

## Great Ruler 461

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### Chapter 461: Lightning Gods Hand

Swish!

Boundless amounts of fierce Sword Aura perfused across the horizon, transforming into currents flowing through the air. As they flooded out, the longsword in Luo Li's hand slightly vibrated, caused currents of Sword Aura to gush out from the tip of the sword. In the next instant, they howled towards the five figures covered in boundless Spiritual Energy.

Facing against such swift and fierce Sword Aura, the faces of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy were violently twitching. Not daring to show the slightest bit of neglect, they revolved the Spiritual Energy within their bodies to their maximum degree. Unleashing various powerful Divine Arts, causing rays of light to shoot out, smashing straight-on against the Sword Aura currents.

Slice!

As the attacks of both parties collided, white light flashed out as the Sword Aura currents sliced through the Spiritual Energy rays in an instant.

The faces of the five-man group from the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy instantly contorted, as clearly, they never expected that their offensive would be that weak and meager in front of the incoming Sword Aura.

This Sword Aura could not be contended head-on.

Displaying their movement techniques, the five people tried to retreat. However, just as they were about to do so, intense fluctuations suddenly radiated behind their backs. Turning around to take a look, ugly expressions appeared on their faces as they saw that the Sword Aura had flooded over from behind them. With a bang, it enveloped over like a storm, completely sweeping them within.

Faced against the incomparably sharp Sword Aura, the Spiritual Energies that surrounded their bodies rapidly collapsed and shattered apart. Other than the Group Captain, the other four members of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy group were instantly covered in wounds. As blood started flowing out, they appeared to become totally bloodsoaked, while a wave of Sword Aura heavily struck them on their bodies.

Puff.

Blood spurted out from their mouths as four figures were instantly sent flying miserably away, instantly suffering serious injuries before landing on the ground.

The Sword Aura across the horizon came to a slight stop.

As of now, there was only the Captain of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy, with his robes torn and tattered, left before Luo Li. At this moment, his face was drained of colour, his eyes overwhelmed with shock as he looked towards the longsword-wielding young girl standing not far away from him, her beautiful face tranquil and devoid of any emotion. Never in his wildest dreams was he able to

understand why Luo Li would be that strong, even though both of them were people who had passed their Human Body Disaster.

That's why she dared to deal with their entire group by herself.

At this moment, a smile filled with bitterness hung at the mouth of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy Group Captain, since they had truly kicked an iron wall this time.

Raising her bright and beautiful eyes, Luo Li gave an indifferent glance at him, before striding forward with her longsword in her hand. Upon spotting this, the Captain of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy immediately took a step back, his fighting spirit now completely absent.

Upon seeing this scene, the various groups present within the surroundings of this region all quietly clicked their tongues, with their gazes towards her being filled with shock and astonishment. Being such a beauty, none of them had imagined that she would possess such astonishing strength to match. In her hands, an opponent of the same cultivation level as her was simply unable to offer much of a resistance.

"Why are there so many formidable girls in this Great Spiritual Academy Competition? As of now, the First Place has been taken by that Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy's Wen Qingxuan. Now, there's yet another fierce girl appearing..."

"I wonder, exactly who would be more formidable if she was to bump into Wen Qingxuan?"

"..."

A few groups exchanged glances as they quietly muttered about.

...

At this moment, Xu Huang, Zhao Qingshan and Mu Fengyang had taken action and obstructed the other three members of the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy group. Although all of them were similarly in the realm of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, Xu Huang and the other two were able to obtain some superiority. Clearly, their foundation was more firm and strong than the trio from the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy. Xu Huan and the other two weren't just simple students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. In the past, they were the peak influential figures there, merely that the brilliance caused by Mu Chen's unexpected rise had masked them over. However, there wasn't anyone that wouldn't admit their outstanding talent.

There was always some stifling feelings within their hearts, which grew even thicker, especially after seeing the astonishing power that both Mu Chen and Luo Li possessed. The three of them were Seniors, and yet, they were now being far surpassed by Mu Chen and Luo Li. Despite that, they weren't able to let this stifling feeling out. Therefore, they could only vent it out on their three opponents. Launching crazy attacks one after another, they suppressed the trio, suffocating them and causing them to only be barely able to resist their assault.

At the other combat zone, Qiu Beihai turned hurriedly around to observe the situation around him, which caused his face to turn completely ashen. Giving a death-stare towards the indifferent-looking Mu Chen before him, he clenched his teeth and said, "Mu Chen, you..."

Bang!

Not giving him any chance to spout any nonsense, a tremble shook through the Devouring Demonic Dragon Spear in his hands as an astonishing ominous aura erupted from it. In the next instant, a hundred metre-long ray of brilliance erupted from the spear, splitting apart the horizon and shrouding over Qiu Beihai at lightning speed.

Rapidly retreating back, torrential rays of sword light erupted from the scarlet-red sword in Qiu Beihai's hand, blocking him from the spear shadows raining down on him. However, as metallic sounds rang out, he was smashed back dozens of steps in a miserable fashion. In the next instant, feelings of anger, fury and unwillingness gushed out from his eyes. From the beginning till the end of the Spiritual Road, he had been suppressed by Mu Chen. If not for him subordinating himself under Ji Xuan, he might have long been killed by Mu Chen within there.

Subsequently, Mu Chen was expelled from the Spiritual Road due to Ji Xuan's schemes, something that gave great satisfaction to Qiu Beihai. Thinking back about then, he had assumed that the former would no longer be dreadful, even if he was to bump into the former in the future. After all, with him possessing the Baptism from the Spiritual Road, he had exceeded Mu Chen's cultivation by a large margin. Indeed, upon bumping into each other again, the former's cultivation realm of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase caused him to be wildly happy. His chance had come! As long as he could defeat Mu Chen here, the shadow that had formed within his heart would be banished. Therefore, he definitely wanted to squash Mu Chen beneath his feet!

However... the changes to the current situation had clearly exceeded his expectations.

With his mere cultivation realm being at Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, the combat prowess that Mu Chen possessed had shocked and astonished people. Even under the collaboration and encirclement of two people who passed their Human Body Disaster, he was able to suppress one of them with his terrifying attack and forced Qiu Bei Hai himself into such a miserable position!

<em>How can he be that powerful? Could it be that I, Qiu Beihai, will only become the stepping stone of Mu Chen?</em>

Ruthless intent gushed out from the eyes of Qiu Behai. Staring viciously at Mu Chen, he gave a fierce cry. "Mu Chen! I'll make sure you suffer defeat by my hands today!"

As his cry rang out, blood suddenly surfaced from the finger tips of Qiu Beihai. The blood appeared exceedingly bright and radiant, while a considerably strong bloody smell perfused into the surroundings, which contained powerful Spiritual Energy fluctuations.

Chi! Chi!

Qiu Beihai's fingers started do a strange and weird dance, with each finger bringing along a line of bright and radiant blood. These lines of blood rapidly converged together in the space before him, and in the next instant, one could faintly discern them transforming into a bloody shadow sword approximately a foot long. As this sword shadow appeared, a bloodthirsty fluctuation radiated from it, causing it to appear rather strange and weird.

Mu Chen slightly narrowed his eyes as he took in the scene before him. Nonetheless, he did not take action to prevent this, with a look of indifference continuing to radiate from his eyes, letting Qiu Beihai unleash his most powerful attack. That's because he didn't want to only defeat Qiu Beihai, but to

completely crush the latter's self-confidence. He wanted to plant an invincible shadow straight in Qiu Beihai's heart!

Just an ordinary death wouldn't satisfy Mu Chen.

Bang!

Bloodthirsty fluctuations that blotted the skies erupted from the bloody shadow sword, causing even this stretch of the sky to turn scarlet-red.

"Blood Sea Sword Demonic Art, Blood Demon's Sword!"

Qiu Beihai's complexion grew increasingly pale, yet the ruthless shadow within his eyes grew increasingly heavy. Before him, the blood-like shadow sword expanded to a gigantic size of a hundred metres, with what seemed like blood circulating and flowing on its surface. The bloody smell and bloodthirsty fluctuations radiating off of it caused the faces of everyone present to change countenance. At this instant, forming the hand seal for the Sword Art, Qiu Beihai gave a fierce roar as he poured all of his Spiritual Energy without the slightest restraint into the bloody shadow sword.

Humm!

Bloodthirsty Sword Aura rushed towards the skies, splitting the clouds tens of thousands of metres in the air.

Whoosh!

With a whoosh, the bloody shadow sword rushed up into the skies at an extremely quick speed. One could merely see a blood-red line shoot up into the air, before suddenly rushing down. In an instant, a surge of bloody light swept across the region as a sea of blood that blotted the skies condensed behind the bloody shadow sword, hiding the skies and covering the earth as it shot towards Mu Chen.

Its speed had almost reached unfathomable levels.

As the sea of blood gushed out, there was nothing that could block it.

"Hehe." Locking his ruthless gaze on Mu Chen, chilling laughter suddenly rang out from Qiu Beihai. This attack of his was more than sufficient to cause serious injuries even to experts of Human Body Disaster. He did not believe that Mu Chen could escape from this attack of his!

"Die for me!"

As Qiu Beihai roared, Mu Chen raised his head. Looking towards the surging sea of blood that was rapidly expanding in size within his gaze, he slowly clenched his fists tightly. Four lightning runes started to condense on his chest as black lightning started to crazily arc and dance on his body.

Rumble.

Deep peals of thunder rang out from within his body, before resounding across the region.

Mu Chen slowly extended his right hand, with countless bolts of black lightning seemingly being born and destroyed within his palm, appearing akin to a world of lightning and thunder. At this moment, a

jet-black shadow could be faintly discerned as it gradually spread out within his hand, appearing abstruse and mysterious.

Flipping his palm up, he gave a gentle pat towards the incoming bloody shadow sword.

“Lightning God’s Hand.”

A low voice rang out from Mu Chen’s heart, and in the next instant, flashes of lightning and peals of thunder furiously rang out from his black pupils.

Rumble!

Black bolts of lightning shot out furiously from within Mu Chen’s body as lightning started to form within the region, unexpectedly forming an incomparably jet-black giant hand approximately a hundred metres large in front of him. Black bolts of lightning crazily danced and arced across the surface of the giant hand, before condensing together, seemingly transforming into ancient runes.

Such wildness caused it to appear just like the hand of the god of lightning.

This Lightning God’s Hand was an overbearing ability that could only be displayed when one had cultivated his Lightning God’s Physique into a Quadra Rune Lightning Physique, something that Mu Chen was unable to do in the past. However, as of now, he was sufficiently able to do so.

Bang!

With a pat of his palm, the jet-black Lightning God’s Hand brought about peals of thunder as it howled across the horizon. Finally, under the shocked and astonished gazes in the surroundings, it smashed head-on against the blood demon shadow sword!

Boom!

An astonishingly loud sound rang out as frightening fluctuations transformed directly into hurricanes, crazily sweeping out across the horizon.

At this moment, Qiu Beihai’s pale face completely lost all of its colour.

That’s because he had actually seen dense cracks appearing on the surface of the blood-red shadow sword in that terrifying collision...

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### **Chapter 462: Tigers Den**

Crack!

Blood-coloured cracks continued to spread throughout the surface of the blood demon shadow sword. Within the short span of a dozen breaths, they had already covered the entirety of the gigantic shadow sword.

Furthermore, due to the sparkling of the incomparably black bolts of lightning, the sea of blood at the back of the blood demon shadow sword had surged and flared while it evaporated away. At this moment, the bloody aura that had perfused the entire region started to rapidly dissipate away.

“This is your final card?”

Looking towards the deathly-pale Qiu Beihai with an indifferent gaze, Mu Chen shook his head in disappointment while saying, “Compared to Ji Xuan, you’re truly too far behind.”

Suddenly, he clenched his hand, only for the gigantic Lightning God’s Hand to give a furious clench. As black bolts of lightning crazily arced and danced on the surface of the palm, it grabbed the blood demon shadow sword within it. In the next instant, the black lightning exploded, and with a gigantic bang, the blood demon shadow sword was completely crushed by the giant black lightning hand.

Puff.

As the blood demon shadow sword was crushed, Qiu Beihai’s face instantly contorted as he spurted a mouthful of blood out, while the Spiritual Energy fluctuations around his body rapidly declined. Clearly, he had suffered serious injuries.

The hearts of the various groups in the surroundings slightly trembled as their gazes grew solemn as they took in the scene before them. No one there imagined that the collaboration between two experts that passed their Human Body Disaster would still suffer such a miserable defeat by the hands of Mu Chen.

“How is this Mu Chen this formidable? He’s clearly only at the realm of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase! However, from the looks of his combat prowess, I’m afraid that he might be comparable to those experts that have passed their Spiritual Energy Disaster...”

“Truly frightening.”

“I reckon that this Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy group is finished.”

“Looks like the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy is really going to have a meteoric rise in this Great Spiritual Academy Tournament.”

Soft whispers of discussion rang out, with unconcealable shock and astonishment present in those voices.

They had originally expected a fierce battle between the two great Spiritual Academies. However, who would have expected that such a scene would happen? As of now, that Mu Chen had clearly not unleashed his true strength yet. However, even with that, his attack was more than sufficient to sort out that Qiu Beihai and that Shen Jun.

Mu Chen shot a glance towards Qiu Beihai and his bloodstained lips. At this moment, the latter shot a gloomy gaze back, with an uncontainable feeling of dread and terror surfacing within his heart. In the next instant, he furiously turned around and crazily fled away. He already knew that he did not have any chance of victory anymore.

“Captain!”

Upon noticing this, the faces of the three group members from the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy that were being suppressed by Xu Huang and the other two instantly contorted as confusion filled their hearts and minds. Due to this, the stalemate was broken by Xu Huang and the other two as boundless

palm winds pierced through their defenses. Smashing against their chests, they were sent flying back while spurting blood.

