

## Great Ruler 351

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#### Chapter 351: Guidance

Within the quiet and elegant bamboo house, Mu Chen looked with some awkwardness at the girl dressed in white that was in a seiza position behind the tea table. The latter wore a white dress, with her black hair draped over her shoulders. Coupled with her beautiful face and the lovably pointed jaw, she radiated with a faint icy and indifferent aura, letting people know that it was not easy to get close to her.

The girl in front of him was really quite beautiful, with not a bit inferior to Su Xuan. The only gripe was that icy indifference, which was the greatest among all of the beautiful girls that Mu Chen had ever seen.

He never imagined that this eccentric Elder Ling Xi would actually be this young and beautiful.

Su'er, who had also adopted the seiza position beside Ling Xi, secretly laughed as she looked at Mu Chen's awkward-looking face.

Regardless of that, the girl in white did not care about the Mu Chen in front of her and was minding her own business as she extended her slender white hand. Picking up the teapot, she gently poured the tea out, bringing along a clear and melodious sound within the quiet room as the tea entered the cup.

Giving a dry cough, Mu Chen cupped his hands and said, "This student, Mu Chen, has seen Elder Ling Xi. I apologize for my earlier conduct..."

"Why did you come here?" asked the white girl in a calm voice, with no presence of any fluctuations.

"The Dean has asked me to come here to find Elder...Ling Xi for guidance on cultivation in Spiritual Arrays," replied Mu Chen, with the word 'Elder' being said with slight difficulty, as he had never seen such a young and beautiful Elder.

"I don't teach people." Holding the jade tea cup in her white hands, the girl in white took a light sip before giving her reply.

Hearing her reply, Mu Chen immediately glared at Su'er sitting beside her.

"I don't teach males." Seemingly knowing what Mu Chen was referring to, the girl in white added a casual response.

Feeling helpless, the only thing Mu Chen could do was forsake his shame and replied, "It's the Dean who asked me to come here."

Hearing those words, the beautiful eyes of the girl in white rotated up slightly. Shooting a look at Mu Chen, she replied, "I'm not a person of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. The only reason I'm here is due to owing a favor to Dean Tai Cang. Therefore, I've only agreed to help him construct some Spiritual Arrays for the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. As long as I want to, I can leave at any time. Therefore, don't use his name and try to pressure me."

Mu Chen was immediately speechless. This Elder Ling Xi's character truly was eccentric. She didn't even give face to Dean Tai Cang. This turn of events truly made Mu Chen feel slightly at a loss on how to proceed.

The girl in white proceeded to ignore the helplessly feeling Mu Chen and started to play with her elaborately designed jade cup with her usual indifferent expression.

Do to this, the atmosphere within the room quickly became silent and slightly stifling.

Seeing Mu Chen starting to shrivel up, Su'er could not help, laughing up her sleeve, before saying quietly, "Elder Sister Ling Xi, Big Brother Mu Chen's talent in Spiritual Arrays is very good, and is even better than me."

"There are too many people with good talent. If I were to teach every single one I see, wouldn't that tire me to death?" asked Ling Xi as she glared at Su'er.

"Elder Sister Ling Xi, can you please help Big Brother Mu Chen, please? He treats me very well," begged Su'er as she started to act like a spoilt kid.

Nevertheless, Ling Xi did not budge.

"Elder Sister Ling Xi, if you don't agree, I'll not do work anymore," said Su'er as she pouted her small mouth.

"Then, I'll just have to lock you up in the Spiritual Array House." replied Ling Xi in a soft voice as a smile seemed to rise from the corner of her mouth.

Upon hearing the three words "Spiritual Array House", Su'er immediately turned quiet in fear, her little face quickly showed a bitter expression as she did not dare to continue speaking.

Seeing that Su'er did not dare to continue speaking, Ling Xi turned quietly for a slight moment before looking at Mu Chen. With an indifferent tone, she asked, "So, you're a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master now?"

"Yes," replied Mu Chen while nodding his head.

"What problem do you have?" asked Ling Xi.

"I would like to know how to control the Heart's Eye state." Mu Chen immediately replied. To him, the Heart's Eye state was extremely important. Once he was truly able to control the Heart's Eye state, he would be able to rely on his strength of a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master to arrange Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays.

Although it could be said that he had managed to faintly make contact with the Heart's Eye state, the entirety of this state was extremely complicated. If he only relied on his probing and feelings, he truly did not know when he would achieve the level of full control.

"Heart's Eye?" muttered Ling Xi, as a trace of astonishment revealed itself within her eyes. She truly didn't imagine that Mu Chen was actually able to make contact with the Heart's Eye state at his current level. It looked like what Su'er said was true, that he possessed an extremely high talent for Spiritual Arrays.

“The Heart’s Eye state is a rather high and deep state within the path of a Spiritual Array Master. It’s known in two forms, the Void Heart’s Eye state, and the Real Heart’s Eye state. However, from the looks of it, you aren’t even at the level of full control over the Void Heart’s Eye state.”

Hearing her explanation, Mu Chen faintly gawked. Obviously, he never thought that the Heart’s Eye state would actually have such a differentiation within it.

“What’s the difference between the two?”

“The Void Heart’s Eye state is an illusionary feeling and comprehension. If a Spiritual Array was arranged by two Spiritual Array Masters, one with control over the Void Heart’s Eye state, while the other doesn’t, not only will the amount of Spiritual Energy consumed by the one with control be less, its might would be even stronger, with even the chances of failure being drastically lowered. An extremely significant reason why some outstanding Spiritual Array Masters were able to arrange boundary-breaking Spiritual Arrays is due to their control over this state.”

“As for the Real Heart’s Eye state...” Ling Xi’s voice paused slightly at this moment, before continuing, “Spiritual Array Masters that have such a degree of control over the Heart’s Eye state would feel a good deal of Spiritual Arrays become incomparably simple in their eyes. This is due to them already being able to see through a lot of their complicated structures and peer into their cores. If you were to meet an enemy of such caliber, they would be able to see the weakest point of the Spiritual Arrays that you’ve arranged with a single look, and break them easily...”

“In addition, once one trains their control over the Real Heart’s Eye state to an extremely deep and high level, it would no longer continue to be an illusionary feeling. It would turn substantial, akin to an existence of a genuine eye. That’s the true Heart’s Eye state.”

“Under the gaze of the Heart’s Eye state, no Spiritual Arrays would exist. If you come face-to-face with such a Spiritual Array Master, it’s best that you don’t arrange any Spiritual Arrays in front of that person. That’s because he would be able to see through your constructs in a single look. Perhaps, in an instant, he would be able to arrange a Spiritual Array identical to the one you’ve arranged.”

Hearing her complete explanation, Mu Chen was completely dumbfounded. Reproducing an opponent’s Spiritual Array with a single look? Wasn’t that too perverted and abnormal? He never imagined that this Heart’s Eye state would actually be that formidable. However, it seemed too far away from him. To him, what he wanted now was not the other benefits that it would provide, but only the little bit of allowing him to arrange boundary-breaking Spiritual Arrays...

“Exactly when would one be able to control this state?” Mu Chen posed his question cautiously.

“That’s very simple. You just have to train and practice more,” replied Ling Xi with a downplaying tone.

Mu Chen instantly felt sweat dripping down from his forehead. Isn’t this making it sound too simple?

“What should I do?” asked Mu Chen helplessly.

“Do you really want to control it?” asked Ling Xi as her intelligent and bright eyes focused on Mu Chen, while the icy in-differentness within them seemingly weaker than before. However, what replaced them was an indifferent laughing intent, which made Mu Chen feel a little uneasy.

However, at this time, regardless of his unease, the only thing he could do was steel himself. It was not easy to get this eccentric lady to guide him, If he showed the slightest bit of hesitation, he might be sent flying out once again.

“Yes.” replied Mu Chen with a nod.

Hearing his reply, Su’er used a sympathizing gaze as she looked at Mu Chen, she was already able to picture the unlucky look that would soon appear on his face.

“Follow me,” said Ling Xi and she stood up, revealing her slender and exquisite physique wrapped within the white clothing, Bringing along a slight trace of fragrance, she walked directly out of the house, leaving Mu Chen looking at her graceful and slender back figure.

The three of them headed out of the bamboo house and entered a bamboo forest, before stopping at a spacious clearing within its depths.

“In general, although Spiritual Arrays are complicated, to a Spiritual Array Master, the most important part of it would be the Array Core. Once the core is broken, even the most powerful Spiritual Array would dissipate into thin air. However, wanting to identify the Array Core of an incomparably complex Spiritual Array in operation would be an extremely difficult task.”

Looking towards Mu Chen, Ling Xi extended her slender jade-like finger and gave the space a tap. In the next instant, ripples seemed to undulate out from the touched space, as Mu Chen was able to feel the Spiritual Energy in this stretch of the world seemingly becoming disordered and chaotic.

Spiritual Energy akin to a storm condensed within the spacious clearing within the bamboo forest, as a scarlet-red glowing array started to form in the air. In the next instant, a strong Spiritual Energy fluctuation started to spread out, while radiating with a scorching-hot aura.

Looking at the scarlet-red Spiritual Array that had taken shape in an instant around him, Mu Chen’s expression changed uncontrollably. This Spiritual Array should be a Fourth Grade one. If he was the one arranging it, it would require ample preparation before attempting to arrange it. However, with a single tap of her jade-like finger, this Ling Xi was able to form a Fourth Grade Spiritual Array. Furthermore, Mu Chen did not even see her condense a single Spiritual Seal...

She had directly controlled the Spiritual Energy of the heavens and earth to arrange a Spiritual Array. This way made it even harder for people to guard against it.

One had to know that when a Spiritual Array Master arranges a Spiritual Array, the first thing that needed to be done was to condense the Spiritual Seals. However, it would give a clear indication to one’s enemy what one’s actions were. However, from what Ling Xi had done, she had directly omitted this step.

Shock quietly flooded Mu Chen’s heart as he thought, *A Great Spiritual Array Master, she truly is worthy of that title. She’s on a completely different level from me.*

However, just as Mu Chen was secretly feeling shocked, Ling Xi wasn’t done with what she was doing. With another tap of her jade-like finger, one could see two similarly gigantic and complicated Spiritual Arrays surfacing in the air, enveloping the scarlet-red glowing array within them.

Three complete Rank 4 Spiritual Arrays. Furthermore, they were arranged simultaneously.

Unable to bear it any more, the corner of Mu Chen's mouth started to twitch.

The three Rank 4 Spiritual Arrays enveloped the entire clearing with Mu Chen at their very most centre location. Currently, he did not even dare to make the slightest movement, since a single movement from him would cause the three Spiritual Arrays to launch erratic attacks at him.

"Elder Ling Xi..."

With a dry laugh, Mu Chen asked, "May I know what this is for?"

"Before being killed by them, you'll have to find the Array Cores of these three Spiritual Arrays, before breaking them to escape. Remember, you're not allowed to use your Spiritual Energy to forcefully break them. You're only allowed to break the Array Cores," replied Ling Xi in an indifferent tone.

Mu Chen immediately opened his mouth wide. *What the hell is this hellish form of training? Immediately asking me to deal with three Rank 4 Spiritual Arrays, can't we stick to the norm? This truly can kill me!*

"I'll give you an hour. If you can't break them, there's no need for you to continue staying here, and just return to where you've come from. I won't teach such stupid people." Nevertheless, Ling Xi completely ignored the feelings of Mu Chen. After speaking her words in an indifferent tone, with a wave of her sleeve, she turned around and left.

"Su'er, make sure to watch him. If he dares to forcefully break the arrays, you'll be the next one that enters."

As Ling Xi's beautiful figure headed into the distance, her clear and cold voice fluttered over, causing Su'er's little face to turn bitter. In the next moment, she looked towards Mu Chen, currently in the middle of the arrays with an extremely pitiful expression.

"Big Brother Mu Chen, you have to listen to Elder Sister Ling Xi's words... Su'er doesn't want to go in there..."

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### **Chapter 352: Breaking the Array**

Bang!

At the very moment when Ling Xi left the bamboo forest, the three gigantic Spiritual Arrays immediately activated. The Spiritual Energy of the heavens and earth instantly boiled and churned as boundless radiance permeated out, enveloping this entire area.

Mu Chen's expression turned grave as Spiritual Energy burning with black flames rose from his body. Looking towards the complicated Spiritual Arrays radiating with brilliance that enveloped him, he could faintly make out traces of Spiritual Energy light chains that formed extremely complicated array diagrams.

Due to the extremely close proximity of the three Spiritual Arrays to one another, it caused the level of complexity to increase by quite a bit. When combined, three Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays were able to erupt with the force of a Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phrase. With Mu Chen's strength, if he

used force with any qualm, he should be able to shatter and split these three Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays apart and break out of them. However, the last words that Ling Xi said to him had firmly obstructed him from heading down this path.

Since he was unable to use the forceful way, the only thing he could do was to decipher the Array Cores. If not, that Ling Xi might immediately expel him.

Whoosh!

Just as Mu Chen was carefully observing and studying the Spiritual Arrays, the latter started blossoming with radiance. In the next moment, three gigantic rays of light swept over. Carrying along churning Spiritual Energy, they slammed against Mu Chen's body at lightning speed.

Bang!

As the rays of light shattered, Mu Chen was forced a step back. Spiritual Energy burning with black flames that curled around his body grew dimmer, before turning into a raging inferno again.

"It's painful," muttered Mu Chen as he rubbed his chest. Although, with Mu Chen's current tyrannical fleshly body, enduring three Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase attacks would not lead to any injuries, but the pain was still present.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

However, it was obvious that Elder Ling Xi would not let Mu Chen be so relaxed. Just as the three Spiritual Light beams had shot out, the three Spiritual Arrays started to rumble and revolve. In the next moment, as his face started to faintly change, beam after beam of lights hid the skies and covered the earth as they shot out, rumbling towards him before raining down like a storm.

Such a terrifying amount of attacks; even Mu Chen started to feel his scalp turning slightly numb. Not daring to rely on his fleshy body to endure them anymore, a dragon's shadow erupted from Mu Chen's body as he activated the Dragon Soaring Art and fled away.

A remnant shadow appeared where Mu Chen previously stood, before immediately being shattered into pieces by the incoming Spiritual Energy beams.

Bang! Bang!

Unfortunately, there wasn't much room within this region of space enveloped by the gigantic Spiritual Array, thus Mu Chen could not completely escape from it. Even relying on the Dragon Soaring Art, he was still struck dozens of times, causing tremors to shake within his body.

