

Great Ruler 281

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Chapter 281: Bald Old Man

Lightning Territory Eighth Level

Behind the lightning river screen, a light image, along with the roar of a dragon as it flashed out, appeared on the horizon.

Huuu

The light dissipated as Mu Chen couldn't help heavily breathe out a lump of air. His eyes were filled with a grave light. The lightning river screen was, indeed, powerful and the impact was way too horrifying.

However, fortunately, he had the Dragon Soaring Art. Adding the fact that when he was in the Northern Spiritual Academy initially, he received some teachings from Teacher Mo and underwent similar training. Although this lightning river screen was several folds more fearsome, Mu Chen was able to charge through the lightning river screen with his speed after having some experience.

"I wonder how Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton made their way here, through speed or force?" Mu Chen mumbled to himself. Although Mu Chen's method was a little cheap, speed was also an embodiment of one's strength.

Mu Chen shook his head, thereafter, he raised his head and looked at the Eighth Level of the Lightning Territory, an area meant for outstanding students in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. But prior to Mu Chen's expectations, there wasn't any darkness in the horizon, nor was there any dark thundercloud groups. On the contrary, the sky was clear.

The entire space was quiet and peaceful.

Mu Chen was a little startled as he looked at the scene before him. Clearly, he never expected the Eighth Level to be so quiet.

"Why isn't there any thunderclouds?" Mu Chen frowned. He also didn't feel any tyrannical lightning energy in this space. Just what was going on?

"Fly towards the left for a hundred miles." The Nine Netherbird's solemn voice suddenly resounded from his heart. The Nine Netherbird's senses were clearly way more powerful than Mu Chen's. And towards the left, it sensed some ripples.

Mu Chen nodded as his figure moved, flying towards the direction that was pointed out by the Nine Netherbird. A few minutes later, his figure slowly came to a stop as he looked at the scene before him, and he became dumbfounded.

It was a vast plain and on the plain, flowed a huge river. This river wasn't any ordinary river, but a river made from silvery lightning water. Furthermore, the flow of this lightning river did not come in contact with the ground, but was flowing to a certain distance above the ground, floating. It wiggled slowly, with a slow pace as it flowed towards the distance.

It's appearance was like a huge silver dragon that was moving about.

Hissssss

Mu Chen couldn't help inhaling a deep breath of cold air. He never imagine in his wildest imaginations that the Eighth Level would be so fearsome that the lightning energy had actually condensed and form a lightning river...

In the Seventh Level, Mu Chen attracted more than ten thunderclouds before a small lightning river was formed. But from the looks of this lightning river, it was beyond comparison to the one he formed. And clearly, this wasn't the only lightning river in the Eighth Level.

"It's indeed worthy of being the Eighth Level of the Lightning Territory."

Mu Chen sighed. No wonder the requirements were so harsh to enter the Eighth Level. If one didn't possess the sufficient strength, it would be hard for them to get any results from cultivating here.

"Let's begin refining the Divine Lightning Beads." Mu Chen spoke in his heart. Clearly, the task of refining the Divine Lightning Beads was up to the Nine Netherbird. Otherwise, with his strength, god knows how long it would take for him to refine the Divine Lightning Beads that were worth over 2,000,000 Spiritual Value Points.

"Okay, leave it to me!" the Nine Netherbird was overjoyed. When Mu Chen was done talking, black flames flew out of his body and formed into a small sparrow made of black flames.

"Huuu!"

The Nine Netherbird's mouth widened as black flames swept out in surges, forming into a huge tornado that was ablaze with black flames. As the wind was violently whipped up, the flowing lightning river started to stir.

Rumble!

As the calm lightning river turned violent, the berzerking lightning energy was like an electric current as it flowed into the black tornado. The deep roar of thunder sounded out.

As the black flames circulated, it rapidly gathered the lightning energy with that astonishing method as beads of the Divine Lightning Beads containing pure lightning energy were made.

Mu Chen looked at that spectacular scene before him and couldn't help smacking his lips. He immediately sat down with his legs crossed. From the looks of it, the Nine Netherbird would require some time to refine and there wasn't that many students that could make their way into the Eighth Level. Henceforth, he wasn't worried that this scene would be caught by anyone.

What he could do next was nothing but wait for the Nine Netherbird to finish.

However, there some things weren't as simple as Mu Chen had thought.

While the Nine Netherbird was refining the Divine Lightning Beads at a large quantity, there was some movements in the depths of the Lightning Territory.

In the depths, there was a dusky space. In the space, there was a huge black-coloured lightning river floating in the air as countless black-coloured water flowed down. It was like a huge dragon that was flying along with the violent lightning.

“This fluctuation...it's the Nine Netherflame? Why is someone from the Nine Netherbird's Clan here...?”

In the darkness, it was as though the twittering of birds was sorrowfully sounding out.

...

Rumble!

Mu Chen stared at the huge commotion of the lightning river. He couldn't help stretching his body. The Nine Netherbird had already been refining the Divine Lightning Bead for roughly half an hour. But, clearly, the amount of beads that the Nine Netherbird had refined was still insufficient.

“It seems like it will require a few days of time to get enough Divine Lightning Beads to be worth over 2,000,000 Spiritual Value Points, even if I have the Nine Netherbird doing the task...” Mu Chen helplessly shook his head. Thereafter, he decided to close his eyes and cultivate.

Just when Mu Chen was about to close his eyes and start cultivating, he suddenly sensed something wrong. Shortly after, he curiously turned his head over. Not too far away, there seemed to be a figure on a huge rock.

A human figure?!

Mu Chen was startled as he immediately stood up and directed his eyes over to that direction. Only then did he clearly see that the figure that was sitting on the rock was a bald old man, donning a tattered black robe. The old man appeared to be as thin as a matchstick with muddy eyes. From his appearance, it seemed as though he would soon step into his coffin. Right at this moment, the bald old man was holding a crutch in his arms as he blankly stared at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen felt his scalp tingling from this weird scene. That old man seemed to have been sitting on that spot for a long time. However, Mu Chen didn't sense him at all. Just what strength was required to accomplish such a feat?

The Nine Netherbird also sensed something wrong as it immediately withdrew the black flamed tornado. Within the tornado, a flow of a silvery current flew over. This was all of the Divine Lightning Beads that the Nine Netherbird had spent half a day's time to bitterly refine.

Shhhhhhuu!

However, just as the Nine Netherbird was about to take those Divine Lightning Beads, the bald old man suddenly made a movement with his hand and all of the beads were instantly separated from the Nine Netherbird's control, and were spiraling around the latter.

Mu Chen and the Nine Netherbird's eyes changed. The Nine Netherbird inwardly clenched its teeth, but did not take any action as its intuition told it that the weird bald old man before them was extremely frightening.

“Be cautious, this old man is very formidable!” the Nine Netherbird’s voice was extremely grave as it’s voice resounded within Mu Chen’s heart.

Mu Chen bitterly smiled, isn’t that obvious? He easily startled them, how could he be simple?

“This old man...” Mu Chen summoned his courage and said with his hands cupped together.

“The Lightning Territory is for students to refine their bodies. You made use to the Nine Netherbird’s power to refine the Divine Lightning Beads, this is considered a foul.” the bald old man said as he raised his muddy eyes.

Mu Chen’s face flushed red as he could not explain himself. This method was indeed, similar to cheating.

The small black sparrow that the Nine Netherbird formed stood on Mu Chen’s shoulders. Its eyes flickered with light and on it’s small body, black flames rose. In that instant, it had made the decision to grab Nie Li and flee the instant it felt something wasn’t right.

“You’s a small Nine Nether that had just reached adulthood. Don’t try to employ any means before me, unless you’re one of those old monsters in your Nine Netherbird’s Clan...” the bald old man stared at the Nine Netherbird as he smiled.

The Nine Netherbird’s gaze changed.

“However, you’ve indeed aroused my curiosity. With the pride of you Nine Netherbirds, you would actually form a Bloodline Bond with a human, not to mention such a weak human. If this fact was made known to those old monsters in your Clan, I’m afraid that you’d suffer.” the bald old man said as he took a glance at Mu Chen and the Nine Netherbird. His speech was slow and his voice gave others a feeling of helplessness. However, the words he spoke out made Mu Chen and the Nine Netherbird’s scalps tingle.

The old man actually managed to see through the relationship between them with just a glance, just what frightening eyesight was that?

Mu Chen bitterly smiled. “Senior, it was out fault in this matter. We will not refine anymore Divine Lightning Beads and will make our leave now, will that do?”

From the tone of this bald old man, he should be a huge figure of authority in this Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Therefore, as students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Mu Chen wasn’t worried that their lives would be in danger.

As Mu Chen spoke, he slowly retreated. If the bald old man didn’t say anything, then he would leave this place immediately.

“From the looks of the small Nine Netherbird, it’s evolution has failed, right? And right now, it needs the Northern Sea Dragon’s Blood Essence and borrow it’s power to rush into the Divine Beast Record, right? You guys are now refining the Divine Lightning Beads without any restraint is to save up enough Spiritual Value Points to purchase it, correct?” just as Mu Chen was about to slowly move back, the bald old man slowly spoke.

Mu Chen bitterly smiled, it seemed that there wasn’t anything that could be hidden from this old man.

“Do you want the sufficient amount of Divine Lightning Beads?” the bald old man smiled as he looked at Mu Chen with interest.

Mu Chen honestly nodded his head.

“It's hard to encounter such an interesting younger generation fella...”

The bald old man placed the crutches on his knees and stared at Mu Chen, “If you manage to handle an attack from my clone, I will return these Divine Lightning Beads to you and will let you guys refine the sufficient amount of Divine Lightning Beads you both need. Furthermore... I will give this young fella some reward, what do you say?”

“Haha, after all of these years, there were only two people that could withstand an attack from this old man's clone among the young fellas in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

“Two people?”

Mu Chen was blank as his gaze concentrated, “Was it Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton?”

The bald old man slightly nodded and smiled, “Those two young fellas do have some talent. However, you've astonished me, being able to get to the Eighth Level with just Quasi-Heavenly Transformation Stage cultivation.”

“What now?”

Mu Chen slightly went silent. After a brief moment, both of his hands abruptly clenched. His black pupils surged with sharpness. Since Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton could accomplish it, then he refused to believe that he could be any worse than them.

“Okay, it's a deal!”

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Chapter 282: One Move

“We have a deal?” the bald old man with tattered black robe directed his muddy eyes towards Mu Chen.

“Yes!”

Mu Chen heavily nodded his head and, shortly after, he smiled, “Even if it's dangerous, I doubt that Senior would kill me in a move, right?”

“You won't die, at most, you would just lie on your bed for few months.” the bald old man hoarsely smiled as he extended his skinny hands out and rubbed his bald head.

Mu Chen's smile stiffed. Shortly after, he helplessly inhaled a mouthful of air. No matter what, since he had accepted the terms, then even if he crossed mountains of daggers or seas of flames, he had to give it a try.

“Can you do it?” the Nine Netherbird secretly asked with concern in it's eyes.

“I’ll give it a try.” Mu Chen also didn’t have a huge amount of confidence. This bald old man that was before him was definitely the most fearsome person he had ever seen. It’s to the point that he was even stronger than the White Dragon Sovereign.

“Later on, I will secretly help you.” the Nine Netherbird said in Mu Chen’s heart. After all, Mu Chen was helping the Nine Netherbird refine the Divine Lightning Bead and, henceforth, encountered this trouble.

When Mu Chen heard what the Nine Netherbird said, he did not reply. The bald old man hoarsely smiled as he swept his skinny hands and a streak of light flew out, shrouding the Nine Netherbird. No matter how much it tried to struggle, the Nine Netherbird couldn’t break free.

“Small Nine Netherbird, watch from the side.” the bald old man smiled while narrowing his eyes.

The Nine Netherbird struggled for a period of time, but seeing that it wasn’t very effective, the Nine Netherbird could only stare at the bald old man viciously and said, “If anything happens to him, I definitely won’t let you off. Even if I can’t best you right now, that doesn’t mean that I can’t in the future.”

The bald old man smiled, “Nine Netherbird, you still have a long way to go. Even when you manage to successfully evolve and enter into the Divine Beast Record, you’re still nothing.”

“Are you prepared?”

