’s eyes boiled at the same instant. It was about time.

“Go!”

Bai Xuan took the lead with a wave of his hand. With his White Dragon City experts in tow, he flashed out like lightning towards the screen. While they were still some distance away, Bai Xuan threw out his fist.

Boom!

Spiritual Energy surged. The White Dragon City experts towards the back barked lowly as the black spears in their hands shot forward like gusts of strong wind, bombarding the light screen until it was on the verge of collapsing.

Dong!

Even more ripples moved over the light screen as it turned even more translucent. Several breaths later, a series of cracks began spreading over its surface.

Rustle!

When Bai Xuan and his group saw the crack, they moved and charged in.

Every other force followed when they saw White Dragon City's group charge in. A gale broke out as everyone tore a hole in a different place of the light screen. Together, they charged endlessly into the black basin.

"Let's go!"

Su Xuan raised her jade hands and took the initiative. Mu Chen and the rest quickly followed.

When they reached before the light screen, they joined powers to tear their own crack in its surface, revealing the pitch-black basin on the other side. The darkness there gaped like a massive, hungry maw, devouring the endless river of people.

"Be cautious," Su Xuan reminded as she charged into the crack. Li Qing, Guo Xiong, and Su Ling'er quietly circulated their Spiritual Energies to protect their bodies before following.

Mu Chen peered into the darkness behind the crack and a smear of curiosity flashed through his pupils. The supreme treasure that the two Sovereigns had been speaking of should be in here. Except he didn't know...

What sort of treasure was it?

An intense curiosity rose in Mu Chen's heart. Then, he smiled and stepped into the darkness on the other side of the rift.

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Chapter 253: Dense Water Spiritual Pearl

A darkness rushed forward to greet them the moment they passed through the rift. Mu Chen and his comrades opened their eyes and realized that they could no longer see the outside world, now that they were inside the black basin. The darkness stretched out all around them. A chill swirled with the surrounding wind.

However, there were still many bodies occupying the space around them — clearly members of the other forces. They'd quickly re-formed their own parties and had raised their guards, keeping a safe distance away from any of the others.

Mu Chen's line-of-sight cut through the darkness, then narrowed as they pinpointed something up ahead. He could just barely make out the shapes of several obsidian pillars, towering like beasts in the darkness. His heart started to beat faster.

Even though they were down inside the basin, no one experienced any surprise attacks. However, everyone stayed on guard and slowed their pace as they moved closer to the center of the basin. Each group took their own formations as they slowly advanced.

"Why's it so quiet?" Su Ling'er asked in a whisper. "Isn't this Sovereign Spirit Treasury a little too still? Shouldn't a place like this be filled with all sorts of danger?"

Su Xuan also knit her brows in doubt. However, she remained silent as she circulated her Spiritual Energy and maintained her state of high alert.

Mu Chen slowly swept his eyes around the area again before he looked back at the stone pillars. For some reason, the uneasiness in his heart grew stronger.

As he stared ahead, he noticed that there were already a few parties charging towards the stone pillars.

An even deeper blackness swirled over the stone pillars as the stone started shedding bits of debris.

"Not good! Be careful!"

Mu Chen's pupils shrank as he threw himself in front of Su Xuan and the others with a determined look in his eyes.

"Onom!"

Just as Mu Chen's warning reached their ears, the side of one massive stone pillar suddenly shattered and a huge black hand thrust forward from the dust. The charging formations immediately fell into disarray. Fresh blood splattered.

Mournful shrieks resounded.

The sudden situation shocked everyone.

Bang! Bang!

More cracks started to appear on the other pillars, which then collapsed to reveal more pitch-black stone statues. Each glared at them with savage red eyes.

A frightening Spiritual Energy rippled over these stone statues. None of them were weaker than the stone statue Mu Chen had subdued just a little while ago.

"Hsssss!"

Mu Chen couldn't help taking in a breath as he watched the stone statues struggle out of their pillars. To think there'd be so many Stone Guardians here! This truly was a dangerous place.

Everyone else's faces changed immediately as they took their positions in the formation.

"We'll charge together and wreck those stone statues!"

The attack had been too unexpected; however, the humans weren't few in numbers either — there were quite a few experts who'd made it into the basin. After the sudden loss, the formations rapidly gathered again. Shouts and snarls rang through the darkness as the experts joined forces and their combined Spiritual Energy soared to reach the skies, before they charged towards the black stone statues.

Boom!

A torrent of people smashed into the black stone statues and the two sides broke into an intense battle. A violent Spiritual Energy swept over the battlefield, so strong it even split the earth.

However, everyone had underestimated the Stone Guardians — these things had been created solely for battle and felt no pain. Even though the experts had the advantage of quantity, they lacked in terms of quality — there were only a few who could break through the stone statue's defenses and advance deeper, and they still had to pay a huge price for accomplishing that much.

"Those guys from White Dragon City are charging in real fast!" Li Qing suddenly warned.

Mu Chen looked to the far right and confirmed that the experts of White Dragon City had already gathered into an arrow formation and were swiftly piercing through the stone statue's defenses. Each of them was giving it their all. Aside from Bai Xuan and the grey-robed elder, Mu Chen and his party could sense another four Spiritual Energy ripples coming from experts who'd reached the Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase!

Borrowing strength from their powerful formation, White Dragon City took the lead and broke through the Stone Guardians much faster than any of the other forces could possibly match.

Su Xuan ground her teeth as she recognised a few familiar Spiritual Energy ripples. "Among those four other Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phases, two of them are from the ones who attacked us the other night. So they really are from White Dragon City."

Mu Chen frowned. "White Dragon City no longer needs to hide its strength; all they have to do is advance past the stone statues to reach the deepest area. The treasures will be right in front of them."

"We can't let them steal the supreme treasure so easily!" Su Xuan declared. Since they'd already confirmed that they were members of the Demonic Dragon Palace, they'd become their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's mortal enemy. Besides, if Bai Xuan and his soldiers won the treasure, then they probably wouldn't be able to escape safely.

Guo Xiong and the rest nodded in agreement.

"We'll move together. After them!"

Su Xuan lightly waved her jade hands and made a clutching motion. With the sensation of rolling waves, a strange and ancient jade pearl appeared in her hand.

Mu Chen and his group circulated their Spiritual Energies to the limits and burst forward. They passed through large throngs of people as they charged towards the Stone Guardians.

Their Spiritual Energies were much stronger from the other experts', which quickly attracted the surprised attention of three Stone Guardians. The stone statues took trembling steps as they changed directions and charged after them.

"Dense Water Spiritual Pearl, Dense Water Prison!"

Su Xuan took note of the situation and raised her jade hands. The ancient jade pearl flew from her palm, and a surge of blue waves a hundred feet high rose into the air. The water crashed down and swirled into a massive vortex, enveloping the three stone statues.

Bang! Bang!

The violent whirlpool spun endlessly with a frightening force. The three statues had been as strong as any Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase, but they were pinned down so strongly that they couldn't even move. The clear and beautiful azure waves pounded them until cracks appeared on their bodies.

Even Mu Chen was shocked by Su Xuan's move. This was the first time he'd seen her fight, but he never imagined that she'd be so powerful. With just a casual attack, she could take care of those three Stone Statue Guardians.

Ranked 3 of the Heavenly Rankings. Truly, her fame wasn't for nothing.

Su Ling'er flashed an adoring smile when she saw Mu Chen's astonished expression. "That's my sister's Dense Water Spiritual Pearl. A High Rank Spiritual Artifact. She spent three million Spiritual Value Points for it."

Guo Xiong laughed as well. "Haha. The Dense Water Spiritual Pearl contains an extremely bizarre form of Spiritual Water called Dense Water. A single litre weighs a thousand kilograms[1. Chinese raw says "the water weighs ten thousand half-kilograms", but we changed it to read better. For reference, water actually weighs 1kg per litre.]. It could even crush a mountain. It's as dangerous as any weapon and can be used for both offense and defense. The power of the Dense Water Spiritual Pearl can't be missed; that's why Su Xuan sits so securely as the the Rank 3 of the Heavenly Rankings."

Mu Chen exclaimed in admiration and nodded. So it was a High Rank Spiritual Artifact. No wonder. From the looks of it, Su Xuan's Dense Water Spiritual Pearl might even be stronger than the Draconic Spirit Bracelets.

"Let's go."

Su Xuan motioned and the blue jade[2. The Chinese sometimes don't distinguish between blue and green. Instead, they are often referred to as shades of the same color.] pearl returned to her jade hands. She stroked its cyan surface as she smiled and said, "Let's get over there. Fast."

"Yes!"

The other four agreed, then burst out in unison, easily passing the three stone statues that'd gotten in their way just a few minutes ago.

Su Xuan brought out the Dense Water Spiritual Pearl again, while Guo Xiong and the other three burst forward on full attack, in an attempt to lessen the pressure on Su Xuan. The group of five charged straight forward.

The Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and Earthen Way Sect followed closely behind them. These factions had the advantage of numbers, and furthermore, they'd joined forces, so their combined strength was now far greater than it'd been before.

Everyone charged straight ahead. As long as they could get past the Stone Guardians, they'd reach the Spirit Treasury and obtain the supreme treasure!

However, the price for such a straightforward charge was a heavy one to pay. Mournful screams echoed endlessly through the black basin, and the faint smell of blood permeated the air. Many faces turned pale.

Mu Chen's party relied on Su Xuan's Dense Water Spiritual Pearl. Even though they suffered no injuries or deaths, their advancement grew tougher by the step. Finally, Mu Chen decided that he had no choice but to summon his Stone Guardian as well. Unfortunately, his Stone Guardian was already badly damaged and looked to be on the verge of collapse — however, it could buy them some time to catch their breaths.

"There have been quite a few deaths from White Dragon City."

