

Chapter 651 - Killing Them All (One)

Zhu Lie's face changed drastically. He erupted with flames, charging towards Ru Xin without any regard. Ru Xin continued to smile as she flew backwards. The two of them rapidly pulled closer before slowly pulling away again.

Various vicious diseases erupted in Zhu Lie at the same time. His body swelled up, his skin festered, and Ru Xin in his vision gradually blurred. His eyes became hazy, almost becoming blind.

"You can die with me, you crossbreed!"

Zhu Lie let out a fierce roar like a wild beast on the verge of death. His heart glowed brightly, thumping violently. His heart was almost about to explode. The hearts of fire devourers were like daemon cores to daemons. It was the centre where their power gathered. Once they blew it up, they could unleash alarming destructive power.

From such a close distance, death would be almost certain for Ru Xin.

"A trapped beast continues to fight. Sudden stop of the heart!" Ru Xin spread her fingers with a smile and closed her hand gently.

In that moment, all of Zhu Lie's power seemed to be drained from his body. Since birth, his heart fell silent for the first time, no longer beating anymore, and the flames on his body were extinguished as a result. He maintained his charge towards Ru Xin, doing his best to raise his trident and stab it at her.

Ru Xin turned to one side, brushing past him. Her pale, jade-like hand plunged straight into his chest, digging out a bright-red heart. It rapidly hardened in the wind, becoming a fire-red stone—the Heart of Melting Fire!

Diseases completely devoured Zhu Lie's body, causing him to die and rot. The plague ghost appeared from his body and returned to Ru Xin.

Ru Xin let out an indiscernible sigh and glanced at the sky. A bloody red gradually seeped through the azure-blue. She could vaguely sense she was probably under some kind of influence from the Dragon Arena, which was why she struggled a little to control her killing intent.

However, once the wild beast was released, how could it be locked up again?

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Li Qingshan left the great banyan tree and sensed an extremely distinct change. Murderousness had condensed in the air, while the sky had been dyed by a smear of blood-red. The tiger demon in his sea of consciousness growled with bloodthirstiness. If it were not for the spirit turtle's suppression, probably even he would be influenced.

With the refinement almost complete, the Dragon Arena could not be compared to an actual Asura Field, but it had already developed some resemblance. The cultivators from the sects and schools all engaged in blind slaughter, no longer holding back at all. In only a few days, thousands of cultivators had fallen in battle, which served like fuel to the flames, seemingly making the air burn.

The lake vanished, turning into a rising and falling stretch of desert. Si Qing's hunting plan was back on track. The seventeen Foundation Establishment cultivators had all rested up and built up strength. Flying sword arcane artifacts emerged from their hands, weaving a fine net with light and sealing off all of Li Qingshan's paths of advance and retreat.

Li Qingshan smiled, and his figure suddenly vanished. Although he did not turn invisible, all of the attempts to lock onto his aura failed. A hint of disorder appeared between the coordination of arcane artifacts, revealing an undetectable opening. He took advantage of the opportunity and slashed down. The net collapsed.

Right when he wanted to use the situation and chase after a few people, he suddenly felt his body grow heavy, slowing him down against his will. He knew he had already fallen for his enemies' technique, which should have been some kind of earth element technique. At the same time, at least seven techniques landed on him. Techniques were not as great as arcane artifacts, but they covered an extremely vast range, so all he could do was endure it. Among them, at least another four were techniques that slowed him down or limited his movements, so he immediately began to struggle to take another step forward.

The arcane artifacts flew over again with this opportunity. Every single one of them possessed the power to kill. The scarred man let out a bellow, and his arms swelled and thickened. The Earth Shattering Hammer of the Eight Directions became extremely large, smashing down from above.

Everyone eased up inside. Do you really think you can take on all of us together? Outnumbered, Li Qingshan was about to meet his doom from a single clash.

Clang!

A pitch-black tower appeared out of thin air. All of the arcane artifacts landed on it and were rebounded with clings and clangs, but the Earth Shattering Hammer of the Eight Directions' collision immediately drowned them out. The crook of his thumbs immediately ripped open, and the great rebounding force left him with internal injuries. As he stared at the pitch-black, unscathed tower, he felt disbelief.

Even Golden Core cultivators could not directly endure this strike of his, yet it was unable to smash through a strange tower. Little did he know that even Golden Core cultivators could not open Li Qingshan's Demon Suppression Tower, and that was even a head monk from the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga.

Everyone was surprised, but they were not afraid. They called out, "Assemble the formation!"

Immediately, eight cultivators took out the formation banners they had prepared a long time ago and surrounded the tower from eight directions, assembling the Sweeping Wind Formation of the Eight Directions. Immediately, the surroundings began to whistle madly with wind, sweeping up blades that slashed at the Demon Suppression Tower. It possessed the ability to build up damage and take down almost anything.

But to the Demon Suppression Tower, it was no different from a breeze, completely unconcerned about it. It even failed to leave behind a mark.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The cultivators used their strongest attacks to barrage the Demon Suppression Tower. A great rumble filled the entire desert.

Under these attacks, the Demon Suppression Tower tottered gently, almost collapsing. Eight Chains of Demon Suppression flew out from the surroundings and binded the Demon Suppression Tower in the air, preventing it from shaking anymore.

My demonic nature gushes endlessly. My sins are endless.

To Li Qingshan, this was his greatest defence only second to the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell.

No wonder he's so arrogant. Turns out he has a method to remain undefeatable! The scarred man was secretly surprised. He ordered loudly, "Everyone, take turns controlling the formation banners. Conserve your spiritual qi. Let's see when he can last until!"

Everyone nodded, and their faces twisted hideously. The stronger the arcane artifact or technique was, the more spiritual qi it would consume. If he only defended, then the only fate awaiting him was running out of spiritual qi.

This was a very logical conclusion, but the secret cultivation method of the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga was powered by the demonic nature of those suppressed in the tower.

Inside the tower, the reason why Li Qingshan did not charge out immediately and kill them all was because he could sense his demonic nature bubbling. During the battle, the tiger demon was becoming more and more restless. It had already been rather difficult for the spirit turtle to suppress the ox demon and tiger demon. Under the influence of the Dragon Arena's killing intent, the tiger demon that had always been frenzied was acting up more and more.

Before he dealt with the problems outside, he had to deal with the problems inside. Besides, compared to his own problems, the attacks outside were nothing. He comforted the tiger demon and split up the malice, sending one cluster to the dark-red demon heart, which became even clearer. He sent the other straight into the sword qi in his dantian, making the sword intent even sharper and more dangerous.

A while later, Li Qingshan let out a tiger's roar, no longer hiding and suppressing the demonic nature in him. Instead, he released it in a different way. His body swelled to three meters tall as he became covered in vicious-looking armour, so red that it seemed like he was bleeding.

He wielded the Traitorous Demon sword in his right hand while holding a black hoop in his right. It was the demonic artifact Si Qing was forced to give to him on the Soaring Clouds terrace. He originally wanted to harm him with it, but it was perfect for him. It was known as the Demon Reining hoop.

Seeing how the Demon Suppression Tower showed no signs of being destroyed, the Foundation Establishment cultivators gradually became stern, "He must be holding on through spiritual medicine that can rapidly recover spiritual qi. As long as we keep attacking him for a little longer, we'll definitely be able to force him out!"

Before they had even finished talking, the Chains of Demon Suppression pulled away. The moment everyone beamed with joy, they saw the Demon Suppression Tower hurtling over, smashing into the formation with a boom. All of the cultivators who wielded the formation banners had the wind knocked out of them.

“Maintain the formation! Don’t let him escape!”

The Demon Suppression Tower flew high into the air, revealing the hideous Demon General inside, which left everyone shocked. How has he become like that? They powered the formation even more frantically.

The wild wind landed on Li Qingshan, clanking loudly. The thick armour on him became covered in countless marks in the blink of an eye. Almost an entire layer had been shaved away.

Li Qingshan raised his hand and swung out with his sword!

The evil eye on the hilt released a ring of light before shrinking. The blood-red flash from the sword tore through its vision, as well as a cultivator who maintained the formation. Under his shocked gaze, he was split into two down the middle.

The Sweeping Wind Formation of the Eight Directions was destroyed!

The wind stopped.

At the same time, the Demon Suppression Tower rampaged about under Li Qingshan’s control, blocking countless attacks and completely scattering the encirclement of Si Qing’s lackey’s.

There were still many techniques that landed on him, but they were all blocked by the armour and nullified by demon qi. Li Qingshan did not stop, sweeping backwards with his sword. With a flash of blood-red light, a head hurtled into the air with blood.

His Three Absolutes sword qi was channeled into the Traitorous Demon sword, stored in there without being released. The sword intent possessed the tiger demon’s frenzied murderousness.

Simply by directing the sword at someone, the killing intent would stun them, making them unable to dodge. And, the evil eye would see through them, making them unable to block. No matter what enemy he faced, they all fell before a single stroke.

In that moment, he had endured who knew how many attacks. His defensive arcane artifacts were damaged, and his demonic armour was covered in cracks. He used this opportunity to swing out five times, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!

Only ten people remained out of the seventeen cultivators.

Li Qingshan scanned past them with two specks of red light that were his eyes. Everyone’s faces changed, overwhelmed with shock.

The battle went from the sky to the ground. Suddenly, a huge hand condensed from sand reached out of the desert and grabbed Li Qingshan. The scarred man swung the Earth Shattering Hammer of the Eight Directions with a furious roar and smashed down with it.

Li Qingshan’s demon qi surged, shaking off the huge hand before throwing a punch at the Earth Shattering Hammer of the Eight Directions.

Boom! The armour that covered his arm shattered into pieces, scattering in the surroundings.

The scarred man's eyes were completely widened as his hands dripped with blood. The Earth Shattering Hammer of the Eight Directions tore out of his grip and spun through the air. He suddenly felt his neck tighten, now wrapped by a black hoop. The Demon Reining hoop constantly tightened, digging into his flesh.

With a spurt, the thick neck was forcefully crushed apart. The last thing he said was, "So you've already been hiding your strength!"

During his battle with Zhu Lie, everyone saw how he had been forced into dire straits before turning the tables and triumphing after so much difficulty. Everyone thought that was the limit of his strength.

"Do you really think you can kill me with a bunch of useless people?" Li Qingshan let out a long laugh. The Demon Reining hoop flew back into his hand, and he pointed his sword at the sky. "Thank you for your generous gift!"

Si Qing saw this and clenched his hand. His face changed drastically.

"Kill him!" The remaining ten cultivators all riled up their courage and rushed towards Li Qingshan. However, they could not defeat him even when they had an advantage in numbers, let alone now after some of their companions were already dead. Li Qingshan fought hard, but not only did he feel no exhaustion, but his killing intent instead surged, still not satisfied yet.

In the blink of an eye, another four people died. The remaining six people were stricken with fear, scattering and fleeing for their lives.

With a wave of his hand, the Demon Suppression Tower suppressed one, the Chains of Demon Suppression banded one with a rattle, and the Demon Reining hoop wrapped around one. Without showing any mercy at all, he killed them all with a swing of his sword.

Si Qing could no longer care about these rules anymore. He controlled the Dragon Arena, wanting to send Li Qingshan out and directly kill him without any regard.

Chapter 652 - Killing Them All (Two)

Li Qingshan killed the people with delight while making preparations, holding onto the prayer beads from the Unraging Monk in his hand. Si Qing might not necessarily be able to accept this. If he truly tried to kill him without any regard, then he had no other choice either. He would be forced to bring out the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga as a shield. Probably even Si Qing would think twice by then.

But a while later, nothing happened at all. Li Qingshan was taken aback. Si Qing sure is shrewd, to even be able to put up with something like this!

Si Qing was taken aback as well before flying into a rage. As it turned out, before he knew it, the bottom of the Dragon Arena had already become dyed with a layer of pitch-black, and it was rapidly spreading. It actually wanted to steal the control over the Dragon Arena from him.

For a moment, he was unable to think about Li Qingshan anymore. He circulated his powers in a hurry to contend with the darkness as he bellowed in surprise and anger, "Who is it that's being so bold!?"

The darkness was completely unfazed, blindly expanding across the entire Dragon Arena.

After these days of preparation, he's finally taken action!

