Great Ruler 391

The Great Ruler

Chapter 391: Punishment Spiritual Combat Doll

Disorder and liveliness was inevitable within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Even after the complete scattering of the brilliant rays in the sky, the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was still in an excited and frenzied state. Buzzing about from the chattering of countless people, all of the discussion topics were about the strange phenomena that sprung out from Mu Chen.

All of them had assumed that Mu Chen had still failed in the given one month span. However, who would have expected that Mu Chen would pull such a spectacular reversal at the final moment. Thinking about the spectacle that had unfurled before them, one wouldn't be able to count how many people had their eyes opened wide, brimming with amazement and astonishment.

As the atmosphere of the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy flared up, in a large hall within the central region of the academy, Dean Tai Cang and the other Elders had their gazes converged on the light screen before them. The scene shown within it was precisely the phenomena created from Mu Chen's breakthrough.

"That little fella...he actually broke through successfully. Formidable." Hall Master Mo You couldn't help smacking his lips as he sighed in admiration. That Mu Chen stayed silent for the later half of the month. They never imagined that he would show them such a counterattack at the night of the final day. This spectacle had caused even them to become secretly stupefied.

Hearing his words, Elder Zhu Tian and the other Elders nodded their heads in agreement. That Mu Chen was truly worthy of his reputation of being able to contend for supremacy with a heavenly-blessed child like Ji Xuan. His talent truly was rather astonishing.

"Dean, since Mu Chen has broken through to Heavenly Completion Stage, what about the 'Divine Spiritual Mountain'?" asked Mo You as he looked towards Dean Tai Cang, who was sitting in the headmost position.

Gently patting the armrest, a solemn expression appeared on Dean Tai Cang's face. Faced with Mu Chen's successful breakthrough, even he was slightly surprised. However, while feeling admiration and happiness for Mu Chen's talent, he was also starting to get slightly hesitant of his previous commitment to him. Being such an outstanding student, if Mu Chen was properly guided and nurtured for the next half a year, he might be able to gain some honor for their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy in the upcoming Great Spiritual Academy Competition. However, if anything was to occur during the "Divine Spiritual Mountain", it would truly be an enormous loss for their academy.

Seeing the expression present on Dean Tai Cang's face, Elder Zhu Tian and the other Elders didn't chime in their thoughts and questions. From the looks of it, they understood the apprehension Dean Tai Cang was feeling. It truly would be too unfortunate to lose such an outstanding student.

"Why don't we make this point clear to Mu Chen? He should understand that the current him isn't too suitable to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain," said a white-haired Elder in a deep voice.

"This way will cause the morale of the students to suffer too huge of a blow. For the past few days, the deal between Mu Chen and the Dean has propagated throughout the academy. If we are to renege on this, it might not be too good." After thinking awhile, Mo You added in while shaking his head.

"However, it's still better than to lose such an extraordinary student..."

"This is indeed troublesome..."

"….."

As the Heavenly Seated Elders started to openly discuss on this matter, a decision wasn't made even after an hour. Naturally, all of them wanted their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to participate in the "Divine Spiritual Mountain". After all, this truly was the greatest occasion that occurred within their Northern Heavens Continent. Due to their academy's absence in this occasion for the past few years, it had caused many rumours and tongues to wag about. Being unable to refute them, their academy had always kept their silence on this matter. Nevertheless, thinking about this always made them feel sullen.

If Mu Chen really wanted to participate, and could even achieve an outstanding performance at the Divine Spiritual Mountain, they would be able to refute those slanderous rumors. This would truly bring quite a good benefit for their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

However, it would simultaneously bring about the danger of losing an extraordinary student as Mu Chen.

Should they take the risk for such danger?

Sitting in the main seat, Dean Tai Cang silently looked at the five Heavenly Seated Elders undergoing their bantering and discussion. After a long while, with a wave of his hand, he silenced their voices, before slowly speaking out, "Since I've made this deal with Mu Chen, and he has successfully achieved this goal, we truly don't have any reason to continue to obstruct him."

"That's..." The five Heavenly Seated Elders looked towards Dean Tai Cang. Did this indicate his approval for Mu Chen's participation?

"However..."

After hesitating awhile, Dean Tai Cang continued speaking out in a deep tone, "Truly, this matter is filled with danger. Therefore, we can't be careless, and need full confidence before approving his participation. Mo You, inform Mu Chen to come to the punishment platform tomorrow. If he's able to pass the final test, I'll approve of his participation for this upcoming Divine Spiritual Mountain!"

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The next day

When the news about Mu Chen's final test was spread around the academy, the atmosphere within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, which had rose to a frenzy yesterday, instantly turned explosive.

Freshman Region

After resting for the night, Mu Chen appeared in the public square under Luo Li's accompaniment, leading to the crowd of emotion-filled Goddess Luo Association members to gather around them. Chirping and chattering rang out, causing them to appear exceedingly lively and noisy.

Waving her hands to scatter the emotional crowd, Ye Qingling frowned as she spoke out, ""Why is there still a test for you? Haven't you successfully broken through to Heavenly Completion Stage? Could it be that the Dean and the Elders are regretting their deal?"

"The Dean and the Elders are taking my safety into consideration. After all, the people participating in the Divine Spiritual Mountain are the true elites at the peak of the younger generation of the Northern Heavens Continent. Even Mo Longzi's not considered the strongest in that group," replied Mu Chen with a smile. There wasn't any resentment in his tone, as he was extremely clear on the origin of the Dean and Elder's hesitation.

"Today's test might not be that simple. Be careful." Luo Li said softly.

"Okay. It's time for some action. I really want to see what difficult problem the Dean and the Elders have prepared for me," said Mu Chen with a smile, before grabbing ahold of Luo Li and shooting into the sky. Heading straight towards the direction of the punishment platform, with seemingly all of the Goddess Luo Association members following behind them. Clearly, with the current situation, it was clear that no one had a clear mind to train and cultivate now.

As Mu Chen and the rest headed out of the Freshman region, they noticed countless students from other regions immediately focusing their attention on them. Nevertheless, being rather habitualised to such attentive gazes, not a change happened to Mu Chen as he shot across the sky.

Countless students started taking to the air from other areas, following suit, attempting to join in the liveliness.

As Mu Chen headed towards the punishment platform, he was amazed to see the numerous figures that filled the surroundings skies. It was unknown how many students were already waiting for them. At the front of the lot stood a few familiar figures. Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong, Su Xuan, He Yao and those other elite students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were unexpectedly present here.

"Good Luck, Mu Chen! We support you!" Standing beside Su Xuan, Su Linger waved her little hands around while shouting out in her cute voice.

"Big Brother Mu Chen." A cute and lovable voice rang out, causing Mu Chen to turn about, only to see Su'er standing not too far away from him. Dressed in a snow-white dress, with a cold and detached expression on her beautiful face, Ling Xi had unexpectedly appeared beside her.

Crossing gazes with Ling Xi, a sliver of a faint smile surfaced on her icy-cold and beautiful face. As the beautiful flower-like smile appeared, quite a few of the surrounding students were stupefied by this breathtaking scene, while some feelings of resentment and indignation surfaced in them. This Mu Chen's truly too evil! All of these Top-Class beautiful ladies of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy actually have connections with him!

Sending a smile towards them, Mu Chen didn't say a word, before focusing his gaze towards the gigantic punishment platform. The ones present there were Dean Tai Cang and some of the Elders of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy standing on the platform.

In a flash, under the countless attentive gazes from the surroundings, Mu Chen descended on the stone platform. Cupping his hands, he respectfully spoke out, "Mu Chen greets the Dean and the other Elders."

Faintly nodding his head, Dean Tai Cang looked towards Mu Chen, before speaking out with a faint smile, "Mu Chen, congratulations for successfully breaking through to Heavenly Completion Stage. Although I've said that I'd let you participate in the "Divine Spiritual Mountain", I wish for you to understand how formidable your opponents will be. We really don't want to lose any more outstanding students anymore."

A solemn expression appeared on Mu Chen's face as he slowly replied, "I understand all of that. Therefore, if you've any test for me, I'll accept all of them, Dean."

Feeling satisfied, Dean Tai Cang said, "This will be your final test. It's a very simple one, an appraisal of your combat capabilities."

Upon completing his statement, with a wave of his sleeve, three dark golden rays of light shot out from within. Landing on the stone platform, a shiver instantly shook throughout, before a deep voice caused the hearts of countless students to tremble.

As the dark golden brilliance slowly scattered, everyone casted their gazes over. Instantly, all of their eyes furiously contracted as the whooshing of people sucking in breaths of cold air rang out across the sky.

Three dark golden giants of approximately ten feet stood there. Their unadorned bodies were fully covered with spirit patterns. The motley dents across their bodies embodied the many combats they have been through, the battle scars left from fight after fight. Quietly standing on the platform, overbearingly chilling fluctuations quietly radiated from them.

"These are..."

Upon seeing them, a subtle change occurred on the faces of Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong and the rest. "Punishment Spiritual Combat Dolls?"

Astonished shrieks erupted within the dense crowds, with even some Seniors showing faces filled with shock. Those Punishment Spiritual Combat Dolls were said to be a special combat spiritual doll made by the Punishment Hall. In the entire hall, there were only eighteen of them, with all of them possessing strength comparable to Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase. Furthermore, they won't feel any pain, having resilient bodies that were difficult to move or shake. When it came to combat, even experts of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase would be extremely hard-pressed when faced against them.

However, Dean Tai Cang had actually brought out three of them out! What was this for?

The faces of Ye Qingling and those members of the Goddess Luo Association turned slightly ugly, with the beautiful eyes of Luo Li even starting to faintly contract.

Three Spiritual Combat Dolls. That was comparable to three experts at the same realm as Mo Longzi.

"Mu Chen."

Ignoring the clamoring that filled the skies, Dean Tai Cang extended his hand out. Pointing towards the Spiritual Combat Doll, a deep voice rang out from him, "Defeat them, and you'll have the qualifications to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain. If not, even if you lose trust in me, I'll not accept your participation in that occasion. That's because, I don't want our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to lose another outstanding student again."

"This is the final test. Mu Chen, do you dare to take it up?!"

The mountainous gazes coming from the surroundings had converged on the body of the thin and handsome youth, while countless people clenched their fists. This test was too vicious...

Under the attentive gazes from countless people, not a single fluctuation appeared on Mu Chen's face. Without speaking a word, he slowly took a step forward.

Hua!

Shock flooded through the hearts of all the students. Mu Chen had already made his move, and made his decision.

He had... taken up this challenge!

The Great Ruler

Chapter 392: Demonic Pillar Reappears

Under everyone's attentive gazes, Mu Chen took a step forward. However, this small, small step caused the surrounding atmosphere to tighten and tense up, with shock running through the eyes of countless students. Clearly, Mu Chen's action was one that had exceeded their expectations.

Those were three Punishment Spiritual Combat Dolls of strength comparable to Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase.

Even a person like Mo Longzi would only have the option to scuttle and flee like a rat when faced with those three combat dolls. Although Mu Chen had successfully broken through, he shouldn't be capable of defeating three combat dolls that were specially built for fighting, right? Furthermore, those combat dolls didn't know fear and didn't shrink. Mu Chen wanting to defeat them was a nigh impossible task for a good deal of students to believe.

In the far distance, solemn expressions were also present on the faces of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong. Those three combat dolls had also caused them to feel shock running through their hearts. Dean Tai Cang truly didn't leave any stones unturned in his final test.

"Can that fellow, Mu Chen, pass through this test?"

Shooting a look at each other, both of them could see the doubt and uncertainty present within each other's eyes.

On the punishment platform, Hall Master Mo You and the other Elders watched with peculiar gazes towards Mu Chen, who had walked forward. Looks like that brat had quite some confidence in himself to actually dare to take such a test.

Faintly nodding his head, Dean Tai Cang spoke out with a smile, "Since you've made your decision, there's nothing more to say. Everything will be decided from your results."

"Yes." replied Mu Chen respectfully.

"Then," with a wave of his sleeve, an invisible fluctuation radiated out from Dean Tai Cang. In the next instant, a deep and low voice resounded out, "let's begin!"

Bang!

As Dean Tai Cang's final words rang out, the three combat dolls furiously opened their eyes, dark golden rays of brilliance sparkling within them. Spiritual patterns started surfacing one after another on their icy-cold and tough bodies, while powerful fluctuations gushed and radiated out.

Boom!

The eyes of the three combat dolls radiating with golden light locked straight onto Mu Chen, before they started to take huge strides forward. The entire stone platform trembled as they moved, rumbling as they rushed explosively towards him.

Although possessing pretty large physiques akin to that of giants, their speed was absolutely not slow, appearing right before Mu Chen in a short span of a few breaths. As their fists erupted with golden light, they shattered the air apart, brimming with power that caused people's scalps to crawl as they violently rumbled forward.

Roar!

A dragon roar rang out from within Mu Chen, before a dragon's shadow appeared, coiling around his body. In the next instant like a spectre, Mu Chen's figure retreated back in a flash.

Bang!

Three strong and sturdy golden metallic fists violently smashed apart the ground where Mu Chen had just stood, causing cracks to instantly appear on the extraordinarily built surface. After missing their first attacks, without the slightest bit of hesitation, the three combat dolls explosively shot forward, sending frightening attacks sweeping continuously out towards Mu Chen.

Facing those terrifying attacks heading towards him, Mu Chen continuously retreated, dodging and weaving about them with razor thin distances. As the dragon shadow sparkled, his speed dramatically increased, allowing him to evade those frightening metal fists that could easily send him flying.