Su Xuan moved the Dense Water Spiritual Pearl again, and waves as heavy as mountains crushed the arm of one Stone Guardian that was in the process of charging them. Then she looked to her right, where the experts of White Dragon City were already bathed in fresh blood. Even one of the Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase experts had died. No doubt a disastrous loss for them.

"We're approaching the central region."

Mu Chen nodded with a grave look in his eyes. He'd already noticed that the deeper they went, the more violent the Stone Guardians became, as though they were desperate to keep them from reaching their destination.

It was clear that they'd soon reach the heart of this Spirit Treasury.

"There're abnormal movements from White Dragon City!" Su Ling'er urged.

Mu Chen and Su Xuan turned surprised expressions to see that White Dragon City had split their party into two. One was headed by Bai Dong, with four Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase experts protecting him. The other was lead by Bai Xuan and was swiftly charging forward. The goal of this formation was clear — Bai Xuan was trying to open a path for the other group to forge ahead.

Mu Chen narrowed his eyes. "They know that they're attracting too much attention because they have too many people. They're trying to split up into smaller groups, so they can move faster!"

He had to admit that White Dragon City's strategy was quite effective. While Bai Xuan and his group were attracting all the attention, Bai Dong and his smaller party had already disappeared into the darkness.

"What do we do now? If this goes on, they'll be able to be the first to enter!" Guo Xiong anxiously cried.

Su Xuan smiled bitterly. She could try charging in alone; however, she knew the others would find it difficult to protect themselves without her.

As Su Xuan helplessly considered her options, Mu Chen suddenly spoke with a soft voice. "I'll chase after them. You guys can catch up later."

"You alone?" Everyone looked at Mu Chen with an astonished expression. They clearly hadn't expected such a suggestion from him.

"Rest assured. I won't do something stupid, like seeking my own death." Mu Chen smiled. However, he didn't have enough time to fully explain, either.

Su Xuan evaluated Mu Chen's steady gaze and hesitated. Then, she nodded. "Alright. You go first. We'll distract the stone statues for you. Remember, if you encounter Bai Dong and his group, just try to buy time."

"Okay."

Mu Chen nodded. Then, he moved like a hunting leopard as he slipped between two stone statues and rapidly disappeared into the darkness.

"Will he be alright?" Su Ling'er worried as she looked in the direction where Mu Chen had disappeared.

Su Xuan shook her head and softly replied, "I don't know where he gets that confidence from, but right now, I can only choose to trust him."

Su Ling'er, Li Qing, Guo Xiong nodded. That was all they could do in the current situation. Just hope that nothing happened to Mu Chen.

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Chapter 254: Black Demonic Pillar

Shhhhhhu!

As the darkness enveloped the center of the basin, a single figure streaked over the inky blackness — it was Mu Chen. Suddenly, he came to a halt. His feet briefly brushed the ground before he came to a full stop more than ten feet away from a Stone Guardian.

Bang!

A stone fist fell with the power of a meteor striking the earth, right at the spot where Mu Chen had touched just a few moments before. A series of cracks spread over the ground.

Mu Chen steadied his feet as his Spiritual Energy surged and he burst forward again. He swiftly passed through a gap in the Stone Guardian's offense.

Right now, he was somewhere deep inside the basin. As a result, the number of Stone Guardians had increased, and they'd grown more violent as well — to the point that even Mu Chen didn't dare to confront them. All he could do was take advantage of the gaps between them and charge ahead.

However, his charge only lasted for a few minutes before he was cut off, and Mu Chen suddenly found himself surrounded by six Stone Guardians. They moved their mountainous steps as they rained punches down that could shatter the sky.

Mu Chen warily observed the Stone Guardians as they sealed off his only path of retreat. Finally, he knitted his brows and waved his sleeve, summoning his own Stone Guardian. It stood like a stone shield before him.

Bang!

Six heavy stone fists landed on Mu Chen's Stone Guardian, and more cracks spread over its body. At last, it exploded with a bang.

Mu Chen felt his heart ache. The statue had been a faithful servant to him, and he hadn't expected to see it destroyed just like that. It was too much of a waste.

"I wonder if the White Dragon Medal has any effects on these Stone Guardians?"

Mu Chen felt excitement in his heart. He'd been entertaining the idea for a while, but the Stone Guardians had been too violent for him to risk it. He was also afraid that he'd repeat the situation in the stone palace hall — that he'd only end up provoking the stone statues to attack even more. But now that he'd been driven into a corner, he couldn't care less about those risks.

Mu Chen decided that it was time to act. With a wave of his hand, the White Dragon Medal appeared in his hand and he activated it with his Spiritual Energy. The silver medal began flickering with a faint glow.

The moment the White Dragon Medal appeared, Mu Chen noticed that the Stone Guardians' attacks had become sluggish. But before he could celebrate the fact, they attacked him anyways.

"It doesn't work?"

A smear of disappointment flashed through Mu Chen's eyes. So it seemed he couldn't rely on the White Dragon Medal to control these Stone Guardians.

However, it wasn't entirely useless. At least its presence had slightly suppressed their attacks — which meant that the White Dragon Medal had some effect after all.

Something flickered in Mu Chen's eyes as he poured everything into the White Dragon Medal. The glow from its metallic surface grew stronger, and Mu Chen was enveloped in its light.

From a distance, Mu Chen looked like a patch of fuzzy white light. You couldn't even see his tracks if you tried.

While Mu Chen was bathed by the white glow, he kept an eye on the six Stone Guardians that'd been attacking him. Their offense had finally ceased and their scarlet stone eyes had dimmed to a flickering glow in their empty sockets.

"It looks like the White Dragon Medal can interfere with the stone statue's senses! They can't see me!"

Mu Chen finally had a grasp of what was going on, and a moment of exhilaration passed over him. Even though the White Dragon Medal couldn't control the Stone Guardians like he'd imagined, he could use it to interfere with their senses. With it, he could reach the heart of the basin with the greatest speed.

This was no time to delay. Mu Chen stepped up his speed and charged through the statues in a flash, heading towards the depths at lightning speed.

This time, Mu Chen encountered no other obstacles. The Stone Guardians he passed only stared at him with blank expressions, without attacking.

Borrowing the medal's cloaking effect, Mu Chen passed through the field of stone statues within minutes. Finally, he slowed his pace when he sensed that there were fewer Stone Guardians in the area. Up ahead, it looked like there were none.

"Am I already at the heart?"

Suddenly, Mu Chen sensed something. He sped up again, and a moment later, the darkness began to retreat from his vision. What appeared before him was a dusky landscape scattered with large stones. At the center of these stones stood a black stone pillar roughly a hundred metres wide.

This stone pillar didn't give off a majestic feeling like the ones from before. But now that Mu Chen knew why, his heartbeat quickened.

As Mu Chen carefully approached it, he realised this black stone pillar wasn't made of ordinary stone — in fact, it wasn't made of stone at all, nor was it made of gold or wood. However, it appeared extremely ancient. A strange design was scrawled over its surface. As Mu Chen studied it, a baleful aura quietly began to spread around him, strong enough to devour the heavens and earth. Mu Chen's eyes turned a little red.

He felt himself go unfocused for a moment as he drew even closer and lightly placed his hand on the mottled surface.

Boom.

The moment he touched the pillar, a massive explosion sounded in his mind. Images flashed through his consciousness.

There was a deep pool filled with scarlet liquid that looked like blood. Human bodies were being tossed down from somewhere above and melted as they splashed into the pool. Down under the bloody surface stood a black pillar and a hidden demonic god that devoured all with its baleful aura.

Above the abyss stood a fuzzy figure with white hair, clad in a white robe. He looked exactly like the White Dragon Sovereign.

The figure looked down upon the bloody scene and a look of unbearable pain flashed through his eyes. He slowly clenched his fist.

Boom!

The bloody pond was jolted by an explosion and a column of blood suddenly rose from its surface and reached for the clouds. The abyss split open and the bloody light soared from the the pool and into the heavens, and remained suspended upon the horizon.

The black pillar was painted in rivers of endless blood. An endless flow of demonic patterns swirled around on its surface. The support was rent with deep claw marks, as if it'd collapse at any moment.

The sudden outburst from the ancient demonic pillar shattered everything. Even the heavens and earth seemed to lose their colour in that single moment. An endless baleful aura blew across the scene, causing even yin and yang to tremble.

Even the powerful being who stood above the abyss, shrouded in light, couldn't help taking a step back in the face of such a baleful aura.

Mu Chen concentrated his mind on the scene. The baleful aura even seemed to infect his heart as an ominous feeling replaced his rationality.

“Liiiiii!”

A clear cry suddenly resounded within his body. The sound wave instantly woke Mu Chen from that state of mind.

Mu Chen recovered with his body drenched in a cold sweat. He looked up at the cracked pillar with the expression of a hungry ghost. It was almost in his hands. However, he retreated with eyes filled with astonishment and wariness.

What was that goddamned stone pillar? Why did it possess such a frightening baleful aura?

Mu Chen knitted his brows as he moved his eyes over the black pillar. Finally, his eyes found the peak, where there rested a white spiritual pearl, roughly the size of an infant's head.

Its clear surface sparkled as it dispersed the darkness with a milky-white light. Mu Chen's heart grew calmer as he stared at that light.

A heavy atmosphere rolled within the white spiritual pearl, like a sea of clouds. He could barely make out the shape of a white dragon roaming within its curved surface and hear its vigorous cries.

“That's...”

Mu Chen focused his eyes on the white spiritual pearl that emitted such frightening Spiritual Energy. Just a glance told him that it was an extremely rare treasure.

He licked his lips as he studied the pearl with heated eyes. The black demonic pillar was simply too strange, but there weren't any demonic traces inside the white pearl. It was clearly a treasure at first glance. If he had to choose between the two, of course he'd want the white spiritual pearl.

Mu Chen made his decision and flew towards the white pearl with outstretched hands.

Shhhhuuu!