At that moment, Mu Chen's face had truly turned ugly. According to normal reasoning, the Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays arranged by him would at most be able to erupt with a single barrage of attacks, before gradually dissipating away. However, the three before him had continued launching barrage after barrage, with no end to them.

"I have to hurry up and break these arrays," muttered Mu Chen as his gaze turned solemn. He did not dare to drag this on any longer, because if this continued, even with his small accomplishment in his Thunder God Physique, he might still be consumed to death in this place.

In the next instant, brilliance erupted from within his eyes as he locked onto the revolving Spiritual Arrays. The complicated array diagrams that were stretched by lines and lines of glowing Spiritual Energy line started to be continuously etched within his mind.

Bang!

However, just as Mu Chen had managed to probe into a little bit of the locus of the array diagrams, a wave of rampaging attacks came heading his way, forcing him to retreat tens of steps. As his blood and Qi rolled and churned over, the locus of the array diagrams that he had just managed to obtain were changed by the revolving Spiritual Arrays.

A wasted effort.

This was akin to a person trying to fumble around a moving maze, and needed to follow those orbital tracks. However, once that probe was being disrupted and interfered with, the orbital tracks would be messed up by the revolutions. If one wanted to escape the maze using conventional means, the only thing one could do was to try again from the start.

Unable bear it, Mu Chen let out a curse. Only now did he truly understand how difficult it was to break an array using this method. Naturally, he also knew that if it was that easy to find the Array Core of a revolving Spiritual Array and destroy it in one fell swoop, then being a Spiritual Array Master would not be as popular as it was.

Clenching his teeth, Mu Chen told himself to not get flustered. Upon getting flustered and anxious, he would no longer be able to find those Array Cores, with the only way left being for him to force his way out. If not, he would truly be consumed to death.

Hu.

As Mu Chen forcefully instructed himself to calm down, black lightning started to erupt on the surface of his body as the Lightning Rune on his chest grew brighter. He had already activated his Thunder God Physique. With that, he would be able to reduce the disturbance caused by the periodic attacks towards him.

Within the clearing in the bamboo forest, Mu Chen's figure continued to flutter about as he retreated, evading those Spiritual Arrays that hid the skies and covered the earth as they headed his way. From time-to-time, some of those Spiritual Energy light beams would sweep across him, causing a faint bout of trembling to spread within his body.

Standing outside of the Spiritual Arrays, Su'er covered her eyes with her hands, not daring to take a look at Mu Chen, who was now trapped in a spectacle that was too horrible to endure. If it was her that was within those Spiritual Arrays, she might have long lost her little life.

As time slowly elapsed, the boundless Spiritual Energy within the depths of the bamboo forest grew increasingly erratic. Ray after ray of Spiritual Energy light beams swept out, causing the sky to be suffused by a brilliant rainbow of colours.

Bang!

Within the Spiritual Arrays, Mu Chen's body was struck by tens of Spiritual Energy light beams. Black lightning sparkled on the surface of his body, forcibly resisting the incoming impact, while a flash abruptly appeared within Mu Chen's gaze as he stared towards the revolving Spiritual Arrays.

He had already managed to get an approximate feel of the array diagram of one of the Spiritual Arrays. However, he was still unable to find its Array Core. The Spiritual Arrays arranged by that Ling Xi were extremely formidable. As the three Spiritual Arrays overlapped with each other, and jointly revolved, there was completely no pattern that they followed.

Due to the superimposition by the three Spiritual Arrays, wanting to find their Array Cores was too difficult a task.

And, the common way of dealing with them was completely unable to be used.

"Big Brother Mu Chen, half of the time has already past. You can do it." Su'er's slightly worried reminder rang out from the distance. She was very clear about Ling Xi's character. If Mu Chen truly was unable to break out of the arrays within the stipulated time, there would truly be nothing that could be said.

Taking a deep breath, Mu Chen clenched his fists tightly, before slowly closing his eyes.

As he did so, he immediately entered the Heart's Array State. Although the higher and more profound Heart's Eye State was something that he was still unable to control, the Heart's Array State was, after all, an elementary state. This, at his current level, he was able to exhibit a high level of control over it.

Within the darkness, points of brilliance started to light up, which seemed to be countless points of Spiritual Energy light. Those rays of light howling across were the attacks sent out by the Spiritual Arrays. The outside was a bright and intense radiance. Within that radiance should be the location of the Spiritual Arrays.

Upon seeing all of these, Mu Chen's state of mind grew increasingly concentrated and decisive. Extended his mind out, he slowly started to send a feedback of the orbital tracks of those Spiritual Arrays back into his mind, before slowly linking them and continuing this process...

The disturbance occurring in the outside world had seemingly been completely shut out at this moment.

The complete orbital track of the Spiritual Array started to gradually take form within Mu Chen's mind.

Bang!

Within the Spiritual Arrays, the footsteps of Mu Chen, whose eyes were tightly shut, started to move much slower. On his body, the light from the black lightning sparked as dozens of rays of Spiritual Energy light beams surged over. Like a furious dragon, they violently impacted against his body.

The low and deep sounds that rang out caused a shiver in Su'er's little heart.

As the Spiritual Energy light beams exploded against Mu Chen's body, his body was forced back by about ten steps. The clothes on his body were tattered, while shallow traces of bloody wounds appeared. Mu Chen was the only person able to endure such attacks with his fleshly body. If it was any other person at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase, they might have long been smashed into pulp.



While Mu Chen was being forced back, his eyes still remained tightly shut. In the next instant, he sent a fist furiously rumbling out. Spiritual Energy burning with black flames swept out, before violently impacting a certain location within that bright and resplendent Spiritual Arrays.

Bang!

Instantly, the Spiritual Arrays seemed to intensely tremble, before the Spiritual Array and the innermost location started to violently shudder. Cracks started to rapidly extend across the surface, before finally exploding with a bang.

The first Spiritual Array's Array Core was finally found by Mu Chen, before being easily destroyed by a fist from him.

"You did it!"

Cheers immediately rang out from Su'er as her big and vivid eyes were filled with worship. *Big Brother Mu Chen's too awesome! He could actually find the Array Core just like that...*

Even though he smashed an Array Core with his fist, Mu Chen's eyes still remained tightly shut. There were still two more Spiritual Arrays. Fortunately, it was much easier to find their Array Cores, compared to before. After all, one of the three superimposing Spiritual Arrays was broken. Therefore, it would not require the same amount of consumption and concentration as before.

Therefore, within a short span of a number of minutes, two more fists rumbled out from Mu Chen. Two streaks of glowing Spiritual Energy violently impacted a corner of those two Spiritual Arrays, causing them to instantly shudder. With a humm and a buzz, both of them completely came to a stop, before rapidly dissipating away.

The three Spiritual Arrays were all broken.

After breaking the three Spiritual Arrays, Mu Chen was still deep within his previous state. He seemed to be able to faintly feel something, as though a fantastic feeling had flashed with the depths of his spirit.

This feeling was extremely fantastic. However, even though he wished to capture it, he was unable to make contact with it. Regardless of that, he was able to feel that he had faintly started to make contact with the thing that he yearned for in his dreams.

As the Spiritual Arrays dissipated, Mu Chen stood erect at his original position for a long time, before slowly opening his eyes. Instantly, a weak feeling spread throughout his legs as intense pain started to ring out from his body. Lowering his head to take a look, he discovered that his entire body was filled with wounds. Although they weren't life threatening, they had brought along waves of intense pain.

Mu Chen sucked in a cold breath of air. It was fortunate that he had managed to reach a small accomplishment in his Thunder God Physique. If not, the current him would already have shattered meridians and broken bones, and pain that would far exceed the pain radiating from his muscles.

"Big Brother Mu Chen, you too awesome!" exclaimed Su'er in excitement as she rushed over. However, upon seeing Mu Chen's bare upper torso, caused by his tattered clothes, the little girl quickly started to blush as she turned her little red face away.

With difficulty, Mu Chen gave a smile, retrieving and wearing a new set of clothes. In the next moment, he felt the exhaustion radiating from within his body. That was the feeling of his mental energy being overly depleted. The earlier fight to break those Spiritual Arrays was simply even more tiring than his fight with Xue Shi.

“Elder Ling Xi.”

Mu Chen spoke out as he raised his head to look at his surroundings, knowing that Ling Xi would definitely be paying attention to him.

“It’s almost an hour. You’re barely able to pass.”

Ling Xi’s clear and cold voice rang slowly in the air, “Go back, for now, and we’ll continue tomorrow. It’ll be the same as today, but there’ll be one more Spiritual Array.”

A faint shiver spread within Mu Chen’s body. However, he did not let any sounds of anguish out. Contrary to that, a blazing fire seemed to erupt from within his eyes. Although Ling Xi’s methods were cruel and barbaric, it had to be said that the results were extremely tempting. If the fantastic feeling that he had felt earlier continued to appear, he would definitely be able to give birth to the true Heart’s Eye!

“Thank you very much, Elder Ling Xi.”

Cupping his hands, Mu Chen gave a pat of Su’er’s small head, before walking off by himself. This was Ling Xi’s residence. Other than Su’er, he didn’t see anyone else. Thus, it wasn’t convenient for him to stay.

As Mu Chen disappeared into the distance, the lady dressed in white, Ling Xi, finally appeared beside Su’er as her beautiful eyes stared at the direction where Mu Chen had broken the Spiritual Arrays.

“Elder Sister Ling Xi, isn’t Big Brother Mu Chen very awesome?” asked Su’er in satisfaction.

Extending her slender and jade-like finger, Ling Xi gave a soft tap on Su’er’s bright and radiant forehead. However, she did not give a reply, with the only thing she did was look at the direction where Mu Chen had left, before giving a faint nod.

*That Mu Chen’s talent in Spiritual Arrays truly has some aspects that are worth commending.*

## **The Great Ruler**

### **Chapter 353: The Mysterious Ling Xi**

In the following days to come, Mu Chen came almost every day to undergo Ling Xi’s demonic training. Upon completion, he would leave, completely covered in wounds. His tattered and miserable appearance gave Luo Li a fright. However, after knowing the entirety of the matter, she could only shake her head in helplessness. This Elder Ling Xi was truly vicious in her actions.

However, although Mu Chen had paid an extremely disastrous price to undergo this demonic training, it had to be said that the results were truly not small. Within a short span of a few days, Mu Chen’s rate of improvement was quite good. On the first day of this demonic training, when he had broken the three Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays, he was already totally consumed. Furthermore, it had led to him ending up in an extremely miserable state.

However, at the end of the tenth day, he had already increased the number of superimposing Spiritual Arrays to a terrifying amount of 20...

20 Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays activated simultaneously. The threat coming from them would even cause a Heavenly Completion Stage expert to feel his skin crawl. However, it was fortunate that those Spiritual Arrays weren't used for slaughter; thus, could not be compared to the ones that were used in real fights. Therefore, relying on his Thunder God Physique, coupled with the increasing familiarity in his training, he was barely able to scrape past it every time. Naturally, the price he had to pay was even more disastrous. After completing the training every day, he wouldn't be able to move the next day, and could only take the day off to rest.

As this cycle of rest for a day and break arrays for a day, Mu Chen could feel that the rate of the appearance of the fantastic feeling was becoming higher and higher. This made Mu Chen extremely elated.

Although this fantastic feeling did not mean that he had already come into true contact with the Heart's Eye State, it was able to tell him that he was getting closer and closer to it.

As long as he continued this, he would finally be able to brush aside the mysterious fog and truly comprehend the Heart's Eye State!

...

Bang!

Spiritual Energy that blotted the skies erupted from within the depths of the bamboo forest as Spiritual Arrays started to envelope the surrounding sky. With their numerous amount, they formed layer after layer. With their revolutions, Spiritual Energy that hid the skies and covered the earth gushed and erupted out, roaring with terrifying prestige.

At this moment, within the dense layers of Spiritual Arrays and countless howling light beams, a figure sparkled as it dashed around at lightning speed. Black lightning bolts sparked on its body, resisting the attacks from those Spiritual Energy light beams that couldn't be evaded.

Bang! Bang!

While dodging, the figure rapidly launched its furious attacks as vigorous exploding fists swept out, descending towards the numerous layers of Spiritual Arrays.

Every time it launched an attack, a Spiritual Array layer would shudder, before emitting faint cracking sounds. A moment after that, the Spiritual Array would collapse, before transforming into dots of light that blotted the skies, before dissipating away.

On the outskirts of the bamboo forest, Su'er exclaimed in astonishment at the spectacle before her. In a short span of time that hadn't even reached half a month, Mu Chen had already broken away from the miserable state he was in during the beginning of the training. Obviously, he had also managed to grasp some concepts and understandings. Furthermore, even Su'er could see that Mu Chen's ability to find and identify the Array Cores was getting increasingly formidable.

Although Ling Xi did not use any methods to conceal the Spiritual Arrays' Array Cores, wanting to find and identify them in such a situation was, by itself, an extremely difficult task. Let's not mention a Fourth Grade Spiritual Array Master, even a Fifth Grade Spiritual Array Master would be hard pressed to accomplish that feat. However, Mu Chen was able to improve to such a level in a short span of ten plus days; this was already an extremely difficult feat to pull off.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

While Su'er was gasping in astonishment, following the howls of exploding fists, the layers of Spiritual Arrays within the depths of the bamboo forest were completely broken. As the dots of light that blotted the skies surfaced, they presented an exceptionally spectacular scene.

Whoosh!

As the final Spiritual Array shattered apart, a figure swept out and landed beside Su'er. As the brilliance faded, it revealed the naked upper torso of Mu Chen, with some blood stains present.

"Here, Big Brother Mu Chen," said Su'er as she intimately handed him a set of clothes. The little lady was no longer embarrassed, since she had seen too much for the past few days, thus becoming used to it.

Putting on the new set of clothes, Mu Chen wiped away the few blood stains on his body. Although intense pain still radiated from his body, he had already gotten used to it after a few days. Therefore, Mu Chen didn't end up in the same unbearable state as the first day, where he had almost collapsed due to a depletion of mental and physical strength.

"Big Brother Mu Chen, how's your comprehension on your Heart's Eye State?" asked Su'er curiously .

"I'm still lacking a bit," replied Mu Chen helplessly with a smile. He had felt that fantastic feeling once again just now. However, he didn't know why he felt as though there was something slightly lacking. This feeling was akin to a little bird trapped within an egg and was trying to break the shell and escape, only to find that the shell was too hard. Unable to escape even after struggling, it appeared extremely distorted.