Due to his promotion of strength, Mu Chen's speed fortunately had similar advancements. If not, he would long be pounded into pulp by the three combat dolls. Nevertheless, continuing to dodge and evade like that would not be helpful, since he was totally unable to pass this test like this.

Countless gazes converged on the pursuit happening in the sky that caused people's hearts to tremble and palpitate as everyone clenched their fists tightly, palms completely covered in sweat.

However, facing the obstructive encirclement of the three combat dolls, such evasion and dodging wasn't the best way to go about defeating them.

Bang!

Just as this thought flashed within the minds of a few students, an unforeseen change happened. Dazzling golden light suddenly blossomed from the body of a combat doll, as the spiritual patterns covering its body became extremely conspicuous. At the same time, its speed drastically increased, arriving before Mu Chen, who was displaying his Dragon Soaring Technique to evade, in a single step.

As its gigantic body appeared right before Mu Chen, its shadow immediately enveloped the latter, bringing about a powerful pressure that instantly pressed down on Mu Chen.

Whoosh!

Not the slightest shred of mercy was present in that pair of sparkling golden eyes as golden light blossomed from its golden fist like a scorching sun. Bringing about frightening power that was sufficient to level a mountain, it travelled akin to a bolt of lightning, violently hammering down towards Mu Chen's chest.

Hua!

Clamoring noises instantly erupted throughout the surroundings, while slight changes appeared on the lovable faces of Ye Qingling, Su'er, and Su Linger as their eyes were filled with nervousness. Being smashed by such a fist from the combat doll wasn't any laughable matter.

Amidst the clamoring, Mu Chen's figure fleetingly appeared in a flash. Looking at the golden glowing fist about to envelop him, a swift and fierce glint appeared within his eyes.

Bang!

Black lightning arcs furiously danced about the surface of Mu Chen's body, shrouding his entire figure within. At this instant, his body seemed to have expanded by a inch.

Thunder God's Physique!

Clenching his hands, without the slightest bit of hesitation, Mu Chen sent his fist rumbling out. Covered in black arcing and dancing lightning, astonishingly powerful energy fluctuations radiated out from it.

The two fists, one big and one small, howled out, shattering space apart before violently smashing against one another in front of the shocked gazes of everyone in the surroundings.

Boom!

Metallic grating noises rang out at the instant of impact as violent energy ripples visible to the nakedeye swept out from the centre of the two fists! Immediately, the ground beneath the point of impact had collapsed. Mu Chen was forced back dozens of steps, while the combat doll was similarly sent back, its giant feet digging two enormous gulches in the ground. Finally, falling down on its back, it smashed the ground beneath it. Seeing this aftermath of the exchange of fists, the jaws of countless people were left agape while shock and astonishment filled their eyes. Mu Chen had unexpected sent a combat doll back and down in a straight up contest of strength. How frightening was the power contained in that fist?

Stabilising his body, Mu Chen gently rotated his arm, stretching it as a solemn expression appeared within his eyes. That combat doll sure was formidable. If he hadn't broken through, he would be injured by that single punch from it. However, it was a pity for the combat doll, as the current Mu Chen had became much, much stronger compared to one month ago, when he had fought with Mo Longzi.

"I won't be able to deal with the three combat dolls if this continues."

Mu Chen casted his gaze towards the three combat dolls. They didn't feel any pain and fear, and once combat starts, they will never stop or feel tired. Therefore, he couldn't rely on the so-called imposing Aura to press down on them, with the only thing he could do was to fight them head-on. However, although Mu Chen was happy and fearless to engage in a heads-up contest, faced with the abnormal built of the combat dolls, he might not be able properly deal with them.

A spark flashed within Mu Chen's eyes as he decided, Since it's like this, let's be vicious once and for all!

Whoosh!

The three combat dolls shot forward once again as fists came howling out, all containing strength that could topple mountains.

Stomping on the ground, Mu Chen rushed straight up to the sky. Clapping his hands together, a deep and fierce roar suddenly rang out from his throat. In the next instant, a glowing scarlet-red pillar shot straight towards the clouds from his crown, within it appeared a gigantic, jet black demonic pillar towering over the skies.

At the instant when the demonic pillar appeared, waves of fiendish Aura billowed and swept out. If one were to listen carefully, one would be able to faintly discern humming and trembling noises as the demonic pillar attempted to resist Mu Chen's control. However, as it struggled, the dark purplish flower patterns that covered the pillar started to sparkle with dim radiance, finally suppressing the resistance down.

"Is that the Great Meru Demonic Pillar?!"

The expressions of Dean Tai Cang and the various other Elders instantly changed upon seeing the demonic pillar. Flashes of radiance sparkled within their eyes, while their minds trembled in shock. At their level of vision, they were naturally able to see that the demonic pillar before them wasn't any other projection, but the actual body of the Great Meru Demonic Pillar!

However, with Mu Chen's current strength, how was he able to control the Great Meru Demonic Pillar?

"The Great Meru Demonic Pillar seems to be suppressed and sealed by something!" Being the strongest person present, Dean Tai Cang was able to notice the dark purplish flowery patterns on the surface of the demonic pillar, which were radiating with fluctuations that were different from those of the demonic pillar. Those flowery patterns were suppressing the amount of fiendish Aura billowing out from the demonic pillar, forcing it to come under the control of Mu Chen.

Upon this discovery, amazement flashed within Dean Tai Cang's eyes, before gradually regaining his clarity. Looking deeply at Mu Chen in the sky, he was certain that there should be some secrets hidden within the latter's body. Being about to seal and suppress an ominous weapon from the ancient antiquity like that Great Meru Demonic Pillar, exactly what thing could do that?

Bang!

Nevertheless, the three combat dolls didn't show the slightest bit of fear and dread towards the Great Meru Demonic Pillar. With a stomp of their feet, they rushed across the horizon, sending violent attacks towards Mu Chen.

Looking down at the three golden rays of light shooting towards him, a smile started to curl up from the corner of his mouth. This was the first time that he had unveiled the Great Meru Demonic Pillar. Although it was in its repressed state, how could the strength of this ominous weapon of the ancient antiquity be compared to ordinary people? Having possessed such a powerful weapon, Mu Chen was sufficiently capable of suppressing any opponent of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase.

Raising his hands in a hugging position, he violently swung his hands down. As he did so, the gigantic Demonic Pillar furiously swept down. Akin to a mountain, it brought about its billowing fiendish Qi, seemingly shattering through space as it traveled across the sky. In a manner that seemed impossible to block, it heavily pounded down on the three golden combat dolls under the dumbfounded gazes coming from the surroundings.

Bang!

An astonishingly enormous bang resounded. Under the hammering of the gigantic jet-black demonic pillar, the three combat dolls had raised their golden hands, pressing up against the descending pillar in their attempts to hold it up. However, this ominous weapon of ancient antiquity wasn't something that could be handled by them! In the next instant, with a final bang, the black demonic pillar violently descended on the vast stone platform below. As the platform shattered and collapsed, the three combat doll were smashed straight into the depths of the earth!

The demonic pillar stood proudly in the punishment platform, gigantic cracks extended from it, while the three combat dolls were suppressed beneath it. At this moment, not a single movement could be detected from the demonic pillar as it radiated with fiendish Aura that blotted the skies.

Countless people had their eyes wide open as they observed this spectacle before them.

Mu Chen started to descend from the sky, subsequently landing on the top of the Great Meru Demonic Pillar. Looking towards the three combat dolls that were suppressed beneath by the demonic pillar to the point of not being able to move, he turned his gaze towards Dean Tai Cang and the various other Elders, who had slightly spectacular expressions displayed on their faces. Cupping his hands, he spoke out with a smile, "Do you think I've passed this test, Dean?"

The Great Ruler

Chapter 393: Words of the Dean

Deathly silence hung in the surroundings.

Around the punishment platform, countless students had their mouths agape as they continued to stare at the spectacle before them—the gigantic demonic pillar quietly standing proudly on the ground, fiendish Qi that blotted the skies as it radiated with frightening fluctuations, while the three combat dolls were suppressed to the point of being unable to move, no longer displaying the ferocity that was present before.

This fight had ended at the speed that had clearly exceeded everyone's expectations.

Originally, everyone had expected an intense fight. However, who would have thought that Mu Chen would brandish a demonic pillar, suppressing the three combat dolls in such a direct fashion.

Looking at the ground being suppressed by the demonic pillar, a vacant expression appeared in the eyes of everyone as they thought, *Those were three combat dolls that were comparable to Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase experts!*

However, they were actually dealt with in such a manner...

"Too formidable..." Some people cried out. Looking at the top of the demonic pillar, there stood a thin figure, arrogantly facing the world. The imposing aura radiating from him caused the beautiful eyes of quite a few pretty girls to sparkle in splendor.

"Big Brother Mu's so awesome!"

After regaining their clarity from the astonishing fight that happened before their eyes, numerous members of the Goddess Luo Association couldn't help crying out in amazement as emotions flooded their expressions. The imposing manner in which Mu Chen instantly suppressed the three combat dolls was truly too breathtaking.

Looking at the figure standing proudly on the demonic pillar with her beautiful eyes, a faint and gentle smile surfaced on the corner of Luo Li's mouth.

Looking at the youth standing quietly on the demonic pillar amidst the countless cheering noises from the surroundings, shades of red uncontrollably surfaced on the loveable face of Su Ling'er. To this young girl, who had had a first awakening towards love, this spectacle clearly possessed extremely strong killing power.

"What's the matter? Smitten by him?" said Su Xuan teasingly.

Instantly, the shades of red on Su Ling'er's lovable face grew deeper, before looking at Luo Li, who was standing not far from her, causing a faint pout to appear on her face. She truly didn't possess any confidence to face-off against an opponent of Luo Li's caliber.

"That fellow truly is formidable. During the time when he had joined us to complete the mission, even Bai Xuan was able to force him into a dangerous peril. However, now, even three combat dolls with strength of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase are easily suppressed by him," said Su Xuan, unable to hold her thoughts in. Faced with the rapid increase of Mu Chen's strength, she truly had to exclaim in admiration.

"At this moment, I'm afraid that Mu Chen has the capabilities to vie for the leader of the Heavenly Rankings," said Su Linger softly. "However, why doesn't he do that? If he did so, he would truly become the person with the most fame and reputation in our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

With a gentle smile, Su Xuan replied, "That's because he doesn't care about being the leader of the Heavenly Rankings. Furthermore, he might not want to obtain Shen Cangsheng's position. There's always some tacit understanding between men, especially extremely outstanding ones like them."

Nodding her small head, Su Linger didn't continue to speak anymore.

At a slightly further position, compared to the astonished exclamations and cheering coming from the surroundings, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong appeared rather quiet. Looking vacantly at the figure standing on the demonic pillar in the distance, a complicated expression surfaced on their faces after a while.

"Looks like I've truly been surpassed this time." In the end, exhaling deeply, Shen Cangsheng shrugged his shoulders before sighing with a smile.

Hearing those words, Li Xuantong slightly nodded his head. Both of them knew that if they were the ones that were faced against those three combat dolls, they might have already been forced to miserably retreat. This was absolutely heavens apart from the breathtaking manner in which Mu Chen had achieved victory. That Freshman truly had already surpassed both of them.

Perhaps, this former Overlord of the Heavenly Rankings might have to concede his position.

Li Xuantong had been fighting with Shen Cangsheng in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for so long. However, he never once imagined that a Freshman would successively overtake both of them.

Although both of them had previously forecasted such an occurrence, when it truly arrived, complicated feelings still surfaced within them. After all, both of them were prideful men.

"Nevertheless, I'll not give up just due to this," said Shen Cangsheng with a faint smile. Looking at the thin figure standing in the distance, his gaze grew increasingly resolute. Giving up that easily wasn't his, Shen Cangsheng's, style!

Hearing those words, a faint smile similarly appeared on Li Xuantong's face. Crossing his fingers together, there wasn't any dejection present within his eyes.

Above the punishment platform, Dean Tai Cang and the other Elders gradually regained their clarity, while slightly strange expressions appeared within their eyes. None of them had expected that the final test would be passed by Mu Chen in such a breathtaking fashion.

Staring deeply at Mu Chen, a laugh finally rang out from Dean Tai Cang as he spoke out with a smile, "Congratulations on passing the final test. As I've promised, you'll represent our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and participate in this year's "Divine Spiritual Mountain", vying for supremacy against the true geniuses at the peak of the younger generation in the Northern Heavens Continent."

"Hurray!"

As Dean Tai Cang's words rang out, astonishing cheering voices instantly erupted in the surrounding sky, the faces of countless students were filled with emotions. After so many years, their Northern Heavens

Spiritual Academy was finally going to participate in the grandest occasion for the younger generation in the Northern Heavens Continent!

"Good luck, Brother Mu! Get rid of all those so-called geniuses! Let them know that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was just not willing to play with them in the past! Once we play, we'll be able to stride across them like it's a game!"

"Mu Chen, your Senior Sisters are all rooting for you!"

"You have to strive for the glory of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!"

Voices continued to ring out from the surroundings as all the students were clearly extremely emotional about this matter.

Looking at the emotion-filled students in the surroundings, Dean Tai Cang gave a helpless smile. With a faint shift of his gaze, he looked towards the group of somewhat silent people within the crowd of students, being Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong, He Yao and those elite students who were formerly at the top of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Once the most influential figures within the academy, they had gradually been outshone and concealed by Mu Chen's increasing splendor.