Looking towards the fleeing figure of Qiu Beihai, Mu Chen gave a flick of his finger, sending a ray of light shooting across the horizon at lightning speed.

“Ahh!”

Qiu Bei hai’s miserable shriek rang out from the distance as blood flowed out from his hands. His remaining fingers had all been chopped off. Nevertheless, despite being overwhelmed with soul-shocking dread and terror, he did not give any care about his chopped-off digits, opting to hastily flee away like a dog with its tail between its legs.

Mu Chen didn’t give chase, as he knew that Qiu Beihai could not only be considered as disabled, his combative spirit had been completely broken, with his heart being filled with the scars of terror. Furthermore, he had tossed his group members aside and fled on his own. Even if he was to return, this group from the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy would no longer treat him as their Captain. When this matter gets circulated around, he would even suffer the contempt and disdain from all of the students of the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Such an ending was even more cruel than being killed.

Nevertheless, Mu Chen didn’t have any pity for Qiu Beihai. Within the Spiritual Road, the latter had clearly participated in the schemes of Ji Xuan. Furthermore, after forcing Mu Chen to get expelled from the Spiritual Road, he had actually dared to encircle Luo Li. This was something that Mu Chen couldn’t endure. Therefore, the latter ending up in such a state was something he could only blame himself for.

Ring!

While Qiu Beihai was fleeing away, Sword Aura pervaded through the air not far away as a shadow sword sliced apart rays of Spiritual Energies, before finally resting right in front of the chests of the Group Captain of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy. The swift and fierce Sword Aura caused the latter’s body to tremble as he hastily raised his hands in the air while saying with a hoarse, bitter laugh, “I surrender. Please show mercy.”

Shooting a glare at him with her beautiful eyes, Luo Li didn’t say anything. Instead, she only extended her slender, jade-like hand.

Seeing this, the Captain of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy gave a bitter and pained smile before giving a sigh, while cursing and swearing at Qiu Beihai’s entire family in his heart. *That bastard! If I’d known that he had provoked such a formidable opponent, I wouldn’t have collaborated with him!* The current situation wasn’t good for his group. As with the saying of trying to lure a chicken only to end up with losing the lure, they now had to hand over their hard-earned points without getting any in return.

With a clench of his hand, his Academy Plaque appeared, before he obediently handed it to Luo Li.

Receiving the Academy Plaque, Luo Li turned around and shot towards Mu Chen. Taking it over, he shot a look at it, before saying out with a smile “Quite juicy.”

There was actually over 700 points displayed on the Academy Plaque of this Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy group, which was about the same as their group. From the looks of it, these fellows had spent quite a bit of time snatching those points from other groups. Therefore, without the slightest bit of politeness, Mu Chen transferred half of the points over to his Academy Plaque. Due to this, the number of points his group had broke past the thousand mark, reaching over 1100 points.

“It’s a pity. If we’re able to snatch the points of the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy group, we would have been able to enter the Top 16,” said Luo Li as she shot a look towards the direction which Qiu Beihai had fled to. Such an Academy Plaque was only held by the Captain, and was the only one that could be snatched by others to transfer the points. Those in the group members hands were used as a source of information.

Therefore, with Qiu Beihai fleeing away, they had no way to snatch his points. “Now’s not the time to enter the Top 16,” replied Mu Chen as he shook his head. If they were promoted into the Top 16, they would attract the attention of other groups. Although this was something that Mu Chen wasn’t afraid of, there would be quite a bit of trouble that would come then. At this moment, the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament had just started. Mu Chen felt that revealing himself wasn’t a very smart thing to do.

The reason why Wen Qingxuan, Ji Xuan and the rest dared to do such a thing was not only due to them possessing strength above the masses, but also due to their group members being the elite amongst the elite. Compared to them, Mu Chen’s group was clearly much weaker. Therefore, revealing themselves wouldn’t be good for them.

Being calm and intelligent, Luo Li immediately understood Mu Chen’s decision in an instant, nodding her head in approval. If Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were placed in their group, they would be able to remove much of the dread and fear that might come with entering the top 16. However, it was a pity, because if they were to distribute the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that way, the strength of the second group would be too weak.

With a flick of his finger, Mu Chen sent the Academy Plaque back to the Captain of the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy before saying with a grin, “Thank you very much.”

Hearing his words, the face of the Captain twitched a few times. Looking at his points on the Academy Plaque, which have been deduced by half, he felt as if his heart was starting to bleed from the pain. Those were points that they had tolled and worked painstakingly hard to obtain. However, at this moment, half of them have been snatched away. This really was like the saying, robbers will always be robbed.

Ignoring that Captain, Mu Chen turned his gaze towards the combat zone not far from him, where the group from the Desolation Spiritual Academy was.

The two groups that were originally surrounding the Desolation Spiritual Academy clearly had discovered the changes that had happened on the other side, causing the faces of all their members to turn ugly, especially when noticing Mu Chen’s gaze shooting over. This caused their hearts to start jumping in fear. The two Captains clenched their teeth, before raising their hands and stopping their respective groups.



Seeing that, the group from the Desolation Spiritual Academy breathed a sigh of relief.

With a wave of his hand, Mu Chen brought Luo Li and the others as they shot over. Staring at the two groups, he spoke out with a faint smile. "Did you two groups also collaborated with Qiu Beihai?"

"Haha, what are you saying, Brother. We've never collaborated with him. That was just a mutual benefit. However, since he had scrambled off now, we naturally don't have a single bit of relation with him." Hearing Mu Chen's question, the two Captains instantly gave a dry laugh, before replying. They had seen how miserable the outcome was for the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy. Thus, they naturally didn't dare to make an enemy out of the powerful group before them.

With a smile, Mu Chen nodded his head and said, "Since its the case, would it be inconvenient for you to let us pass?"

Hearing his words, the hearts of the two groups instantly turned cold as they thought, <em>Indeed, this Mu Chen has his sights on the group from the Desolation Spiritual Academy. </em>

Exchanging glances, all of them could see the unwillingness brimming in each other's eyes. After suppressing the Desolation Spiritual Academy after much difficulty to such a state, the information was almost about to enter their hands. However, an obstruction had suddenly appeared, one that was so fierce and ferocious, even defeating the entire group from the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy...

"Sigh."

Making a helpless sigh, they could only shake their heads and move aside. Mu Chen not dealing with them or taking half of their points away could already be considered as a much better outcome than what the group from the Great Cauldron Spiritual Academy had gone through.

Giving no care about them, Mu Chen slowly walked forward, shooting a look at the Desolation Spiritual Academy. Having clearly experienced a great long battle, the faces of the latter were all somewhat pale, showing their enormous consumption of strength. However, the strength of this group was truly extremely strong, as them being no less stronger than Qiu Beihai's group. There were two experts who had passed their Human Body Disaster in this group, with the other three members being of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase. With such strength, it was no wonder why they were able to endure for one whole day in the Top 16.

As Mu Chen was sizing up the group from the Desolation Spiritual Academy, a somewhat burly youth stood up from the latter. With a shift of his gaze, he cupped his hands towards Mu Chen and said, "This Brother, I'm Lin Zhou of the Desolation Spiritual Academy, the Captain of this group."

"Haha. So it's Captain Lin Zhou."

With a grin, Mu Chen cupped his hands and said, "I'm Mu Chen, the Captain of this group."

Seeing Mu Chen's smile, Lin Zhou gave a dry laugh before saying, "Thank you very much for helping us escape, Captain Mu Chen. Our Desolation Spiritual Academy will remember this favor. If you have anything you need help with in the future, please do say so. However, we bid farewell to you all today."

After finishing his statement, he gathered his group in a bid to quickly retreat.

However, before they could turn around, they saw that Luo Li had brought Xu Huang and the other two to block their path of retreat, causing a shiver to run down their bodies.

“Captain Lin Zhou, we’ve just met today, and have yet to have a proper conversation. Why not leave with us first? Look at all the tigers staring covetously at you in the surroundings. If you leave like that, I’m afraid that nothing good will end for you.” Walking forward, Mu Chen gave an intimate pat on Lin Zhou’s shoulder and spoke out with a gentle smile. *Are you joking? We’ve been painstakingly chasing you guys for an entire day, and have even crossed hands with the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy. How can I let you run away that easily?*

Lin Zhou’s expression turned stiff as he looked towards Mu Chen, before finally giving a bitter laugh. Previously, he had seen how formidable Mu Chen was. The group from the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy possessed strength that was comparable to his group. However, they had ended up in such a miserable state in the end. Therefore, let’s not talk about their current state, where their energy consumption was that massive. Even if they were in their best state, they would not dare to take action against Mu Chen.

As he and his four other group members looked at each other, all of them became dejected and crestfallen. They never imagined that they would end up in a tiger’s den after escaping from a pack of wolves. What luck they have.

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### **Chapter 463: Intel**

The various groups in this region that were originally eyeing the Desolation Spiritual Academy group covetously could now only stare mutely as Mu Chen and his group brought them and left into the distance. Nevertheless, despite that, none of them could muster any heart to go forward and contend. What a joke! Even the group from the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy was dealt with that easily. How would their groups dare to go up and issue a challenge?

Therefore, faced with the two groups leaving into the distance, they could only stare at each other, before heaving a sigh in helplessness.

Mu Chen brought along the Desolation Spiritual Academy group far away to evade those covetously eyeing groups. Once he discovered that there wasn’t anyone chasing them, he take a breath of relief. Looks like him defeating Qiu Beihai and Shen Jun early had resulted in no small amount of shock in the hearts of those groups. If not, it would truly be extremely difficult for him to bring this Desolation Spiritual Academy group away that easily under the attention of so many groups.

Exchanging glances with Luo Li, Mu Chen descended on a remote mountain peak. Seeing this, Lin Zhou could only give a helpless sigh, before bringing his group members and descending.

“You guys take a rest first.”

Landing on the mountain peak, Mu Chen sent a faint smile towards the pale-looking Lin Zhou and his group before speaking out.

Hearing those words, Lin Zhou and his group immediately gawked. Clearly, they had not imagined that Mu Chen would actually let them rest and recover; after all, they would be able to put up some resistance upon recovering their strength.

“I believe that Brother Lin Zhou should not be the type that would destroy the bridge after crossing the river, right?”

Mu Chen said while sending a smile towards Lin Zhou. Patting the gigantic rock beside him with his hand, he gave a flick of his finger. With a crack, the rock instantly turned into powder, fluttering about in the air. Patting away the dust on his hand, the smile on his face turned bright and radiant.

Exchanging glances with his group members, Lin Zhou gave a dry laugh. From the looks of it, all of them could feel the threat present within Mu Chen’s words.

Silently cursing in their hearts, they could only sit down and close their eyes without delay to recover the Spiritual Energy they had consumed.

Only after seeing Lin Zhou and his group closing their eyes to cultivate did Luo Li approach Mu Chen. Casting her bright and beautiful eyes towards the latter, she softly spoke out, “What are you trying to do?”

If Mu Chen wanted to snatch the points from them, he clearly didn’t have to go through that much trouble.

At this moment, Xu Huang and the other two had also looked over and stared at Mu Chen.

“To us, the most important thing now isn’t points,” replied Mu Chen with a faint smile. “Did you remember what the Dean said? The place we’re in right now is a fragment of the Shattered Continent. On this fragment, there are many ancient treasures, as well as inheritances. If we’re lucky, we might be able to obtain some of them, which would definitely increase our strength by leaps and bounds.”

“Don’t just look at how fierce the competition for the Top 16 is. Other than them, there is also a small amount of groups that are genuinely strong and powerful. As for the rest, they simply don’t have to qualifications to stand till the very end.”

“Those formidable groups have not completely revealed themselves. That’s because they aren’t anxious to snatch points. Instead, they are looking for remnants across the entire continent, letting their groups become even stronger. As for those groups that are going about snatching points, they would pay the price for that in the end. Without sufficient strength, regardless of how many points you have, you’ll just be feeding other people in the very end.”

“Strength and power are still the greatest factors in the rankings in the very end.”

Expressions of deep thought appeared on the faces of Xu Huang and the other two, before they fiercely nodded their heads. What Mu Chen said was correct. If one didn’t possess sufficient strength, even if they were able to obtain the first place in the point rankings, so what? At that time, they would merely be a fat sheep in the eyes of everyone. Those few groups that have bid their time and concealed their strength would be able to easily defeat them. When that happens, their points would still be snatched away.

“Truthfully speaking, there’s still quite a disparity in strength of our group when compared to those elite groups,” said Mu Chen slowly as he looked towards Xu Huang and the others.

Hearing that, Xu Huang and the other two scratched their heads. Yet, all of them did not refute his words. After all, that was indeed the reality. In their group, the only ones that were truly able to compare with those experts in the elite groups were Mu Chen and Luo Li. As for them three, speaking bluntly, there was a possibility that they would drag the group down.

“Therefore, I hope that we can increase the strength of our group. At the very least, I want for you to pass through your Human Body Disaster,” said Mu Chen in a serious tone.

Hearing that, Xu Huang, Zhao Qingshan and Mu Fengyang all gave a bitter laugh. *Human Body Disaster, huh.* Thinking about it would bring about fear in them. If one didn’t have any external aid and help when attempting to pass through this tribulation, none of them had much confidence in succeeding.

“So you wish to search for remnants to increase the strength of our group?” Shooting a glance towards Lin Zhou and his group, who were in closed-eye meditation, Luo Li spoke out, “You want to obtain the information about the remnants of the Ancient Antiquity from them?”

Mu Chen nodded his head in response. Looking at Lin Zhou, he smiled and said, “I truly don’t know if the luck of those fellows is good or bad. Within a day’s worth of time in here, they were actually able to obtain information with regards to the remnants from the Ancient Antiquity present here. However, in the end, news about this was divulged out. The critical element was that they were in the Top 16, which caused their location to be revealed. Therefore, it had attracted so many groups to covetously eye them.”