The moment before Mu Chen laid hands on the pearl, a strange gale whipped up from behind him. His eyes widened as a cold chill ran down his spine. The Spiritual Energy inside him surged as he threw out a punch.

A pitch-black Spiritual Energy swept out and black flames surged with a shocking ferocity.

Bang!

The two collided with a dramatic dispersal of Spiritual Energy. The jolt forced Mu Chen backwards by several steps before he could steady himself. His expression was dark as three figures swiftly stepped out of the darkness.

“Hmph! You’re really a despicable thing that never dies. You actually managed to reach this place ahead of us!”

Bai Dong was one of the figures who’d walked out of the darkness, albeit in a fairly torn-up shape. He was accompanied by only the grey-robed elder and one other guard. The other two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phases must have fallen during their charge.

Right now, Bai Dong and the grey-robed elder were eyeing Mu Chen with cold expressions tinged with astonishment. They never expected him to reach this place ahead of them.

If they’d arrived any later, Mu Chen probably would’ve taken everything.

Mu Chen looked at the two of them with a strange mixture of boredom and bloodlust.

A savage smile appeared at the corner of Bai Dong’s mouth. He raised his head towards the elder and said, “Elder Qiu, the two of you go deal with him. Don’t give him another chance.”

The grey-robed elder slowly nodded and stepped out with the Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase guard beside him. His eyes locked onto Mu Chen like those of a venomous snake.

Mu Chen studied the two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase experts as his gaze also turned a little colder.

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Chapter 255: Bai Xuans True Strength

The grey-robed elder and the Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase guard slowly stepped forward, their cold, snake-like eyes fixed on Mu Chen.

The supreme treasure was right before them. If they could just get rid of Mu Chen, they’d be able to safely seize their prize. Therefore, this obstacle before them had to be dealt with.

“Brat, since you don’t want to get lost on your own, then you can leave your puny little life right here.” The grey-robe elder threatened. They had two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phases on their side. With power like that, he could kill Mu Chen as easily as he could turn his palm.

Mu Chen was expressionless as he slowly spread his hands. Even he found it difficult to fight two opponents of this level — however, he had no other choice. But if these guys really wanted a fight, then he wouldn’t mind letting them know that this so-called “pushover” wouldn’t be that easy to deal with.

“Go!”

The grey-robed elder was done with this nonsense. They wrapped their fingers around the empty air, and black spears materialised on cue. Then, the two of them acted at the same time and rushed towards Mu Chen at lightning speed.

Mu Chen quickly retreated from their powerful attacks. With a twitch of his own fingers, the Nine-Layered Pagoda appeared and expanded in a flash, becoming a solid defense between them.

Clang! Claaang!

However, the grey-robed elder and the guard weren't intending to be merciful. They circulated their Spiritual Energies to the limits and whipped their spear images on the pagoda like raging vipers. The force of the attack even shoved the structure back.

Mu Chen's emotions were rolling, but there was no panic in his eyes. He made use of the precious time that the Nine-Layered Pagoda had bought him, and quickly formed a series of confusing hand seals while circulating his Spiritual Energy.

Faced with such an opponent, of course Mu Chen had to get serious.

He formed the seals with both hands and a wave of majestic Spiritual Energy washed over them. The natural Spiritual Aura around them was also rapidly gathering towards him.

“Be careful! That kid is going to unleash some Spiritual Art!”

The grey-robed elder and the guard both noticed the intense ripple in the natural Spiritual Energy around them. The grey-robed elder icily glared at Mu Chen as he barked, “Get rid of him!”

They thrust the long spears in bursts of Spiritual Energy, jolting the Nine-Layered Pagoda and knocking it back. Then they burst towards Mu Chen like lightning.

“Hmph.”

Mu Chen's pitch-black eyes turned into a pair of deep black pools and he coldly snorted as he formed more hand seals. A torrential Spiritual Energy swept out like waves of the great seas.

Boom!

The skies above Mu Chen became starry and a colossal white tiger formed from their light. It crouched upon the sky as a deep, baleful aura swept out.

“Four Gods Constellation Scripture, Divine Seal of the White Tiger!”

Mu Chen furiously glared at his opponents, just like the roaring white tiger above him. He formed the last seal with both hands and set it out.

“Roar!”

The White Tiger Divine Beast stepped on the starry sky and roared, shaking the heavens and earth. The starry light responded to its call and slammed down upon the grey-robed elder and the guard.

“It's Deity-Tier Spiritual Art!”

Their expressions changed and their voices grew shriller. They hadn't expected such a Spiritual Art from Mu Chen — and he was able to fully exert it!

Their faces turned grave and their postures showed that they weren't affording the slightest negligence. They circulated their Spiritual Energies without the slightest bit of restraint. They immediately joined their efforts and threw out a palm. The turbulent Spiritual Energy surged into a Spiritual Energy light barrier a hundred feet tall, solid and firm as any wall.

Boom!

The starry light struck the light barrier with a thunderous Spiritual Energy. Violent shockwaves swept out. The huge, messily scattered stones were instantly ground to dust.

Bang!

The light barrier shattered under the force of the attack and the grey-robed elder was sent flying several hundred feet back. He groaned as a scarlet line appeared on his lips.

Mu Chen's Divine Seal of the White Tiger had injured both opponents with that attack. But instead of continuing the barrage, he paused his offense and turned to Bai Dong.

Bai Dong was stunned into silence by Mu Chen's fearsome might. He couldn't understand it. Why was this Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase youth so hard to deal with?

His two Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase experts should've easily killed him. However, they'd been wounded by him instead. The methods that Mu Chen had used to accomplish this alarmed Bai Dong.

So when he saw Mu Chen suddenly burst towards him, his expression drastically changed. All thoughts of stealing the treasure had been banished from his mind as he rapidly retreated.

"You want to leave?"

Mu Chen coldly smiled as he circulated his Spiritual Energy and chased after Bai Dong.

Bang!

Bai Dong took the full attack; however, he could only guard against Mu Chen's six Limitless Death Seals. Blood trailed from his mouth as his torn body flew backwards. But before he could regain his bearings, a chilly sword ray stopped at his throat. He froze in place, not daring to move.

"Brat, you dare!"

The grey-robed elder and the guard had recovered by now, only to see Bai Dong fall into Mu Chen's hands. Their faces twisted in rage.

"Turn around and leave this place." Mu Chen slowly said with an indifferent expression.

No one moved as they glared at Mu Chen with ferocious expressions. If they did that, wouldn't they be leaving the supreme treasure to Mu Chen? That was something they weren't willing to let happen. They couldn't afford to pay the consequences.

Mu Chen held their eyes and frowned. It looked like they considered this supreme treasure to be far more important than Bai Dong.

Even though Bai Dong was terrified, he still managed to spit out vicious threats. “Piece of shit! The supreme treasure is what we value most. You can kill me, but my father will definitely shred you to pieces! Your companions won’t escape either!”

“Yeah, I know.”

Mu Chen lightly smiled. Bai Dong was startled by the expression, and Mu Chen took advantage of that to throw out a palm. Bai Dong flew backwards with a face full of disbelief and fresh blood. Mu Chen’s palm had nearly severed his life — he clung to life by only a hair-thin thread.

The grey-robed elder and the guard rushed forward to catch Bai Dong. Their expressions grew grave as they evaluated his condition.

“He still has some breath left. If you don’t do anything, he won’t hold on for much longer,” Mu Chen sighed to them.

The two of them understood Mu Chen’s intentions — he wanted to use Bai Dong’s heavy injuries against them.

“You!”

The grey-robed elder was furious as he snarled that word. Suddenly, a thunderous boom echoed from somewhere outside their pocket dimension and an indescribable Spiritual Energy swept over them.

Bang! Bang!

The remaining stone pillars in the black basin instantly shattered and the dark sky once again regained its light. Outside, the White Dragon Sovereign’s powerful light barrier had finally collapsed.

The violently attacking Stone Guardians had shattered to pieces.

A light bathed over them and they blankly raised their heads towards the source. The black and white dragons had slowly lost their glow from the long battle and the frightening might that’d engulfed the space slowly started to disperse.

The two Sovereign Clones had exhausted their Spiritual Energies.

The light screen that’d shrouded the black basin had disappeared. The stone statues had also lost their fighting strength.

All the challenges that’d stood in their way were now gone.

The other experts that were still engaged in a battle stopped their fighting and blankly evaluated the situation in their heads. Then, the expressions rushed back to their faces as they burst forward at the same time, and the basin was drowned out by the howl of wind as they rushed towards the depths.

Mu Chen had lost his indifferent expression as well. He never thought that the two great Sovereign Clones would disperse just like that. Once the White Dragon Sovereign’s Clone dispersed, the place would become a free-for-all.

Rustle!

Mu Chen immediately stood up and headed towards the white spiritual pearl resting atop the black demonic pillar.

“Hmph!”

But just as he reached the top of the pillar, a cold snort cracked like lightning from somewhere above.

Mu Chen immediately looked up to find Bai Xuan glaring down at him with a chilly face. When Bai Xuan saw that Mu Chen was about to make a dive for the pearl, he narrowed his eyes and threw out a punch. The Spiritual Energy surged with the weight of a tsunami as it crashed down on Mu Chen.

At just the right moment, Mu Chen’s body flickered with a black light and the Nine-Layered Pagoda appeared around him.

Clang!

The Nine-Layered Pagoda suffered the heavy attack and its black light instantly dimmed. Even inside, Mu Chen felt the blast from Bai Xuan’s fist and his face turned ashen as he coughed up red blood. He staggered and flew out, colliding with the black demonic pillar. With a twist of his wrist, he steadied himself using the pillar.

“Brat, hand it over!”

Bai Xuan’s eyes were like a cold blade. With a shout, he rushed at Mu Chen with bloodlust in his aura.

“Shhhhhhuu!”