Other than Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong, who appeared rather fine, seemingly all of them had slightly dim expressions. Clearly, this fight had given them quite a blow to their spirits and minds.

Giving a gentle wave of his hand, Dean Tai Cang slowly started to silence the cheering voices that blotted the skies. Crossing his hands behind his back, he spoke out slowly, "Students, do all of you know about the current circumstances of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?"

Hearing the sudden question posed by Dean Tai Cang, every student gawked, as vacant looks appeared on their faces.

"In the past few Great Spiritual Academy Competitions, not only was our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy ranked last amongst the five Great Academies, there were even some elite spiritual academies that achieved results that triumphed ours. This year, in this Great Spiritual Academy Competition, if we, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was to continue achieving the same result, there's a high possibility of us being ousted from the ranks of the five Great Academies."

Hearing the deep voice of Dean Tai Cang, countless students had faces filled with shock, before feeling deep shame and embarrassment rising from their hearts. When they were enjoying the satisfaction granted by being in one of the five great academies, they had forgotten about the dangerous situation that the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was enduring.

"Speaking about this point, it isn't that our student's are lacking in talent. The key factor is that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy isn't utilising the extreme methods that other spiritual academies are using. In our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, regardless of what background you are, you only have an identity, which is the student of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. We won't give out enormous benefits just for the sake of roping in an elite genius, letting he or she stand above all other students. Therefore, there are times that our results would naturally fall behind."

With his hands crossed behind his back, Dean Tai Cang's figure appeared exceedingly imposing in the eyes of countless students, while his deep and firm voice resonated in everyone's hearts.

"I know that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy isn't the final place for you all. After training and cultivating here, you will leave one day, heading towards greater places to struggle, temper and journey about. However, I hope that every single Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy student will still retain the pride of being a student of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. As long as you never forget that you're a member of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, regardless of what you experience in the future, as long as you come back here, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy will be your final shelter, and the entire academy, will be your shield!"

Silence filled the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy as every student, and even the teachers and Elders looked towards the imposing figure standing in the distant sky, emotions surging within their hearts. To all of them, he was the spiritual pillar of the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

The eyes of a few students, especially those sentimental young girls, had already turned slightly red as pride and arrogance of being a member of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy rose within their hearts. Regardless of fame and reputation of the academy, the awe-inspiring figure standing tall and this academy had caused a warm and gentle feeling to surface within them.

Mu Chen vacantly stared at Dean Tai Cang as he faintly pursed his lips. In the next moment, a smile curled up from the corner of his mouth. He felt rejoiceful that he had chosen the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to train and cultivate. A Dean that dared to proclaim that the entire academy would be one's shield wasn't a person that one can casually find in any spiritual academy.

Looking at the youths and young girls present around him, a rarely seen gentle expression appeared within Dean Tai Cang's eyes as he slowly said, "Naturally, I hope that everyone can remember what the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy has given you. It isn't strength, or power. What it is, is regardless of what we face, we won't easily give up or surrender! Even if we aren't one of the five Great Academies after this Great Spiritual Academy Competition, we—still—won't—give—up!"

A faint tremble instantly shook through the bodies of He Yao, Xu Huan, Zhao Qingshan and the other elite students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. At this moment, their faintly dim gazes seemingly erupted with splendor, their gazes turned sharp once again.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Ear-shattering clapping noises resounded like thunder as countless students had faces brimming with emotions. This was the first time that they've seen their usually stern and conscientious Dean actually speaking such motivational and awe-inspiring words.

Within the sea of students, both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong had faint smiles present on their faces. Stepping forward under the ear-shattering claps, countless gazes immediately converged onto them.

"Dean..."

Looking towards Dean Tai Cang, Shen Cangsheng gave a smile, before saying out, "We, naturally, aren't going to give up that easily. However, similarly, I wish that you would trust us for once, Dean. We love the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Therefore, we're willing to fight for it. However, we do need some help."

"For example?" asked Dean Tai Cang in surprise.

"For example, opening the Door of the Northern Depths once again."

Standing upright in the air, his already straight figure appeared increasingly straight, like a ramrod, akin to a spear piercing through the heavens.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 394: Door of the Northern Depths

"Opening the Door of the Northern Depths..."

When those words from Shen Cangsheng fluttered across the sky, the surrounding air seemed to freeze up, while the expressions of Dean Tai Cang and the various other Elders faintly changed, with dark and gloomy shadows appearing within their eyes. Clearly, all of them didn't imagine that Shen Cangsheng would actually raise such a request.

The Door of the Northern Depths could be considered as the final tempering grounds for the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, due to the probability of death being too high, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had finally chose to close it after weighing the pros and cons. Due to lacking the most important area for tempering, the results of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy in the past years had slid down the rankings, with imminent danger of losing its title of being one of the Five Great Academies.

If the special methods that the other spiritual academies were using to poach elite geniuses were considered as external factors, the closure of the Door of the Northern Depths could be considered an internal factor for the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Many strong and powerful spiritual academies possessed final tempering grounds, as this was a rather important factor in allowing those elite students to have a fierce leap in strength. However, compared to the other Five Great Academies, the existence of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was considered the youngest. Therefore, some of its underlying aspects were lacking when compared to the other four academies.

Mu Chen went into a daze due to the solidification of the atmosphere. Only being in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for a year, he naturally wasn't as clear about the Door of the Northern Depths as the other students. However, from the expressions present on Dean Tai Cang and the other Elders, he could faintly discern how special the so-called 'Door of the Northern Depths' was.

"The Door of the Northern Depths, is too dangerous..." After pondering for quite a while, Dean Tai Cang finally replied in a slow voice.

"Dean, let me ask a question..."

After hearing Dean Tai Cang's deep words, Shen Cangsheng gave a faint smile as she spoke slowly, one word at a time, "Is there any leveled road, in an expert's path?"

Silence filled the skies once again as Shen Cangsheng's deep voice slowly resounded across the horizon. Splendid expressions appeared on the faces of countless students as they looked at the figure in the sky, ramrod straight like a spear piercing through the heavens, while unconcealable respect and worship

erupted from their eyes. This was Shen Cangsheng, the Overlord of the Heavenly Rankings. Even though he was gradually being surpassed by Mu Chen, he still possessed an immovable position in the hearts of many students.

Gently exhaling a clump of white air, Mu Chen gave a thumbs-up towards Shen Cangsheng.

Turning silent for a short while, Dean Tai Cang finally gave a helpless laugh before replying, "I've actually been lectured by a smelly brat that's still wet behind his ears..."

Beside him, Elder Zhu Tian and the other Elders started laughing as a result of his reply.

"The Door of the Northern Depths wasn't completely closed in the past. We're also doing our best to repair and fill in the defects and flaws. Over these last few years, it can be considered that we've made a little progress in this. However, it's still extremely dangerous."

Looking towards Shen Cangsheng, Dean Tai Cang smiled, before waving his hand and said, "However, since you've already said those words, if I was to find more excuses, I might be inviting misfortune to myself. Hmph, alright. The Door of the Northern Depths will reopen once again. However, there's a restriction to entry, which is that only the students in the top ten ranks on the Heavenly Rankings have the qualifications to enter, and is totally up to them to enter of their own free will."

Hearing Dean Tai Cang's reply, a smile that felt as if a heavy burden has been lifted off his shoulders appeared on Shen Cangsheng's face. With a hearty chuckle and a wide grin, he replied, "Then, please allow me entry to the Door of the Northern Depths."

"Count me in," said Li Xuantong with a faint smile.

Not far away, looking at the awe-inspiring pose of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong, before casting his gaze towards Su Xuan, who was standing in another direction, a dark shadow flashed within He Yao's eyes. Clenching his teeth, he stood up and shouted, "Count me in, too!"

He Yao's reply clearly caused lots of people to feel shocked, with even Su Xuan was shooting a peculiar look at him. Nevertheless, her beautiful eyes still showed dimness in them, without too much fluctuations present. He Yao's previous actions during the hunt had clearly aroused ire and disgust in her. Although she didn't always quite like He Yao, she was able to communicate with him just like normal friends, but that event had caused her to stop all contact with him, estranging him from her.

As He Yao's gaze remained on Su Xuan and spotting the dim gaze present within her eyes, his expression grew increasingly dim and sad. Indeed, he had too much blood rushing towards his brain during the previous incident with her. He had only wanted to defeat Mu Chen to wipe the humiliation he received clean from the latter. Naturally, he never thought of truly hurting Su Xuan...after all, she was the girl he liked.

"Dean, what you've said earlier was too touching. Therefore, I wish to do my utmost and fight for our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. If we don't enter the Door of the Northern Depths, I'm afraid that we might be overtaken by the geniuses from other top academies." said He Yao with a bitter and astringent smile. Indeed, he had a rather handsome appearance, with only an extra feeling that tilted towards coldness and gloominess. However, within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there were quite a few young girls that were smitten by him.

"Boss is the best!"

After hearing his words, even those members of the Demon Gate's were looking at He Yao with slightly surprised expressions. Clearly, this was somewhat different from the usual gloomy shadow that was present on him, causing those Demon's Gate members to feel emotional. He Yao's decision had caused them to feel glory and honor for being under his lead.

"It's truly difficult for that fellow to get hot-blooded, for once." Su Ling'er also felt surprised as she leaned towards Su Xuan and whispered.

Su Xuan cast a look towards He Yao with her beautiful eyes. Seeing her looking over, He Yao's body started to quietly grow straighter. This time, he did not see the cold and detached expression that was usually present within her eyes. It even had faint traces of reverting to the normal gaze she had used in the past, causing him secretly feel slightly emotional.

The entire atmosphere within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy seemed to be roused by the awe-inspiring display of Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong and He Yao. Quite a few students rubbed their hands together, itching to step into the top ten ranks and truly fight bravely for the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Feeling this roused atmosphere, a smile appeared on Xu Huang's face as he felt as though the blood within his body had started to boil. Being a member of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he should not be backing down at this moment.

Therefore, under the proud and admiration-filled beautiful eyes of Xu Qingqing standing beside him, Xu Huang had also taken a step forward.

At another corner of the crowd, Zhao Qingshan and Mu Fengyang shot a look at each other, noticing the helpless smiles on each other's faces. At this time, if they were to back down, they might truly be looked down upon by everyone. Their pride and arrogance weren't weaker than any other person's. Therefore, at the moment when Xu Huang had stepped forward, they too had done the same.

Following this, with great emotions swirling within them, countless students noticed that of the top ten ranks on the Heavenly Rankings, other than Mu Chen, Luo Li and Su Xuan, all of the rest had actually stood up. This awe-inspiring spectacle caused the blood of the crowd to boil and surge. Regardless of the usual conflicts and battles between cliques within the academy, at this critical moment, the unity present within the academy truly made all of them feel proud and honored for being in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

As Dean Tai Cang and the various other Elders looked at the awe-inspiring spectacle unfurling before their eyes, all of them gawked, before looking at each other and the bitter smiles present on their faces. However, what came with those bitter smiles were gratification and pride. When their students were truly able to stand up and fight for the honor and glory of the academy, who dared to say that this wasn't the success of their spiritual academy?

Waving his hand to silence the flared voices that blotted the skies, Dean Tai Cang announced with a gentle smile, "Three days from now, I'll bring Mu Chen towards the Divine Spiritual Mountain. After that matter, our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy will reopen the Door of the Northern Depths!"

Hearing his proclamation, countless students were loudly cheering. This time, for the sake of protecting the title of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy as one of the Five Great Academies, everyone was willing to do their utmost, with no expense spared.

Looking at the spiritual academy that was filled with boiling emotions, Mu Chen gave a faint smile, before slowly clenching his fists. Since everyone was going to give their all, he, of all people, couldn't slack behind. At the very least, he had to fight for the face of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy at the Divine Spiritual Mountain...

In a giant jet-black hall, the cold and dark atmosphere suppressed everything within it.

Within the centremost position of the giant hall, the Black Dragon Sovereign suddenly opened his eyes, with a cold and dark glow surfaced within them. Raising his head, he looked towards a dark corner of the giant hall before saying in an indifferent voice, "I've confirmed the news. The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy will participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain this time. As for the participant, it's the person that has obtained our Great Meru Demonic Pillar, Mu Chen."

"Haha! The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy truly has some guts. Those brats of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that are still wet behind their ears actually dares to participate in such an occasion..." A chilling and dark radiance surfaced in the dark, as a human figure faintly appeared, bringing along an overcast laughter resounding throughout the giant hall.

"It's also good for them to come...however, how do we go about implementing our plan? Over the years, we've been patiently enduring for too long," asked the Black Dragon Sovereign with a faint smile.

"Has everything been appropriately prepared? That old mixed hair bird of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's big trouble." A deep and dark voice rang out from another corner of the giant hall.

"Yes, rest assured. There will be people that will naturally deal with that old mixed hair bird," replied the Black Dragon Sovereign as he nodded his head. As dark hatred bloomed to their extreme limit within his eyes, he slowly spoke out, "This time, we'll let the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy know that we, the Demonic Dragon Palace, are still the strongest in the Northern Heavens Continent!"

"Also, we must get back our Great Meru Demonic Pillar...that's the treasure of our Demonic Dragon Palace."

With a faint smile, the Black Dragon Sovereign spoke out once again, "Since that brat dares to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain, that will be all too good..."

As his voice rang out, he waved his sleeve, only for the space within the giant hall to violently warp and distort. In the next moment, it turned into a spatial pathway, within which intense ear-piercing shrieks and screeches continuously rang out, akin to the howling of thousands of demons. As it took form, a thin and frail black figure slowly walked out from the jet-black pathway.

