

Chapter 661 - Sir, Are You Perhaps Deaf?

The golden light dispersed as streaks. An old man dressed in the uniform of the Hawkwolf Guard appeared on the Soaring Clouds terrace. He had a soaring, golden hawk embroidered on his chest. Its beak and talons were curved like hooks, their edge shining brightly; it was like a golden-feathered peng bird of legends.

Note: A peng bird is a legendary giant bird from Chinese mythology. It is sometimes translated into “roc”, but that’s inappropriate for this novel. Why? You’ll find out later.

Everyone shivered inside. There was a single set of those clothes in all of the Green province. He was the highest-ranking officer of the Hawkwolf Guard throughout the entire Green province—the Gold Hawk commander.

Across the thirty thousand kilometers of the Green province, the person who possessed the greatest status was obviously the lord of the Green province, the Fierce King of Chu. There were a few Soul Nascence cultivators and Daemon Kings, but there were only a handful who could stand on equal footing with the provincial lord. The Gold Hawk commander happened to be one of them.

The old man did not give off a special bearing. Apart from his clothes that were rather eye-catching, not a single part of him stood out. A gentle smile often stretched across his round face, which made him seem more like a rich man than the commander of an entire province. Moreover, he possessed a very business-related name—Jin Fugui.

Note: Jin means “gold”, which is a relatively common surname in China. “Fugui” basically means riches and honour.

He was born into a merchant’s family, and it was not some great merchant’s great clan, but a small merchant who dealt in regular business. His parents were educated enough to not give him a name like “Gousheng” or “Naowa”, but they were nowhere near educated enough to give him a name that befit his current identity.

Note: Names like “Gousheng” and “Naowa” are basically as unsophisticated as you can get. “Gousheng” means dog’s leftovers, while “Naowa” means useless child. I think I explained the reason why ancient Chinese people gave children vulgar and unsophisticated names in chapter 331. Quoting what I wrote there, “In ancient China, children were frequently given unsophisticated and vulgar names in hopes that they will live longer. They believed that the worse a child’s name was, the harder they would be and the more likely they would survive to a greater age; this was due to the high infant mortality rate. This comes from local beliefs that when the judges of the dead come to collect souls (basically people die when their souls are collected), they don’t think it’s a name befitting of a human, so they skip the person.”

After all, a long, long time ago, no one would have imagined the chubby, bare-assed child would end up like this today. It basically made perfect sense for him to be called that based on the family he was born into, and they did not place the slightest unrealistic wish on him with his name. They only wanted him to be lucky enough to grow up and inherit the family business firmly and securely.

No one had expected the son of a measly merchant to step onto the path of cultivation one day and undergo the third heavenly tribulation in a single stroke, reaching his current heights. The name was unsophisticated, but it was still a proper name his parents bestowed upon him. He could not change it carelessly, so he just accepted it.

Gu Yanying waved with a smile. “Boss Jin, these clothes still suit you so much!”

“Girl, you’re saying something like that again to piss me off again!” Jin Fugui laughed before feigning a sigh. “The Hawkwolf Guard is fantastic, except for this set of clothes. It’s as tasteless as you can get. If you really have to talk unlucky, it’s all because of this character ‘gold’.” However, who knew how many people wished they could wear such “tasteless” clothes.

Note: Remember, Jin Fugui’s surname is “gold”, and he’s the Gold Hawk commander.

Gu Yanying suddenly became solemn, clasping her fist and lowering her head. “Greetings to commander Jin from subordinate Gu Yanying!”

Si Bao, Li Qingshan, Han Qiongzi, and the many Hawkwolf guards below the Soaring Clouds terrace all clasped their fists and lowered their heads too. “Greetings, commander Jin!” The other cultivators who were not Hawkwolf guards all bowed politely.

Si Qing bowed. “Greetings from junior Si Qing, commander!”

Jin Fugui turned around, and his smile subsided slightly. He returned the gesture. “Greetings, your highness!” Although there was quite a large difference between their cultivations and identities, Si Qing was still a prince of Great Xia. He was still a subject of the imperial clan.

Jin Fugui studied the Soaring Dragon terrace that was an utter mess and patted a broken pillar gently. “I already know about what happened here. I will report this to the provincial lord and his majesty truthfully. I will neither exaggerate, nor will I try to hide any details.”