However, Mu Chen was not overly greedy. Having such an improvement over these past few days was already considered a pretty good result. Although he was very confident of his talent, the Heart's Eye State was, after all, one that was much deeper and profound. It wasn't that easy to control it.

"Then, Big Brother Mu Chen, you have to work harder. Yesterday, Elder Sister Ling Xi said that your improvement is too slow. If she was impatient, she would immediately chase you away," said Su'er.

Mu Chen immediately became speechless. After interacting for ten days, it could be considered that he managed to gain some understanding about Ling Xi. This lady truly had a strong character, and would do anything she wanted to do. Although Mu Chen believed that he did not dare to offend her, there truly was a possibility that, someday, she would become unhappy, and drive him out for no apparent reason.

"Su'er, do you know exactly how old she is?"

Taking a stealthy look at his surroundings, Mu Chen quietly posed this question to Su'er. He was extremely anxious and curious about this question. Within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, it was the first time he had seen such a youthful Elder. Her age seemed to be not much older than his

own. However, he did not dare to say this definitively, the possibility existed for some experts with unfathomable strength to change their appearances, just like Elder Zhu Tian with his youthful appearance. However, with a single look, Mu Chen was able to see that his youthful appearance was just a façade. The ancient aura filled with vicissitude was unable to be concealed.

However, Mu Chen was unable to sense such an aura coming from Ling Xi. Although the latter was cold and indifferent, she did not have an ancient aura coming from her.

“Hmm, Elder Sister Ling Xi never talked about this before. However, she only allows me to call her Elder Sister. I think that her age shouldn’t be big...” Hearing Mu Chen’s question, Su’er immediately suppressed her voice. Her big eyes were now filled with excitement. From the looks of it, her gossip heart was no weaker than Mu Chen’s.

Mu Chen nodded his head in agreement. If the disparity between their ages was truly large, there shouldn’t be the matter of her asking Su’er to call her Elder Sister...

However, if that was truly the case. This truly would be a bit frightening. Just how old was she? She actually possessed such terrifying strength. This would simply cause Shen Cangsheng and the rest of the elite students to die of a heart attack.

“In fact, I think that even Elder Sister Ling Xi isn’t too clear about her age, since she seems to have forgotten a lot of things...” said Su’er as she tilted her head from side-to-side, looking somewhat puzzled.

Mu Chen immediately gawked. Forgotten? His brows started to faintly wrinkle up. The feeling this Ling Xi gave people was that she was slightly too mysterious, with no one knowing exactly where she came from. This world truly had lots of mysterious and unfathomable things.

Just as he wanted to probe further, a familiar figure dressed in white appeared in the distance, causing him to hastily shut his mouth. Similarly, Su’er stuck her little tongue out, while giving a pretentious act of helping Mu Chen with cleaning his blood stains.

As Ling Xi slowly walked over, her clear and icy pupils shot a look at Mu Chen as she said, “Looks like you’ve some spare energy left today.”

One could hear the faint chilling intent within her voice.

Mu Chen gave a dry laugh.

“Since you’re done with your training, why are you still here, instead of going back?”

Immediately following her question, Ling Xi gave her next order, “From tomorrow onwards, the number of Spiritual Arrays will increase to 30. After five days, you’ll enter the Spiritual Array House. If you’re still unable to open your Heart’s Eye State, you can go fumble around by yourself. I won’t teach such a stupid person.”

In response, Mu Chen gave a smile, without any bitterness shown on his face. He was, in fact, extremely curious to the point of anxiousness towards the so-called ‘Spiritual Array House’. From Su’er’s words, it seemed to be a place that was quite frightening. However, from Ling Xi’s words, didn’t it seem as though that place had some use towards opening his Heart’s Eye?

As this harbored this thought within his heart, he gave Su'er's little head a rub, before saying his goodbyes and leaving.

Upon seeing Mu Chen leave, Ling Xi glared at Su'er while saying, "Do you want to see what I'll do to you if you dare to say nonsense about me?"

"Su'er won't dare to do it anymore," replied Su'er hastily as she shook her head. *Elder Sister Ling Xi is so scary. She really did hear us.*

"Why are you not cleaning the bamboo forest?"

"Mhm Mhm..." Su'er nodded her head repeatedly, before hugging the large broom that was taller than her and proceeding to sweep the bamboo forest that had turned into a mess by Mu Chen.

As Ling Xi looked towards the little figure of Su'er, a faint smile surfaced at the corner of her mouth. In the next moment, she seemed to think about something as a somewhat blank expression presented itself slightly in her eyes. Giving a soft sigh, she turned around and headed back to the bamboo house, before entering its depths. Presently, there was a little bamboo house with tightly shut doors.

Opening the doors of the bamboo house, one could not see a single speck of dust within, with everything within being considerably simple and organised. A praying mat was present within the house, while a painting hung on the wall in front of it. The painting seemed to be of a black-coloured pagoda. A vague and indistinct figure of a lady sitting down was present on top of the pagoda. The figure was extremely blurry and indistinct. However, it gave people a feeling of peace and tranquility.

Ling Xi proceeded to kneel and sat down on the praying mat, before staring blankly at the painting. A blank and vacant expression fluctuated within her beautiful eyes, as if she was trying hard to remember something. However, after exhaling a breath of air with some pain, she clutched her forehead with her white hands as her black hair spilt all over the floor, causing her slender figure to appear exceedingly frail and miserable.

.....

This was a desolated area of mountains and fields. On the summit of a lone peak stood a youth dressed in black with his hands behind his back. A black sword was carried on his back, while a black dragon mark sat within his forehead. An aura of extreme chill radiated from the dragon mark, giving people a terrifying feeling that would make them tremble in fear.

That familiar appearance was Mo Longzi.

Faintly panning his head, he looked at a distance far away in the north as a cruel and frosty smile surfaced at the corner of his mouth.

"Chasing me for so long... you two really have perseverance...However, this time, I'm afraid that you two won't be able to return...this is the grand feast that I've specially prepared for you two..."

"Ha ha...if I'm able to kill the 1st and 2nd place of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, would I be able to exceed *him* on their Bounty List?"

"I truly look forward to it..."

A soft and chilling laughter slowly rang out from the mountain peak as the figure dressed in black started to slowly dissipate in the air.

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#### **Chapter 354: Spiritual Array House**

Due to a single statement by Ling Xi, for the next five days, it was very clear that Mu Chen's life was unbearably tough and painful. With thirty Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays grinding him to the point between life and death, he was left battered and exhausted.

However, it was fortunate that after enduring a period of the demonic training, Mu Chen could be said to have developed some resistance to it. Therefore, after successively failing in completing his training of breaking the thirty Spiritual Arrays, Mu Chen finally successfully accomplished it with extreme difficulty on the fourth day. However, the price he paid was an immediate loss of consciousness due to being totally drained upon exiting the Spiritual Arrays, which result in him being dragged back to the Freshmen area by Su'er.

For the fifth day, Mu Chen took the entire day's worth of time to recuperate, which resulted in him finally recovering. However, there was still a slight lingering fear within him. thirty Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays; even though it was of the training Grade, it was sufficient to make a huge percentage of people at the Heavenly Completion Stage to completely lose the colour on their faces.

Naturally, having completed this training did not equate to Mu Chen being able to confront thirty Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays when engaging in battle against others. Training and real life combat were, after all, not the same. The enemies faced during combat would not immediately arrange their Spiritual Arrays like that and leave them without any further control to let anyone search and probe their patterns.

However, this did not mean that the training did not have any effect. As of now, Mu Chen believed that if he met one or two Fourth Grade Spiritual Arrays, he would absolutely be able to effortlessly dispel them, without any kind of consumption of his strength.

His understanding and familiarity towards Spiritual Arrays had undoubtedly become much more refined after this half a month.

The fifth day was being used completely by Mu Chen to recuperate. Only on the next day did he continue to head back to Ling Xi's small courtyard.

As Mu Chen walked into the small courtyard, a girl dressed in a skirt as white as snow was sitting near the bamboo ledge within the green and verdant bamboo house. Propping her lovely cheek with her white hand, her beautiful eyes gazed onto the ground, with no focal point within her sight, while a faint expression was present on her beautiful face. That vacantness masked her original icy and indifferent expression, causing her to give people an additional beautiful feeling of frailness upon seeing her.

Ling Xi's appearance was already extremely beautiful, with only her icy indifference that forced people a thousand miles away, making Mu Chen not daring to say much in front of her. However, spotting the former with such a rare expression caused him to go into a daze upon seeing her.

While Mu Chen was in a daze, Ling Xi had also discovered his arrival, causing those beautiful eyes to immediately refocus, becoming the usual iciness and in-differentness once again.

“Hmm, you’ve arrived, Big Brother Mu Chen! Are your injuries healed?” Su’er’s small head extended from the bamboo house at this moment. Upon seeing Mu Chen, happiness filled her little face.

Sending a smile towards her, Mu Chen cupped his hands and greeted Ling Xi, “Elder Ling Xi.”

Ling Xi shot a look at him, before saying in her usual indifferent tone, “Before everything, I have to tell you that the Spiritual Array House is extremely dangerous. Although you’ve gotten seriously injured during your usual training here, that is, after all, within the boundaries of your limits. However, the inside of the Spiritual Array House is different from your training. Once you make a slip, your little life will be lost in there. Furthermore, at that time, I’ll not save you, as this is your own decision. Your life and death is of no concern to me.”

Mu Chen’s expression turned faintly solemn as he asked, “After entering the Spiritual Array House, would I then be able to open my Heart’s Eye?”

With the slightest bit of mercy, Ling Xi destroyed Mu Chen’s hopes with a single reply, “Do you think you’re capable of doing that?”

Mu Chen gave a bitter laugh.

“You’ve already managed to touch the Heart’s Eye State, with the only thing stopping you is your inability to open it. However, the final step you’re lacking in might only be broken through during a life-or-death situation. Although the usual training is dangerous, it hasn’t reached such a degree of danger,” replied Ling Xi with her usual clear and cold voice.

“Naturally, you can choose a different method from this. However, I’ll only give you, at most, half a month of time. If you’re still unable to open your Heart’s Eye at that time, my guidance will also end right there.” Ling Xi’s voice didn’t present many fluctuations within, and same with her emotions and feelings.

She was naturally icy and indifferent, and didn’t have a single shred of a relationship with Mu Chen. If not for Dean Tai Cang and Su’er, she would simply ignore him. As of now, helping him for half a month was, to her, already considered as doing her best.

Already clear about her character and temperament, Mu Chen didn’t feel any anger or frustration. After a moment of deep thought, he nodded his head firmly.

“I choose to enter the Spiritual Array House.”

He was similarly able to feel that he was somewhat lacking just one step. However, regardless of how much more training he did, that one step was difficult to stride over. Perhaps it truly was like what Ling Xi had said, that he need the stimulation present in a life-or-death situation to be able to truly open his Heart’s Eye.

Although he knew that this would be extremely dangerous, courage and bravery were things that Mu Chen never lacked. If he was overly cautious, Mu Chen felt that he would have already died long ago during the days within the Spiritual Road, even more so to walk to the step he was at now.



Mu Chen's decision caused Ling Xi to take another look at him, before giving a calm and faint nod with her beautiful face as she turned and walked off.

"Follow me."

Mu Chen immediately followed suited, with Su'er hastily following along. At this moment, worry and concern flooded her tiny face. She was very clear about how frightening the Spiritual Array House was. Once a problem arose while one was inside, even one's life might have no guarantees.

The three of them passed through the quiet and serene courtyard to the deepest part of the area. This place appeared extremely spacious, with only a dilapidated stone house present in front of them. The stone house was covered in moss, giving people an ancient feeling filled with vicissitudes upon seeing it.

Ling Xi came to a stop before the stone house. Forming a seal with her jade-like hands, a ray of Spiritual Energy shot out, before enveloping the dilapidated stone house.

Humm! Humm!

Following the enveloping brilliance, the stone house started to shudder, before rapidly expanding within Mu Chen's astonished gaze. In a short span of a few breaths, the stone house had transformed into a gigantic stone hall. Within the surroundings of the stone hall, one could faintly discern the mysterious runic lines flickering with a dim brilliance.

"This is..." Staring at the stone hall, a faint flash appeared within Mu Chen's gaze as thick astonishment erupted from within his eyes as he asked, "Is this a Spiritual Artifact?"

From the stone hall, Mu Chen was able to feel the unique fluctuations possessed only by a Spiritual Artifact.

"Hehe. This Spiritual Array House isn't any ordinary Spiritual Artifact. According to Elder Sister Ling Xi, it was previously a Quasi-Divine Artifact. However, due to it being broken, its grade had dropped. Now, it's a Peerless Rank Spiritual Artifact. However, even if that was the case, due to extremely strong Spiritual Arrays concealed within it, even a Sovereign would be trapped and find it hard to escape from within if he ever landed within it," replied Su'er with a cheeky smile.

"Quasi-Divine Artifact?" Mu Chen involuntarily sucked in a breath of cold air as he looked at Ling Xi's beautiful figure with strange gaze. Exactly what was her background? She was actually able to possess a Quasi-Divine Artifact that would even shake the heart of Sovereign Realm experts. Out of all the many Elders within the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, even the Heavenly Seat Elders, like Mo You and Zhu Tian, might not even possess a Quasi-Divine Artifact.

Furthermore, what kind of frightening person or thing was able to cause this previously Quasi-Divine Artifact to drop a Rank to become an Peerless Rank Spiritual Artifact?

Mu Chen quietly clicked his tongue. This Ling Xi was truly getting more and more mysterious.

Ignoring the two behind her, Ling Xi stared at the dilapidated stone hall, while going into a daze as a vacant expression flash within her beautiful eyes. Only after quite a while later did she give a faint sigh. With a wave of her white hand, rumbling sounds rang out of the tightly shut stone doors as they slowly

started to open, bit by bit. Instantly after this, boundless Spiritual Energy fluctuations swept out from within.

“Prepare to go in. I can only open the first level of the Spiritual Array House. However, even though that's the case, it's sufficient to kill you. Therefore, you better focus all of your concentration. It's the same statement I've said earlier. Even if you are at death's door, I'll not take any action to save you. In all, you can only rely on your own strength.” Ling Xi reminded in an indifferent tone.

Mu Chen took a deep breath, before his expression turned firm and solemn. Facing a frightening thing that was even able to trap a Sovereign expert within, if he just lost even a slight amount of concentration, he might be killed, spick and span.