Gu Yanying thought as she stood on one side, watching on with interest. Jia Zhen and E Dan were unable to help out in a battle like this, while the Golden Core cultivators had no idea what was going on. However, when they saw how panic-stricken Si Qing became, all of them felt delighted.

Li Qingshan had no idea what was happening outside, but since Si Qing did nothing, he would continue his massacre. His soul sense had already locked onto the three fleeing Foundation Establishment cultivators. He leapt into the air and shot off in pursuit.

The sight around him changed, having reached another battlefield already. However, it no longer bore any resemblance to its original shape. Lights flashed and techniques criss-crossed, reducing the original landscape to a mess. Almost a thousand cultivators engaged in a melee within a region of several dozen kilometers. Every single one of them had become blinded by the killing.

The murderousness and battle intent continued to rise, merging with the Dragon Arena. The redness in the sky grew heavier.

Li Qingshan was mildly surprised. Si Qing was truly out of his mind. What was he trying to do?

Right as he chased after Si Qing's lackeys who managed to flee, he saw a few familiar people from the corner of his eyes.

Hua Chengzan and Wei Yangsheng led over a dozen Qi Practitioners as they struggled to maintain a formation. They were currently surrounded by a group of cultivators and were closed to collapsing.

Hua Chengzan gritted his teeth, constantly circulating his spiritual qi. Although he managed to retain his clarity, his handsome face also began to twist slightly, while the Qi Practitioners beside him were all in a frenzy. They all fought like they were trying to perish with their enemies.

What is going on exactly? Am I going to die here today?

No matter how clever Hua Chengzan was, he never could have guessed Si Qing's plan. Even if he managed to guess it, there was nothing he could do in response. The weak were always so powerless before the strong.

Boom! A huge man clad in armour descended from the sky, landing heavily on the ground thirty meters away from him. A few Qi Practitioners reacted a little too slowly, so they were launched away by the shockwave. Their bones all shattered, basically on the brink of death.

The huge man rippled with muscle and radiated with demon qi. His bright-red eyes swiveled around. The vicious aura he gave off was shocking.

Hua Chengzan knew with a single glance that even if he were in perfect condition, he would not be his opponent, let alone now when he was exhausted. He only blinked his eyes and the huge man vanished, sweeping around Hua Chengzan's group with a red whirlwind before stopping in front of Hua Chengzan.

Hua Chengzan looked around. Two Foundation Establishment cultivators and several dozen Qi Practitioners had been launched away. All of them had a horrific slash across their vital points.

Li Qingshan did not use the Traitorous Demon sword's ability at all to kill these people. He easily achieved this through the sharpness of the sword qi. After an intense battle, only thirty percent of his spiritual qi remained in the sword qi he nurtured, but he became even more nimble with his control over it.

"Monster!"

Cries rang out. Facing such a vicious being, even the Qi Practitioners who were influenced by the murderousness and had lost sight of themselves staggered backwards in fright.

Wei Yangsheng gritted his teeth, stabbing at the monster with his sword. However, he knew his life would probably be over here.

"The two of you, it's me. Where are the others?" Li Qingshan casually caught Wei Yangsheng's sword, and his face guard slid open.

Hua Chengzan was taken aback. The face was cruder and much more twisted, but he could vaguely make out Li Qingshan's figure. He could not help but exclaim, "Qingshan!"

Hua Chengzan explained the situation to him. Only then did Li Qingshan learn that originally, Hua Chengzan and the others went with their plan right from the beginning, gathering together in a battlefield. The leader of the school of Yin-yang, Ma Buyi, divined that there would be great danger in this competition, so they held their ground without any plans to fight anyone.

However, the developments caught everyone by surprise. When their original ambush against Li Qingshan failed, Si Qing's lackeys carried out their other missions instead. They carried out a massacre in the various battlefields. Against their combined charge, there was not a single sect or academy that could stop them. Immediately, they sustained heavy losses.

And, as time went on, the battlefields constantly vanished, and the killing intent constantly vapourised. Whenever they were transported, everyone in the battlefield would be gathered in a single location, which basically led to an immediate melee every single time. By now, they had all been dispersed, with chaotic battles going on everywhere. There was no need for ten days at all. Probably another day or two was enough for most of the cultivators to die.

The only thing worth celebrating was Si Qing's lackeys had suddenly all vanished at the same time as if they had been transported away. However, they had no idea when they would launch a sudden attack, which left them uneasy.

"Don't worry about them. I've killed all of them except three, who managed to escape. I was just about to chase after them! If that's the case, come with me. We'll gather everyone together first."

Li Qingshan said. In the beginning, he never expected the situation to develop like this either. He thought Si Qing was merely creating an opportunity to kill him. As it seemed now, it was not that simple. He could not help but become rather worried about Ru Xin, Chu Danqing, and everyone else's safety.

For the moment, he could not be bothered with dealing with the three stray mutts. It was not like they could flee anywhere in the Dragon Arena. He only had to wait for another day or two to pass, and there would only be a single battlefield remaining. It would be even more convenient to kill them by then.

“What! You killed them all?” Wei Zhongsheng was shocked. Everyone had witnessed the strength of those people. They could basically be described as crushingly powerful. They all thought Li Qingshan had already fallen to their murderous plans when he did not meet up with them in the beginning, even worrying for him!

Looking at Li Qingshan’s current shape, Hua Chengzan wondered to himself. This is probably the strength he’s been hiding, but why does it look like the legendary demonification? However, he also understood that now was not the time to ask about something like that.

“Qingshan, have you seen Chenglu?”

“Don’t worry, she’s doing very well. She’s already broken through to Foundation Establishment. There’s something wrong with the Dragon Arena. Do you know any way to make these people calm down?”

As they spoke, a few more almost-frenzied Qi Practitioners rushed over rashly, and Li Qingshan butchered them in a single stroke. Although Li Qingshan had no idea what Si Qing was trying to do, he would definitely oppose him. You want them to kill each other? Then I’ll make them coexist peacefully.

Hua Chengzan cried out, “But Chenglu is only an eighth layer Qi Practitioner!”

“You’ll understand when you see her.”

Wei Yangsheng said, “If junior brother Mind Enlightenment chants the Peace Spreading mantra, or if junior sister Qin Xin plays the Mind Clearing tune, then perhaps it might have some effect.”

“Where are they?”

“Dispersed.”

“Just talking is useless.”

Li Qingshan sucked in a deep breath and kicked up a whirlwind. His chest bulged high into the air, and he unleashed a deafening bellow that was like a clap of thunder from the sky. Sound waves swept off into the surroundings. The Foundation Establishment cultivators were fine, but the Qi Practitioners all felt their eardrums shudder as their heads ached slightly. Their minds that killing intent had enveloped cleared up slightly.

Li Qingshan did not know some sort of technique like the Lion’s Roar from buddhism, but he practised the Demon Suppression Statuary, so he imbued his voice with the power of demon suppression, deterring everyone’s demonic nature. However, this bellow alone was clearly nowhere near enough. Cultivators continued to fight and kill endlessly in the distance.

Li Qingshan flew into the air and tossed out the Demon Reining hoop, drawing them in one group after another and reining in the Qi Practitioners who fought most viciously. At the same, the Chains of Demon Suppression whistled out and bound a few Foundation Establishment cultivators who were blinded by the slaughter. However, he only subdued them. He did not kill them. He brought them all into the air together.

“Stop fighting. I’ll kill whoever that keeps fighting! Fucking hell, you’re still fighting. Eat this, my hidden weapon!”

Li Qingshan obviously had not prepared some “hidden weapon”. As a result, he extended his finger, and the Chains of Demon Suppression suddenly wrapped around a Qi Practitioner and threw him away. As he screamed out, he smacked into another Qi Practitioner and was smashed to pieces.

For a moment, the shrill screams of people facing death and the whistling of the “hidden weapon” filled the air. Just like this, Li Qingshan killed over a dozen people and finally controlled the situation.

Although basically everyone was bubbling with killing intent under the influence of the Dragon Arena, their minds slowly cooled down under the threat of death. They all raised their heads.

“I’m Li Qingshan. Si Qing has set up a scheme for us to kill each other, so don’t fall for it and lose your lives for nothing, idiots. The Dragon Arena can influence your mind. Everyone, start meditating immediately and guard your mind. I’ll count to three. If anyone is still standing, I’ll kill them!”

Li Qingshan counted to three and not a single cultivator stood anymore. As a result, he nodded in satisfaction. He placed all the cultivators he had reined in on the ground too. The faces of the Foundation Establishment cultivators were very ugly, but they still managed to clasp their hands at Li Qingshan, while the Qi Practitioners who had not been knocked away by the huge hidden weapons threw themselves onto the ground, almost tempted to prostrate themselves at him.

However, Hua Chengzan noticed that most of the people Li Qingshan tossed out were dressed as Si Qing’s subordinates. But clearly, Li Qingshan was not mentally burdened by killing a few innocent people either. If they angered him, he could even kill all the cultivators here, let alone a few.

“I still have to go to the other battlefields. You stay here and keep an eye on them. Don’t let them kill each other. If I come back and I still see fighting, I’ll make you all bleed one by one. There are still a few more days until this competition ends, so none of you’ll be able to escape punishment!”

Li Qingshan gathered all the Foundation Establishment cultivators present and threatened them without holding back at all. Their mentality and cultivation completely surpassed what Qi Practitioners possessed. Once they calmed down, the influence on them was much weaker, and they could suppress the Qi Practitioners too.

Whether they were from sects or the hundred schools, the Foundation Establishment cultivators all said, “We would never!” Under Li Qingshan’s threatening gaze, none of them had any doubts that they would be cut down as soon as they showed the slightest objection.

“Good! I’ll go find the others!”

Li Qingshan immediately set off to the other battlefields. No matter what Si Qing wanted to do, he would definitely screw it up for him.

Chapter 653 - Killing Them All (Three)

Li Qingshan moved from battlefield to battlefield, yelling out at first to capture their attention before making an example out of people by killing them. In the end, he would talk and gather all the Foundation Establishment cultivators to retain order. After gaining experience, he performed his job even more smoothly.

This was obviously all built on the precondition of absolute strength. He was already at peak Foundation Establishment, and combined with his demon heart, demonification, and a powerful weapon like the Traitorous Demon sword, he could even take on regular early Golden Core cultivators. There were no Foundation Establishment cultivators that could oppose him.

Apart from his strength, the power of demon suppression from the Demon Suppression Statuary played a crucial role. No matter how frenzied and bloodthirsty a cultivator was, basically all of them would recover their rationality very quickly once they were wrapped in the Chains of Demon Suppression.

Wherever Li Qingshan passed by, battles would end immediately. Then, he would gather everyone together. The cultivators from the Academy of the Hundred Schools of the Clear River prefecture all gathered around him. Most of those who fell in battle were Qi Practitioners, and most of the Foundation Establishment cultivators were still alive. Ru Xin and Chu Danqing were fine, which brought him relief.

Afterwards, he made the buddhist monks gather together and chant buddhist scriptures and the disciples of the school of Music play their instruments. Afterwards, he made the cultivators of the various schools and sects use techniques that could calm the mind to resist the influence of the Dragon Arena. He had finally placed the situation under his control. The rising murderousness and boiling battle intent gradually settled down.

Si Qing was clashing against the mysterious black shadow. When he saw this, he could not help but panic. He was tempted to carve Li Qingshan to pieces, but he could not split his focus at all right now. His opponent was extremely powerful, and he possessed a dense power of death, invading and eating away at his life force.

There had never been a lot of people who could fight equally against him. He had already guessed who he was. "Even the crown prince of the Green province daemons would desire my useless arena?"

"Si Qing, do you think I don't know how Asura Fields are refined?"

Mo Yu stopped hiding his identity. He had always been in the Ruyi commandery, investigating who had killed his subordinates and took the Three Absolutes Calligraphy. This was not difficult for him. Even if there were no leads or traces, he could follow the aura of death and find the murderer. However, the end result surprised him, forcing him to slow down with the investigation. Afterwards, he happened to witness Si Qing's battle with the Golden Core cultivators, which allowed him to get an idea of what he was trying to do.

Si Qing's face changed. "I am a prince of the Great Xia empire. Aren't you afraid of the imperial court punishing you for stealing from me?"