He was polite and respectful, but he remained completely straight-faced, worlds apart from the intimacy he showed Gu Yanying. Si Qing knew it was impossible for this person to cover up anything for him. He had known this right from the beginning. If he could refine the Asura Field, it would be nothing even if he lost the position of Marquis of Ruyi, but nothing had turned out as planned in the end. When he thought up to there, he jabbed his fingernails into his hand.

Holding back his deep regret and fury, he said calmly, “I will obviously bear all the consequences, but before this, there’s something I’d like to report to the commander.”

“What is it?”

“Although many things happened during the Exhibition Matches of the Nine Prefectures this time, I did not go completely without learning anything. I discovered that a demon was hiding among the Hawkwolf guards and actually made it to the position of Scarlet Hawk commander, even claiming the title of genius. If he isn’t eliminated soon, he’ll definitely become a great source of trouble in the future.”

“A demon! Who are you talking about?”

Jin Fugui’s smile vanished. A demon had infiltrated the Hawkwolf Guard—this was a sizable matter.

"It's him, Li Qingshan!" Si Qing pointed out with his finger, like a spear wanting to pierce through Li Qingshan.

"Do you have any evidence?"

Jin Fugui had noticed Li Qingshan a long time ago. He was indeed worthy of his title of genius to possess such a great cultivation at such a young age. And earlier, when he first arrived, this child had lowered his head and bowed like everyone else, but he did not have much respect in his eyes. Even when Si Qing identified him as a demon, he remained extremely calm, even smiling slightly in disdain.

"I saw it with my own eyes, so how could it be false? Everyone below the Soaring Clouds terrace are witnesses, but they're all good acquaintances of Li Qingshan, so they'll probably cover for him. Making them tell the truth will take quite the trouble. How about this? Commander, please relieve him of his identity as a Hawkwolf guard, and I'll immediately 'inspect' him. If he doesn't have a demon heart within him, you can punish me however you like, commander!" Si Qing said viciously.

Clearly, this inspection would not be a gentle body check. Instead, he would dismember Li Qingshan and grind him into dust.

"There's no need for all that trouble to find out whether he has a demon heart in him or not. Yanying, take a look and see whether he has a demon heart in him or not. He's your subordinate, so if he is a demon, you can execute him personally!" Jin Fugui said to Gu Yanying suddenly.

Since Si Qing had already said something like that, he was absolutely confident. Although Li Qingshan remained very calm, someone who had been wrongly accused should not have been so calm.

Gu Yanying frowned. He had asked her to do this clearly so that she could personally distance herself from the blame. After all, she would basically be directly responsible as the White Hawk commander if a demon managed to infiltrate the ranks of her Scarlet Hawk commanders.

"Commander!" Han Qiongzhi could not help but speak up. Li Qingshan pulled her hand, expressing to her that she should not worry. "Commander, inspect away!"

Gu Yanying met Li Qingshan's eyes again and said with her soul sense, "Just what are you thinking? Before boss Jin, you definitely can't escape even if you expose your true form."

Li Qingshan smiled. "Why would I want to escape? Come!"

This kid is still hiding another trump card up his sleeve!

Gu Yanying widened her eyes, and her pupils suddenly constricted, like a pair of eyes that belonged to a hawk. Her gaze became almost tangible, piercing through Li Qingshan's body and sweeping up and down. She basically found the dark-red demon heart before long at all. She sighed and turned around, facing Jin Fugui. "Yes, there is indeed a demon heart!"

Si Qing smiled viciously, but Liu Zhangqing and the others waiting below the terrace all gasped with that.

Jin Fugui let out a sigh, but he also stopped worrying. Fortunately, she had not tried to protect him through lying. She would just be making herself vulnerable for nothing. It would be completely pointless. The cultivation community was not a place where the truth could be hidden so easily.

“Looks like he’s a demon who's naturally skilled at hiding, even fooling me. Li Qingshan, you might not have done anything bad, but humans and demons cannot coexist. This is written in the very laws of Great Xia. No one can save you. You better end your life yourself!”

With that, Han Qiongzhi felt like lightning had just struck her, becoming sheet-white. There were a series of surprised cries from below the Soaring Dragon terrace.