At this moment, Luo Li could not help covering her mouth and softly laugh. Her clear and bell-like laughter caused Xu Huang and the other two to cast sympathetic gazes towards Lin Zhou and his group. *This group of fellows is indeed pitiful.*

“However, will they tell us about that information? That thing should be very important, right? The less people know about it, the better it is.” Xu Huang said.

“I believe that if we’re sufficiently sincere, coupled with the fact that we’ve saved them, that Captain Lin Zhou isn’t the type that would show ingratitude to a friend,” said Mu Chen with a grin. “I’ve always been very kind to friends. However, if he’s the type that would destroy the bridge after crossing it, I won’t let him off that easily. Although, according to the rules, the points of a group can only be deducted by half in one day, If we were to ‘guard their corpses’, we only have to stand guard for a few days to drain them all clean. It’s good enough to let them be eliminated.”

Hearing that, Xu Huang and the other two were completely dumbfounded. Looking towards the gentle smile present on Mu Chen’s face, the three of them could not help shivering. *Isn’t that too vicious?*

Luo Li casted her beautiful eyes towards the cultivating Lin Zhou, with the latter’s eyelids seemingly twitching slightly at this moment. Seeing that, she gave a laugh and shook her head, not choosing to say any words.

Not caring about the dumbfounded and stupified Xu Huang and the other two, Mu Chen continued to speak in a lazy fashion. "Now's the time to rest. Let's wait for Captain Lin Zhou and his group to recover, before having a friendly exchange with them."

Exchanging glances with each other, Xu Huang and the other two could only sit down and wait for Lin Zhou and his group to wake up.

Bringing about a wift of fragrance, Luo Li took gentle steps forward and took a seat beside Mu Chen. An amused expression surfaced in her beautiful eyes as she shot a glare at him, while saying in a soft voice, "You bad boy. You don't have to scare people to death."

Shooting a cheeky smile towards her, Mu Chen looked towards Lin Zhou, whose body appeared to be slightly trembling. Moving near to Luo Li, he gave a helpless sigh and replied, "There's no choice. Being a Captain, I have to take the entire group into consideration. After all, what happens in the future can't always depend on the two of us. I have to find a way to let Xu Huang and the other two increase their strength. Naturally, the remnants from the Ancient Antiquity would bring a massive benefit to use. I believe that those elite groups are searching the entire continent for those remnants. Therefore, I don't want to fall behind."

Complaining bitterly, he said, "Being a Captain truly isn't easy."

Raising her eye towards Mu Chen, Luo Li shot an ambiguous smile towards him before saying, "

Unknowingly, Mu Chen had quietly seized Luo Li's waist in his evil grasp, causing her to slightly freeze up. Looking towards the ambiguous smile on Luo Li's face, he gave a grin, yet he didn't withdraw his face. Instead, he placed his palm on the young girl's waist, with such slenderness causing him to feel reluctant to part.

Seeing that this fellow's skin was that thick, a pinkish shade surfaced on her lovable face as she shot an embarrassed glare at him. Nevertheless, after slightly hesitating, she rested her face gently on his shoulder. As her lovable nose rubbed against Mu Chen's neck, her breath was akin to the fragrance of flowers, giving off an exceedingly alluring sight.

Seeing the intimacy between the two, Xu Huang and the other two turned their heads away by their own initiative as their faces became filled with envy.

"Luo Li, we've been in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for close to two years already, right?" Tightly grabbing the little waste of the young girl, Mu Chen spoke out in a soft voice.

Luo Li gently nodded. Seemingly able to guess what it was about, her clear and bright eyes grew slightly dim.

"Perhaps, there's not much time left for me." replied Luo Li slowly.

Raising his head, Mu Chen deeply exhaled, as feelings of disappointment and frustration surfaced within his heart. He knew that there truly was not much time left for Luo Li to spend with him. Being able to leave the Luo God Clan for close to two years of time might be already the greatest compromise her grandfather could make. Once the time was up, she had to return to the Luo God Clan and receive the responsibilities that she should hold, which was to become the next Queen of the clan.

At that time, she would need to hold the heavy responsibility of the lives of the millions of citizens of their Luo God Clan.

He truly didn't know how a girl like her would be able to endure such a heavy responsibility. Just thinking about it caused Mu Chen to feel pain in his heart. However, despite that, as of now, he was too weak, and was simply unable to provide any help for her...

"Luo Li, regardless of what happens in the future, you definitely have to remember to wait for me. Wait for me to head to the Luo God Clan. At that time, I'll squash anyone who bullies you to death!" Lowering his head to look towards the soul-stirring face beside him, Mu Chen spoke out in a soft voice.

Luo Li blushed as a smile surfaced on her face, while her eyes were turning slightly red. She looked towards the handsome and resolute face of the youth beside her. *When I'm in the Luo God Clan, I'll have some support, at the very least. However, you'll be alone, traversing the vast Great Thousand Worlds. Wanting to walk on the path of experts, how much hard work and effort will you have to pay?*

"Yes."

However, she did not speak the words in her heart, she only chose to gently look towards Mu Chen and slightly nodded her head, just like a little wife.

With a smile, Mu Chen lowered his head, looking straight towards Luo Li's slightly opened eyes, before planting a peck on her lovable lips.

A pinkish shade appeared on Luo Li's beautiful face. Nevertheless, due to her not knowing how long she could still remain by Mu Chen's side, Luo Li, who was usually too shy to be too intimate with him in front of others, slightly closed her eyes, giving in to his philandering.

"Sigh."

However, Mu Chen's enjoyment didn't last for long, as a dry cough broke the atmosphere. This caused Luo Li to instantly regain her senses. With her face turning beet-red, she shoved Mu Chen away and fled away in embarrassment.

Feeling a great sense of disappointment, Mu Chen instantly turned his head around viciously, looking straight towards the just awakened Lin Zhou, who was now awkwardly looking back at him. At this moment, the glare shooting out from Mu Chen's eyes was so fierce to the point of wanting to crush the latter's body into a thousand pieces.

Seeing that glare shooting straight at himself, Lin Zhou's scalp instantly turned numb. Thinking back to the words those devils had said earlier, he hastily raised his hand and spoke out.

"Captain Mu Chen, we're willing to share the information."

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 464: Ruins**

"Oh?"

When the words “share the information” entered his ears, the fierce gaze coming from Mu Chen disappeared in the air almost instantly, being replaced by a gentle smile that surfaced on his handsome face. With a laugh, he said, “Captain Lin Zhou’s really magnanimous. Mu Chen thanks you for this.”

Seeing Mu Chen cup his hands towards him, Lin Zhou could not help twitching his mouth and cry, yet no tears would fall. The fellow before him was simply more frightening than Qiu Beihai and the others.

Mu Chen waved his hands to his group members, gathering them around. Even Luo Li with her flushed lovable face had come over. Nevertheless, her watery eyes, which still contained some shades of embarrassment and the blush on her exquisite-looking face caused Lin Zhou and his group to turn dazed for a moment, before they hastily looked away.

“Captain Lin Zhou, please tell the information that you know for everyone to know. If it’s truly worth its value, I think that we might be able to collaborate. This should not be a bad thing for you guys.” A serious expression appeared on Mu Chen’s face. He knew that just relying on threats would result in them not getting much of an advantage. Only in a situation of mutual benefit would it allow Lin Zhou and his group to withdraw the thoughts of betrayal from their hearts.

Lin Zhou shot a somewhat strange look at Mu Chen. There were a lot of people that wanted to withhold this information for themselves. People like Mu Chen, who would openly announce it, was of the rarity. However, Mu Chen’s words had caused Lin Zhou to feel slightly at ease. From the looks of it, the latter should not be the type of person that would turn hostile upon getting the information.

“This information was obtained by us at our transmission descent point...” With a bitter laugh, Lin Zhou started to explain. “At that time, when crossing hands with other groups, we had shattered a mountain apart. At that moment, a jade slip flew out from within, with the information recorded on it having something to do with an ancient ruin.”

Now, the faces of Mu Chen and his group were filled with dumbfound shock and astonishment as they thought, *This is also possible? Isn’t the luck of these fellows too good?*

“There’s some directions indicated on the jade slip. As for those ruins, it should be located in the northwestern direction.”

“What’s inside those ruins?” asked Mu Chen while in deep thought.

“We’re not quite sure,” replied Lin Zhou helplessly while shaking his head, before saying, “That’s the only information recorded in the jade slip. I’m afraid that you would have to head inside those ruins to get more detailed information like that.”

“Furthermore... as of now, we aren’t the only ones who know of those ruins. According to the information that we’ve gathered, there might be some groups that have already discovered the ruins. Amongst them, there are some extremely formidable groups...” said Lin Zhou as he wrinkled his forehead. “It seems... that one group from the Saint Spiritual Academy is also rushing there.”

Hearing that, Mu Chen’s eyes instantly narrowed, while his gaze became much more fierce. “Which group from the Saint Spiritual Academy?”

If it was the group led by Ji Xuan, wouldn’t they be bumping into each other in advance?

Shaking his head once again, Lin Zhou said, "In any case, all of the four groups from the Saint Spiritual Academy are extremely strong and powerful. Meeting any of them would be a misfortune. Naturally, from the looks of it, the group led by that Ji Xuan seems to be the most formidable. If we are to bump into him this time, I'm afraid that we won't get much done in the ruins."

Giving a faint smile, Mu Chen replied, "We'll know when we bump into him."

Lin Zhou knew that the youth before him were similarly not your average mill of a student. Nodding his head, he carefully spoke out. "About this, Captain Mu Chen. Are you planning to collaborate with us and head to the ruins? If that's the case, how should we split the spoils of war?"

"We'll care for each other and enter the ruins. As for what happens after that, it will depend on each person's ability on who would be able to obtain the spoils. Do all we can to maintain the same side and deal with any troubles together, with no one getting jealous of one another. Is that alright?" replied Mu Chen with a smile. Lin Zhou's group wasn't considered weak. If they were to collaborate, they would be quite a bit stronger as a whole.

Exchanging glances with his group, Lin Zhou deeply pondered awhile, before nodding his head. This seemed to be good, as it could avoid misunderstandings when the treasures were distributed unevenly then.

"Then, should we make our move?" Lin Zhou said pressingly. They had originally planned to head quickly towards those ruins. It's just that due to the news about the ruins being exposed, which led to them being obstructed and not able to extricate themselves, they ended up in this current situation.

"Before heading off, it's best that we swipe your name off this list. Won't anyone be asking for trouble by fervently climbing up there for no reason?" With a smile, Mu Chen replied with a shrug. "We were able to find you guys by relying on this..."

Lin Zhou and his group started to blush, before replying with awkwardness. "That's not a problem, now. We're already off that list."

Hearing that, Mu Chen was surprised, instantly taking out his Academy Plaque to take a look. Indeed, he discovered that Lin Zhou and his group had disappeared from the names on the Top 16.

"As of now, there's a lot of movement in the Top 16. Due to us not getting any points for this period of time, we've slowly been pushed down," said Lin Zhou.

Hearing that, Mu Chen nodded his head. Following the elapsing time, the movements in the Top 16 would gradually stabilised. However, when that happened, the groups that were still able to remain in the Top 16 would truly be the formidable ones.

"Let's make our move," said Mu Chen as he stood up.

Without any hesitation, Lin Zhou and his group slightly organised themselves, before the two groups shot to the skies at the same time. Transforming into ten rays of light, they shot towards the northwestern direction.

In the Spiritual Energy-encased ray of light, Mu Chen looked towards the distance, with a shadow of deep thought appearing in his eyes. Half a year ago, he had obtained the "Great Solar Undying Body".



Although it was extremely powerful, after doing some research and study on it, he discovered that it had an extremely strict requirement for its cultivation. Not only would one need to be extremely talented, one would also need three Heavenly Treasures as an auxiliary support to be able to successfully cultivate that Sovereign Celestial Body.

Mu Chen had previously searched for those three Heavenly Treasures. However, he wasn't able to find even one trace about them. He had even consulted Dean Tai Cang, with the latter only able to shake his head in helplessness. That's because those three Heavenly Treasures were too precious and hard to find.

Of those three, one was the "Nine Suns Divine Lingzhi". It's said to be an item of extreme Yang that was extremely scarce within the entire universe. It radiated with limitless rays of light, with a Divine Fire being contained within the Divine Lingzhi. Even Sovereign Realm experts did not dare to recklessly consume it. However, if one was to refine and use it to temper one's Spiritual Energy, one would possess Spiritual Energy that possessed the power of the sun, something which was extremely overbearing and tyrannical.

Such a miraculous treasure that could change the attribute of one's Spiritual Energy was something that would shake even the hearts of Sovereign Realm experts. Therefore, once it appears, it would lead to a snatching contest between various Sovereign Realm experts for this exceedingly precious treasure.

The second treasure was the "Void Great Solar Fruit". Born in the void, it absorbed the strength of the sun present in the universe. A mature Void Great Sun Fruit would appear akin to a scorching sun within the region it was in. Even after burning for a thousand years, its brilliance would never dim. As long as one refined it, one would have a chance to cultivate a "Great Solar Body". This was ranked 95th place in the rankings of the top 99 Sovereign Celestial Bodies. Although it was at the rear, there was no one that doubted its strength.

The third treasure was the "Undying Divine Leaf". This item was more mysterious than the other two, as it's said to be a leaf from the Undying Divine Tree. This divine tree was a plant, yet it possessed intelligence that wasn't inferior to a human. It could even be considered as a type of living spirit. A mature Undying Divine Tree was something that even a Sovereign realm expert didn't dare to recklessly approach, what's more if they had any intention to obtain the essence-filled leaves on its branches.

Even after going out to gather information, Mu Chen was unable to get any news about these three treasures. Even Dean Tai Cang wasn't able to answer his question, with the only thing he could tell Mu Chen being that those treasures were extremely hard to find in the outside world. However, if one possessed enough luck, one might be able to obtain some information about them within the ruins present in this Shattered Continent.

Hu.