Mo Yu said, "You're sacrificing so many cultivators, yet you're not afraid of the imperial court's punishment?"

Both of them possessed noble statuses, and they both knew very well that so-called laws and rules were merely restraints the strong had placed on the weak. Only those without backing would worry about them. If Si Qing could refine an Asura Field fearlessly, then Mo Yu could steal it fearlessly. Was the Great Xia empire supposed to declare war against the Dragon King of Ink Sea over something as measly as this?

Their backings canceled each other out, so at the end of the day, it would still be up to their respective abilities. Mo Yu understood the value of the Asura Field very well. In the past, he might not have tried to steal it, but right now, there was a daemon he wanted to kill very much.

“Give me the Asura Field. I’ll give it back to you once I kill Northmoon.”

How could Si Qing believe him? He sneered. “Do you think I’m easy to trick like a kid? If you stop right now, I’ll guarantee you that I’ll kill Northmoon.”

Mo Yu said nothing more. Although Si Qing was the owner of the Dragon Arena, he had made several days of preparations, reaching the core of the Dragon Arena after much difficulty, so how could he give up? It was not like he had to worry about Jia Zhen and E Dan surrounding him. Once he stole it successfully, he could immediately use his innate ability. Who would be able to stop him then?

With the Dragon Arena as the medium, two forces tugged constantly. Si Qing’s strength was brutal, but Mo Yu’s power of death clung on firmly, tightly adhered inside the Dragon Arena. For a moment, they were evenly matched.

Although the battles in the Dragon Arena had stopped, their killing intent and battle intent flourished, channeling into the Dragon Arena constantly and converting it into an Asura Field.

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Great snowflakes drifted through the air. A while later, the ground was covered in a sheet of snow, covering all of the blood and corpses. Several thousand cultivators sat on the snowy ground without moving at all, allowing the snow to fall on them.

Logically speaking, Qi Practitioners were all immune to the winter cold and summer heat, but the snowflakes contained a power of frigidness. The weaker Qi Practitioners could not help but shiver slightly, but their minds became calmer and calmer. As they listened to the chanting, they recalled what they went through in the past few days and shivered in fear.

Countless cultivators had been slain, many of which were their seniors, juniors, disciple, or lovers. If Li Qingshan had not appeared, probably most of the people here could not escape that fate. They felt both gratitude and admiration towards him, as well as deep fear.

As for Si Qing, they felt deep hatred, whether they were cultivators of the sects or the hundred schools. Is he allowed to treat us inhumanely, making us kill one another like gu insects to satisfy his twisted interests simply because he’s a prince?

Their hatred tormented them like fire, and their killing intent that had been pacified after so much difficulty began to bubble once again. Qi Practitioners would leap up from the snowy ground from time to time with their eyes completely red, waving their weapons around. Only slaughter could pacify this fury.

But a pitch-black chain would immediately shoot over and bind these people, pulling them into the pitch-black Demon Suppression Tower. Everyone could not help but stare at the lofty figure standing in front of the Demon Suppression Tower, trembling in fear inside. Everyone had witnessed how Li Qingshan killed people. He was not soft-hearted at all. He cut them down like vegetables.

“C- commander Li, is that disciple of mine... still fine?” asked an old cultivator in worry as he watched his disciple enter the Demon Suppression Tower.

Li Qingshan said, “Don’t worry, it’s not enough to kill him!”

The Demon Suppression Tower had always been able to filter out the influence of the Dragon Arena and suppress demonic natures. With the natures of these Qi Practitioners, basically all of them were suppressed instantly. With the situation under control, Li Qingshan did not want to kill people blindly either.

“That’s good to know!” The cultivator stopped worrying and bowed deeply, retreating back into the ground.

“Qingshan, it’s all thanks to you, or we’d all be in danger. I didn’t think, I didn’t think it would be so dangerous this time!” At the end of the day, Liu Zhangqing did not have the courage to openly denounce Si Qing. The others were the same, but they struggled to hide the fury and dissatisfaction on their faces.

“That bastard Si Qing wants us all to die. I’ll go to the last battlefield immediately and slaughter his remaining lackeys!”

Li Qingshan visited four battlefields, but he failed to find the three people who had managed to escape. Only the battlefield with a forest of stone remained, as it had a natural formation. He chose to stabilise the situation first before freeing himself up to hunt them down.

Li Zhangqing sighed. “I wonder what benefit he’ll get from doing this.”

“Si Qing wants to refine this Dragon Arena into an Asura Field!” Han Tiewei said coldly. As a military disciple from an aristocratic clan, he had heard a few things about how Asura Fields could be refined from Dragon Arenas. He was not too familiar with the exact method, but after going through all this, it was as clear as day.

Following Han Tiewei’s explanation, everyone came to a realisation and hated Si Qing even more. He was actually trying to sacrifice several thousand lives, the foundation of the entire cultivation community of the Ruyi commandery.

Li Qingshan became even more determined. He refused to let him succeed! Very clearly, once Si Qing refined the Asura Field, he would be the first on the list to take out.

“Qingshan, tell me you’re fine with how you’ve transformed!” Hua Chengzan’s voice suddenly rang out in his ears. Li Qingshan saw worry flash through his eyes. Hua Chengzan knew Li Qingshan’s secret. Seeing how he demonified, he thought it was some daemonic technique and that he had probably given away his secret.

Li Qingshan said, “Don’t worry. This is an orthodox buddhist cultivation method!”

If Li Qingshan were to say it was a demonic art, Hua Chengzan would be a little more convinced, but from how he teemed with demon qi, how could Hua Chengzan draw a connection with buddhism at all? He asked with a bitter smile, “I can’t find Chenglu anywhere. Hopefully she hasn’t entered the formation. What would we do then?”

“Isn’t she coming over right now?” Li Qingshan pointed into the distance with a smile.

A figure flew over from the horizon, glistening with golden light. As it turned out, she was a beautiful woman. Her bearing was something else, immediately attracting everyone's attention.

"Big brother Li!?"

Hua Chenglu arrived before Li Qingshan, raising her head and asking in surprise. She had never seen Li Qingshan like this either. After Li Qingshan left, she finished gathering the nectar of the sun vine flowers. The nectar held extremely great value to her, a practitioner of the Method of Springtime Bloom. She also became covered in glistening pollen.

"Chenglu!!"

However, Hua Chenglu was nowhere near as surprised as Hua Chengzan and everyone who knew her. When she entered the Dragon Arena, she was clearly still a Qi Practitioner, still very far away from the tenth layer, so how had she become a Foundation Establishment cultivator in the blink of an eye? And, from her aura, she had almost reached the level of breaking through to mid Foundation Establishment.

Although there were plenty of fortuitous encounters in the cultivation world, a fortuitous encounter that could make someone reach such a level in a mere few days was unheard of.

Li Qingshan sniggered. "What, you don't recognise me?"

"This is fantastic!"

Hua Chenglu lit up with delight. After Li Qingshan vanished, she had always been worried. Now that she saw he was perfectly fine, she finally let out a sigh of relief. After undergoing the Wisdom Imbuement, she understood the feelings in her heart, but she understood even better that probably nothing would end up happening between them. However, now that she saw him again, her emotions actually ran a little out of control.

Even though his demonified appearance seemed extremely vicious and hideous in the eyes of others, in her eyes, he even outshone the handsome Hua Chengzan. Whether he was handsome or ugly, no one could replace his existence.

Hua Chengzan was as quick-witted as people came. He immediately noticed that something was wrong with Hua Chenglu's expression and was secretly alarmed. He asked, "Chenglu, how did you reach Foundation Establishment?"

This was also the question that everyone wanted to ask. Under everyone's gazes, Hua Chenglu remained calm. Just how self-assured she had become was enough to surprise everyone, but they all heard her say, "It's a long story, but it's all thanks to big brother Li!"

Immediately, everyone's gazes gathered on Li Qingshan. They found him even more difficult to see through now.

Li Qingshan said, "That was your own good luck. I just happened to be there, that's all." Suddenly, he heard Ru Xin's snickering voice in his ears, "Congratulations on capturing another beauty's heart, fellow Li."

Li Qingshan glanced at her with a smile. "I've done many reckless things when I was drunk, but all I fear is disappointing beauties due to my fickleness of love. Are you perhaps jealous, fellow Ru Xin?"

TL: The first sentence is from a poem by Yu Dafu, which was written about the execution of the Five Martyrs of the League of Left-Wing Writers in 1931 by the Kuomintang. The poem is filled with gloom and fury, lamenting over the situation back then and the fate of the country. It basically merges the feeling of fury over how the government repressed the common people while allowing the doctrine of the Japanese Empire to invade the land with the feeling of concern over the fate of the country.

Ru Xin said, "After this comes to an end, there's something I must request your help for."

Rarely did Li Qingshan ever see her behave so sternly, and he could vaguely feel that she had changed, but he was unable to explain exactly where. As a result, he said, "Does the word 'request' even have to exist between us? Even if you want the stars and moon in the sky, there will be a day when I can retrieve them for you."

Plucking the moon and stars from the night sky was a wild wish of his.

Ru Xin pondered silently for a while. "Stop trying to coax me with some boasts. I'll never fall for your tricks!"

"Haha, you even managed to see through that!"

Li Qingshan leapt up and took off, barging into the maze-like formation of the forest of stone to finish off Si Qing's lackeys.

Chapter 654 - Deducing the Formation

Within the maze of jagged rocks, a huge figure suddenly appeared, clad in heavy, bright-red armour and wielding a strange sword. He studied the surroundings. It was Li Qingshan.

In the centre of the forest of stone were three Foundation Establishment cultivators and several dozen Qi Practitioners. They were all disciples and subordinates of Si Qing, Jia Zhen, and E Dan. As Li Qingshan pacified several battlefields for the bigger picture, these people had all been forced here.

"He's come! I can sense his aura!"

"Don't be afraid. We'll operate the formation from here. He definitely can't reach us!"

That was what they said, but fear filled everyone's faces as if it were not a human, but a monster that wanted to rush over and tear them apart.

In the maze, the directions were mixed chaotically, such that even a person with the greatest sense of direction in the world could not distinguish north, south, east, and west. Even though there was a sun overhead, it was probably an illusion and trick as well. Looking for people in a place like this was even more difficult than finding a needle in a haystack for Li Qingshan.

He arrived before a strange rock, raised the Traitorous Demon sword, and swung down. He did not understand the yin, yang, and the five elements, nor did he know any special techniques of deduction. He tried to break through it with brute force.

Clang! The Traitorous Demon sword bounced off the strange rock, failing to even leave a mark behind. The formation that stretched several dozen kilometers was one integrated mass. The entire place would

respond even if he attacked a single point. Even with the sharpness of the Traitorous Demon sword, he could not cut through it so easily.

Li Qingshan frowned. He held the Traitorous Demon sword in his right hand laterally as he stroked the sword with his left hand. The Traitorous Demon sword produced a gentle thrum, and the evil eye stared straight at the strange rock.

With a slash, the strange rock was split into two!

Li Qingshan's frown remained. The surroundings twisted and changed, but the formation remained. Meanwhile, the demon heart that served as the pupil was only half of its original size, having been depleted quite a lot through these battles.

Every battle spanned several dozen kilometers across, so there were probably thousands of these strange rocks. If he cut them down one by one, he was confident he could disrupt the formation in the end, but when was he supposed to cut them until? It would definitely take up a tremendous amount of time and effort, and he had to deplete the powers of this demon heart too.

If I had known earlier, I should have brought a few people from the school of Yin-yang with me to get through the formation!

Li Qingshan thought, but he also understood that this would only remain as a thought. Although he seemed like a hero that had saved everyone, he was also a madman who had completely fallen out with Si Qing. There probably were not a lot of people who were willing to be associated with him, standing forward to oppose Si Qing.

Even if they were unable to turn him down and came to help, they would be extremely uneasy. After all, Liu Zhangqing and the others had clearly almost died, yet they kept it all to themselves, unwilling to utter a single word of complaint. This was the helplessness of the weak. Li Qingshan could not be bothered with forcing them to do something against their will either. This had always been his battle alone.

The spirit turtle can forebode and divine fate, so I might as well try it and see if I can get through this formation!