Li Qingshan said to Jin Fugui, “Commander, just because someone possesses a demon heart, they’re a demon?”

Jin Fugui frowned. “Stop quibbling. If you’re a man, then accept death calmly!”

In everyone’s eyes, this was all a desperate attempt to survive after being caught in a hopeless situation. It seemed both powerless and pitiful.

Although Si Qing felt extremely depressed today, he still felt some delight in seeing a genius who had always caused trouble for him and opposed him meet his end. E Dan took a step forward, rubbing his hands as he smiled viciously. “If you won’t end your life yourself, I can help you out. Though, it won’t be so straightforward.”

“Amitābha. Some matters in the world just seem unresolved despite being already resolved, so wouldn’t it be better for them to just be left unresolved? In my opinion, those who possess demon hearts are not necessarily demons!”

A grand, vast voice boomed out from the horizon. Jin Fugui looked back, only to see that the voice originated from a figure the size of a mustard seed. The figure took a step and already grew to the size of a fist. With another step, he grew to the size of a child. When he took the final step, he had already made it onto the Soaring Clouds terrace. He was a large, plump monk in large, fluttering robes with his chest and belly showing.

He took three steps through the air, but he had already crossed several hundred kilometers. Originally, he possessed quite the bearing of an eminent monk, except he held the golden leg of a lamb in one hand and a great alcohol gourd in the other, completely destroying his image of an eminent monk of buddhism.

The Iddhi-vidhā, or the Divine Foot knowledge!

Si Qing remembered something. Buddhim had six abhijñā, or six types of knowledge or powers. Only Monk Kings that had undergone the third heavenly tribulation at the very least possessed the right to practise them. This move alone explained this person’s cultivation.

Note: Abhijñāis special knowledge or powers obtained through buddhist cultivation. There are a total of six of them, which are iddhi-vidhā, dibba-sota, ceto-pariya-ñāṇa, pubbe-nivāsanussati, dibba-cakkhu, and āsavakkhaya, or translated literally from Chinese, the Divine Foot knowledge, the Heavenly Ear knowledge, the Mind of Others knowledge, the Past Lives knowledge, the Heavenly Eye knowledge, and the Elimination of Mental Defilements knowledge. Basically, iddhi-vidhā, or the Divine Foot knowledge, provides the ability of flight, transformation, and instant teleportation, which is what the Unraging monk used here.

He had begun gathering information about the Green province even before he came to the Green province, and he had mulled through everything he needed to know about every single third heavenly tribulation existence of the Green province. He could vaguely guess the identity and origins of this monk, except he did not know why he had suddenly rushed over. He felt rather uneasy inside. Was it because of Li Qingshan? But the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga should have been even more antagonistic towards demons!

“So it’s you, the monk who eats meat and drinks. I thought you were going to guard the back of Great Buddha mountain for the rest of your life. Why have you suddenly come out?” Jin Fugui asked jokingly.

There were only a handful of people with their cultivation in the entire Green province, so they all knew one another.

Although the Unraging monk had already remained behind Great Buddha mountain for an entire century, the Raging monk of the past was infamous. He had committed countless murders, a renowned disaster throughout the entire Green province. If he had not originated from the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga, the Hawkwolf Guard would have eliminated him a long time ago. There had been plenty of contact between them in the past.

The Unraging monk smiled. “I was originally reluctant to step into the secular world again, but unfortunately, I’ve become involved with a hint of bad karma. It’s stopping me from finding peace in my six senses, or sadindriya.”

Li Qingshan said, “Master, you’ve come too slowly. If you had come a little later, someone else would have ended me.”

The Unraging monk’s face changed, pointing at Li Qingshan with his index and middle finger while scolding. “Damned disciple, I keep my eye off you for a single day and you leave the mountain and make trouble. Why don’t you get over here and greet your master?”

Li Qingshan rolled his eyes, walked over, and brought his palms together, saying unenthusiastically, “Master, are you well?”

Everyone was taken aback, doubting their ears. They actually referred to one another as master and disciple.

Gu Yanying blinked her eyes, struggling to hold back her laughter.

Jin Fugui was taken aback. “Unraging, he’s your disciple?”

“He’s a damned disciple of mine, but if you have to, you can say that he’s my first disciple.”