However, in such a moment, even if there were mountains of daggers or seas of flames in front of him, he would still give it a go.

Mu Chen resolutely stepped forward, before walking straight into the opened stone door. Glowing Spiritual Energy erupted from within, slowly submerging and devouring him.

Bang! Rumble.

As Mu Chen entered through the doors, low rumbling sounds rang out as the stone doors slowly started to close, bit by bit, before restraining the brilliance that blotted the skies back.

Su'er's little hands were clenched tightly as she looked towards the tightly shut stone doors. Stealing a glance at the beautiful face of Ling Xi, which was filled with an indifferent expression, she asked in a small voice, “Elder Sister Ling Xi, what if Big Brother Mu Chen really can't hold on any longer. You would save him, right?”

Glancing at Su'er, Ling Xi replied with a tone that was almost devoid of emotion. “That's his decision, so he has to take responsibility for himself. If this was just due to a spur of hot-headedness, it serves him right if he dies. If he was only of such a level, regardless of what kind of results he ends up in, I won't feel any pity.”

Hearing Ling Xi's cold and detached words and tone, Su'er's big eyes started to uncontrollably turn red as she spoke out, “Elder sister Ling Xi, you're clearly very good hearted...why do you have to act like that? You've scared me.”

Looking over towards Su'er's reddening eyes, Ling Xi's expression become much more complicated. Hugging the little girl, she muttered, “Perhaps because I was previously like that. Therefore, the current me would reject such a feeling. Being more cold, being more heartless, that seems to be the only way to better protect myself...”

.....

When Mu Chen's body was enveloped by the Spiritual Light that erupted out, he was able to clearly sense that the surrounding space had started to change. Upon sobering up, he discovered that he was now in a place that seemed to be a world of unending starry skies.

Within the starry skies were boundless rivers of stars, causing people to feel a sense of dread surfacing within their hearts.

As Mu Chen stood within the starry skies, he could gradually feel a sense of danger erupting from within his heart. Raising his head, he discovered that the surrounding starry skies were starting to transform at this moment. As the stars roared, they proceeded to condense and form a shape within the sky. Layer by layer it formed, as if the starlight was permeated out, before forming something akin to a gigantic Spiritual Array.

Boundless Spiritual Energy was present in that Spiritual Array formed from the stars, while the Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiating out of it were even more tyrannical than the “Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array” form from the two lotuses that Mu Chen had arranged before.

This caused Mu Chen’s expression to faintly change. This Spiritual Array was already at the Fifth Grade. Even people with that had reached the Heavenly Completion Stage would not dare to meet it head-on.

This Spiritual Array House truly was extremely dangerous!

Could he truly crash his way through?

Mu Chen’s expression grew grave, as uncertainty surfaced within his heart.

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#### **Chapter 355: Pursuit of Life and Death**

Hum. Hum.

Boundless and erratic Spiritual Energy started to sweep out from the starry skies. In the next instant, the gigantic Spiritual Array that was seemingly formed from the stars started to immediately revolve, causing starlight to condense, while fluctuations that caused people to shudder started to spread out.

Mu Chen’s expression was now grave and solemn, and did not dare to show the slightest moment of neglect. If he made the slightest mistake under a Spiritual Array of such a rank, he might truly be unable to walk out of this Spiritual Array House.

His gaze swept acutely over the complicated Spiritual Array in an attempt to find the pattern of its orbital tracks. However, very quickly, he gave up this idea. The Spiritual Array here was no longer those simple ones that he had faced during his training, true killing intent was permeating from it.

Furthermore, this Spiritual Array was clearly being controlled externally, and it wasn’t by Ling Xi. This was due to this “Spiritual Array House”. Being a Spiritual Artifact of such a degree, it had already formed a basic level of consciousness. Without needing any control from Ling Xi, it was already able to display the might of this Spiritual Artifact.

Therefore, Mu Chen wanting to find the Array Core of the Spiritual Array formed by it with ease and break it was obviously impossible.

Bang!

The Spiritual Array furiously revolved, condensing the ray of starlight. Unexpectedly, it immediately transformed into a giant meteor. At an extremely astonishing speed, it split apart the horizon, instantly enveloping a hundred metre radius around Mu Chen.

This incoming pressure caused Mu Chen's clothes to start ripping and tearing. With a grave expression on his face, he swiftly retreated, while forming a seal with his hands. Boundless Spiritual Energy erupted from him, before transforming into a similar stretch of starry sky behind him, where a white tiger came bounding over.

Roar!

As the white tiger roared, it strode over the starry sky. Transforming into starlight, he violently smashed head-on against the incoming meteor.

Boom!

At the instant of impact, the entire stretch of the starry sky seemed to shudder. Erratic Spiritual Energy shock waves wreaked havoc as they spread out, before shattering the resisting white tiger starlight into bits.

Receiving such a heavy strike, Mu Chen's body was miserably forced back. A sweet taste erupted from the back of his mouth, but was forcefully swallowed back down. At this moment, his gaze grew increasingly grave as he thought, *This Spiritual Array truly is not easy to deal with.*

Bang! Rumble!

As the attack started to open the heavy curtains, the Spiritual Array had completely erupted out. As it revolved, it fluctuated with thousands of brilliant rays, before the starlight started to condense one after another, forming shapes of meteors once again.

Mu Chen's forehead started to wrinkle as he thought, *I have to get break and get rid of that Spiritual Array as fast as possible. If not, I might be consumed to death by it, sooner or later.*

"Since I can't see through you, I'll just have to forcefully break you!"

A cold glint erupted within Mu Chen's eyes. In the previous training, due to Ling Xi's instruction for him not to forcefully break the Spiritual Arrays, Mu Chen could only rely on another way. However, if he continued using that method, he might not even be able to hold onto his little life.

If the Spiritual Array was to truly revolve, its might could be comparable to a true Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase expert, even stronger than Xue Shi by a sliver. Therefore, Mu Chen had to break it as fast as possible.

With that intent in his head, Mu Chen did not continue to hesitate. Spiritual Energy burning with black flames pervaded out, before transforming into a starry sky behind him. However, this time, the starry sky was exceedingly vast, while three gigantic bestial figures rapidly took shape within it.

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

"Divine Seal of the Black Tortoise!"

"Divine Seal of the Vermillion Bird!"

At this instant, Mu Chen launched his attack. Without the slightest bit of hesitation, the three great Divine Seals simultaneously flew out. As torrential Spiritual Energy pervaded the sky, the three giant

beasts raised their heads and roared towards the sky. At this instant, their might had already reach a considerably terrifying level.

Swish! Swish!

Within the Spiritual Array, the numerous meteors were already formed. Hiding the skies and covering the earth, they rumbled straight at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen's expression turned icy cold. Bringing his hands together, he formed a seal, before sending a fist rumbling out.

Roar!

Instantly, bringing along incomparably erratic Spiritual Energy fluctuations, three gigantic bestial figures roared and shot out from the starry sky behind him. Akin to the exceptionally savage beasts, they violently smashed head-on towards the meteors that blotted the sky.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Meteor after meteor rapidly shattered as they impacted against the three bestial figures, while the three bestial figures appeared to be smashing through twigs, before finally smashing into the gigantic Spiritual Array. The astonishing Spiritual Energy wrecked havoc as the Spiritual Array violently shook, before finally breaking apart.

As the points of light that blotted the sky started to descend, Mu Chen looked towards the collapsed Spiritual Array, before heaving a huge sigh of relief, as if a heavy load had come off his shoulders. All things considered, he had broken the Spiritual Array.

However, a number of breaths after he had started to relax, his expression slowly started to turn ugly, bit by bit.

This was due to what he was seeing before him; boundless Spiritual Energy was condensing once again at the place where the Spiritual Array had collapsed. As brilliant rays of light rippled out, a Spiritual Array surfaced once again. Although this Spiritual Array was different from the previous one, the fluctuations that radiated from it were just as strong.

Furthermore, Mu Chen was able to see what seemed like an even bigger Spiritual Array condensing and taking shape at the outskirts of this completed Spiritual Array.

Hiss.

This scene before him caused Mu Chen to suck in a breath of cold air as his expression started to turn slightly pale. This Spiritual Array House was actually able to arrange other Spiritual Arrays! What kind of Spiritual Artifact was this?! This was simply akin to facing a Spiritual Array Master with a considerably rich experience in arranging Spiritual Arrays!

Furthermore, it was a Spiritual Array Master that was of a higher rank than him. Maybe, it had already reached the realm of a rank.

"Such a terrifying Spiritual Artifact," muttered Mu Chen, as his heart started to tremble. This Spiritual Array House was really too powerful. Anyone that possessed it would basically possess the most

obedient Great Spiritual Array Master. Furthermore, there would never be any emotional qualms with its actions. It would do what you asked it to do, with the greatest strength possible.

No wonder why Su'er said that it possessed the capability to trap a Sovereign within it. Previously, Mu Chen still had a little bit of doubt. However, as of now, he did not dare to have a single shred of doubt about that anymore.

"Look's like this way simply doesn't work."

Mu Chen's expression was extremely serious and solemn. Although, according to the words of Ling Xi, this was seemingly just the first level of the Spiritual Array House. However to deal with him, it appeared that this was more than enough. To put it bluntly, he was clearly not this Spiritual Array House's match.

Since using the brute force method wouldn't work, the only way was to search for a way to truly dispel it.

Mu Chen's forehead tightly scrunched up. After quite a long while, he took a deep breath. From the looks of it, the only way for him to walk out from this Spiritual Array House would be to open his Heart's Eye.

Furthermore, the time he could endure in there wasn't long. Within this period of time, if he was unable to open his Heart's Eye, what might lie for him, would be death.

"There truly isn't any other road to walk."

Mu Chen muttered to himself. However, there wasn't a single shred of dread within his eyes. Instead, present within them was the brilliance, sharp and incisive gaze. Staring at the gigantic revolving Spiritual Array, he proceeded to slowly close his eyes.

He had entered into the Heart Array State once again, in order to find the mystery behind all of this.

Bang! Bang!

While Mu Chen was closing his eyes, the Spiritual Array was already revolving. Like a giant dragon's roar, surges of Spiritual Energy flooded out, crushing down against Mu Chen.

At this moment, Mu Chen had already activated his Dragon Soaring Art to his maximum ability to evade the incoming floods. As for those attacks that he was unable to evade, the only thing he could do would be to forcefully receive them with his body. Therefore, within a short span of half a minute, blood had started to flow out of his black lightning-encased body. From the looks of it, he appeared extremely miserable.

Ignoring the gradually intensifying injuries appearing on his body, Mu Chen's state-of-mind was akin to an endless abyss; without the slightest ripple, while the outside world was totally shut off. At this moment, his state-of-mind had seemingly sunk slowly down to the deepest part of his consciousness.

From the outside, Su'er's face turned pale as she saw the scene unfolding within the light screen in front of her. Surges of frightening Spiritual Energy howled from within the light screen, while Mu Chen's figure appeared extremely small. Every single time an attack landed on him, the latter's body would violently tremble, before spurting out blood. As of now, he appeared as if he was made from blood.

By his side, Ling Xi's beautiful eyes were also focused on the light screen. The only difference being that her gaze was clearly much more calm as she quietly stared at the figure of the youth surrounded by the perils of boundless Spiritual Energy surges. Her present feelings were as if nothing that happened in the world would be able to cause an overly strong emotional reaction in her.

Bang!

Mu Chen's body was struck by a Spiritual Energy surge. A gruesome-looking wound appeared as the muscles on his chest were slashed apart. His bones were visible within it as blood bubbled and poured out. While this happened, black lightning flashed erratically, trying to reduce the damage caused by the injury.

The Spiritual Energy surrounding Mu Chen's body had already become weak, similar to his vitality at this moment.

Mu Chen's consciousness had similarly discovered this faintly lethargic and weak feeling that had a faint taste of death.

That fantastic feeling had already appeared. However, he was still unable to truly open his Heart's Eye.

*Just a bit more!*

Furious roars seemed to ring out within Mu Chen's heart. *Just that little bit more!* However, his Heart's Eye located within the depths of his consciousness was still unable to be opened!

*It's not enough! The threat from death isn't enough!*

Mu Chen's eyes opened furiously, as some craziness surged within his eyes. Although he had already suffered heavy injuries on his body, it was still not enough!

With a hard clench of his teeth, he shot out in a perfectly straight line, heading towards a Spiritual Energy surge sweeping towards him.

Upon seeing such a crazy action by him, Su'er was frightened to the point of screaming out.

Ling Xi's gaze was still calm and serene. However, her beautiful eyes had started to narrow.

Bang!

As the Spiritual Energy surge swept across Mu Chen's body, blood spurted out, akin to a fountain. His body instantly shot back, while appearing to have somewhat caved in. At this moment, the Spiritual Energy fluctuations erupting from his body had started to slowly grow dim.

Almost as if it was about to dissipate.

Mu Chen's consciousness had similarly started to slowly grow dim and dark, while a thick flavor of death erupted from his heart. Under the embrace of death, his mind and consciousness seemed to start sinking into the unending darkness.

As this darkness continued on without end, there seemed to be something trembling within it. Finally, something akin to a newly born eye slowly opened up.

As Mu Chen's mind descended into the darkness of death, the Spiritual Array House did not stop due to that. Spiritual Energy surges howled out, hiding the skies and covering the earth as they rumbled towards the floating Mu Chen.

"Please save him quickly, Elder Sister Ling Xi!" Su'er cried out anxiously as she frantically grabbed onto Ling Xi's arm.

With a soft sigh, Ling Xi faintly raised her jade-like hand.

However, just as she was able to take action, within the light screen, humongous rays of black light suddenly erupted of Mu Chen's body. In the next moment, after enveloping him within, they rapidly condensed together, forming a gigantic black pagoda, protecting him within it.

Bang! Bang!

The Spiritual Energy surges violently impacted against the black pagoda, causing resplendent rays of brilliance to instantly erupt out.

"Eh?" Su'er gawked in response to the changes happening before her, before breathing a huge sigh of relief. *Looks like Big Brother Mu Chen was prepared for this.*

"Elder Sister Ling Xi."

Raising her head, Su'er looked towards Ling Xi, only to be astonished by what she saw. At this moment, the latter was staring blankly towards the black pagoda, within the light screen, that had enveloped Mu Chen as her delicate figure was faintly trembling. Her expression and current appearance were things that Su'er had never seen before.

