

## Great Ruler 261

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### Chapter 261: Bitter Blood Battle

“Roar!”

The white tiger hovered in the starry sky, its scarlet eyes contained a bloodlust that could murder the world. Its terrible animosity and killing intent soared into the clouds. All of the beasts within a hundred miles trembled with fear.

Su Xuan and the others stood on a faraway mountain peak with astonishment plastered all over their faces. It wasn't because they'd never seen Mu Chen execute the Divine Seal of the White Tiger — it was the same one he'd used back at the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, when he'd withstood Li Xuantong's sharp attacks.

But this Divine Seal of the White Tiger, was far from what it'd been before.

The white tiger in the sky looked like a living, breathing animal. Its limitless bloodlust blanketed the entire region.

“Roar!”

The white tiger roared towards the sky and lept forward, treading over the starry sky. Its glowing killing intent overflowed from its body and began twisting the space around it, as it charged towards the bloody sea that was rushing to meet it.

Bang!

The white tiger and bloody sea clashed and created a powerful gale that leveled the forest and crumbled the mountain peaks around them.

Chhhhhiiii. Chhhiiii.

The tiger's stripes glowed with bloodlust. Every time the two forces met, it was as if a river of lava had met an avalanche — freezing and melting in repeated cycles.

Mu Chen's Divine Seal of the White Tiger was renowned for its murderous intents — adding the baleful aura made it even more powerful. Words could not describe the terrifying power it now contained

“How is this possible?!”

Bai Xuan's face twisted when he saw what'd happened. His finishing move was completely ineffective against Mu Chen!

“That damned brat is still conscious?” Bai Xuan snarled through his teeth. Just what kind of monster was he? How could he still maintain his consciousness, with that baleful energy corroding his body?

“Withstand it!”

The bloody spear in his hand trembled in response to his order. A torrent of Spiritual Energy swept out with his bloody sea in a tireless effort to divert Mu Chen's attack.

“Roar!”

The tiger snarled furiously in the face of the obstacle, and its red eyes grew even brighter. Then, without warning, its body began shrinking; however, its murderous stripes stayed as bright as ever.

The glowing stripes charged onward, dispelling Bai Xuan’s bloody sea wherever its paws landed. The bloody fight filled the sky, as if the entire space had turned into an Asura’s battlefield.

Bang! Bang!

The bloody sea continued to crumble under the assault of the Divine Seal of the White Tiger. The beast was an unstoppable fiend as it charged towards Bai Xuan.

“I refuse to believe that you’re not dying today!”

Bai Xuan’s eyes reddened as he watched the ferocious Divine Seal of the White Tiger bear down on him. He was a Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase; however, h’d been beaten into such a sorry state by the Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase Mu Chen. How can he bear such shame?

“Octa Desolate Blood Battle Art, Blood Soul War Spear!”

Bai Xuan shouted as he formed several hand seals. Surges of Spiritual Energy gathered around him and turned into a blood-red war spear, roughly a hundred feet long. It was the color of freshly-spilled blood and emitted a savage aura.

It was clearly an offensive Spiritual Art of great power.

Onom!

It pierced through the sky with its dense, desolate aura and clashed with the Divine Seal of the White Tiger!

Bang!

Heaven and earth trembled as the Spiritual Energies exploded. Both Mu Chen and Bai Xuan suffered heavily and flew back, smashing into the peaks of separate mountains. Massive cracks appeared on the cliff walls behind their backs.

“Pffftt.”

Bai Xuan coughed up red blood as his eyes became filled with anger and anticipation. He looked towards Mu Chen, who was presently picking himself out of his own crater on a mountain not far away. His body was also covered in blood, making him look like a creature with red skin. His scarlet eyes still glowed with a limitless anger.

However, Mu Chen acted as if he’d suffered no wounds at all; he ignored the intense pain he must have felt, as if he were only a mere tireless doll, made only to fight.

“That bastard!”

Bai Xuan’s eyes were dark as his heart let out a roaring wail. Even he couldn’t help the tinge of fear in his heart as he faced against this new Mu Chen.

Mu Chen couldn't care less about his state — he simply allowed the blood to flow from his wounds. However, his scarlet eyes were fixed on Bai Xuan as he licked the drop of blood at the corner of the lips and flashed him a savage and bloodthirsty smile.

Shhhhhhu.

His scarlet eyes stared at Bai Xuan. Then, he burst out again.

"I'll kill you, brat!" Bai Xuan roared as a boundless Spiritual Energy whistled. A vigorous fist of wind heavily smashed head-on into Mu Chen.

Both of them used their fiercest moves as they struggled for another dozen exchanges. Both suffered more injuries. The layer of blood on Mu Chen's body grew thicker, and more blood rained off as he moved.

Bai Xuan wasn't in a very good state, either. His clothes were shredded as he, too, became covered in blood. Among his wounds was one finger mark that'd nearly penetrated his chest and reached his heart.

Su Xuan and the others felt their skin crawl as they watched the two blood-dripping men battle. Those two must be insane.

Between the two of them, Mu Chen had been infected by the baleful energy; therefore, his consciousness was faint. Meanwhile, Bai Xuan had been driven into such a state purely by Mu Chen's fierce and persistent offence.

Because he's facing Mu Chen's suicidal-like attacks, if he was a little less ruthless, he would have collapsed long ago.

But even so, there was no way he could endure for much longer.

No matter how ruthlessly Bai Xuan fought back, he was still made of flesh and blood; he could still feel fear. However, the Mu Chen before him didn't even know of this emotion called fear...

Bang!

Up in the sky, the two men clashed again and coughed up more mouthfuls of blood out and flew in opposite directions. Bai Xuan trembled as he ground his teeth. "Crazy little brat..."

He looked at his own body, which was covered with wounds. The intense pain made him tremble and the ruthlessness that'd been in his eyes was beginning to be replaced with fear.

"I can't carry on like this. This madman's conscious has long been corroded away by the baleful energy. He's doomed already, so I can't risk my life with him!" Something in Bai Xuan's eyes flickered. He'd lost control of current situation a long time ago. How could he have expected that he'd be forced to such a state by Mu Chen?

Bai Xuan ground his teeth as his figure flew out. As he retreated, he called out a piece of black jade and shattered it with a twitch of his fingers.

A black cloud quietly dispersed.

Rustle!

But as Bai Xuan made his retreat, the blood-soaked Mu Chen quickly caught up to him. His attacks were ruthlessly aimed at Bai Xuan's vitals.

Bai Xuan didn't want to risk his life, so he began slowly retreating; but he soon realised that it was an ineffective strategy. Mu Chen was already running amok, right before his eyes.

"Brat, I'll kill you!"

Bai Xuan was enraged. At first, he thought that he was in control of the situation. But, right now, it had turned into an awkward situation that he couldn't retreat, even though he wanted to. The knowledge drove him mad. He picked a good opportunity and stabbed the bloody spear in his hand towards Mu Chen's chest with lightning speed.

But Mu Chen didn't even try to evade the ferocious attack. He shifted slightly and simply allowed the spear to run through his shoulder. Then he moved forward, and closed the gap between himself and Bai Xuan in only an instant.

After Bai Xuan's spear pierced through Mu Chen's shoulder, he directed his line-of-sight towards Mu Chen's face, which was filled with a bloodthirsty and savage look. Bai Xuan's lips shivered, "Madman!"

Mu Chen's way of fighting without any regard for his life had completely shattered Bai Xuan's confidence.

"Shhuuuuu!"

Mu Chen's bent two of his fingers as a bloody light surged. He took the opportunity to attack while Bai Xuan was shocked. The attack carried the baleful energy with it as it stabbed towards the latter's throat at lightning speed.

Bai Xuan's heart turned cold as both of his palms immediately moved to defend his throat.

Mu Chen's scarlet eyes flickered as all the baleful energy within his body was forced into his two fingers. His fingers then turned blood-red, to the point that even bloody crystals started to form at the tips of his fingers.

In that instant, Bai Xuan felt that something wasn't right. However, before he could retreat, Mu Chen's fingers pierced his palms.

An intense pain coursed through him as Mu Chen's fingers, which looked as though they were molded from fresh blood, pierced through his palms. Furthermore, his ferocious might didn't decline in the slightest. After piercing his palms, Mu Chen aimed for Bai Xuan's throat once more.

Shhhiiii!

A fine sound was heard as a bloody light pierced through the back of Bai Xuan's head.

Bai Xuan's body turned stiff as he widened his eyes. His face was filled with disbelief. His lips trembled, and he looked like he wanted to speak, but not a single word came from his mouth.

Mu Chen's fingers penetrated through his throat. He slowly raised his scarlet pupils and the redness in his eyes washed away, like a tide pulling back. His pitch-black pupils and spirit were restored as well.

“Who told you...that my conscious was corroded away? I was only making use of the baleful energy.” Mu Chen said with a hoarse voice. His face was covered in blood as he gave Bai Xuan a smear of smile. Meanwhile, Bai Xuan still had blood flowing out of his mouth.

“If you want to kill me, then there’ll be a price to pay...”

Mu Chen gently patted Bai Xuan’s face and gave it a gentle push. The latter tottered for a moment, then fell onto a mountain peak.

Bang! Bang!

Both of them landed on the mountain peak. Mu Chen, who’d suffered heavy injuries to begin with, spurted out a mouthful of blood. He looked to the side at Bai Xuan, whose eyes were wide open as fresh blood flowed from the corner of his mouth. The latter was trembling as he stared viciously back at him. A faint and hoarse voice sounded out, little by little.

“You...you guys, not a single one of you will be able to escape!”

Mu Chen looked at Bai Xuan, who slowly took his last breath. His brows frowned. Even on his deathbed, this guy still made others uneasy. Not a single one could escape? What could Bai Xuan in his current state do to them anyways?

Mu Chen shook his head. Although he felt uneasy, he could only lie down on his stomach. He couldn’t even move as the intense pain coursed through his body and made him understand that his injuries were extremely serious.

The current him no longer had any fighting ability left.

Shhhhuu! Shhuu!

A gale sounded out as Su Xuan and the other three came towards him at a fast speed. When they landed on the mountain peak, they saw Bai Xuan, who had already taken his last breath, and Mu Chen, who couldn’t move. They were shocked, but after a long moment, they exchanged complicated glances.

This guy really managed to kill Bai Xuan...

That was a Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase expert!

“Are you alright?” Su Ling’er immediately moved forward and carefully lifted Mu Chen, who was covered with blood.

“Quick, let’s leave this place.”

Mu Chen said in a hoarse voice with the last of his energy.

When Su Xuan the rest heard what he said, they were stunned for a brief moment. They didn’t question Mu Chen as they lifted him and rapidly moved away.

However, just when they were about to leave, a faint laugh abruptly sounded from the sky, causing their bodies to turn stuff.

“Haha, how formidable. You actually managed to kill Bai Xuan. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s reputation is truly justified...”

Su Xuan and the rest immediately raised their heads and saw a black-robed youth standing on top of a pine tree, looking at them with a smile.

That youth’s appearance wasn’t very outstanding. But at the center of his brows was a black mark of a coiling demonic dragon. As he smiled, the demonic dragon grew savager, little by little.

When Su Xuan and the rest saw the black-robed youth carrying a longsword on his back, their faces couldn’t help drastically changing.

“Mo Longzi?!”

When Mu Chen heard that name, his heart trembled.

Mo Longzi, ranked 2 on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s bounty board.

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#### **Chapter 262: Reinforcements**

Mo Longzi.

This name was known to them just a few days ago, when Su Xuan mentioned the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s Bounty Board. As for those students that were training themselves in the vast Northern Heavens Continent, this name was as frightening as a fiend.

It’s said that this person possessed excellent cultivation talent and was extremely ruthless. He was fully nurtured by the Demonic Dragon Palace. After all these years, nearly every student that has encountered him, when they’re training outside, lost their lives. Furthermore, his methods were extremely cruel. Everyone that was killed by him were decapitated and their heads were placed on top of the corpse. On the top of every head, there were three joss sticks that were covered in fresh blood.