The Unraging monk looked at Li Qingshan and nodded in satisfaction. He was already close to the second heavenly tribulation. He could not help but admit that when it came to cultivation, this disciple of his could leave any master satisfied.

“But he’s not a monk!” Jin Fugui exclaimed. Having been deemed as the first disciple, he would not be a regular disciple. Instead, he would inherit the Unraging monk’s legacy.

“A secular disciple! I’m not one right now, but I’ll definitely be one in the future!” Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow. “Actually, I definitely won’t be one in the future either!”

Jin Fugui was left speechless for a moment. It was a petty matter, yet a colossal existence like the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga had suddenly become involved, and the one who stepped forward was even that bastard, the Unraging Monk. Suddenly, everything had become troublesome.

Si Qing said sunkenly, "Master, your disciple is a demon!"

The Unraging monk smiled. "I've already said that those who possess demon hearts are not necessarily demons. I said it so loudly. Sir, are you perhaps deaf?"

Chapter 662 - Breaking the Game

From the terrace, the Unraging Monk's voice boomed like thunder.

Immediately, blood completely receded from Si Qing's face. Growing up, he had never been insulted in front of so many people, and he was currently helpless against the person who insulted him.

Jin Fugui shook his head gently. Although he had gone from "Raging" to "Unraging", a leopard could not change its spots. This monk had never been known for possessing a good temper.

Jia Zhen waved his feather fan. "Demons are demons, humans are humans. It's not something you can distort and quibble with language. The mighty Unraging monk of the mighty Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga actually wants to protect a demon?"

E Dan droned, "The Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga might be able to block us from purging demons, but they can't block the mouths of the entire world. Commander Jin, please uphold justice."

They never imagined the Unraging monk to not even glance at them. He said to Li Qingshan, "Damned disciple, how'd you throw these people into a flurry? You better explain yourself clearly!" He completely reduced the two vicious people, Jia Zhen and E Dan, to mere accessories to the incident.

Li Qingshan explained the entire story, from how he fell out with E Dan, to the Exhibition Matches of the Nine Prefectures this time and Si Qing's actions.

When the Unraging Monk heard how Li Qingshan openly cursed E Dan in the hall, he took a bite of his lamb leg. "Well cursed. That behaviour is no different from a beast's!" Then he heard how Si Qing's lackeys had ganged up against Li Qingshan, followed by how they were all killed. He took a sip of alcohol. "Well killed. That bears great resemblance to your master's demeanour in the past!"

"A mighty prince from the imperial family, the leader of an entire commandery, would actually sacrifice the lives of thousands of cultivators for his personal gains. Someone so out of his mind truly should not live in this world. In the end, he lost everything, which you can say is the will of the heavens. Damned disciple, you've done well!"

When he listened to the end, the Unraging Monk laughed loudly at the sky, but his laughter seemed to contain the flames of fury that could burn down everything. Si Qing, Jia Zhen, and E Dan all changed in expression.

Jin Fugui never had a particularly good impression of Si Qing. After hearing about everything, he had come to stand up for Gu Yanying before becoming even more reluctant to get involved. A Scarlet Hawk commander of my Hawkwolf Guard is someone you can execute just because you want to? Who do you take me for?

“Unraging, the status of master and disciple comes before the status of superior and subordinate, so I’ll leave this child to you to take away. I believe the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga will judge him justly under the precepts of the monastery.”

He was obviously letting Li Qingshan go. I don’t care whether you’re a human or a demon. I’ll leave you up to the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga! However, he was quite surprised. The relationship between the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga and the Demon race should have been as hostile as water and fire. With the Unraging monk’s identity and cultivation, why couldn’t he see the demon heart in Li Qingshan’s body? And why did he have to protect him?

“It would be wrong of you to say that, commander Jin. This damned disciple of mine refuses to be a monk, so why would I take him back with me? Since he’s a Hawkwolf guard, then his punishment should obviously be up to you. Though, let me restate what I said earlier, those who possess demon hearts are not necessarily demons!”

Suddenly, the Unraging monk erupted with demon qi, coloured like flames and twisting into faces of rage. Even the sky changed in colour.

“Demon King!”

Jin Fugui took a step back in caution, staring at the Unraging monk in disbelief. With such a bearing, he was already a legendary Demon King. The Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga was actually hiding a Demon King at the back of their mountain. This was even more unbelievable.