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#### **Chapter 356: Painting**

Bang!

Within the Spiritual Array House, a gigantic black-coloured glowing pagoda appeared, protecting Mu Chen within it, while blocking all of the frightening Spiritual Energy streams heading towards him.

As the erratic Spiritual Energy smashed against the glowing black pagoda, the body of the pagoda started to shake and hum.

Bang! Rumble!

After the wave of attacks were blocked, the interior of the Spiritual Array started to change, and the gigantic Spiritual Array at the outermost boundary started to slowly revolve. In the next instant, Spiritual Energy fluctuations that would make even a Heavenly Completion Stage expert change face started to radiate out.

The Spiritual Array House had felt the tyrannical power of the glowing black pagoda, and was attempting to use an even greater force to destroy it.



The glowing black pagoda had also sensed the incoming danger, since its body instantly started to faintly tremble. Black halos started to spread out in its surroundings, forming a defense as it attempted to forcefully block the incoming attack.

Bang! Rumble!

The gigantic Spiritual Array started to take shape at an extreme speed. After resolving, a streak of light, akin to a giant dragon, brandished its fangs and claws as it rushed out. As it shot out, even the space around it started to distort.

Under the giant dragon-like streak of light, even the glowing black pagoda appeared somewhat minute and insignificant.

Just as the giant dragon-like streak of light swept over and was able to smash into the black pagoda, Mu Chen, who was within the pagoda, furiously opened his eyes. At that instant, his eyes appeared transparent, almost as if they were made of crystals. They looked as if they were able to see through the myriad of things within the world, appearing extremely bizarre and mysterious.

Passing through the black pagoda, his gaze locked onto the giant dragon-like streak of light sweeping towards him. The power contained within it was simply not something that any ordinary Heavenly Completion Stage expert could endure.

If it freely impacted against the black pagoda, even it might shatter into pieces.

Rays of brilliance erupted from Mu Chen's transparent-like eyes, before furiously standing up. As he stood up, the gigantic black pagoda started to rapidly shrink, before re-entering his body.

As a result, Mu Chen was completely exposed to the giant dragon-like streak of light.

At this moment, the degree of transparency of his eyes grew increasingly clear. Locking onto the giant dragon-like streak of light, within his eyes, it appeared akin to a sea of Spiritual Energy, with countless Spiritual Energy streams coming together within it...

Seeing this, Mu Chen's eyes crazily flashed, before Spiritual Energy erupted from his body without a shred of restraint. In the next instant, transforming into a streak of light, he smashed head-on against the giant dragon-like streak of light.

As Su'er observed this spectacle happening, her little face instantly turned pale. She was able to recognise that this Spiritual Array was the strongest one within the first level of the Spiritual Array House. Even a Heavenly Completion Stage expert would definitely turn into ashes under its attack, with no trace of one's corpse.

"Elder Sister Ling Xi, please save..." Su'er spoke out urgently, while continuously tugging and shaking Ling Xi's jade-like hand.

Still in a daze, Ling Xi finally regained her clarity due to Su'er's shaking. Resisting the trembling within her heart, she frantically looked towards the light screen, before noticing the scene of Mu Chen rushing straight towards the giant dragon-like streak of light. Instantly, her beautiful face intensely contorted. With a raise of her jade-like hand, a streak of light shot towards the Spiritual Array House as she roared, "Stop for me!"

Humm.

Following her furious roar, the boundless Spiritual Light within the Spiritual Array House instantly dissipated. At the same instant, the gigantic revolving Spiritual Array within had started to slowly dissipate, bit by bit.

Within the light screen, the boundless and vast Spiritual Energy fluctuations dissipated, leaving everything empty and devoid. At this moment, Mu Chen's figure had also disappeared, almost as if he had been turned into ashes.

Losing all colour to her face, Su'er looked towards the interior of the light screen as her little body continued to shiver.

At this moment, a vacant expression filled Ling Xi's eyes as an indescribable feeling erupted from her heart. She had now discovered that she seemed to have made a mistake in something that was very important to her.

*That black pagoda that had previously protected Mu Chen...wasn't that the same black pagoda within that painting? Why did he possess it?* Although she had lost a lot of her memories, she still knew about that black pagoda, and it was very important to her...

Clenching her jade-like hands, her fingernails pierced her palms, bringing about intense pain. However, at this moment, she had yet to take notice of it, and continued to stare absentmindedly into the distance, almost as if she had lost her soul.

An adult and a child stood before the Spiritual Array House that had already transformed into its previous dilapidated stone house look. Not speaking a single word, a gentle breeze blew through, bringing about a bone-piercing chilling intent.

Crack!

Just as their bodies and hearts had started to turn into ice, the stone doors of the dilapidated stone house started to be slowly pushed open. In the next moment, a miserable-looking figure covered in blood walked out from it.

Slightly at a loss, both of them raised their heads and looked towards Mu Chen standing before the stone doors, covered in blood and deathly pale, before gawking out.

"Big Brother Mu Chen, you're still alive!"

Su'er was the first to regain clarity, and instantly shot forward in elation upon doing so. In the next instant, the little girl had already leaped and lunged towards him. Upon seeing this, Mu Chen hastily blocked her slender waist. As a wave of force came over, it caused the seriously injured him to spurt out a sliver of blood from his mouth. Making a bitter laugh, he thought, *I'm truly slightly unlucky this time.*

"Ah! Big brother Mu Chen! I'm sorry, I'm sorry! Are you alright?" Upon discovering how heavy the injuries were on Mu Chen, Su'er frantically retreated, before exclaiming in panic.

Mu Chen weakly gestured with his hand. It was fortunate that he had refined his Lightning God's Physique; if not, he might truly be unable to withstand that lunge from her.

Whoosh!

Like a specter, Ling Xi's beautiful figure appeared before Mu Chen. At that moment, the usually cold and detached eyes that were far from any human emotion were filled with flood-like fluctuations as she stared tightly at Mu Chen.

"Please don't play with me like that, Elder Ling Xi..."

Seeing her actions, Mu Chen was frightened to the point of retreating two steps back, while his face grew increasingly pale. It could be considered that he was slightly afraid of this Ling Xi. Previously, he had truly almost died within the Spiritual Array House. If not for him opening his Heart's Eye at the critical moment, everything would point to disaster for him.

When Ling Xi noticed Mu Chen increasingly pale face, she felt slightly awkward. After hesitating awhile, she extended her jade-like hand and grabbed onto Mu Chen's arm, sending gentle and mild Spiritual Energy into Mu Chen's body to aid in the recovery of his wounds.

Mu Chen was now truly frightened by Ling Xi's action as his startled gaze looked towards the beautiful lady in a dress that's as white as snow. For close to a month, this was the first time that he had seen her unlike her usual cold and detached self.

This had made him feel extremely uneasy.

At this moment, Su'er was also staring at Ling Xi in astonishment. After all, she was much more familiar towards Ling Xi than Mu Chen, and clearly understood that she was, in fact, having a strong obsession with cleanliness. Let's not talk about touching a male's hand, there were even times where she wouldn't even wish to speak any words to a male. In the past, when Mu Chen was here for training, she would immediately chase him away the moment it end, refusing to allow him to even stay for an additional moment.

Furthermore, during the times when Mu Chen was too fatigued and had fainted, she would order Su'er to bring him back.

However, as the current moment, Ling Xi had actually taken the initiative and helped Mu Chen treat his injuries. This truly was too inconceivable.

Just like this, the atmosphere within the three of them bizarrely calmed down, with only Mu Chen feeling uneasy about enjoying such an extremely rare gentleness shown to him. After quite a while later, when the intense pain within his body had slightly lessened, he gave a dry cough while saying, "That's more or less okay, Elder Ling Xi."

Only upon hearing his words did Ling Xi relax her jade-like hand. Retreating a step, she stared at Mu Chen while asking, "You've opened your Heart's Eye?"

Nodding his head, Mu Chen replied, "I've managed to open it at the final moment."

While saying those words, a smile that contained happiness from relieving a burden surfaced on his face. After this period of training, he finally had some returns. As of now, he had already truly opened the Heart's Eye State.

This would result in an extremely huge increase in his cultivation of Spiritual Arrays.

Ling Xi faintly nodded her head, while continuing to stare at Mu Chen. This caused the latter to feel a shiver in his heart, who gave a dry laugh and said, "Sorry for the inconvenience caused during this period of time, Elder Ling Xi. Mu Chen gives his thanks. My injuries today aren't light, so I'll be heading back to recover."

Completing his sentence, he was prepared to leave. However, just as he had moved his body, Ling Xi's beautiful body appeared before him. Staring tightly at him, the fluctuations present within her eyes weren't the usual frosty and indifference fluctuations.

"I want to ask you a question." Ling Xi's voice sounded somewhat impatient; however, it still remained clear and pleasing.

"Leave awhile, Su'er." said Ling Xi towards Su'er, who was staring at them with a strange look in her eyes.

In doubt, Su'er nodding her head, before rolling her big eyes and reminding her quietly, "Elder Sister Ling Xi, Big Brother Mu Chen has a girl that he likes..."

Before completing her sentence, she hastily slipped away, afraid of infuriating Ling Xi.

Ling Xi started to gawk due to her words, before a pinkish hue blossomed on her snow-like skin. Feeling exceptionally embarrassed, she naturally knew what Su'er was thinking about.

Mu Chen also felt slightly awkward, but fortunately he was very clear about his limitations. He absolutely didn't assume that Ling Xi, who had treated him in such a cold and detached manner up to the point of causing huge confusion for him, would actually start to like him.

In actual fact, even having a favourable impression wasn't possible.

"Elder Ling Xi...may I know what you want to ask?" asked Mu Chen as he turned to look at Ling Xi. At this moment, the latter's beautiful and glittering eyes were still locked tightly onto him, almost as she didn't have the slightest intention of turning her gaze away.

As she continued to stare at Mu Chen, Ling Xi hesitated for quite a while, before a somewhat shivering voice rang out from her, "I want ask you, why is there that black pagoda within your body?"

"Black Pagoda?"

Mu Chen immediately gawked, before coming to an understanding. Ling Xi was talking about the Nine-layered Pagoda. However, this had made him feel slightly vigilant. The Nine-layered Pagoda was something that would appear after cultivating the Great Pagoda Art, while the Great Pagoda Art was left to him by his mother. This should also concern his mother, and according to what his father had said, his mother should be a very extraordinary person. Furthermore, she seemed to also possess an extremely formidable background. Therefore, being ever vigilant, he would not casually reveal such information to others.

"That's just a defensive Spiritual Artifact. There's nothing special about it," Mu Chen slowly replied, while similarly staring back at Ling Xi.

As Ling Xi continued to stare at Mu Chen, the expression within her eyes informed Mu Chen that she didn't believe what he had said.

Totally ignoring as to whether she believed it or not, Mu Chen smiled and said, "Can I go now, Elder Ling Xi?"

Ling Xi's beautiful eyes started to slightly waver. In the next moment, with a clench of her teeth, she extended her jade-like hand and grabbed Mu Chen's palm in a single go. Afterwards, she started to drag Mu Chen towards the depths of her courtyard.

Mu Chen attempted to struggle, but discovered that he was simply unable to escape from Ling Xi's grasp. Thus, he could only give up in helplessness. Now, he truly wanted to find out exactly what this Ling Xi wanted to do today!

In the distance, as Su'er, who had hidden away, observed Mu Chen being forcefully dragged away by Ling Xi, the expression on her little face instantly became surprised. Pressing her little hands on her cheeks, a bitter expression started to form on her little face.

"Oh, no...Should I go and inform Big Sister Luo Li...?"

Creak.

As the bamboo doors were pushed open, the speckless bamboo house came into Mu Chen's view. Ling Xi continued dragging him in, and with a wave of her jade-like hand, causing the doors to shut tightly. Only then did she relax her grip on Mu Chen's hand. Walking up to the praying mat, she proceeded to sit on it, before raising her charming face to look at the painting hanging on the wall.

While rubbing his hand, which had a red imprint on it now, Mu Chen's gaze was sizing up his surroundings, before finally resting on the painting hanging on the wall.

The rubbing hand slowly froze, bit by bit, as the expression on Mu Chen's face similarly did the same.

His eyes were frozen on that painting.

Within the ancient paint was a black pagoda. There were nine levels present on it, and it seemed as if it could encompass the heavens and earth. However, Mu Chen did not pay too much attention to it as his gaze was firmly locked onto the top of the pagoda. Present there was a figure of a sitting lady.

The figure wasn't distinct, and one could faintly discern her long hair fluttering in the wind, while a startlingly peaceful aura could seemingly be felt radiating from her.

Despite that, when Mu Chen saw the blurry figure of this lady, it seemed as though he was struck by lightning. An indescribable feeling gushed out from the deepest part of his heart. It was the deep, deep feeling of fondness that had stayed hidden for over ten years...

Within the deepest part of those blurry memories was an extremely gentle beautiful figure that seemed to be present. Holding the hands of a little infant, leaving behind a gentle smile.

That gentle figure had stayed within the deepest part of his heart for over ten years...

At this moment, Mu Chen's eyes had seemingly turned moist and blurry, while faint tremors shook his body. A hoarse voice, that had been suppressed for over ten years, rang out uncontrollably from the deepest part of his heart.

“Mom...”

### The Great Ruler

#### **Chapter 357: Relation**

“Mother...”

Mu Chen’s exceedingly hoarse voice rang out within this speckless bamboo house, before causing the two people within the bamboo house to suddenly turn quiet.

With extreme astonishment, Ling Xi tilted her head and stared at Mu Chen, as if she was still doubtful as to what she had heard. The figure of the lady within the painting, she was actually Mu Chen’s mother?

An extremely complicated feeling started to unknowingly rise within her heart. This feeling was unable to be explained using words; however, it made her feel somewhat stifled within her heart.

“Are you saying that she’s your mother?” slightly raising her eyebrows, she asked while pointing towards the paint with her slender and jade-like finger.

A surge went through Mu Chen’s gaze as he stared at Ling Xi. At this moment, unconcealable emotions surged within his eyes as he replied, “Elder Ling Xi, where did you get this painting from? Do you recognise the lady in this painting?”

For the last few years, this was the first time he had managed to obtain any information regarding his mother. Although the figure in the painting was extremely blurry, there was an unquestionable feeling that she was definitely his mother.

Upon hearing his questions, her beautiful gaze turned slightly blank and vacant. Shaking her head, she replied, “I, too, don’t know about it...I only know that she’s extremely important to me. However, a problem seems to have appeared within my memories, because I’ve forgotten about a lot of things. I’ve also forgotten about her...”