Mu Chen gently exhaled, before flinging his mouth in helplessness. *This "Great Solar Undying Body" truly is something that ordinary people can't afford to enjoy.* Wanting to collect those three treasures was easier said than done. However, such a demanding requirement caused Mu Chen to have growing anticipation towards the "Great Solar Undying Body".

If he was able to successfully cultivate it, it would have a gigantic benefit in the promotion of his strength in the future.

As of now, although Mu Chen was still quite a distance away from the realm of Sovereigns, he still had to plan ahead for the future to avoid him being unable to cultivate the “Great Solar Undying Body” upon his promotion into the Sovereign Realm. At that time, it would truly worry the living hell out of him.

“I hope that I’ll be able to obtain some clues about three treasures in these ruins...”

Mu Chen muttered. Flinging his head back, he stopped thinking about it anymore, and increased his speed as he shot towards the northwestern direction.

...

The location of the ruins was extremely remote. When Mu Chen and the groups got close to the region, they had already spent the greater half of the day’s time travelling. As the sun set, it cast dusky-red rays of brilliance that enveloped the world.

Mu Chen and two groups gradually slowed their speed as they neared the region, with their gazes all pointing towards their front.

Before them was a dark primary forest, with dense undergrowth spewing out from within. This primary forest wasn’t teeming with life. Instead, it gave people a strange gloomy feeling, with its dark colour causing people to feel extremely uncomfortable.

Narrowing his eyes, Mu Chen looked towards the region before him. Wrinkling his forehead, he said, “Looks like the location of this ruins has already been exposed.”

Hearing that, Lin Zhou and the rest followed his gaze and look over. Indeed, there were already groups of figures present in the air above the region. Furthermore, whooshing sounds continuously rang out from the distance. This caused them to give a sigh in helplessness. If not for them being obstructed and held back for so long, they might have already been able to search this place. However, as of now, it had attracted more and more groups to it. Wanting a piece of the pie now would get more and more difficult.

Sensing the arrival of Mu Chen and the two groups, shadows of caution and vigilance surfaced in the eyes of the few groups present in this region.

Whoosh!

However, just at this moment, their gazes suddenly shifted as they looked solemnly towards the northwards direction. At this moment, extremely boundless Spiritual Energy fluctuations were sweeping out from there. If one was to look closely, one could seemingly see that the skies over there were flooded by the boundless Spiritual Energies, while multiple rays of light were shooting over at lightning speeds.

“It’s the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy!”

Some people exclaimed, with their voices brimming with dread.

When Mu Chen heard the exclamation, his expression dulled down as he shifted his cold gaze towards the mentioned direction.

<em>Could the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy be Ji Xuan?</em>

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### **Chapter 465: Four Academies Gather**

Swish!

Shooting across the skies, the rays of light brought about vast and boundless Spiritual Energies that flooded over the entire region, causing the faces of everyone present to change, with their eyes filling up with dread and fear. Indeed, this Saint Spiritual Academy was truly worthy of being the Spiritual Academy that had obtained the most outstanding results in the multiple past Great Spiritual Academy Tournaments.

Mu Chen darkly looked at the multiple streaks of light shooting over, while beside him, Luo Li had tightly clenched her longsword. Xu Huang and the other two also had solemn expressions on their faces as they prepared themselves. There was some discontent between the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and the Saint Spiritual Academy. Therefore, they had no choice but to be more cautious and vigilant.

Under everyone's nervous attention, the streak of lights came to a hover in the skies above this region. As the rays of light started to slowly dissipate away, five figures appeared within everyone's sight.

These five people were dressed in white robes, with each and every one appearing tall and straight. Unconcealable arrogance radiated from them, while the gazes shooting from them possessed an attitude of looking down on everyone present.

Present within the centre of the group was an ordinary-looking male with an indifferent expression on face. From his looks, he didn't seem outstanding. Yet, the hands that extended out of his sleeve were exceedingly eye-catching. Those hands appeared rather slender and exceedingly white, to the point of seemingly sparkling with a jade-like luster, something that appeared extremely mysterious.

Among the five people, he stood right in the front, with the other four standing one step behind him. This minute detail made those sharp and astute people know that this seemingly ordinary-looking male was the Captain of this Saint Spiritual Academy group.

"It's not Ji Xuan..."

Looking at the five people that had appeared in the skies, some of the darkness on Mu Chen's face dissipated away. Nevertheless, he still locked his cold gaze onto them, with a large portion of his focus converging on the body of the youth with jade-like hands. At this moment, Mu Chen could sense extremely tyrannical Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiating from the latter's back.

Those fluctuations were even stronger than those from Mo Xingtian!

"An expert of Spiritual Energy Disaster?"

Mu Chen's eyes slightly narrowed. Truly worthy of the academy that had the hope of obtaining the position of Academy Head, Saint Spiritual Academy. Their foundation was actually that strong. An expert

of Spiritual Energy Disaster... this was the strongest expert that Mu Chen had seen amongst all the groups he had encountered ever since stepping into the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament.

Furthermore, other than this Captain that passed his Spiritual Energy Disaster, of the other four members of this Saint Spiritual Academy group, there were actually three of them that had passed their Human Body Disaster! The weakest person was even stronger than Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, most likely having failed passing through his Human Body Disaster. Yet, his strength was already much stronger than any ordinary Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase.

In this group, the Captain had passed his Spiritual Energy Disaster, with three members having passed their Human Body Disaster and the last one having failed his Human Body Disaster...

Looking from the surface, this line-up seemed to instantly suppress Mu Chen's group beneath it.

At this moment, Mu Chen had already felt how tyrannical this group from the Saint Spiritual Academy was, with Xu Huang and the other two having also sensed that, causing their faces to turn solemn. These opponents were truly strong and powerful. If not for Mu Chen and Luo Li, their group simply wouldn't be able to endure even the first wave of attacks from this group.

Compared to their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, the Saint Spiritual Academy truly had the leading edge. Although their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had been established since a long time ago, their disparity, when compared with the Saint Spiritual Academy, was stretched far and wide just from this comparison.

"That's one of the four Holy Sons of the Saint Spiritual Academy, Xia Hou. It's said that he has already passed his Spiritual Energy Disaster, and possesses extremely tyrannical strength... Sigh. Such a formidable group has come here. This really is troublesome," said Lin Zhou with a sigh. With the appearance of this group from the Saint Spiritual Academy, the groups in the surroundings were shocked to the point of not daring to mess around. Clearly, all of them knew that they absolutely possessed no qualifications to contest with that group for the ancient remnant.

"Xia Hou, huh..." Mu Chen muttered as he nodded his head.

"From what I've heard about the Saint Spiritual Academy, of the four Holy Sons, this Xia Hou had crossed hands with Ji Xuan before. Naturally, the former Holy Son ousted by Ji Xuan doesn't count," said Lin Zhou.

"Oh?" Mu Chen slightly raised his eyebrows while asking, "Who won?"

"There's no victor or loser... However, at that time, Ji Xuan had just entered the Saint Spiritual Academy for no more than half a year. That fellow truly is a monstrous talent. In the short span of half a year, he was able to let one of the Holy Sons, Xia Hou to be unable to do anything to him. In my opinion, among the four Holy Sons, I'm afraid that the strongest one should be Ji Xuan. However, the other three Holy Sons seem to dislike such words," replied Lin Zhou.

Hearing Lin Zhou's reply, Mu Chen nodded his head. Indeed, Ji Xuan possessed talent that surpassed others. Added with the Baptism he got from the Spiritual Road, his progress in his cultivation would exceed others. Therefore, being able to not suffer defeat in a confrontation with that Xia Hou after

entering the Saint Spiritual Academy for a short span of half a year didn't cause much shock or astonishment in Mu Chen.

In the air, upon their arrival, the Saint Spiritual Academy group didn't make any other action, only casting their gazes towards the dark original forest before them. However, they could clearly sense the strangeness of this forest before them, leading to them not immediately taking action for a moment.

With them not making their move, the other groups in the surroundings naturally didn't dare to make any reckless move. Therefore, the atmosphere of this region started to stifle and turn suffocating.

Nevertheless, this suffocating atmosphere didn't last for long, before being broken by whooshing sounds coming from behind. At the same time, a sweet laughing voice resounded over from the distance.

"Keke. Looks like there truly is news about a remnant over here. The people from the Saint Spiritual Academy's actually here, too."

The sweet laughter was filled with flirtatious notes, being sweet to the point of causing people's hearts to jump. In the next instant, quite a few people raised their heads, only to see rays of light streaking over from the distance. As they descended on a mountain peak in the vicinity, slender and graceful figures surfaced from within.

"It's a group from the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy!"

Some people exclaimed in surprise, while the eyes of quite a few people slightly lit up. The Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy was a rather unique existence within the numerous Spiritual Academies present in the Great Thousand Worlds, since the entire academy was composed of lovable young girls. Such a scene would cause countless male students to uncontrollably drool. Unfortunately, the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy absolutely didn't accept any male students. Regardless of how high your talent was, none of that was considered if you were a male. Therefore, only those Spiritual Academies that were under the pretext of a cultural exchange would be able to temporarily stay in the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy and enjoy the miraculous feeling of living amongst the myriad of flowers present there.

At this moment, Mu Chen had also shot a curious gaze over while thinking in his heart, <em>Could this Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy group be the one led by Wen Qingxuan...?</em>

He shot his gaze over, only to see five lovable young girls standing tall on the mountain peak akin to a lovely scene of blossoming plants swaying the breeze. In the middle of their ranks was a girl dressed in a red gown. Possessing a tall and slender physique, snow-white complexion and slender legs, with a willowy waist, her chest appeared exceedingly voluptuous. Concealed under her gown, their voluptuousness appeared as if they could break through her dress, causing the hearts of quite a few people to rapidly thump.

This girl was exceedingly beautiful, with a pair of long and narrow eyes that appeared akin to that of a fox spirit's, brimming with an unconcealable air of flirtatious intent.

"That doesn't seem like Wen Qingxuan." Although Mu Chen had not seen Wen Qingxuan before, he was able to sense that the girl before him was too coquettish-looking, and would naturally not be the type of

person that could obtain the Spiritual Crown amongst the crowds of powers. Furthermore, although she was very strong, she had yet to genuinely reach the realm of Spiritual Energy Disaster. According to Mu Chen's guess, this girl that was dressed in a red gown possessed strength one notch higher than Mo Xingtian. From the looks of it, she should have already passed through her Spiritual Energy Disaster, but had clearly failed her first attempt...

"Haha. She's the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy's Tang Mei'er... its said that she's also an extremely outstanding girl within the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy. Although her fame and reputation isn't as great as Wen Qingxuan's, she has her own merits." Lin Zhou's eyes had similarly lit up as he looked towards this alluring and soul-stirring girl, while speaking with a smile.

Hearing that, Mu Chen nodded his head, yet a sigh rang within his heart. This group from the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy was unexpectedly even stronger than his group in its entirety. Other than Tang Mei'er, they had also two other group members that had passed their Human Body Disaster.

"Even the group from the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy has arrived. Looks like it's going to be real lively here..." said Lin Zhou as he unblinkingly stared at Tang Mei'er.

Flinging his mouth, Mu Chen was about to say something, before his gaze slightly changed as he said, "Not only the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy... the people from the Martial Spiritual Academy has also come over."

Raising his head, he looked towards another direction, where Spiritual Energy fluctuations were similarly appearing from. In the next moment, rays of light shot over as a loud laughing voice resounded across the region. "Haha! It really is lively here. There's actually four of the five Great Academies here. Are we planning to have a decisive battle before the finale?"

Swish!

Five glowing shadows came shooting over, landing on a giant tree that towered over the land. Appearing from within were five youths dressed in black robes, of which one of them appeared exceedingly eye-catching. That was a rather burly and strongly-built male, with the muscles across his body appearing as if they were cast from metal. Hoisted over his shoulder was a jet-black metal pole, while his eyes appeared as if they were filled with provocative fighting intent.

"That's the Martial Spiritual Academy's Zhou Yuan... That fellow's a mad demon in love with fighting..." Noticing the metal pole and the ape-like burly-built male whose shoulder the pole rested on, Lin Zhou quietly spoke out. "By no means do you want to provoke this mad man. Once you're set in his sights, he will chase you and beat you till the point where you won't be able to move an inch..."

Hearing that, Mu Chen gave a laugh. Staring at that Zhou Yuan, Mu Chen noticed that the latter's cultivation realm seemed to be at the same level as that Tang Mei'er.

Yet another group that possessed astonishing strength.

Feeling helpless, Mu Chen shrugged his shoulders. He never imagined that this remnant would actually attract groups from four of the five Great Academies over. If the Azure Heavens Spiritual Academy that he had sent flying away earlier was counted, it truly would be the gathering of the five Academies...

"Looks like this time... this remnant's not something good to search and enjoy."

Lin Zhou spoke out, while giving a bitter laugh. Originally, they could've been the first people here. Yet, after being obstructed for quite a long time, the information they were first privy to wasn't worth a single cent now. As news about this place circulated around, God-knows how many more groups would rush over here. Furthermore, there were still the groups from four of the Great Spiritual Academies present here, without a single one being easy to deal with.

Not mentioning the Saint Spiritual Academy, both the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy and the Martial Spiritual Academy were also vicious figureheads. As for the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that Mu Chen's group had come from, although it appeared to be the weakest amongst the four Great Spiritual Academies present here, Lin Zhou knew that the youth by the name of Mu Chen was absolutely an abnormality. After all, this was the first time that he had seen someone of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase being able to beat and smash Human Body Disaster experts into such tumultuous states...

As of now, with the four groups gathered here, it seemed that there would be a good upcoming show to watch.

### [The Great Ruler](#)

#### **Chapter 466: Tang Meier**

Numerous groups had converged on the verdant mountain range, forming a stretch of black across the region. Nevertheless, although there were quite a few of them present, there wasn't any group that dared to recklessly enter the strange and gloomy dark forest before them.