But just as Bai Xuan initiated his charge, a brilliantly glowing jade pearl cut between the two and exploded with waves of water, shrouding Mu Chen within a protective barrier.

Bang!

Bai Xuan’s sharp attacks clashed with the azure waves; however, his attacks were only pushed back by the protective water.

Bai Xuan’s expression dropped a few degrees in temperature when he glanced towards the source of the attack and found Su Xuan. She appeared right in front of Mu Chen, cautiously affording him protection.

“Brat, hand it over. Or don’t blame me for starting a massacre.” Bai Xuan’s eyes were savage as he glared at Mu Chen like a venomous snake.

Mu Chen wiped away the trickle of blood at the corner of his mouth. With a flick of his wrist, he picked up the pearl that rippled with frightening Spiritual Energy and stowed it away. But as he did so, he failed to notice that a drop of blood from his hand had landed upon the black demonic pillar. The drop seeped into the pillar and didn’t even leave a trace behind.

“So, you think she can keep up with me.” Bai Xuan studied Mu Chen and Su Xuan and the corner of his mouth slowly turned into a mocking smile.

Mu Chen's pupils shrank as he looked at the darkened Bai Xuan. Something wasn't right.

"Did you really think I was only this strong?"

Bai Xuan took a step forward with eyes like icy frost. A black bracelet on his arm suddenly crumbled to dust. Mu Chen and Su Xuan's faces both changed.

They felt the surge of oppressive Spiritual Energy sweeping out from Bai Xuan's body.

This strength — he'd already reached the Heavenly Transform Stage Late Phase!

Bai Xuan had actually been hiding his strength this entire time!

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Chapter 256: Space Shattered

Heavenly Transform Stage Late Phase!

Mu Chen and Su Xuan's faces took on drastically different expressions as they warily observed Bai Xuan. The latter stood as an imposing figure overflowing with majestic ripples of Spiritual Energy. Their expressions slowly turned grave and determined. The City Lord of White Dragon City was a very patient man. He'd managed to conceal his true strength, even though he'd had to suffer such great losses while battling the stone statue formations.

This patient man made their hearts turn cold.

"City Lord, the Young City Lord was heavily injured by that brat. Even now, he only hangs on by a thread!" the grey-robed elder reported from behind Bai Xuan.

The bloodlust in Bai Xuan's eyes flared as he fixed his eyes on Mu Chen. Even his hoarse voice was saturated with his desire to kill. "Brat, you should start praying that I don't get my hands on you. Or I'll definitely skin you and pull out your tendons, one by one. I'll make you regret being born into this world."

However, Mu Chen wasn't stirred in the slightest by Bai Xuan's threat. His black pupils were as indifferent as if Bai Xuan had never spoken. When Bai Xuan's men had first attacked them in the forest, he'd already concluded that something like this would happen. So even if he didn't cripple Bai Dong, the outcome would be the same.

"The leftovers of the Demonic Dragon Palace dared to act so impudently in the Northern Heavens Continent? Aren't you afraid that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy will send out experts to behead all of you?" Su Xuan coldly warned.

"Haha. Did you think that this continent belonged to your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy? If it hadn't been for that unfortunate incident, our Demonic Dragon Palace would've destroyed your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. And you still dare to spout nonsense here?" Bai Xuan laughed.

"You are the ones who lost. That's still a fact." Mu Chen smiled, as he poked the festering wound and pulled Bai Xuan back to reality.

The smile on Bai Xuan's face vanished as his palms slowly came together. In a flash, a savage blood-red spear appeared in his hand, emitting a frightening and baleful aura. It was clear to all that this was an Ominous High Rank Spiritual Artifact.

"Since you like to speak of reality, then I'll tell you guys what you will face now is the reality, brats of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!" Bai Xuan's gaze were cold. He took a step forth and the blood-red long spear trembled. Torrential blood-red light rays surged. In those light rays, it was as though an overflowing sea was made from blood. The stench of blood was spreading throughout the heavens and earth.

"Blood Devouring Sea Spear!"

Boom!

The scarlet rays were spreading like rivers of blood as they swept towards Mu Chen and Su Xuan from all directions. Mu Chen and Su Xuan narrowed their eyes at the sight of them. Bai Xuan had been a Heavenly Transform Stage Late Phase to begin with. If you added on the power of the Ominous High Rank Spiritual Artifact, then he was like a tiger that'd grown wings.

Su Xuan's charming face turned grave as she released her own majestic Spiritual Energy. The Dense Water Spiritual Pearl in her hand also exploded with light and the azure waves of pure Spiritual Energy became as heavy as the mountains. The waves spun into a massive barrier, protecting both herself and Mu Chen.

"You're just a Heavenly Transform Stage Middle Phase, but you still think you can withstand my attack?!"

Bai Xuan coldly smiled upon seeing Su Xuan's defense. The spear in his hand trembled as bloody rays of light gathered on its tip, as if rivers of blood were gathering in a basin at its point. Then, without warning, the spear was thrust forward and smashed into the azure water barrier.

Bang!

A terrifying Spiritual Energy swept over them, even though the azure water barrier managed to halt the attack. However, Bai Xuan snarled as he forced the bloody spear tip even harder, until it finally tore the water barrier apart.

Bang!

The water barrier exploded outwards and turned into mist as it dispersed. Su Xuan's face turned pale as a trickle of blood appeared at the corner of her mouth.

The spear of dense baleful aura tore through the sky and shot towards her.

Shhhhhuuuuuu!

A surge of Spiritual Energy announced the cyan longsword as it flew out from behind her and met the blood-red spear.

Clanng!

A metallic clash resounded and the Spiritual Aura surged. The longsword fell back and tore the flesh between Mu Chen's thumb and forefinger, where he'd been holding the hilt. Fresh blood flowed onto the sword blade as he took several steps back. His emotions surged as his face turned pale.

"Big Sister!"

A cry of alarm sounded from somewhere behind them. With a gust of wind, Su Ling'er, Guo Xiong, and Li Qing flew over and landed beside Mu Chen and Su Xuan. Their faces changed as they realised that both of them were heavily injured.

During this journey, Su Xuan had always been calm in her fights. She could easily defeat all her opponents. Likewise, Mu Chen didn't look strong on the outside, but he could pull miracles and reverse almost any situation.

Before they knew it, the two of them had become crucial members of their small party. But now, the two of them were heavily injured.

By now, quite a few forces had managed to gather in the depths of the basin. However, they quickly backed away with fearful expressions when they sensed Bai Xuan's strength. Even the Heavenly Dipper Sword Faction and the Earthen Way Sect were cautious about taking action. Every level of the Heavenly Transform Stage had a huge gap to the next. The two forces collectively possessed four Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase experts, but even they'd be slaughtered in only a few blows against someone like Bai Xuan.

That was the difference between the Heavenly Transform Stage Initial Phase and Late Phase.

"Brat, you should be smart and hand it over. Maybe I'll let you die quickly." Bai Xuan said as he hovered in the air, overflowing with bloody-red light. His eyes were sharp as he stared at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen coldly smiled back. This Bai Xuan was powerful indeed, especially with the High Rank Spiritual Artifact. He was exceptionally powerful for someone still in the Heavenly Transform Stage. But if he thought that he could make Mu Chen grovel in fear, then he was still too naive.

If Mu Chen didn't have a life-preserving trick, how could he dare to fight Bai Xuan?

Mu Chen's hand slowly closed as black flames surged in the depth of his eyes. It looked like he had to borrow the power of the Nine Netherbird this time. He'd have to pay a decent price, but he couldn't worry about that right now.

Drip.

Thoughts flashed through Mu Chen's heart and more blood dripped from the tip of the sword onto the black demonic pillar beneath his feet, and disappeared.

Onom.

"Look at that black stone pillar!"

Someone cried out in surprise. Dark-red runes were slowly lighting up on the surface of the crumbled stone pillar — the only one still standing at the center of the black basin. Even the heavens and earth seemed to take on a red tint.

Mu Chen was also startled by the strange change and he grabbed Su Xuan by the wrist. “Get away from the stone pillar!”

By the time his warning landed in their ears, he’d already taken Su Xuan and retreated. The others immediately followed.

“Trying to leave?!” Bai Xuan’s eyes turned cold as he followed too.

Boom!

The instant that Bai Xuan burst out, the black demonic pillar exploded with a blinding bloody light. The light soared into the clouds like a column of scarlet blood and dispersed into the sky, turning it into sea of blood. A ominous ripple spread beneath the sky.

It made that Ominous High Rank Spiritual Artifact in Bai Xuan’s hands look like a fragile toy.

The abrupt events startled everyone present. Even Bai Xuan’s face took a drastic change. He sensed a frightening and indescribable ripple from that sky of blood.

“What’s that black stone pillar? Why’s it so horrifying?!” Bai Xuan stared at the claw marked pillar in shock.

“Could that stone pillar be the supreme treasure of this Spirit Treasury?!”

Bai Xuan’s heart trembled. His mission was to retrieve a supreme treasure from the White Dragon Sovereign’s Spirit Treasury; however, he had no detailed information of the treasure’s characteristics. At first, he thought it was the white spiritual pear that Mu Chen had seized — the Spiritual Energy ripples that it emitted told him that it was most likely ranked as a supreme treasure. But now, this mysterious black pillar was even more shocking!

It was so horrifying that even Bai Xuan didn’t dare to move.

The bloody sea of clouds spread and covered the entire dimension. Everyone watched in shock as the space around them twisted and seemed ready to shatter.

Even this mysterious space couldn’t suppress that frightening stone pillar?

Countless experts became overwhelmed with shock. Just what kind of treasure was it? Could it be a Divine Artifact?!

“The space is going to shatter!” Bai Xuan warned.

Mu Chen and the rest immediately circulated their Spiritual Energies to guard their bodies.

Bang!