Covered in ordinary hemp clothing, the figure had a rather common look. His pair of eyes appeared with a greyish-black tint, akin to a pool of stagnant water, with not a single emotional fluctuation present within. A long black spear was carried on his back, encased in howling black figures that emitted ear-piercing ghostly wails and wolf howls.

After leaving the spatial pathway, not a single movement was seen from him as he stood there, just like a cold and frosty piece of rock.

"Xingtian, three days from now, be prepared to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain. Your mission this time is to kill the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Mu Chen, and retrieve the Great Meru Demonic Pillar from his hands!" Looking at the stone-like figure that seemed to not possess much vitality, the Black Dragon Sovereign gave his orders in a slow voice.

Slightly raising his seemingly dead eyes, the cold and frosty figure gently nodded his head, before turning around, not uttering a single word since his appearance.

However, this strangeness brought a chill to anyone who would see this spectacle.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 395: Get Moving

The flared-up emotions within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy lasted for three entire days before gradually dissipating away. However, every single person was able to sense the changes to the atmosphere within the academy. In the past, one would continue to notice internal conflicts between cliques and factions happening within the academy. However, as the Great Spiritual Academy Competition half a year later drew closer, those conflicts quietly decreased and toned down. This was especially pronounced since the current situation of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was brought to light by Dean Tai Cang, causing the emotions of quite a few students to rise and soar. Since they were members of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, they would naturally work hard and fight for its honor and glory.

Therefore, as the critical moment drew closer, everyone conscientiously trained and cultivated. Some of the elite students ranked near the top ten ranks on the Heavenly Rankings tried to endlessly pierce through into the top ten rankings in their attempt to obtain the qualifications to enter the "Door of the Northern Depths". Although they knew the dangers brimming within it, at such a critical moment, there was no one backing down without a fight.

After three days had past since the day of the test, it was time for Mu Chen to leave the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to participate in the most prestigious occasion for the younger generations of the Northern Heavens Continent.

Within the little building in the Freshman region, having completed his preparations, Mu Chen turned and gave a smile towards Luo Li, who was standing beside him, and said, "Let's go."

Although there's only one participation quota for the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy this time, Luo had planned to follow Mu Chen, which wasn't met with any rejection from him. After all, being able to spend more time together with Luo Li was exactly what he was looking forward to.

With a smile, Luo Li gave a faint smile while gently nodding her head. In the next moment, the two of them shot out, transforming into two streaks of light, rushing across the horizon. As they headed towards a majestic giant hall within the centremost location of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Dean Tai Cang and the various other Elders were already there waiting for them.

Descending down from the air, Mu Chen's gaze swept past Dean Tai Cang, before faintly gawking as it landed on side of the latter. There stood a slender and beautiful girl dressed elegantly in a white dress, radiating with a cold and detached demeanour, which was precisely Ling Xi.

Mu Chen clearly felt slightly peculiar as to why Ling Xi was present here. After all, although Ling Xi had a status as an Elder within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, she participated extremely little in the affairs of the academy.

As though sensing the doubtful gaze coming from Mu Chen, a faint smile appeared on Ling Xi's face. At this moment, her cold and detached expression quietly disappeared cleanly from her face, causing some of the white-haired Elders to feel shocked and amazed. After all, they knew all too well about Ling Xi's detached and distant behavior. Within the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, they had never seen her show a smiling face to anyone.

However, before their very eyes, she had actually given a faint gentle smile towards Mu Chen, which completely caused them to lurch forward in shock.

"This time, I'll follow you two towards the Divine Spiritual Mountain," said Ling Xi with a faint smile.

"Haha. Elder Ling Xi's strength is extraordinary. With her joining, it would be much safer for you two," said Dean Tai Cang with a smile. He was also extremely astonished by Ling Xi's request to tag along with the two. Nevertheless, this was something that he wouldn't reject, as having one more person would increase the safety of their group. Although there shouldn't be dumb influences in the Northern Heavens Continent that dared to blatantly attack their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, being a little more safe was always better.

While he said those words, Dean Tai Cang shot a deep and profound look towards Mu Chen. The Ling Xi who usually didn't give a damn about anything that happened within the academy had suddenly requested to tag along. No matter how one looked at it, she definitely had some connection with Mu Chen. Furthermore, this tagging along clearly showed her intention to protect him.

Ling Xi had actually taken the initiative to protect Mu Chen?

This was an extremely inconceivable matter within Dean Tai Cang's eyes. After all, he had a rather good understanding towards the cold and detached personality that Ling Xi had. From his view, even if the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was to be destroyed, Ling Xi might not get too emotional about it. Therefore, he had a slight feeling of it being something akin of The Arabian Nights towards Ling Xi's consideration to follow along and protect Mu Chen.

However, regardless of his astonishment, Dean Tai Cang didn't plan to investigate the connection between Mu Chen and Ling Xi. Nevertheless, from what he could see, the relationship between the two might not be that simple after all...

Upon seeing the gaze coming from Dean Tai Cang, Mu Chen secretly cursed within his heart, before panning his head to look at Luo Li. At this moment, the latter's exquisite porcelain face was still calm and tranquil. In fact, upon seeing Ling Xi's beautiful eyes looking over towards her, a faint smile appeared on Luo Li's face. However, as Mu Chen was panning around, the young girl's lips slightly trembled, before some soft whispers rang within Mu Chen's ears.

"You're rather attractive, huh?"

Instantly feeling slightly embarrassed, Mu Chen could only give a dry cough while replying, "Please don't get mistaken. Elder Sister Ling Xi's doesn't feel that relieved about the two of us heading there by ourselves."

Although Luo Li declined to comment, the expression hanging within her eyes made Mu Chen feel as if no explanation would suffice for her.

"Since everyone has arrived, let's make a move."

With a wave of his hand, Dean Tai Cang broke the quiet exchange between the two young lovers. Shooting into the sky, he was followed by Hall Master Mo You, as well as Elder Zhu Tian. Clearly, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had attached extremely high importance towards the Divine Spiritual Mountain this year. With the Dean and two Heavenly Seated Elders, this lineup was rather formidable.

"Follow along with me, if not, your speed won't be adequate," said Ling Xi as she walked towards Mu Chen and Luo Li, while a sweet smile appeared on her face. Opening her palm, a glowing halo akin to a compass shot out from within her sleeve, before floating in mid-air.

"I'll have to burden Elder Ling, then," replied Luo Li with a gentle nod.

"If you don't mind, you can call me as Elder Sister Ling Xi like Mu Chen. In the future, if I were to bump into Aunt Ling, I might even be able to talk to her about you," said Ling Xi as her beautiful eyes started to gently size up Luo Li. Even with her judgemental gaze, she was unable to see the slightest bit of flaw from the body of the young girl in front of her. What a girl, no wonder why Mu Chen is smitten by her.

Faint shades of pink surfaced on Luo Li's lovable face upon hearing Ling Xi's words. She had already heard of some matters about the latter, and naturally knew that the Aunt Jing she had mentioned should be Mu Chen's mother.

"Elder Sister Ling Xi," replied Luo Li with a faint smile. Although she didn't like other people getting too close to her, she was able to feel the protective feelings Ling Xi had for Mu Chen. Therefore, she wasn't too stingy to reject the favorable impression she had on the latter.

With a smile on her face, Ling Xi grasped onto Luo Li's little hand, before shooting towards the top of the glowing compass-like halo. Seeing this, Mu Chen hastily followed on.

As they appeared in the air, countless students were attentively looking at them from the far surroundings. Clearly, everyone knew that today's the day that Mu Chen would leave the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and head towards the Northern Heavens Continent, representing their spiritual academy in the most prestigious occasion within the younger generation in this continent.

From a mountain peak, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong had shot into the air, before sending a smile towards Mu Chen as they said, "Mu Chen, this time, we've to rely on you to uphold the face of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

Solemnly nodding his head, Mu Chen replied, "Rest assured. Regardless of whom, I won't easily give up fighting."

Hearing that, both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong smiled. Once the most outstanding students of the academy, this matter should be left to them to handle. However, as a matter of fact, this current situation was somewhat cruel to them. Due to their age and the duration that they've trained and cultivated, some disparity was present between them and the younger generation within the Northern Heavens Continent. Therefore, they had no choice but to hand over this responsibility and place it on Mu Chen's shoulders. Although complicated emotions were still present within their hearts, both of them had heartfelt hopes for Mu Chen to create another miracle at the Divine Spiritual Mountain.

After all, being members of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, all of them shared the same honor and glory, and any losses, as one body.

Sending a smile towards Mu Chen, Dean Tai Cang said, "Just try your best, when the time comes. There will be a live broadcast of this occasion within the academy. At that time, everyone will be able to see your performance, as well as cheer and support you."

After slightly gawking, Mu Chen returned a helpless smile. This time, he truly felt the pressure on his shoulders. At that time, every single move and choice he made would be seen by everyone within the academy. Looks like I'll have to do my best, if not it'll truly be bad for me if I appear miserable compared to everyone there.

"Let's go."

With a wave of his sleeve, Dean Tai Cang didn't continue talking. In the next moment, boundless Spiritual Energy gushed out from the air before them, while the space itself started to pull and distort, forming a gigantic spatial pathway. Taking the lead, Dean Tai Cang strode forward, walking straight into the spatial vortex.

As he did so, Mu Chen and the rest of the group closely followed behind. As the space continued to distort, it completely devoured their figures, before dissipating away. While the air regained normalcy once again, those figures had already disappeared from view.

"I don't know exactly what results Mu Chen will be able to achieve in this Divine Spiritual Mountain."

Looking at the place where Mu Chen and the group had disappeared in, Shen Cangsheng gave a smile, before saying, "I've heard that there might be people within the elites of the Northern Heavens Continent that have reached the 'Three Sovereign Disasters'..."

Nodding his head, Li Xuantong muttered, "The Three Sovereign Disasters, huh... That truly is very troublesome."

People who possessed that kind of strength were already clawing at the path of a Sovereign, and were much, much stronger than a Heavenly Completion Stage.

"However, I don't think that this fella's gonna lose." A smile suddenly appeared on Li Xuantong's face as he said, "After all, in just this year alone, I've already grown numb to the matters that he had caused. The fellow that had to risk his all just to block three moves from me has already arrived at a realm that even I'm unable to reach now."

Hearing those words, Shen Cangsheng gave a smile, before raising his head to look at the vast and expansive sky above, while quietly muttering some words within his heart.

Mu Chen, everyone from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy will be watching you this time! Let us see exactly how far you'll go!

When you return, the title of 'Overlord of the Heavenly Rankings', will truly be yours.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 396: Divine Spiritual City

The Divine Spiritual Mountain was situated close the the centre of the Northern Heavens Continent. The place it was situated in was named as the Divine Spiritual Region, and possessed extreme fame and reputation within the Northern Heavens Continent.

It's said that the Divine Spiritual Mountain was passed down from the ancient antiquity to now. Originally, there wasn't anything special about this mountain. However, due to a Heavenly Sovereign sitting and passing away on the mountain, the originally normal mountain turned into something extraordinary. As if being sealed off by a unique and powerful energy, frightening Spiritual Energy from the world flooded and enveloped the mountain's surroundings, causing no one to carelessly intrude upon it.

This isolation would weaken once every few years. When that happened, the most prestigious occasion for the younger generation of the Northern Heavens Continent would start.

All of this was due to an enormous destiny-changing event known as the "Divine Spiritual Baptism" that occurred within the Divine Spiritual Mountain. For those people who were trying their best along the path to becoming a Sovereign, this possessed life-threatening enticement. At the same time, it was sufficiently enticing to move the hearts of many strong powers and influences. After all, within this endless Great Thousand World, only genuine Sovereigns could be said to have started on their paths of becoming experts. As long as a power or influence had a Sovereign-level existence, the progression of strength and the shock from others would reach a rather frightening degree.

Therefore, the numerous powers and influences of the Northern Heavens Continent had their eyes turned bloodshot for the sake of obtaining this "Divine Spiritual Baptism", doing their utmost to contend for it. All of this was to help their own geniuses to obtain this opportunity to ensure a strong foundation on their paths towards being a Sovereign.

Therefore, the entire Northern Heavens Continent would be lit abuzz every time the "Divine Spiritual Mountain" had opened up. All of those young geniuses nurtured wholeheartedly by the various powers and influences would fight and struggle for this baptism.

Therefore, this occasion could be said to represent the highest caliber of exchange between the younger generations within the Northern Heavens Continent.

It took Mu Chen and the group only half a day's worth of time to reach the Divine Spiritual Region from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. The speed at which they did so caused Mu Chen to uncontrollably sigh in admiration. Truly worthy of a Sovereign-level existence. If it was him alone, even if he was to give his all to rush here, it would take him a minimum of a day to reach this place.

Upon their arrival, they immediately headed towards the main area of the Divine Spiritual Region under Dean Tai Cang's lead, where a city known as the Divine Spiritual City stood.

This Divine Spiritual City was erected at the base of the Divine Spiritual Mountain, and was extremely ancient. Due to the uniqueness of the Divine Spiritual Mountain, this city had already remained in a neutral footing, with not a single power or influence daring to recklessly occupy it. After all, such actions could attract the ire and unhappiness from the other powers and influences. With a lure such as the "Divine Spiritual Baptism", a single breeze might be able to incite an Extermination-level disaster on the initiator.