When the old man finished speaking, he stared at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen deeply inhaled a mouthful of air as his figure moved and retreated. Thereafter, he stood on the horizon and said with a solemn voice, “Senior, please grant me your teachings!”

A majestic Spiritual Energy rippled out of his body as the pitch-black flames looked similar to black smoke, soared up into the horizon and could be seen clearly within a hundred miles.

“His Spiritual Energy has merged with the Nine Nether Flames?” the bald old man stared at the surrounding blazing Spiritual Energy as a trace of astonishment flashed through his eyes.

He waved his sleeve and his skinny hands extended out and lightly clenched.

Boom!

An indescribable pressure swept out from his body. Under this demeanor, the entire space looked as though it had trembled as a deep cry resounded.

Rumble!

A huge flowing lightning river was suddenly soaring over this plain and was absorbed by the bald old man. Thereafter, it looked similar to a silver dragon as it spiraled above his head.

Mu Chen’s face slightly changed at the sight of this. His heart trembled, the fearsome lightning energy in the lightning river was sufficient to crush mountains. However, it was easily lifted by this bald old man. This strength was, indeed, indescribable.

“Boom!”

The bald old man's huge hand waved, the lightning river instantly soared into the horizon and, as it issued a rumbling sound, it rippled in this space. The lightning surged like an electric dragon, and with an unparalleled demeanor, it headed towards Mu Chen with an irresistible manner.

Mu Chen raised his head and traces of astonishment was shown within his eyes as he looked at the lightning river that was charging at him. He could clearly sense that the space around him was sealed at this moment.

There was no possibility that he could avoid this fearsome offense.

This bald old man was clearly not intending to go easy on Mu Chen.

Mu Chen clenched his teeth as both of his palms came together. The veins on his arm twitched and, shortly after, a vicious look appeared within his eyes. Since he couldn't escape, then he could only go all out!

Boom!

The violent Spiritual Energy instantly poured out of Mu Chen's body without any restraints. He suddenly sat down in the air and both of his hands were forming signs at lightning speed.

Onom!

There was the sound of an ancient bell ringing on this horizon. As the black lights came together, a huge Nine-layered Pagoda appeared and shrouded Mu Chen within.

Among all of Mu Chen's methods, the defense of the Nine-layered Pagoda was clearly the most fearsome. If he wanted to withstand the horrifying attack of the bald old man, the only thing he could do was to rely on the Nine-layered Pagoda.

"This is..."

The bald old man raised his head and stared at the huge Nine-layered Pagoda up in the sky. His brows slightly knitted together as his muddy eyes flashed as thoughts crossed his mind.

Boom!

The lightning river did not have the slightest pause when the Nine-layered Pagoda appeared. As the lightning river surged, in the next instant, it heavily clashed against the Nine-layered Pagoda with undeniable pressure.

Bang!

Faced with such a fearsome impact, the Nine-layered Pagoda instantly trembled violently. As the lightning river streaked past, fine tiny cracks appeared on the surface of the Nine-layered Pagoda.

The attack of the bald old man was, indeed, way too frightening.

As the Nine-layered Pagoda shrouded Mu Chen, his face instantly flashed with a pale colour. He never thought that his strongest defense was actually so frail under an attack of the bald old man.

He raised his head as the cracks on the surface of the Nine-layered Pagoda slowly spread out. As the lightning river continued to emit a silvery light that was dripping down, it caused a deep thunderous roar that resounded within the Nine-layered Pagoda.

The Nine-layered Pagoda was about to collapse.

The instant the Nine-layered Pagoda collapsed, Mu Chen would be completely revealed. With his physique, it was clearly impossible for him to resist such a frightening impact.

Would it be game over for him just like this?

Mu Chen bit his lips, a sweetness was spreading out from the corner of his mouth. Within his black pupils, a deep unresigned intent flashed across his black pupils. If he couldn't withstand this attack, doesn't that mean that he could not be compared to Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton?

If he couldn't even be compared to them, then on what basis does he have to tell Luo Li that he could become an unrivalled expert to guard her?!

Rumble!

The Nine-layered Pagoda was crumbling, layer after layer. The black-coloured Nine-layered Pagoda was constantly showing cracks as the lightning past through the Pagoda, and was shocking the body of the youth within the Pagoda. At this moment, the latter appeared frail.

Another layer crumbled as the youth abruptly raised his head. Within his black pupils, a look full of unswerving determination that couldn't be shaken could be seen.

"Ah!"

He clenched both of his palms as eyes became bloodshot. A sound that was filled with a deep fighting roar resounded from his throat.

His deep roar resounded within this tattered Nine-layered Pagoda. His unswerving determination made an impact with this Pagoda.

Onom! Onom!

As his roar resounded, the Pagoda suddenly trembled, as though it was resonating. Mu Chen's firm and determined roar seemed to have roused something.

An ancient and old light pattern started to appear on the walls of the Pagoda. Those patterns were like ancient lotus' as they filled the area with a vast light.

The Great Pagoda Art within Mu Chen's body seemed to have been circulating uncontrollably. In the depths of his body, the mysterious black light also burst forth with a dazzling luster.

The thing that seemed to have been sealed within the depths of his body had also been activated at this instant.

"Shhhhuuu!"

An ancient sound resounded within the Nine-layered Pagoda and Mu Chen's figure was shrouded by the black light. The originally collapsing Nine-layered Pagoda instantly burst forth with an ancient light.

As the light appeared, the collapsed part of the Nine-layered Pagoda started to restore itself, bit by bit.

The bald old man narrowed his eyes, looking at the majestic lightning river that was flowing against the unmovable Nine-layered Pagoda. Within the black-coloured Pagoda, there seemed to be something similar to an ancient black-coloured lotus. There were nine petals on the lotus flower and it was as though there was a heaven seizing power in every petal, emitting an endless profound intent.

It was as though an ancient and desolate sound was echoing between the heavens and earth.

"This..." the bald old man's face trembled a little as he muttered, "This is actually the Primordial Divine Pagoda? But if he's someone with the Primordial Divine Pagoda, how could he be here?"

A light flashed in the eyes of the bald old man, as though he had seen through the Pagoda that Mu Chen sitting in. Fresh blood was covering his entire body and wiggled to form into a blood lotus light pattern on the surface of his body. That blood lotus also had nine petals.

"Interesting. Just who exactly is he? To have parents who possess such a Primordial Bloodline..."

The bald old man's eyes flashed as the lightning river flowed away from the horizon and floated above the earth once again. And as the lightning river retreated, the huge Nine-layered Pagoda that was up in the sky turned into a black light and was dissipating, bit by bit.

As the Nine-layered Pagoda dissipated, a figure that was covered in blood instantly fell down from the sky.

When the bald old man saw it, his finger flicked and a silver light shot into Mu Chen's body. Thereafter, he swept his sleeves and a gale tossed Mu Chen into the lightning river.

"You!"

When the Nine Netherbird saw the scene, its face drastically changed. The lightning river contained frightening lightning energy. Even when Mu Chen wasn't conscious, he wouldn't dare to lightly enter the lightning river, not to mention that he's unconscious right now.

"Rest assured. I don't want him dead. I've previously mentioned a reward; so, naturally, I will keep my end of the deal." the bald old man lightly smiled. Shortly after, he looked towards the Nine Netherbird and two of his skinny fingers clenched. A feather that looked like it was made from metal appeared. As his fingers flickered, the feather shot into the body of the Nine Netherbird and the latter could not examine what it was.

"What are you doing?!" the Nine Netherbird was extremely angry. The bald old man was too hateful.

"I'm a bit friendly with an old monster from your Nine Netherbird Clan. Therefore, I've sent you a gift. Okay, you can continue to refine the Divine Lightning Beads, but don't disrupt that kid."

The bald old man did not make any explanations and showed a faint smile. Thereafter, he lazily stood up and slowly looked towards the far earth.

His pace appeared slow, but after a few steps, he had already appeared on the horizon and, thereafter, thoroughly disappeared.

The Nine Netherbird looked at the direction which he disappeared, but could only clench its teeth inwardly. It worriedly looked at Mu Chen, who was wrapped inside of the lightning river. Thereafter, the Nine Netherbird spurt out its black flames, filled the sky and started refining the Divine Lightning Beads.

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Chapter 283: 13,000 beads

Mu Chen's intent drifted in this darkness. He was so dizzy, it felt like it was never-ending.

Within the darkness, there seemed to be a black light surging and took form beneath Mu Chen. It seemed to be a fuzzy image of a girl and her palm gently caressed Mu Chen's intent.

Under her gentle touch, there was an indescribable softness that fluctuated in Mu Chen's heart. That sensation was similar to a mother's embrace.

The warmth made him unable to struggle free.

Under the warmth, there was a stream flowing within Mu Chen's body, as though it had soothed the injuries within him.

A trace of soberness surged up in his fuzzy state. Mu Chen tried his utmost to widen his eyes and look at that fuzzy and warm figure. However, he still couldn't get a clear glimpse of it.

However, the bizarre sensation of a blood-bond made him understand that he had some kind of relationship with that warm figure. In his childhood dreams, it was that figure that guarded him.

"Mother!"

Mu Chen tried his best to struggle and shortly after, he widened both of his eyes. His palm clawed towards that figure, but grabbed nothing but air.

"Ahhh!"

He opened both of his eyes and what he saw was a bright silvery light. Mu Chen still couldn't even react to the situation but bore the urge to scream. The violent lightning energy was like steel barbs as it flowed over him. Thereafter, it flocked into his body.

The lightning energy was way too violent and, therefore, as it rushed in, it had directly caused intense pain to Mu Chen. His muscles around his body started to twitch.

Just when Mu Chen was at loss because of this, there was a faint silvery light being emitted from within his body. Under the shine of the silver light, Mu Chen's body was like a starving person seeing food, and started to violently devour the lightning energy.

That intense pain instantly surged in a violent manner.

Mu Chen clenched his teeth as a trace of blood flowed out from the corner of his mouth. There was something that had suddenly appeared in his heart. It seemed to be a Thunder God Physique Deity Tier Spiritual Art.

“Was it left behind by that bald old man?”

The thought flashed through Mu Chen’s heart and shortly after, he started to train under the influence of the Deity Tier Spiritual Art. When he circulated that art, he saw the insides of his body turning silver. As lightning flickered, his entire body, including his muscles, internal organs, meridians and bones, was endlessly devouring the lightning energy within his body.

And under the frantic devouring process, although Mu Chen still felt intense pain within his body, the fulfilling feeling of energy had surged up. The pain was comfortable and the feeling was bizarre.

Mu Chen didn’t know how powerful the Thunder God Physique that was left behind by the bald old man was, but he could clearly sense his physique becoming more and more powerful.

It seemed to be a Physique Cultivating Deity Tier Spiritual Art.

This made Mu Chen a little surprised. Among Spiritual Arts, Physique Cultivating were the rarest. And, right now, the reward that was given by the bald old man wasn’t just any Physique Cultivating Spiritual Art, but a Deity Tier one at that!

A Spiritual Art that could absorb lightning energy to refine one’s body.

“Although that old man’s methods are ruthless, he wasn’t petty.” Mu Chen muttered to himself. Shortly after, he didn’t dare to be distracted and cultivated this Physique Cultivating Deity Art with all his heart.

This cultivation continued for an entire three days of time. Within these three days of time, Mu Chen’s body was soaked in the depths of the lightning river, endlessly refining himself, again and again, with the lightning energy.

Furthermore, while Mu Chen was being refined by the lightning energy, the Thunder God Physique was constantly gathering the lightning energy around him and formed into a lightning ball.

Mu Chen did not absorb this lightning ball, but allowed it to circulate within his meridians, refining his meridians bit by bit, causing his meridians to be tougher.

This bizarre cultivation technique made Mu Chen feel a bit surprised. Shortly after, he could sense how extraordinary this Thunder God Physique was. However, when he was practicing the art, he could feel a flaw. Clearly, this Thunder God Physique must be an incomplete Spiritual Art.

That bald old man did not gift him the entire cultivation technique of the Thunder God Physique.

Although this made Mu Chen feel a little regret, he wasn’t too disappointed. It was already out of his expectations to acquire such a good harvest.

Three days later.