All Bai Xuan could do was clench his fist as he no longer dared to move. He immediately circulated his Spiritual Energy to protect himself.

Bang!

The space twisted until it reached its limit. With a bang, it shattered like a mirror, sending violent ripples through the fabric of space around them.

One maelstrom of space appeared after another and devoured the people still trapped inside. Before anyone in their party could say anything they, too, were enveloped by a space maelstrom and disappeared.

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White Dragon Hillock

Far in the distance, a series of holes appeared in the sky. Numerous figures fell out like trash being dumped into a garbage pit.

Mu Chen and his party were lucky, since they hadn't been separated as they were thrown out. They stabled their fall and landed together on a mountain peak.

"All out." Su Xuan said in astonishment as she looked at the sorry figures dotting the mountain range.

"Just what was that black stone pillar? It was so horrifying!" Guo Xiong asked, dumbstruck. The space created by the White Dragon Sovereign had been extremely stable. However, it'd been so easily destroyed by the black stone pillar.

Only experts like the White Dragon Sovereign, or stronger, could accomplish something like that, right?

Mu Chen was deep in thought. He'd seen something like that before. He understood that the black demonic pillar was the supreme treasure that the White Dragon Sovereign had stolen from the Demonic Dragon Place. However, that item was way too demonic. Even Mu Chen was wary of touching it.

"We need to leave while Bai Xuan hasn't noticed us!" Mu Chen declared.

That Bai Xuan was indeed formidable. It'd be best if they could avoid him. Otherwise, a battle to the death would be unavoidable.

Su Xuan and the rest nodded as they turned around and prepared to leave.

However, that instant they did so, Mu Chen saw a new crack appear before them and a torrent of ominous energy surged out. Before he could even react, a bloody light burst from the rift and hit Mu Chen dead between his widened eyes.

Mu Chen's body stiffened. He could sense an extremely frightening ominous aura spread throughout his body, originating from the black demonic pillar.

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Chapter 257: Primordial Ominous Artifact

Boom!

A horrifyingly baleful aura burst from Mu Chen's body. His eyes instantly turned bloodshot as an overwhelming bloodlust surged from the depths of his heart and tried to overtake his rational mind.

However, Mu Chen's will stayed steady and firm. He could still cling to consciousness, even in such a situation. He immediately circulated the Great Pagoda Art, using his Spiritual Energy to keep the invading baleful aura at bay. He knew that if his mind gave in to the baleful aura, then he'd become nothing more than a murderous puppet.

Damn it!

His heart roared angrily as he desperately tried to resist the baleful aura's invasion.

Su Xuan and the others tried to step in when they noticed Mu Chen's predicament. However, they stopped in shock when they saw his body begin to shake uncontrollably and his eyes turn scarlet-red.

"Mu Chen, what's going on?" Su Ling'er anxiously cried.

"What a heavy baleful aura!" Su Xuan's charming face changed as she continued, "Could this aura have invaded him while he was in the Spirit Treasury?"

"What should we do now?" Guo Xiong urgently asked. This baleful aura was simply too terrifying — even the White Dragon Sovereign's personally crafted dimension couldn't contain it. And Mu Chen had been infected. Didn't this spell disaster for him?

"We should get out of here first." Su Xuan said through her teeth. Of all times for something to happen, something just had go wrong now. And that something had happened to Mu Chen. Their fighting strength would be down, and the conditions of their present location were extremely discouraging. After all, Mu Chen had managed to steal the white spiritual pearl. If they stayed here, then they'd definitely attract more unwanted attention.

"Yes!"

Li Qing and the other three quickly nodded, then hauled Mu Chen with them as they burst out of the White Dragon Hillock at lightning speed.

Far away on a mountain peak, Bai Xuan materialised. His eyes were dark as he looked in the direction that Mu Chen's party had disappeared to.

Underneath the surface, Bai Xuan was furious. If that peculiar black demonic pillar had been his objective, then he'd failed his mission. And now that the Spirit Treasury had been shattered, any traces of the black demonic pillar had been lost with it. He didn't even know how to start searching.

Given the circumstances, Bai Xuan had failed his mission. If he returned empty-handed, then he'd be severely punished. He had to make up for this failure, somehow. Maybe, if he killed Mu Chen and his party, and stole the White Dragon Spiritual Pearl, then he might be able to redeem himself slightly.

At the very least, they'd spare his life. Otherwise, he might find his head separated from his shoulders, even if his father was an Elder of the Demonic Dragon Palace.

"Trying to leave? What a pipe dream!"

He turned into a streak of rainbow light and chased after them.

Inside Mu Chen's body, the red baleful aura was taking down his defenses, one after another. It charged onwards, devastating anything Mu Chen could throw at it as it invaded his body even further and evaded his will.

Liiiiii!

But just as Mu Chen was about to collapse from the aura's rampage, a clear screech tore through his body. The young man instantly felt relieved upon hearing the sound — the Nine Netherbird was finally moving.

Boom!

Black flames swept from Mu Chen's aura sea and surged like tidal waves. They clashed with the scarlet aura and started devouring each other like mad animals.

The fear of being possessed finally lifted a little.

But before Mu Chen could sigh in relief, the Nine Netherbird spoke in a grave voice. "Be careful. This demonic pillar isn't as simple as you think it is. In my current state, even I cannot withstand it."

"What?!" Mu Chen's heart received a jolt. Even the Nine Netherbird couldn't defeat that strange demonic pillar? Just what was that thing?!

"If I've guessed correctly, this demonic pillar is an extremely powerful Primordial Ominous Artifact. Even a Sovereign expert wouldn't be able to suppress it!" the Nine Netherbird thought to him. There was an unconcealable fear in its voice.

"A Primordial Ominous Artifact?"

Mu Chen had no reaction to the phrase — it was clearly the first time he'd ever heard of it. Not that it mattered. His situation still wasn't any better.

"Then what do we do?" Mu Chen asked with a bitter smile. If the Nine Netherbird couldn't even defeat this Primordial Ominous Artifact, then wouldn't he end up losing control of his body to it?

The Nine Netherbird made a long pause. "Perhaps you can lure this Primordial Ominous Artifact into your aura sea."

"What?" Mu Chen was startled. That was the entire reason he'd been fighting it so desperately. And now the Nine Netherbird actually wanted him to let it into his aura sea? Once this pillar took over that place, Mu Chen would be resigned to eternal damnation.

"If I was at full strength, I might've been able to fight it," the Nine Netherbird continued. "Besides, isn't there something else inside your body, aside from myself?"

Mu Chen was confused for a moment before he realised what the Nine Netherbird was talking about. "Are you talking about that mysterious black paper?"

"Yes."

"What is that black paper?" Mu Chen bitterly smiled. Why did so many unknown things have a tendency of piling up inside of him? He still didn't know how to use that mysterious piece of black paper.

"That black paper contains ancient ripples of energy. It seems to be the Primordial God Scripture, though an incomplete copy," the Nine Netherbird explained.

"What's the Primordial God Scripture?" Mu Chen was blankly asked.

“It’s something similar to a Deity Tier Spiritual Art, except far more powerful. Ancient records describe its divine abilities as heaven-defying. Whenever a Primordial God Scripture appeared, forget ordinary Sovereigns, even Earth and Heavenly Sovereigns would flock to it. The Primordial God Scripture could help them take an even bigger step in their path of cultivation.”

Mu Chen was stunned. So even Sovereign experts were attracted? He never imagined that this mysterious piece of black paper would have such a rich history. Pity that it was incomplete.

“Remember the mandala flower in your aura sea? That’s the Divine Seal Array. If you lure the Primordial Ominous Artifact into your aura sea, you can use that flower to suppress it.”

Mu Chen turned his thoughts towards his aura sea, towards the dark purple mandala flower quietly floating above a sheet of black. He couldn’t feel any shocking ripples being given off from it.

But Mu Chen wasn’t fooled; he’d already experienced how powerful the mandala flower could be. Back when the Nine Netherbird tried to take over his body, it’d been suppressed and sealed by this very same flower.

“Then let’s give it a try.”

Mu Chen wasn’t an indecisive kind of person. The Primordial Ominous Artifact was so strong that even the Nine Netherbird couldn’t contend against it, so he had no choice but to rely on his hidden trump card. True, there were some risks involved, but it was still better than idly sitting by and waiting for death to come.

“Huuuuu.”

Now that Mu Chen had decided on his course of action, he cut off all thoughts of hesitation. He turned his mind and all of his Spiritual Energy — including the efforts he’d been spending to keep the baleful aura at bay — back into his aura sea. The Nine Netherbird’s majestic black flames also rapidly receded.

Boom!

The moment he and his bird backed off, the baleful aura frantically invaded. The black demonic pillar buzzed as it hovered at the heart of the baleful aura. Then, as Mu Chen nervously watched, it turned into a streak of black light and charged into his aura sea, leaving a gust of baleful wind in its wake.

Shhhuuuu!

The wind was blowing out in the real world. Su Xuan and the others were moving as fast as they could while Guo Xiong and Li Qing carried the seemingly-unconscious Mu Chen. His entire body was flushed red and his muscles were tightly wound.

“Hurry! We can brainstorm ways to expel the baleful aura from him, after we leave the White Dragon Hilllocks,” Su Xuan urged as she kept looking over her shoulder. She couldn’t see anyone chasing after them, but she still felt uneasy for some reason.

Did Bai Xuan really let them off, just like that?

A thought flashed through her mind and her face drastically changed. “Careful!”

Boom!

A scarlet lightning burst from the top of a mountain in front, and shot towards Su Ling'er.

Su Xuan raised her jade hands and an azure wall of water surged from the Dense Water Spiritual Pearl.

Bang!

The scarlet blow smashed into the wave and dispersed powerful ripples of Spiritual Energy and water. Steam rose from the energy of the impact.

The party drew to a halt as they turned towards the mountain with ugly expressions on their faces. A fiendish, god-like figure stood upon that peak, holding a scarlet spear, and staring down at them with annoyance.