Li Qingshan remembered. The figure of the spirit turtle in his sea of consciousness suddenly began to move. The profound glyphs on its back criss-crossed, each producing a strange, ripple-like light that all melded together. It was as profound as it could get. In the end, it gathered into a huge ripple, spreading out into the surroundings from Li Qingshan.

The ripple was invisible. It was neither light nor soul sense, but it did possess the mysterious principle of the world.

Right when Li Qingshan felt rather confused, specks of light were suddenly reflected in his mind. It was a virtual arrangement of the formation.

Those who understood formations could rely on this virtual image to calculate the location of the crucial points across the entire formation, the operating pattern, and so on. They would be like tourists with a map. It would be extremely simple no matter where they wanted to go.

However, Li Qingshan was still stumped. I don't understand this at all! As a result, he continued to urge the spirit turtle. The profound glyphs on the spirit turtle's shell began moving again.

Li Qingshan became rather dazed. He would nod at times and murmur to himself, "Oh, like this... I get it now..."

A while later, he opened his eyes again, and a smile was already stretching across his face. He advanced forward confidently, making his way towards the depths of the maze. He would move to the left, move to the right, advance, and retreat at times, without the slightest hesitation at all. However, he steadily approached the centre of the maze, without taking a single unnecessary detour.

The centre of the maze suddenly entered a flurry of confusion and alarm. "Oh no, he's getting closer!" "Don't panic. He's probably just roaming around blindly in the maze. He won't be able to reach here through luck alone." "No, he's approaching us very quickly, basically making a beeline for us. He's already seen through this formation. We have to change our position quickly!"

Everyone scattered like birds and beasts. Before long, Li Qingshan arrived there and smiled. "They sure do flee fast!"

During that moment earlier, he used the power of the spirit turtle to deduce the operation patterns of the entire formation, clearing away all obstacles. This was something unbelievable to regular cultivators, but it was nothing difficult to the spirit turtle that could even stand among the ranks of gods.

From the moment it was born, the spirit turtle possessed the form of the supernatural, rounded at the top like heaven, flat at the bottom like the earth. Its back rose and fell like hills, layered with profound inscriptions of all kinds of colour that were constantly at work. It knew when to advance and retreat, and it foretold the good and the ill with utmost confidence.

Spirit turtles would never learn things like formations or divination. All formations and divination were later inventions and creations. Instead, it only studied and learned from nature. The existence of the spirit turtle itself conformed with nature. It was born with knowledge.

This was also thanks to the Great Banyan Tree King's Fruit of Wisdom. Although it could not allow a person's cultivation to advance at once and make them wise, it unconsciously influenced everything, giving Li Qingshan a deeper comprehension of the powers of the spirit turtle.

At the centre of the maze was a small clearing. There was an extremely-large strange rock that towered in the centre, coated in light that flowed like water.

Li Qingshan understood that the strange rock was the central crucial point of the formation. As long as he destroyed it, the formation would be completely deactivated, and it would turn into a regular forest of stone.

Destroying such a large and tough rock clearly was not an easy feat, but why did he have to destroy it?

Li Qingshan placed his hand on the strange rock and sent in his soul sense. The strange rock shone brightly, producing a power that contended against him, but he suppressed it very soon. He forcefully claimed control over the maze. The entire maze began to operate.

The three Foundation Establishment cultivators fled through the maze swiftly, refusing to remain for even a moment longer. As for the Qi Practitioners, the three of them had left them all behind. If they could buy some time, then it would be fantastic.

They understood the maze extremely well. As they advanced and retreated along the way, they did not hesitate at all. They calculated that if they took a few more steps, they would arrive at the entrance of the maze, but when they made their way around a strange rock, they all paled in fright.

Before they knew it, they had returned to the centre of the maze again, and their nightmare currently stood there with a sword in hand, his lips curling into a vicious smile.

He swung his sword!

Chapter 655 - The Asura Field Descends

Before Li Qingshan, the three Foundation Establishment cultivators basically stood no chance at all. Their lives were ended with a single swing of Li Qingshan's sword. Even Foundation Establishment cultivators were like that, so Qi Practitioners were obviously even worse off. They wandered through the maze, only to return to Li Qingshan in the end.

The last stroke slid past a Qi Practitioner's throat with a scarlet splash of blood.

With that, all of the lackeys Si Qing had sent in had been massacred. Li Qingshan felt satisfied inside and began laughing out loud. His battle intent surged, and his murderousness soared, but it also merged with the Dragon Arena unbeknownst to him.

Suddenly, the entire Dragon Arena shuddered.

Li Qingshan's laughter stopped. All he saw was the colour of blood in the sky grow even heavier, completely turning blood-red from the original azure-blue. It began to spin slowly, forming a blood-red swirl and constantly spreading out into the surroundings until it filled the entire sky.

Shouts inaudible to the ear rang out from the very depths of the swirl, which could only be heard with the heart.

It was like an army of millions engaging in a bloody battle in the wilderness. There were no allies, only enemies. No one feared. No one retreated. They only constantly swung their weapons and advanced, fighting until a single person remained, standing on the battlefield and enjoying the glorious victory alone, letting out a hysterical bellow at the sky.

Every single person who heard the shouts would tremble from the depths of their souls, both out of fear and desire.

In his sea of consciousness, the tiger demon suddenly let out a growl. The desire to fight and kill suddenly became extremely intense. He was willing to fight anyone and anything to experience the hot-bloodedness and vigour of life as if this were the meaning to all existence.

Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow. The spirit turtle released a calming and serene aura, comforting and diluting this desire to kill. At the same time, he used the Demon Suppression Statuary, making the demon heart devour all of the irrepressible demonic nature. This was basically the best nourishment the demon heart could receive. Only like that did he manage to forcefully suppress the tiger demon.

This is the power from the Asura realm! The Dragon Arena is currently being converted into an Asura Field! Originally, I thought ending the battles could stop Si Qing from refining the Asura Field, but I didn't think he'd still end up succeeding.

Li Qingshan understood what was going on. He had once projected his soul sense into the Hungry Ghost realm, one of the six realms of saṃsāra. At the time, the absolute deathly stillness had shocked him. That was the urging of an entire world.

Little did he know that it was exactly his power in the end that facilitated this conversion. The quality of the battle intent and murderousness the tiger demon gave off completely exceeded what regular cultivators could provide, which were the exact resources that refining an Asura Field needed the most. They were like a key, opening the gates to the Asura realm and allowing the Asura Field to descend.

Oh no, I need to rush back!

Li Qingshan collected the corpses and hundred treasures pouches that belonged to the Qi Practitioners and rushed out of the maze, returning to the original battlefield. He immediately heard the deafening sounds of fighting and killing. The chanting and music had all been drowned out by the shouts, no longer audible.

Several thousand Qi Practitioners currently engaged in a frenzied slaughter, ten times more brutal than the battles before. Even the most basic desire for survival had vanished. They swung their weapons and charged at the people around them, but they ignored the weapons that swept towards them. Even if they died, they still wanted to kill!

This was the will from the Asura realm. Even a hint of it was not something the wills of Qi Practitioners could resist, and it was not only Qi Practitioners either. Seeing this, even a few Foundation Establishment cultivators became restless, becoming tempted to take part in it.

Murderousness rushed into the air, and the blood-red swirl spun faster and faster in the sky. The fighting and killing on the ground became even more crazy.

A Foundation Establishment cultivator widened his eyes that were completely bloodshot. He waved his sword around as he roared, "Stop! Stop! All of you, stop!" With a swing of his hand, a golden arc whistled out, severing several Qi Practitioners along the waist. Having started killing, he was unable to control himself anymore, rushing into the battlefield and engaging in mindless slaughter.

The situation was completely out of control, but Li Qingshan understood that no matter how loudly he bellowed, no matter how viciously he killed, he could not stop it anymore. Since he could not stop it, then he would not stop it. It was not like he was some hero. All he had to do was protect the people he was familiar with.

As the swirl rapidly turned, the boundaries between the battlefields were torn to pieces. The terrains all became connected together, turning into a colossal battlefield that stretched several hundred kilometers.

Li Qingshan flew over to the centre of the battlefield. He stood on the Demon Suppression tower and called to Liu Zhangqing and the others, "Come with me!" Afterwards, he took back the Demon Suppression Tower and flew off into the distance.

He glanced through the battlefield and spotted a familiar face. Although he was covered in blood, Li Qingshan could still tell he was Hao Pingyang from the school of Mohism, currently waving the Yellow Dragon's Cannon of Devouring Light as he fought against someone. A Chain of Demon Suppression extended over and curled back, pulling him in. Then he spotted Li Long from the school of Agriculture and pulled him in too, just in case he died in this chaotic battle. He conveniently saved a few disciples from the school of Novels too.

When Liu Zhangqing and the others saw Li Qingshan, they seemed to have found their backbone. They guarded their minds as they followed behind him closely. As long as the other cultivators still had some rationality about them, they followed behind him in a hurry, charging out of this quagmire together. When they saw what Li Qingshan was doing, they rushed into the battlefield as well, picking up two Qi Practitioners and doing everything that they could to save their disciples.

However, being attacked was unavoidable as they tried to save others. Some cultivators could not help but fight back, and with that, their murderousness began to burn like fire, completely running out of control. They even forgot about the objective of saving their disciples, all entering the battlefield like an invisible force was drawing them into the "meat grinder".

Foundation Establishment cultivators were powerful, but their spiritual qi was not endless. They could kill around a hundred Qi Practitioners at most before they fell to the combined attacks of the frenzied Qi Practitioners.

Only when they traveled over fifty kilometers from the battlefield and could no longer hear the sounds of fighting did Li Qingshan stop. Then he checked the cultivators behind him. Only around a hundred people remained.

The Qi Practitioners were all unconscious, having been knocked out, as they would fight as long as they were conscious. As a result, there were only around twenty people who remained conscious. Everyone's faces were worried and badly frightened, and because they had to constantly repress the surging battle intent and killing intent inside them, their faces all seemed extremely twisted. Everyone understood one truth. The cultivation community of the Ruyi commandery was done for with this.

Li Qingshan had grown accustomed to these sights, and he could suppress his murderousness, so he seemed quite calm. He summoned the Demon Suppression Tower again and tossed the unconscious Qi Practitioners inside. It was a little cramped, but they probably would not mind.

Gazing out, the Dragon Arena was in full sight. There were glaciers, lakes, and deserts.

Li Qingshan thought of something. Since the spirit turtle could calculate and deduce the workings of such a large maze, then could he deduce the operation patterns of the Dragon Arena too and find a way out?

He had learned the most rudimentary basics for forging artifacts in the Academy of the Hundred Schools, so he knew forging spiritual artifacts required imprinting them with various inscriptions and glyphs. Meanwhile, forging arcane artifacts involved engraving even more complicated formations, so they had even more powerful functions.

Li Qingshan immediately used the spirit turtle to observe and calculate. An invisible ripple spread out into the surroundings. Specks of light appeared in his mind. In a daze, the glacier and lakes all vanished. All that remained were fluttering inscriptions and operating formations.

Any single one of the formations was countless times more complicated than the maze, and they were connected to one another, allowing them to influence one another, which only multiplied the complexity. It was like a finely-tuned machine, where each formation was a gear, locking onto one another and turning together.

Only the Great Xia empire possessed the ability to forge Dragon Arenas. The complexity well exceeded Li Qingshan's imaginations. Probably even half a year would not be enough to calculate and deduce its operation patterns.

After his shock passed by, he immediately dismissed his thoughts and ventured to the very core of the Dragon Arena. Since he was unable to deduce how it worked, then could he completely destroy the core?

Suddenly, he saw two forces collide together in the very core of the Dragon Arena, fighting over the control of the Dragon Arena. One obviously belonged to Si Qing, while the other was a power filled with the smell of death. Li Qingshan was even more familiar with this force.

Mo Yu! What's this guy doing here? No wonder Si Qing had no time to make trouble for me! Seeing his enemies going for each other's throats was obviously a joyous matter. However, no matter which enemy's hands the Asura Field ended up in, he would probably be the first target they would take out, so there was nothing joyous about this.

But, perhaps this is a good opportunity!

Li Qingshan's eyes flashed. He did not alarm them, taking it patiently and waiting until they exhausted each other out.

Hua Chenglu noticed Li Qingshan staring off into the distance in a trance and asked, "Big brother Li, what should we do now?"