At the edge of the lightning river, the black flames that had covered the horizon were withdrawing. The Nine Netherbird issued a clear cry and drew them back into its body. On top of its head, the silvery river flowed as it floated. Within the powerful current, there was a large amount of Divine Lightning Beads flickering with lightning energy.

From just looking at it, there was at least more than ten thousand!

After refining all of these Divine Lightning beads, the Nine Netherbird looked towards the river with concern. However, it did not spot anything unusual.

It was a little anxious and, shortly after, it flapped its wings, and rushed into the river to search for Mu Chen.

Bang!

However, just when it was about to charge in, a surge of lightning soared up into the heavens, sweeping out with a tyrannical Spiritual Energy. The Lightning river exploded and a figure appeared on the horizon.

For a brief moment, lightning was flickering on that figure before it started to gradually disappear. In the end, Mu Chen's figure appeared.

The current Mu Chen's skin had a faint silver colour. On his body, there was an explosive energy that was contained that could not be underestimated.

Mu Chen clenched his fist before throwing two fists out. Instantly, the air exploded. This caused joy to fill his eyes. Compared to several days before, he had indeed grown much stronger.

"Not bad."

Mu Chen praised. After the lightning dissipated from his body and he was restored to normal, he smiled with his eyes narrowed, while landing towards the direction that the Nine Netherbird was at.

"Are you alright?" when the Nine Netherbird saw Mu Chen come out, it also felt relieved.

Mu Chen shook his head, then was looking around, searching for the bald old man.

"He's long gone." when the Nine Netherbird saw Mu Chen's gaze, it spoke out.

"I wonder who that senior was, to have such ability. Even in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he should be among the top levels, right?" Mu Chen muttered.

"Who knows?" The Nine Netherbird, however, wasn't bothered about that matter.

"Forget it." Having no answers, Mu Chen tossed that thought to the back of his head. He looked at the tens of thousands of Divine Lightning Beads that were hovering in the sky and a smear of shock flashed across his eyes, "With so many Divine Lightning Beads, it should be enough."

His hand swept and all of the Divine Lightning Beads were stored by him.

"Let's go, we should get going as well." Mu Chen stretched his body. The harvest that he had obtained on this trip to the Lightning Territory had far surpassed his expectations. Not only did his cultivation grow to Quasi-Heavenly Transformation Stage, he even obtained Spiritual Arts like the Dragon Soaring Art and the Thunder God Physique, which gave great perks to his combat abilities.

Right now, no matter how thorny the opponents that he will encounter in the Hunting War, he was confident in confronting them.

"Li Xuanton, we if meet again, perhaps the Pact of Three Moves will no longer be of any use."

Mu Chen smiled. Several months ago, Li Xuanton was an opponent that was tough for him to win against. But now, Mu Chen no longer feared him.

“Let’s go and get your Northern Sea Dragon’s Blood Essence. Your wish can finally be fulfilled.” Mu Chen waved his hand as he smiled.

“Thanks.” the Nine Netherbird looked at Mu Chen and said with a low voice. Unconcealable joy was showing in his eyes. The Nine Netherbird had finally waited for this day.

“This relationship of ours...”

Mu Chen smiled with his eyes narrowed as he looked at the Nine Netherbird, sizing it up as he rubbed his chin, “If your evolution succeeds and you transform into a Divine Beast, you should possess the ability to take human form, right?”

At that time, he should be able to finally differentiate it's gender, right? And Mu Chen had always maintained his curiosity on this point.

The Nine Netherbird rolled it's eyes at him and no longer paid any attention to him. The Nine Netherbird turned into a black light and burrowed into Mu Chen’s body.

Mu Chen smiled as his figure moved, turning into a light image as he flew towards the exit of the Lightning Territory at lightning speed.

After half an hour, Mu Chen returned to the First Level and exited the Lightning Territory. After coming out of the Lightning Territory, he stood on the air and looked at the lively Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. His tensed-up body also gradually relaxed.

When Mu Chen exited the Lightning Territory, he did not head for the Freshman Area, but to the Spiritual Value Hall. He could sense the excitement within the Nine Netherbird. Since that’s the case, then Mu Chen had decided to fulfill his promise.

The Spiritual Value Hall had the highest popularity in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. The frightening amount of people was like ants, constantly coming out and going in of the hall.

When Mu Chen entered the Spiritual Value Hall, he headed towards the center of the main hall, where the trading of Divine Lightning Beads was held.

Behind the huge crystal counter, there was a beautiful lady whose age should be roughly the same as the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, helping out here can also obtain Spiritual Value Points as payment.

There was a decent amount of people purchasing Divine Lightning Beads. After queuing up for more than ten minutes, it was finally his turn. The beautiful girl looked at Mu Chen as she sweetly smiled, “Hi there, are you buying Divine Lightning Beads?”

“Nope, I’m here to sell them.” Mu Chen shook his head.

When the lady heard his declaration, she couldn’t help feeling curious. However, there were many students that condensed Divine Lightning Beads to exchange for Spiritual Value Points. Shortly after, she

faintly smiled as she enquired, "The trading price of Divine Lightning Beads is 200 Spiritual Value Points for one, how many are you selling?"

She took up a brush and was prepared to record it down.

"13,000." Mu Chen smiled brilliantly.

Pa!

The brush in the lady's hand fell as her beautiful face was filled with astonishment. All of the students that were queuing up for their turn to purchase Divine Lightning Beads were also dumbfounded as they looked at Mu Chen.

13,000 Divine Lightning Beads? Was this kid's head clamped by a door? Were Divine Lightning Beads so easy to condense? 13,000 was an amount that not even Shen Cangsheng could condense!

When Mu Chen saw the doubts in the eyes of the lady, he did not bother to explain any further, but made a simple action of flicking his fingers. A brilliant silvery light started to flow out and instantly filled the surrounding counters.

"Senior Sister, 13,000 Divine Lightning Beads for a total of 2,600,000 Spiritual Value Points. Thanks."

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 284: Blood Essence is obtained!

Within the Spiritual Value Hall, the bustling hall seemed to have quietened down in an instant. The dumbfounded gazes stared at the silvery current. Tens of thousands of Divine Lightning Beads. They've never seen anyone take such a huge amount out in one go before...

Within the Lightning Territory, condensing Divine Lightning Beads wasn't an easy task. Many people could only harvest around 10 beads a day. Furthermore, they still had to forsake the time that they could use to cultivate. Ten of thousands, if this was a task given to them to accomplish, even if they didn't rest, it would take an endless amount of time.

Furthermore 13,000 Divine Lightning Beads was equivalent to 2,600,000 Spiritual Value Points. It was an enormous sum that could be used to purchase a High Rank Spiritual Artifact or even a Quasi Deity Tier Spiritual Art from the Spiritual Value Hall.

The eyes that were staring at the large sum of Divine Lightning Beads had envy flickering in their eyes. But, fortunately, this was shown in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. If he was somewhere else in the Northern Heavens Continent, Mu Chen's way of revealing his wealth would definitely attract a lot of trouble to himself. Clearly, he was well aware of this issue, which was why he revealed it here.

The beautiful lady that was behind the counter recovered herself as she glanced at Mu Chen with amazement in her eyes. She clearly didn't know how he was able to obtain such a lump sum of Divine Lightning Beads. Fortunately, she was intelligent and did not ask that many questions. She took out a Mustard Seed Bracelet and as a light flickered, she stored all of the Divine Lightning Beads within it.

"Indeed, 13,000 beads." she slightly checked and nodded her head. Shortly after, she added as she smiled, "This student, I don't have the authority to process such a huge transaction. I'll go and get the teacher in-charge."

Mu Chen nodded his head. The lady turned around and left. After a short while, she returned with a middle-aged man, whom Mu Chen assumed was the teacher in-charge here.

The teacher in-charge also gave Mu Chen a glance of astonishment. Even for himself, this was the first time that he had seen a student capable of taking out over ten thousand Divine Lightning Beads.

“Pass me your Spiritual Value Card.” the teacher in-charge lightly smiled. Although he was amazed, the teacher in-charge did not lose his composure, unlike the other students.

Mu Chen faintly smiled in reply as he handed his Spiritual Value Card over.

The teacher in-charge received it and also retrieved a Spiritual Value Card from his sleeve. A streak of light flashed into Mu Chen’s card and he returned it back to Mu Chen.

Mu Chen cast a glance at the Spiritual Value Card and saw 7,100,000 Spiritual Value Points. This made him feel relieved. His hard work, after so long, finally paid off.

“Thanks.”

He suppressed his impatience as he thanked the teacher in-charge, but he did not accept the Spiritual Value Card. He smiled gently, “I’m afraid that I have to trouble teacher, again. I wish to purchase an item.”

“What is it?” the teacher asked with a smile.

“The Northern Sea Dragon’s Blood Essence.” Mu Chen smiled in return.

The teacher in-charge’s hand that was holding onto the Spiritual Value Card trembled as he casted his glance at Mu Chen in astonishment. The Northern Sea Dragon’s Blood Essence that cost 7,000,000 Spiritual Value Points? This was the most expensive item among their Spiritual Value Point items and, after all of these years, he had yet to see any student capable of purchasing this item.

“Follow me.”

The teacher in-charge waved his hand and moved towards the back. When Mu Chen saw the teacher walking, he immediately followed up. Behind him, many students did not clearly hear what Mu Chen wanted to purchase. But, after looking at the teacher in-charge’s expression, they could guess that it wasn’t an ordinary item that Mu Chen was buying. This caused curiosity to raise within their hearts.

Mu Chen, however, paid no attention to their curiosity as he followed the teacher into a small chamber. The latter walked into the inner chamber and, after a long time, he swept his sleeve and, as a light flickered, a crystal ball that was roughly the size of a human’s head appeared in his hand.

Inside the crystal ball, there was a lump of golden liquid that was wiggling about with life, emitting a bizarre fluctuation.

Even with the isolation of the crystal ball, Mu Chen could detect the fearsome energy contained in that lump of golden blood. This was the genuine strength of the Divine Beasts.

Divine Beasts are existences comparable to Sovereigns.

“This is the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon, an item belonging to Lord Northern Sea.” the teacher in-charge was also amazed as he looked at the golden blood and spoke with reverence.

Mu Chen nodded his head. This Lord Northern Sea that the teacher spoke of should be the Northern Sea Dragon itself.

“This Blood Essence is priced at 7,000,000 Spiritual Value Points and I’ve already deducted it from your Spiritual Value Card.” the teacher in-charge returned the card over to Mu Chen and the original 7,100,000 only had 100,000 left, which made Mu Chen helpless. He had turned poor in an instant before he even warmed those 7,000,000 Spiritual Value Points with his hand.

“Now, this Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon belongs to you.” the teacher in-charge smiled. Although he was curious about why Mu Chen wanted to purchase the Blood Essence, he clearly knew that he couldn’t inquire about such personal matters.

“Thanks, teacher.”

Mu Chen took the Spiritual Value Point Card and stored the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon into the Mustard Seed Bracelet. He made a bow to the teacher and took his leave.

The teacher in-charge looked at Mu Chen’s leaving silhouette and went into silence, turned around and left. This matter with the Northern Sea Dragon’s Blood Essence wasn’t small; therefore, he had to report this matter to the higher-ups of the academy.

After coming out of the Spiritual Value Hall, Mu Chen looked at the flow of people and enquired in his head, while looking up at the sky, “You’ll be able to evolve now that we’ve obtained the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon.”

“How can it be that easy? I still have to undergo the tribulation.”

“That black heavenly lightning tribulation?” Mu Chen’s eyelids could not help twitching. Back then, when he first saw the Nine Netherbird, the latter was undergoing this tribulation. However, the latter had failed and, henceforth, Mu Chen knew how frightening this tribulation was.

“Shredding the spiritual and turning divine, this has always been the most important step of our Spiritual Beast’s cultivation route. Therefore, it won’t be so easy. I have already failed this step twice and, this time, by borrowing the power of this Northern Sea Dragon’s Blood Essence, I have a great amount of confidence this time round.” the Nine Netherbird said solemnly.

Mu Chen quietly nodded his head. Now that he had established a Bloodline Bond with the Nine Netherbird, they’re simple of one body. If they thrive, they’d thrive together and if they failed, they’d failed together. If anything went wrong with the Nine Netherbird, he would also suffer a grave blow. Therefore, he naturally wished for the Nine Netherbird to succeed in the tribulation.