“Furthermore... how could she be your mother?”

Although there were problems with her memory, an unknown feeling that stemmed from the deepest part of her heart made her feel inconceivable as she stared at Mu Chen.

“Although I’ve never seen my Mother before, I can confirm that I’ve definitely not made a mistake.” replied Mu Chen resolutely and decisively. That was a feeling that stemmed from the closeness of their bloodline. This was something that was absolutely correct, even though he had never seen his mother since he was young. The only thing left was a remnant shadow of a gentle figure within the deepest parts of his memory.

“You’ve never seen her before?”

For some unknown reason, Ling Xi quietly breathed a sigh of relief. However, in the next instant, her expression became complicated, since she felt as if she was one of two kids fighting over who their most favourite sweet would belong to.

Mu Chen nodded his head, before replying in a soft voice, “She had left when I was very young.”

He didn't go into the details; after all, this was considered to be a family matter, and it was not needed for other people to know.

"Elder Ling Xi, do you truly not have even the slightest bit of information about her?" Mu Chen could not help asking as he looked towards Ling Xi. After finally obtaining some news after so much difficulty, he wouldn't let it easily slip out of his grasp.

Sitting on the praying mat, Ling Xi continued to look towards the figure of the lady within the black pagoda and replied, "My memories came to a halt to five years ago. After that, it becomes extremely blurry. I think it should be the handiwork if someone..."

Speaking until there, Ling Xi's voice became extremely cold and frosty, while hatred filled her words. If she knew the person who had done this to her, she would definitely kill that person!

"However, I can occasionally feel some fragments of my memories. Many, many years ago, I should have been together with her... I also know that she's a very important person to me. Therefore, regardless of anything, I want to recover my memories..." Ling Xi muttered to herself while looking at the lady within the picture in a daze.

Hearing her muttering, Mu Chen gawked, before staring at Ling Xi. *Unexpectedly, she's been together with Mother in the past? Exactly what relationship does she have with Mother?*

While Mu Chen was still in a daze, Ling Xi had turned her head around, sending a slightly odd gaze towards him.

Seeing this, Mu Chen gave a dry laugh. In the next moment, his face turned somewhat green as he spoke out, "You really better not tell me that you're my long-lost sister or whatever...Me and my dad might not be able to endure such shocking news."

However, upon hearing his words, Ling Xi had truly thought about it, before asking, "Should we test it by dripping blood?"

Black lines instantly covered Mu Chen's face as he replied, "Don't fool around. That's useless."

Upon seeing the sweat-filled appearance of Mu Chen, Ling Xi could not help letting off a gentle laugh. At this moment, the cold and detached expression on her beautiful face had completely disappeared, causing her to appear exceedingly alluring.

"Okay, I'll not tease you." replied Ling Xi, "As of now, we're both not clear of the precise situation of this matter. However, I think that there would definitely be a chance to completely solve this mystery."

Mu Chen faintly nodded his head, although there was still some unease within his heart. If what Ling Xi said was true, that she was at his mother's side in the past, why did she suddenly leave? Furthermore, why did Ling Xi's memories get wiped? Could it be that they were met with some very big trouble, and was his mother still well, as of now?

"Now, can you tell me about the black pagoda within your body? If I'm right, she also possessed it..."said Ling Xi as she pointed towards the painting.

Remaining silent for a while longer, Mu Chen finally nodded his head. There was an unknown feeling telling him that the Ling Xi before him was worthy to be trusted. Although this feeling might be related to his mother, it was a simple decision for him to make the selection to trust her.

“The cultivation technique that I’m practising is called the Great Pagoda Art. This was something that was left to me by my Mother, before she left. As for this black pagoda, it should be something that appears after cultivating in this technique.”

Tilting his head, Mu Chen continued, “However, its might isn’t as strong as I’ve imagine. Although, its defense is very strong, and is able to protect me.”

“Great Pagoda Art?”

Hearing those three words, a flash of brilliance appeared within Ling Xi’s eyes. Standing up, fluctuations appeared within her expression as this name gave an unknown feeling of familiarity within her.

Taking two steps forward, she appeared before Mu Chen. Extending her icy-cold jade-like hands, she grasped his hands, before linking their palms and ten fingers together.

Her hands appeared slender and fair, and was smaller than Mu Chen’s by a size, which was just nice for Mu Chen to turn around and grasp hers. Naturally, as of now, Mu Chen would obviously not dare to do such a thing, with the only thing he could do was to suit her wishes.

“Don’t resist.”

When Ling Xi’s palms were touching Mu Chen’s, she spoke out in a soft voice. In the next instant, a wave of boundless Spiritual Energy erupted from her palms. Conveniently flowing through Mu Chen’s palms, it entered his meridians, before unexpectedly making contact with Mu Chen’s Spiritual Energy.

Mu Chen was instantly shocked, since this was an extremely dangerous thing to do. The Spiritual Energy produced from various forms of cultivations were all different. Once they made contact with one another, intense repulsion would erupt from them, causing extremely serious damage towards both parties.

However, just as Mu Chen was hesitating to break the contact off, the two Spiritual Energies came into contact. In the next instant, something that caused Mu Chen’s heart and mind to tremble started to happen...

As the two Spiritual Energies made contact, the repulsion that he had imagined did not appear. Instead, the two Spiritual Energies had actually started to fuse together.

As the fused Spiritual Energy surged within Mu Chen’s body, he discovered, with a shock, that the heavy injuries that he had suffered earlier were actually starting to recover at an astonishing speed.

After a short span of less than ten minutes, the injuries within Mu Chen’s body were completely healed... the rate of recovery caused Mu Chen to turn dumbfounded by the sight before him. Even with his small accomplishment to his Thunder God Physique, he would need to rest and recuperate for at least an entire day to recover from the injuries that he had previously suffered.

In shock, Mu Chen raised his head, and looked in disbelief towards the Ling Xi in front of him. At this moment, the bafflement within his heart was getting increasingly thicker. Why would this happen?



Only when all the injuries on Mu Chen's body had completely recovered did the fused Spiritual Energy start to slowly dissociate, bit by bit. After that, the wave of Spiritual Energy travelled through his meridians, before reentering Ling Xi's body.

As the Spiritual Energy returned to Ling Xi's body, her delicate figure faintly shivered, before a faint reddish hue surfaced on her skin. Withdrawing her jade-like hands, her long eyelashes started to faintly flutter.

"How could it do that?" Unable to hold it back, Mu Chen asked aloud. After his Spiritual Energy had fused with Ling Xi's Spiritual Energy, why would it possess such strong regenerative power?

In a soft voice, Ling Xi replied, "It's because I've previously cultivated the Great Pagoda Art..."

A faint shudder went through Mu Chen's heart and mind as he thought, *Ling Xi has actually cultivated the Great Pagoda Art?* From the looks of it now, those words that she had previously said were definitely true.

However, could it be that people that have cultivated the Great Pagoda Art would be able to fuse their Spiritual Energies? This should be impossible! Even considering both parties had cultivated the same kind of Spiritual Art, the Spiritual Energy cultivated by everyone would have differences present within. Thus, they wouldn't be able to achieve such a perfect degree of fusion.

However, why would they be able to fuse their Spiritual Energies to such a degree?

After thinking for a long time, he was still unable to get the slightest clue about it, and could only give up in helplessness. The bodies of the two of them seemed to be hiding some secrets, and these secrets should have ties to Mu Chen's mother.

Raising his head, Mu Chen gazed towards the figure of the lady within the painting that made people feel calm and peaceful, before gently sighing in his heart. *Mother, exactly what is this all about...?*

"Let it be, don't get frustrated over this. All secrets will be revealed at one point. Although my memories have been tampered by someone, following the increase of my strength, I'll one day be able to retrieve all of my memories back. At that time, I'll be able to know exactly what had happened to me in the past." Seeing Mu Chen frowning and pondering in deep thought, Ling Xi consoled him in a soft voice.

Mu Chen nodded his head, before feeling slightly unnatural. In the past few periods of time, he had already gotten used to Ling Xi's cold and detached treatment towards him. However, with the sudden gentleness, he truly wasn't used to it.

"In addition, the Great Pagoda Art isn't as simple as you think. That black pagoda isn't as weak as you imagined. The only thing resulting in that is due to you still being unable to touch on that marvelous point."

Ling Xi started her warning, "Also, its best to reveal the black pagoda as little as possible. Although I've lost quite a lot of my memories, I'm able to feel that this thing would lure some very dangerous things if it's exposed. Therefore, if it's been discovered...you might end up with a lot of trouble."

Mu Chen pulled his head back. The consideration and care shown by Ling Xi truly made him feel slightly terrified.

“Okay.”

However, at this moment, he could only nodded his head.

“Let’s go. Let’s head out of here first.” Looking once again at the painting on the wall, Ling Xi spoke out.

Hearing her instructions, Mu Chen nodded his head. Looking fondly at the blurry figure of the lady within the painting, he truly wished to take that painting away. However, it was obviously something that was extremely important to Ling Xi. Therefore, it would not be good for him to hog everything for himself.

“Mother, I’ve promised Dad that I’ll definitely find you.”

Looking towards the figure of the lady once again, Mu Chen took a deep breath of air, before turning and leaving the bamboo house.

As the two left the bamboo house, the atmosphere around them turned silent. In a short span of less than half a day, they had suffered an extremely huge emotional impact. From being originally having not the slightest bit of relationship, to a relationship so deep it was even binding...

Although they didn’t talk about it, when their Spiritual Energies had perfectly fused, the two of them already knew that their relationship wasn’t that simple after all.

“Ling Xi...Elder Ling Xi.”

Mu Chen finally broke the silence, before saying her name with some unnaturalness.

“Just call me Ling Xi.” Ling Xi replied after a moment of hesitation.

Hearing her words, Mu Chen also faintly hesitated. Nodding his head, he said, “I’ll come back tomorrow.”

Ling Xi nodded her small head.

Looking at the current situation, Mu Chen didn’t continue talking anymore. Just as he had turned around to leave, something went into his mind as he raised his head. He looked towards the northern position of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. There, in the middle of a giant hall, a scarlet red pillar of light suddenly rushed towards the sky. At the same time, an ear-piercing and urgent bell rang out, resounding across the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Such an urgent bell ring caused Mu Chen to gawk. Casting his gaze towards the direction of the sounds origin, it seemed to be the location of the Missions Hall. Exactly what had happened?

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 358: Blood Toll Bell**

As the scarlet pillar of light rushed towards the sky, the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy could clearly see it. As for the ear-piercing and urgent bell sounds, they had also resounded across the heavens and earth, continuing for a long, long time.

Seemingly all of the students within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had noticed this spectacle. Countless shocked gazes turned upwards, facing towards the direction where the scarlet pillar of light had shot towards the sky with bewilderment brimming within their eyes.

“What is that...?”

On the peak of the mountain, Mu Chen was also looking at the spectacle before him in shock.

“That's the Blood Toll Bell...” Looking at the spectacle before her, Ling Xi's eyebrows knitted together awhile before speaking out.

“Blood Toll Bell?”

Mu Chen gawked.

“That's a special Spiritual Artifact of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. It can be purchased within the Spiritual Values Hall. However, not only is it expensive, normal students don't have the qualifications to even purchase it. This Spiritual Artifact possesses the effect of an alarm toll. Once its wielder falls into a life-threatening situation, it would shatter. When that happens, its accompanying subordinate bell within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would shatter and produce such a spectacle, allowing for rescue or reinforcements to be called,” replied Ling Xi.

“Rescue?” asked Mu Chen with some astonishment. Could it be that someone who was training in the Northern Heavens Continent had met with a life-threatening problem?

“This Blood Toll Bell can only be purchased by students placed within the top ten ranks on the Heavenly Rankings. From the looks of it, someone from the top ten ranks of the Heavenly Rankings has met with great trouble in the Northern Heavens Continent.” replied Ling Xi.

“Top ten ranks in the Heavenly Ranking?” Mu Chen muttered while his forehead started to faintly wrinkle up. In the next instant, he seemed to have thought about something, and his expression immediately contorted.

“It's Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton!”

As of now, of the top ten ranks in the Heavenly Rankings, the majority of them were within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, with the only exceptions being Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. The two of them had already formed a team and were pursuing and hunting Mo Longzi. However, it had already been a month since their last-known contact. Could it be that they'd met with trouble?

Mu Chen's expression started to turn grave as he thought, *That Mo Longzi is unexpectedly that formidable? Even the collaboration between Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton isn't enough to deal with him?*

“This will be troublesome.”

Mu Chen said in a deep voice. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were the two most outstanding people within the current batch of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students. If anything were to happen to them, not only would it cause a huge impact towards the fame and reputation of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, it would even cause all the students to feel terror and dread. After all, the two were being used as benchmarks by them.

As Mu Chen stared at the gigantic pillar of light, he could already feel a panicky atmosphere spreading throughout the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Whooshing sounds were present within entire stretch of the world as countless students shot towards the sky, looking with panic-stricken gazes towards the scarlet pillar of light.

This panic and dread had started to envelope over everything.

This panicky spectacle had similarly shocked the various higher-ups with immediate effect, as Elders appeared in the sky, one after another. Boundless Spiritual Energy rippled out from them, pacifying the panicky atmosphere within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

At the same time, the atmosphere within a great hall at the centremost position of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was exceptionally solemn, with Dean Tai Cang sitting in the centre seat, surrounded by various other Elders below.

“Dean, what’s the matter?” asked the Punishment Hallmaster, Mo You in a deep voice.

“Did something happen to Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton? Although Mo Longzi is formidable, with the strength of them two, he’s absolutely unable to present too much of a threat to them. Could it be that the Elders of the Demonic Dragon Palace have taken action? If that’s the case, are they forcing us to go to war with them?” asked another Elder in a deep voice. As he continued speaking, killing intent started to surface within his words.

On the centre seat, Dean Tai Cang’s face was sunken to its lowest possible state as he replied, “From the little bit of news relayed by the ringing of the Blood Toll Bell, it shouldn’t be that the Elders of the Demonic Dragon Palace had taken action. Although they’re getting increasingly rampant and wild as of lately, they still wouldn’t dare to engage in a head-on war with our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

“So, what’s the matter?” asked Mo You with a frown. With Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton collaborating together, they could be considered as first-rate team within the Northern Heavens Continent. If it weren’t people of Elder status, who was able pose a threat to them?