Firstly, all of them were taking precautions towards this unknown region. Secondly, the groups that had converged over here were too strong. Of the five Great Academies, there were even four of them present here. At this moment, making oneself stand out clearly wasn't a smart move.

At the same time, Mu Chen brought Luo Li and the rest towards a place that was neither far away or near the dark forest, while casting an indifferent gaze sweeping out from time-to-time towards the groups from the other three Great Spiritual Academies.

At this moment, amongst all the various groups that had converged over here, the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy that was led by Xia Hou was clearly the strongest. Furthermore, this group was also ranked in the Top 16, being placed at a not low rank of 7th place, with 2000 points under their belt. Speaking of this, they absolutely qualified to be ranked as a fat sheep. However, with their strength, there naturally wasn't many powerful groups present in this Great Spiritual Academy Tournament that would be able to treat them as a fat sheep.

The stifling and suffocating atmosphere was still maintained in this region. However, there wasn't overly many gazes shooting over towards the Saint Spiritual Academy's Xia Hou.

Mu Chen continued to coldly observe the situation.

Under the multitude of attentive gazes that were faintly discernible, a faint smile surfaced at the corner of Xia Hou's mouth. As of now, with four of the five Great Spiritual Academies being gathered here, it was clear that his Saint Spiritual Academy still held the most weight and authority. Although there were quite a few groups present in this region, there should not be many groups that would dare to contend against them.

“Haha. Everyone really has some order going on here. Was it said that the ancient remnant is in the depths of this forest? The various treasures present in this fragmented Shattered Continent has no owners. Being able to obtain them would depend on one’s own luck and ability. Therefore, they won’t just become the sole possession of someone. There isn’t any exception, despite how powerful or strong they are.” All of a sudden, as a smile surfaced at the corner of Xia Hou’s mouth, a sweet-sounding and alluring sound of laughter rang out all at once. As everyone turned to look over, they all saw the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy’s Tang Mei’er giving of a sweet, gentle laugh, her long and narrow phoenix-like eyes appearing moist, giving off a flirtatious intent that caused people’s hearts to jump.

This girl was truly outstanding.

A faint word of appreciation rang out within Mu Chen’s heart. Upon hearing about Tang Mei’er’s name, Mu Chen thought back about Tang Qian’er. Nevertheless, there should not be any bloodline relationship between the two; after all, he knew Tang Qian’er ever since he was small, yet he had never heard of her having an Elder Sister even once.

As Tang Mei’er’s alluring voice rang out, it caused quite a few people to secretly raise their eyebrows . From her words, the so-called “powerful group” she was talking about should be the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy, right? From the looks of it, the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy had some guarded feelings against the Saint Spiritual Academy.

Thinking about this, this could be true. Within the five Great Academies, other than the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, which had grown weaker for the past few years, each of the rest possessed their own merits. Thus, it wasn’t that easy for the Saint Spiritual Academy to place themselves over the others.

“Do you think that what I’ve said is true, Captain Zhou Yuan?” said Tang Mei’er as she grinned towards the group from the Martial Spiritual Academy.

“Haha. What Captain Mei’er said is true. The ancient remnants on this Shattered Continent aren’t the sole possession of anyone. This Broken Mountain Pole in my hands won’t agree to anyone who wants to devour all of them for their own.” Hearing her words, the burly-built Zhou Yuan gave a hearty chuckle, before giving a crisp reply.

Hearing his reply, the numerous groups present exchanged glances with one another. They had also understood that Tang Mei’er and Zhou Yuan seemed to be warning the Saint Spiritual Academy to not attempt to take sole possession over this remnant.

“Are the few of you over there the group from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy?” Suddenly, Tang Mei’er raised her seductively beautiful eyes and rested her gaze on Mu Chen and his group. Sweeping her gaze around, she spoke out with a sweet smile, “May I know exactly who is the Captain of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy group?”

Her beautiful eyes rested mostly on the figure of Luo Li, which caused some shock to appear within herself. Being a girl and a person of outstanding talent, Tang Mei’er was naturally able to sense how extraordinary Luo Li was. This was a sense that was privy only to girls. Nevertheless, Luo Li was currently standing behind Mu Chen, resulting in her looking at him. Yet, the latter’s outward strength appeared to



be only of Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase. This caused even Tang Mei'er to feel somewhat at a loss as to exactly what situation was present in this Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy group.

"Haha. I'm Mu Chen, and I'm the Captain of this group. Please advise, Captain Mei'er." While Tang Mei'er was in doubt, Mu Chen gave a faint smile and made his reply.

"Oh?" Shock appeared in Tang Mei'er's beautiful eyes as she looked towards Mu Chen. *A Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase can actually become a Captain?*

"You are Mu Chen?" However, Tang Mei'er seemed to have thought about something as her beautiful eyes quickly sprung wide open as she stared at him in astonishment.

Mu Chen instantly gawked at the way she had gasped out in astonishment. *Did this Tang Mei'er recognise me?* This truly was the first time that he had seen her.

"Do you know me, Captain Mei'er?" Feeling doubtful, Mu Chen asked.

"Hehe. That's right. What's more it's a household name to me." A shadow of amusement surfaced within Tang Mei'er's long and willowy eyes. As she playfully started to size Mu Chen up, she replied, "My younger sister really misses you. Over the past two years, I've heard this name too many times already."

Mu Chen instantly gawked once more. All of a sudden, a thought flashed within his mind, before he spoke out towards Tang Mei'er, "Does Captain Mei'er know Elder Sister Qian'er?"

Within the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy, the only people that Mu Chen would recognise might only be Tang Qian'er and Hong Ling. After hearing those words from Tang Mei'er, it was clear that the only possibility would be Tang Qian'er.

"Looks like you still have some conscience to not let my younger sister worry in vain for you," replied Tang Mei'er with a smile.

Mu Chen shot an awkward look at Luo Li, only to notice that the latter seemed to not have any frustration displayed on her. On the contrary, she sent a smile back at him, one that appeared beautifully sweet. However, this rarely seen sweet and beautiful smile caused Mu Chen's heart to tremble.

Although he thought of giving an explanation about this matter, it wasn't the right thing to do in the current situation he was in. With so many people in the surroundings, and clearly not having any means to explain the relationship between him and Tang Qian'er to Tang Mei'er, he could only give a helpless smile.

Nevertheless, some suspicions rose within his heart. *Could it really be that Tang Qian'er and Tang Mei'er are sisters? I've never heard of this before...*

"That lass Qian'er has often praised that you're one of those talents that are a rarity in the heavens and of no equal on earth. However, from what I can see, you don't seem to have much of any outstanding areas. Nevertheless, being able to become Captain of your group with your cultivation realm at Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, you should possess some abilities to match with that, right?" A judging gaze shot out from Tang Mei'er beautiful eyes towards Mu Chen as she smiled and spoke to him.

Her words were somewhat straightforward, barely deviating from bluntly saying that he was too weak. However, despite that, Mu Chen only gave a smile in return, not choosing to give too much of an explanation. To him, strength was something that could only be judged during a fight, not by how one could say it.

“Hehe. Nevertheless, looks like your breath of mind isn’t bad.” An alluring smile appeared on Tang Mei’er’s lips as she spoke out coquettishly. “May I know if Captain Mu Chen has any objections to my earlier statement?”

With a smile, Mu Chen shook his head. Shooting a glance towards Xia Hou and his group, he replied, “What Captain Tang Mei’er said is extremely true. The treasures of the universe belong to those who are fated for them. Everyone has a shot at them, and anyone who tries to dominate all for themselves might be causing pain and suffering for themselves.”

Mu Chen didn’t conceal any hidden meanings in his words, with the anti-Saint Spiritual Academy intent being exceedingly thick. He didn’t have a single bit of any favorable impression towards this Spiritual Academy. From the very beginning, when he was in the Spiritual Road, that Ji Xuan was able to scheme against him by relying on the strength of the Saint Spiritual Academy. Therefore, Mu Chen didn’t have any good feelings towards the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy.

Faint sounds of clamoring rang out from the numerous groups present in the region, as they could tell that the groups from three of the Great Academies were taking precautions against the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy. From the looks of it, even though the group from the Saint Spiritual Academy was strong and powerful, they were not able to fight in a one-to-three situation.

A few Captains exchanged glances with each other and clicked their tongues as they thought, *This Tang Mei’er’s really not an easy person to deal with.* With just a few short statements from her, she was able to garner support and suppress the arrogance of the Saint Spiritual Academy.

As clamoring noises rang out from the numerous groups in the surroundings, the faces of the Saint Spiritual Academy turned dark. One member even sent a chilling glare at Mu Chen, before speaking with a sneer, “A mere Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase still dares to blast his voice here. In our Saint Spiritual Academy, people who are at your strength don’t even have to qualifications to participate in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament.

Although the groups from the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy was weaker than the Saint Spiritual Academy by a bit, due to the tyrannical strength of Tang Mei’er and Zhou Yuan, the members from the latter group did not send their rebuke straight back, despite the fury and anger in their hearts. However compared to those two, Mu Chen was completely different. No one knew exactly why such a group would be sent to participate in this Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. Of the five people in his group, the only one whose strength was worth noting would be the girl’s. As for the others, they were simply not even worth a look.

Therefore, amongst the three groups in opposition with then, it was the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that clearly possessed no threat at all. Therefore, the group member that spoke out didn’t give a single care about the face of Mu Chen.

“What did you say?!” Seeing that fellow scolding Mu Chen, the faces of Xu Huang and the other two sank as they roared out in fury.

Hearing those roars towards him, the group member from the Saint Spiritual Academy shot a smirk towards the trio, being too lazy to bother about talking back to them. Contempt and disdain filled his eyes as he thought, *What qualifications do mere Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phases have to hoot at us?*

On the contrary, Mu Chen only gave a smile as he waved his hand, stopping the furious Xu Huang and the other two in their tracks.

“I don’t approve very much about what Captain Mu Chen had said.”

At this moment, the indifferent-looking Xia Hou, who had not said a single word since he arrived, finally gave a faint smile and slowly opened his mouth.

“Oh? Please advise, Captain Xia Hou,” replied Mu Chen with a faint smile. He knew that the Saint Spiritual Academy would definitely do something in this current situation. If not, wouldn’t that show that he was scared of the other three Great Academies present here?

As of now, in this current situation, if the persimmons were ripe for the picking, Mu Chen and his group were clearly the weakest.

“The treasures of the world don’t belong to those fated for them, but for the strong...”

Crossing his slender fingers together, Xia Hou slightly raised his eyelids, before saying, “If one doesn’t possess sufficient strength, those so-called ‘treasures’ would only result in attracting a catastrophe for oneself. Therefore, I had to advise some people that if they don’t possess that level of strength, they should not be blind and participate to avoid losing their little lives. It’s not worth it at all when then happens. Captain Mu Chen, do think that what I said makes sense?”

At this moment, the entire region turned silent as numerous groups held their breaths, as they could faintly sense the sensation of daggers being drawn from the surrounding atmosphere.

Staring straight at Xia Hou, a radiant smile surfaced on Mu Chen’s face. Slowly nodding his head, he replied, “What Captain Xia Hou said is correct.”

A similar smile surfaced on Xia Hou’s face as he gently nodded his head and said, “Since Captain Mu Chen agrees with me... I’ll have to invite you to take your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy group and leave here, as I believe that you don’t have the qualifications to stay here.”

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 467: Qualifications**

“...Don’t have the qualifications to stay here...”

When that statement rang out from Xia Hou’s mouth with indifference, the entire region instantly turned silent, with the eyelids of quite a few groups slightly twitching in response. Who would have guess that this seemingly placid Xia Hou would be that fierce upon opening his mouth, to the point of not giving any bit of face?

With this statement, he had completely tore away the face of Mu Chen and his group.

At this moment, a few experts started exchanging glances. From the looks of it, Xia Hou had started his counterattack against the actions of Tang Mei'er uniting the Martial Spiritual Academy and the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. After all, in the current situation, three of the Great Academies were clearly suppressing the prestige of his group. Faced with such a situation, if Xia Hou didn't do something to regain his superiority, it would inevitably weaken the fame and prestige of the Saint Spiritual Academy. Therefore, he needed to make such a move.

Although the cultivation of Tang Mei'er and Zhou Yuan weren't on par with him, both of them were rather formidable, since they had touched the cusp of their Spiritual Energy Disaster, albeit their failure to pass through it. Nevertheless, their strength far surpassed that of ordinary Human Body Disaster experts. If the two of them were to collaborate and take action together, they would be able to create some obstruction for him.

Compared to Tang Mei'er and Zhou Yuan, Mu Chen clearly appeared to pose not a single advantage for himself. With his cultivation at Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, he didn't even possess the qualifications to reach the lowest level for their group. Therefore, of these three people, if he needed to pick the most suitable one to be the sacrificial lamb, Mu Chen would clearly be the best choice.

At this moment, the expression on Mu Chen's handsome face was still one of calm and tranquility. Clearly, he didn't feel any bit of fury or anger at Xia Hou's statement. On the contrary, an arc of a smile started to appear at the corner of his mouth.

"Haha, Captain Xia Hou. The way you find your sacrificial lamb truly is great," said Tang Mei'er with an alluring laugh, one which contained tones of mockery and ridicule. With her level of intellect, how could she not spot the schemes of Xia Hou? Although she didn't have any relationship with the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, due to Mu Chen's relation with Tang Qian'er, it was impossible for her to close an eye towards Xia Hou's action.

Hearing her words, Xia Hou only gave a faint smile, before shooting a glance at Mu Chen and said, "When did the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy need an all-female Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy to protect its honor and dignity?"

The mouths of every group around cracked open upon hearing those words as they thought, *This Xia Hou is really harsh.*

"You're made a mistake, Captain Xia Hou. This is just something that naturally appears to people with good relations with others," replied Mu Chen with a faint smile. "However, I also have something to tell Captain Xia Hou."