Li Qingshan could see that she was anxious, but she was still able to remain relatively calm. The effects of the Wisdom Imbuement truly were startling. Otherwise, with her original mentality, he would be forced to knock her out and toss her into the Demon Suppression Tower too. He smiled. "It's not like there's going to be any danger now. Let's just wait and see!"

The influence of the Asura Field had basically reached a limit, unable to make Foundation Establishment cultivators kill each other madly. Of course, that was if they did not fight others. The best-case scenario would be if they could not even see or think about it. It was like how everyone possessed lust. If they saw two beautiful women "fighting" with one another with their eyes, it was very easy for this lust to be roused. However, it also made it relatively easy to control too.

Hua Chenglu saw how he smiled freely and also felt at ease.

"Once this place completely converts into an Asura Field, there'll probably be asuras descending!"

Han Tiewi said suddenly. His armour was mostly damaged, but he was still as frosty as ever, standing there as straight as his own spear. However, flames roared away in the depths of his eyes. As a military disciple who pursued the path of slaughter, the influence from the Asura Field on him was not actually that great.

The cultivation of the school of the Military had always placed exceptional focus on training willpower. On the battlefield, it was obviously easier for experienced soldiers to remain calm than new soldiers. Moreover, he experienced a feeling of intimacy with the aura that permeated the place. The Asura realm had always been the final home that all disciples of the school of Military sought for.

Only the souls of true warriors could avoid the judgement of the Hell realm and begin an endless battle in the Asura realm after they died. Of course, to regular people, this was probably no different from the tortures of hell.

His father was currently in the Great General King's Asura Field, while his uncle was probably fighting somewhere in the Asura realm! Following the footsteps of his elder generation, his heart burned with fighting spirit, but it also gave him a different form of peace.

"Asura!" Li Qingshan's eyes lit up. Not only was he not worried or afraid, but he was even extremely curious instead.

Chapter 656 - Asura

The six realms of saṃsāra were the Heaven realm, the Human realm, the Asura realm, the Hungry Ghost realm, the Animal realm, and the Hell realm.

The Animal realm was also known as the Daemonic Beast realm, the world where all demons thrived. The word "animal" was a derogatory term. Just like how the dragons and elephants that served as the mounts of gods and buddhas possessed unbelievable powers, once they offended their master, they would be cursed as "animal".

The six realms of saṃsāra were further divided into the three higher realms and the three lower realms. The three higher realms were Heaven, Human, and Asura, while the three lower realms were Animal, Hungry Ghost, and Hell. However, while Asura belonged to the higher realms, their karma paled in comparison to Heaven, so they were known as Not-heaven. The suffering in the realm even surpassed that of the Human realm, so it was sometimes listed with the three lower realms, together known as the four lower realms.

Among the six realms of saṃsāra, Li Qingshan had already witnessed the power of the Hungry Ghost realm. A Corpse King who could not even use his full strength had left a devastating impact on the cultivation community of the Ruyi commandery. He did not understand the Asura realm too well right now. He only knew it was a world filled with battle and slaughter.

In his understanding, asura possessed great strength and were classified as supernatural beings, but because they were bellicose and bloodthirsty, they were a form of wicked god. It was rumored that male asura were extremely ugly, while the females were extremely beautiful. They often opposed Śakra, the lord of the deva and the ruler of the Heaven realm, waging constant war. However, defeat was more frequent than victory.

“I’d like to see how asura look like!”

Li Qingshan smiled. Battle-hungry blood flowed through his body. Wasn’t the exact point of cultivating arduously to see things he could not see in the mountain hamlet? He obviously wanted to see this rather mysterious race with his own eyes. And, he was still waiting to give Si Qing and Mo Yu a surprise, so he definitely could not leave here right now.

“Me too.”

Han Tiewei could vaguely feel he was close to breaking through to mid Foundation Establishment. He also desired a battle against the legendary asura.

“You two battle freaks!” Hua Chengzan said helplessly.

Li Qingshan and Han Tiewei smiled at one another. The same light twinkled in their eyes.

Fifty kilometers away, the battle had reached a white-hot intensity. The air twisted from the scorching murderousness, as it was a chaotic battle that completely disregarded any consequences. In a short period of time, over a thousand cultivators fell in battle. Their corpses were scattered across a land of five kilometers as their blood dyed the ground red.

The swirl in the sky spun faster and faster, like a strange eye observing the battlefield on the ground.

Suddenly, a figure descended from the very depths of the swirl, quickly falling towards the centre of the battlefield.

“So that’s an asura!”

Li Qingshan’s eyes were extremely sharp, making out the figure with a single glance. He was a male asura, bare-chested with his skin giving off a faint blood-red colour. His body was stocky like he had been carved from red rock, and he wore thigh guards below, depicting vicious faces. He wielded a pair of rod-like maces that shone with a blood-red sheen.

Li Qingshan was rather disappointed, however. He could tell with a single glance that the asura’s strength was basically at the standard of a high level Qi Practitioner. Although the power of asura differed from humans and daemons, he could still roughly tell how powerful they were. This asura definitely had not undergone the first heavenly tribulation. An opponent like that was unable to pique his interest.

However, he also understood that this was probably similar to the Gate of Hungry Ghosts. In the beginning, existences that were too powerful were unable to pass through. An invisible barrier existed between the two worlds.

Unlike the legends, the asura was not particularly ugly. His face was large and square, with a large nose and mouth and a head full of greyish-white hair, which instead made him seem rather dignified. As it seemed, legends really could not be trusted.

Li Qingshan shook his head gently as a strange smile appeared on his face. With this asura’s cultivation, he would be heavily injured even if he did not fall to his death from such a high place, unless he knew some flying techniques. The cultivators would probably tear him to shreds instantly, so was there any mysteriousness or dignity about him left?

Just as Li Qingshan thought that, he saw the asura suddenly raise his maces and strike the air violently. With a thunk, the air exploded, and his falling speed reduced slightly. At the same time, he spread his body, and his boulder-like muscles suddenly began to flow like water, constantly making subtle movements and making the air flow. He also swung his maces in a flurry. It seemed like a mess, but it corresponded with every single movement he made with his body. He rapidly slowed his fall.

Li Qingshan's smile vanished, replaced by admiration and a hint of caution. Meanwhile, Han Tiewi's eyes blazed with light. Without using any technique, he had managed to accomplish something like that through his body alone. It was truly extraordinary.

Li Qingshan personally believed that if he possessed the same stature as the asura, he probably could achieve this, but he definitely could not achieve it as easily as him.

He liked fighting, and he was good at fighting, but that was only when it came to the overall situation, or the grasp over tactics and strategy. Even though he would often perform outstandingly in battle with unconventional moves, he was nowhere close when it actually came to the absolute ingenuity of his moves.

He had only cultivated for around a decade, and he practised several different cultivation methods, spanning three different races—human, daemon, and demon, so where was he supposed to find the time to study and polish his moves? There were some things that were very difficult to make up for with talent.

Xiao An seemed to possess an extraordinary ability to comprehend, where she could comprehend the sword intent by looking through the Three Absolutes Calligraphy once, but that was with a foundation built up from the harsh education she had gone through over several years in the provincial lord's estate. Although her memories had temporarily gone missing, some things were still firmly embedded in her instincts.

Li Qingshan never had an opportunity like that. The principle he had always followed was to be able to take on ten times more people alone. He was better off increasing his cultivation instead of polishing his martial arts so that he could use absolute strength to openly crush his opponents.

But after seeing this asura, he stopped looking down on that. Even a regular asura possessed such exceptional skill. If he were a more powerful asura instead, he would probably be even more alarming.

After all, apart from taking on ten times more people alone, there was also the concept of triumphing over brute force with ingenuity. Absolute skill was the same as absolute strength. They could all give a person a crushing advantage in battle.

Watching the asura vanish into the horizon, Li Qingshan and Han Tiewi flew over without saying anything, only to see the asura land in the centre of the battlefield. There were still several thousand cultivators engaging one another on the battlefield, so his landing was like a droplet falling into an ocean, unable to cause any waves.

The asura planted his maces into the ground, overlooking the entire battlefield like a lion surveilling its territory. A man an entire head taller than the asura appeared behind him. He was riddled with muscle, and there was an extremely evident bulge on his head.

Li Qingshan had actually seen this person before. He was the first senior brother of Horned Rhinoceros mountain. He had once competed against Li Qingshan in terms of strength, but he did not seem to be particularly lucky, as he still had not broken through to Foundation Establishment after all these years. Perhaps it was exactly the match from the past that cast some form of shadow over his heart, preventing him from breaking through.

However, he had still undergone the test of war. His body was even sturdier, and his bearing was even sharper than before. If Li Qingshan were to judge him, he could be considered as a peak expert among Qi Practitioners.

Two streams of white air gushed out of the first senior brother's nostrils; he was like an angered rhinoceros, charging towards the asura.

Red light flashed through the asura's eyes. In that moment, his expression became extremely vicious. His nose wrinkled up, and the corners of his mouth stretched to the sides, revealing rows of sharp, white teeth. He seemed angered, yet it was also like he was laughing aloud, instantly going from a regular man to a ferocious beast that could swallow a man in a single bite.

Li Qingshan immediately understood why male asura were said to be extremely ugly. This was not ugliness that inspired disgust, but ugliness that inspired fear. He could not help but smile.

"C'mon, show me how asura fight!"

Chapter 657 - Asura General

The blood-red swirl revolved in the sky. Li Qingshan and Han Tieyi stood beside each other on the hill, gazing at the battlefield below.

Two streaks of light shot over from behind, which were Hua Chengzan and Hua Chenglu. They were worried for their safety, and they were relatively confident in their mental strength and cultivation, so they hurried over.

Li Qingshan pointed at the battlefield and gestured with a smile. "Look, you don't see a sight like that everyday!"

Hua Chengzan gazed into the distance. Among the deafening bellows, various-coloured light flickered. The explosion of fire and the clashing of weapons formed a stunning chorus, drawing people in against their will to battle and fight. Hua Chengzan suppressed his mind in a hurry before glancing at Hua Chenglu beside him. She was much calmer in comparison.

Suddenly, he sighed inside. After learning Li Qingshan's other identity, he no longer tried to compare himself to him anymore, but Han Tieyi was a good friend of many years. His cultivation had always exceeded him. Even when he was stuck at the tenth layer of Qi Practitioner for many years, he was still the first one to establish a foundation successfully. Yet, he had caught up and overtaken him, almost breaking through to mid Foundation Establishment.

Now, even the cultivation of his not particularly talented younger sister was surpassing his. He had watched her grow up. It was completely impossible to say that he was not at least slightly despondent. He was determined to go back and properly cultivate.

“Can you save some more people?” Hua Chenglu was unable to accept this. There were still many people she knew in the battlefield.

Li Qingshan personally believed he had already lived up to his duty and humanity for these strangers. He also had to constantly pay attention to the battle between Si Qing and Mo Yu, so he had no interest in taking on this burden, but that was not something he could say.

Han Tiewei said, “It’s too late. They’ve completely assimilated with the will of the Asura realm. However, their souls may end up belonging to the Asura realm once they die in battle.”

Hua Chenglu asked, “Is that an asura?”

In the centre of the battlefield, the asura suddenly turned around lithely, kicking up a screen of dust. The first senior brother of the Horned Rhinoceros mountain missed. The metal maces in the surroundings circled around and struck his back heavily. He staggered a few steps forward before collapsing on the ground.

Li Qingshan shook his head. The attack from a blunt weapon probably was not too effective against a cultivator who practised his body like the first senior brother of Horned Rhinoceros mountain. The strike had only landed because the first senior brother was overcome by murderousness, taking away his rationality and covering him with openings. It was not exactly ingenious.

Sure enough, the first senior brother of Horned Rhinoceros mountain let out a furious roar and turned around, wanting to engage him again, but only the top half of his body turned around. The lower half of his body was frozen and completely immobilised. When he was struck earlier, there was a crisp crack, which the violent sounds of fighting drowned out. No one heard it.

“His spine is broken!” Li Qingshan was mildly taken aback. Spines were vital points to humans, but they could not be broken that easily. He soon understood what had happened. Like how the Traitorous Demon sword could see through weak points, spines were not indestructible.