As of now, it was clearly the most liveliest period within a span of a few years for the Divine Spiritual City. Countless powers and experts have gathered here from all corners of the Northern Heavens Continent, with even some solitary experts rushing over. Even though they knew that all those strong powers would not give into reason for the sake of struggling for the "Divine Spiritual Baptism", the enticement it had was sufficient to cause reason and rationale to diminish.

All of this was due to the extreme fear and terror the "Three Sovereign Disasters" have on everyone. Human Body Disaster, Spiritual Energy Disaster and Spirit Disaster, with each one more terrifying that the previous one. With just a single mistake or error, one would turn into ashes, with even one's Divine Soul being unable to flee, completely disappearing from the world.

Countless experts have fallen from those three disasters, forever unable to climb back up again.

Therefore, within the eyes of many, the "Three Sovereign Disasters" were clearly more frightening than those strong powers and influences.

When the two terrors were compared side-by-side, it was naturally easy to weigh the disparity of terror between them.

Before arriving at the Divine Spiritual Mountain, Mu Chen shot a look at the far distance towards the back of the city. There stood the majestic silhouette of a mountain, faintly discernable within the spiritual mist that blotted the skies. The boundless degree of Spiritual Energy present there was sufficient to cause fright and dread in people's hearts. As the Spiritual Energy churned and surged around, sounds akin to peals of thunder could be heard, resounding across the world.

Looking at this scene before him, Mu Chen's eyes uncontrollably contracted.

"That's the Divine Spiritual Mountain."

Dean Tai Cang spoke out with a faint smile. "Look at the area over there. As long as one's a Sovereign-level expert, one would be unable to get close to there. That's because of the remnant pressure within that area, which should be left behind by the Heavenly Sovereign that had sat there and passed away. However, as long as one hasn't stepped into the realm of a Sovereign, one would be unable to sense that pressure. Therefore, while we are unable to get close to it, you are able to enter it. Haha. This might be due to the status that a Heavenly Sovereign has within the realm of Sovereigns."

Admiration and lamentation was present in Dean Tai Cang's voice as he explained to Mu Chen. Although being a Sovereign would mean that one had stepped onto the path of being an expert, a Heavenly Sovereign might be considered as the Emperor of Sovereigns. Faced against such an existence, with their strength, they didn't even possess the simplest of qualifications to resist.

After hearing Dean Tai Cang's explanation, Mu Chen quietly clicked his tongue while thinking, So Heavenly Sovereign are actually that strong? Just the remnant pressure in that area was more than enough to force an expert of a level like Dean Tai Cang to not dare to recklessly intrude upon it!

"Although this Divine Spiritual Mountain appears to not be far from here, it's being locked up in an isolated space. Only when a specific date has arrived will you be able to rely on the cracks that will appear to enter within."

Dean Tai Cang continued his explanations. "If you count the dates, three days from now should be the moment when the Divine Spiritual Mountain opens. As of now, the only thing we can do is to quietly wait for the moment to come."

Hearing those words, Mu Chen nodded his head.

"Let's head to the Divine Spiritual Pavilion. That's the place where the top powers and influences within Northern Heavens Continent will converge. Perhaps, you might be able to see those people that genuinely stand at the apex of the younger generations in this continent," said Dean Tai Cang as he waved his hand, before proceeding to head towards the grandest-looking pavillion within the city, with Mu Chen and the rest rapidly following suit.

At this moment, the entire Divine Spiritual City was in a fiery and explosive state. Within the air, countless rays of light streaked past, akin to swarms of locusts, appearing extremely spectacular. Furthermore, the absolute majority of the people present here were rather strong, causing shock and astonishment to surface within Mu Chen's heart. Indeed, there were crouching tigers and hidden dragons within this Northern Heavens Continent. Regardless of the people that he had seen in the White Dragon City or the Western Desolated City, compared to here, all of them were not even worth a mention.

Finally, Dean Tai Cang came to a stop in front of the pavilion. Raising his head to look at the top floor, he proceeded to faintly narrow his eyes. Clearly, he had felt some familiar fluctuations radiating from within. Looks like those old fellows of the Northern Heavens Continent have also come here.

"Mu Chen, you three can take a rest around here. I've to go visit some acquaintances." After bringing Mu Chen and the rest into the Divine Spiritual Pavilion, Dean Tai Cang gave a smile before speaking out to Mu Chen. The people present at the top floor were the regional Overlords within the Northern Heavens Continent. As such, the atmosphere present there was clearly not suitable for youths like Mu Chen.

After Mu Chen nodded his head in response, Dean Tai Cang, along with Hall Master Mo You and Elder Zhu Tian, headed towards the top floor. Present at the stairwell were excellent-looking guards. However, when those pretty strong guards noticed Dean Tai Cang and the two Elders, they didn't dare to create any obstruction, faintly bowing their bodies forward, and let the three head towards the top floor.

"Let's go and take a seat."

Shooting a smile towards Luo Li and Ling Xi, Mu Chen proceeded to find a place close to a window of the pavilion. As of now, this place had a good mix of scumbags and dragons, with uncountable numbers of

powers and experts converged within. This was a rather good opportunity for him to observe exactly how many thorny characters were going to participate in this Divine Spiritual Mountain.

Just as Mu Chen was surveying his surroundings, there were quite few gazes that had converged on the three of them. After all, disregarding Mu Chen, Luo Li and Ling Xi were both absolutely beautiful girls that were rarely seen. To them, Luo Li appeared calm and collected, akin to a flower in the deep abyss, standing solitary and independently. As for Ling Xi, she appeared extraordinarily cold and detached, showing her personality of flinging people far, far away, causing people to not dare to recklessly approach her.

No matter where one was, beautiful girls would attract the most attention.

Therefore, the appearance of the two girls had caused the hearts of quite a few people to itch. However, those that were able to enter such a place were definitely not nobodies. Although they didn't have the guts to casually take liberties with the two, they had cast their gazes around the three, seemingly trying to guess the identities of Mu Chen, Luo Li and Ling Xi.

Both Luo Li and Ling Xi held those gazes shooting towards them from the surroundings in total disregard as they whispered in low voices with Mu Chen. The occasional faint smiles present on their faces possessed extremely strong allure, causing quite a few people in the surroundings to feel jealous and envy.

At this time, Mu Chen had discovered the feelings present in the surroundings gazes, causing his mouth to twitch in helplessness. However, just as he was about to speak out, he suddenly cast his eyes towards a direction. At this moment, there seemed to be somewhat of an uproar suddenly ringing out from within the pavilion, as gaze after gaze all converged towards the pavilion's big doors.

Seeing this spectacle, Mu Chen followed those curious gazes, before seeing a beautiful figure slowly striding past those big doors.

There stood a young girl with a tall and voluptuous figure. Red-coloured soft armor was present on her body, appearing extraordinarily exquisite and form-fitting. Due to the exceedingly alluring figure, under the tight-fitting soft armor, her voluptuous chest appeared even more curvaceous. Below that was a willowy and slim-looking waist, with a long and slender pair of legs revealed under the short leather skirt, appearing extremely alluring.

A beauty akin to fire.

Not only did the atmosphere within the pavilion turn quiet, even Mu Chen could not bear shooting a second look at the extremely alluring figure of that fiery and beautiful girl. In the next moment, upon noticing Luo Li shooting a faint glare at him, he hastily turned his gaze away, causing Luo Li to shake her head in slight helplessness and laughter.

Upon seeing that girl, Ling Xi became faintly startled.

At this moment, the lively atmosphere was restored once again as some people appeared to have recognized this fiery beauty, smacking their lips on the spot. Nevertheless, no one dared to take longer glances at her, as they were clear as to how formidable and thorny this girl was. Similarly, her background was also rather tyrannical.

As the young girl walked into the pavilion, she started to look indifferently at her surroundings. However, just as she was about to turn around and leave, her gaze suddenly came to a halt, while a shadow of surprise and happiness instantly erupted from her lovable face.

Sensing the gaze coming from the young girl towards them, before noticing her surprised and happy expression, Mu Chen was instantly startled.

As he was dwelling in his doubts, the fiery and alluring girl had already hopped over, while a clear and melodious voice filled with surprise and happiness rang out from her sexy lips.

"Why are you here, Elder Sister Ling Xi?!"

The Great Ruler

Chapter 397: Mess

"Elder Sister Ling Xi?"

As he looked towards the alluring girl before their eyes, shock ran through Mu Chen's mind, especially upon hearing the way the girl had called Ling Xi, which further increased the astonishment. This girl had actually recognised Ling Xi?

As Mu Chen cast a doubtful look at Ling Xi, the latter gave a faint smile. Nodding her head gently towards the girl, Ling Xi explained, "She's the big mistress of the Nine Summers Chamber of Commerce, Xia Youran."

Now, Mu Chen was really startled, sending a peculiar glare towards the alluring girl before him. Xia Youran? It's said that she one of the most famous figures within the younger generation within the Northern Heavens Continent. Furthermore, her strength wasn't any weaker than Mo Longzi, and might even stronger than him.

"It truly has been a long time, Elder Sister Ling Xi. I've never imagined that I'd actually meet up with you here. Is the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy participating in the Divine Spiritual Mountain this time?" This Xia Youran seemed to appear extremely happy and surprised at Ling Xi's appearance here, with the smile on her beautiful face appearing exceedingly soul-stirring.

Gently nodding her head, Ling Xi pointed towards Mu Chen as she replied, "This time, he's the one that's participating."

"Eh?!" Exclaimed Xia Youran as she looked towards Mu Chen in astonishment. After sensing the strength of Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase radiating from within him, she was instantly startled. With this level of strength, how would he be able to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain...?

Nevertheless, her astonishment within her heart wasn't shown on her face. On the contrary, sending a smile towards Mu Chen, she spoke out, "Nice to meet you. My name's Xia Youran, and speaking of which, I can be considered as your Senior Sister."

"Senior Sister?" Mu Chen was stunned once again. Could this Xia Youran be a student of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?

"A few years back, she had trained and cultivated in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for a year, before being summoned back for matters pertaining to her chamber of commerce. Strictly speaking, she can still be considered as your Senior Sister." Ling Xi explained.

Only after the explanation from Ling Xi did Mu Chen snap out from his astonishment, before replying with a smile, "Nice to meet you, Senior Sister Xia. My name's Mu Chen."

"Luo Li," replied Luo Li with a faint smile.

"Mu Chen?" Xia Youran suddenly blinked her bright beautiful large eyes. Sizing Mu Chen up in a look, she spoke out with some astonishment, "Could you be the Mu Chen that defeated Mo Longzi at the Eastern Desolated City?"

Mu Chen never imagined that this matter would actually be circulated around. Nevertheless, he gently nodded his head.

"No wonder." At this moment, Xia Youran had a flash of insight. Being one of the powers at the apex of the Northern Heavens Continent, the information gathering capabilities of the Nine Summers Chamber of Commerce was extraordinary. Therefore, Xia Youran had every single piece of information pertaining to the matter that happened at the Eastern Desolated City during that day. At that time, Mu Chen's strength seemed to only be at Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase. However, he was able to defeat Mo Longzi, who was at Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase. Even the various Elders of their Nine Summers Chamber of Commerce felt inconceivable to the final result of this matter. After all, the degree of strength between the two was truly too large. However, regardless of her doubts, the news and information about that were unable to be falsified.

From the looks of it, the Mu Chen before her right now seemed to have become even stronger than the time when he had defeated Mo Longzi, having truly stepped into Heavenly Completion Stage. Coupled with his combat prowess, which couldn't be classified on ordinary levels, this Mu Chen truly couldn't be lightly regarded.

Nevertheless, Xia Youran was happy knowing that it was Mu Chen participating in this Divine Spiritual Mountain. Having previously trained and cultivated in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, she had favorable impressions of the academy. Therefore, being able to see the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy participating in the grandest occasion for the younger generations of the Northern Heavens Continent was something of a happy matter for her.

"I've been looking forward to meeting you for a long time."

Extending a slender and petite, snow-white hand towards Mu Chen, Xia Youran spoke out with a grin, "Relax. If you've any problems during this Divine Spiritual Mountain, just come and find me, and I'll protect you within there."

With a smile, Mu Chen grasped and shook her hand, having favorable impressions of this heroic "Senior Sister" that he had just met.

"Never imagined that even you would come out here, Elder Sister Ling Xi. In the past, you didn't even care the slightest bit about the matters of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy." With Xia Youran's carefree and cheerful character, it wasn't too long after their introductions before getting familiar with

everyone, before taking a seat together. From the looks of it, she appeared exceedingly close to Ling Xi, with Ling Xi treating her much more amiable than others, completely withdrawing her cold and detached persona that caused people to run a thousand miles away from her.

With the three girls seated beside each other, they created an exceedingly bright and beautiful scene. Their location had undoubtedly become the most paid attention place within the dragon and scumbag-filled pavilion. Nevertheless, with the acuteness of the people present within here, they quickly recognized the identify of Xia Youran, instantly causing some fear and dread to surface within their eyes. After all, within the younger generation of the Northern Heavens Continent, Xia Youran's fame and reputation was rather high.

Coupled with her status as the big mistress of the Nine Summers Chamber of Commerce, there truly weren't many people that dared to provoke her.

Due to Xia Youran's presence, some people had started to take notice of Mu Chen. Information passed around extremely quickly in a place like this, as people gradually came to know his identity from the whisperings that sprouted out in their surroundings. Even his name had been dug out by them. After all, due to the battle at the Eastern Desolated City a while ago, Mu Chen could be considered to possess some fame and reputation within the Northern Heavens Continent. Although it wasn't on the level of peak figures in the younger generations like Xia Youran, he couldn't be considered as a nobody or obscure figure.