Staring at Xia Hou, a chilling luster started to slowly condense within his black pupils as he continued saying, "I feel that you don't have to qualifications to say that we lack the qualifications."

As Mu Chen sprouted those words, a tremble shook through the hearts of quite a few groups, with even Tang Mei'er and Zhou Yuan shooting astonished gazes towards Mu Chen. Clearly, none of them had imagined that the latter would actually dare to face against Xia Hou in such a straight-up fashion. Nevertheless, this also caused them to slightly wrinkle their foreheads. Although they disliked the arrogance shown by the Saint Spiritual Academy, truthfully speaking, both of them still possessed

extreme dread towards Xia Hou and his group within their hearts. Therefore, they didn't go all-out and tore at the faces of the Saint Spiritual Academy by showing some restraint in their words. However, such an action by Mu Chen seemed slightly too reckless and hot-headed.

After all, the disparity in the strength of their groups was too great, when compared to Xia Hou's. Once they infuriated Xia Hou, he might cause them to pay a miserably great price today.

On the contrary to everyone else, Xu Huang and the other two heaved their chests out while viciously staring towards Xia Hou and his group. Although they were clear on how strong and powerful the other party was, they similarly had Mu Chen and Luo Li on their side. The combat prowess of these two people were absolutely off the charts. Furthermore, the three of them had a deep understanding of Mu Chen, being that the latter would not do any reckless actions due to him getting hot-headed. From the looks of it, since he didn't plan on giving much face to Xia Hou and his group, it clearly meant that he had the capability of handling the other party when they get angry.

Xia Hou coldly stared at Mu Chen for a long while, before a mocking smile curled up from the corner of his mouth. Not giving any reply, he gently gave a wave of his hand.

Behind his back, two youths with faces brimming with ice-cold expressions slowly stepped out, while boundless Spiritual Energy flaring out from their bodies. These two people's cultivation was of Human Body Disaster. If placed in the groups of other Spiritual Academies, they would already be Captain-level figures. However, within their Saint Spiritual Academy groups, they could only be Ordinary-level members.

The two sent a chilling glare towards Mu Chen and his group. Similarly, without saying a single word, with a move of their bodies, Spiritual Energies surged out from them as they instantly transformed into two glowing figures. Shooting out, two long blades appeared in their hands, before both of them sent a slash out.

Bang!

The two gigantic hundred-metre long blade lights swept out, splitting apart the air, while two bottomless blade scars appeared in the ground below. Upon taking action, the two people had sent such a fierce move, clearly planning to teach a good lesson to Mu Chen and his group.

Letting his hands slightly hang down, not a single fluctuation was present within Mu Chen's eyes as he looked towards the blade lights hurtling over. At this moment, the Spiritual Energy radiating from his body still appeared calm, with him showing not the slightest bit of intent to dodge or to defend.

Swish!

At the instant when the blade lights arrived, reaching a foot away from Mu Chen's body, Luo Li took a dainty step out. Using the Luo Shen Sword in her hand to draw a sword flower and sending it out, she blocked those two blade lights by violently chopping them down like a barrier.

Bang!

As the blade lights and the Sword Aura collided, the gazes that had converged from the surrounding region had fiercely contracted, with even the faces of those Human Body Disaster experts from the Saint Spiritual Academy slightly changing.

Holding a sword in her hand, Luo Li stood before Mu Chen, her exquisite-looking figure not moving a single inch. The combined attack from the two was unexpectedly unable to deal any damage to her.

“Yi. Quite formidable.” Tang Mei’er’s beautiful eyes lit up. *That’s why Mu Chen was so calm! He has such a formidable person within his group, and her strength might not be any weaker than our own.*

*However, if she’s that formidable, why did she allow Mu Chen to be the Captain?*

“Return a favor with a favor.”

A faint chilling intent flashed across Luo Li’s clear eyes, before suddenly shooting out in the next instant, with the sword tightly clenched in her hands as she sent a straight slash.

There weren’t any bells and whistles attached to her sword slash, yet the Sword Aura radiating from it was sharp and fierce to an extreme limit. Appearing like a silvery river streaking across the horizon, splitting even the skies into two halves as the light of the Sword Aura rushed towards the two Human Body Disaster experts from the Saint Spiritual Academy at lightning speed.

This sword slash caused the faces of the two to greatly change. Not daring to show one bit of neglect, Spiritual Energies erupted from their bodies without any restraint as they gripped their long blades and furiously slashed out.

“Sea Breaking Divine Blade!”

“Mountain Cleaving Blade!”

Furious roars rang out as the two blade lights flared akin to scorching suns, radiating eye-dazzling brilliance, causing quite a few people to squint their eyes.

Bang!

Like bolts of lightning, the Sword Aura’s light shot over, without hesitating one bit to slash down on the two blade lights. In the next instant, clear metallic sounds resounded across the horizon.

Astonishing gales wreaked havoc as they spread out.

Clarity quickly returned to the skies as everyone casted their gazes back, only to see the young girl slowly sheathing the longsword in her hand, concealing the exceedingly fierce and sharp sword light. As for the two Human Body Disaster experts before her, their faces had turned ashen at this moment, while heart-palpitating fear appeared within their eyes.

Both of them vacantly looked at the long blades within their hands. Unexpectedly, a glossy scar had appeared on the surface of those two long blades, which were almost on par with High Grade Spiritual Weapons, before they split into two.

Under her sword, their collaboration had miserably failed, with their Spirit Blades even being sliced in half.

The countless groups in the surroundings were completely dumbfounded as they looked at the graceful and elegant girl. All of them were completely unable to picture her and her stunningly beautiful appearance with the swift and fierce attack that she had made earlier.

“Formidable.”

Both Tang Mei'er and Zhou Yuan gave their own praise. Although Luo Li's cultivation has not yet reached the realm of Spiritual Energy Disaster, she might not be far from it. The two of them never imagined that the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would actually have such a formidable Freshman in their ranks, something which truly shocked and astonished people.

At this moment, the indifferent face of Xia Hou finally started to slowly turn dark. He never imagined that this beautiful young girl standing by Mu Chen's side would actually possess such strength. That's why Mu Chen dared to provoke and challenge them. It was due to this kind of card up his sleeves?

“Such a good method by Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to actually hide their strongest person and let a useless fellow obscure everyone's sight, before obtaining the result of catching people off-guard.”

Waving his hand, Xia Hou called his two members back, before coldly staring towards Luo Li. At this moment, faint rays of brilliance started to condense around her white jade-like palms. This time, he had thrown away quite a large amount of his face. Therefore, he needed to personally take action.

“However, I really want to ask for advice as to exactly how much capability your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy possesses!”

A chilling glint flashed in Xia Hou's eyes as he took a step forward, while frightening Spiritual Energy swept out from his body like a hurricane. Under the degree and density of the Spiritual Energy radiating from him, even the entire region showed some change, far surpassing anything that those Human Body Disaster experts could do.

Spiritual Energy Disaster was a qualitative change in one's Spiritual Energy. When one passed through this tribulation, the degree and density of one's Spiritual Energy would far surpass those that have only passed their Human Body Disaster.

Swish!

Xia Hou explosively shot out, with his figure turning spectre-like, appearing in the air right before Luo Li in a flash. Curling his fingers to form a claw-like shape, a jade-like luster coated his fingertips as extremely sharp sensations started to radiate from them.

“Star Picking Jade Hand!”

With a low roar, Xia Hou's bone-white hand appeared to unexpectedly pierce through space, violently reaching towards Luo Li at an indescribable speed.

Faced against such an attack, not a single shadow of fear or fright appeared within Luo Li's bright gem-like eyes. Instead, the jade-like hand that was clenching her longsword started to slightly relax.

Sensing Luo Li becoming completely relaxed, a frown appeared on Xia Hou's face. Clearly, such an action by her had raised some doubt in him. Nevertheless, faced against his attack, he didn't believe that the young girl before him would truly dare to accept his strike just like that.

Whoosh!

Just as Xia Hou's attack was about to land on Luo Li, the corner of his eyes suddenly twitch as a whooshing sound that erupted like a clap of thunder sharply rang out, while a frightening gale instantly enveloped him.

Sensing the ferocity and fierceness of the gale, the face of Xia Hou slightly changed as he replied with a palm patting out, directly smashing against the fierce gale.

Bang!

As his jade-white palm smashed against the gale, Xia Hou saw a black long spear seemingly sparkling with lightning arcs before him. At the end of the spear was a youth who was currently sending a faint smile towards him, one that contained endless chilling intent.

That was... Mu Chen?!

Xia Hou's pupils abruptly contracted.

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#### **Chapter 468: Dark Origin Forest**

As Mu Chen's figure appeared before Xia Hou's sight, the sharp black-coloured long spear had already brought about an overbearingly fierce gale as it was thrust forward at lightning speed, smashing head-on against the palm winds from Xia Hou's hand.

Bang!

At the instant of impact, astonishingly rampant gales instantly swept out like a hurricane. Under the impact of the frightening gales, layers of ripples even started to surface in the surrounding space.

As the frightening impact swept outwards, and was just about to smash against Mu Chen, suddenly, lightning arcs started to sparkle on his body as lightning runes started to surface on his chest. At this moment, his skin turned into a faint-black colour, appearing akin to a black-coloured metal, sparkling with incomparably destructive luster.

Bang!

Contrary to expectations, when the shock wave heavily impacted against Mu Chen's body, metallic sounds erupted out as a tremble shook through it. Despite being sent retreating back, not a single trace of injury was present on his body.

Before him, a tremble had similarly shook through Xia Hou's body. Nevertheless, instead of using his body to endure the impact head-on, he stomped his foot, causing exceedingly powerful Spiritual Energy to erupt out. Smashing head-on against the impact, a dull thump rang out as his body fluttered in retreat.



The two of them retreated a dozen metres back, before finally stabilising themselves.

The entire region sunk into a stretch of deathly silence.

The faces of all of the groups were filled with overwhelming shock as they took in the scene before them, while inconceivable feelings flooded their eyes. *That Mu Chen, who's cultivation was only at the Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, was actually able to contend head-on against that Xia Hou, who's cultivation was of Spiritual Energy Disaster? Furthermore, he didn't even receive any injuries at all?*

The faces of Tang Mei'er and Zhou Yuan slowly turned solemn as they looked towards the thin, handsome youth in a completely new light.

Both of them knew how formidable Xia Hou was. With the latter's cultivation at Spiritual Energy Disaster, he could be considered as top-notch, even within the entire Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. If the two of them were to face-off in a one-on-one duel with Xia Hou, they might be able to contend with him head-on for a few moves, but would absolutely not have any chance of victory. Therefore, they were still rather dreadful towards Xia Hou.

As for Mu Chen... with his cultivation being at Heavenly Completion Stage Late Phase, the disparity with Spiritual Energy Disaster was far too big. After observing Luo Li's strength earlier, they had some assumptions that Mu Chen being the Captain was just a pretense of concealing her. However, from the looks of it, this thought of theirs had been completely shaken.

This youth, who appeared to be of an ordinary realm of cultivation, seemed to possess an extremely frightening combat prowess.

"Tsk, tsk. Looks like we've made an error in our judgement. No wonder why that lass Qian'er would be so enraptured. He truly possesses some ability." Pursing her seductive red lips, Tang Mei'er gave a alluring laugh, while shooting a lovely gaze brimming with interest that swept to and fro across Mu Chen's body.

Licking his lips, Zhou Yuan stared towards Mu Chen. At this moment, his gaze had similarly turned somewhat scorching-hot, while his hands could not help clenching his black metal pole. Clearly, this fighting madman had also been triggered and was feeling itchy for a fight.

In the air, Xia Hou shot a dark stare towards Mu Chen, before slowly saying, "That's why you're that rampant. So it turns out that you have some ability."

Hearing that, Mu Chen gave a laugh, before giving a flick of his finger, causing the long spear in his hand to disappear. Raising his head to look towards Xia Hou, he replied with a smile, "I apologise for my poor performance. Compared to Captain Xia Hou, I still have some ways to go."

At this moment, he slightly paused, before continuing with a light laugh, "Now, do you still believe that we don't have those qualifications, Captain Xia Hou?"

Shooting a deep look towards Mu Chen, a smile unexpectedly surfaced on Xia Hou's face as he replied, "With your strength, if Captain Mu Chen doesn't possess the qualifications, perhaps there's isn't anyone here that would."

Although they were in a head-on confrontation only an instant ago, Xia Hou could feel the thorniness Mu Chen presented to him. Although he did not believe that the latter would truly be his match in an all-out battle, there were more important matters to pay attention to than that.

With a smile, Mu Chen cupped his hands. *This Xia Hou truly has character, being capable of knowing when to retreat and be patient.* Nevertheless, Mu Chen also knew that if he didn't show that level of strength in the earlier confrontation, that Xia Hou might not hesitate one bit to unleash a lethal blow to set himself up as the sacrificial lamb for everyone to see. However, as of now, seeing that Mu Chen's strength had exceeded his expectations, that fellow had instantly restrained the killing intent within his eyes.

Although they were the strongest group within this region, Xia Hou didn't have the confidence to not be taken advantage of by the Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy and the Martial Spiritual Academy after going all-out to deal with Mu Chen and his group.

Therefore, Xia Hou had no choice but to temporarily endure patiently awhile.

*Nevertheless... the strength of a Spiritual Energy Disaster truly is extremely powerful.*

Thinking about this, a slight frown appeared on Mu Chen's forehead. Compared to Mo Xingtian, this Xia Hou's strength seemed to be higher than the former by a notch. Although his current strength was much stronger than when he had crossed hands with Mo Xingtian then, he did not dare to harbor any neglect or contempt in his heart. According to his estimates, if they were to engage in a no-holds barred fight, it would result in a fierce battle that would not be inferior to the one he had with Mo Xingtian.