“Adjust yourself to your best during these next two days. You can also draw my Spiritual Energy. Thereafter, we’ll look for a place and start the tribulation.” said Mu Chen.

In the aura sea, the Nine Netherbird nodded its head as a look of gentleness flashed through its eyes. It could sense the concern that was coming from Mu Chen’s heart.

Mu Chen spoke nothing else as he headed back to the freshman area. By the time he returned, he had undoubtedly attracted the excitement of the Goddess Luo Association's members. In this period of time, the news of Mu Chen entering into the Eighth Level of the Lightning Territory had spread throughout the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy since long ago. This made many students startled. This freshman seemed to be able to accomplish an unexpected feat in several intervals at a time.

Mu Chen spoke and laughed with everyone for a brief moment, before returning to his small building. However, he did not see Luo Li. The latter had probably left to cultivate, which made him smile bitterly. That girl was still working so hard with her cultivation. However, when he thought of the responsibility that Luo Li had to bear, Mu Chen's mind was also heavy. He could sense that Luo Li might not be able to remain by his side for much longer. She was the next Empress of the Luo God Clan, and she had too much to prepare...

But, right now, his strength was still too weak, so he could not provide her with any help.

Standing on the small building, Mu Chen looked at the vast starry sky and lightly breathed out a mouthful of air. He still had a long way to go, but, fortunately, he should still have some time left.

During the next couple of days, Mu Chen did not go out but remained in the building to cultivate, and made preparations for the Nine Netherbird's tribulation. Although the Nine Netherbird could only depend on itself for the tribulation, Mu Chen also wished to provide the Nine Netherbird with strength as well.

And during these two days, the Nine Netherbird did not make any movements as it was quietly condensing its strength, preparing to challenge the tribulation that it had failed twice now.

Due to their preparations, the two days rapidly flew by.

After two days, Mu Chen flew out of the freshman's area and flew out of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. At the outside range, there was an endless range of mountains. This place was far from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and having the tribulation here should keep anyone from interfering.

Mu Chen flew out for nearly half an hour, until he was far away from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, before his speed slowed down. Thereafter, he landed on a mountain. Although there were Spiritual Beasts around this mountain range, there were many powerful Spiritual Energy fluctuations. Henceforth, this was a pretty good place for the tribulation.

Mu Chen landed on a mountain peak. Before he could speak, black flames surged on his shoulder and a small sparrow flickered out. It looked at the sky, full of determination and pride in its eyes.

Mu Chen's hand clenched and the crystal ball containing the Blood Essence of the Northern Sea Dragon appeared. The golden blood was slowly wiggling inside, emitting a powerful energy.

"Shall we start?" Mu Chen looked at the Nine Netherbird.

The Nine Netherbird nodded and, shortly after, it breathed black flames from its mouth, shrouding the crystal ball and swallowed it into its body.

Shhhhhuuu!

Its figure flashed out as it soared into the horizon. Thereafter, the black flames swept out, as a clear and resonant cry resounded between the heavens and earth. As the black flames spread throughout the horizon, the Nine Netherbird's small body also started to expand. In just several breath's of time, a pair of blazing black-flamed wings had spread out to the point that they could almost cover the mountain.

Mu Chen raised his head, this was the second time that he had witnessed the Nine Netherbird reveal it's real body. Under the influence of the Northern Sea Dragon's Blood Essence, all of the injuries that the Nine Netherbird had suffered were completely healed, and, in addition, it even made the Nine Netherbird more powerful.

Liiiiiii!

The Nine Netherbird issued a cry towards the horizon as frightening Spiritual Energy ripples swept out. That powerful pressure filled everything between the heavens and earth.

Rumble!

When the Nine Netherbird unleashed it's energy without any restraints, frightening ripples started to gather into the nine heavens. There were lumps after lumps of black thunder clouds being formed that contained enough power to annihilate anything.

Mu Chen's gaze turned grave.

The tribulation had finally started.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 285: Divine Black Thunder Tribulation Appears Again!

Boom!

As the heaven and earth trembled, the formerly clear sky instantly turned dark. Even the Spiritual Energy between the heavens and earth sensed the horrifying taste in it and started to escape from this region.

Wuuuu! Wuuu!

Within the mountain range, an endless amount of Spiritual Energy trembled, issuing a mournful shriek. The Divine Black Thunder Tribulation was extremely fearsome for a Spiritual Beast.

The tribulation could allow them to evolve after the long cultivation, but it also made them feel extreme fear...

Mu Chen stood on the mountain peak as his mountain stared gravely at the heavens. The black thunder clouds constantly gathered and took form with a black light flickering within them. The extremely violent lightning energy couldn't be properly described. Even the Eighth Level of the Lightning Territory wasn't as frightening as it.

This was the genuine annihilation energy that originated from the heavens and earth.

Under the terrifying thunder clouds, the Nine Netherbird flapped its wings as its enormous body was ablaze with black flames. Under the heat of the black flames, even the temperature in the nearby surroundings had risen.

Every time the Nine Netherbird flapped its wings, it swept out a blazing gale that engulfed the heavens and earth.

“Li!!”

The Nine Netherbird issued a clear and bright cry. Its pupils were blazing with black flames as it looked at the constantly forming black thunder clouds with an unyielding intent. It had already been defeated twice. If it didn’t possess the bloodline of the undying bird, it would have been reduced to ashes by the tribulation.

However, even if it had failed twice, it still refused to admit defeat. It was the prideful Nine Netherbird, possessing the bloodline of the Undying Bird. The Nine Netherbird wanted to become the most powerful Divine Beast between these heavens and earth!

Therefore, it had to succeed in its evolution at all costs!

The Nine Netherbird issued a clear cry, and flapped its huge wings as it issued a challenge to the tribulation, once again, and, this time, it will not be defeated!

Rumble!

The constantly forming tribulation seemed to have sensed the challenge from the Nine Netherbird and, in an instant, the black thunder clouds wiggled along with a formidable might that swept out.

More and more frightening lightning energies were being gathered in the thundercloud.

Rumble!

The thundercloud was abruptly torn apart and the world had gone silent. A huge black lightning bolt struck down with its annihilating power as it aimed at the Nine Netherbird.

Liiii!

The Nine Netherbird issued a cry, flapped its huge wings as the black flames that filled the skies surged out, and turned into a black flaming tornado that clashed with the black thunder.

Liiiiiii!

A huge cry resounded as the lightning and black flames clashed together and abruptly swept out. The surrounding mountain peaks seemed to have been instantly leveled.

Mu Chen landed on the ground as he watched the clash with worry filling his eyes. Back in the Northern Spiritual Realm, he had already witnessed the clash between the Nine Netherbird and the black lightning once before. And now, whether it’s the Nine Netherbird or the tribulation, both were clearly more powerful compared to back then.

“This Divine Black Thunder Tribulation seems to get stronger along with the strength of the life form that’s undergoing the tribulation.” Mu Chen fell into his thoughts. No wonder it was the necessary step

that a Spiritual Beast had to go through in its path of cultivation. Under the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, who knows how many powerful Spiritual Beasts had been annihilated?

In the first confront, the Nine Netherbird did not fall into a disadvantage. However, Mu Chen was clear that this was just the beginning...

Just when this thought flashed through Mu Chen's heart, the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation was completely formed up on the horizon. Frightful heavenly might was spreading as it started to show its ferocity.

Boom! Boom!

When the heavens and earth had darkened down, the tribulation wiggled as a huge black lightning bolt shot down. All of the lightning was aiming at the Nine Netherbird with extreme accuracy.

The Nine Netherbird's eyes flashed with unyielding flames as it watched the endlessly falling lightning. It flapped its wings as the energy within its body was being completely mobilised.

Huuuuuuu! Huuuu!

The black flames that looked like a flaming sea swept out, turning into a tornado as it ripped the horizon apart and was aimed towards the lightning bolts, an attempt to obstruct them.

Two frightening powers clashed in the horizon. Energy ripples that were roughly ten thousand feet in height fluctuated out that even the space was instantly twisted. Any leakage of that energy was sufficient to instantly level this mountain range.

Mu Chen stood on the ground as he stared at the mad confrontation up in the sky. Both of his fists were tightly clenched and his body was tensed up. He could sense the defense of the Nine Netherbird was starting to weaken as the black lightning shot down even faster.

Mu Chen's pupils suddenly shrank and saw a huge lightning bolt shoot down from the horizon. It managed to pierce through the black flaming tornado and struck the Nine Netherbird.

Liiii!

A deep groan sounded out. The body of the huge Nine Netherbird was pulled down by a thousand feet with black smoke fuming from the spot that the lightning bolt had struck. Even with the black flames, it was still insufficient to recover the wound at a fast speed.

The Nine Netherbird issued out a painful cry as its eyes looked as though they had turned scarlet red.

Boom! Booom!

And before the Nine Netherbird was enraged, the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation had entered into a frenzied state. The thunder clouds shrank and a black lightning bolt struck down. In that instant, even the heavens and earth were trembling at the frenzied tribulation.

The Nine Netherbird's wings retracted together as it guarded its body. Black flames surged and it had actually formed layers of black crystals. On the crystal layers, there were black flames surging, looking extremely solid.

Bang! Baaang!

The lightning pierced through the heavens and earth and struck the black crystal that surrounded the Nine Netherbird. As every lightning bolt fell, it would shatter layers of crystal. The body of the Nine Netherbird trembled, as though it had suffered a huge pain.

The lightning wreaked havoc for a few minutes. When the crystal layers that surrounded the Nine Netherbird had been shattered, its slender and huge body was in a bad state to the point that there was fresh blood dripping from the Nine Netherbird's wings.

Mu Chen saw the sorry state of the Nine Netherbird and both of his fists were clenched even tighter. The Divine Black Thunder Tribulation was strong to the extent that every single lightning bolt was capable of reducing Heavenly Fusion Stage experts into ashes.

But looking at the current situation, if this continued, it was definitely impossible for the Nine Netherbird to endure it.

Under Mu Chen's nervous gaze, up in the sky, the Nine Netherbird paid no attention to its gravely injured body. It raised its head, issuing a prideful cry. Even if it was fated to die today, it won't yield to the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation.

"Boom!"

The lightning was simply merciless as the annihilating lightning bolts continued to strike down without any mercy.

Xiiiiuuuu!

However, just when the lightning was about to land onto the body of the Nine Netherbird, something suddenly shot out, leaving a fine streak of light. The streak of light hovered above the Nine Netherbird, and formed a huge pair of wings that were spread out.

The feather had a dark azure colour with an endless light flowing from it. It stretched its wings that seemed to have covered the heavens and earth.

The lightning mercilessly struck the feather, causing the light that flowed in it to dissipate by a lot. However, it still managed to endure and wasn't destroyed.

"What is that?" Mu Chen was slightly startled. The feather wasn't something that belonged to the Nine Netherbird. But it contained huge power that was capable of enduring several blows from the lightning bolts.

When the Nine Netherbird saw the situation, it was shocked. However, it immediately started to recover from its wounds. It was well aware that although the feather was formidable, it could only withstand the lightning bolts for a small while. In the end, the Nine Netherbird still had to rely on itself to pass through this tribulation.

The Divine Black Thunder Tribulation suddenly became furious as it sensed that this item wasn't something that belonged to the Nine Netherbird. And it was extremely hateful towards external interference.

Boom! Boom!

Because of that, the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation started to wiggle and huge lightning bolts constantly hacked down. Faced with the enraged hacking of the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, the feather started to dulled down and, in the end, it was reduced to dust by the divine lightning.

“Liiii!”

When the feather was reduced to dust, the Nine Netherbird issued a cry towards the sky. Its boiling blood was dripping from its body, but its eyes still remained clear.

When it issued its cry, Mu Chen could see the wound on the Nine Netherbird’s body flashed across with a faint purple luster. It seemed to be a strand of weak purple flames.

Those purple flames were hidden within the black flames and were naturally hard to be detected. However, Mu Chen still saw that as the purple flames appeared, the wounds on the body of the Nine Netherbird were rapidly being healed to the point that even the remnant lightning energy that was on its wounds could not obstruct it.