"It's Bai Xuan!" Guo Xiong cried. So he'd chased after them. As expected.

"I said it already. None of you brats are escaping today." Bai Xuan announced as he looked down on Su Xuan's party. Their heartbeats sped up as they saw the raw bloodlust in his eyes.

"Big Sister, what do we do now?" Su Ling'er anxiously asked. Bai Xuan was too powerful for them to handle. On top of that, one of their main fighters was in a coma. They were completely at a disadvantage.

Li Qing's beautiful eyes coldly glared back at Bai Xuan. "Ling'er, you take Mu Chen to a safe location. Guo Xiong and I will aid your sister."

There was no way Su Xuan could win against Bai Xuan. But Li Qing and Guo Xiong might be able to take some of the pressure off her shoulders.

Su Ling'er's charming face was filled with anxiety. She knew that they couldn't change their situation, even if the three of them worked together.

Su Xuan sighed in a low voice. "We'll do our best to delay Bai Xuan. If you can, you should take Mu Chen with you and escape ahead of us."

"Big Sister!" Su Ling'er was startled.

"Stop. We don't have any other options." Su Xuan's sweet-tempered expression turned cold. It was one expression she almost never made.

Su Ling'er bit her rosy lips and nodded, even though her eyes were brimming with tears. Finally, she held onto Mu Chen and retreated, though she briefly landed on a faraway mountain and nervously looked back at the confrontation.

Bai Xuan simply watched her go. Then, he raised his blood-red spear and stomped a foot. The entire mountain shook.

At last, he spoke in a voice that seemed to contain all the bloodlust between heaven and earth. "Prepare your last words. Then, prepare to die!"

The Great Ruler

Chapter 258: Suppressed

Su Xuan, Guo Xiong, and Li Qing stood in the mountain forest. A majestic Spiritual Energy swept over them like a hurricane. Even the sea of trees stirred and bent under its pressure.

Su Xuan was the most powerful among them; she was already a Heavenly Transform Stage Middle Phase. She also owned the High Rank Spiritual Artifact Dense Water Spiritual Pearl, so her fighting strength was far greater than ordinary. Li Qing was useful if she borrowed the power of the Draconic Spirit Bracelets. That meant that Guo Xiong was the weakest among them; however, his cultivation technique focused on defense, so he made an extremely tough shield. If the three of them put their strengths together, they could be a force to be reckoned with.

But even then, the three of them had no confidence that they could defeat Bai Xuan. But given their circumstances, they couldn't resign to their fates, either. They had to put up a fight, even if they knew that they were going to die.

"A bunch of ignorant brats."

Bai Xuan's eyes were cold as he appraised the three of them. Then, flashed a cold smile as he gripped his scarlet spear. His eyes turned sharp and red as he stepped forward and a frightening wave of Spiritual Energy erupted like a volcano.

The frightening Spiritual Energy pressure washed over them.

"Go!"

Su Xuan's charming eyes focused as she shouted. She was the first to burst forward with a jade hand in the air. The glowing Dense Water Spiritual Pearl shot forward and raised a mountainous azure wave that swept towards Bai Xuan.

"Roar!"

Li Qing circulated her energy through one of the Draconic Spirit Bracelets, which swiftly turned into a huge scarlet flood dragon. It roared with a frightening Spiritual Energy and charged towards Bai Xuan.

Guo Xiong also snarled and a dark yellow Spiritual Energy swept out. He tightened his fingers and a similar-coloured shield appeared, engraved with heavy mountains, and giving off an aura of infinite weight and steadiness.

"Impudence!"

Bai Xuan's cold smile only grew broader as he watched them launch their terrifying offensive towards him. His form burst forward and the scarlet spear trembled as a majestic Spiritual Energy surged like rivers of blood to meet their attacks.

Bang!

A frightening gale of Spiritual Energy whipped up and wrecked havoc on the forest below.

Everything exploded into battle.

...

Boom!

Like a supreme ominous beast from ancient times, the black demonic pillar tore into Mu Chen's aura sea with its baleful aura.

The moment the demonic pillar crashed into Mu Chen's aura sea, he was instantly overtaken by an intense sense of pain. It felt like his aura sea was going to shatter.

The baleful aura flowed into him like bloody rivers. The black demonic pillar buzzed, as if it was celebrating the fact that it'd conquered him.

Mu Chen's spirit stood up from its place on the Spiritual Energy wheel. His small face was grave as he watched the baleful aura. Behind him on the mandala, the Nine Netherbird also stood up, flapped its flame-clad wings, and hovered. Together, they cautiously watched the black demonic pillar.

"You activate the mandala flower. I'll keep it busy," said the Nine Netherbird.

"Alright."

Mu Chen nodded and his spirit moved towards the top of the mandala flower and sat down. At his current stage, he couldn't control the mandala flower growing from the black paper; however, it'd been inside of him for years, so he was familiar with it. He could at least slightly activate it.

Liiii!

The Nine Netherbird flapped its wings and cried loudly. A baleful aura and an earth-shattering sea of black flames swept towards the black demonic pillar.

Onom! Onom!

The black demonic pillar sensed the attack and immediately countered. The buzzing rang louder as its bloody aura grew denser and crashed into the black flames like two waves colliding and destroying each other.

Even though the Nine Netherbird wasn't at full strength, it seemed that the black demonic pillar wasn't either. The two fell into a deadlock when neither managed to gain the upperhand.

However, that still wasn't good news to Mu Chen. The baleful aura was simply too oppressive — it would damage his body if it stayed here for too long. He had to settle this as soon as possible.

Mu Chen's spirit quietly sat on the mandala flower. Even though he understood the urgency of the situation in front of him, he wasn't panicking. He knew that panicking wouldn't help him solve his problems.

His mind gradually quieted down as he blocked off all external senses and immersed his state of mind into the mandala flower he sat on.

As Mu Chen's mind sank into the mandala flower, his tightened facial muscles gradually loosened, and a look of peace took its place. An indescribable sense of vigor and boundless profound intent rippled through his heart.

The mandala beneath him began emitting a faint, dark purple glow, and its beautiful petals slowly blossomed open. However, there was also a frightening power within its beauty.

The violet light rippled and collected into a sphere of light around the mandala flower. Mu Chen had the vague sensation of an ancient Sanskrit chant echoing and buzzing through his aura sea.

When the sound reached the baleful bloody aura, a ripple spread over its savage surface and pacified it.

The black demonic pillar within the bloody sea flickered with scarlet runes. The ancient Sanskrit resounding across Mu Chen's aura sea made it feel dangerously uneasy.

However, the feeling only provoked its anger and it exploded with an undeniable rage, breaking through the Nine Netherbird's sea of black flames.

"Let it through."

Just when the Nine Netherbird was preparing to re-engage, it was startled by the voice from behind. The creature turned to face Mu Chen, who was still sitting on his flower. His eyes were already open, but they were a strange, dark violet hue.

The moment Mu Chen's spirit leapt from the mandala flower, the flower exploded with beams of dark purple light. The rays intertwined with each other and formed a net of purple light.

Shhhhhuu!

The net woven of light sailed through the air and landed perfectly on the black demonic pillar. The moment the pillar was captured by the net, its bloody baleful aura dispersed.

Onom! Onom!

Bloody runes appeared on the surface of the black demonic pillar as it shifted into various shapes in an attempt to escape the net. Eventually, it realised that there was something strange with the light net.

This purple light net wasn't as simple as it seemed. It appeared as only beams of light, but upon closer inspection, those lines were actually rivers of mystical runes. Those runes were the reason why the black demonic pillar couldn't break free.

The violet mandala slowly circulated and tugged on the black demonic pillar, just like a venus flytrap that'd caught its prey.

Boom! Boom!

The pillar's bloody sea surged as it desperately struggled. Slowly, the ancient baleful aura even managed to stop the mandala's pull.

The mandala flower was a mysterious existence, but the black demonic pillar was just as strong.

"Nine Netherbird, attack it!" Mu Chen urged when he saw the pillar's crazed struggle.

The Nine Netherbird nodded and snapped its wings. Black flames gathered and turned into a pair of formless black wings that burned with a dark light; however, there were no flames blazing from its surface. Even so, Mu Chen could sense the frightening energy gathered there.

“Shhhhhuuuu!”

The black wings carried their owner forward in a streak of light, right into the demonic pillar at lightning speed. The pillar shook at the force of the impact and was sent flying. The mandala flower wasted no opportunity to pull it forward.

The moment the black demonic pillar was pulled into the mandala flower, those beautiful petals rose and closed the flower into a tight bud. Glowing runes floated over the petals and turned into violet shackles, binding the black demonic pillar.

Clash!

The black demonic pillar continued to struggle and the chains clinked and clanged in response. However, the number of shackles only increased, until the black demonic pillar was thoroughly sealed.

Mu Chen and the Nine Netherbird suddenly felt as if a heavy weight had been lifted off their shoulders.

Mu Chen’s spirit carefully approached the mandala flower. The black demonic pillar still towered, even though it was now tangled in countless violet shackles and its powerful energy had been suppressed.

“I’ve finally dealt with the big guy.”

Mu Chen smiled as he looked over the tattered black pillar. His eyes suddenly focused on something and said in astonishment, “There seems to be name inscribed on it...”

He studied the ancient characters and knitted his brows. Words this old were quite hard to recognize.

“Great...Meru.....Demonic Pillar?”

Mu Chen muttered, “Is ‘Great Meru Demonic Pillar’ the name of this item?”

He turned back to the Nine Netherbird. “You should know something about it, right? Since you’ve lived for so long.” If they were to speak of knowledge and experience, the Nine Netherbird clearly possessed more than him.

The Nine Netherbird stared at him for a moment, then glared and flapped its wings. “Among the Nine Netherbirds, I’ve only just reached adulthood!”