Even the higher-ups of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were furious at the cruelty of this person. They had once sent the Punishment Squad to get rid of him. However, although they were able to heavily wound him, they’d also paid a great price. But the crucial part was that he managed to escape every single time. Whenever he reappeared, he would become even harder to handle.

If someone asked who was the most fearsome person that a Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s student could encounter, it would be Mo Longzi.

The face of Su Xuan and the rest turned pale as they directed their lines-of-sight towards the top of the pine tree, towards that black-robed youth with a longsword behind him. The latter had a light smile on his face, but they could feel the chill that was coming from their bones.

Who could have imagined that they would encounter that unlucky star here?

This was definitely an existence even more fearsome than Bai Xuan.

Su Xuan tightly clenched her teeth as she felt helpless. When they encountered Bai Xuan, they could still put up a fight. But now that they've encountered Mo Longzi, it'd be difficult for them to have any chance of escaping.

"It seems like this calamity won't be easy to escape." Guo Xiong bitterly smiled as the despair was seen within his eyes.

Mu Chen wiped the fresh blood off the corner of his mouth with great difficulty as he endured the intense pain that coursed throughout his body. He tightly stared at that figure and also felt helpless in his heart. His state was too terrible. If he fought again, he would probably have to pay a huge price.

But, at this point of time, the baleful energy within his body was already exhausted. If he fought again, he could only depend on Nine Netherbird's power.

But if that's the case, then the injuries on his body would worsen.

If he is unable to see any other choice, then he could only take that course of action. Even if the consequences are dire, it's still better than throwing his life away.

"Haha, what's with all your expressions? To kill Bai Xuan, you guys are still pretty formidable. Within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, I believe that none of you are nameless people, right? I wonder, what's your ranking in the Heavenly Ranking?" Mo Longzi said gently with a smile at everyone from far away.

"None of your business!" Guo Xiong's expression turned dark. Towards this executioner, whose hands were drenched with god knows how much blood from the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he was naturally disgusted with him.

"What great bravery, I'm impressed." Mo Longzi smiled as he gave Guo Xiong a big thumbs up. Shortly after, he abruptly raised his thumb and thrust it out.

"Careful!"

Su Xuan's face changed as her jade-like hand rose. The Dense Water Spiritual Pearl burst out with a dazzling light as the azure tidal wave swept out and formed a heavy line of defense.

Shhhhhuuu!

The fine sound of a gale was heard as a black light tore the heavy waves of water apart. Thereafter, it heavily hit onto Guo Xiong's arm and a bloody hole appeared with fresh blood flowing from it.

Guo Xiong's face turned pale, but was unyielding. He clenched his teeth and didn't issue a sound. His ferocious gaze stared towards Mo Longzi.

Mu Chen covered his mouth as he heavily coughed. His eyes turned a little cold at this moment as he stared at Mo Longzi and softly said, "Friend, if you push us too much and if there isn't any path for us, even if I die, I'll drag you along."

Su Xuan and the rest were startled as they blankly looked at Mu Chen. If anyone else said that to Mo Longzi, perhaps they would find it funny. But towards Mu Chen, who had just managed to kill Bai Xuan, they didn't have that kind of mood.

Along the way, they've seen too much of this youth, who doesn't possess the powerful strength, but the means that he was able to exert could shock others.

Far away, Mo Longzi's eyes slightly narrowed as he looked at Mu Chen indifferently. Thereafter, his voice sounded out, "Bai Xuan was killed by you, right? Indeed, you're formidable, since you're actually able to achieve this step with only Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase strength. It's simply unimaginable."

"However, did you really think that you're qualified to threaten me?" He smiled as the demonic dragon mark slowly stretched out, displaying its ferocity.

"Then, you can give me a try."

Mu Chen's eyes slightly closed as he lightly broke free from Su Ling'er's support. He slowly stepped out and at the depth of his black pupils, black flames surged out, little by little. As for the surface of his body, black flames began to surge.

The temperature in this heaven and earth was raised.

"Mu Chen!"

Su Xuan and the rest said in alarmed tones. They were a little anxious and worried. No matter what method Mu Chen possessed, the current him was already heavily injured. If they were to encounter another battle, it would naturally be a huge burden for him.

Mu Chen waved his hand, as his black pupils blazed with black flames, staring at Mo Longzi. At this time, there wasn't any other path for them left. This person before them wasn't someone easy to deal with.

Mo Longzi slightly narrowed his eyes as he looked at Mu Chen, whose body was blazing with a peculiar black flame at this point in time. His brows were slightly raised as the smile that he had on his face lessened. From the latter, he could vaguely sense the danger.

"What an interesting kid. But if that's the case, then I want to see more of your methods." Mo Longzi smiled. His character was too ferocious. Mu Chen's speech was clearly not sufficient to scare him.

Mu Chen sighed in his heart. It seems like this was inevitable.

The black flames blazed on the surface of Mu Chen's body. The intense pain that came from his body made a cold sweat appear on Mu Chen's forehead. However, he did not say a word and took a step out.

Faraway, Mo Longzi also smiled as he stretched his hand out and slowly grab onto the longsword that was behind him. He lightly trembled as the screeching of the sword resounded throughout the heavens. A frightening sword aura soared up into the clouds.

Mo Longzi was just holding onto the longsword and did not take any action. An earth-shattering amount of sword aura gathered around him. Slicing the pine tree beneath him, as well as the cliff into pieces.

"There aren't that many students in your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that can make me use this Dragon Scaled Sword. Today, you've forced me to use it, pretty good."



The longsword in Mo Longzi's hand was slowly raised as he pointed towards Mu Chen. The sword aura was spreading and, vaguely, the roar of a dragon could be heard.

The face of Su Xuan and the rest turned even more pale. This Mo Longzi obviously wanted to kill Mu Chen, as he was immediately using his Dragon Scaled Sword.

"You guys, retreat first." Mu Chen said softly.

Su Xuan and the rest clenched their teeth, then nodded their heads, before retreating at fast speeds.

Mo Longzi's figure gradually started to float as he stared at Mu Chen. He lightly smiled and tightened his grasp on the longsword that was held by him, as though it was made from dragon scales and gently slashed out.

"Dragon Scaled Sword Art, Beheading Dragon!"

A sword slashed out without any sound. Thereafter, Mu Chen could see that the entire space looked like it was shattered by Mo Longzi's sword. A frightening sword aura was roaring as it took the form of a dragon and flew over with a frightening speed and demeanor.

That sword was impossible to dodge.

Mu Chen deeply inhaled a mouthful of air. His eyes turned solemn as both of his fists were clenched tight, and he was ready to borrow Nine Netherbird's strength to confront his enemy.

Onom!

However, just when Mu Chen was about to take action, the sky behind him was ripped apart. A dark gold long spear shot out like a golden comet, bringing along an unrivaled gale, and heavily clashed with that dragon-imaged sword aura.

Bang!

A shocking, clashing sound was heard as the sword aura and spear light swept up, causing even the space to turn twisted.

Mu Chen, who was about to take action, was stunned by the scene before him. Who was it that helped them?

That golden long spear dispersed the sword image. With a whirl, it landed on the sky above, creating a towering image. An extremely shocking might rippled and engulfed everything between the heavens and earth.

The golden long spear was roughly ten feet in length, with a ferocious exterior appearance. The tip of the spear was like a golden lotus. The lotus petal was closed and formed an extremely sharp spear tip. A golden light circulated, while looking as though it could rip the space apart.

"That's..."

Su Xuan and the rest was stunned at the sight of the golden long spear. Shortly after, joy flushed out of their eyes, "Heavenly War God's Lotus Spear!"

“Shen Cangsheng?!”

Hearing that name, Mu Chen’s heart trembled. That belonged to the legendary figure in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, ranked 1 in the Heavenly Ranking, Shen Cangsheng?

Boom!

There was a violent gale that burst from the sky from far away. A golden light that looked similar to a meteorite was flying over. With several flickering lights, it crossed a distance of over ten feet and appeared in before them.

The moment that golden light figure took action, the golden war spear emitted a buzzing sound as it flew back and was held firmly by a huge hand.

Mu Chen also turned his head around at this moment, and looked towards that direction. The golden light slowly dissipated and a black-clothed youth appeared in his line-of-sight. His black hair was draped over his shoulders. His face was resolute, his eyes looked quiet, like a deep pond. An appearance that looked as though he wouldn’t be shaken, even if the sky fell.

He held onto the golden war spear as he stood on the sky. A disdainful aura was spreading out that caused others unable to neglect it.

“It really is the upperclassman, Shen Cangsheng.”

The moment Guo Xiong saw that figure, a flame blazed in his eyes. He spoke with joy, and was ignoring the pain that was inflicted on his body.

Su Xuan and the rest were slightly relieved with a feeling that they had just escaped a calamity. Who could have thought that Shen Cangsheng, who was rarely seen, would appear here?

The youth that was holding onto the golden war spear raised his head and a faint smile appeared on his firm face.

“Mo Longzi, if you want to fight, then I’ll accompany you. Why trouble my underclassmen?”

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### **Chapter 263: Shen Cangsheng**

Up in the mirror-clear sky, a youth stood, wielding a golden war spear. His fighting spirit flashed through his eyes and he carried himself with a dazzling air that attracted everyone’s attention.

Mu Chen also looked at him in surprise. He’d heard about this number one from the moment he entered the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. As far as the student body was concerned, he was, perhaps, the only one who could become the undisputed overlord.

His place as the first of the Heavenly Rankings was unshakable.

Mu Chen never imagined that the rarely-seen first in the Heavenly Rankings would make an appearance here.

Mo Longzi watched Shen Cangsheng from a short distance away, with his hand tightly wrapped around the dragon-scaled longsword. Then, he smiled. "You've been chasing me for two months now. Aren't you tired yet?"

"I accepted your bounty mission. How could I return without your head?" Shen Cangsheng smiled back. His golden spear trembled slightly.

"You can't kill me."

Mo Longzi shook his head and lazily replied, "You're formidable, but not even the elite team could kill me. There's no way you could accomplish it all by yourself."

"At the very least, if I keep chasing you, then you won't be able to kill more students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

Shen Cangsheng smiled as a light flashed across his eyes, "Furthermore, I'm good at finding opportunities. The moment you slip, you might find your life belonging to me."

Mo Longzi narrowed his eyes and the demonic dragon on his forehead writhed even more viciously. He gripped his longsword and lightly said, "Well if you put it that way, then, wouldn't it be better for me to kill you, so you won't cause me any more trouble?"

"If you've finally thought it through, then come and fight me." Shen Cangsheng challenged as he pointed his golden spear towards Mo Longzi. His eyes overflowed with his fighting spirit.

Mo Longzi coldly stared at Shen Cangsheng. A forest of sword lights slowly took shape around him, until even the space around him seemed like it'd been sliced into ribbons.

The spear in Shen Cangsheng's hand trembled and surged with a golden energy. His body flared with a brilliant light, as if he'd turned into a golden sun. His fighting intent soared, as if he was a god of war.

"If you treat me like that moron Yu Yuan, then you're going to get the worst of it."

Mo Longzi lightly smiled as a sword-sharp look filled his eyes. He took a step forward and the longsword slightly shook. That instant was filled with the sounds of swords cutting through air. An ashen-grey light rose from behind him and turned into an earth-shattering quantity of sword images.

Each sword image looked genuine, and his sword aura surged into the skies, as if it could tear the sky apart.

"Dragon Scaled Sword Art, Sky Shattering Myriad Sword!"

Onom!

The longsword whistled through the air, raising another wave of sword images that rained down on Shen Cangsheng in an astonishing display.

Mu Chen's expression was grave as he watched the terrifying attacks. Mo Longzi was powerful, indeed. Mu Chen guessed that he'd probably already reached the Heavenly Completion Stage.