“It’s Mo Longzi...”

Dean Tai Cang explained in an indifferent tone, “This time, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had collaborated to hunt and kill Mo Longzi. However, who would have known that that guy would have such a deep plan hiding within his heart? He acted weak on the surface, but had secretly gathered all of the people from our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s bounty from the third place to the tenth place. Afterward, after manipulating the situation, he had trapped Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton within his encirclement. As of now, their situation isn’t clear.”

Upon hearing the news, the faces of many Elders faintly changed. That Mo Longzi had truly used a vicious method. Furthermore, he was actually able to gather the top ten places on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s bounty list, with the exception of Mo Xingtian, together. From the looks of it, he seemed to have planned to execute this scheme of his long ago.

The top ten people in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's bounty list were not easy to deal with. Due to various reasons, they had ascended onto that bounty list. Placed within the Northern Heavens Continent, they could all be considered as figures that would resound across a region.

As of now, they gathered together. This lineup could be rated as luxurious. No wonder even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton would be forced to the point of shattering the Blood Toll Bell and calling for help.

"Dean, what should we do now? Absolutely nothing must happen to Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. If not, during the Great Academy Competition half a year from now, the strength of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would definitely have a steep decline. At that time, I'm afraid that there will be people eyeing and coveting our place within the Five Great Academies." said an Elder in a deep voice.

"Why not send some Elders out to provide help and rescue them?" Some people suggested.

"That's not possible. There're crouching tigers and hidden dragons within the Northern Heavens Continent. Although there's no one that could shake the position of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there're those peak level influences that have always been staring at us. Previously, we still had some agreements with the Demonic Dragon Palace, where both parties aren't allowed to call upon Elder-level people. The grudges and grievances of the younger generation should be settled through their own abilities. If we Elders take action, I'm afraid that the Demonic Dragon Palace would also take action. From the looks of things, they definitely know about this. Maybe, they might even be waiting for us to get flustered and act in confusion," some people refuted.

"How should we deal with this matter? Could it be that we're to stare with our eyes and see matters happen to them?"

"Exactly. This matter needs to be settled as quickly as possible. Since Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were forced to the point of shattering the Blood Toll Bell, their situation would definitely be extremely dangerous and desperate..."

"....."

Seeing the Elders engaging in their discussions, Dean Tai Cang finally waved his hand. Suppressing the numerous voices within the hall, he looked towards Punishment Hallmaster Mo You, before asking, "How would the Hallmaster look at this matter?"

After pondering awhile, Mo You replied, "We definitely cannot send out the Elders to take action for this matter. If we do, I'm afraid that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would be gossiped by others for using our age to bully the young. Therefore, we can only let the youths settle it by themselves. Naturally, that's also the best solution."

"Are the three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall within the academy?" asked Dean Tai Cang slowly.

"Lin Zheng and the other two are all here." replied Mo You while nodding his head, before continuing, "However, with this matter being so urgent and rushed, we need to send out the most extraordinary team to save Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. However, within the younger generation of the Punishment Hall, we might not have enough manpower. Afterall, as of now, Mo Longzi has gathered together nine of the top ten names on our bounty list..."

“What are you trying to say?”

After hesitating awhile, Mo You replied, “Perhaps we can pick some amongst the students. However, the number of people needn’t be too many, and must have adequate strength.”

“Amongst the students?”

Dean Tai Cang suddenly gave a faint smile before nodding his head while saying, “We definitely have quite a good selection of people. I’ve originally wanted him to peacefully cultivate for a period of time. However, from the looks of things, we can only send him out.”

“Go. I’ll leave this matter to the Punishment Hall. We have to bring Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton back. I’ll go and stare at the Demonic Dragon Palace...if they truly interfere in this matter, I’ll go and prevent them.”

“Since that Mo Longzi wants to play, we’ll let the youths of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy accompany him and play, and see exactly who’s stronger than who.”

“Yes!”

Mo You immediately accepted the order respectfully.

...

The entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was still within the panic-stricken mode. Figures were present everywhere as people were discussing with one another. Within such a short span of time, a large number of students had already guessed the approximate reason behind this matter.

Afterall, the number of people within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that possessed the qualifications to possess the Blood Toll Bell weren’t many. As for those that have left the academy, there were only two people.

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton.

Mu Chen could also feel the current atmosphere within the academy. Therefore, not continuing to remain at Ling Xi’s place for long, he immediately planned to leave.

“Wait.” Ling Xi suddenly spoke out.

Feeling puzzled, Mu Chen turned around and looked towards Ling Xi, who was currently in hesitation over something. With a toss, an old, yellowish-coloured scroll flew towards him, before the latter said, “This is a Rank 5 Spiritual Array, and possesses power comparable to a Heavenly Completion Stage. If you’ve opened your Heart’s Eye, you should be able to arrange it.”

Mu Chen felt slightly confused as to why Ling Xi would suddenly hand him a Rank 5 Spiritual Array. However, regardless of that, he didn’t reject her offer, and easily caught it as it flew over. A power that was comparable to a Heavenly Completion Stage. This was simply more formidable than the double lotus form of the Demonic Butchering Lotus Spiritual Array. As of right now, he truly needed a Spiritual Array of such a rank.

“Thank you,” said Mu Chen with gratitude. Without continuing to stay behind, he rapidly turned around and left.

Looking at the back figure of the leaving Mu Chen, Ling Xi gave a faint sigh, while a complicated expression flashed within the depths of those beautiful eyes.

When Mu Chen arrived back in the Freshmen Area, the entire public square was seemingly filled with figures. All of them were gathered together as they looked towards the blood-red pillar of light that seemed to pass through the heavens with solemn expressions.

Ye Qingling, Zhou Ling and the rest were all present, with even Luo Li being startled to the point of appearing. Sending a smile towards them, Mu Chen walked towards the side of Luo Li.

“Mu Chen, do you know what has happened?” upon spotting Mu Chen, Ye Qingling and the rest immediately shot their question over frantically.

Mu Chen shook his head in reply. Just as he was able to speak, he suddenly sensed something and turned his head towards a stretch of sky not far away. A ray of light suddenly shot over from there, before appearing in the air above this public square.

“It’s Hallmaster Mo You.”

Upon seeing the figure, Mu Chen instantly gawked.

In the air, Mo You revealed himself. Looking at the public square below him, his gaze instantly locked onto Mu Chen, before speaking out in a deep voice, “Mu Chen, as of now, you’ve been temporarily assigned to the Punishment Hall. Follow Lin Zheng and the rest and immediately leave the academy to complete your mission!”

Clamoring noises immediately broke out in the public square below as countless students had faces full of astonishment and shock. What did it mean to be temporarily assigned to the Punishment Hall? Wasn’t the Punishment Hall a place that only graduated students had the qualifications to enter?

However, there were many students who were quick with their thinking and guessed the reason in a short moment. After all, just after the Blood Toll Bell rung, the level of activity from the Punishment Hall had ramped up. Due to that, people could not help associating the two events together.

Mu Chen had also put these two pieces of the puzzle together and understood what was going on. The so-called ‘mission’ would most likely be to save Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton.

“Yes!”

There wasn’t a single bit of hesitation within him as he immediately responded in a deep voice. He had a very favourable impression towards Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. As of now, since they’re in trouble, he would naturally take action to help them. Although, he also knew that this mission would most likely be exceedingly dangerous.

“I’ll go as well.”

Just as Mu Chen's voice had rang out, a clear and melodious voice rang out beside him, only to see that Luo Li had walked up and stood beside him. Tossing her head up, she looked towards Mo You floating in the air.

Upon seeing this, Mo You slightly pondered, before nodding his head. As of now, Luo Li's strength was no weaker than Mu Chen's. With her going along with him, it would increase their team's strength by quite a bit. After all, the lineup of their opponent was also extremely luxurious.

With a wave of his sleeve, Mo You shot towards the distance, with his roaring voice ringing over.

"The two of you, immediately head to the Punishment Hall, and set off with Lin Zheng and the rest."

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### **Chapter 359: Rescue Party**

Due to the urgency of the situation, after receiving the order, Mu Chen and Luo Li did not dare to spend much time mingling around. After saying goodbyes to everyone present, the two shot straight towards the location of the Punishment Hall.

Shooting across the skies above the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Mu Chen and Luo Li were able to see the panic-stricken faces of quite a few students. The scarlet-red pillar of light in the distance was overly blood-red, causing uneasiness to radiate within the hearts of the people.

There were crouching tigers and hidden dragons within the Northern Heavenly Continent, whose danger levels were of extreme levels. Even something as strong as the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy wouldn't dare to proclaim to possess itself as the overlord. Naturally, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy have no intention of doing such a thing.

However, even without thinking about it, just possessing such strength would naturally make the other peak powers and influences dread and guard against the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Those influences might normally not dare to do anything towards the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy; however, if an opportunity truly presented itself, hitting a person who was down would be something that they would do.

Therefore, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy wasn't as invincible within in the Northern Heavens Continent as people thought it would be.

After all, this Great Thousand World was too boundless, too vast and too expansive. Even the five Great Academies were just a drop in the ocean.

If this matter was not settled properly, it might become quite a big blow to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

A grave expression appeared on Mu Chen's face. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was the place the he had started on his path. He had obtained nurturing at this place, and naturally felt gratitude towards the academy. Therefore, he didn't wish to see the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy suffer such a blow like that.



Seeing the grave expression on Mu Chen's face, Luo Li extended her icy-cool jade-like hand and grasp onto his. With a faint smile on her face, she spoke out in a soft voice, "Relax, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton are not normal people. Wanting to deal with them won't be an easy matter."

Flipping his hand and grabbing onto her's, Mu Chen replied, "I'm afraid that this matter might be dangerous..."

During the previous time, he had only followed Su Xuan and the rest to complete a Spiritual Treasure mission, and had almost lost his little life. As of now, the mission this time clearly had a level of danger far exceeding the previous one. Compared to a person like Mo Longzi, Bai Xuan was simply not worth a mention.

Therefore, the mission this time might be even more dangerous.

"I've followed along just because it'll be dangerous. If not, do you think I would come here for no reason? If you're afraid that something might happen to me, just protect me properly." replied Luo Li with a faint laugh.

"Relax. As long as you're beside me, regardless of any danger, even if we die, I'll die before you." grasping Luo Li's small hand, Mu Chen gave his reply. Although his voice was very soft, one could hear the unmovable resolution contained within them.

Luo Li's beautiful eyes gazed towards the youth by her side. With a faint smile present on her face, a water-like intent rippled within those clear and limpid eyes, causing her to look soul-stirringly beautiful. However, it was a pity that other people would forever be unable to see this, the most beautiful scene in the world.

When Mu Chen and Luo Li arrived at the Punishment Hall, they discovered that quite a few people from the Punishment Hall were already present. At the frontmost position of their group was, impressively, Lin Zheng, Zhou Qingshan and Gu Tianyan.

At this moment, grave and solemn expressions were present on the faces of the three. Obviously, they had also received the news about this matter.

"Senior Brother Lin Zheng."

As Mu Chen and Luo Li, descended, both of them cupped their fists while saying, "Hallmaster Mo You has requested for us to participate in this mission."

Lin Zheng nodded his head and replied with a smile, "With Junior Brother Mu Chen's help, we'll be able to be more relaxed."

Beside him, Zhou Qingshan and Gu Tianyan were looking at Mu Chen with kind gazes. The Punishment Hall members in the surroundings were also looking at Mu Chen, albeit with curiosity. They didn't show any contempt towards the latter due to his strength, which was at the level of Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase. This was because they had long known that the Freshman before them was able to fight with Gu Tianyan without determining a winner while he was at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase. As of now, his strength had greatly improved. That meant that his combat abilities would definitely have become stronger.

Not long after Mu Chen and Luo Li had arrived, whooshing sounds rang out from sky, only for everyone to see three streaks of light shooting over. Finally descending onto the gathering square, they revealed themselves to be He Yao, Su Xuan and Xu Huang.

Obviously, the three of them should have also received the same mission.

Upon seeing Mu Chen and Luo Li, Su Xuan and the other two didn't feel surprised. After all, as of now, if one were to remove the absent Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, the strongest people among the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy might be the pair of young lovers in front of them.

Seeing Su Xuan and other two arrive, Lin Zheng nodded his head, before proceeding to say in a deep voice, "Everyone, our mission this time will be extremely dangerous. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were in the process of chasing and dealing with that Mo Longzi, and were ambushed by the former, who had secretly gathered all the vicious people on the Bounty Board from the tenth to second rank. Since the two were heavily outnumbered, they fell into an encirclement, before fleeing while suffering heavy injuries. As of now, their current situation is critical."

"Second to tenth rank on the Bounty Board..."

Upon hearing those words, even Mu Chen could not bear breathing in a mouthful of cold air. Every single person on the top ten ranks of the Bounty Board were all violent and vicious characters. Just dealing with one would, normally, already be extremely hard. They never imagined that nine of them would actually take action together.

This lineup was overly luxurious. No wonder why even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton would be defeated and forced to retreat, and even fall into a crisis.

Grave expressions filled the faces of Su Xuan and the rest. The strength of their enemy's lineup was already considered to be very strong, and was sufficient to wipe a first-rate powerhouse off the Northern Heavens Continent.

"This mission will be headed by me, with Zhou Qingshan and Gu Tianyan providing support to me. The five of you will follow us, while two Punishment Hall members of Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase and three Punishment Hall members of half-step Heavenly Completion Stage would also follow along. The time's tight, and this is the strength that the Punishment Hall can immediately mobilise. The rest are either in closed-door training or are on other missions. Therefore, we need your help this time," said Lin Zheng in a deep voice.

Mu Chen faintly nodded his head. Looked like the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was treating this matter with deep regard. Their lineup was rather tyrannical. After all, their opponents were super vicious people on the top ten ranks on the Bounty Board. If the strength of their group wasn't sufficient, they would just become a burden if they were to head over. Therefore, the minimum requirement of strength was at the Heavenly Completion Stage.

Even Su Xuan and Xu Huang had great increases to their strength after experiencing the Spiritual Light Empowerment, both reaching half-step into Heavenly Completion Stage. As for He Yao, he had broken through to truly reach Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase.

Therefore, within their group, from the looks alone, Mu Chen, with his strength at Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase, appeared to be the weakest.

"This is some information about Mo Longzi and his group of people. You guys, take a look and know your enemy, so that we can reduce some dangers, at the very least." With a flick of his finger, numerous streaks of light shot towards Mu Chen and the rest.