"They're the people from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

"Haha. I never would have imagined that the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that has been absent for the past few years would actually participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain this time. Could it be that they aren't afraid to be killed here by those geniuses of the Ivory Tower?"

"That youth doesn't seem simple. He should be *that* Mu Chen. I've heard about him from the time when he had defeated the Demonic Dragon Palace's Mo Longzi at the Eastern Desolated City."

"That can't be true, right? He doesn't appear to be that strong, and Mo Longzi should have already reached Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, right?"

"That's why I've said that he isn't simple... The person participating in the Divine Spiritual Mountain from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy should be him. Think about it. If he didn't even have any ability, would the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy allow him to come here?"

"Hmm, at that time, let's take a good look at exactly what ability he has, then."

Voices continued to ring about around the pavilion, with favourable impressions and ill intent present within them.

As whispers continued to travel within the pavilion, within some areas that were covered by the screen of darkness, gazes had also shot out from within, converging on the area where Mu Chen and the three girls were.

The owners of these gazes were obviously not people of ordinary backgrounds. Therefore, upon noticing Xia Youran, no fear or dread was present within them, with amusement present within their eyes instead.

"That's the brat that defeated Mo Longzi?" Behind a screen, a male dressed in grey robes spoke out with a faint smile, while playing with the teacup in his hand. His fingers appeared exceedingly slender. As they gently moved about, they seemed to look like shadows wriggling on the table top, appearing exceedingly strange and weird.

"That's what I've heard," said a male dressed in yellow robes sitting beside him. With a faint smile, the former continued speaking, "What's the matter? Does Young Master Liu feel that he's irksome? Eh, it seems that Xia Youran's your nominal fiancée, and that brat actually dares to get that close to her. With you, Young Master Liu's character, you appear to feel slightly unhappy."

"Haha, there's some unhappiness," replied the grey-robed male with an indifferent smile, while the expression within his eyes had turned somewhat dark and gloomy. He was the Young Master of one of the three large chambers of commerce in the Northern Heavens Continent, the Umbra Chamber of Commerce. Speaking of which, although he had a verbal marriage agreement with Xia Youran, the latter seemed to not have the slightest intent to follow along with it. Being a male with extremely high desires, upon seeing how Xia Youran was actually smiling so care freely and happily in front of a youth, dark and overcast feelings naturally surfaced within his heart.

"Young Master Liu can take action to dish out a lesson to him. That's just a Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase brat," said the yellow-robed male with a grin.

"Dong Yuan, don't play this game with me."

With a smile, the grey-robed male continued speaking. "I'm not stupid. Although this brat isn't much, he's, after all, a person from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Although we, the Umbra Chamber of Commerce is considered one of the peak powers in the Northern Heavens Continent, we're still not comparable to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

Although they were able use their absence from the Divine Spiritual Mountain for the past years to mock the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, everyone knew deep within their hearts that the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was a gigantic leviathan, and a peak power within the Northern Heavens Continent. The only one that could contend with them would be the Demonic Dragon Palace. He, Liu Ying, wouldn't have a mental short circuit and take action against a person from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy in such a place. If he really wanted to, he would wait till they entered the Divine Spiritual Mountain, at the very least. When they were in there, even if he was to kill that brat by the name of Mu Chen, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy could do nothing but endure their own sufferings.

"I'm still pondering on exactly how I can get my hands on that Divine Spiritual Baptism. It appears that the number of people that had turned up this time isn't small..."

Shrugging his shoulders in helplessness, Liu Ying said, "The Demonic Dragon Palace's Mo Xingtian, the Eastern Extreme Palace's Xi Qinghai, the Mysterious Yin Mountain's Zhou Xuan, the Heavenly Cauldron Divine Sect's Su Buxiu. There's also Xia Youran and you, the Young Master of the Heavenly Yuan Chamber of Commerce. There truly is some difficulty to achieve any advantage over them."

"I'll not give way for the Divine Spiritual Baptism."

Hearing that, the Young Master of the Heavenly Yuan Chamber of Commerce, Dong Yuan, gave a smile. In the next moment, a shadow of fear flashed within the depths of his eyes as he muttered, "That's how terrifying the Human Body Disaster is. If I have no fallback during the Spiritual Energy Disaster, I really don't dare to touch it. Therefore, there's no one that can obstruct me in this Divine Spiritual Mountain."

Hearing those words, Liu Xing gave a smile. However, just as he was about to speak out, a faint change suddenly happened to his expression. In the next instant, he felt a fluctuation that caused people's hearts to suddenly palpitate radiating out from somewhere.

"Oh?" Dong Yuan's eyes had also contracted. Turning his head around, he looked towards the giant doors, while speaking out in a soft voice, "That fellow has arrived."

Indescribable dark sensations radiated out like ripples, causing the clamouring noises in this area to slowly dim down, while the expressions on quite a few people changed as they looked towards the giant doors. At this moment, the light present at that area seemed to have turned dim, before a figure appeared within like a spectre.

Seemingly no one had discovered how he had appeared in such a fashion.

That was a male dressed in ordinary hemp clothing. His appearance wasn't anything out of the ordinary, with the only peculiar thing being his eyes, which appeared like a pool of stagnant water, with not even the slightest emotional fluctuation present, causing people's hearts to freeze up.

However, just an ordinary figure had caused the entire place to turn deathly silent as fear and terror surfaced in the eyes of quite a few young experts from various places.

The dead water-like eyes of the male slowly swept out, before suddenly coming to a stop. In the next moment, everyone noticed he was walking out, causing the crowd to split apart like a crack, before reaching the area where Mu Chen and the other three girls were.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 398: Mo Xingtian

The ordinary-looking male dressed in hemp robes stood right in front of Mu Chen and the group. His deadpan-eyes showing not a single fluctuation within them, causing people to feel a chill up their spines.

Mu Chen's gaze locked straight on towards the male before him, while his entire body entered into a tense state, Spiritual Energy started to vigorously circulate within his body. He had sensed an extremely dangerous flavor from the man before him. That feeling had already far exceeded the feeling he got from Mo Longzi!

Staring coldly at the man harboring ill-intent towards him, a faint guess of the man's identity started to appear within Mu Chen's mind.

Beside Mu Chen, Luo Li's slender hands were already placed on the hilt of her sword. Once the man made a single move, she would take action without the slightest bit of hesitation.

"What the hell do you think you're doing, Mo Xingtian?!" The one that took the lead to speak out was Xia Youran, who roared towards the male, while looking at him with a vigilant gaze.

Mo Xingtian.

Even though that person's name had already rang out within the pavilion upon his appearance, the mention of him by Xia Youran still caused shocked expressions to appear on the faces of some people. People like Xia Youran and Liu Ying were capable of being placed within the top-most level of elites within the younger generations of the Northern Heavens Continent. However, everyone knew that the person that caused people to feel the most dread and terror would be the Demonic Dragon Palace's Mo Xingtian.

Although the times that Mo Xingtian had shown his face in the Northern Heavens Continent were far less than Mo Longzi, his existence still caused the hearts of many young geniuses to sink. That's due to the well-known fact that there was not the slightest rumor of Mo Xingtian ever losing in a fight for the past few years. Naturally, the prerequisite was that the fight was between people of similar cultivation realms.

Therefore, when looked from a certain perspective, Mo Xingtian could be well-considered as the number one figure within the younger generations in the Northern Heavens Continent. Although such a rumor wasn't spread around, yardsticks were present within everyone's minds, since there were things that one could weigh and measure with one's own judgement.

Although the geniuses from various places, like Xia Youran, Liu Ying and Su Buxiu, also possessed extremely outstanding talent, if one was to ask who they feared and dreaded the most within the younger generations, their unanimous answer might as well be Mo Xingtian.

Faced against Xia Youran's roar, not the slightest bit of fluctuation appeared within Mo Xingtian's gaze. Continuing to stare at Mu Chen with those deadpan-eyes that contained not one bit of movement, he spoke out, "My current mission is to kill you."

Hearing those words, chilling intent abruptly flashed across Luo Li's beautiful eyes. With a tremble of her jade-like hand, a sword roar howled out, while a slash of Sword Aura shot ruthlessly straight towards Mo Xingtian.

Just as the slash of Sword Aura appeared before Mo Xingtian, a glowing halo of Spiritual Energy surfaced around him, instantly blocking the incoming Sword Aura. Shaking his head, he proceeded to say, "That's a bit weak."

"Oh, really?" A chilling glint flashed within Luo Li's beautiful eyes. Clenching her sword with her jade-like hands, she was just about to launch another attack, before her hands were grasped by Mu Chen. Tilting her head over, the latter shook his head towards her, before raising his head to look at the male, who had caused everyone's hearts to palpitate. With a smile, Mu Chen spoke out, "If you're trying to killing me here, I really feel that your brain's gone wacko."

As he said those words, Mu Chen's gaze turned cold and fierce in an instant, before words as sharp as a blade's edge rang out from his mouth. "Scram off."

Humm.

Low clamoring voices instantly rang out within the pavilion, since quite a few people looked towards Mu Chen with inconceivable emotions present within their gazes. Clearly, none of them had expected Mu Chen to actually use such a tone against Mo Xingtian.

A faint sparkle immediately appeared in some of the gazes shooting out from the darkness, with whispers of interest ringing out from them.

As he heard Mu Chen's reply, Mo Xingtian's deadpanned gaze fluctuated for a bit, while he considered about the percentage of success if he toook action now to kill Mu Chen.

Creak.

Finally, Mo Xingtian took a step forward. However, just as his foot was about to touch the ground, his eye faintly contracted as a dangerous fluctuation suddenly erupted from the beautiful girl radiating with a cold and detached aura standing beside Mu Chen.

Halting his foot, a serious expression appeared on his emotionless face.

"He told you to scram off. Are you deaf?" The beautiful girl in the snow-white dress slowly raised her lovable face, only to show an icy-cold frostiness permeating throughout her beautiful eyes.

Mo Xingtian's pupils instantly contracted, before a shiver shook through his face. At this very moment, the beautiful girl had already taken action.

It wasn't any gorgeous or magnificent move. Extending her slender and jade-like hand, the beautiful girl gave a sudden clench of her hand.

As she did so, the space around Mo Xingtian started to furiously collapse. Rays of light shot out from space, forming a glowing net, enveloping all over Mo Xingtian's body. As the rays of light shot around, black scars started to appear in the surrounding space.

An incomparable feeling of danger gushed out from Mo Xingtian's heart and mind as his body started to make a furious retreat. In that moment, his body appeared to have turned illusionary for an instant. In the next second, before those rays of light that were shattering space apart could encase his entire body, he had already appeared in a location a dozen metres from where he once stood.

Seeing the scene that had unfolded before his eyes, Mu Chen's eyes faintly narrowed as he thought, *That movement skill of Mo Xingtian's is rather strange and peculiar*. In the previous instant, his body appeared to have turned illusionary, truly a formidable fellow. He's actually able to avoid a strike from Elder Sis Ling Xi! Although Ling Xi had yet to unleash her true strength, she had undoubtedly possessed more than sufficient strength to suppress Mo Xingtian with ease.

"Hmph!"

Seeing that her attack wasn't able to deal with Mo Xingtian, a faint wrinkle appeared on Ling Xi's lovable face as a bout of dissatisfaction surfaced within her. In the next instant, patting her jade-like hand on the table's surface, everyone immediately felt the Spiritual Energy in their surroundings starting to fluctuate and rampage about. The space surrounding Mo Xingtian proceeded to turn abnormally warped and distorted, appearing akin to a spatial prison, completely sealing Mo Xingtian within it.

"Spatial Prison? Sovereign Realm expert?!"

Furious roars of astonishment rang out within the pavilion as everyone looked towards Ling Xi with dread and terror gushing out of their eyes, while inconceivable expressions surfaced on their faces.

Clearly, none of them was able to believe that such a young girl actually possessed the strength of a Sovereign. When did such a terrifying student appear in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?

Ignoring the cries of astonishment ringing around her, Ling Xi gave a flick, sending a ray of jade-like brilliance shooting out of her finger. Piercing through space, it shot straight towards the forehead of Mo Xingtian, clearly aiming to directly take away his life.

Shock and astonishment filled the hearts of everyone yet again, while everyone was utterly intimidated by the ruthlessness of Ling Xi's action.

Being locked within the warped space and unable to free his body, a frown appeared on Mo Xingtian's face as he looked towards the frightening ray of brilliance shooting explosively towards him. However, despite the impending threat of death, not a single trace of terror or dread appeared on his face.

"Hmph! You've such nerve to actually dare to send an act towards the people of our Demonic Dragon Palace?!"

Just as the glowing crystal-like pillar was about to strike Mo Xingtian, a faint, cold snort suddenly rang out. In the next instant, the surrounding space shattered, while an ancient and withered palm patted out from within. With a single pat, it shattered the warped space surrounding Mo Xingtian, while sending a flick out, striking and shattering the glowing crystal-like pillar apart.

In the next moment, fluctuations started to ripple out in the surrounding space, while a black-robed male appeared beside Mo Xingtian. That was the Demonic Dragon Palace's Black Dragon Sovereign. At this moment, a chilling expression hung on his face as he glared at Ling Xi, sending the frightening pressure of a Sovereign radiating outwards. This caused the expressions of quite a few of the young experts present in this pavilion to change as they hastily retreated away.