His talent must be monstrous to reach the Heavenly Completion Stage at such a young age. But since Mu Chen came to this world, such monstrous talents were in no short supply.

Even though Mo Longzi was his opponent, Mu Chen couldn't help sighing in admiration. From the looks of it, Mu Chen was only four or five years older; however, Mu Chen was still speechless at his strength. No wonder he was the number 2 on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Bounty Board — he was someone who could make the Punishment Team fail every single time.

Shen Cangsheng raised his head, and the myriad of swords were reflected in his pupils. He tightened his grip on the Celestial Lotus Wargod Spear, which flickered with golden light. Then, his arm trembled and the spear thrust forward.

“Celestial Lotus Rain!”

Onom!

A golden light flickered as a golden lotus bloomed on the tip of his spear, expanding until it was a few hundred feet wide.

Shhhuuuuuu! Shhhhuuu!

The golden lotus slowly revolved as it blossomed, before it burst into thousands of individual petals, all bathed with golden light.

That golden light filled the skies and shattered the spectacular golden rain. Its beauty contained deadly power.

Boom! Booom!

The shattered lotus petals gathered again and formed a single golden pillar. The column streaked across the horizon and crashed down on the sword images. In that instant, everything between heaven and earth trembled from the collision.

A series of loud explosions rang out as a wild Spiritual Energy rippled out. The forest below suffered a fatal blow and was leveled. The surrounding majestic mountains were sliced into huge boulders before they fell into pieces.

The two flowing powers crashed as each attempted to destroy the other; however, neither was able to gain the upperhand. After remaining in a deadlock for more than half an hour, they finally dispersed and released powerful gales of Spiritual Energy.

“Haha, no wonder you're ranked first in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. It's not surprising that Yu Yuan fell by your hands. As far as today goes, we'll let you off. But if we meet again, you won't be so lucky.”

Mo Longzi focused on the disappearing sword images, then turned to smile at Mu Chen and his friends. Then, he disappeared. In the span of only a few breaths, he'd completely vanished; however, his faint voice still echoed over the forest.

Mo Longzi was very straightforward with his actions; with Shen Cangsheng there, he wouldn't be able to gain an advantage, forget about killing Mu Chen's group. Therefore, it'd be better for him to retreat and save his energy.

Shen Cangsheng looked in the direction that Mo Longzi had vanished to, but he didn't give chase. His fingers twitched and the golden spear disappeared. Then, he turned around to face Mu Chen, who was still hovering in midair. Black flames still blazed around him, showing his cautiousness.

A look of shock flashed across Shen Cangsheng's face when he finally had a chance to study those black flames wrapped around Mu Chen. He didn't know why, but something made him feel slightly threatened.

Mu Chen sensed Shen Cangsheng's gaze. Finally, he allowed the black flames to gradually retreat into his body and revealed a body covered in blood and wounds.

"Many thanks, Senior Brother Shen."

Mu Chen cupped his hands towards Shen Cangsheng as he made a hard smile. If Shen Cangsheng hadn't shown himself, Mu Chen might've had to endure a savage battle. His wounds would've become even graver.

"You killed Bai Xuan?" Shen Cangsheng asked as he looked at Bai Xuan's corpse on a nearby mountain slope. There was a smear of astonishment in his voice.

Of course, he could tell that Mu Chen's cultivation was still that of a Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase. There was a wide gap between him and Bai Xuan. But even still, before Shen Cangsheng had shown himself, Mu Chen had dared to stand against Mo Longzi. His courage was commendable.

Mu Chen lightly nodded, but didn't care to fill in the details. He'd only been able to kill Bai Xuan because of the Great Meru Demonic Pillar's ominous energy in his body.

"Mu Chen is a freshman who enrolled in our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy only a few months ago. But don't underestimate him! If it wasn't for him, I'm afraid that we wouldn't have escaped safely." a soft and gentle voice sounded. Su Xuan and the other three had flown over.

"A freshman?" Shen Cangsheng was stunned as he looked at Mu Chen again. His voice was filled with surprise as he spoke, "I never thought that such an excellent freshman would appear in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. It seems like the future will be lively."

"I only relied on a few backdoors[1. A euphemism for barely legal cheating.]," Mu Chen smiled.

"Having access to backdoors is also a form of power. In a battle of life and death, only the result is of consequence," Shen Cangsheng said firmly.

Mu Chen felt the same. If he were caught in a life and death battle, of course he'd use every means to survive. It didn't matter if they were backdoors or not.

Next to him, Guo Xiong stared at Shen Cangsheng with blazing eyes. The very thought of meeting this Ranked 1 excited him.

"Your wounds are grave. Here's a Profound Life Pellet. It should help your current state." Shen Cangsheng extended his hand and revealed a tiny, exquisite box resting in the center of his palm. Inside the box was a faintly glowing white medicinal pellet. Circles of light revolved around the pellet as its fragrance permeated the air and drew their attention.

Mu Chen was slightly stunned. This pellet didn't look like an ordinary one. It would be a great help for any wounded person. However, the gesture felt too heavy and made him hesitate briefly.

But his hesitation didn't hold out for long before he accepted it and cupped his hands. "Many thanks for the pill. I, Mu Chen, will remember this favor. I will return it when chance arises."

Right now, Mu Chen desperately needed such a medicinal pellet to help him recover from his injuries. Refusing too hard would be pretentious — he obviously needed it — so why not accept it? At most, he'd owe Shen Cangsheng a favor. All he had to do was return it when he got the chance.

Shen Cangsheng smiled. He was pleased with Mu Chen's lack of pretentiousness. As for the favor, he could care less. At Mu Chen's current strength, it'd be hard for him to return it.

"I'll have to trouble you this time."

Su Xuan gave Shen Cangsheng a grateful look. If Shen Cangsheng hadn't reached them in time, then their small party would've suffered a considerable loss, given the situation at the time.

They didn't know what tricks Mu Chen had pulled from his sleeve, but whatever he'd done, he'd paid a high price. She didn't want to see him suffer for saving them.

Shen Cangsheng shook his head. "I've been chasing after Mo Longzi for the past two months. He seemed to have received some sort of message from the Demonic Dragon Palace and rushed over here. I only followed him, and never expected to run into you guys."

Guo Xiong inwardly smacked his lips. Shen Cangsheng was probably the only student in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy who could pursue Mo Longzi.

"What are you going to do next?" Shen Cangsheng asked Su Xuan's party.

"We've accomplished our mission. Now, we'll be returning to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy." Su Xuan answered. Their journey had been half a month long and filled with danger. Therefore, they should return to the Academy and get a long, good rest.

"I'll see you guys there. Junior Brother Mu Chen was gravely injured; therefore, your fighting strength should be down by quite a bit. Mo Longzi is vicious, merciless, and unnaturally cunning. Who knows when he might secretly turn back." Shen Cangsheng muttered.

"Then, we'll have to thank you again."

A relieved sigh passed around their small party. With Shen Cangsheng guarding them until they returned, their group would be entirely secure.

Mu Chen also smiled as he looked north. They could return the Academy at last.

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 264: Returning**

With a bodyguard as powerful as Shen Cangsheng seeing them back, of course they wouldn't meet any trouble. In only two short days, they'd already closed in on the border of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Over those two days, Mu Chen recovered a lot from the ominous energy, thanks to the

medicinal pellet that Shen Cangsheng had given him. Furthermore, the strength of his Spiritual Energy had also risen.

Although the ominous energy was a dark and foreboding existence, it could also be considered a form of power. Mu Chen had exhausted most of the ominous energy during his battle with Bai Xuan, but he still had a little left over. He could benefit from absorbing those remains.

Mu Chen was elated at his quick recovery and felt even more grateful towards Shen Cangsheng. If it hadn't been for his medicinal pellet, then Mu Chen's wounds would've taken even longer to heal.

In the sky outside the Northern Heavens City, several light figures flew overhead and landed on a nearby mountain peak. It was Mu Chen's group, rushing back to the Academy.

"Senior Brother Shen Cangsheng, are you not following us back to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?" Mu Chen enquired as he looked at the black-clothed youth.

Shen Cangsheng smiled and shook his head. "I accepted Mo Longzi's bounty mission, but I haven't completed it yet. So, I won't return for now."

Guo Xiong smacked his lips when he heard that. No wonder Shen Cangsheng was Ranked 1 of the Heavenly Ranking. He actually dared to pursue the savage Mo Longzi. He was probably the only one in the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy who would dare to do such a thing.

"Then, we'll part here. I hope you'll successfully accomplish your mission. By the way, our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy will be hosting the annual Hunting War next month. Will you be back for it?" Su Xuan smiled.

"Hunting War..." Shen Cangsheng narrowed his eyes.

"This year's Hunting War will be especially challenging. According to my sources, the Guardians will be the three great generals of the Punishment Hall," Su Xuan explained.

"The three great generals of the Punishment Hall? Those three? They're actually coming out this year?" Shen Cangsheng was shortly taken aback, and a look of shock flashed across his eyes.

Su Xuan shrugged and nodded. "Those three were the top students of our seniors' class. Even though they graduated, they still stayed to cultivate in the Punishment Hall. So if you don't come back, then I'm afraid we might end up losing this year's Hunting War."

Shen Cangsheng knitted his brows, "I never thought they'd come out. Well, in that case, I'll try my best to rush back in the time. Those three aren't easy to deal with, and I also wish to spar with them."

Su Xuan nodded with a light smile as she continued, "Since you're willing to come back, then we might have a chance at the last stage. With you and Li Xuanton."

Shen Cangsheng smiled and stayed briefly to make some more light conversation before he left in a streak of light and rapidly disappeared over the horizon.

"Haha, if Senior Brother Shen Cangsheng comes back for the Hunting War, then we might have a chance of winning." Guo Xiong smiled as he looked in the direction that Shen Cangsheng had disappeared to.

“Hunting War? What’s that?” Mu Chen asked in confusion.

“The Hunting War is an event that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy hosts every year. It’s a grand occasion where almost every single student participates in an intense battle. Who knows how much unexpected geniuses might appear?”

“Don’t make a mistake by thinking that all the formidable figures are already listed in the Heavenly Ranking. Some people are really good at enduring and hiding their presence.”

Mu Chen sighed and nodded. With so many students, there was no way all of them could be listed in the Heavenly Ranking. There were still more formidable figures hiding away.

“Shen Cangsheng was a dark horse. He used to be relatively unknown in our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. But his fame shot through the roof during one particular Hunting War — he defeated the Heavenly Ranking’s Rank 1, as well as the Guardian of the event. Since then, his name has spread far and wide throughout the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Even today, his position as the Rank 1 of the Heavenly Ranking is unshakable,” Guo Xiong said with adoration.

Mu Chen lightly nodded. Shen Cangsheng clearly wasn’t an ordinary guy.

“Then, who are these Guardians?” Mu Chen asked again. He realised that didn’t know a thing about these huge events in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

“There are Guardians in every Hunting War. They’re never current students — instead, they’re from the Punishment Hall. Most of them are graduated students who didn’t want to leave the Academy, and simply stayed here to cultivate, instead. All of them are extremely powerful.”

Su Xuan lightly continued, “I heard that they’re sending out three Guardians this time — the Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall.”

“Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall?”

Mu Chen blankly repeated those words.

“Haha. Back in the days, the three of them were famed throughout our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. They still possess such fame within the Punishment Hall. Rumors say that a year ago, the three of them set out together on a mission to hunt down the Rank 1 on the Bounty Board, Mo Xingtian.”

“Mo Xingtian?”

Mu Chen was stirred by that. Mo Xingtian topped the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s Bounty Board. He was rumored to be the youngest Elder in the history of the Demonic Dragon Palace, and possessed monstrous talent and tremendous strength. He was far more powerful than Mo Longzi, who they’d encountered a few days before.

If the Three Great Generals were strong enough to chase after someone like that, then their strength must be extremely frightening.