With a grab, the streak of light became a scroll within Mu Chen's hand. Tearing it open, he saw detailed information about Mo Longzi and his group written on it.

Mo Longzi, Rank 2 on the Bounty Board. Comes from the Demonic Dragon Palace. Vicious and Merciless; absolutely stunning talent; It's said that his strength was about Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase, and might even be close to Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase. Extremely Dangerous.

Mu Gu, Rank 3 of the Bounty Board. Comes from the Divine Bone Hall. Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase.

Gui Xiong, Rank 4 of the Bounty Board. No known school or sect. Obtained the inheritance of an ancient sect. Has a very vicious character. Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase.

Wu Jia, Rank 5 of the Bounty Board. Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase. Is also a Rank 5 Spiritual Array Master.

Dum Dum...

As Mu Chen and the rest looked over the information given to them, their expressions grew increasingly grave. This lineup was truly tyrannical. Even if Mo Longzi was considered a Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase, there were three other Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phases, as well as five Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phases and even a 4th grade Spiritual Array Master...

No wonder why even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton would be forced into such a miserable situation. Their enemy's lineup was too tyrannical.

"Leave Mo Longzi, Mu Gu and Gui Xiong to us three to deal with. As for the others, we'll leave them to you guys. As long as we rescue Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton from their encirclement, dealing with them shouldn't be difficult," said Lin Zheng in a deep voice.

Shooting a look at Lin Zheng and the other two, Mu Chen could sense from the Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiating out from their bodies that they seemed to be much stronger than before. Clearly, their strength had also increased during this period of time, reaching the level of Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Stage. No wonder why they dared to obstruct the three strongest people in the enemy's lineup.

"Yes."

Mu Chen and the rest also nodded their heads.

"Since there's no other questions, let's immediately make our move. Our time's tight, and we have to rescue them as quickly as possible."

With a wave of his hand, Lin Zheng didn't continue speaking, taking the lead and shooting off. Zhou Qingshan and Gu Tianyan immediately followed suit, with the other Punishment Hall members also sweeping out.

"Let's go."

Nodding his head towards Su Xuan and the rest in indication, Mu Chen followed suit and shot out.

Their group quickly shot out of the inner region of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. In the next moment, they noticed countless students standing in the air above the academy's outer region, with their gazes all locked onto their group.

Within a short span of a moment, the news about Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton asking for help in a life-or-death situation had already spread across the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Therefore, upon seeing Lin Zheng, Mu Chen and the rest in a group, all of them knew what their mission was about.

Upon seeing this horde of students, Mu Chen and the rest faintly lowered their speed.

"Senior Brother Lin Zheng, Junior Brother Mu Chen, slaughter that Mo Longzi and rescue Senior Brother Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton back!" Some students started roaring in loud voices.

After all, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were ranked first and second on the current Heavenly Rankings. They're a kind of benchmark of struggle for many students. If the two were to lose their lives in Mo Longzi's hands, this would result in an extremely huge impact on the morale of those students.

Looking towards those students who were looking at their group with hopes and anticipation present within their eyes, Mu Chen and the group shot a look at each other, before their expressions all turned grave. They knew that if they were to fail in their mission, when they returned, the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy might totally sink into a period of darkness. Wanting to recover that vitality from before would take an unknown amount of time.

Lin Zheng took a deep breath of air. Not choosing to reply, he only slowly cupped his hands towards the countless students before him. Behind him, Mu Chen, Zhou Qingshan, Gu Tianyan and the rest had also silently cupped their hands.

"Let's go!"

With a low roar, Lin Zheng waved his hand, before proceeding to shoot off. The group transformed into ten streaks of light, rushing out of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Before the Great Hall at the peak of a mountain, Dean Tai Cang, as well as numerous other Elders, was presently standing there. Looking towards Lin Zheng, Mu Chen and the rest of the figures in the distance, chilling intent flashed within their eyes.

"Make sure to stare at the Demonic Dragon Palace. Once their Elder-level characters take action..."

The deep and abstruse eyes of Dean Tai Cang's eyes turned abnormally cold at this moment. A slight pause presented itself within his words as his hands slowly clenched together.

"Kill them all without any mercy!"

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 360: Western Desolate Territory**

White clouds fluttered around the azure horizon, appearing exceedingly languid. Sunlight pierced through the cloud layers, illuminating the earth, leaving behind dim gigantic shadows all around.

Whoosh!

On the horizon totally devoid of sound, hurried whooshing sounds suddenly resounded. In the next moment, ten streaks of light explosively shot over from the far side of the sky. Their speed was extremely fast. Howling over in a split second. Due to the wind pressure created by such high-speed movements, huge scars were ripped apart from the layers of clouds in the sky.

This group of people was, naturally, Lin Zheng, Mu Chen and the rest that had come from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Due to the urgency of the situation, they had seemingly not taken any sort of breaks, traveling at their utmost speed for the entire journey.

“Senior Brother Lin Zheng, how much further do we have left?” Mu Chen asked while following closely behind Lin Zheng. Looking in front of him, his voice, wrapped in Spiritual Energy, rang within the latter’s ear.

“From the fluctuations radiating from the Blood Toll Bell, they should be at the Western Desolate Territory, towards the northwest of the Northern Heavens Continent. With our speed, we would need a day and a night of time, at the very least, to reach there,” replied Lin Zheng.

“That long, huh...?” muttered Mu Chen as his forehead started to faintly wrinkle. A day and a night. He was just afraid that there might be some unforeseen changes. After all, since the beginning, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton’s situation was not that good.

“Relax. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton aren’t people that can be easily pinched to death. Even with Mo Longzi and his lineup, wanting to kill the two of them won’t be an easy thing to do.” Lin Zheng understood Mu Chen’s worry, and thus, said some consoling words.

“I hope so.”

Mu Chen nodded his head. Looking at the distance, the skies over there seemed to be covered in black clouds. This mission wouldn’t be easy at all.

...

When Mu Chen and the rest had rushed over, it was already a day later.

Mu Chen and the group descended towards the edge of the Western Desolate Territory. Looking at the region before them, it was in a state of complete disorder. Gigantic deep gulches akin to being created from meteors descending from the sky were present, with gigantic cracks tens of thousands of metres long extending from them.

There were a few mountains originally present here. As of now, all of them had completely collapsed, with gigantic stones scattered everywhere across the area.

Obviously, an extremely intense battle had taken place at this territory.

Staring at the totally chaotic and disordered region, Lin Zheng slowly said, "Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had met an ambush at this place."

The group swept their gazes across the region, before their expressions slowly turned slightly grave. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had fought against nine vicious people from the top ten ranks on the bounty list. It was hard to imagine exactly how bitter and desperate this battle was.

"After this fight, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton should have already suffered injuries. After fleeing deep into the Western Desolate Territory, Mo Longzi and his group should've been relentlessly pursuing them, with no thoughts of giving up."

Lin Zheng's eyes turned frosty as he looked towards the depths of the Western Desolate Territory while saying, "We should get closer to them as fast as possible."

"Everyone, be more careful. Our enemies this time aren't simple people." Lin Zheng reminded. In the next moment, with a wave of his hand, he shot towards the depth of the Western Desolate Territory, with Mu Chen and the rest immediately following closely behind.

However, this time, everyone had tensed their bodies up. They knew that not too long from now, they would land in a head-on confrontation with a luxurious lineup fully comprised of vicious people.

The depths of the Western Desolate Territory. This place was covered all year-round by thick Spiritual Mist. The Spiritual Mist hadn't dissipated nor scattered for many, many years, causing any senses to be greatly reduced within it.

Living within the Spiritual Mist were numerous kinds of special and unique Spiritual Beasts. These Spiritual Beasts relied on the cover of the Spiritual Mist to appear and disappear like ghosts. This made them extremely hard to deal with. Therefore, there would be very little experts from the Northern Heavens Continent who would come over here in search of treasure.

At this moment, at the stone peak within the depths, were ten figures. A thick baleful aura covered the bodies of these ten figures. From a single look, people would be able to know that they weren't any kind-hearted or good-natured folks.

At the very front of the group was a male dressed in black robes. A longsword strapped across his back, while the malevolent marking of a black dragon was present on his forehead, displaying his identity. He was the target that Lin Zheng, Mu Chen and their group was looking for, Mo Longzi.

"Tsk, ts, Mo Longzi, we've already investigated. That Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton are treating their injuries while hiding in that misty valley. This time, they'll definitely have nowhere left to go!" A male in grey robes standing behind Mo Longzi gave a high-pitched laugh before speaking out. Those deep pair of eyes were sparkling with an ominous and cunning glint, while dark and extremely tyrannical Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiated from his body, causing the Spiritual Mist to be unable to enter a radius of ten metres around him.

This vicious person was the 7th Rank on the Bounty Board, Wang Yingui. His strength had reached Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase.

Upon hearing his, Mo Longzi gave a faint smile and replied, "I think that the rescue squad from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy should be arriving very soon."

"To be in such a hurry, their manpower shouldn't be much. However, it can be assumed that they would be their best ones. The three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall will definitely come," said a person dressed in greyish-white robes. The body of this person appeared to be as thin as a matchstick, with only a layer of skin covering his bones, making him look akin to a skeleton. At this moment, a thick fog appeared within his skeleton-like eyes as he spoke out with an indifferent voice.

"Hehe, what's the matter? Could it be that you, Mu Gu are afraid?" said a male whose physique was sturdy and strong, like a bear, with a giant blood-red axe on his back, making a droning laugh.

"Gui Xiong, caution is the parent of safety. That time, your head was almost obtained by Lin Zheng. Could it be that you've still not learnt your lesson?" replied Mu Gu indifferently.

"Previously, I've only been too complacent. If I see that Lin Zheng today, I, your father, will cleave him into two halves!" roared Gui Xiong, his eyes opened wide as a baleful aura gushed from him.

"That's enough. Don't argue at this place."

Mo Longzi spoke out while wrinkling his forehead. Waving his hand, he looked towards a male in green who had yet to speak. The latter's eyes appeared normal. However, chilling rays of light erupted and sparkled from within, as if a poisonous snake was lurking within their depths.

"Wu Jia, are the preparations complete?"

This person was, unexpectedly, Wu Jia, 5th Rank of the Bounty Board, and was the only 5th Grade Spiritual Array Master amongst their ranks.

Hearing Mo Longzi's words, that Wu Jia smiled, and nodded his head while replying, "I've long completed my preparations, with the only thing left is for the fish to enter the net."

An extremely sinister smile appeared at the corner of Mo Longzi's mouth as he said, "That's good."

"Why don't we just capture Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton first?" asked Mu Gu with a frown.

"Just relax. They're unable to run away," replied Mo Longzi with a gentle and chilling smile. Looking towards the deepest part of the thick mist, he replied, "Do you think that I was truly unable to capture them over these last few days?"

Mu Gu's eyes narrowed before saying, "Are you purposefully luring the rescue squad from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy over here?"

The smile at the corner of Mo Longzi's mouth grew even more bloodthirsty and crazy. Licking his lips, he replied, "Do you think that just a Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton would be enough to satisfy me?"

"Haha, they aren't enough..."

"I also want to eat this rescue squad!"

“Haha. I truly don’t know how big of an upheaval this would cause within the Northern Heavens Continent. I think that the face of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy should be very nice to watch then, right? I’m truly anticipating it...”

Mu Gu and the rest shot a look at each other as a faint tremble shook their hearts. This Mo Longzi was truly very vicious and merciless. If this elite rescue squad was to be completely defeated, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy might truly explode.

...

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Ten figures shot across the desolated plains at lightning speed. Spiritual Energy erupted from their bodies, with some people even clenching Spiritual Weapons in their hands. Their bodies were taut and tense, ready to enter their combat states at any time.

This group of people was, naturally, Lin Zheng, Mu Chen and their group who had entered the depths of the Western Desolate Territory.

Along the way, they had increased their speed, and had also tried their utmost to restrain their Spiritual Energy fluctuations to avoid being detected. Any Spiritual Beasts met along the way by them would be avoided to their greatest possible extent.

Under this full speed, it took them only a measly half an hour to enter the depths of the Western Desolate Territory.

Mu Chen’s gaze swept across his surroundings, before faintly narrowing his eyes. This stretch of the world seemed to be permeated by a thick mist, of which Spiritual Energy fluctuations could be felt within.

“The depths of the Western Desolate Territory are covered by a Spiritual Mist throughout the year. Once one enters it, one’s senses would drop. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong must have known about this, and have, therefore, fled towards this direction.” Lin Zheng spoke out.

Mu Chen faintly nodded his head before saying in a soft voice. “However, it’s extremely easy to get lost in such an environment.”

Lin Zheng nodded his head in approval. After gently making a hand sigh, everyone nodded their heads slightly, before increasingly their vigilance.

Moving close to Luo Li, Mu Chen said in a low voice. “Follow me tightly at all times. Regardless of the situation, don’t ever leave my sight.”

As they entered the depths, he was faintly able to sense some slight unease, but was unable to put them into words. However, regardless of that, being more careful was a must.

Luo Li nodded her small head.

Just as Mu Chen was talking to her, the surrounding Spiritual Mist grew increasingly thick. At that moment, their vision had become extremely impaired, so had their senses.



Ten figures skimmed over the land as they shot over, furiously rushing into the thick Spiritual Mist.

However, a split second when they rushed into the Spiritual Mist, Mu Chen's expression furiously changed. He could feel strange fluctuations radiating from within the Spiritual Mist that appeared to be similar to Spiritual Arrays.

"Careful!"

Mu Chen's eyes faintly narrowed. With an explosive roar, he wrapped Luo Li within his bosom.

At the same time, the Spiritual Mist started to crazily squirm about, causing distortions to seemingly form in the surrounding space. Transforming into something akin to giant mouths of evil demons, they devoured Mu Chen and their group completely. As the Spiritual Mist pervaded over, everyone had disappeared without a trace.

Within the extreme depths, on the top of the stone peak, Wu Jia's eyes sprung open as a malevolent smile flashed across his eyes.

"The fish have entered the net."

A smile surfaced at the corner of Mo Longzi's mouth. Taking a step forward, he disappeared within the thick mist.

"It's time."

As he disappeared, a sinister voice brimming with cruel killing intent rang out within the thick mist.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

On the stone peak, eight figures stood up. Laughing malevolently, they shot out simultaneously.

*The most elite rescue lineup from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?*

*This time, we'll kill every single one of your people! Let's see if there's anyone else that dares to offer a bounty for us!*