“Those are the... Undying Flames?!” Mu Chen stared at the fine purple flames as his pupils shrank. With his current understanding towards the Nine Netherbird, it natural that he knew that only the Undying Flames that were born within the body of the Primordial Undying Bird could disregard the injury of the Thunder Tribulation and recover its body. However, the Undying Flames were the speciality of the Undying Bird. Although the Nine Netherbird possessed a little of the Undying Bird’s bloodline, it was, after all, too thin to be sufficient to awaken the Undying Flames...

But, right now, the Undying Flames had actually appeared from the body of the Nine Netherbird. This meant that the Undying Bird’s blood that was contained within its body far surpassed an ordinary Nine Netherbird!

Mu Chen’s gaze flickered. It seemed like the Nine Netherbird wasn’t an ordinary kind in its clan.

Having its wounds being rapidly healed, the Nine Netherbird’s unyielding flames that were blazing within its eyes became even richer. It raised its head, looked at the thundercloud that were shrinking and the destructive energy that was in the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation becoming even more fearsome.

The Nine Netherbird knew that the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation was gathering its strongest energy, preparing to wipe it out from the face of this world!

Even when it faced the power that could destroy itself, the Nine Netherbird still raised its prideful head. Its huge pair of wings lightly flapped and, among the black flames, faint traces of purple flames appeared.

“Liiiiii!”

The cry was directed towards the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, issuing its final challenge!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 286: Tribulation Succeeded

Up in the heavens, the black thunder clouds were rapidly gathering. The thunder clouds did not issue any thunderous sounds, but the pressure that it issued had caused the heavens and earth to freeze.

Anyone could sense how terrifying the perishing storm would be after the silence.

The Nine Netherbird flapped its wings as its black flames surged. In the depths of the black flames, fine purple flames fluctuated. Although they were small and hard to detect, they emitted a surge of mysterious power.

On the grounds below, Mu Chen's gaze turned extremely grave. Under that pressure, he could sense the Spiritual Energy within his body had stopped circulating. He was well aware that the next attack from the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation would be the last and if the Nine Netherbird could withstand it, then it would succeed its tribulation and shred its spiritual body, and evolve into a Divine Beast. By truly shredding itself from the category of a Spiritual Beast, and becoming the powerful Divine Beast that was comparable to Sovereigns, it would possess endless prospects as well.

However, if it couldn't withstand it, it would have failed. Although the Nine Netherbird possessed the bloodline of the Undying Bird, it couldn't escape death every single time. The slightest mistake would cause it to be destroyed.

Once the Nine Netherbird was destroyed, Mu Chen, who had a Bloodline bond with it would also suffer terrifying injuries, or even death.

In this outcome, it would be extremely tragic for both Mu Chen and the Nine Netherbird.

But at this timing, Mu Chen was also helpless. The Thunder Tribulation was too terrifying to the point that even a Sovereign wouldn't dare to challenge it. Not to mention that he was just a puny Quasi-Heavenly Transformation Stage. Probably even if he had exerted all his means, it wouldn't be able to shake it.

"Nine Netherbird, go for it." Mu Chen's fists were clenched as he muttered.

The suppressed atmosphere engulfed the heavens and earth. The black thunder clouds that had originally shrouded the heavens and earth of ten thousand feet had shrunk down to a hundred feet. But the colour was even more dense and, looking from afar, it was like a black hole that was slowly revolving.

Onom.

The black thunder clouds that were roughly a hundred feet in size suddenly wiggled. At the center, the thunder clouds were revolving and were caving in, bit by bit. At the center of the dent, the black-coloured lightning bolts were gathering together. The black-coloured lightning bolts seemed to be like sinister black dragons that were slowly wiggling about.

"Boom!"

At the center of the dent, a black-coloured lightning bolt abruptly shot out. It was like a black-coloured divine light that had pierced through the horizon. The destructive power spread and the area that was swept by the black-coloured light seemed to decompose Spiritual Energy...

The entire heavens and earth were in silence as the black divine light roared as it shot down, like a deity that had been enraged.

Liiii!

The black flames were blazing within the eyes of the Nine Netherbird. It suddenly issued a cry and the flames that were compressed together shot up into the sky, and turned into a black-coloured feather that was roughly a thousand feet in size.

On the feather, it looked as though profound runes were being carved on it. The black flames had ascended and were extremely abnormal.

Facing that terrifying attack of the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, the Nine Netherbird also exerted all of its power and lashed out with the most frightening move it had.

Shhhhhhuu!

As the black feather shot out, it pierced through the space and heavily clashed with the black-coloured divine light that had shot down from the heavens.

At that instant, the two force clashed, even the light between the heavens and earth seemed to have been sucked in. Only a black-coloured light was spreading out in the sky and shrouded the area in a hundred mile radius.

Bang! Bang!

The mountains were being swept through and instantly turned into ashes, one after another. Looking from above, everything within a hundred miles was leveled to ground as each mountain range was being wiped out.

Such destructive power had made those that were watching it feel a chill in their hearts.

Mu Chen did not have any startling thoughts as he fixed his eyes on the far horizon. A black light had gathered and was slowly pressing down. As it's pressure pressed down, fine cracks started to appear.

The power of the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation was too powerful!

Mu Chen's heart jumped as his eyes shrank. As more and more cracks appeared on the black feather, it finally could not endure anymore and under the black-coloured divine light and a sharp sound, it shattered.

As the black feather crumbled, the black light was unblockable and was whistling down under Mu Chen's gaze. It attacked the enormous body of the Nine Netherbird.

Liiii!

The cry that suddenly resounded was extremely sharp. The huge body of the Nine Netherbird rapidly fell and heavily landed on a mountain range far away.

Bang!

It felt like an earthquake had happened as a surging wave swept out. At the location that the Nine Netherbird had fallen, the surrounding range of ten thousand feet had instantly crumbled. Deep cracks were frantically spreading on the ground.

The vast mountain range was also instantly destroyed!

Mu Chen flew into the sky, and escaped that terrifying impact. He quickly rushed over and, at the center of the crater, the smoke was spreading and started to dissipate, bit by bit. The scene within was shown to Mu Chen.

In the huge crater, the Nine Netherbird was lying down in a terrible state. The black-coloured feathers on its body were destroyed and no longer had the gracefulness that it once had. Countless savage wounds were revealed on its body as fresh blood flowed out, instantly dyeing the ground in red.

Mu Chen's gaze was fixed on the Nine Netherbird that was not moving in the blood pool. The Nine Netherbird's face was pale and Mu Chen immediately landed at the location of the Nine Netherbird. He stuck his palm out, injecting his Spiritual Energy into the body of the Nine Netherbird.

Under the injection of Spiritual Energy, the Nine Netherbird that was lying in the blood pool finally trembled. It managed to open its eyes a little as a weak intent spread out, "I've managed to succeed?"

When Mu Chen saw that the Nine Netherbird was still alive, only then did he feel relieved. He raised his head and his face abruptly changed. Up in the sky, the dissipating black thunder clouds were still flickering with a black light.

There was still some remnant destructive ripples in it.

Boom!

The black thunder clouds rumbled and a black lightning bolt shot down. However, that divine lightning bolt was clearly just a remnant energy and, compared to before, it was much weaker.

At this point of time, the Nine Netherbird was already at the edge and could die at anytime. If that lightning bolt struck it right now, it would probably be dead!

The Nine Netherbird seemed to have sensed this situation and immediately struggled up. However, it didn't have any energy left nor blood to fill its body, and started to emit despair in its eyes.

After working hard for so many years, was it all still in vain?

Repeatedly fighting and, in the end, still failed?

Mu Chen looked at the despair in the Nine Netherbird's eyes. He couldn't help clenching his fist and, shortly after, with his teeth clenched, his figure moved. He appeared above the Nine Netherbird and with a bark, his hand signs changed. A Majestic Spiritual Energy gathered behind him and turned into a huge White Tiger. The White Tiger stood on the starry sky and ran, along with inexhaustible killing intent as it charged towards the last black lightning bolt.

Bang!

Even with such a powerful attack, the instant it came in contact with the black lightning, it was only an instant before the black lightning tore the White Tiger apart.

Boom!

The speed of the black lightning was fast as it had destroyed the White Tiger in just an instant and appeared above Mu Chen. Without the slightest leniency, it had struck Mu Chen's body.

The black lightning had sensed the similar ripples from the Nine Netherbird and, naturally, it wouldn't let Mu Chen off.

Bang!

Mu Chen had been struck by the lightning bolt and a mouthful of blood spurted out. His body was covered by the violent lightning. Thereafter, he fell, landing not too far away from the Nine Netherbird and the ground beneath it had directly crumbled.

Liii!

When the Nine Netherbird saw the situation, it instantly issued a painful and low cry. Trembling as it stretched both of its wings that was filled with wounds, it tried to save Mu Chen, who was covered in black lightning.

However, the Nine Netherbird's wounds were too heavy. The instant it moved, intense pain spread out and had nearly submerged its last bit of consciousness.

As the last lightning bolt landed, the black thunder clouds up in the sky had thoroughly dissipated. The instant the thunder clouds dissipated, the Nine Netherbird's body instantly burst forth with dazzling light.

That light was extremely bizarre as it shrouded the Nine Netherbird. Under the shining light, the terrible wounds on the Nine Netherbird were healed, little by little.

"Has the tribulation finally succeeded?"

The Nine Netherbird muttered to itself as its eyes were filled with emotions. It could sense that a huge change started to occur within its body.

This was a genuine evolution.

From body to bloodline!

The evolution caused it to be extremely happy. However, it could see the figure that was shrouded with lightning not far away. Mu Chen's strength was too weak and was impossible for him to bear the black lightning, even if it was just a remnant energy from the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation!

However, when it was anxious, it saw that the figure that wasn't far away had trembled. The black lightning on his body started to dissipate. He crawled up with great difficulty and with a bend, fresh blood uncontrollably spurt out from his mouth. He was on the verge of collapsing and clearly, he had suffered great injuries.

"Damn it, I nearly died!"

Mu Chen's face was as pale as paper as he kneeled on the ground. He wiped the trace of blood at the corner of his mouth. Lowering his head, he looked at his palm as a smear of light flashed though his eyes and muttered, "It's all thanks to this Thunder God Physique; otherwise, I would've died."

"Nine Netherbird!"

As he muttered. He also sensed the dazzling light before him. He immediately raised his head and saw the huge body of the Nine Netherbird being covered by the divine light and started to shrink.

The body turned smaller and smaller. In the end, it shrink into the light. Mu Chen narrowed his eyes from the brightness and he could not see the scene clearly.

The light lasted for a long time, before it weakened down. As the light weakened, Mu Chen's eyes also widened.

Within the light, there was a jade-like naked body. Her figure was graceful and her pair of jade legs were slender and slim. Smooth and stretched taut, she was extremely sexy. On top of her jade legs, she was supporting a waist and on top of that, there was a snow-white neck that was similar to a swan's.

Her rosy lips lightly lifted, showing her charming faint purple eyes. With wildness that could make a man's heart aroused.

Mu Chen was dumbfounded as he muttered, "...Sure enough it was a female."

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 287: Slumber

On the messy ground, the beautiful lady's nude body flickered with a jade-like luster. The temptation from her could make any man unable to shift their gaze from her.

However, the beautiful lady that was before him wasn't sweet tempered. When she heard Mu Chen's muttering, her brows knitted together. Her figure moved, a fragrance swept over and Mu Chen's body was knocked into the rock behind him. Thereafter, a fragile yet tight body stuck to him. At the same time, her slender jade-like hands grabbed Mu Chen's throat.

"Do you believe that I won't kill you?" Her voice was clear, like a spring stream streaking down the mountain, mixed with a cold temperature, causing the spring to be a little cold as well.

Mu Chen leaned against the rock, facing her threats. He couldn't help flinging his mouth as he said in helplessness, "Kill me, then."

It seemed like even though she had taken a human form, the Nine Netherbird's character still didn't know any tenderness.

Pffffft.

The beautiful lady before him smiled. Her jade-like hands gently touched Mu Chen's face as she smiled tenderly, "Considering your previous action by withstanding that last lightning strike, I'll not bother about you taking advantage of me."