“What was the outcome of that chase?” Mu Chen couldn’t help asking.



“Outcome?” Su Xuan said helplessly with a smile. “How could it be easy to deal with Mo Xingtian? Even the Three Great Generals together returned empty-handed. However, the fact that they were able to make a full escape from Mo Xingtian was already a considerable feat.”

Mu Chen also nodded. Mo Longzi alone was already very powerful, so the the Ranked 1 of the Bounty Board, Mo Xingtian should be even more fearsome. He wouldn't be ranked so highly if he could be easily killed.

“For this Hunting War, the Three Great Generals will be the students' common enemy. You can only claim victory by defeating them. Afterwards, you can exchange your Spiritual Light for mouthwatering rewards.” Su Xuan paused as her charming eyes lit up, “That would be the Spiritual Light Empowerment.”

The moment she mentioned this Spiritual Light Empowerment, Mu Chen clearly noticed a burning desire flash across Li Qing's frosty face. He only smiled in confusion.

“This 'Spiritual Light' is formed from the purest Spiritual Aura. It'll be one of our objectives during the Hunting War. The more Spiritual Lights we collect, the more rewards we'll receive from the Spiritual Light Empowerment.”

Su Xuan saw the blank expression on Mu Chen's face — he clearly hadn't followed her explanation, so she smiled and tried again. “I heard that you participated in the Spiritual Road before, so you should know about the Spiritual Road Empowerment, right? This Spiritual Light Empowerment is roughly equivalent to the Spiritual Road Empowerment. Both can greatly unleash your potential and enhance your strength.”

“Oh?”

Now Mu Chen understood. His heart trembled. No wonder the Hunting War often allowed students who'd been in hiding to expose themselves. So, there were such great rewards at stake.

Mu Chen had participated in the Spiritual Road before, so he knew about the importance of the Spiritual Road Empowerment. If he hadn't possessed those means, then it would've been hard for him to catch up to the Kings of the Spiritual Road.

If the Spiritual Light Empowerment really had such miraculous abilities, then he definitely couldn't afford to miss out.

“But, in order to obtain the Spiritual Light Empowerment, you'll have to defeat the final Guardian, of course. That's where the Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall come in — they will definitely be our opponents.”

Su Xuan gently smiled, “Otherwise, why would I remind Shen Cangsheng to come back for the Hunting War? Wouldn't I be finding more formidable opponents for myself?”

Guo Xiong sighed. “That's right. In the past, there's always been only one Guardian. But this time, there are three, and they're the renowned Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong are probably the only ones who can contend against such formidable figures.”

Mu Chen lightly nodded. Right now, you could say that Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were the most powerful two in the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. If the two of them weren't enough, then none of the students would win much from this Hunting War.

"Alright, we're almost there. Let's visit the Northern Heavens City to turn in our report and get the invitation to the Academy." Su Xuan said as she pointed towards the grand city — the Northern Heavens City, one of the external defenses of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Everyone else nodded in agreement to her words. Then, they moved and streaked across the sky, and entered the majestic Northern Heavens City.

They didn't stay for long in the Northern Heavens city. They quickly found an Academy mansion to make their report and successfully obtained an invitation. Soon, they were passing through the vast borderlands of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Within two hours, they were within sight of the endlessly imposing Academy itself.

They stared at the vast Academy grounds and couldn't help their sighs of relief. Smiles appeared on their faces. Their mission was complete.

## **[The Great Ruler](#)**

### **Chapter 265: Handing Over the Mission Report**

In the sky of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, several lights were flying over from far away. They looked at the training grounds below as the numerous light images streaked across the sky. Their tightly tense emotions finally eased down.

After experiencing those killings, they were only able to feel at ease when they reached the gentle atmosphere within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Over here, they they were able to put down their worries as students of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Over here, they would receive the protection from those colossal figures.

Mu Chen's party entered the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and made their way towards the Mission Hall. Now that they've successfully completed their mission, it's better for them to hand their mission report over first and receive their rewards.

The Mission Hall sat at the northwest corner of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Within the crowd, a towering majestic huge hall stood to one side. On the sides of the huge hall, there was a frightening amount of people flowing in and out.

In the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, the Mission Hall was the most well-loved location. However, all of the students that could come here to accept the mission were those with the ability to. Especially the missions that required them to head towards the Northern Heavens Continent, those missions have strict requirements.

Mu Chen and his group landed in the Mission Hall under Su Xuan's lead.

Inside the Mission Hall, it was abnormally lit up. Along the walls, there were many crystal screens, and on those screens, there were various missions that constantly changed.

Mu Chen's line-of-sight swept around and landed on the middle of the Mission Hall. There was a blood-red crystal pillar and on the pillar, there were names carved on it.

The ghastly colour caused this crystal pillar to attract the most attention in this vast hall. Every student that came here would look at those names on the blood-red crystal pillar with fear.

"Bounty Board"

Mu Chen focused his attention towards the top of the crystal pillar. There were three blood-red names flickering there that were dazzling to the eyes. This was the Bounty Board that he had heard so much about along his way here.

Mu Chen looked up on the crystal pillar and several familiar names entered into his eyes.

"Rank 1 of the Bounty Board, Mo Xingtian. Reward - 10,000,000 Spiritual Value Points, 1 Supreme Spiritual Artifact, 1 Deity Tier Spiritual Art."

"Rank 2 of the Bounty Board, Mo Longzi. Reward - 8,000,000 Spiritual Value Points, 1 Deity Tier Spiritual Art."

"Rank 3 of the Bounty Board, Blood Dragon - Mu Gu. Reward - 5,000,000."

"Rank 4 of the Bounty Board, Guo Xiong [1.This isn't the guy that's in Mu Chen's group, it's someone else]. Reward - 3,000,000."

The scarlet letters showed the danger that those names posed. The sky-high rewards would make the eyelids of others jump. However, everyone understood that not everyone could enjoy the sky-high rewards.

"Mo Xingtian's reward actually reached 10,000,000 Spiritual Value Points." Mu Chen couldn't help letting out a sigh. Ten million, he could basically buy anything he wanted. Even the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon, he could get two of those.

"Up till today, no one has succeeded in obtaining his reward." Su Xuan helplessly smiled as she continued, "That kind of figure is no longer someone that we, students, could handle. Even Shen Cangsheng could only go for Mo Longzi."

Mu Chen lightly nodded. He encountered Mo Longzi before and understood the latter's formidability. But that Mo Xingtian was even more powerful than Mo Longzi. According to his intuition, that fellow had probably stepped into the Heavenly Completion Stage cultivation long ago.

Even in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, being at the Heavenly Transformation Stage would allow someone to obtain an Elder rank. In those slightly weaker continents, they could basically proclaim them as Small Sovereigns.

"Let's go and hand over our mission report. Furthermore, we also have to inform the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy about the emerged Demonic Dragon Palace." Su Xuan said lightly. Thereafter, she took several steps towards the center of the Mission Hall. Over there, there was a huge crystal screen with students arriving and handing over their mission reports.

However, in that kind of place, the difficulty of mission had different rewards. Su Xuan walked straight towards the middle of the huge crystal screen, there was a white-haired elder that was snoring away. His thunder-like wheezing sounded out, but no student dared to bother him.

When Su Xuan saw him, she lightly smiled as she walked up. Her jade-like hands grabbed the elder's beard and lightly pulled.

"Ah! Who?!" the elder that was in the middle of his beauty sleep instantly jumped up as he grabbed onto his beard and snarled in anger. But when he saw the smiling Su Xuan, he only snorted, "It's you again. If you're handing over your mission report, then hand it over. Why are you treating an old man so crudely?"

"Hmph, you're always goofing off. I say, maybe I should pluck your beard off." Su Ling'er also walked up and snorted tenderly.

"You two brats."

Elder Liu helplessly rolled his eyes and directed his line-of-sight towards them, "You've completed the Heaven Rank Mission? So quickly? Why is there a Heavenly Fusion Stage brat, as well?!" his line-of-sight suddenly fell onto Mu Chen and was stunned. Thereafter, he said in a grave voice, "Girl, you actually brought that brat to the Northern Heavens Continent? Nonsense, what if something happened? Could it be that you sisters are fond of him?"

His words were decent, to those in front. But when he saw the person in the back, his words changed and instantly caused Su Xuan and Su Ling'er's faces to flush red.

"Damnable old fart, what nonsense are you speaking?!" Su Ling'er's face was boiling.

"Hehe." Elder Liu chuckled and continued, "What a joke. However, this complacency is against the rules. This brat's reward will be cut by half. Don't stare at me, this is only because we're familiar with each other. Otherwise, he would only dream on getting a single Spiritual Value Point."

Mu Chen was shocked, his Spiritual Value Points will be cut by half?

Their location was the Heaven Rank Mission's counter. Therefore, when Su Xuan and her party came, they attracted quite a bit of attention from their surroundings. The Su sisters possessed quite a bit of fame in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Naturally, it was easy to recognise them.

Elder Liu's voice also attracted a lot of attention. Everyone's gaze was staring weirdly at Mu Chen. That brat only possessed Heavenly Fusion Stage strength, he shouldn't have the qualifications to accept a Heaven Rank Mission, right? Why did Su Xuan bring him along? Could it be that between them, there was some kind of relationship?

"Oi, old fart. Stop speaking such nonsense. The information said that it was a Wealthy Spirit Treasury when we accepted the mission. But when we arrived at the White Dragon Hillock, it was clearly a Sovereign Spirit Treasury. So what if Mu Chen's cultivation is only at the Heavenly Fusion Stage? The City Lord of White Dragon City, Bai Xuan, still die by Mu Chen's hands. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have been able to come back!" when Su Ling'er heard that Elder Liu was about to cut Mu Chen's Spiritual Value Points, she instantly became anxious and furiously barked.

When her words were spoken, there was a moment of silence in the surroundings. Even Elder Liu was slightly stunned. Clearly, he had yet to digest the information from Su Ling'er's words.

"Sovereign Spirit Treasury?"

"You're saying that this brat killed the City Lord of White Dragon City? How is that possible? I've gone to the White Dragon Hillocks for a mission once before. The City Lord of White Dragon City has cultivated to the Heavenly Transformation Stage!"

"It must be fake, right?"

The surrounding people exchanged glances as whispers broke out from them.

"Sovereign Spirit Treasury?" Elder Liu also recovered and carried on with some astonishment, "Isn't that impossible? From the news that we've investigated, it was just an ordinary Wealthy Spirit Treasury."

"Nonsense, the Sovereign Spirit Treasury was clearly left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign who fell in that place a few hundred years ago. The City Lord of White Dragon City was also a chess piece from the Demonic Dragon Palace. Their aim was to obtain the Supreme Treasure left behind by the White Dragon Sovereign." Su Ling'er snorted.

"White Dragon Sovereign?! Demonic Dragon Palace? Are you guys speaking the truth?" when Elder Liu heard those two names, his face changed as he abruptly stood up. His face was filled with bewilderment.

"Hmph, how could it be fake? In the end, that bastard, Mo Longzi, had also arrived. If it wasn't for Senior Brother Shen Cangsheng, who arrived just in time, we wouldn't have been able to return anymore!"

Anger was struggling within Su Ling'er's charming eyes, "We struggled with our lives to get back. In the end, the fault was on your side, since the information wasn't accurate. If it wasn't for Mu Chen, none of us would have been able to return. If you dare to cut his Spiritual Value Points by half, I won't let you off!"

"Mo Longzi?!"

When the surrounding students heard that name, they instantly felt a chill in their bodies. A dense shock rushed from their eyes. Su Xuan and her party actually encountered Mo Longzi?

Elder Liu's face was filled with dread. His face no longer had any laziness as his line-of-sight was directed towards Mu Chen. Thereafter, he asked Su Xuan, "Was what she said the truth?"