Taking a step forward, Ling Xi blocked the incoming pressure from reaching Mu Chen and the group. A frosty shadow started to fluctuate within her beautiful eyes, while rays of spiritual brilliance sparkled under her slender fingers. At this moment, the surrounding air appeared to turn frozen solid, while exceedingly powerful fluctuations started to faintly converge within the pavilion.

"So, you're that Elder of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that specializes in Spiritual Arrays?" Looking towards the air flaring up around Ling Xi, the unique fluctuations radiating out of her caused his eyes to narrow as he spoke out in a cold and detached tone.

"So she's an Elder of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy..."

"However, she doesn't seem to be much older than us..."

"It shouldn't be hard for an expert with that level of strength to change their outer appearance."

'Hmm, I still feel that something's not right..."

The words coming from the Black Dragon Sovereign caused quite a few people within the pavilion to quietly breathe a sigh of relief. However, all of them could faintly feel that something was not quite right. Did such a young Sovereign cause too much of an impact to us?

"If you're an Elder of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, I'm afraid that you've broken the rules today!" said the Black Dragon Sovereign with a dark expression.

"Haha. I've already warned that guy over there. However, he still chose to attack us..." replied Mu Chen with a gentle smile, though a shadow of pity hung on his face. He had warned Mo Xingtian earlier that if he was to take action, they would similarly have an open reason to retaliate. If that was to happen, it wouldn't break any rules if Mo Xingtian was to instantly die. However, that Mo Xingtian truly was hard to be dealt with. The previous step forward by him was similarly his way of testing their capabilities.

However, the only thing that had exceeded his expectation would be the actual strength of Ling Xi.

"As if this is the place for you to talk, brat!" The Black Dragon Sovereign replied in a frosty voice. He clearly possessed extreme loathing and dislike towards Mu Chen, since the latter still controlled the treasure of their Demonic Dragon Palace!

"Haha! The Black Dragon Sovereign truly is very impressive to the point of even being able to fight with the students of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy." Faint laughter rang out as a voice suddenly resounded in the pavilion. Spatial fluctuations rippled around Mu Chen's body as Dean Tai Cang appeared out from within, looking towards the Black Dragon Sovereign with a faint smile on his face.

Staring coldly towards Dean Tai Cang, the Black Dragon Sovereign sneered, "I've never imagined that your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would actually dare to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain, Tai Cang. What's the matter? Weren't the deaths of those elite students that year sufficient of a lesson for you guys?"

Shooting an apathetic look at the Black Dragon Sovereign, Dean Tai Cang replied, "This year's Divine Spiritual Mountain has yet to start. If you're too proud of yourself now, you'll not be able to retract your words in the future."

"Oh really? I truly anticipate that day to come."

The Black Dragon Sovereign replied in a ridiculing tone. Sweeping his gaze towards Mu Chen, he shook his head and said, "Do you truly think that you're some sort of rare genius just because you've defeated Mo Longzi? Looks like your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy have been getting more and more useless during the recent years. Don't worry. Since you've come here, our Demonic Dragon Palace will let you taste the same feeling that you've felt in that year once again."

As his voice rang out, he shot out a sneer, before turning around and walking away, with no one daring to block his path.

As Mo Xingtian turned around, he shot a look over towards Mu Chen, before giving something akin to a smile, accept that the smile contained not one tiny bit of warmth. Those deadpan-eyes of his appeared to be looking at a corpse, before turning around and walking away.

Looking at the back figure of Mo Xingtian, a chilling shadow flashed with Mu Chen's eyes as he thought, *That Mo Xingtian is truly worthy of being the number of super ruthless figure on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Bounty List.* The feeling of danger that he gave to Mu Chen was far more ruthless that Mo Longzi.

Looks like there would be twists and turns in this Divine Spiritual Mountain.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 399: Preparations

During the next three days, the Divine Spiritual City grew increasingly lively and noisy, since more and more people were streaming in from all directions, before congregating in the somewhat ancient city in the middle. Within a moment's time, like rising clouds and scudding clouds, this place had truly become the most eye-catching place within the entire Northern Heavens Continent.

Within the tall pavilion located in the city, Mu Chen looking at the figures hiding the skies and covering the earth as they streaked across the city skies akin to rays of light. Unable to help it, he started to smack his lips. During the span of these three days, he had finally recognized the lure and enticement of the "Divine Spiritual Mountain". According his estimates, all of the small and and big influences within the Northern Heavens Continent should have rushed over to get their share of this liveliness.

"There's really a great amount of people here!" said Mu Chen with a smile. Compared to the events he had experienced in the White Dragon City, Western Desolated City and others, they were truly dwarfed by the scale of the occasion caused by the Divine Spiritual Mountain. As for the Northern Spiritual Realm, there simply wasn't any possibility of such things happening. Within that place, even a person with the strength of an ordinary Heavenly Fusion would already be deemed as an Overlord. However, at this place, a person of that strength would only be considered as an 'average' person.

This kind of disparity caused Mu Chen to give a helpless laugh in response; after all, the Northern Spiritual Realm was just a small place. As for the aspect of cultivation, the requirement for recourse was rather severe and harsh. Therefore, in this small place, where a rank 3 Spiritual Array wasn't even able to be arranged, even if one was to try their utmost, they might not have that many accomplishments and achievements in it. Naturally, that small place was the birthplace of Mu Chen, with the feelings he had for it were something that couldn't be replicated.

There were times where Mu Chen had thoughts of him returning the the Northern Spiritual Realm with his current strength. If he did, his dad, Uncle Zhou, and the rest might be scared shitless of his Heavenly Completion Stage strength. Let's not talk about the small and tiny Northern Spiritual Realm. Even within the Northern Heavens Continent, he could be considered as a First-class expert. Wanting to be the ruler of a city was something that absolutely couldn't be anymore simpler.

Of course, this was just some of his whimsical thoughts, since he knew that his path to being an unrivalled expert had just started. He had promised his dad to bring his mom home, and, as of now, he was way too far from that step. Nonetheless, regardless of the difficulties he faced along the way, he would always work hard to achieve his goal. He wasn't being conceited about his strength and growth when he said those words when he left. To his dad, this might just be a promise. However, Mu Chen knew that his dad, who had painstakingly brought him up, really missed his mum to the point where his figure appeared somewhat lonely and desolate. This was especially present when he had left his dad. Nevertheless, his dad knew that he, himself, didn't have such strength to bring his wife back. Thus, he had placed all of his hopes and the painstaking effort on his son, someone that he could feel pride from.

Therefore, Mu Chen didn't want his dad to feel any disappointment in him anymore.

Facing the sun, Mu Chen gave a faint smile. Old man, the current me's working hard. Let me help you accomplishment the matter you can't do, alright?

"Tomorrow's the opening day for the Divine Spiritual Mountain."

All of the sudden, a beautiful-sounding girl's voice rang out from behind. Panning his head around, he spotted Luo Li present behind him. Sending a faint smile over, he nodded his head in agreement, before turning to look in the far distance past the city. At that place, the Spiritual Qi of the world was growing increasingly erratic as waves of it started to radiate out. Like waves on a sea, crashing sounds resounded from their movements.

At this moment, the lofty and majestic mountain that was radiating with hair-raisingly rampaging Spiritual Energy seemed to gradually started to become clearer and clearer.

This was the sign of the impending opening of the Divine Spiritual Mountain.

"For the past two days, I've sought out Senior Sister Xia about the Divine Spiritual Mountain happening this time. There might be six people that you'll have to pay attention to. These six can be considered as elites at the highest peak within the younger generations of the Northern Heavens Continent. All of them are extremely strong, and I'm afraid that even Mo Longzi might not be able to match up to them," said Luo Li with a slight frown.

'Oh? Which six?"

"The first one's, naturally, the Demonic Dragon Palace's Mo Xingtian. He can be said to be your greatest enemy this time. Since the Demonic Dragon Palace's treasure is in your hands, they'll definitely attempt to snatch it back from you. Within the Divine Spiritual Mountain, there's no way to investigate and blame anyone for any injury or death. Therefore, Mo Xingtian will definitely take action towards you in there," said Luo Li with a solemn expression on her face. "Also, according to Senior Sister Xia's reports, it's estimated that Mo Xingtian's strength should be after the First Tribulation of the "Three Sovereign Disasters", the Human Body Disaster."

"He has passed the Human Body Disaster, huh...?"

Faintly nodding his head, Mu Chen's gaze started to grow slightly sharp and astute at this moment.

"The next few ones are the young masters of the Umbra Chamber and Commerce, Liu Ying, Heavenly Yuan Chamber of Commerce, Dong Yuan and the Mysterious Yin Mountain's Zhou Xuan. As for the Western Extreme Palace's Xi Qinghai, we've already met that person once, when we were at the Western Desolated City. He was observing us and Mo Longzi for the entire duration of our fight. In addition, there's also the Heavenly Cauldron's Divine Sect's Su Buxiu."

"I'm afraid that all of these people might already possess the strength of one who has passed the First Tribulation. Each of them are top-level geniuses raised painstakingly with unlimited resources and time by those peak influences of the Northern Heavens Continent. You can consider them as future incharges of Chambers of Commerce and sects. If you are to bump into them in the Divine Spiritual Mountain, you can consider them as your enemies."

With a faint laugh, Luo Li continued talking, "Naturally, Senior Sister Xia's not weaker than them. However, compared to other people, the chances of her targeting you are slim."

"All of them are vicious characters, huh?" said Mu Chen while nodding his head. So, these are the strengths of the highest elites in the younger generations of the Northern Heavens Continent, huh? Look's like I can't underestimate them.

"There shouldn't be a problem, right?" asked Luo Li, while shooting a look at Mu Chen. Slightly wrinkling her forehead, Luo Li said, "They should have allowed me to participate, hmph."

Clearly, those earlier little scuffles and conflicts weren't comparable to the fights that were about to happen within the Divine Spiritual Mountain. Furthermore, there wouldn't be any mercy shown by the participants inside it. If one let's down one's guard for just the slightest moment, there would be a high possibility for one to not walk out from the Divine Spiritual Mountain alive. Luo Li was clearly feeling worried about this, regardless of her trust in Mu Chen.

"There's only one quota! I can't bear to let you face those cruel and vicious fellows by yourself!" replied Mu Chen with a smile. "Rest assured. Although the opponents are very strong, I'm not that weak. Later, let me see exactly what that Divine Spiritual Mountain has. If I'm able to bring it out, I'll make sure to get one for you."

Hearing those words from Mu Chen, Luo Li rolled her eyes towards Mu Chen, before saying, "I've heard from Senior Sister Xia that there's only an extremely small number of people that can receive the Divine Spiritual Baptism every time, due to the handful of people that can enter within the area of baptism. If you still dare to bring it out, I think that you'll get assaulted by the masses then."

A smile surfaced on Mu Chen's face as he heard her reply, with no refute coming from him.

"Oh, that's right."

As though thinking about something, with a wave of her jade-like arm, numerous clumps of fire surfaced around Luo Li, before floating before her. What appeared were five clear palm-sized transparent jade bottles. Within those bottles were burning flames that were filled to the brim. Those flames were scarlet-red in colour, while radiating with high temperatures. Clearly those jade bottles were made of some special material, since no matter how high those flames burnt, they were unable to shatter their containers apart.

"These are the things that you've asked Senior Sister Xia to obtain for you. It's said that the flames within these bottles are the product of a Raging Flame Sparrow devouring the geocentric lava, and possess quite strong destructive powers. The flames within these five small jade bottles required seemingly hundreds of Raging Flame Sparrows just to fill them up," said Luo Li while shooting a doubtful look at Mu Chen. Clearly, she didn't understand the goal of him suddenly wanting to collect them. Although these things might be able have an effect of catching an opponent off-guard during a fight, they weren't particularly strong.

"I have a wonderful use for them."

Looking at the five jade bottles, a flash of happiness appeared within Mu Chen's eyes. Carefully storing them, he said, "Look's like I owe Senior Sister Xia a favor now."

These things were clearly not cheap, and were extremely difficult to collect. It was all thanks to Xia Youran being the eldest Young Mistress of the Nine Summers Chamber of Commerce. If not, he would really have no way of obtaining them within such a short amount of time.

"It should be due to Elder Sister Ling Xi," said Luo Li with a faint smile. Xia Youran was extremely close to Elder Sister Ling Xi. After seeing the latter's attitude to Mu Chen, she had clearly held Mu Chen with much more regard. Due to that, Mu Chen's request was able to be ranked so highly within her mind.

Mu Chen nodded his head, not caring anymore about the relationship between Xia Youran and Ling Xi. With these things, he had now one more hidden card up his sleeves. When the moment comes, it should be quite a handful for even Mo Xingtian to deal with them.

"Since everything's set, what's next..."

Giving a lazy stretch, Mu Chen gazed towards the mountainous silhouette faintly discernable within the blowing Spiritual Energy in the far distance, before giving a faint smile.

"...Is to wait for the opening of the Divine Spiritual Mountain."

The next day, as the early morning came, the atmosphere of the Divine Spiritual City had completely erupted, with countless shadows shooting towards the skies like a swarm of locusts. From the mountain peaks and plains surrounding the city, one could see figures endlessly taking for the skies, transforming into streaks of light, howling across the horizon.

The enticement of the Divine Spiritual Baptism was too strong, with countless people already having bloodshot eyes towards it's lure. Therefore, even those peak influences and powers weren't able to dominate over the entirety of the Divine Spiritual Mountain by themselves, since they would truly become the enemy of the masses. This was something that even the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and the always overbearing Demonic Dragon Palace weren't able to bear, since the price of that would be too high for them to endure.