Mu Chen's gaze slightly dropped down. Nevertheless, although Xia Hou truly was a thorny opponent to deal with, Mu Chen hoped that the latter would not intentionally provoke him. If not... he would not mind letting the Saint Spiritual Academy have one of their groups disappear from this Great Spiritual Academy Tournament.

A chilling glint flashed across Mu Chen's eyes, before waving his hand towards Luo Li, while turning around and walking back to his group. At this moment, Xu Huang and the other two were sending a big thumbs-up towards him, while their faces brimmed with pride. As of now, Mu Chen was truly worthy of being the top student of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Even an elite figure like Xia Hou was actually forced to the point of having to call a temporary truce.

By their sides, the group from the Desolation Spiritual Academy had faces full of worship and admiration. Although they had seen Mu Chen take action before to defeat two Human Body Disaster experts in an one-on-two fight, they could not help continuously feeling shocked once again upon seeing Mu Chen actually being able to engage in a straight-on confrontation with Xia Hou, who was of Spiritual Energy Disaster.

Mu Chen gave a laugh towards them, before sweeping his gaze round in a circle. At this moment, there was no longer any doubt present in the gazes that shot from the groups hovering in the surrounding skies. On the contrary, presently within their eyes were some shades of worship and admiration. At this moment, all of them had finally looked towards the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy as one of the five Great Academies. After all, from the surface, their group truly appeared to be somewhat on the weak side.

Humm!

As Mu Chen was sweeping his gaze out, suddenly, a gigantic beam of light erupted from the depths of the Dark Origin Forest. Rushing straight through the clouds, a fragrance seemed to radiate from within. This smell caused the minds of countless people to tremble, before casting scorching-hot gazes towards the depths of the forest. *Indeed, there's some ancient ruins in there!*

Such a fragrance appeared to be caused by precious and rare heavenly treasures.

In the skies, the eyes of seemingly thousands of groups lit up at this moment, while they lasciviously licked their lips in greed, with all of them getting restless.

Upon smelling this mysterious fragrance, Mu Chen could instantly feel signs of some fluctuations seemingly appearing within the Spiritual Energy within his body, causing a shade of astonishment to flash within his eyes. *Could it be that there truly are heavenly treasures present within the depths of the Dark Origin Forest?*

"Looks like the groups here can no longer endure it anymore," said Lin Zhou in a low voice. As of now, the groups that had converged over here were increasing by the number, reaching a level that Xia Hou and his group could no longer be able to completely suppress them by themselves. Added with the current spectacle, the present situation was about to quickly go out of control.

Hearing those words, Mu Chen nodded his head in agreement. At the very beginning, he believed that the situation here would never be completely under control. As of now, with the news about this place being circulated around, that was even more of an impossibility.

"In a while, all of us should get ready to make a move. However, we must be careful, as I feel that there's something amiss about this place." Shooting a looking at the Dark Origin Forest, Mu Chen gave a slight frown. Whenever he looked at this region, it always gave him an extremely uncomfortable feeling.

Hearing his words, everyone nodded their heads, while starting to quietly revolve and circulate around the Spiritual Energies within their bodies

"The ruins have opened. Let's go! It's first come, first serve for such ownerless items!"

As the fragrance wafting around the region grew thicker and thicker, there were some groups that were finally unable to resist such enticement. As they roared out, in the next instant, a dozen groups rushed forward, seemingly in an instant.

Whoosh!

Very quickly, those groups rushed into the air above the Dark Origin Forest. However, just at the instant when they had rushed into the boundary, cries of shock and astonishment abruptly rang out from them as their figures rapidly descended. From the looks of it, it appeared as if the region was a flight-restricted area.

Puff!

Hundreds of figures disappeared as they dropped into the Dark Origin Forest.

Upon seeing this, everyone in the surroundings slightly gawked. From the looks of it, one wasn't able to fly high in the air within that region.

"Since you can't fly high in there, let's rush straight in!"

Very quickly, voices rang out from the surrounding groups once again, before group after group howled out. Descending onto the ground, they shot straight in towards the darkness forest.

"Should we make our move?" asked Xu Huang and the rest with impatience.

In response, wrinkles formed on Mu Chen's forehead, appearing as if he had felt something amiss.

"It's too quiet." Suddenly, Luo Li spoke out.

This instantly caused a shock of terror within Mu Chen's heart. *That's right, this forest is too quiet! When those hundred-plus people had descended into there, there should be some commotion at the very least! Why is there not a single sound yet?* Such a feeling was akin to them being devoured at the very instant they had landed in the forest.

"Looks like this place is extremely fishy," said Mu Chen with a solemn expression on his face.

Noticing Mu Chen's expression and response, the faces of Xu Huang and the rest slightly changed as they asked, "So, what now? Are we still going in to search for the ancient ruins?"

"It wasn't easy to find the ruins. We can't just give up so easily like that," replied Mu Chen as he shook his head. Looking towards those groups that were rushing into the Dark Origin Forest akin to a swarm of locusts, he spoke out in a soft voice, "Let's wait awhile and let these fellows feel out the way... look at them. There's still no movement yet from Xia Hou, Tang Mei'er and Zhou Yuan."

Shooting their sights over, indeed, Xu Huang and the rest noticed that there wasn't a single inch of movement from those three groups. Also, there were quite a few groups remaining in the surroundings, with all of their cultivation realms being quite high. Furthermore, all of them had maintained their calmness and rationale.

Crossing his fingers, Mu Chen looked towards the Dark Origin Forest, muttering, "I really want to see exactly what strange and weird things there are in this goddamn place..."

As Mu Chen and his group quietly waited on, they were unable to discover numerous figures concealed in the shadows within the dense woods on a mountain peak behind them. At this moment, all of their gazes were similarly focused towards the Dark Origin Forest, before unsympathetic and sinister laughter softly rang out.

"Looks like we didn't find the wrong place. This should be the Poison Woods. In the time of the Ancient Antiquity, this Shattered Continent was an Overlord-level power, with the Wood Divine Palace being one of the factions present there..."

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

### **Chapter 469: Demonic Trees**

Whoosh!

Figures started to swiftly shoot over from the ground below, before gushing into the Dark Origin Forest like a swarm of locusts.

As Mu Chen was tightly staring towards the Dark Origin Forest, his expression slightly changed after a while, when he discovered that there was still not much commotion coming out from within, despite the gigantic number of groups that had entered. This gave him a feeling as if this Dark Origin Forest was a stretch of isolated space.

Exchanging glances with Luo Li, Mu Chen's forehead was covered with wrinkles as this situation was slightly strange and weird.

"Get ready to move out. Everyone, be careful."

After pondering deeply, Mu Chen finally came to a decision and signalled with his hand. There wasn't anything free that falls from the sky. If they wanted to obtain some good harvest from the ancient ruins, they would have to take some risks.

Hearing Mu Chen's words, Xu Huang and the rest all nodded their heads, before starting to rapidly circulate the Spiritual Energies within their bodies, with Lin Zhou and his group rapidly following suit. After experiencing the strength of Mu Chen's group, they clearly planned to tightly stick together and stay under the shelter of this great shield.

"Let's go."

With a glance, Mu Chen could spot unrest stirring within the groups of the other three Great Academies as they were similarly unable to contain their impatience. No longer hesitating anymore, he shot forward, landing in the Dark Origin Forest before him in a short span of a dozen breaths. Looking at the jet-black colour surrounding him, it appeared as if they were on the tongue of an evil demon, causing people's hearts to palpitate.

Taking a deep breath, Mu Chen didn't hesitate much, before giving a tap with the tip of his feet, shooting straight into the forest like a wisp of green smoke. Behind him, Luo Li and the rest rapidly followed along.

As darkness came enveloping, it devoured Mu Chen's figure, causing him to slightly freeze up. The silence he sensed from behind, with even the wind sounds disappearing at this instant made him feel as if everything behind him had vanished, with the entire region around him appearing incomparably deathly silent. This change caused Mu Chen to feel shocked for a moment, before taking a breath of relief upon seeing Luo Li and the rest appearing behind him.

"Looks like no sounds are able to escape after entering this forest, with sounds from the outside similarly unable to enter," said Lin Zhou.

Hearing that, Mu Chen nodded his head. Sweeping his gaze out, Mu Chen saw that this forest was brimming with giant trees that extended high into the skies, with all of them having a jet-black colour. The lush and verdant branches enveloped a circumference of a hundred metres each, interweaving with each other to the point of hiding the skies and covering the earth, even to the point that sunlight was unable to penetrate through. Therefore, it appeared exceedingly dark and gloomy within the midst of this forest.

Mu Chen's team of ten people converged together as they carefully and slowly walked within the forest, boundless Spiritual Energies rippled around their bodies. Any bit of a breeze or grass movement would instantly cause erratic attacks to shoot from them.

Nevertheless, after carefully moving forward awhile, Mu Chen and the team were shocked to discover that they had not received a single attack yet, with this forest still remaining silent and motionless. Although the foliage from those giant trees was incomparably dense, for some strange and mysterious reason, they caused people to not sense any feeling of life and vitality...

"Wait!"

Suddenly, Mu Chen's footsteps came to a halt as he solemnly looked towards his front, as there were dozens of bones unexpectedly present on the ground there.

"Oh? Looks like there were also some people that had came here before." Looking towards those bones, Xu Huang and the rest spoke out in surprise.

"Not 'before'. These skeletons should belong to those groups that entered here earlier," replied Luo Li in a soft voice.

"What?" The faces of Xu Huang and the rest instantly changed. *How long ago was that?! Even if they were killed, their skeletons shouldn't be the only things left of them, right? From the looks of the skeletons, all the skin and muscles have been cleanly removed from them...*

Hearing her words, Mu Chen nodded his head in agreement, while sizing up his surroundings. A solemn expression was present in his eyes as he whispered, "Be careful. There's something strange about this forest."

Along the way, they have yet to bump into any attacks, and have yet to even see the shadow of a single beast. This forest appeared to have no living creatures present within it. However, the bones before them had clearly told them that there definitely was something frightening within this forest.

The ten people quietly drew even closer to each other, yet none of them were able to discover the earth below their feet starting to slightly shake.

Bang!

Suddenly, the black leaves that covered the ground fluttered up as numerous black rays of light shot out. At lightning speeds, they wrapped around the waists of Xu Huang and Lin Zhou, pulling them up into the air.

The sudden and unforeseen change caused everyone to be in shock. Turning his gaze around, Mu Chen saw that those black rays of light were actually black-coloured vines. At this moment, there was even fresh blood flowing down on their surfaces, before being devoured as the vines squirmed and moved about.

Being wrapped by the vines, the faces of Xu Huang and Lin Zhou greatly changed. Nevertheless, none of them were overly flustered as they circulated their Spiritual Energies, sending hand blades brimming with fierce and swift gales that violently chopped down on those vines.

However, despite possessing sufficient power to shatter and cleave mountains, upon landing on the vines, their hand blades were only able to cause faint wounds to appear. From the looks of it, the defensive capabilities of these vines were extraordinarily strong.

Swish!

Suddenly, black tree spikes, approximately half a metre long, shot out from the ends of the vines. Whooshing out, dark shadows thrust towards Xu Huang and Lin Zhou without the slightest bit of mercy.

Seeing this, shock and terror instantly overwhelmed the eyes of the two.

Swish!

Nevertheless, just before the incomparably sharp black tree spikes were about to pierce through the throats of the two, an extremely swift and fierce sword light shot over, sweeping over the black vines. With a puff, all of them were sliced apart, causing Xu Huang and Lin Zhou to drop down. Falling onto the ground, they hastily climbed and stood up, their bodies all tense and taut.

“Thanks.” With their faces being drained of colour and their hearts palpitating with fear, Xu Huang and Lin Zhou said their thanks towards Luo Li.

Luo Li only gave a slight nod as she clenched her longsword. Although the vines possessed astonishing defenses, under the Luo Shen Sword, they appeared to be as weak as paper. Nevertheless, they were impossible to defend against, making them incredibly troublesome.

Sweeping his gaze slowly around, Mu Chen finally focused his sights towards those black-coloured giant trees. In the next instant, his eyes furiously contracted as he roared, “Be careful! There’s something strange about those trees!”

Whoosh!

Just as Mu Chen’s roar left his throat, the giant black trees in their surroundings, which showed not one bit of movement earlier, had unexpectedly started to crazily vibrate at this instant. In the next moment, black vines hid the skies and covered the earth as they shot out from those giant trees, enveloping around Mu Chen and the team.

Colour drained from the faces of everyone as Spiritual Energy erupted from their bodies. Various kinds of Spiritual Weapons appeared in a flash, sending swift and fierce attacks to meet with the incoming vines that were shooting over.

Wielding his Devouring Demonic Dragon Spear, spear glints swept out, causing those black vines within his attack radius to instantly shatter and break apart. Nevertheless, the person within their team of ten that had the most easiest time was clearly Luo Li. Being swift and fierce to such a degree, as sword light shot out from the Luo Shen Sword, the countless vines in their path would split apart, with the areas sliced appearing as smooth as mirrors. As they fell down, blood dripped from them, causing the holes to appear as they corroded the ground beneath.

The team formed a circle and they grouped together, sending boundless attacks that completely blocked the assault from those vines. At this moment, the ground in their surroundings was seemingly covered in broken bits of vines.

However, despite that, the assault from those vines endlessly continued, like a stream. Such an offensive was exceedingly terrifying.

“If this continues, we’ll be buried alive in here!” growled Zhao Qingshan between his clenched teeth. Without a Divine Weapon like the Luo Shen Sword, it was extremely energy consuming for them to chop and slice up those vines. If this continued, they might expend all of their Spiritual Energy extremely quickly, and when they were out of Spiritual Energy, what awaited them would naturally be the same outcome as those bones.

“Let’s push forward!”

Mu Chen decisively roared out, before paving the way with Luo Li. As the Demonic Spear and Divine Sword shot out, they carved out a path within those vine attacks that had hidden the skies and covered the earth. Taking this opportunity to shoot out, Lin Zhou and the rest tightly followed them, not daring to lag behind even by half a step.