"Correct, what Ling'er said was the entire truth. Elder Liu, if you don't believe us, you can question Guo Xiong and Li Qing, as well. Or, perhaps when Shen Cangsheng returns in the future, you can question him, yourself." Su Xuan lightly nodded as she continued, "Bai Xuan was someone from the Demonic Dragon Palace. His strength had reached Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase. Furthermore, it really was Mu Chen who killed him. In this mission, his credit was enormous. Therefore, Elder Liu can't be confused."

Next to her, Li Qing and Guo Xiong heavily nodded their heads.

Their surroundings were in complete silence, even Elder Liu was looking at Mu Chen with disbelief. He actually killed Bai Xuan, who was at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase with just his Heavenly Fusion Stage strength? How is that possible?!

Mu Chen was stared at by those gazes and felt unease. He helplessly spoke up, "Elder Liu, it was only due to some special means that I was able to kill Bai Xuan. It wasn't my genuine strength."

Hearing his words, shock filled the eyes of the surrounding people. They could care less about the means that Mu Chen used. They only knew that this brat, whose cultivation was only at the Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase, actually killed an expert with Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase cultivation.

Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase, even in the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, the number of students that reached that height could be counted on one's fingers, right?

Elder Liu's eyes looked at Mu Chen and only after a brief moment, did he retract his gaze. He extended his hands.

"Pass me all your Spiritual Value Point Cards. The reward will be as usual; however, you guys have to clearly tell me everything you learned on this mission. I have to report this to the Elders Regiment."

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### **Chapter 266: Wheel**

Mu Chen and his party exited the Mission Hall, raised their faces towards the blue horizon, and sighed breaths of relief. Now that they'd turned in their report, their mission was considered complete.

"Thanks for back there." Mu Chen smiled as he held his Spiritual Value Point Card. 1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points. This was his largest harvest since entering the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. And now, he was also another step closer towards the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon.

Su Xuan smiled back. "It's all thanks to you that we managed to complete this mission. It'd be ridiculous for us to let your rewards be halved."

The other three nodded at that. If it hadn't been for Mu Chen, they might not have returned alive — forget about the mission.

"Mu Chen." Li Qing suddenly spoke up. She raised her jade-like hands, called out her Spiritual Value Point Card, and tapped it. A concentrated light flew out from her medal.

She looked at him and quietly explained, "As I said before, you helped me win the Draconic Spiritual Bracelets, so my mission reward is now yours."

Mu Chen helplessly smiled back. Li Qing was a cold and strong woman — once she decided on something, there was no way to change her mind. All he could do was nod and accept the light streaming into his Spiritual Value Point Card. In an instant, his Spiritual Value Points was over 3,000,000.

Guo Xiong smiled too. "Haha. Here's some from me. I took Bai Xuan's High Rank Spiritual Artifact, even though you're the one who killed him. You definitely have to accept these 1,500,000 Spiritual Value Points."

A second light flew out from Guo Xiong's Spiritual Value Point Card.

When Mu Chen killed Bai Xuan, he didn't keep his High Rank Spiritual Artifact - Blood Spear — instead, he gave it Guo Xiong. After all, Mu Chen had already reaped the largest rewards from their mission to the White Dragon Hillocks. Not only did he obtain the White Dragon Spiritual Pearl, there was also the Ominous Artifact currently suppressed in his aura sea.

Mu Chen had clearly benefited the most from this mission.

Mu Chen could only smile bitterly as he watched the light pour from Guo Xiong's card into his own. But he knew nothing about the Great Meru Demonic Pillar inside of him. As of right now, he needed all the Spiritual Value Points he could get — therefore, he could only resign himself and accept their gifts. All he could do was make note of Guo Xiong's favor in his heart.

Su Ling'er spoke up as well. "Mu Chen, do you need more Spiritual Value Points?" Her slender fingers were wrapped around her Spiritual Value Point Card. She intended to help him, as well.

"I need a huge number of Spiritual Value Points — but everyone here also participated in this mission and deserves their rewards. I'll accept Li Qing and Guo Xiong's favors, and I'll return them when I get the chance. As for the rest, please stop giving me more favors to carry." Mu Chen sighed helplessly. Of course, he wanted to collect all the Spiritual Value Points he needed to purchase the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon, but he still found it hard to take his teammates' mission rewards.

Su Ling'er saw the determination in his eyes and quietly murmured, "Alright then. But if you ever need more Spiritual Value Points, you should come find me."

Mu Chen smiled and nodded in acknowledgement. Then, he turned to cup his hands towards the entire group. "Since the mission is over, I'll take my leave first and return to the freshman area."

He hadn't seen Luo Li for nearly half a month and his heart was all tense from the yearning. He wanted to appear before her immediately, break the clam within her pupils, and take her into his arms.

Su Xuan and the others nodded. "Alright then. See you later."

Mu Chen took his cue and turned to fly towards the freshman area. Barely ten minutes later, he slowed down as the familiar scene spread out before his eyes.

At the center of the freshman campus was a clear lake, and next to it was the plaza. Many members of the Goddess Luo Association were quietly seated and cultivating. At the center of the plaza were Zhou Ling and Ye Qingling.

Shhhuuuu.

A gale whipped up and many of the cultivators opened their eyes in alarm to watch a single figure slowly descend into the plaza.

"Boss Mu Chen has returned!"

"Boss Mu Chen is back!"

The freshmen broke the silence and cried out in surprise when they saw him. Everyone stood up with joy in their eyes.

“Mu Chen?”

Zhou Ling and Ye Qingling also opened their eyes in disbelief when they saw Mu Chen standing in the plaza with them. A moment later, those expressions were replaced by joy.

“So, this guy is finally back.” Zhou Ling walked up to him and smiled.

Mu Chen smiled back, then looked around. “Where’s Luo Li?”

The moment he mentioned Luo Li, everyone’s expressions turned stiff. The other members of the Goddess Luo Association also hesitated.

Mu Chen knit his brows at their hesitation. “What’s wrong?”

“Luo Li is recuperating in that small building of yours.” Zhou Ling mumbled as if he was hiding something.

“Recuperating?” Mu Chen’s face instantly froze over as he looked at Zhou Ling. His voice was ice-cold when he spoke. “Just exactly what happened?”

Ye Qingling bitterly smiled. “Quite a few things have happened in the half month you were gone. Yang Hong disbanded his Wyvern Union and took some of his men to join the Demon’s Gate.”

“Demon’s Gate?”

“The Demon’s Gate is a force created by the Rank 4 of the Heavenly Ranking, He Yao. It’s well-known in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and it’s especially powerful. They’re second only to Li Xuantong’s Xuan Clan and Shen Cangsheng’s Judgement Squad.” Zhou Ling immediately explained.

“He Yao?” A cold light flashed through Mu Chen’s eyes as he continued, “What does he have to do with Luo Li’s injury?”

“Right after Yang Hong joined the Demon’s Gate, he started targeting members of our Goddess Luo Clan. He used to be afraid of you, but now that he’s joined the Demon’s Gate, he’s grown bolder. Plus the fact that you were gone from the Academy — he basically had nothing to fear. He started leading squads to stir up trouble and provoke us.”

Zhou Ling grounded his teeth as wrath filled his eyes. “We couldn’t bear it and fought with him. But he’s an extremely formidable enemy and his current cultivation has already reached the Heavenly Fusion Stage Late Phase. Even I couldn’t beat him.”

A look of embarrassment crept over his face as he admitted it.

“Zhou Ling wasn’t the only one who was injured. Any messengers we sent to him also returned with injuries.” Ye Qingling growled. “At first, we didn’t tell Luo Li about it, because we didn’t want to disturb her cultivation. But Yang Hong only grew more aggressive — he sent us a message demanding that we disband the Goddess Luo Association.”

Mu Chen’s eyes turned stone-cold. Since when was Yang Hong so unreasonable?

“The issue grew bigger and bigger until it reached Luo Li’s ears.” Ye Qingling bitterly smiled. “Of course, she took action.”



“This matter grew bigger and bigger and entered into Luo Li’s ears.” Ye Qingling bitterly smiled, “Thereafter, she took action. She fought against three members from the Heavenly Ranking’s top 20.”

“She defeated more than ten despicable experts from the Demon’s Gate. When those guys saw that they were losing the fight, they changed their tactics. Luo Li ended up fighting over fifty experts all alone. But in the end, those three top rankers still lost to her.”

“But Luo Li also suffered from that battle, and that’s why she’s recuperating. The Demon’s Gate hasn’t dared to provoke us since, for fear of Luo Li’s strength. That Yang Hong has also vanished without a trace.” Ye Qingling ground her teeth. Her hatred for Yang Hong was blazing.

Mu Chen narrowed his eyes as a chill flickered in his black pupils.

“Mu Chen, I’m so sorry. It’s our fault. We were so weak that we needed her to help us in such a simple matter.” Zhou Ling flushed red and the other members of the Goddess Luo Association lowered their heads in shame. True, Luo Li had challenged the experts of the Demon’s Gate and beat them with no small amount of fame, but that fame felt like a knife to their pride.

Mu Chen lowered his eyes. “There must be someone else behind Yang Hong. That’s why a coward like him would dare provoke us.”

“Someone else?” Ye Qingling’s expression changed. “Are you talking about the Demon’s Gate’s boss, He Yao?”

He Yao was the only one who could order around the experts of the Demon’s Gate. Otherwise, why would anyone listen to a nobody like Yang Hong?

Mu Chen’s expression turned even colder as he stared at the ground. He Yao was probably pulling the strings. But why would he target the Goddess Luo Association?

Mu Chen balled his hands into fists. Right before he’d left on his mission, He Yao had asked him to hand over the seat that Su Xuan had given him. But Mu Chen had rejected him. At first, Mu Chen had thought nothing of it. But now, it was a very likely motive for He Yao’s grudge against him. What a petty-minded person.

He Yao had probably done this to try and teach him a lesson. But he’d miscalculated — he hadn’t expected there to be another formidable figure like Luo Li still guarding the Goddess Luo Association.

“He Yao.” Mu Chen’s cold eyes shifted.

Zhou Ling ground his teeth again. “Mu Chen, what do you plan to do? If you’re going to stir up trouble with the Demon’s Gate, then take us with you. It doesn’t matter how injured we are. We’ll have them know that the Goddess Luo Association isn’t a bunch of cowards!”

Mu Chen shook his head and smiled. “Don’t worry. Let me handle this.”

This wasn’t Zhou Ling’s fault. Mu Chen just simply never expected He Yao to be so petty. No wonder Su Xuan despised him so much.

“Then, what are you going to do?” Zhou Ling asked.

Mu Chen lightly smiled as he approached his small building. A quietness fell over the plaza.

“Send a message to the Demon’s Gate. Tell them that Mu Chen would like to visit five days from now, to express his ‘thanks’.”

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### **Chapter 267: Preparation**

Creak...

The door to the small building was tightly shut. Mu Chen gently eased it open and peeked inside at the spotless interior. Then, he stepped through the entrance and slowly opened the door to Luo Li’s room.

A faint fragrance wafted through the doorway — the kind that could captivate anyone who caught its scent. Mu Chen turned his eyes towards the window, where a young woman lazily reclined. She wore only a thin wrap that showed her pale, glossy legs.

Her slender jade-like arms were wrapped around those legs, and her exquisite porcelain-like face was resting against one knee. Her long hair, usually tied up, was currently draped loosely over her shoulders, like a bright splash of the Milky Way.

She was asleep. So relaxed and peaceful.

Mu Chen looked at her with deep affection in his eyes. He slowly stepped closer.

She sensed his presence the moment he entered her space. The tightly-shut eyes snapped open and her clear pupils flushed with alarm.

But that tension and alarm quickly dissipated when she laid eyes on the handsome youth at her side. A smile crept over her face as she exhaled a weak question that was filled with immeasurable joy. “You’ve returned?”

Mu Chen studied her exquisite face — she was definitely looking a little pale. It didn’t look like it was anything serious, but his heart still ached for her, and his anger towards He Yao boiled hotter.