The asura seemed almost frenzied, but he was extremely precise with his attacks, clearly all killing moves that had been thoroughly tempered. And, he was clearly extremely familiar with the vital points and weak points of various enemies. He used a single strike to defeat an opponent of equal cultivation and was even slightly stronger from a certain perspective, making something like that seem as easy as cake.

The asura smiled hideously as he struck the same location with his mace. The first senior brother of Horned Rhinoceros mountain widened his eyes and let out a roar. The asura lifted up his other mace and swung down again and again like he was striking rock, embedding the mace into the first senior brother’s body. After striking him several dozen times, blood spurted out, and the first senior brother finally perished.

All of this had happened in a short moment. The other Qi Practitioners all responded. Roused by the asura’s aura, they all lifted up their weapons and rushed over. The asura’s murderousness became even more intense, advancing instead of retreating, charging into the group. He swung his maces around madly, immediately kicking up a whirlwind of slaughter.

Li Qingshan only saw that the asura was vicious with his attacks. There was not exactly a fixed pattern, but every single strike was precise and effective, all killing moves that had been tempered through countless battles and slaughter. Basically all the Qi Practitioners who faced him died to a single strike. A while later, a few more people died to his maces.

However, in a chaotic battle like this, it was impossible to go unscathed unless he had three heads and six arms. His body gained a few deep wounds, but none of these wounds bled. Instead, they rapidly closed up.

“Just a low level asura like him possesses such life force. How extraordinary. I think that if the battle continues, he’ll definitely be the last one to survive,” Li Qingshan said while rubbing his chin.

The battle prowess of an asura like him was even greater than some Foundation Establishment cultivators unskilled in battle. If his opponent came from a sect like the Sect of Clouds and Rain that primarily practised the arts of charm, it would probably not be strange at all if the asura killed them.

“That’s the undying body of the asura! Legend has it that powerful asura can even be reborn from a droplet of blood.” Han Tieyi explained everything he knew about asura.

“Reborn from a droplet of blood. Interesting!” Li Qingshan said.

He believed that he could also be reborn from a droplet of blood once he practised the Phoenix’s Scripture of Nirvāṇa to a certain level.

As they spoke, another asura descended from the sky, followed by a third, a fourth... More and more asura entered the battlefield, banding together very quickly. Their teamwork was ingenious, forming an army. They became more and more unstoppable, splitting up the battlefield and wantonly slaughtering the frenzied Qi Practitioners.

Hua Chengzan’s expression changed slightly as well. Against such an asura army, all he could do was flee for his life.

Li Qingshan asked Han Tieyi another question, “If you possess the Asura Field, can you summon these asura to fight for you?” If that were possible, then it would basically be an endless source of fresh troops. If even more powerful asura were summoned, even he would find it troublesome.

“I don’t know, but there is that possibility!” Han Tieyi said.

The Great General King possessed an Asura Field, but the world had been at peace for too long after all. No one had personally witnessed him enter battles with the Asura Field.

The battle came to an end very quickly. All of the cultivators were slain, but not a single asura fell in battle. The asura that descended from above had already reached a hundred, standing among the piles of corpses and puddles of blood with their eyes shut. The murderousness that pervaded the battlefield was absorbed into their bodies, and the colour of their skin became an even-brighter red.

With a rumble of thunder, the omnipresent heavenly tribulation descended suddenly. Bolts of lightning struck an asura; the other asura moved away. Their eyes were filled with envy and caution as they surrounded the asura.

The first heavenly tribulation was clearly unable to pose any threat to such a lifeform. The asura successfully underwent the tribulation without any surprises, becoming an Asura General. But in that moment, the hundred or so asura struck out at the same time, attacking the asura that had just undergone the heavenly tribulation from all directions.

This incident even left Li Qingshan extremely surprised. They were still pooling their efforts together a while ago, so why had they suddenly turned against one another?

The asura faced danger again and again, basically almost killed. Even one of his arms had been cut off, and basically half of his neck had been severed. The wounds on his body were extremely horrifying. If he were human, he would have died ten times over already.

However, with his undying body as an asura, he clung on tenaciously, becoming accustomed to the change in his strength after undergoing the tribulation very soon. Gradually, he turned the tides and let out a thunderous roar, using his remaining arm to kill several asura together. His arm regrew with that, becoming more and more unstoppable.

The battle between asura widened Li Qingshan's horizons. A while later, the Asura General completely gained the upper hand. The asura all suddenly stopped and dropped to one knee together towards the Asura General, revering him as their leader.

The Asura General was satisfied. With a wave of his hand, the asura stood up and gathered behind him. If they still seemed a little like they were fighting alone earlier, then they had completely become an army now.

The Asura General stared at Li Qingshan and the others with his blood-red eyes and belted, "Have you seen enough? Come fight!"

"Just as I wished!" Han Tiewei leapt down from the hill, wielding his spear like a dragon.

"We'll just watch."

Li Qingshan raised his hand to stop the siblings who also wanted to fight. He already reached a vague understanding of these asura's path of slaughter. If he had guessed correctly, the Asura General would not be using the power of the other asura.

Sure enough, seeing Han Tiewei charge over alone, the Asura General raised his battle axe and flew over to receive him. The asura behind him all stayed put, simply watching.

Immediately, their eyes locked together, and the spear and battle axe clashed countless times, sending sparks flying.

Han Tiewei was restrained in every shape and form as soon as he began fighting, losing the upper hand. He had clearly undergone the first heavenly tribulation already many years ago, yet an Asura General that had just undergone the heavenly tribulation completely overwhelmed him.

Even Han Tiewei who came from the school of the Military and was skilled at fighting was like that. If it had been a regular Foundation Establishment cultivator instead, they would have been even less of an opponent.

"Qingshan, why don't we watch from a closer place so that we can cover Tiewei?"

Hua Chengzan's face was filled with concern. Soldiers were vicious and battles were dangerous. The slightest carelessness could have Han Tiewi beheaded, but with Li Qingshan's strength, he could obviously ensure Han Tiewi's safety.

Li Qingshan shook his head with a smile. "I'm standing here exactly so that I can't save him when it matters!"

Hua Chengzan frowned. "Why's that? Has he offended you?"

Li Qingshan smiled. "Of course not. Tiewi is my brother-in-law no matter what you say. Even if he's offended me, I'd never stoop to the same level as him. Instead, he's a warrior. Only when he has his back against the wall can he fight desperately and survive."

Hua Chengzan immediately understood what he meant. Han Tiewi wanted to use this battle to break through to mid Foundation Establishment. If he had a path of retreat or a safeguard, it would instead prevent him from unleashing his full strength. As a result, all Hua Chengzan could do was hold back his worry.

Fierce gusts of wind whistled past his ears and pain filled various parts of his body. Han Tiewi gradually could not cling on for much longer, but he did not take a single step back, allowing blood to spatter from his body.

The incoming axe swung over, something he could not block. He was already in dire straits, but despite walking on a thin line between life and death, he felt an indescribable pleasure. A reckless smile appeared on his frosty face. Suddenly, a power broke through the restraints and spread throughout his body. His spear seemed to spring alive, the spear head twisting to an unbelievable angle and pushing aside the battle axe.

"He did it!" Li Qingshan smiled. Suddenly, he vanished from his location, jumping in between Han Tiewi and the Asura General. He held the spear in one hand and knocked the battle axe away with the other.

Han Tiewi frowned, but Li Qingshan smiled. "Victory has already been determined. If you keep fighting, it won't benefit you at all. If you really die here, it'll be quite difficult for me to explain it to Qiongzi!"

Han Tiewi had broken through to mid Foundation Establishment, but he had lost too much blood in the battle. He was already completely exhausted, having depleted all of his spiritual qi. He completely clung on with willpower alone. On the other hand, the Asura General was still as imposing as ever.

Han Tiewi backed away, and the other asura rushed over.

Li Qingshan swung the Traitorous Demon sword and said to the Asura General, "Once you rest up, we'll keep fighting!" As he spoke, his figure swelled, assuming his demonified form. He surged with murderousness.

The Asura General stared at Li Qingshan like he was confronting a deadly enemy. He waved his hand to make the asura stop. Gradually, surprise filled his face.

Suddenly, the Asura General dropped down on one knee towards Li Qingshan, leaving him astounded.

Chapter 658 - Stealing the Treasure

The other asura looked at each other and dropped down on one knee as well; it was like how they yielded to the Asura General earlier. But this time, they had not fought.

Li Qingshan leaned on his sword. "Why are you kneeling towards me?"

"Because you're an even stronger asura!"

The Asura General said with his head raised. As an asura, he could clearly judge the strength of his opponent. If it were only a powerful cultivator, it would not be enough to make him yield. It would just be a battle to the death. Asura never feared slaughter and death.

However, he had only ever seen the violent murderousness that radiated from Li Qingshan on Asura Commanders or even Asura Kings. He already possessed such bearing even without undergoing the endless battles in the Asura realm, so he was basically a natural-born asura. As a result, the Asura General followed the rules of battle among asura and pledged his loyalty to him.

The tiger demon's will to fight the entire world had already merged with Li Qingshan's mind, running through his path of slaughter. However, this nature was much more powerful than regular asura, which was why he could subdue these proud asura.

This time, it could truly be described as a "shudder of the tiger's body", possessing endless might. Although he did not radiate with the domineering aura of a king, the effect was basically the same.

"Qingshan, what's this about?"

The siblings rushed over, both astounded by this sight. It felt like nothing when they watched on from afar, but a hundred asura staring at you from so close was frightening. It was like a regular person facing a group of murderers. If it were not for Li Qingshan's presence, these asura would have swarmed over already and ripped them to pieces.

Li Qingshan turned back to his original form and laid out his hands. "They admitted defeat just because they're not my opponent."

"They admitted defeat?" Hua Chenglu was in disbelief. You didn't even fight, so haven't they admitted defeat a little too easily? These asura don't look like the type that will admit defeat obediently no matter how you look at them.

However, as long as he was present, no problems seemed to be a problem.

"Then the greatest danger has been dealt with." Hua Chengzan eased up. After learning Li Qingshan was also called Northmoon, anything he managed to achieve did not surprise him anymore.

Han Tieyi gazed at Li Qingshan's back and sank into his thoughts instead. He did not understand where his violent aura of slaughter came from. This man seems to be hiding many secrets. Does Qiongzi know about this? However, he soon remembered that since he had no ill intentions towards the Han family, why did he have to get to the bottom with everything?

"Get up, all of you! How boring. I originally thought there would be a big battle. Will there be even stronger asura heading down here later?" Li Qingshan gazed at the blood-red sky with anticipation.

“This Asura Field has only just been created. Summoning us is already its limit,” the Asura General replied.

Li Qingshan nodded. Although the Asura Field had been successfully refined, converting it into a practical weapon for battle still required accumulation. It was no wonder that the blood-red swirl in the sky spun more slowly after a hundred asura had descended.

Then he asked the asura whether they could leave the Asura Field. The answer he received was that it was possible, but only for battle. Remaining outside for long periods of time would damage their nature. Once they betrayed their heart of slaughter, the Asura realm would abandon them.

Of course, this was only because he had just reached Asura General, and his heart of slaughter was not staunch enough. If he were like Li Qingshan, where his heart of slaughter would not erode away no matter where he resided, he would not be affected. It would also give him the right to attack the Heaven realm.

Li Qingshan nodded. As it seemed, the Asura Field was a summoning tool, able to summon asura from the Asura realm to fight for him. And, as the Asura Field grew stronger, the asura summoned would be stronger too.

However, there were many limits to its function. First of all, the strength of these asura had to be suppressed, or summoning an Asura King could wipe out the owner immediately. And, pure strength was not enough to make them yield. They had to be recognised as the same kind. Only battle-hungry and bloodthirsty people would work.

Hua Chenglu sighed. “I wonder when we can leave.”

“Just wait a little longer. The ten days will be over very soon.” It probably would not take that long.

Li Qingshan suddenly asked the Asura General again, “Hmm, I heard female asura are all beauties. Why are there all men here?”

Hua Chenglu immediately rolled her eyes at him. Li Qingshan smiled. “I’m just asking. No matter how beautiful asura are, they’re nowhere close to our younger sister Chenglu!”

Hua Chenglu reddened as smiles flowed out from her eyes, clearly enjoying it very much.