Therefore, as long as one had the strength and didn't exceed the limits, anyone within the Northern Heavens Continent possessed the qualifications to participate in the Divine Spiritual Mountain. Hence, it had led to the spectacular appearance and attendance of this occasion.

Mu Chen's group had also made their move. Under the lead of Dean Tai Cang, they arrived at the front of the vast and boundless Spiritual Energy waves. At this moment, the earth and the skies were already covered by a sea of humans. Nevertheless, only those peak influences of the Northern Heavens Continent possessed the qualifications to vie for the positions right at the very front of the human crowd.

The arrival of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had attracted the attention of the masses. After all, within the Northern Heavens Continent, there was no one that would dare to show contempt for such a true leviathan.

Sending a smile only towards some of the people familiar to him, Dean Tai Cang proceeded to place his hands behind his back, sending a deep gaze towards the lofty and majestic mountainous form present behind those Spiritual Energy waves that isolated in another space.

At this moment, Mu Chen had his eyes towards a place not far away, where those from the Demonic Dragon Palace were. With the Black Dragon Sovereign standing at the front, presently behind him was the hemp-clothed, extremely ordinary-looking Mo Xingtian. If not for that deadpanned gaze that gave everyone a profound impression, it would be extremely hard to recognise him if he was placed within a crowd of people. However, this ordinary-looking fellow was genuinely the most vicious person within the younger generations in the Northern Heavens Continent.

Sensing Mu Chen's gaze, Mo Xingtian panned his head over, sending a cold and detached smile back towards Mu Chen. Although there wasn't any killing intent present within his smile, Mu Chen knew that this Mo Xingtian might have already included him within his 'Must Kill' list.

"The second place on the bounty list has already been dealt with. All that's left is you."

Mu Chen muttered to himself, before raising his head up. Looking towards the vast and boundless Spiritual Energy waves before him, intense fluctuations started to appear within them. At this moment, the lofty and majestic mountainous form hidden in the depths grew increasingly clear and distinct, while ripples started to undulate from the space before everyone's eyes.

Everyone's gaze started to churn and flare up.

The Divine Spiritual Mountain was about to start!

The Great Ruler

Chapter 400: The Opening of the Divine Spiritual Mountain

Rumble.

Akin to a tsunami, the Spiritual Energy of the world surged and swept out, while the low and deep sounds seemed to be unbearable for even space, while intense spatial warping and distortions appeared. As the surrounding space warped and distorted, the gigantic mountain that seemed to be contained within an isolated space grew increasingly clear to everyone's eyes.

At the same time, a special pressure that appeared to have remained since the Ancient Antiquity quietly radiated out. This pressure was undetectable and invisible to the absolute majority of the people present. Only people like Dean Tai Cang, existences that have stepped into the realm of the Sovereigns, would be able to feel it, causing their eyes to faintly narrow, while fear and dread surfaced within their hearts.

Although this pressure had been weakened by quite a lot under the passage of time, it still possessed a certain level of suppression to them. That's because it was something left behind by a Heavenly Sovereign, whom had sat on the mountain and passed away.

A Heavenly Sovereign was the Emperor amongst Sovereigns. To Dean Tai Cang, and the other Sovereigns present, it was an existence that was far too strong and powerful. Naturally, even when placed within the Great Thousand Worlds, formed from the convergence of hundreds of thousands of planes, a Heavenly Sovereign was still a top-class existence. There would be countless Sovereigns willing to prostrate themselves in worship towards a Heavenly Sovereign.

That was a great figure that was genuinely able to guard a region of a world to the point of controlling an entire plane.

Mu Chen and the rest were, naturally, unable to detect this pressure, with the only feeling they got being a faint uneasy one. However, it didn't pose much of an effect to them.

At this moment, Mu Chen's only focus was to start at the warping and distorting space, waiting for the opening of the Divine Spiritual Mountain.

As he quietly waited for that moment, a waft of fragrance fluttered past him. Panning his head around, he noticed that Xia Youran had appeared by his side. At this moment, the latter was still dressed in her alluring and seductive fiery-red soft armor. That snow-white exposed skin and her voluptuous and elegant figure attracted quite a few gazes from the surroundings.

"Mu Chen, make sure to be more careful after entering the Divine Spiritual Mountain. Be especially careful about the spatial currents, as well as the spatial gales." Xia Youran sent a reminder to Mu Chen, after showing a bright and beautiful smile towards him.

"Spatial currents? Spatial gales?" Mu Chen was slightly startled as he repeated those two terms. Having completely zero understanding towards the Divine Spiritual Mountain, he clearly didn't know what those two terms meant.

"The location where the Divine Spiritual Mountain is standing is within a fragmented space. Outside of that fragmented space are extremely frightening spatial currents. Once one gets swept into them, one would definitely die, without a doubt," explained Xia Youran with a serious expression on her lovable face. "The spatial gales occupy the surroundings of the Divine Spiritual Mountains. The closer one gets to the centre, the stronger and more frightening the spatial gales get. When one becomes unable to endure their buffeting, one would be swept by them and into the currents, resulting in being instantly turned into ashes."

"These two are the greatest dangers brought about by the Divine Spiritual Mountain, with uncountable numbers of experts having already succumbed to them."

"Thank you very much for your reminder, Senior Sister Xia." Mu Chen expressed his gratitude while nodding his head.

With a soft voice, Xia Youran continued speaking, "In addition, please be careful about other people. I don't know how many experts will be participating in the Divine Spiritual Mountain. However, the fact is that only a fixed number of people can undergo the Divine Spiritual Baptism. Therefore, all the people entering in there would be considered as competitors. Once an opportunity arises, there might be people who will take action directly and launch killing blows at you."

"After entering the Divine Spiritual Mountain range, just follow me. I'll bring you to the place of the baptism. With you by my side, even that Mo Xingtian might feel a bit of fear. At the very least, he wouldn't be too overly rampant. However, as for the matter of you being able to obtain the Divine Spiritual Baptism, that would truly have to depend on your genuine ability and skill." Shooting a look towards Mo Xingtian standing not too far from her, a sliver of dread flashed within her beautiful eyes. However, she still spoke those words out in a soft voice.

Hanging a smile on his face, Mu Chen's favorable impression of Xia Youran had been raised by quite a bit. He was extremely clear of how formidable Mo Xingtian was. Although Xia Youran was one of the elite figures in the top of the younger generations within the Northern Heavens Continent, she would

still feel extreme dread if she was to truly face-off against Mo Xingtian. However, at this moment, for his sake, she was able to make such a decision, something that was rather hard to make.

After all, no one in their right mind would love to offend such a frightening opponent for no reason.

"Please be at ease, Senior Sister Xia. If I feel that I can't endure anymore, I'll immediately fall back. I won't hold you back," replied Mu Chen.

Xia Yoran didn't imagine that Mu Chen would reply in such a straightforward manner. Sending a sweet smile to him, she extended her jade-like hands and gave Mu Chen's shoulder a pat while saying, "Relax. Elder Sister Ling Xi has saved me before. Seeing that it's extremely rare for her to show so much care for a male, how could I not protect you?"

Hearing those words, Mu Chen replied with only a smile. Not commenting more about it, he nodded his head to show his gratitude towards her.

As Mu Chen was happily chatting along with Xia Youran, while waiting for the opening of the Divine Spiritual Mountain, both of them didn't realise a slightly cold gaze shooting towards them from a distance far away. The owner of such a gaze was the young leader of the Umbra Chamber of Commerce, Liu Ying.

Looking at the intimate manner Xia Youran was displaying towards Mu Chen, shadows of darkness surfaced within his gaze, while the corner of his mouth started to faintly twitch. Seeing this, the Young Master of the Heavenly Yuan Chamber of Commerce, Dong Yuan, gave a faint smile in response. He knew that Liu Ying was a fellow with extreme lust and full of desires. Although he hadn't made any progress in his pursuit of Xia Youran, he had classified her as a 'forbidden territory' for everyone else. Seeing Xia Youran showing such intimacy to Mu Chen caused him to have an unbearable impulsion to rip the latter into shreds.

"Don't be impatient. Let's wait for us to enter the Divine Spiritual Mountain first. At that time, even if he wants to, that brat won't be able to run away," said Dong Yuan with a grin.

"I don't have the skill to waste time on such a brat," replied Liu Ying. Nevertheless, his gaze remained dark and overcast, while a cold and detached smile hung on his face. He wasn't a person that didn't know how to prioritise. However! He knew that the most important thing for him to do after entering the Divine Spiritual Mountain was to obtain the Divine Spiritual Baptism. How could he waste such precious time on Mu Chen?

"Naturally, if we were to really bump into each other, I truly don't mind conveniently settling him once and for all." Twiddling his fingers, a shadow seemed to appear on the fingertips of Liu Ying, while the smile present at the corner of his mouth appeared cold and cruel.

A radiant smile on the face of Dong Yuan was shown as he heard Liu Ying's words. Although this Mu Chen appeared to possess the strength of a Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase, he might not be as simple as he looked. At that time, if Liu Ying had engaged in combat with him, even if Liu Ying did win, he should have to pay some kind of price. This was a situation that he would naturally be extremely satisfied to see.

Rumble!

Just as the dark and overcast shadows appeared within the eyes of Liu Ying, an intense rumbling sound suddenly rang out from the vast and boundless Spiritual Energy ocean. As space started to become increasingly warped and distorted, everyone turned ecstatic as the space around the Divine Spiritual Mountain had actually started to slowly split apart.

As space started to splinter apart, an endless range of lofty and majestic mountains that brought about its gigantic shadows, erupted from within. The enormous body of the mountain extended from the spatial fissure, unveiling itself to the world. Looking from afar, it appeared as if it was a mountain range floating in the sky.

However, such a gigantic mountain range was just an unassuming corner of the Divine Spiritual Mountain.

Hu! Hu!

As a small part of that mountainous body erupted from the spatial fissure, rampaging spatial gales instantly rushed out furiously. As the gales blew out, it brought about rather fierce energies, seemingly causing even the Spiritual Energies of the world to split and shatter apart.

However, not a single person paid attention to this, since everyone had focused their bloodshot-eyes towards the lofty and majestic mountain range present within the spatial fissure. That was the mountain range that was locked in an isolated space. However, from the looks of it, what had appeared before their eyes was only the tip of an iceberg. From this, one could see how frightening the scale of this Divine Spiritual Mountain range was. Perhaps, just from its other appearance, it wasn't any smaller than the gigantic Divine Spiritual City.

The Divine Spiritual Mountain had finally appeared at this moment!

At this moment, the atmosphere of the entire world appeared to freeze and solidify.

Whoosh!

However, this solidification lasted for only an instant, before being immediately broken apart, with figures that hid the skies and covered the earth shooting out from the city. Hasty and hurried whooshing sounds resounded, akin to claps of thunder, roaring across the skies.

"Let's go!"

"The Divine Spiritual Mountain's opened!"

"The Divine Spiritual Baptism is mine for sure!"

"Haha! What the hell do you think you are, to dare to take a piece of the Divine Spiritual Baptism?!"

As roars filled with incomparable excitement resounded out, the entire world started to get completely aroused and thrown into disorder.

"Let's make a move too, Mu Chen." Looking at the locust swarm-like mass of figures rushing towards the Divine Spiritual Mountain, Xia Youran wasn't able to contain her impatience at the very end as she spoke out towards Mu Chen.

Nodding his head, Mu Chen turned back to look at Luo Li, Ling Xi and Dean Tai Cang, before speaking out with a smile, "It's time for me to enter."

"Be careful." Luo Li and Ling Xi reminded in response.

"If you're met with an extremely dangerous situation, just break the jade slip I've passed to you, and I'll rescue you from there," said Dean Tai Cang with a solemn expression present on his face. Although he would have to pay some price for forcing his way into the Divine Spiritual Mountain, he truly wasn't able to endure the possibility of Mu Chen dying within. If that happened, it would become an extremely huge blow to their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Mu Chen gently nodded his head in agreement, without replying to anymore words. He knew about the special uniqueness of the Divine Spiritual Mountain; even with Dean Tai Cang's strength, he wouldn't be able to enter that place. And yet, the latter was able to speak those words. This went to show the extreme regard the latter had on Mu Chen in his eyes.

With a move of her charming figure, Xia Youran took the lead, turning into a streak of light. Shooting straight towards the spatial fissure in the sky, she headed straight towards the mountain range that had extended from there. Seeing this, Mu Chen immediately followed suit, rapidly heading out behind her.

Mutually, in tandem, the two streaks of light that hid the skies and covered the earth rushed into the spatial fissure. Slowly turning smaller, they finally disappeared within it.

Buzz!

As more and more people rushed into the Divine Spiritual Mountain range, the space surrounding it started to turn increasingly transparent, akin to glass. Within the glass was a vast and boundless ancient-looking mountain range. At this moment, the fringes of the mountain range was filled with countless shadows, the people at the head of the swarm that had rushed into the spatial fissure.

Those figures that hid the skies and covered the earth instantly broke apart the eternal peace and tranquility within the Divine Spiritual Mountain range.

Various elderly figures stood within the sky outside of the spatial fissure, eyes tightly locked at the ancient mountain range that was faintly discernable within the space before them. At this moment, all of them knew that the extremely brutal and cruel combat would erupt within in the later moments.

All of this, was for the "Divine Spiritual Baptism" that only a number of people could enjoy!