“I heard that you were injured?” Mu Chen asked as he moved a hand to cup Luo Li’s tender cheek.

Luo Li shrank from his cold touch and shook her head with a smile. “No, I wasn’t.”

“Are you lying to me?” Mu Chen raised an eyebrow as he wrapped one arm around her slender waist, and the other below her knees, and pulled her into his embrace.

“Ah!”

Luo Li softly cried as she wrapped her jade-like arms around Mu Chen’s neck. She stared at him in embarrassment and pouted her small lips, “You just got back, and already started bullying me?”

Mu Chen’s heart pounded as he stared at the young woman pouting her small lips. It was a rare sight for the calm and distant Luo Li to show such a feminine side.

Luo Li noticed that Mu Chen was staring at her rosy lips and flushed a light pink. She twisted around his arms with a displeased expression. “What are you trying to do?”

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder. What do you think I’m trying to do?” Mu Chen teased. Before Luo Li could react, he bent down and kissed, gently tasting the sweet and fragrant delicacy.

Luo Li stiffened at the sneak attack, but then surrendered to it. She loosened her hold around Mu Chen’s neck and allowed him to do as he wished.

Mu Chen enjoyed the warmth for a good moment, before putting her down. He couldn’t help grinning as he looked at Luo Li, who was now gasping for breath and flushed deep red. “What a delicious taste. I must inform you that this taste now belongs to me. As for how long... an eternity!”

“You rogue! Dream on!” Luo Li’s face became a deep red from his embarrassing words.

“Do you want me to bully you even harder?” Mu Chen grinned as he hugged her a little tighter.

Luo Li glared at him and turned away, fuming.

Mu Chen gently smiled as he laid Luo Li back on the soft bed. However, her arm was still around him, refusing to let go. Finally, he looked into her eyes and furrowed his brows. “How are your injuries?”

Luo Li lightly shook her head, “It’s nothing much. I just exhausted myself. They had the advantage of numbers, but if I’d been fighting seriously, then they wouldn’t have gained an advantage.”

“The experts of the Demon’s Gate might be strong, but they’re nothing we can’t handle. The only problem is their Boss, He Yao. While you were gone, I always had to make sure I saved enough strength to guard myself against him.”

Not even Mu Chen had an accurate gauge of Luo Li’s strength. But since she could challenge more than ten experts of the Demon’s Gate all alone, then she should’ve at least reached the Heavenly Transformation Stage. However, He Yao still hadn’t made a move, so Luo Li had to keep her guard against him. That’s why she’d held back and gotten injured by the other experts.

“He Yao...” Mu Chen’s black pupils flared with a chill. However, he quickly smiled again. “If that guy isn’t going to act like a decent human being, then I don’t have to treat him like one.”

“What are you going to do?” A look of concern flashed across Luo Li’s face. The Demon’s Gate and He Yao weren’t that easy to deal with.

Mu Chen snorted. “They dared to hurt my woman. What kind of man would I be, if I simply took that?”

Luo Li flushed red again and rolled her eyes at him. However, a soft arc rose at the corner of her mouth.

“Then, I’ll go with you.” Luo Li said flatly. He Yao wasn’t weak. If Mu Chen went alone, it’d be hard for him to win.

Mu Chen shook his head. A chill flickered in his black pupils.

“No. Let me handle this.”

At that, Luo Li knew that Mu Chen had already drawn his plans. There was nothing else she could do, so she unhappily rested her head against Mu Chen’s chest and curled up in his arms like a kitten. Her long eyelashes blinked once, then closed as she absorbed his warmth and slowly fell asleep.

Mu Chen gently smiled at her — she was sound asleep. But when he raised his head again, a chill clouded over his charming face.

“He Yao... I originally intended to let you be. But, since you brought the fight to me, then don’t blame me for getting impolite.”

...

A deep night had settled over the compound. Mu Chen quietly stepped out from Luo Li’s room and made his way to the roof. He twitched his fingers and the the Spiritual Value Point Card appeared. A faint light illuminated the set of glittering icons on its surface.

Mu Chen’s eyes glazed over as he swept his eyes over the inventory, searching for the items he needed.

He was furious. If he did nothing, then this would happen again. Since He Yao thought he had nothing to fear from him, then he’d teach him a good lesson.

Even a Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase expert like Bai Xuan had died by Mu Chen’s hands. He had nothing to fear from a single He Yao.

His eyes finally pinpointed the items he needed. Then, he stowed away the card, turned into a streak of light, and flew towards the Spiritual Value Hall.

...

The next day, Mu Chen left the house after saying goodbye to Luo Li. Zhou Ling and the others had already done as instructed, and passed Mu Chen’s message to the Demon’s Gate.

The message caused some disturbance within the ranks of the Demon’s Gate, but the majority of those experts were only laughing at it. True, Mu Chen had left a deep impression at the Spirit Battle Stage, but no one thought he could compare to the top 10 of the Heavenly Ranking. Not to mention that the Demon’s Gate had He Yao, Rank 4 of the Heavenly Ranking. What could a single Mu Chen possibly do to them?

They simply laughed it off. In fact, some of them even hoped that Mu Chen would actually pay them a visit. Did the boy really think that by receiving three moves from Li Xuantong, he would qualify to challenge their boss, He Yao?

The members of the Demon’s Gate acted like they were watching a show. Everyone had heard the news. After all, both Mu Chen and the Demon’s Gate were well-known within the Academy.

Everyone remembered the freshman who’d managed to take three moves from Li Xuantong. But if Mu Chen really went through with it this time, He Yao wasn’t going to let him off with only three moves. How would Mu Chen handle it then?

In just two or three days, everyone heard Mu Chen’s announcement. But the strange thing was that Mu Chen, the protagonist of the event, had suddenly vanished without a trace. Some suspected that Mu Chen had hidden himself out of fear.

In the Goddess Luo Association, not even Zhou Ling could find a trace of Mu Chen. But they never had any doubts about him. As someone who dared to challenge even Li Xuanton, he definitely wouldn't do something like run away.

There must be a reason why Mu Chen had vanished without a trace.

And time rapidly passed under all the boiling suspicions...

...

The headquarters of the Demon's Gate was located at the north end of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. It was a place filled with pavilions. Everyone there was a member of the Demon's Gate. You could say it was the Demon's Gate's territory within the Academy grounds.

Right now, there was quite a crowd gathered in the main hall of the largest and central pavilion.

At the head of the hall sat He Yao, casually sipping from a teacup. On his right, stood Yang Hong and a number of the Demon's Gate core members.

"Boss, tomorrow is the fifth day. What kind of game is Mu Chen trying to play? He still hasn't shown himself." A lean man asked in a low voice. His name was Chen Hou, ranked 18 in the Heavenly Ranking, and a Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase. Just a few days earlier, he'd lost to Luo Li.

The others nodded. As the deadline drew closer, their curiosity grew stronger. Could Mu Chen have really run away?

He Yao faintly smiled and looked down into his tea. A white mist was curling up from its surface — the entire cup had frozen over as ice. He tightened his grip and the cup, frozen tea and all, shattered into pieces.

"What is there to guess about? We'll find out tomorrow. A freshman who managed to take three moves from Li Xuanton... haha, I'd really like to see what he'll do..."

Mockery filled his eyes.

"If he dares to show himself, then I'll make him understand that in this Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there isn't a single person single person who can mouth-off at my Demon's Gate."

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 268: The Visit**

Demon's Gate Headquarters.

The place was clearly livelier than usual. The courts outside the ring of pavilions was jam-packed — there were people on the ground, in the sky, and even standing on rooftops. Even more were on their way.

In five days, the news about Mu Chen and the Demon's Gate had spread far and wide. Mu Chen had already gained a reputation for his pact of three moves with Li Xuanton. That event had astonished everyone and engraved his name into the minds of many upperclassmen.

But even still, everyone believed that he was a long ways away from someone like He Yao, who was a genuinely powerful figure.

The pact of three moves had displayed Mu Chen's potential and talent; however, it didn't represent his true strength. Without that restriction, there was no way Mu Chen could've competed against a powerful expert like Li Xuanton.

Even though He Yao was only ranked number 4, there was no doubt that he was strong. Many even felt that He Yao was strong enough to take Rank 3, but was just being patient.

But, either way, Rank 4 was enough to show how powerful He Yao was. And now, Mu Chen wanted to pay a visit to the Demon's Gate to repay a blood debt. It wouldn't be an easy task.

Hundreds and thousands of Demon's Gate's members were already gathered in the spacious plaza in front of the Demon's Gate headquarters. Most of them were laughing and joking with each other, without the slightest care — in fact, many of them had mocking sneers plastered on their faces. They wanted to see how this loudmouthed freshman would come and stir up trouble on their doorstep.

He Yao sat, expressionless, in a tall chair at the very front of the headquarters. His face was stone-cold, except for the brightness of his pupils.

Behind him stood the core members of the Demon's Gate, and Yang Hong, who was towards the side. That guy was no longer arrogant or overbearing. True, his talent wasn't bad, but he was still only a freshman. There was no way he could compare to He Yao, and he knew that — so he made the wise decision of joining He Yao.

By borrowing the Demon's Gate's fame, he could break free from Mu Chen's shadow. As long as he worked hard to cultivate, he'd definitely surpass Mu Chen once again!

Flames lit up in Yang Hong's eyes. He will endure it, for now; but one fine day, he'd stand at the top of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Whether its Mu Chen or He Yao, he'd stand above them all!

The sky above the plaza was filled with countless students who'd come to observe. When they saw Demon's Gate's formation, they inwardly tsked. It looked like all of the Demon's Gate core experts were present. They were waiting for Mu Chen to arrive.

"Is the Demon's Gate using their formation to try and scare Mu Chen from coming?"

"Tsk, tsk. At the front of that group is He Yao, Rank 4 of the Heavenly Ranking. Chen Hou and the other two are ranked in the top 20s, and there are quite a few others in the top 50s. The Demon's Gate's strength is formidable indeed."

"Looks like Mu Chen kicked an iron panel this time."

"That guy really likes to stir up trouble. I heard he also got into a fight with Xu Huang. And now, it's with He Yao."

"But this time, that lucky guy is doomed."

Based on their whispers, they'd already decided on today's outcome.

A particular group of people stood on the roof of a building, looking towards the plaza. The one leading them was Xu Huang, and next to him was Xu Qingqing. He sneered, "That Mu Chen still causes trouble everywhere he goes. The moment things get peaceful, he goes and knocks on the Demon's Gate's door. Does he really think He Yao is that easy to deal with?"

"Big brother, do you think he's actually going to turn up?" Xu Qingqing asked him.

Xu Huang knitted his brows and looked around, but couldn't pinpoint Mu Chen's figure. However, his expression remained the same. "Mu Chen will definitely appear. Don't underestimate him. If you give him another year, there will definitely be a spot for him in the top 5 of the Heavenly Ranking."

Xu Qingqing snorted, unconvinced. That brat wanted to enter the top 5 of the Heavenly Ranking? How was that be possible? His pact of three moves with Li Xuanton wasn't even a genuine fight.

"He'll definitely appear. But as to whether he can actually deal with this situation... that's an entirely different question." Xu Huang scanned the surroundings again. He really didn't understand what Mu Chen could possibly do in this kind of situation, with his current ability.

A few rooftops away were Su Xuan, Su Ling'er, Li Qing, and Guo Xiong, who'd clearly rushed over after hearing the news.

"Big Sister, why hasn't Mu Chen appeared yet?" Su Ling'er anxiously asked as she kept looking around. "Really! That guy just got back to the Academy and he's already at it again. But this time, there's not going to be a pact of three moves.

"I heard that He Yao was the one who caused this. After Mu Chen left, he sent his soldiers to stir up trouble with the Goddess Luo Association. Luo Li defeated them all, though I heard she also suffered some injuries," Guo Xiong explained.