Mu Chen felt funny and extremely embarrassed. He couldn't help shrinking his body to prevent himself from coming into contact with that body. Her body was certainly sexy and filled with wildness. She was like a female leopard that could easily evoke the temptation of men.

"Can you wear some clothes? Although you're a Nine Netherbird, you're in human form right now. So it's still best if you take note of it." said Mu Chen. This advantage wasn't something that he wanted to take.

"Human forms are so troublesome." the Nine Netherbird shook her head. Lustrous light surged over her body and some green-black clothing formed, covering all the spots that were revealed. Even with those clothes, her graceful physique looked extremely tempting, with her slender, yet fine waist and ample chest.

Only then, did Mu Chen feel relieved. That nearly wanted his life.

"Your Tribulation should have succeeded, right?" Mu Chen looked towards the Nine Netherbird and hesitated a little before adding on, "I still don't know your name. Am I supposed to keep calling you Nine Netherbird?"

"Call me Nine Nether, then." As she had successfully passed through the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, she was extremely happy. She smiled as she patted Mu Chen's shoulders, "in the future, let this older sister take care of you."

"However, it was still impossible right now..." Nine Nether suddenly frowned her brows and added, "I still have not completed the last step."

"What?" Mu Chen asked in doubt.

"Although I have successfully gone through the tribulation, my physical body still has yet to evolve into the physique of a Divine Beast. Therefore, for a period of time, I'll be in a slumber to evolve my physical body. Wait till I appear again, then I would have successfully evolved into a Nine Netherworld Bird!" Nine Nether's eyes, filled with ambition, surged forth with anticipation.

"Nine Netherworld Bird..." Mu Chen nodded. That should be the evolved state of the Nine Netherbird. Although there was a word difference, Spiritual Beasts and Divine Beasts were extreme opposites.

"In the period of time that I'm asleep, don't lose that life of yours. We are contracted through the Bloodline Bond, so I don't want to suffer a backlash from the Bloodline Bond unknowingly, after I'd just succeeded the Tribulation." Nine Nether's eyes glanced at Mu Chen as she said.

Mu Chen felt a little regretful. He thought that he could have a powerful bodyguard, who could have thought that she would need to be in a deep slumber. If that's the case, didn't he lose a trump card instead?

"In this period of time, if you can't afford to offend, then hide. Wait until I wake up, I'll kill everyone that's bullied you. Understood?" Nine Nether smiled tenderly.

"I'm not that weak." Mu Chen said helplessly.

“Okay then, I’ll start. You should leave after waiting awhile. The commotion caused by my tribulation was too huge. I’m afraid that it’d be noticed by those old fellas of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and they might come over to take a look.”

Nine Nether reminded him before the black flames surged over her body, while her long and narrow eyes streaked with traces of the mysterious purple flames.

The raging black flames rose, turning into a light screen as it shrouded Nine Nether. The black flames started to solidify, bit by bit, before turning into a huge black egg that was roughly the size of a human’s height.

Feathery winged runes appeared on the huge black egg, they were ancient and cryptic as the flickering purple light could be vaguely seen.

When Mu Chen saw that Nine Nether had turned into a huge egg, having falling into a deep slumber to start her last evolution, he made a waving action and stored the egg in his Mustard Seed Bracelet. It seemed like, for a period of time in the near future, he could only depend on himself.

However, he was filled with anticipation. When Nine Nether wakes up, with her strength, she should be able to contend against Sovereigns, right? At that time, this bodyguard of his would be very powerful.

“Time to leave.”

Mu Chen took another glance at the chaotic land, before making a move, soaring up into the sky and made several flickering moves before disappearing into the horizon.

Roughly half an hour later after Mu Chen had left, a breeze brushed against a destroyed mountain peak. A bald old man that was holding some crutches appeared. His muddy gaze looked at the direction that Mu Chen left in as a trace of astonishment flashed across his old face.

“That small Nine Netherbird actually had such a dense bloodline of the Undying Bird...”

“Seems like a genius has appeared in the Nine Netherbird’s clan. Who knows, that small Nine Netherbird might be able to evolve into the Primordial Undying Bird...”

“But she actually made a Bloodline Bond contract with a small human, which could be her fatality... If those old monsters of the Nine Netherbird clan were to know of this matter, they’d probably be enraged.”

“Haha...”

The bald old man softly laughed. As his laughter resounded, his body started to turn illusionary before he completely disappeared.

The land was restored to its silence. However, this silence was only maintained for half an hour before the space lightly rippled again. Shortly after. Several figures appeared out of thin air.

These few figure’s hairs were white and they had solemn expressions. Although there weren’t any powerful ripple fluctuations around them, a frightening amount of pressure was emitting from them.

Among them, Elder Zhu Tian was also present. At this moment, his face was grave as he looked at the heavy destruction on the land with fearsome black lightning energy still lingering around.

“It’s the Divine Black Lightning...” an Elder of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy said with a solemn look in his eyes as he continued, “There was actually a Spiritual Beast that underwent the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation here.”

Hearing the four words ‘Divine Black Thunder Tribulation’, Elder Zhu Tian’s face, as well as everyone else’s, could not help changing expressions. They naturally understood the might of that Lightning Tribulation. The moment they succeeded the tribulation, the Spiritual Beast would be able to evolve into a genuine Divine Beast that was comparable to a Sovereign.

Even in the Northern Heavens Continent, this kind of existence was considered the apex. But they never thought that it would appear within the surroundings of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Furthermore, they had not sensed any powerful Spiritual Beasts hidden in the surrounding mountain ranges of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy after all these years.

“However, looking at the traces of blood scattered on the ground, that Spiritual Beast might have failed its tribulation and was reduced to nothing under the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation.” Elder Zhu Tian looked at the destroyed ground. Although he did not witness the scene with his own eyes, he could sense the fearsome confrontation that happened here.

“What a pity.”

The other elders also felt pity as they sighed. The cultivation of the Spiritual Beasts took much longer compared to the human’s. Who knew how many months and years were needed for a Spiritual Beast to cultivate till the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation. But now, under the ruthlessness of the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, it had turned into ashes and no longer existed.

“However, even if that unknown Spiritual Beast might have been killed by the Lightning Tribulation, we still have to report this to the Dean.”

Elder Zhu Tian’s brows knitted, “Recently, the movements of the Demonic Dragon Palace in the Northern Heavens Continent has increased. Those fellows have already viewed our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy as their mortal enemies. The moment an opportunity arises, they will probably create a huge threat to our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Therefore, we have to be cautious.”

The other Elders solemnly nodded in agreement. The name of the Demonic Dragon Palace had quite a bit of pressure to them. This force had nearly unified the entire Northern Heavens Continent to the point that even the surrounding continents was affected by their power.

Back then, if it wasn’t for the sudden change in the Demonic Dragon Palace, in addition to their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy having Lord Northern Sea, the outcome of the battle would have been hard to tell who’d have been victorious.

“Let’s go.”

Elder Zhu Tian no longer spoke and with a wave of his sleeve, several figures flashed out and in several breaths, they had disappeared.

The heavens and earth had its peace, once again, restored. Only the destroyed ground proved the terrifying clash.

...

Mu Chen returned to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy without any obstructions, and returned to the Freshman's Area. His face was still a little pale. Although the divine black lightning was not able to claim his life, due to the Thunder God Physique that he had cultivated, it still caused quite a big injury to him. Therefore, he had to quickly recover from his injury.

As there was only three days left before the Hunting War, he had to be in top form.

Mu Chen's body landed on the small building. Shortly after, his expression changed as he saw a black-dressed beauty that was smiling at him.

When Mu Chen saw her, a gentle smile appeared on his handsome face. He couldn't help going to her and embracing that girl into his bosom. Having that warmth and fragrance in his embrace, he couldn't help feeling at ease.

Luo Li also lightly smiled. She complied as she leaned her face into his chest. Her pointed nose lightly sniffed and shortly after, her gem-like eyes narrowed. Mu Chen seemed to have a faint fragrance on him and, based on her intuition, she knew that it was the scent of another woman.

Mu Chen, who was still enjoying the warmth and fragrance also sensed Luo Li's state. His heart jumped and felt panic.

"Who is she?"

Luo Li's exquisite and porcelain-like face had the look of a dangerous smile. Her voice was gentle, but it gave Mu Chen a headache. Her sensing of smell of a woman was, indeed, frightening.

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Chapter 288: Boiling

Mu Chen helplessly looked at the arc that Luo Li made with her mouth. It felt dangerous, but, at the same time, he couldn't help wanting to laugh as he could sense a rare jealousy from her tone.

"You're still not explaining!" Luo Li understood Mu Chen too well. The moment she saw the smile in Mu Chen's eyes, her face immediately turned red as she pretended to be angry and stared at him.

Mu Chen held onto the beauty's slender waist and tightly embraced it. After some silence, he did not intent on hiding the existence of the Nine Netherbird from Luo Li. Hence, he simply briefed on the matters regarding the Nine Netherbird.

"Nine Netherbird?" when Luo Li heard his explanation, she was faintly startled. Especially when he heard that earlier on, the Nine Netherbird managed to succeed in the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation, the astonishment on her face grew even richer.

She was, after all, from the Luo God Clan. Henceforth, she had some knowledge towards powerful Spiritual Beast Clans. Among the Spiritual Beast Clans, the Nine Netherbird was rather powerful. However, she never expected one to be hidden in Mu Chen's body.

“You actually dared to take the Divine Black Lightning?!” However, her eyes widened shortly with palpitation filling her eyes.

Not even Sovereign experts would dare to come in contact with the Divine Black Lightning Tribulation and with Mu Chen’s strength, if there was any mistake, it would mean turning into ashes.

“I have contracted the Bloodline Bond with the Nine Netherbird. If she dies, I will also suffer the backlash.” Mu Chen helplessly smiled and added, “But looking from any direction, it was impossible for me to watch her get destroyed by the Lightning Tribulation.”

“A Bloodline Bond!?”

Luo Li couldn’t help opening her small mouth and take a ruthless bite at Mu Chen’s chest, “You’re killing me from the anger.”

She naturally had some understanding towards the Bloodline Bond. Thus, Mu Chen and the life of the Nine Netherbird was linked together and no matter which side suffered a threat to their life, the other party would suffer a backlash from the Bloodline Bond.

Mu Chen scratched his head and didn’t know how to explain it. Back then, there wasn’t any other choice but to establish the Bloodline Bond. However, the girl that was in his embrace was just jealous, so he didn’t make any explanations but embraced her tightly.

“But, it’s good. She had succeeded the Divine Black Thunder Tribulation and when she awakens, she will be an existence comparable to Sovereigns. And, in the future, you will be safer and I’ll be more at ease.” Luo Li wasn’t someone that would pester endlessly. After releasing some of her jealousy, she recovered.

Mu Chen looked at the young girl, remembering that she will leave him to return to the Luo God Clan to bear a huge responsibility and was trying her best to endure everything, becoming the new Empress of the Luo God Clan. Mu Chen felt a faint heartache as he lowered his head to the young girl’s forehead, “But, I’m not at ease about you.”

“Even you’ve lost to me in the past, what is there not be at ease about?” Luo Li faintly smiled.

Mu Chen didn’t have the heart to joke with her. His black pupils stared at her seriously. Luo Li’s pretty eyes slightly move away and said in a soft voice, “What?”

“Luo Li.”

Mu Chen’s tone was grave and serious as he slowly spoke, “Remember, no matter what happens, you have to wait for me. Perhaps it will be hard for you in the Luo God Clan, but believe me, for you, I will become stronger, no matter how hard it will be, until the day I can fulfil my promise to you.”

Luo Li’s eyes turned red from looking at Mu Chen’s grave gaze. She knew how difficult Mu Chen had to work hard in order to fulfil his promise. The path of experts was enough to cover someone in wounds and lose their formal clean smile.

Perhaps all that hard work and tempering could refine this youth’s face to be more mature. But, at the same time, it made her feel some heartache.

“Okay, I promise you.” Luo Li’s voice was gentle, as though it was about to melt. Her clear eyes flickered with affection.

Mu Chen’s eyes turned slightly heated from looking at the touching appearance of the girl that was in his embrace. The arm that he used to embrace the girl became even more forceful, as though he wanted to merge her into his body.