“Cough, cough!” Hua Chengzan cleared his throat gently and shot a glance at Li Qingshan.

Li Qingshan said, “It’s not like I’m flirting with you, so what’re you coughing for? Not to mention that even my brother-in-law hasn’t said anything!”

Hua Chengzan said with bitter hatred, “Even you yourself admit it’s flirting! I’ve really been careless with making friends, careless with making friends I say! Tiewi, you have to keep an eye on your brother-in-law for Qiongzhi’s sake!”

“I’m already fortunate enough that he’s not beating me up. You better keep an eye on your younger sister!” Han Tiewi said coldly.

Li Qingshan laughed aloud. “Look at you, you make me sound like a tyrant who oppresses everybody!”

“If you don’t have a vicious nature, how are you able to make these asura submit to you. Even if I defeat them, they’ll never submit to me.” Then Han Tiewi said to the Asura General, “We’ll fight again a little later!”

“I decline!” the Asura General said.

“Why?”

Han Tiewi furrowed his brows, only to see the Asura General look towards Li Qingshan again. Although he had chosen to submit to Li Qingshan, he was still extremely discontent with how Li Qingshan had chosen to interrupt his battle.

Li Qingshan gave him a kick. “He wants you to fight, so fight! There’s no need for all this nonsense. I definitely won’t be interfering this time. Who cares if you kill each other. You both deserve it if that happens!”

Eating the kick, the Asura General staggered a few steps back and folded his hands. “Yes, sir!”

“C’mon, let’s watch on from the side!”

Li Qingshan placed his hands on the shoulders of the siblings and pulled them into the distance.

“Oppressment!” Hua Chenglu grumbled. Taking advantage of her privately was already enough, yet he still touched her in front of so many people. What an oppressive, despicable man!

All Hua Chengzan could do was smile bitterly too. Even Hua Chenglu was not resisting such close contact right now. If she claimed she did not have any feelings for him, he would never believe it even if he were beaten to death. His own sister wanted to throw herself into someone else’s arms, so what could he say as her elder brother? However, he understood Hua Chenglu’s feelings a little.

This time, if Li Qingshan were not present, then let alone Hua Chenglu, everyone else who entered the Dragon Arena would have ended up dead. Even if they managed to survive against Si Qing’s lackeys, they would die to these asura. Si Qing had probably never planned on giving them the astronomical reward right from the beginning.

Even now, the chance to escape this place was all up to Li Qingshan. Seeing how relaxed he was, Hua Chengzan stopped worrying. He would let him oppress him this time.

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In the centre of the Dragon Arena, the two powers transformed into an imposing black dragon and a crow that was pitch-black like ink respectively. Their clash became even more intense.

Seeing the appearance of asura, Si Qing wanted to gain control over the Asura Field even more. Although these low-level asura were not of particularly great assistance to him, this was only the beginning. As long as there was sufficient time, he could assemble an army of asura.

Compared to these asura, losing those subordinates was nothing. They came nowhere close in both battle prowess and loyalty. As for that Li Qingshan, he could kill him at whim.

Thinking up to this point, he bellowed out, “Sea-like Dragon’s Might!”

The black dragon erupted with light, suppressing the crow bit by bit. Mo Yu obviously refused to let up, resisting desperately as he cawed out.

The ruined Soaring Dragon terrace was silent. Droplets of sweat rolled down Si Qing's face.

The Golden Core cultivators exchanged glances. If they launched a sneak attack now, Si Qing would not be able to block it no matter how powerful he was. In order to save their disciples, they completely stopped worrying. Si Qing can be heartless, so we'll be unrighteous.

Jia Zhen and E Dan worked together to separate these Golden Core cultivators from him, preventing the Golden Core cultivators from striking rashly. For a moment, they entered a stalemate as well. No one dared to act recklessly.

Si Bao said, "Big sis, when are they going to fight until?"

"Soon." Gu Yanying smiled. Her gaze as sharp as a hawk's gazed at the Soaring Dragon terrace below her feet.

The moment she finished talking, there was a great rumble, and a scarlet figure leapt out from the Soaring Dragon terrace, picking up the Dragon Arena and taking off. He was the daemon Northmoon, who had turned around and returned.

"Oh no!" Jia Zhen and E Dan suddenly raised their heads, their faces changing drastically.

Northmoon unfurled a pair of wings of wind and fire and shot off into the air with a trail of firelight.

At the same time, in the centre of the Asura Field, the black dragon had triumphed over its opponent, but it was also completely exhausted. Suddenly, a spirit turtle descended from above, giving off a great, overpowering will and suppressing the black dragon and crow at the same time.

"Who is it!?" Si Qing and Mo Yu were both overcome with surprise and rage.

"My two good grandsonnies, have you even forgotten the voice of your grandfather Northmoon?"

The spirit turtle suddenly spoke in human tongue; its voice was filled with complacency and mockery. In the blink of an eye, he had stolen control over the Asura realm, purging and ejecting Si Qing and Mo Yu's powers.

Si Qing abruptly opened his eyes, only to see Jia Zhen and E Dan doing everything that they could to catch up to Northmoon. With a furious roar, he turned into a black dragon and chased after him.

In the Asura Field, Han Tieyi was about to challenge the Asura General again when the landscape around him changed, discovering that he was now mid-air. Down below was the commandery city of Ruyi. He had already left the Asura Field somehow.

Afterwards, he saw Hua Chengzan, Liu Zhangqing, and so on. They had all come out too. Li Qingshan was obviously among them. Everyone was stunned. Before they could even return to their senses, a black dragon whistled past them.

At the same time, a black figure had been ejected from the Asura Field too. It was Mo Yu. He let out a strange, furious, and shrill cry, turning into a clump of twisted darkness before vanishing on the spot. When he reappeared, he was already behind Northmoon. Black feathers fell down and enveloped him.

As Foundation Establishment cultivators, Liu Zhangqing and the others could not fall to their deaths at the very least. They each carried a few Qi Practitioners and descended from above. Before they had even touched the ground, the Golden Core cultivators surrounded them, asking about the situation regarding their disciples.

Before Hua Chengzan and the others could speak, a Foundation Establishment cultivator from a sect languished tearfully. "Sect maser, I've been useless. T- they've all died..."

Chapter 659 - Swooping In

The expressions of all the Golden Core cultivators changed drastically. One of them grabbed the cultivator by the collar. "What? Tell me clearly. What exactly happened?"

The other cultivators' gazes towards Li Qingshan and the others became extremely hostile. Originally, they were already anticipating some losses in the competition this time, but they never expected it to almost be complete annihilation.

The Foundation Establishment trembled as he explained everything. The Golden Core cultivators all flew into a rage. Some of these dead disciples were like children to them, and some were actually children or descendants. They were extremely attached to them. These disciples were the foundations of their sect, yet they had all been sacrificed to refine the Asura Field, now all dead. They were overwhelmed with fury and hatred.

"Si Qing, this isn't over until one of us is dead!"

On the Soaring Clouds terrace, Si Bao placed her hand on the railing and gazed at over a dozen streaks of light flying off into the horizon. She said, "How fast. This Northmoon sure is bold. Though, how is he going to escape from Mo Yu?" She never thought the competition would actually end so quickly.

Gu Yanying waved her folding fan gently and smiled. "It's just a clone, so even if it's killed, it doesn't matter. Though, if he really does end up succeeding, Si Qing and the others are going to cry!"

Si Bao said with admiration, "Big sis, you anticipated this a long time ago, right?"

"How could I? That guy is very unpredictable."

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Pitch-black feathers shot through the air as pitch-black streaks.

Northmoon refused to underestimate the abilities of this crown prince of daemons. With only a mirror clone, he was definitely not Mo Yu's opponent. If Mo Yu caught him, Si Qing and the others would immediately arrive, and it would be even more difficult to escape.

He turned around, and with a flip of his hand, he raised the Asura Field that had shrunken to the size of an alms bowl high into the air. It erupted with a suction force, drawing in the black feathers like rocks sinking into the ocean.

He smiled. Apart from being able to summon asura, it was a great shield this time too. Not a single powerful attack could cause much harm at all if they were drawn into the Asura Field that spanned several hundred kilometers.

There were two daemons high in the air, one pursuing and one fleeing, moving like flashing lightning.

Failing with that attack, Mo Yu extended his ghastly-pale hand that resembled a corpse's and reached towards Li Qingshan's throat with a flash.

"Tremor!"

Li Qingshan launched a palm strike backwards, matching Mo Yu's hand. He wanted to use the force to escape further away, but a powerful suction appeared from Mo Yu's palm, keeping him firmly stuck. At the same time, the silent, cold power of death ebbed over, constantly eroding away his body. Wherever it reached, his body would immediately stiffen and grow numb.

In a single moment, he lost feeling in his entire arm. Even the colour of his skin had become a deathly grey. The power of this clone alone was nowhere near enough to oppose a Daemon Commander as powerful as Mo Yu. He could not even survive a single strike.

Whoosh!

Mo Yu suddenly unfurled a pair of pitch-black wings that enveloped Li Qingshan completely, forming a black sphere before beginning to twist, collapse, and shrink.

Jia Zhen waved his fan, and a bolt of scorching-white lightning hurtled towards Mo Yu. E Dan threw a punch, and the aura turned into a vicious wolf.

But at that exact moment, the black sphere had already shrunk to the size of a fist, vanishing with Northmoon and the Asura Field. The lightning and the wolf both missed.

"No!" Si Qing roared hysterically.

Five hundred kilometers away, a black speck appeared out of nowhere, turning into a black sphere. A pair of black wings unfurled. Mo Yu gripped Northmoon by the neck as he said sinisterly, "You will die!"

"Everyone will die, but not today!"

Northmoon's face became a deathly grey, but it exhibited an extremely-resplendent smile.

Mo Yu suddenly noticed that something was amiss. When he checked Northmoon's hands, they were already empty. The Asura Field had vanished. Afterwards, Northmoon's figure began to ripple, gradually fading away.

As if someone had kicked up a wave on the mirror-like surface of a lake, the various images reflected in the lake immediately rippled apart. As the ripple settled, Northmoon had already vanished.

Mo Yu was stunned. His face that resembled a dead man's suddenly began to twitch and twist violently. He had spent several days to invade the Asura Field, even going as far as to fall out with Si Qing, yet in the end, his mortal enemy, Northmoon, had swooped in and taken advantage of him. Repressed anger

smouldered inside him. Suddenly, he raised his head and let out a crow's cry. All of the people and beasts that heard this caw on the ground below passed away immediately.

Having watched the Asura Field he had refined vanish right before his eyes, Si Qing felt like he had been struck over the head. He was so furious that he wanted to cough up blood. Overwhelming killing intent assaulted him from behind. He turned around, only to see over a dozen furious Golden Core cultivators rushing over in pursuit. They used their strongest killing move as soon as they struck, without holding back anymore at all.

“You bastard, die!”

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Below the Soaring Clouds terrace, Li Qingshan smiled at Han Qiongzhi. “Don't worry, I'm fine. Tieyi is fine too!” In his right hand hidden within his sleeves, there was a ripple of water, and it turned into a water mirror.

The image in the water mirror twisted, and the palm-sized Asura Field appeared. He immediately used the spirit turtle to suppress its aura.

This was his most flexible innate ability—Watermirror's Image.

In the very beginning, he could only create a mirror clone, but afterwards, he discovered he could reflect attacks. Even further afterwards, he discovered that no matter how far away, he could use the Watermirror's Image to directly summon his clone to his side. The items on the clone obviously came too.

In the past, he had never imagined this move could be of any proper use. It only gave him the convenience of being able to summon his clone to his side when needed. It could help out, or he could summon his clone back in time if it were under attack, letting him avoid some losses.

He never imagined it would achieve such wonders this time. Although he could not directly summon his clone to his side, he could secretly pass some “stolen goods” over to his main body through the water mirror. Leaving his clone there was only to lure the enemy away.

Having completely duped Si Qing and Mo Yu and obtained the Asura Field, Li Qingshan was in a great mood. When he gazed into the distance again, he saw Si Qing facing off against the Golden Core cultivators, which made him even more cheerful. Good things came in pairs.

Heh, my good grandsonny A'qing, you've gone to such lengths and pains, yet it has still all fallen into the lap of your grandfather Northmoon in the end!