"Mu Chen and He Yao haven't really crossed paths before. It seems He Yao's hatred is because the spot for that mission went to Mu Chen." Li Qing offered with furrowed brows. Her tone implied her impression of He Yao.

Su Xuan nodded. She'd known for a long time that He Yao was a narrow-minded sort of person. But she never expected him to hate Mu Chen for something that small.

"Big Sister, you must help Mu Chen if anything happens." Su Ling'er pleaded.

Su Xuan lightly nodded. "I'm also responsible for this, so, of course, I won't sit by and watch as He Yao bullies him. However, we can't underestimate Mu Chen, either. He's not someone who speaks rashly. Since Mu Chen announced it, then he must have some confidence in dealing with this matter."

"He's the sort of guy who doesn't even fear someone like Mo Longzi. If He Yao wants to pressure him, that's ridiculous."

Li Qing and Guo Xiong also thought the same way. After that period of getting along with Mu Chen, they'd come to understand just how many unexpected tricks that youth had up his sleeves.

They still didn't know how today's events would turn out.

"The Goddess Luo Association is here!"

A disturbance started in the skies, and everyone's eyes turned towards the plaza's main road.

Several hundred figures were quickly rushing down the road. Most of them were freshmen. Their formation was a bit weaker than the one they were confronting, but each of them had their jaws set.

Leading them was a young woman in black with exceptionally exquisite features. Her clear and diamond-like pupils were deep and calm, and her long hair was bright like the Milky Way as it draped down her slender waist.

Everyone looked at the woman in black with alarm in their eyes.

Even Su Xuan couldn't help praising her temperament. "She's Luo Li? Not a bad woman. No wonder even Mu Chen fell for her."

Su Ling'er was pouting again, but even she couldn't deny that Luo Li was exceptional. Not only in appearance, but but also in the way she carried herself.

The members of the Goddess Luo Association followed Luo Li's leadership and marched into the vast plaza.

The moment Chen Hou and his allies saw Luo Li, they quickly averted their eyes. Their previous fight had been enough to publicly shame them once — and the worst part of it was that they still hadn't gained an advantage.

Their fight had made them understand that among the freshman, Mu Chen probably wasn't the most formidable one — it was this beautiful girl who'd kept herself hidden.

He Yao stared at Luo Li and something stirred in his eyes as he took in her composure and features. In the past, he'd believed that Su Xuan was the loveliest woman in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. But this girl standing before him was even lovelier than her.

That bastard had such great luck with women.

He Yao narrowed his eyes as he swept his eyes over the new arrivals. "What about Mu Chen? Didn't he send a message that he'd pay our Demon's Gate a visit? Why is he hiding in his turtle shell when the time has come?"

Luo Li replied with a calm and clear voice. "He said he'd come, so he'll come. All you need to do is just wait."

He Yao angrily laughed at Luo Li's calm reply. "Wait? What arrogance. Just who does he think he is? Is he worth our Demon's Gate's time to wait?" Had that guy even thought about what He Yao's reputation was, and what his reputation was?[1. He Yao's reputation and Mu Chen's reputation]

Luo Li's long eyelashes slightly fluttered down as she replied, "If you're that impatient, then I can entertain you awhile. But be careful not to lose your standing as the Rank 4 of the Heavenly Ranking."

Huaaaaa!



Shocked exclamations instantly burst out in the plaza and expressions filled with disbelief were aimed at the young woman in black. The crowd clearly hadn't expected such a beautiful girl to say such threatening words.

Su Xuan smiled. "It's a little similar to the way Mu Chen speaks."

He Yao's face drained of colour as he slowly stood up. "What big words. If you want to seize my standing, then we'll have to see if you're qualified!"

When he finish speaking, a frightening Spiritual Energy pressure exploded from his body, like a tsunami. He was clearly enraged by Luo Li's words.

Ye Qingling, who stood behind Luo Li, paled when she saw that.

There wasn't a single ripple in Luo Li's eyes as she stepped forward and prepared to take action.

"Let me handle today's matter."

Just as Luo Li was about to act, a clear and bright laughter rang throughout the plaza, causing a huge commotion. Everyone quickly searched for the source.

The voice came from one towering construct at the edge of the plaza — a young man had been sitting there for who knows how long. His eyes were ice-cold as they became fixed on He Yao and his followers.

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 269: Ten Spiritual Arrays**

"It's Mu Chen!"

As everyone's gaze gathered towards the youth that was on the top of the building, they instantly yelled in surprise.

Among the Goddess Luo Association's members, Ye Qingling and the rest had joy filling their eyes as they saw that figure. Mu Chen had finally showed up.

"It's true that he appeared. Hmph, I'll see how will he deal with the situation before him. Otherwise, the fame that he got from the Pact of Three Moves with great difficulty will be entirely lost." Xu Qingqing coldly snorted.

Xu Huang's gaze was also directed at Mu Chen. At this time, there still weren't any ripples in the eyes of the latter. However, in his eyes, while there was some faint fatigue, there still wasn't any panic.

"What is that fella...trying to do?" Xu Huang frowned his brows as he mumbled.

In the plaza, He Yao's eyes turned cold as he stared at Mu Chen's figure and faintly mocked, "You finally showed yourself?"

"Not to reciprocate against etiquette. Back then, the Demon's Gate paid a visit to the Goddess Luo Association. And today, I will return the favor." Mu Chen looked at He Yao as he smiled.

"Oh?" He Yao sneered, "Then, what are you trying to do?"

“That’s simple, get all those people that stirred trouble at the Goddess Luo Association to apologise. Thereafter, I’ll need Senior Brother He Yao to expel Yang Hong from the Demon’s Gate. That guy is always calculating and if he remains in the Demon’s Gate, it’d be unfortunate for you.” Mu Chen faintly smiled.

When Mu Chen spoke, it instantly caused a huge commotion.

“Dream on!”

Behind He Yao, Chen Hou and the rest all had ashen faces as they barked. On one side, Yang Hong’s face was also dark. He found such a great backer like the Demon’s Gate. If he’s expelled, then he would thoroughly lose his face. This request of Mu Chen’s was rather too much.

He Yao’s gaze turned ice-cold. He stared at Mu Chen as a smear of disdain rose to the corner of his mouth, “What are you? You dare to make comments of my Demon’s Gate? You’re just a bunch of freshmen. When Chen Hou and the rest made a trip to the Goddess Luo Association back then, it was just to teach their juniors some of the rules in the academy. Not only are you guys not grateful, you guys still dare to oust them out. Regarding this problem, I’ve not pursued this matter, and yet, you guys still dare to come find us instead?”

As he spoke, everyone’s face in the Goddess Luo Association turned ugly. Clearly, they never thought that He Yao would be so shameless.

Mu Chen’s gaze dropped as he smiled, “Then, what are you? You also dared to comment about my Goddess Luo Association? To teach others the rules, are you qualified to do so?”

The surroundings became silent and many people smacked their lips. This Mu Chen truly wasn’t simple. Even when facing He Yao, his words didn’t give him the slightest face.

He Yao’s face turned darker, little by little. The Spiritual Energy around him rippled even more violently. Shortly after, he coldly smiled and sat back down on his chair. “What courage. Since that’s the case, then let me inform you that your request is denied. Furthermore, the one that’s apologising isn’t my Demon’s Gate but your Goddess Luo Association.”

His gaze was dark as he stared at Mu Chen, “If you’re not going to apologise, then I’ll let you guys leave here and return, lying down!”

When he finished his speech, he leaned against his chair and coldly smiled. He wanted to see what Mu Chen will do since he said such foolish words in his Demon’s Gate’s headquarters.

In the Goddess Luo Association, only Mu Chen, as well as that girl named Luo Li, was powerful enough. But just relying on their two strengths to intimidate the Demon’s Gate with him in command was too much of a fantasy.

When He Yao finished his speech, the surrounding gazes were, once again, directed at Mu Chen. He Yao had already said that he would not accept any requests. Whatever happened next would have to depend on the means that Mu Chen possessed...

Every gaze was directed at Mu Chen. At this moment, the latter was looking at He Yao with an indifference gaze. Shortly after, he lightly smiled. Except in this smile, there was a small hint of dangerous in it.

“Since that’s the case...”

He quietly muttered as he spread his hands out and slowly shut both of his eyes.

The surrounding gazes were staring at Mu Chen with bits of curiosity because they’re clearly unsure of what he was doing.

He Yao’s indifferent and cold gaze made the members of the Demon’s Gate switch to an alert state. Afterall, Mu Chen’s current action was a little too weird. Could it be that he got some powerful means up his sleeves?

The atmosphere felt as though it was frozen at this moment.

Silence paced back and forth in this region. What caused everyone to be astonished was that despite them waiting, there were no movements from Mu Chen...

Everyone exchanged a glance as they pondered over what Mu Chen was trying to do.

“What is he doing?” Su Ling’er was also a little lost as she blankly asked Su Xuan.

Su Xuan’s brows slightly frowned as she stared at Mu Chen. Vaguely, she seemed to have sensed some peculiar ripples. Furthermore, these ripples don’t seem to be limited to only Mu Chen’s surroundings.

She swept her gaze around and realised that these ripples seemed to be surrounding the entire headquarters of the Demon’s Gate.

\*Boom!\*

With the atmosphere frozen, suddenly a fine vibrating sound was heard. When everyone directed their gazes over, they saw cracks appear on a pavilion that wasn’t far away from Mu Chen.

Huge stones were collapsing from the pavilion and, shortly after, light was spreading out from the pavilion. The light was like a Spiritual Energy light ray as it slowly extended itself up from the pavilion.

\*Boom!\*

As the pavilion collapsed, another pavilion in another direction also collapsed.

\*Boom!\*

\*Boom!\*

Collapsing sounds were constantly heard as everyone’s line-of-sight shifted all around in bewilderment. Thereafter, they saw ten towering pavilions collapse in this region in just a few minutes.

The ten peculiar dazzling lights were like several scorching suns as they rose and surrounded the headquarters of the Demon’s Gate within them.

“What’s that?!” Everyone directed their lines-of-sight towards the ten huge lumps of light that were rising in amazement, as well as doubts.

Chhhiiii! Chhii!

While everyone was busy being amazed, the ten lumps of light continued to slowly rise up. Vaguely, they sensed violent Spiritual Energy ripples coming from them.

“That’s...” Su Xuan, Xu Huang, as well as those pinnacle students were watching as the lumps of light expanded. The Spiritual Energy’s trajectory made their pupils shrink back, “Spiritual Arrays?!”

“Those are all Spiritual Arrays.” Su Xuan said as she slowly sucked in a mouthful of cold air.

“Spiritual Arrays?” Su Ling’er and the rest were shocked as they cried out, “All of those are Spiritual Arrays? How is that possible? How can Mu Chen lay out so many Spiritual Arrays at once? Just how many Spiritual Seals are needed in order to control them?”

From the looks of those Spiritual Arrays, they’re all probably Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays. But in order to lay out ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays at once, it’d require a Rank 5 Spiritual Array Master, at the very least, right? But clearly, it was impossible for Mu Chen to achieve the height of a Rank 5 Spiritual Array Master, which is comparable to a Heavenly Completion Stage expert. If he managed to reach that height, wouldn’t he have long become the number one figure in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?

“No... these Spiritual Arrays seemed to be at the fledging stage of being engraved...”

Su Xuan’s brows frowned again as she looked at Mu Chen, whose eyes were still tightly shut. These Spiritual Arrays seemed to have been directly engraved onto these pavilions. So, the reason why Mu Chen went missing was to hide here and engrave the Spiritual Arrays. If that’s the case, all he’d be required to do was form the Spiritual Seals required to activate these Spiritual Arrays and control them. This way, he’d be able to completely activate these Spiritual Arrays.

But if ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays were activated at the same time, the might of them would be extremely terrifying.

However... can Mu Chen really control ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays?

“That fellow... truly does have some means up his sleeves.”