He lowered his head.

“Don’t.” The girl emitted a sound that was as faint as a fly as she seemed to have sensed something. However, it was disregarded by the youth and with a tyrannical method, he planted a kiss on those rosy red lips.

The girl slightly struggled, but quickly relaxed her body. She was like a puddle of water as she melted in Mu Chen’s embrace.

In the next three days, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy turned more and more heated with an astonishing speed. The entire atmosphere in the academy felt as though it had been ignited.

The origin of that fire was, naturally, the Hunting War.

This was the biggest annual event in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Every single year, there would be countless black horses that would soar into the heavens and expose their achievements in that year.

Every time the Hunting War ended, there would be a huge change in the rankings of the Heavenly Ranking.

Therefore, the Hunting War would certainly be an intense battle. It was the battle between the black horses and the current outstanding students. It would have to depend on each other’s trump cards, if they’re able to replace their opponent.

Henceforth, the atmosphere in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was extremely heated. Especially the Convergence Spiritual Array, as well as the Lightning Territory. From time to time, a figure with soaring fighting intent could be seen walking out of it.

Without any exceptions, all those people had powerful Spiritual Energy ripples fluctuating from them. They had ended their long training and returned back to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. They wanted to display their explosive strengths in the Hunting War and seize their once lost or their coming glory.

The entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was also especially heated up and countless people were inquiring all around, attempting to probe the trump cards, as well as the concealed strength of those black horses.

Under this heat, countless students had anticipation in their heart as they awaited the soon-to-start Hunting War.

When the third day arrived, the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was shrouded in passion. Up in the sky, wind breaking sounds were constantly resounding as the countless figures became exceptionally spectacular.

In the Freshman's Area, Mu Chen and Luo Li were already at the field next to the lake, where Ye Qingling, Zhou Ling and many other members of the Goddess Luo Association surrounded them in excitement. Among the current freshmen, probably only Mu Chen, Luo Li, as well as a other few people, were qualified to partake in the Hunting War.

"Brother Mu, good luck! As long as your performance in the Hunting War is outstanding, you could become an influential person in the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!" these were the excited voices of the Goddess Luo Association's members.

Although Mu Chen did possess some fame in the academy, he still wasn't qualified to be considered an influential person. Only people like Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, Su Xuan, He Yao and the other people that were in the top 10 ranking of the Heavenly Ranking could have such a title.

Mu Chen smiled, he didn't have much interest in the title of an influential figure. However, he was rather interested in the Spiritual Empowerment.

"Come, we should get going." Luo Li smiled.

"Okay."

Mu Chen smiled as his figure flashed out, with Luo Li closely following him from behind. After them, Ye Qingling, Zhou Ling and the rest quickly followed after. Although they're not participating in the Hunting War, it was inevitable for them to attend such a lively annual event in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

When Mu Chen and the rest moved, He Yao, along with a huge number of the Demon's Gate's members, walked out of their newly constructed Headquarters. His gaze was cold as he directed them towards the Freshman Area.

Mu Chen, I hope that you're not that unlucky to encounter me in the Hunting War. Otherwise, I will let you understand that, compared to a genuine influential figure of the academy, you, as a freshman, are still too far away.

On an island that was at the center of the lake, Su Xuan and Su Ling'er also came out. They could not help smiling as they looked at the wind breaking sound that constantly resounded in the sky. It was, once again, the most lively moment of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

"Let's go."

Su Xuan gently smiled as she walked forth. When she walked out, the Spiritual Energy around her rippled out like water. However, after taking a few steps, the Spiritual Energy ripples were restrained by her.

"Elder Sister, you have to go for it and see if you can defeat Li Xuanton to seize his Rank 2 in the Heavenly Ranking!" Su Ling'er chuckled.

"How would that be easy? It would be great if I could preserve my ranking as third." Su Xuan helplessly shook her head as she held onto Su Ling'er. The sister duo flew up into the sky and rushed towards the central area of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

On a mountain peak, a slender figure slowly walked out. The mountain peak had quite a number of people quietly waiting and when they saw that slender figure come out, their eyes instantly blazed.

“Boss!”

Li Xuanton lightly smiled at them as he waved his hand, “It’s almost time.”

“Yes!” all of them instantly replied as they closely followed him.

When Li Xuanton reached the edge of the mountain peak, he looked at the direction that was outside of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. His calm eyes flashed across with traces of expectation and fighting intent.

Shen Cangsheng, you will probably return for the Hunting War. This year, I will surpass you, so don’t make me disappointed.

“Let’s go!”

Li Xuanton lightly barked as his figure turned into a streak of light, shooting out. Behind him, there were many people that closely followed him.

The entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy exploded as countless figures streaked across the horizon, gathering towards the central area of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. After cultivating and endured for so long, they could finally burst out on this day.

Those students with powerful strengths had their eyes filled with fighting intent.

Hunting War, begin!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 289: Dean Tai Cang

The central area of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had a majestic and vast field. This was the extremely famed Northern Sea Field of the academy. It was said that, long ago, this was the cultivating ground of the Northern Sea Dragon. Until later, when the academy was established, a huge field was opened here. But, generally speaking, only huge events would be held here.

And the gathering location of the Hunting War was here.

This field was sufficient to hold tens of thousands of people. Today, this place was filled with an endless sea of people and that astonishing boiling noise soared into the horizons. It could be clearly heard from anywhere in the range of a hundred miles.

When Mu Chen and the rest arrived here, they couldn’t help smacking their lips upon seeing such a huge amount of people. It was, indeed, worthy of being the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Mu Chen and his group stopped at the sky, their gaze looked at the Northern Sea Field. The front of the field was empty, which was different from the rear of the field. But, no matter how empty it was, no students dared to set foot here.

At the empty region, there was a copper sculpture. It was a huge creature with a fish-like scaled body, along with a dragon’s claws and tail. The image of it was sinister and powerful. Even if it was just a

sculpture, it still possessed a fearsome might as it spread out. It was precisely this might that made the other students not daring enough to approach it.

“That’s the guardian beast of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, the Northern Sea Dragon?” Mu Chen looked at that sculpture as he sensed that might. Immediately, he couldn’t help smacking his lips inwardly. This Northern Sea Dragon was, indeed, a fearsome existence.

“This Northern Sea Dragon possesses sky high status in our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Even Elder Tian Xi would have to be polite and respectful to him, when seeing that almighty existence.” Luo Li said softly.

Mu Chen nodded. Even among the Divine Beasts, the Northern Sea Dragon should be ranked at the top and, adding on to the fact that it had cultivated for so long, its strength was definitely dreadful. Within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there weren’t that many people that could be stronger than it.

Mu Chen’s line-of-sight shifted from the Northern Sea Dragon’s sculpture and directed it towards the sky. From that direction, there was a cold gaze staring at him, it was He Yao.

Towards He Yao’s cold gaze, Mu Chen lightly smiled in reply. If a month ago, he had some fear towards He Yao, then all the fear had been suppressed right now.

If they were to confront, the victory wouldn’t be controlled by He Yao.

When He Yao saw Mu Chen’s fearless expression, his gaze turned even colder. Shortly after, he coldly retracted his gaze. However, Mu Chen knew that with that fella’s breadth of mind, he would definitely not let it go so easily in this Hunting War.

When Mu Chen retracted his gaze from He Yao, a series of wind breaking noises resounded from the back with a familiar Spiritual Energy fluctuation being emitted.

“It’s Li Xuanton.”

Mu Chen was extremely familiar with this Spiritual Energy fluctuation. He didn’t need to turn his head to know who it was. He slightly turned his head and, indeed, he could see Li Xuanton coming with a group of people.

Li Xuanton’s figure stopped beside Mu Chen and Luo Li. His gaze was a little complicated as he glanced at Luo Li. Thereafter, he turned towards Mu Chen with a trace of astonishment flashing across his eyes, “You’re a little stronger now.”

“If there isn’t any improvement, how would I dare to come?” Mu Chen smiled. He wasn’t being arrogant, but he wasn’t humble either. He knew that if he were to be humble with Li Xuanton, he would be looked down upon instead.

“It seems like you’re here to participate in the Hunting War...” Li Xuanton lightly smiled as he added, “If we were to meet in the Hunting War, I will no longer let you have anymore Pact of Three Moves.”

“That was my intention, as well.” Mu Chen stared at Li Xuanton as he nodded.

When the students behind Li Xuantong saw Mu Chen confronting Li Xuantong, they felt unhappy. In their view, although Mu Chen was able to take the Pact of Three Moves from Li Xuantong, it didn't make them feel that Mu Chen could stand on the same level as Li Xuantong.

But it was just unhappiness and they still did not say anything in the end. Their eyes were staring at Mu Chen with ill intent, as though they're issuing their warning.

"I'll also participate the Hunting War with him. If we meet, then, when it happens, I can ask for some advice." Luo Li's voice was gentle as she said from the side.

Li Xuantong's face slightly turned stiff and, shortly after, he helplessly shook his head. He looked at Mu Chen and spoke, "I heard that you tore apart the Headquarters of the Demon's Gate?"

Mu Chen nodded. This matter was widely spread in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, so it wasn't surprising that Li Xuantong knew about it.

"A little too rampant." said Li Xuantong.

Mu Chen's brows twitched. Just when he was about to speak, Li Xuantong smiled and continued, "However, you're still a man. If you did not do anything, I'd most probably look for your trouble as you're not even able to protect her here, so, how are you going to protect her in the future?"

Mu Chen extended his hand out and lightly held onto the girl's slender and tender hands as he smiled, "Senior Li Xuantong, although right now, I'm not powerful. But if anyone wants to lay a hand on her, it would have to be done by stepping over my corpse."

Luo Li's eyes were gentle as she looked at the side of the youth's handsome face. The smile on that firm face could not be doubted.

Li Xuantong lightly nodded, "He Yao, that fellow, if I were to encounter him in the Hunting War, I will definitely get rid of him."

Mu Chen smiled, "It's not my business to comment on who you want to deal with. But if I were to encounter him, then perhaps you won't have the chance to do so."

"Your tone isn't small." Li Xuantong smiled as he added, "Then, it'd have to depend on your performance on the Hunting War. Don't end up to the point that you're not able to reach the ending point."

Mu Chen smiled and no longer spoke as he held onto Luo Li's hand, standing high up in the sky.

As more time passed, more and more students gathered here. Mu Chen also saw Su Xuan, Xu Huang and various other powerful figures that ranked at the top of the Heavenly Ranking.

Aside from those influential figures that originally existed in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Mu Chen could vaguely sense that, among the sea of people, there were quite a few hidden and ambitious glittering gazes. When they looked at those influential figures up in the sky, their eyes were filled with challenging intents.

All those gazes didn't have any fear in them, even when they're facing with the top 10 of the Heavenly Ranking.

Mu Chen vaguely sensed those gazes and, immediately, he smacked his lips. It was indeed, worthy of being the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Those people that were reflected on the Heavenly Ranking were, after all, few in numbers and many others had been hiding themselves. Waiting for their wings to be fully grown to soar into the horizon in one shot.

Clearly, this Hunting War was a good opportunity to do that.

Dong!

As more and more students gathered, a bell suddenly rang out between the heavens and earth. That long lasting bell's ring drowned all of the bustling noises as it resounded throughout the heavens and earth.

Everyone stopped talking as they looked towards the depth of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy with reverent eyes. In that direction, there was a huge azure bird flying towards this location. The huge bird brought forth a hurricane and was suspended in the empty region of this field.

Mu Chen's gaze was also directed towards the huge bird. Speaking precisely, it was the back of the huge bird, as there were several old figures on it. Every single figure appeared to be an ordinary old man. However, not a single person dared to belittle those frail old men, because hidden within those bodies, there was tremendous annihilating power.

And, before all those old figures, there was a tall middle-aged man that wore an azure robe. His face was like a jade, with a pair of eyes that looked like boundless stars. Looking at them would make others feel like they were being absorbed by them and were unable to free themselves.

It was as though the heavens and earth were being reflected in their eyes.

He smiled as he looked at the youths below with respect on their faces. His eyes reflected his experience, like a wise man that had experienced countless years and months.

"He is..." Mu Chen's eyes were grave as he looked at that middle-aged man in the azure robe.