Mu Chen was startled, “You’re already so powerful, even though you’ve just reached adulthood?”

The Nine Netherbird proudly raised its slender and graceful neck. “Did you think that absolute geniuses only existed among your human race?”

Mu Chen rubbed his nose.

The Nine Netherbird lazily peered down at Mu Chen, “Anyways, you’d better think about how to deal with the aftermath of what just happened. Even though the black demonic pillar has been sealed, it has still left a large amount of baleful aura inside your body. If you don’t get rid of it soon, your body will be corroded.”

Mu Chen smiled and narrowed his eyes, as an eager smile rose at the corner of his mouth. He wasn’t surprised. Of course he already knew that.

“This baleful aura is also a form of energy... I got it. I’ll need to use them next.”

The Great Ruler

Chapter 259: Wont Die

Boom!

A violent Spiritual Energy swept over the forest like a storm, leveling the trees with its sheer force.

Claaaang!

A bloody Spiritual Energy violently tore at the sky. Whenever one of his opponents — the azure wave or the scarlet dragons — charged at it, they were thrown back. Neither of them could match its might.

Su Xuan and Li Qing were pale — especially Li Qing, whose heavy chest was heaving. Even though she owned the High Rank Spiritual Artifact — Draconic Spirit Bracelets, she was still only at the Quasi-Heavenly Transformation Stage. There was simply too much of a distance between herself and Bai Xuan. If Su Xuan hadn’t been pressuring him, she probably would’ve lost by now.

Even so, the situation wasn’t encouraging.

“How long can you guys hold on?”

The bloody spear in Bai Xuan’s hand trembled and a razor-sharp bloodlust swept around him. He coldly smiled at the two young women who were backing off.

Su Xuan ground her teeth as she continued to circulate the Dense Water Spiritual Pearl to resist Bai Xuan’s incoming attacks.

“I’m done playing around. I’m not wasting any more time on you!” Bai Xuan announced as his eyes turned cold. The longer this dragged on, the thinner his patience wore. Even though he still controlled the situation, he still had to deal with them quickly to avoid unnecessary trouble.

Boom!

The moment his words landed, he tightened his grip on his bloody spear and his eyes turned cold. A boundless Spiritual Energy swept out, and the sky seemed to darken in response.

Lines of blood-red light illuminated the sky behind him, surged, and took the shape of a massive bloody python. Its pupils were scarlet-red and filled with deep animosity.

“Soul of the Blood Python!”

Bai Xuan’s expression was cold. Then, the spear in his hands exploded forward in a dazzling scarlet light. The Blood Python struck out from behind him, so swiftly that it whipped up a wind as strong as roaring thunder. The serpent swung its tail, coiled around the spear, and soared towards Su Xuan and her allies in a sea of blood-red light.

The sheer oppressiveness shocked them.

“Mountain of Dense Water!”

Su Xuan's expression turned exceptionally grave as she moved the Spiritual Energy within her body and growled. A massive azure wave rose into the air like a solid mountain of blue water, gathering and twisting, until even the space around it seemed to bow before its frightening weight.

"Draconic Spirit Bracelet, Dragon-Flood Dragon Massacre!"

Li Qing also circulated her Spiritual Energy through the Draconic Spirit Bracelets as much as she could. Two spiritual loops erupted with whistles of spiritual light as the scarlet dragon and flood-dragon intertwined in a red spiral. The pressure of this display was impressive, to say the least.

Boom!

The frightening attacks clashed again and again. Surges of Spiritual Energy rippled out and created a berserk hurricane that ravaged everything in this land. The wind howled.

"You guys want to defeat me, just by yourselves?" Bai Xuan questioned as he watched their attacks meet with a cold smile in his eyes. He clenched his fist and the massive python darted away, emanating a baleful aura.

Boom!

The Blood Python crashed into the azure mountain of water. The frightening impact forced the mountain of water to give in, until finally, the entire wave exploded.

The azure water mountain had been dissipated and the Blood Python hadn't been injured. It charged forward with its dense, baleful aura, and met the scarlet dragons again.

Dong!

An earth-shattering impact rang out, and the two dragons mournfully cried. The Spirit Bracelets dimmed and flew backwards, landing in Li Qing's hand.

Pfffft.

Li Qing and Su Xuan both turned pale and coughed up mouthfuls of fresh blood. Their auras dimmed as the attack sent them flying backwards. It was clear that they'd suffered heavy injuries.

The Blood Python continued its charge towards them, with whatever strength it had left.

"Mountain Shield!"

Guo Xiong shouted as he took a step forward. His yellow shield exploded with a blinding light and a mountain of runes materialised on its surface, giving it a deep sense of profound intent and stability.

Dong!

The Blood Python hit the light shield with a loud noise, and Guo Xiong was nearly jolted off his feet. He took a few steps back as fresh blood flowed between the fingers of his shield hand.

But Guo Xiong was a strong-willed warrior. Even if he bled in rivers, he'd still hold on to his shield of light. Like Su Xuan and Li Qing, he was also sent flying by several metres before he managed to catch

himself with a roar of frustration. Only now did the Blood Python run out of Spiritual Energy and disperse.

Guo Xiong heaved for air as he caught his footing. His arm was still trembling as he turned his sweat-filled face towards the pale-faced Su Xuan and Li Qing and asked through his teeth, "Are you alright?"

Su Xuan and Li Qing bitterly smiled. Bai Xuan was way too powerful. There was no way they could defeat him, even if they worked together.

Guo Xiong ground his teeth as he solemnly declared, "You two go ahead. I'll keep him."

"You can't do that alone."

Su Xuan clenched her fists, ground her teeth, then suddenly turned around to face the mountain peak that Su Ling'er perched on. She was still watching them with a face full of anxiety. Su Xuan growled, "Take Mu Chen with you and leave!"

"Big Sister!"

Su Ling'er was so anxious and upset that her eyes had turned bloodshot. She stomped her feet in frustration and the unwillingness to abandon them and escape.

"Don't let us die in vain!" Su Xuan sternly retorted.

This was the first time Su Ling'er had seen such a stern expression on her sister's face. Tears flowed down her face as she ground her teeth and picked Mu Chen off the ground, preparing to escape.

"Haha, what a righteousness act to abandon yourself and save others. But it's pointless." Bai Xuan coldly stated as he watched them. "Do you really think you can block my way?"

Guo Xiong coldly smiled back. "You're welcome to try!"

Bai Xuan's eyes turned cold. Without warning, he moved like a ghost and appeared right in front of Guo Xiong. The scarlet spear thrust forward, overflowing with a baleful aura.

Guo Xiong was caught off guard; however, his powerful light shield managed to form again, just in time.

Clang!

Sparks flickered and Guo Xiong was overwhelmed with shock as he watched a series of cracks rapidly crawl over the surface of his shield.

"Break!" Bai Xuan's arm trembled and the light shield exploded. The spear whipped towards Guo Xiong's chest like a dragon flying at lightning speed.

Shhhhhhu!

An azure wave rose between them and caught the spear, causing it to veer off course just enough so that the spear tip pierced through Guo Xiong's shoulder.

Guo Xiong howled in pain as he drew back. Blood gushed from the hole in his shoulder — the wound had rendered his entire arm useless.

Su Xuan and Li Qing immediately took defensive positions in front of Guo Xiong. They glared at Bai Xuan, who looked back at them with the mocking expression of a cat toying with a mouse.

“Little miss, if you try to run, your Big Sister and your friends might die by my hands.” Bai Xuan threatened as he smiled at Su Ling’er. She was still holding onto Mu Chen and was prepared to escape.

She paused her steps as she bit her rosy lips so hard that a thin line of blood trickled down. Her lovely face was filled with glistening tears and desperation. But finally, she made her decision. She wiped those tears from her face and raced away with Mu Chen in tow. She knew that staying any longer would only make all their sacrifices be in vain.

Bai Xuan smiled at that. There was a vicious glint in his eyes as the bloody spear trembled, then burst towards Su Xuan’s party in a powerful attack.

Su Xuan’s party was suddenly surrounded by the dangers of Bai Xuan’s sudden outburst. That blood-red spear could pierce through any one of them.

“Haha! Your Big Sister won’t be able to hold on for much longer.”

Bai Xuan ferociously rained attacks on them, all the while taunting the small trembling figures with a cold, distant, and demonic voice.

Su Ling’er covered her rosy mouth with a small hand, then clumsily wiped away her tears. Finally, she recovered enough of her composure to declare, “Bai Xuan, I definitely won’t let you go!”

Bai Xuan coldly smiled. “Really? Then let’s wait until I kill your sister and your friends. Then, I’ll get rid of you.” He turned to the three, whose offense was steadily growing weaker. Suddenly, his eyes took on a chilly expression and he launched the bloody spear with a powerful energy, heavily smashing it into all three of them.

Pffft!

The three of them coughed up mouthfuls of blood as their bodies flew backwards. Their faces were as white as paper.

“Take another step, and your Big Sister is really going to die!” Bai Xuan threatened with a smile as he moved to stand right over Su Xuan. The bloody spear in his hand stabbed towards her slender snow-white neck with enough force that a gale whipped up around them.

Without turning around, Su Ling’er imagined the scene that was occurring behind her back. She paused and her shoulders trembled. More blood spread over her rosy lips.

But just as Bai Xuan expected Su Ling’er to turn around and attack him, she spoke in a low, hoarse voice. “Bai Xuan, I will definitely find you. And when I do, I will definitely kill you.”

Then, the whites of her eyes flushed red and she flashed away.

Bang!

But before she could get too far, a firm arm suddenly stopped her. Su Ling’er was startled by the touch and looked down to see Mu Chen slowly raise his head from her arms.

His face was flushed and his pitch-black pupils were now scarlet-red. Veins stood out from under his skin, and fresh blood oozed from his skin. All this, coupled with the indescribably baleful aura in his eyes, gave him a horrifying appearance.