On another construct, Xu Huang was looking at the ten lumps of light that were rising in the headquarters of the Demon’s Gate. His expression turned grave, “So the reason why he went missing these last few days wasn’t to hide, but to conceal himself in the headquarters of the Demon’s Gate and engrave the Spiritual Arrays... So, from the beginning, he already had this all planned out.”

“What’s the use of just engraving Spiritual Arrays. With his strength, isn’t he just dreaming if he wants to engrave the amount of Spiritual Seals needed for ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays?” Xu Qingqing was also shocked by the scene before her, but she was still reluctant to admit how good Mu Chen was.

Xu Huang nodded as his gaze closely stared at Mu Chen, whose eyes were tightly shut. Could the latter really achieve that step?

These changes had clearly caused an uproar in the region. In the plaza, those of the Demon's Gate had their expressions change as a smear of uneasiness flashed across their eyes.

The surrounding floating ten lumps of light gave them a huge amount of pressure.

A Rank 3 Spiritual Array could threaten a Heavenly Fusion Stage. But if all ten of the Spiritual Arrays were activated at the same time, even the Heavenly Fusion Stage experts would have to run as far as they could.

At their front, He Yao's eyes were still deadly fixed on those huge lumps of light and his eyes were dark. That fellow actually laid down these things right under their noses and, in spite of everything, they didn't realise it at all...

"However, I refuse to believe that with his strength at the Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase, he could control so many Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays!" His eyes were ice-cold as he coldly smiled.

Onom! Onom!

Under the countless gazes, Mu Chen's surroundings fluctuated with powerful Spiritual Energy ripples. However, the current Mu Chen still had his eyes tightly shut. He shut out all the disturbances from the outside world and was focused in the Heart Array State's perfect control down to the finest detail.

The current him already had a deep comprehension towards the Heart Array State. Even if his eyes were tightly shut, the outside world seemed to have been engraved inside his heart. Shortly after, images of formless wind and ripples of Heaven and Earth's Spiritual Auras appeared in his heart.

However, by just depending on the Heart Array State, it was still impossible for him to form so many Spiritual Seals to activate all those Spiritual Arrays...

His Spiritual Energy was clearly insufficient to control them all.

However...

The corner of Mu Chen's lips slightly rose as the palm that was in his sleeve rose. A light flashed and a round white pearl that was flickering with white light appeared. It was as though a white dragon was spiraling within the pearl.

This item was the White Dragon Spiritual Pearl they he got from the White Dragon Sovereign.

Within the White Dragon Spiritual Pearl, there was a vast amount of Spiritual Energy. Borrowing the power within it, Mu Chen could form all of the Spiritual Seals that he required!

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 270: Spiritual Lotus Surrounds Demons Gate**

When the White Dragon Spiritual Pearl appeared in Mu Chen's hand, his palm suddenly clenched. As a faint white light was released, the deep roars of dragon seemed to have come along with it.

Boom!

The White Dragon Spiritual Pearl in his palm trembled as it resonated. The boundless Spiritual Energy was like a tidal wave as it flowed from Mu Chen's palm into his body.

The Spiritual Energy was pure and powerful, and the roars of dragon seemed to be following it. It was vast and mighty as it filled Mu Chen's body to the point that he found it a little painful. The power of the White Dragon Spiritual Pearl was way too majestic.

Mu Chen deeply inhaled a mouthful of air and didn't dare to lose the slightest bit of concentration. His state of mind was submerged in the Heart Array State. As he borrowed the control ability granted by the state, the Spiritual Seals were being formed by both of his hands.

As his hand signs changed, everyone could see that a dazzling light was constantly fluctuating from within Mu Chen's body. Under the ripples of the light halo, the Spiritual Seals were being formed at an frightening speed, one after another, from Mu Chen's hands.

"He's beginning to form Spiritual Seals!"

Someone exclaimed as their line-of-sight focused onto Mu Chen's body.

Su Xuan, Su Ling'er and their group were also nervously directing their gazes at him. Forming Spiritual Seals wasn't difficult. However, forming Spiritual Seals that could control ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays was the problem.

Under everyone's gaze, the light around Mu Chen became denser as the amount of Spiritual Seals formed by him continued to drastically increase. In just a few short minutes, the amount of Spiritual Seals around Mu Chen had already amounted to over a hundred and was still increasing.

The shocking amount of Spiritual Seals made quite a few people's eyelids twitch. Trying to form over a hundred Spiritual Seals would require someone to at least be a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master.

Members of the Demon's Gate in the plaza became uneasy as smears of restlessness flashed across their eyes. Right now, they finally sensed danger.

He Yao's eyes were still dark, but the hand that he had on the armrest slowly started to tighten. Small amounts of cracks were spreading along the armrest. His instincts told him that it's best to obstruct Mu Chen right then. But the current situation forced him to be seated there, since he already gave the initiative over to Mu Chen earlier. If he disturbed Mu Chen, then it would show everyone there that, right now, there was fear in his heart. If that's the case, then that was clearly something that He Yao could not tolerate.

"I'll see to what extent can you reach!" His eyes were ice-cold as he locked onto Mu Chen's figure. There wasn't any expressions on his face, which made everyone else unable to speak a word.

On one the side, Yang Hong was also uneasily staring at Mu Chen with fear, jealousy and hatred flashing across his eyes. He could sense He Yao's changes and, clearly, even the latter felt unease.

He tightly clenched his fist as he ground his teeth. He refused to believe that Mu Chen could be so powerful to such an extent!

Onom! Onom!

Under all of the uneasy gazes in the plaza, Mu Chen's body looked as though he had concealed himself under a dazzling light. The hundred plus Spiritual Seals, at this moment, had also seemed to have

increased in quantity. Except, because of the dazzling light covering him, they're unable to clearly see how many Spiritual Seals were formed by Mu Chen.

At this moment, everyone raised their heads with hope.

The powerful light gradually started to weaken after a long time and as the light gradually weakened, Mu Chen's figure had, once again, appeared before everyone's line-of-sight.

Everyone's gaze was switched over in that instant as the irregular sound of someone breathing resounded.

The Spiritual Seals were densely packed around Mu Chen. That amount seemed to have surpassed five hundred and under that frightening amount, the people felt dizziness from the astonishment that they'd received.

"How is that possible?"

Someone cried out with overwhelming shock. They couldn't imagine that someone at the Heavenly Fusion Stage Middle Phase could form so many Spiritual Seals. Furthermore, even if he could form so many Spiritual Seals, can he really control them?

The arrangement of the Spiritual Arrays was extremely harsh and the slightest disorder would cause the Spiritual Arrays to collapse.

On a roof, Xu Qingqing was dumbfounded as she watched the scene before her. Not a single ridicule came out of her mouth. No matter how stupid she was, she could understand how frightening five hundred Spiritual Seals represented.

"Five hundred Spiritual Seals."

Before her, Xu Huang also deeply exhaled a breath. His usual calmness was replaced with disbelief as he muttered, "How could he control so many...?"

"Mu Chen is formidable." Su Ling'er's eyes widened as she exclaimed in admiration.

Beside her, Li Qing and Guo Xiong exchanged a look and they noticed the shock from the other's eyes. Since their mission from before, they already knew that Mu Chen wasn't normal. Although this handsome youth appeared calm and undisturbed, he seemed to have possessed an endless amount of cards under his sleeves. Even though his age wasn't that old, he would give other people a feeling of deep and unmeasurable potential.

Originally, everyone thought that Mu Chen would fight straightforwardly with He Yao. But no one expected him to secretly arrange so many Spiritual Arrays in the Demon Gate headquarters. Furthermore, what's more frightening was that he could actually activate all those Spiritual Arrays at once.

"You guys have forgotten the fact that he is a Spiritual Array Master. Perhaps, he had already reached the heights of a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master."

Su Xuan also said softly, "If I've not guessed incorrectly, Mu Chen should have comprehended the Heart Array State and it's probably not in the Initial Phase."

Mu Chen truly was a Spiritual Array Master. However, the reason why he could control such a frightening amount of Spiritual Seals was only due to the fact that he had comprehended the Heart Array State. Furthermore, his attainments on it wasn't low.

With his ability as a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master, the powerful Heart Array State that he possessed, and adding the fact that he already made preparations long ago, it wasn't impossible for him to control ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays after borrowing some external force.

Shhhuuuuu! Shuuuuu!

While everyone was shocked at the frightening amount of Spiritual Seals, Mu Chen's slender fingers lightly tapped them as they dragged a huge wind along with them. All of the Spiritual Seals flew out as they whistled; thereafter, they separated. Under everyone's fearful gazes, the Spiritual Seals shot into the ten huge lumps of light that surrounded the Demon's Gate.

As the Spiritual Seals entered them, everyone saw that the ten lumps of light were expanding at astonishing speeds. Complicated strings of Spiritual Energy intersected with one another and, thereafter, they gradually formed into ten huge massive Spiritual Arrays.

"Great Flame Demon Spiritual Array, Activate!"

Mu Chen's indifferent voice resounded within the region and everyone could see the huge Spiritual Array bursting forth with scarlet light. Violent and blazing ripples swept out thereafter.

"Wind Demon Spiritual Array!" another Rank 3 Spiritual Array was successfully activated as the hurricane sounded like blades whistling in the air.

"Mountain Sealing Demonic Spiritual Array!"

"Roaring Gold Tiger Spiritual Spiritual Array!"

The name of each Spiritual Array was solemnly spoken out from Mu Chen's mouth, one after another. Following his voice, a Rank 3 Spiritual Array was successfully activated.

In just a few dozen short breaths, the ten Spiritual Arrays in the sky were all activated as the lights spread out from them. The Spiritual Aura between the Heavens and Earth also became violent at this moment.

Everyone's expressions were brilliant as they looked at those ten Spiritual Arrays and deeply exhaled as their hearts became filled with astonishment. No one could've imagined that Mu Chen was really capable of activating those ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays.

That fellow was truly monstrous.

"Big Brother Mu Chen's frightening." the members of the Goddess Luo Association were blankly staring at the scene up in the sky. Even Ye Qingling, Zhou Ling and the rest had dumbfounded expressions written on their faces. Clearly, they also never expected Mu Chen to create such a scene.

"So, the reason why he went missing was to prepare all of these." they exchanged glances. From the looks of it, once this fellow was enraged, he was indeed, horrifying.



Luo Li also raised her exquisite face as she quietly watched the weightless figure that was seated on the pavilion. The corner of her mouth rose into a soft smile.

In the plaza, it was absolutely silent. Those from the Demon's Gate, who were laughing and did not care earlier on, had already lost the ability to laugh. Their faces were turning green as they looked at the ten huge Spiritual Arrays that surrounded their headquarters.

The frightening Spiritual Energy ripples made their feet go soft.

Obviously, the current them could not laugh anymore. How could they have expected that the freshman named Mu Chen would actually create such a large scale scene and completely surrounded their headquarters with Spiritual Arrays?

"Boss, what should we do?" Chen Hou's lips trembled and his voice was a little hoarse. Being surrounded by ten Rank 3 Spiritual Arrays would cause even them to feel fear. If those ten Spiritual Arrays were aimed towards them, they felt that there wouldn't be any way for them to survive.

The core members of the Demon's Gate that were on standby also had their faces turn stiff. If it wasn't for He Yao being there, they would have lost their wills long ago.

He Yao's expression was dark as his palm abruptly increased in strength and the armrest of the chair instantly exploded.

As they remained silent, Mu Chen, who was seated on the towering pavilion, slowly opened his eyes. A smear of redness flashed across his face, but his black pupils were indifferently staring at those from the Demon's Gate.

"Senior Brother He Yao."

Mu Chen indifferently called out in this quiet region. Everyone focused their gazes as the calm voice of this youth seemed to have possessed an indescribable pressure at that moment. The pressure was spreading from him and made it so that no one dared to belittle him.

"I wonder, does the current me possess the qualifications to pay a visit and seek some guidance from you?"