If he thought closely, there were a lot of suspicious points to consider. How did Northmoon grasp the perfect timing to strike? And how was he able to locate the centre of the Asura Field as soon as he struck, stealing the control over the Asura Field? Even Mo Yu had taken several days before he slowly invaded the centre of the Asura Field.

However, no one could have imagined that the real Northmoon had always been trapped in the Asura Field, calculating and analysing the entire Asura Field through the spirit turtle, which was why he managed to succeed in a single stroke.

Suddenly, he felt a sharp gaze. Looking back, he smiled brightly at Gu Yanying on the Soaring Clouds terrace and said to Han Qiongzi, "I'll go have a talk with commander Gu." He called Hua Chengzan along.

Hua Chengzan caught up to him in a hurry, and the two of them arrived on the Soaring Clouds terrace, clasping their hands. "Greetings from your subordinates, commander Gu, commander Si!"

Si Bao said impatiently, "Li Qingshan, tell me everything that happened. What happened inside?"

Li Qingshan told her what happened, without any lies. However, he did skip over the matters connected to his secrets.

When Si Bao heard that Li Qingshan had obtained the Great Banyan Tree King's Fruit of Wisdom, she had already widened her eyes. When she heard how he took on eighteen people alone and defeated all of Si Qing's lackeys, she even showed disbelief.

"The Great Banyan Tree King would give the Fruit of Wisdom to a kid like you? You actually defeated so many Foundation Establishment cultivators alone? You better not be boasting, or I'll beat you up!"

Li Qingshan laughed. "Just by you?"

"What did you say!?" Si Bao questioned her ears. There truly were no bounds to this kid's arrogance.

"Cough, cough, nothing. Hehe, I've overreacted. I've been provoked a little too much by people recently."

Gu Yanying held back Si Bao, who was about to blow up, and smiled. "Alright, settle down. Keep going!"

"Afterwards, I visited each battlefield and stopped all of the battles before killing all of Si Qing's subordinates. However, the Asura Field descended afterwards, and it still ended up descending into chaos. In the end, only we were left, but we were quite lucky. We finally managed to escape there alive."

Apart from Li Qingshan, everyone felt like they had just survived a disaster, but probably only he was able to remain in a good mood. Even the Academy of the Hundred Schools from the Clear River prefecture that had the most survivors lost more than half of their disciples. However, Li Qingshan was not acquainted with any of them, so their deaths did not exactly sadden him.

"I can testify that everything commander Li said is true!" Hua Chengzan added.

Hua Chengzan's gaze drifted past Gu Yanying and Li Qingshan. He could not help but think, Does she know his other identity? Heh, I'm such an idiot. If she didn't know, why would she give him so much special treatment?

Both of them were people who resided between the Daemon race and the Human race, so they obviously possessed a natural understanding of one another. Both of them only did things that they wanted, and they were both unfathomable. Back then, under the snowy pine outside Qingyang city, it was actually a fateful encounter between them, while he was just an insignificant background character.

He could not help but think of what Li Qingshan had said to him in the past, to either pursue her arduously or to let go of her with ease. Back then, he even said he had absolutely no idea how great of a

distance existed between them and Gu Yanying. Before he knew it, many years had passed, and he could already stand on equal footing with her.

When he thought up to there, he suddenly made up his mind. It was about time he made up his mind!

Si Bao clapped her hands and smiled. "Hah, Si Qing is going to be in trouble this time. He probably can't even maintain his position as the Marquis of Ruyi. I really want to thank that Northmoon!"

If he had just used cultivators as sacrifices to refine the Asura Field, as long as he had a justifiable reason, the imperial court would probably do nothing to him. Perhaps someone might even admire Si Qing's great efforts. However, if he lost the Asura Field, then the situation would be entirely different.

Dragon Arenas were all items the imperial clan forged using tremendous amounts of resources. They were equivalent to items the emperor bestowed upon them. Once they were lost, it would be a great crime. Now that this had happened, his actions of sacrificing cultivators would come off as atrocious and foolish.

In short, evil could be covered up, but incompetence was unforgivable. The imperial court would definitely punish him.

Si Qing understood this too. He had almost fallen into a rage after going through such sacrifices and pains to end up like this. He turned into a black dragon and roared furiously, spitting out rolling black smoke that formed a black cloud. He moved around inside, catching a Golden Core cultivator in his claws, just about to kill him.

Jia Zhen said in a hurry, "You mustn't, your highness!"

Si Qing barely managed to keep his fury in check. He asked the Golden Core cultivator, "Do you want me to spare your life?"

The Golden Core cultivator happened to be extremely staunch. He said, "I, Peng Shizong, have cultivated for my entire life. I can only endure insults so many times!" Immediately, he blew up his golden core. With a great boom, the dragon's claw was forcefully blown apart, and the black dragon suffered a colossal wound from the explosion. Blood and scales scattered into the surroundings like it was raining. Si Qing let out a furious and forlorn dragon's roar.

Chapter 660 - Displaced Anger

"Fellow Peng!" "Fellow Peng!"

The Golden Core cultivators cried out. They were all Golden Core cultivators of the Ruyi commandery, so they had all become acquainted with one another at least a century ago. Even if they were not particularly close with one another, they could not help but feel sympathy for the loss of one of their own when they saw the fate he faced.

"Si Qing, you're out of your mind!" "To think that the mighty imperial clan would actually raise someone with the heart of a jackal like you!"

Among the cries and curses, the attacks became even more violent.

Si Qing was heavily injured and in a rage. The powers from the two sides clashed violently, illuminating the night sky in the distance. Fierce winds swept over from the distance, ruffling everyone's clothes on the Soaring Clouds terrace.

A while later, three rings of light erupted on the horizon one after another. A series of booms followed. That was the final swansong of the Golden Core cultivators' several years of cultivation.

After losing four people, the Golden Core cultivators finally scattered and left, but all with deep hatred.

Si Qing turned back into human form. His clothes were tattered, and his hair was dishevelled. Many parts of his body were injured, which made him seem like he was in an especially sorry shape. He felt no joy from defeating his opponents at all. Instead, he felt rather lost. With how everything had ended up, what was he supposed to do next?

"Your highness, return to the estate first. We can discuss what we do next slowly!"

Si Qing opened his eyes. His face was filled with ruthlessness, which then subsided. "You're right, sir!"

"This isn't over yet. Prepare yourself for some 'displaced anger'!"

Gu Yanying gazed into the horizon, seeing the three of them fly over. She smiled towards Li Qingshan.

Si Bao said, "Kid, you better stay away from trouble for now. He's already become completely unhinged. If he really decides to act crazily, even we might not necessarily be able to keep you safe!" Although this kid is arrogant, defiant, and rude, he's still a member of the Hawkwolf Guard after all. Big sis is part of the reason why he fell out with Si Qing so much.

Gu Yanying smiled. "I've already contacted boss Jin. You'll be fine as long as you avoid this storm."

"Why should I run and hide? He was the one who set the rules. It's not like I did anything, so why can he just 'displace his anger' on me? Moreover, he still owes me. Since when are creditors supposed to be afraid of seeing their debtors?" Li Qingshan stood with his arms behind his back, fiddling around with a string of prayer beads in his right hand. The largest prayer bead had already been crushed.

I don't know who your "boss Jin" is, but I have a boss too!

Gu Yanying raised an eyebrow and glanced at him. She shook her head with a smile and no longer said anything. She was very curious about his trump card. "Little Hua, you can head down for now!"

"Yes, commander!" Hua Chengzan bowed before shooting another glance at Li Qingshan, telling him to be careful. He flew off the Soaring Clouds terrace.

Si Bao shot a glance at Li Qingshan. "Kid, if you die, you better not say we didn't warn you. Leaving right now is already too late!"

Si Qing, Jia Zhen, and E Dan had already returned. Si Qing noticed Li Qingshan standing beside Gu Yanying at first glance, and his eyes almost lit up with flames. This bastard had provoked him time and time again, killing his subordinates, destroying his plans, and he was even connected to that Northmoon.

Northmoon had stolen the Asura Field and taken off. Overcome by both new and old hatred, he decided to vent it all on Li Qingshan.

“Li Qingshan, why are you not kneeling?!” a fierce bellow erupted like thunder.

Below the Soaring Clouds terrace, Liu Zhangqing and the others still had not left yet. They all looked up in worry. Han Qiongzhi suddenly looked up, immediately leaping onto the Soaring Clouds terrace, but before she had even approached the place, she already felt Si Qing’s mountainous aura, flooding over like a black wave. She gritted her teeth and worked against the flow, arriving beside Li Qingshan.

“Qiongzhi!” Li Qingshan was very touched inside.

Han Qiongzhi smiled at him. Although she had no idea what he had done, she was willing to endure this prince Si Qing’s thunderous wrath with him.

Looking at Li Qingshan, Si Qing could tell he was not taking him seriously at all, which made him even more furious. With a wave of his hand, Li Qingshan vaguely heard a dragon’s roar, and a black dragon claw reached towards Li Qingshan’s throat.

Li Qingshan pulled Han Qiongzhi behind him and thought, Why is this monk so slow? Didn’t he say he would rush over as soon as possible?

A delicate, jade folding fan extended over from the side, tapping the claw gently, and the claw immediately pulled back. Si Qing said furiously, “Gu Yanying, are you still going to protect him even now?”

Gu Yanying said, “He’s still a Scarlet Hawk commander of the Hawkwolf Guard no matter what you say, and I’m still a White Hawk commander of the Hawkwolf Guard no matter what you say. I can’t just watch as he’s killed without reason, right? What benefit will that bring you?”

“Kill without reason? He’s a demon in disguise! It makes perfect sense for me to kill him!” Si Qing said with his jackal-like voice, filled with viciousness.

Si Qing ground his teeth like he wanted to swallow Li Qingshan whole. If the treatment that otherfolk received among human cultivators was repulsion, where they could be captured at any time to serve as slaves, then the treatment of demonfolk would be much worse than otherfolk. Once they were discovered, all cultivators would try to kill them. Not only would these cultivators be innocent of any crimes, but they would even have rendered a great service to humanity instead, performing the heroic feat of purging demons and protecting the path of cultivation.

Before the nine provinces had settled down and before Great Xia had been established, the Demon race from other worlds constantly tried to invade the place. Because of their chaotic and evil nature, they wreaked even greater havoc than the Daemon race. They could be described as enemies of the world, where everyone wanted them dead. Ever since Li Qingshan displayed his demonified form in the Asura Field, he was already a dead man in Si Qing’s eyes.

Even if he was a Scarlet Hawk commander, he could be directly executed without a second thought.

“Erm, demon?” Gu Yanying was taken aback and glanced back at Li Qingshan. Just how many more secrets was this guy hiding on him?

Han Qiongzhi was surprised too. She had heard from Han Tieyi about how Li Qingshan had transformed. Was this perhaps the secret he had been hiding the entire time? However, it made no sense when she

thought about it. It was rumored that demons were lustful and bloodthirsty, committing outrage freely, taking honour in evil and taking shame in kindness.

Li Qingshan laid out his hands and said, "Your highness Si Qing, you better not spout nonsense. Who's the demon? Where's the evidence?"

"Only demons can demonify and wield demonic artifacts. So many people saw you already, yet you still want to deny the truth? As for evidence, it's right inside you. Every demon has a demon heart. You better watch as I kill you and dig out your demon heart!"

Si Qing said as he approached Li Qingshan, surging with murderousness. There was a white flash, and Gu Yanying blocked him again.

"You want to protect a demon?" Si Qing said, even regarding Gu Yanying as his enemy now.

Gu Yanying sighed. "Even if he's a demon, he should be personally dealt with by my Hawkwolf Guard. I've already reported this to my superior. He'll be coming to investigate very soon. If he is a demon, I obviously won't spare him!"

Although humans and daemons constantly clashed, their relationship was not entirely hostile. That was why she could maneuver between the two with her identity as a half-human, half-daemon. However, demons were different.

Si Qing became a lot calmer. In the entire Green province, there was only a single person that Gu Yanying could refer to as her "superior". Li Qingshan's death was certain, but he had also made such a great plunder, so he probably could not escape punishment.

"Alright, I'll wait for that sir to arrive then!"

As soon as he finished talking, a golden streak of light shot over and descended from above.