Mu Chen was like a bloodthirsty Asura who'd just climbed out from Purgatory.

Others felt stabs fear from the mere sight of him.

"Mu Chen...you..."

Su Ling'er was also frightened by Mu Chen's appearance. She found herself overwhelmed by her emotions and broke down sobbing. "I was supposed to make sure that nothing happened to you. Otherwise, Big Sister and the others would've died in vain. Hurry up and leave me."

A boundless baleful aura rippled through Mu Chen, and he slowly raised a bloody, veined hand to wipe the tears from the young woman's cheek.

His face — that made others cower in fear — brightened with a smile that Su Ling'er was so familiar with.

A soft voice soothed her emotions. "Don't worry. I promise that not a single one of them will die."

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 260: Power of the Ominous

Su Ling'er stood on the mountain peak, staring wide-eyed at Mu Chen's terrifying appearance. She didn't know why Mu Chen had assumed this form, so she wiped her tears and asked, "What are you planning to do?"

She wondered what he was planning. Did it matter? The end had been foretold — Bai Xuan was simply too powerful. Even her big sister wouldn't be able to defeat him. So how could Mu Chen, who was only at the Heavenly Fusion Stage, possibly do anything?

"Wait for the chance to escape with your big sister and the others. Run far and don't come back for me. Understand?" Mu Chen demanded, even as the strength in his eyes weakened as his voice grew hoarser. It seemed as if there was an endless baleful aura surging within his voice, and made it sound ice-cold to others.

Su Ling'er was so frightened that she took two steps back. Mu Chen seemed as though he was trying to suppress something. The bloody marks covering his body constantly flickered, like a murderous Asura that'd climbed out from Purgatory.

She speechlessly stared at Mu Chen, then nodded.

Mu Chen accepted her acknowledgement, then turned away without another word. Then, he moved like a streak of lightning towards the horizon. His hoarse voice echoed over the land. "Bai Xuan. The item you seek is in my possession. But as to whether or not you can take it back... that depends on your ability."

Bai Xuan coldly smiled as he watched Mu Chen with eyes like flying blades. "Haha! So you came back, in the end."

“Mu Chen, you...!”

Su Xuan and the others grew even more distressed — they’d desperately managed to delay Bai Xuan in order to buy time for Su Ling’er. But now, Mu Chen had suddenly come charging back?

However, Mu Chen didn’t bother with what was going through their heads. The ripples in his scarlet eyes were growing weaker by the moment; eventually, they disappeared entirely.

He tightly clenched his fist, then slowly loosened it.

If they had the power to see into his body, they’d find the baleful energy raging through his meridians with frightening power. But every time it pulsed through him, his meridians moved a little in response. An indescribably baleful aura filled him.

However, it was this pain that allowed Mu Chen to keep a clear mind, even as the baleful energy invaded him.

“What a madman.”

The Nine Netherbird couldn’t help shaking its head as it looked upon the carnage in Mu Chen’s aura sea. The baleful energy was an extremely oppressive force and excelled at corroding the mind; once Mu Chen’s mind fell under the the baleful aura, he’d turn into a murderous puppet, forever unable to wake up.

The baleful energy was powerful, but also risky to engage with. A single misstep and Mu Chen would be giving himself to it. What a daring individual!

Mu Chen quietly stood in the sky. The instant the ripples in his eyes disappeared, his aura nearly faded away as well.

The blood-red marks stuck to Mu Chen’s skin and wriggled like worms. It was an uncomfortable sight, to say the least.

“We’re already this far, and yet you’re still trying to deceive me? What a reckless fool!”

Bai Xuan coldly smiled when he saw the strange look in Mu Chen’s eyes. He didn’t feel threatened by Mu Chen’s current form; after all, Bai Xuan was a Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase. Plus, Bai Xuan had a High Rank Spiritual Artifact and his combat abilities were top notch, even among his peers. Wouldn’t it be easy for him to deal with a single Heavenly Fusion Stage brat?

“Die!”

Bai Xuan burst forward and the bloody spear in his hand rippled with Spiritual Energy as it tore through the air towards Mu Chen.

“Mu Chen, watch out!” his allies cried.

Mu Chen didn’t seem to register their warning. The moment before the bloody spear pierced his chest, he reached out a hand and grasped its shaft.

Creak! Creak!

The infinitely sharp spear emitted an ear-piercing screech as fresh blood flowed from Mu Chen's hand, down the tip of the spear. The bloody marks on Mu Chen's skin darkened.

Bai Xuan's expression slightly changed. He was starting to feel uneasy.

This Mu Chen was different from the one he'd met back inside the treasury.

Mu Chen gripped the spear tip as he raised his head to show his bloodshot, scarlet-red eyes. It was as if his eyes were two seas of blood, rolling and overflowing with a baleful aura.

Bloody marks appeared on his face and gave him the image of a bloodthirsty Asura.

"Boom!"

The baleful aura surged out of Mu Chen's body like a bloody sea. The sky turned dark red.

Thin bloody lines were slowly trickling down Mu Chen's skin, from places where his veins had burst through. Even though Mu Chen himself was a powerful force, the baleful energy was still too powerful and oppressive for his body to handle.

"This..."

Bai Xuan, Su Xuan, and the others all watched in astonishment at the familiar scene before them.

They trembled as they became overwhelmed with shock. Wasn't this exactly what'd happened to the demonic black pillar, when it first broke its seal?

But now, the baleful energy was far more horrifying than it'd been before.

But why was this happening to Mu Chen?

Su Ling'er remembered Mu Chen's demand and quickly made her retreat, even as she towed the other three along.

Mu Chen made sure that they'd escaped a good distance before he flashed a smile filled with bloody marks. But now, it was an extremely savage sight. The animosity on the wind even affected Bai Xuan's aura.

"What a façade!"

Bai Xuan glared as he snarled. His palm trembled as he pulled back on the blood-red spear and tore it from Mu Chen's hands with a red shower of blood. He stepped forward, then swept the spear back towards Mu Chen, this time with enough force that it left dizzying afterimages.

Boom!

A blood-red baleful aura surged from Mu Chen's body, like a shell of red armour. He allowed Bai Xuan's sharp spear to reach him.

Shhhhhiiiiii!

The moment the powerful spear met the shell of baleful aura, it was corroded away. However, the spear's gale still ripped open new wounds on Mu Chen's body.

But those new wounds weren't enough to deter Mu Chen. On the contrary, his scarlet eyes deepened in colour and a deep roar built up in his throat. He released it as his torrential baleful energy took the form of a second bloody spear.

Shhhhuuuuu!

Mu Chen trembled from the surges in his body and his clash with Bai Xuan. Powerful shockwaves rippled from the impacts, and the nearby mountain peaks crumbled.

On one faraway mountain peak, Su Xuan and the others stood and watched the confrontation with fear and worry in their eyes. They realised that right now, Mu Chen was capable of standing his own against Bai Xuan!

Guo Xiong couldn't help his astonished murmur. "How could he have grown so much?"

Something flickered in Su Xuan's charming eyes. "That's the same power as the black demonic pillar back in the Spirit Treasury. My guess is that Mu Chen has been taken by its baleful aura."

When Su Ling'er heard that was said, she instantly grew anxious. "Then Mu Chen...?"

"I think he's trying to use the battle to expel the baleful aura inside his body. But if that's true, then he's in an extremely dangerous position, right now. That baleful aura is extremely oppressive; if Mu Chen doesn't handle it properly, he could be devoured. The baleful aura would take over his senses and he'd turn into a massacring puppet."

Su Xuan sighed as she stared at the faraway figure shrouded in red. "The best we can do right now is trust in Mu Chen."

Clang!

The two blood-red spears clashed and the force rippled out. Even the space around them began to twist.

Bai Xuan's face turned steel-grey and astonishment filled his eyes. He refused to believe that Mu Chen had actually kept up with him for several exchanges, and still didn't show any signs of slowing.

It was as if Mu Chen's strength had caught up to his.

Bai Xuan was in disbelief. But he wasn't your average expert — he slowly began piecing together the clues and filling in the rest with calculation.

"Is he borrowing the baleful energy that's invading his body?"

Something flickered in Bai Xuan's eyes as he stared at Mu Chen's blood-marked face. There wasn't the slightest hint of emotion in Mu Chen's eyes. Just a pure bloodlust. Bai Xuan flashed a savage smile. "How are you any different from a bloodthirsty beast?"

It was clear to him that Mu Chen had borrowed the power of the baleful energy; but in exchange, he'd lost consciousness and had turned into the massacring puppet.

"Since you're in such deep pain, let me free you."

Bai Xuan abruptly shot up, stirring up waves of Spiritual Energy. He roared and a boundless Spiritual Energy rose from behind him, like a colossal blood-red beast. A dense animosity soared into the heavens.

“Demonic Blood Beast, Blood Smelting Sea!”

Bai Xuan shouted as his scarlet beast suddenly exploded. It turned into waves of blood that filled everything between heaven and earth.

Onom!

The bloody sea carried an earth-shattering power as it swept down from the heavens and ground every mountain in its path into dust.

“Die!” Bai Xuan savagely smiled. Mu Chen slowly raised his head as a mocking smile spread across his strangely marked face. The scarlet pupils, that’d been filled with animosity, rippled.

“Roar!”

An endless sea of baleful aura surged from Mu Chen’s body, forming its own version of a bloody, starry sky. Within this bloody sky, a massive white tiger took shape. One with scarlet-red eyes.

This Divine Seal of the White Tiger, which contained a boundless killing intent, slowly merged with the baleful aura, becoming an even more fearsome force. Even heaven and earth trembled before it.

Mu Chen hovered as the animosity filled the sky around him. As he floated before the huge white tiger, the mocking smile on his blood-marked face grew even wider.

“It’s you who’ll die!”