The vines that hid the skies and covered the earth had filled up the entire stretch of forest, wriggling and squirming about like fingers, appearing like an exceedingly ghastly sight to behold.

“Puff!”

However, just as Mu Chen and the team were about to increase their speed in an attempt to escape from the assault from the vines, the black demonic trees in their surroundings started to abruptly tremble. In the next instant, black smoke started to gush out from their trunks, radiating in all directions.

“Careful!”

Being the first to discover the black smoke that was quickly flooding over, Luo Li immediately sent a sword light shooting over. However this time, the sword light was only able to pass through that black smoke, unable to dissipate or destroy them.

Seeing this, a frown appeared on Mu Chen’s forehead as he sent a palm patting out. Majestic Spiritual Energy brought along boundless gales as it howled out, shoving the black smoke back some distance. However, very quickly, it started to sweep towards them once again.

“Ah!”

While Mu Chen was getting troubled by that black smoke, a miserable shriek suddenly rang out from behind. Casting a glance over, he saw that the hand of a member from the Desolation Spiritual Academy had come into contact with the black smoke. In the next instant, his hand started to wither at an astonishing speed, with his blood and flesh appearing to be completely devoured, leaving only his bald white bones.

Chopping down with his blade, Lin Zhou severed the arm of that member, before rapidly pulling him within the protective circle of the team.

That severed arm had turned into bones in the blink of an eye, with all the blood and flesh on it having completely vanished.



“Dammit! That’s poison!” growled Lin Zhou as he clenched his teeth. “This poison’s too overbearing! Furthermore, it has the ability to penetrate through Spiritual Energy. I simply don’t dare to even come into contact with it!”

“We seem to be surrounded by that poisonous smoke,” said Mu Fengyang with a bitter laugh. At this moment, their team had already come to a stop. That’s because the poisonous smoke had already hid the skies and covered the earth as it surrounded them. They had already walked into a dead end, with no path forward or backwards...

A dark expression appeared on Mu Chen’s face as he looked at the scene before him. After rushing in here for the ancient ruins, every step was truly laced with astonishing dangers. A moment of carelessness might result in them becoming fertilizer for these demonic trees.

“What should we do?” asked Luo Li while wrinkles appeared on her forehead. The situation before them appeared rather thorny.

Mu Chen’s eyes sparkled as he looked towards the layers of poisonous smoke in his surroundings. Suddenly, a thought appeared in his mind as he extended his right hand. Clenching his four other fingers, he extended his middle finger out, before giving a furious stab towards a strand of poisonous smoke.

Upon seeing his action, Luo Li was frightening to the point of her little face turned deathly-pale. The poisonous smoke in their surroundings was extremely overbearing, with the consequences of touching it being extremely severe. Nevertheless, as she had extended her hand to stop Mu Chen, she noticed, in astonishment, that the clump of poisonous smoke fluctuated, before unexpectedly being sucked into Mu Chen’s middle finger.

“Are you alright?!” Luo Li anxiously cried out as she hastily grabbed his hand.

With a smile, Mu Chen shook his head. Looking towards the incomparably overbearing poisonous smoke, a smile cracked open from his lips. This smile no longer contained any of the dread or terror from before. On the contrary, it appeared as if he had seen a treasure.

This poisonous smoke was exceedingly formidable. With it, his “Poison Finger” that was used up during his battle with Mo Xingtian, he could finally replenish its Poison Aura once again.

## [The Great Ruler](#)

### **Chapter 470: Replenishing the Poison Finger**

A ring of black poisonous smoke lingered in their surroundings, completely sealing off their paths in all directions. This poisonous smoke was exceedingly overbearing, and even possessed the additional mysterious effect of being able to corrode Spiritual Energy. Therefore, once one came into contact with it, one might have to pay quite a huge price.

Solemn expressions appeared on the faces of Xu Huang and the rest as they tightly clenched their Spiritual Weapons, their palms dripping with sweat.

As their hearts raced and pounded, Mu Chen continued staring at the poisonous smoke, while a smile brimming with surprise and elation surfaced at the corner of his mouth. In the next instant, waving his hand gently, he spoke out, “Don’t move from your current positions.”

After saying those words, Mu Chen proceeded to take two steps forward, walking straight towards the black poisonous smoke.

Seeing Mu Chen's action, Luo Li couldn't help biting her lips. Although worry and anxiousness filled her heart, she did not go forward and restrain Mu Chen. At this moment, the only thing she could clearly do was to believe that Mu Chen wasn't about to do some nonsensical or idiotic action.

Xu Huang and the rest were similarly staring towards Mu Chen in shock, unable to comprehend what he was planning on doing.

Within their doubtful gazes, Mu Chen slowly extended a finger of his, which subsequently turned into a jet-black colour rapidly. At this moment, a faint, strange smile started to waft out from the fingertip. This finger of his was previously sealed by the Northern Sea Dragon, before being transformed by the Black Divine Lightning Poison that had flooded his body time after time again during his training. Now, this finger of his undoubtedly possessed an extremely strong poison resistance.

This poison finger of his was considered one of Mu Chen's concealed killing moves. During his intense battle with Mo Xingtian, after being struck by his poison finger, the latter's body had disintegrated, with his Spirit landing in Mu Chen's hands, which was shattered with a single clench.

However, although his poison finger was formidable, it had a downside, which was that Mu Chen wasn't able to produce the poisonous strength that was required for it. To replenish its poisonous strength, he could only absorb the strength from external sources. This sounded simple enough, as there was a gigantic quantity of poisons from various sources present in the world. It's just that wanting to find a poison source that has a poisonous strength that exceeded that of the Black Divine Lightning Poison was clearly something that wasn't easy to accomplish with Mu Chen's current level of cultivation. Therefore, after completely using the might of his poison finger to kill Mo Xingtian, its poisonous strength was completely depleted. This caused him to feel extremely regretfully; after all, he had lost an extremely powerful and lethal trump card. To him, this was quite a big loss.

However, from the looks of it... he seemed to be able to make up for this regret of his.

Although the black poisonous smoke before him wasn't as overbearing as the Black Divine Lightning Poison, it was clearly an exceedingly vicious poison. This poisonous smoke was able to corrode Spiritual Energy. In the future, if he was to engage in a life-or-death fight with people, this was sufficient to be a vicious card to catch his enemy off-guard. Maybe, it might be able to dictate his control of that life-or-death situation then.

Hu.

Mu Chen deeply exhaled on the finger, causing its jet-black colour to turn even more abstruse. At this moment, this finger of his appeared exceedingly different from the other nine slender fingers of his. However, at this moment, a suction force abruptly swept out from the tip of the finger.

Humm! Humm!

As the suction force swept out, fluctuations instantly rippled within the surrounding poisonous smoke, with humming noises unexpected ringing out from within. In the next moment, Xu Huang and the rest

turned completely dumbfounded as they saw the poisonous smoke starting to rapidly rush towards Mu Chen, before streaming endlessly into the jet-black finger of his.

Xu Huang and everyone else were completely dumbfounded.

Sparkling with black light, Mu Chen's finger appeared akin to a bottomless pit, greedily devouring the poisonous smoke akin to having a feast. As more and more poisonous smoke drilled into it, the black colour of the finger grew increasingly abstruse. From the looks of it, it appeared as if it was condensed from a clump of black liquid.

Such feasting continued for nearly ten minutes, with the originally dense black poisonous smoke in their surroundings gradually thinning out.

As the final strand of black poisonous smoke drilled into his finger, Mu Chen could not help letting a smile surface on his face. He never imagined that not only would the thorny poisonous smoke not cause much loss for their team, it had even allowed him to replenish his poison finger.

With a flick, the jet-black shade on his finger rapidly turned faint, before regaining its pale and slender look. Clearly, that poisonous strength had been suppressed by the seal left by the Northern Sea Dragon.

Turning around, Mu Chen looked towards the dumbfounded Xu Huang and the rest. Noticing their expression, he could not help giving a laugh and said, "Let's go. Looks like the poisonous smoke can no longer obstruct us."

"How... How did you do it?" asked Lin Zhou as he opened his mouth wide and stared at Mu Chen. The person before him was someone whose complete strength could never be judged by his common sense. Time and time after again, he had assumed that he had felt the bottom of the latter's strength. Yet, very quickly, such assumptions were broken by the latter once again...

"Just a small move of mine."

Giving a smile, Mu Chen didn't give much of an explanation. Although they had some friendly relations with Lin Zhou as of now, it clearly wasn't to the point that Mu Chen would disclose his cards.

"Let's go. Let's continue moving forward," said Mu Chen as he waved his hand as he looked at his surroundings. After he absorbed the poisonous smoke, the demonic trees in their surroundings had actually turned silent once again, quietly towering within the forest and not moving a single inch. However, Mu Chen knew that when they unleashed their fangs once again, this entire region might be covered with a lot of bones.

Shaking his head, Mu Chen started to recompose his thoughts. He didn't possess the strength or capability to clear out all of the demonic trees present here. As of now, the demonic trees had given up do to them being unable to do anything towards Mu Chen, despite bringing out their strongest card. If he was too vicious in forcing them out, it would result in those demonic trees going all-out. At that time, he didn't believe that he would be able to escape from this dangerous Dark Origin Forest. Therefore, it was for the best for the others to fend for themselves. If one wanted to search for treasure, one would need to be prepared to pay the heavy price for the risks involved.

With a tap of his feet, he shot forward like a wisp of green smoke, rapidly rushing towards the depths of the forest, with Luo Li, Xu Huang, Lin Zhou and the rest rapidly following suit behind him.

As Mu Chen and his team travelled rapidly into the depths of the Dark Origin Forest, all of the other teams in the forest were now suffering the attacks of the demonic trees, with many instantly dying or suffering severe injuries. Some unfortunate teams were completely destroyed, turning into piles of bones, forever to stay in this forest.

Only those strong and powerful groups would be fortunate enough to be able to break through those attacks from the demonic trees, though they had also paid quite a big price.

In fact, even groups as strong as the Saint Spiritual Academy, Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy and the Martial Spiritual Academy appeared exceedingly miserable, with them pulling out quite a few of their cards. Although they weren't able to break through in an overbearing manner like how Mu Chen had absorbed that poisonous smoke, they had some Spiritual Weapons that were able to resist against the poisonous smoke. Only with them were they able to escape in a miserable state and yet not pay too high a price.

After breaking through the death pit of demonic trees, all of the groups rapidly increased their speed as they shot towards the depths of the forest. With such formidable defenses already present here, the ancient ruins in front of them should not be an easy task to conquer. That also meant that if they were able to obtain a harvest from it, paying what price they had to pay would still be worth it.

While all of the groups were going all-out to break through the bloody death pit created by the demonic trees, a few black figures passed through within the shadows of the forest akin to spectres.

Swish! Swish!

Just as those black figures shot over a stretch of land, the earth below them shivered, as countless vines shot out from below. Extremely sharp luster sparkled from the sharp pointed ends of the tree spikes and vines, with black liquid even dripping from them. Clearly, they were coated with an extremely toxic poison, requiring only slight contact to cause definite death.

Whistling across the air, those tree spikes shot over, completely cutting off all the escape routes of those black figures.

However, despite being faced with such an impending danger, not a single bit of fear or fluster appeared within those black figures. At this moment, a faint smile appeared on the leading black figure as he raised his head, revealing a somewhat pale youthful face. Extending a withered and twig-like hand, green-coloured Spiritual Energy swept out from his fingertips, before transforming into green-coloured runes.

Whoosh!

As those green-coloured runes explosively shot out, they smashed head-on against those incoming vines.

As collisions occurred, not a single sound of explosions rang out, while those green runes appeared to have drilled straight into those vines. In the next instant, furious shivers shook through the vines as they shot away, with all of them drilling through the other vines present. Those vines appeared to be like guards, protecting those black figures. From the looks of it, those demonic trees we're unexpectedly being controlled by them!

Compared to Mu Chen, such a method was clearly even more mysterious and formidable.

Swish! Swish!

Within this region, demonic trees were crazily attacking one another, with vines piercing through giant trees, causing black-coloured blood to ooze out, making an exceedingly weird and strange spectacle.

Those black figures grinned as they observed this spectacle. After quite a while, only when all of the surrounding demonic trees were pierced and killed by those under his control did the youth wave his sleeve, causing green rays of brilliance to gush out from the remaining demonic trees. With a bang, they exploded apart, sending black blood-like liquid to shoot everywhere.

Clearly dreading those black poisonous liquids, the black figures helter-skeltered and evade them, not daring to let any come into contact with their bodies.

“These poisonous demonic trees have truly flourished. Nevertheless, it’s a pity that we don’t have time. If not, we would be able to get quite a good price for the Spirit Corroding Poison.” A black figure looked towards the black poisonous liquid, before speaking with some regret.

“Leave it be. Our goal is the Divine Wood Plaque within the gateway of the Divine Wood Palace. Once we obtain that Divine Wood Plaque, we’ll be able to find the genuine ruins of the Divine Wood Palace. To our Wood Spirit Clan, that’s the real great success,” said the leading black figure with a faint smile.

“However, of the groups that have arrived here, there are some that are very strong, especially those from four of the Great Academies. They aren’t good to deal with,” said a black figure.

With an indifferent smile, the leading black figure replied, “Within a place like this, we are King. Regardless of anyone that obstructs us from obtaining the Divine Wood Plaque, there will only be one outcome...”

With a furious clench of his twig-like arm, a malevolent and sinister killing intent erupted from his pale-white face.

“They will become the fertilizer that nourishes the great land!”

Hearing that, the black figures around him gave low and sinister-sounding laughter, their voices brimming with chilling intent.

“Let’s go.”

Waving his hand, the leading black figure shot off like a spectre, with the other black figures following close behind. In a blink of an eye, they disappeared into the shadows, leaving behind a mysterious scene of demonic trees pierced full of holes...