"He's the Dean of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Dean Tai Cang." Li Xuanton said softly. Even someone as prideful as him had unconcealable respect in his tone.

Mu Chen lightly nodded. He never expected that even the Dean of the academy would appear. Such a huge figure wasn't someone they could see during the usual days.

"Boys and girls, after a year, I'm glad to see that all of your strengths have grown." On the azure bird, Dean Tai Cang lightly smiled as he looked at the countless youths. His clear and bright voice resounded within everyone's ears. His voice also made the Spiritual Energy in every student's bodies more docile, like the voice of a god that made them feel refreshed. So much so that even their spirit rose. The Spiritual Energy within their bodies became even more lively.

"What frightening power." Mu Chen felt the changes in his body and was instantly startled. Just what kind of strength was that? Just a speech alone was already sufficient to raise their spirits.

That voice made it feel as though it had recuperated their bodies and made them feel indescribable power.

“That’s the Tai Cang Deity Note.” Luo Li’s face was also filled with a grave expression as she added, “Rumor has it that it was born from a part of the Deity Classics. Back then, just relying on this note, Dean Tai Cang managed to kill a Sovereign.”

“Killing a Sovereign through his voice?” Mu Chen felt his head going numb. He also understood that this Dean Tai Cang had used his genuine strength, but wasn’t this a little too frightening?

“For this Hunting War, I suppose that everyone here isn’t a stranger to it. I will not waste any words on the rules. However, I have to make a reminder that this year’s Hunting War would be the hardest, as there are three Guardians at the end...”

Dean Tai Cang lightly smiled. He waved his sleeve, causing the space before him to fluctuate. As though it was a huge mirror. Within the mirror, there was a mighty mountain. At the peak of that mountain, there were three leveled hills. Up on those hills, clouds and mist lingered around that seemed to be concealing some powerful existences.

Many students exchanged glances with each other. They naturally knew that only by defeating the Guardians, only then can they advance the last Spiritual Empowerment. Otherwise, the Spiritual Light that everyone had obtained would be invalid.

In the past, there was only one Guardian. No one had imagined that it would be so hard this time round. From one to three Guardians. They wondered, which three of the Punishment Hall would it be?

Countless gazes gathered onto the light mirror. The mist over there dissipated little by little and, in the end, vaguely revealed three people that were quietly seated. However, their demeanor was like ferocious dragons that would shake the heavens and earth.

Looking at their demeanors, even Li Xuantong’s face changed. The other students with sharp perception had their facial expressions changed.

“Those three are the Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall. They’re the top 3 of the Heavenly Ranking from the previous batch.”

Dean Tai Cang’s long lasting voice that resounded out caused an endless amount of students to inhale a mouthful of cold air. This time, it was actually the Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall that were personally sent out? This difficulty was simply too high!

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Chapter 290: Begin

“They’re the Three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall?”

Mu Chen’s gaze was grave as he looked at the direction of the cloudy mist that was vaguely being shown. Those three majestic figures were extremely powerful.

“It is indeed them, they are the final Guardians.” Li Xuantong muttered. Even he felt some pressure when facing those three, who were once the top 3 of the Heavenly Ranking.

“Furthermore, it is three people that are the Guardians. This round’s final Guardians are simply too hard.” Li Xuantong slightly frowned his brows. Although he was confident in his own strength, he wasn’t arrogant to the point that he would claim that he could confront those three all by himself. After all,

those three weren't ordinary figures. Back then, when he entered the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, those three were figures that he could only look at from below.

According to the rules of the Hunting War, no matter how much Spiritual Light they obtained in this Hunting War, if they could not pass through the final round, everyone's hard work would all be in vain. And all the Spiritual Light that they worked so hard to obtain would all be useless.

And, naturally, they would lose the benefits from the Spiritual Empowerment.

This was the crucial point to every student's benefits that participated in the Hunting War.

Evidently, many students had thought of this and, instantly, the atmosphere in the field was a little stiff. Many people had their brows furrowed as they swept their gazes, searching for the figures that could ease their hearts.

"Why isn't Shen Cangsheng here in this year's Hunting War?"

"If he's not here, I'm afraid that it would not be easy to get through the final test."

"Yeah. Just relying on Li Xuantong, I'm afraid that it won't be sufficient to deal with those three Generals."

Those whispers started to spread out in this field and quite a few people were searching for that peak existence on the Heavenly Ranking. Only with him, would they have a guarantee to be able to obtain the Spiritual Empowerment without a hitch.

Compared to them, Mu Chen did not look around. In this view, he would rather depend on himself, rather than others. It was a downside to depend on others. Although Shen Cangsheng was indeed powerful. If he managed to return in time for the hunting War, it would be a matter that could stir people's heart. However, Mu Chen wasn't used to placing his hopes in others.

Li Xuantong's face maintained indifference. His expression was calm and tranquil, without any change, as he allowed the whispers to spread out on the field.

On the azure bird, Dean Tai Cang smiled as he looked at the stirred field, "Do you guys have any objections regarding this Hunting War? If there aren't any, then, let's open up the Spiritual Light Realm."

The Spiritual Light Realm was the Hunting War. It was a small realm that was established by the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and, every single year, the Spiritual Light Realm would be opened for the Hunting War.

Countless students exchanged glances and could only nod their heads helplessly. From the looks of it, it seemed that Shen Cangsheng would not turn up. If that's the case, then they wouldn't have any odds of success in the final test.

Those three Great Generals possessed high fame that was not only limited to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Even in the Northern Heavens Continent, they possessed some fame, as well. Although, it wasn't for certain that they would be able to pass through the final test if Shen Cangsheng was here, at least their odds of success would be higher when he joined hands with Li Xuantong.

Dean Tai Cang lightly smiled as he looked at the situation. He waved his sleeve and the space before him started to twist. As the light wiggled, a huge spatial door slowly took form as boundless Spiritual Energy ripples rippled out.

“It’s almost time, so let’s begin this year’s Hunting War!” Dean Tai Cang saw the opened spatial door and laughed so clear and bright that it resounded within everyone’s ears.

The countless students all nodded their heads as smears of blazing intent flashed across their eyes shortly after. No matter what, admitting defeat before reaching the final test wasn’t the style of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s students. Even if this year’s Hunting War didn’t have powerful figures like Shen Cangsheng, they would still attempt to challenge the final test!

However, just when the countless students were about to soar up and enter the Spiritual Light Realm, there was a hurried break of wind that suddenly sounded from far away.

Astonishing Spiritual Energy ripples soared up into the heavens.

“Haha, how can I be left out of this Hunting War?” When the astonishing Spiritual Energy ripples appeared, his laughter was like thunder as it resounded above the field.

“Senior Apprentice Shen Cangsheng?!”

“He’s finally back!”

The entire field instantly exploded as countless students had excitement on their faces as they couldn’t help cheering. At the final moment, the tyrant of the Heavenly Ranking had returned!

Under the loud cheers, a streak of light flew over from far away and appeared in the sky. As the light dispersed, that black-clothed youth stood on the air with a disdainful demeanor that was like a goshawk in the air, the focus of everyone’s attention.

Countless gazes were looking at that figure with reverence. Among this batch’s students, Shen Cangsheng was undoubtedly the tyrant among everyone.

His ranking on the Heavenly Ranking was something that no one could surpass.

“Finally appeared?” Li Xuantong stared at that black-clothed figure up in the sky as he lightly smiled, along with a dense fighting intent surging out of his eyes.

If Shen Cangsheng was not in this year’s Hunting War, then it would have been a little too boring.

“He’s Senior Apprentice Shen Cangsheng?” Zhou Ling, Ye Qingling and the rest were looking at that figure with curiosity and reverence. After coming to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, they had clearly heard too much in regards to the fame of the Heavenly Ranking’s Tyrant.

Mu Chen lightly nodded his head as he looked at that figure. Looking again at the boiling atmosphere, Shen Cangsheng was, indeed, the only flag-like figure that could have the power to rally supporters of such great numbers.

At this point, even a god-favoured person like Li Xuantong was inferior to him.

“Dean, am I too late?” Shen Cangsheng stood in the air as he smiled, looking towards Dean Tai Cang, who was on the azure bird.

Dean Tai Cang smiled as he looked at Shen Cangsheng. He was, naturally, familiar with the most outstanding student in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, “Aren’t you engaged with the Bounty Mission to hunt Mo Longzi? Could it be that your mission has been completed, now that you’re back?”

When Dean Tai Cang said those words, it caused the hearts of many students to tremble. Mo Longzi? The ranked 2 of the Bounty Board?

When Shen Cangsheng heard Dean Tai Cang’s words, he helplessly smiled, “I fought several rounds with him, but he still managed to escape. Wait until I finish this year’s Hunting War and accept the Spiritual Empowerment, I should be able to kill him.”

Although his words were calm, they made the faces of many outstanding students in the academy to change. Unconsciously, Shen Cangsheng had already reached that level? How were they going to catch up to him? Heavenly Ranking’s Tyrant, this name was, indeed, not in vain.

Li Xuantong narrowed his eyes. The fighting intent within his eyes did not fall weak, but turned denser.

“Li Xuantong, it’s been a long time since we’ve met, can you not look at me like that?” Sensing Li Xuantong’s gaze, Shen Cangsheng turned around and smiled.

“I just want to see how much you’ve improved in this period of time. Beware being surpassed by me.” Li Xuantong faintly smiled.

“Haha, I also wish to see if you have any improvement in your Profound Sky Divine Technique.” Shen Cangsheng nodded with a smile. Among the Heavenly Ranking, Shen Cangsheng was the only person that could be placed in his eyes. As for others, like He Yao, he didn’t even consider them much.

Shen Cangsheng smiled as he lightly swept his glance towards He Yao, Xu Huang and the rest that were in the top 10 of the Heavenly Ranking. When his gaze fell onto Mu Chen, he was slightly startled and, shortly after, he gave a deeply meaningful look towards him.

Regarding Mu Chen, Shen Cangsheng clearly had quite a bit of an impression about him. Back then, Mu Chen had relied on his cultivation as a Heavenly Fusion Stage to kill Bai Xuan. Furthermore, even before Mo Longzi, Mu Chen was calm and composed. Such a state of mind wasn’t something that an ordinary youth could possess.

When Mu Chen saw Shen Cangsheng’s gaze, he also lightly smiled and did not say anything else.

“Since the person that all of you have been waiting for is here, then, let’s begin!”

Dean Tai Cang smiled as he looked at the students that was clearly at ease. Evidently, Shen Cangsheng’s arrival had given confidence to many of the students.

When he finished his speech, the spatial door instantly burst forth with a brilliant light.

“Haha, let’s go everyone. Li Xuantong, let us meet again in the Spiritual Light Stage!” Shen Cangsheng laughed as he stepped forth and turned into a stream of light as he charged into the huge spatial door. Only his laughter remained, resounding in the sky of this field.

“Boom!”

When Shen Cangsheng moved, he had, undoubtedly, instantly caused an explosion on the entire field. Countless figures flew up and were like locusts as they streaked across the horizon, into the huge spatial door.

Li Xuanton also immediately moved as he brought a group of people with him into the huge door that was emitting the brilliant light.

“Let’s go, as well.” Mu Chen looked at Luo Li, which the latter nodded her head in response.

“Brother Mu, go for it!” Behind him, the various students of the Goddess Luo Association waved their fists as they yelled.

Mu Chen waved his hand towards them, before holding onto Luo Li’s jade-like hands and flew away, joining the stream of people into the Spiritual Light Realm.

Up on the azure bird, Dean Tai Cang was smiling as he watched the spectacular scene. Shortly after, he shifted his line-of-sight onto the light screen that was illuminating the final point of the Spiritual Light Realm, which was the so-called Spiritual Light Stage where the Three Great Generals were standing guard.

“Haha, this year’s Hunting War is a little interesting. I wonder, would the former top 3 of the Heavenly Ranking be more formidable, or the current top 3 of the Heavenly Ranking?”

When the few elders that stood behind him heard his words, they lightly smiled. Although the demeanor of those students were brilliant and, by adding geniuses like Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, they’d still a bit lacking if they wanted to challenge the spot of the Three Great Generals.

Who knows? If things didn’t work out, everyone might return empty-handed during this year’s Hunting War.