Afterwards, he saw the Unraging monk in the demon qi bring his palms together, smiling widely like a smiling buddha, possessing the solemn bearing that only an eminent monk of buddhism could possess. A single glance was enough to comprehend the true meaning of “casting aside the butcher’s blade and attaining instant enlightenment”.

The Unraging monk asked, “Commander, do you know which hall I guard at the back of the mountain?”

“The Demon Suppression hall!”

“Then have you ever heard that the Demon Suppression hall possesses a cultivation method called the Demon Suppression Statuary?”

“I have heard of it. Don’t tell me... No wonder... I’ve never heard that someone managed to practise this cultivation method. I didn’t think it would be your fortuitous encounter.”

Jin Fugui was stunned at first before reaching realisation. In the past, although the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga managed to protect the Unraging monk, many people said he had already suffered from qi deviation and fallen into the demonic path, unable to make anymore progress again. Never did they think he would actually overcome the heavenly tribulation one day and reach the realm of Monk Kings.

It also made perfect sense now why the Unraging monk would accept a secular disciple as his disciple. Li Qingshan clearly practised the Demon Suppression Statuary too, which was why he had a demon heart in him and why he could use the various abilities of the Demon race. In other words, he had a demon heart, but he was not a demon.

“Practising this cultivation method requires great obsession and great obstacles, but also great willpower and great wisdom. I came across one for once, so I decided to show a little more care to this damned disciple of mine, but that doesn’t mean he can strut around, thinking himself as impressive and making unnecessary trouble for the commander. If he’s done any wrong, please punish him freely, commander. There’s no need to pay any attention to me.”

The Unraging monk withdrew his demon qi and tossed his alcohol and meat aside, bringing his palms together and bowing. He was indescribably friendly.

“It’s Great Xia’s good fortune to have such an outstanding person in the Hawkwolf Guard.”

“I cannot stay in the secular world for long, so I’ll be taking my leave first.”

“Take care, master!” Jin Fugui raised his hands with a smile.

If a regular person who did not know what was going on had been watching, then this would seem like a wealthy man who was trying to do good and virtue bidding farewell to a monk politely after giving alms to a monk who had come knocking.

Master, it’s rare of you to come out. You should let me hold you a banquet so that you can feast to your heart’s content for a good three days!”

Seeing how the Unraging monk managed to pacify an almost-despairing situation with just a few words, Li Qingshan could not help but feel grateful over the kindness he had shown. Moreover, he wanted to ask about Xiao An.

“Hmph, it’ll be no good feast. Having a damned disciple like you will probably only bring endless troubles and disaster. I really should just let you deal with the consequences you face alone!”

The Unraging monk said in exasperation, but he did not say that purely out of exasperation. Everyone at his realm of cultivation had a vague sense over the obscure existence of fate, like how a single statement could end up being prophetic.

Li Qingshan smiled. “I originally wanted to deal with the consequences I face alone too, reluctant to drag down everyone else. However, there’ll always be some ties of karma that remain unresolved in human life.” As he said that, he glanced at Han Qiongzhi deeply.

“Where are the prayer beads?”

“Right here!” Li Qingshan took out the string of prayer beads. The Unraging monk stroked it with his great sleeve, and the shattered prayer bead was repaired. Then he said, “Damned disciple, take care!” Taking a step, he strode away through the air.

Li Qingshan gazed into the distance as if he was in thought.

Gu Yanying stared at his back and smiled inside. With this identity of his, he could wander the world freely. Si Qing had bitten off more than he could chew this time.

“Your highness, looks like it was all a misunderstanding. Scarlet Hawk commander Li Qingshan of my Hawkwolf Guard is not a demon like you speak of!” Jin Fugui said flatly.

Jin Fugui's friendliness as a rich man had vanished completely. Clearly, this misunderstanding had displeased him. As long as he spoke a little firmer when he reported to the imperial court, it could lead to great misfortune for Si Qing.

"Then it looks like I was mistaken!"

Si Qing gritted his teeth. Not only had he failed to kill Li Qingshan, but he had even been insulted for nothing instead. On top of that, he had antagonised two powerful cultivators, as well as the organisations behind the two great cultivators, which was basically a consequence even worse than refining the Asura Field. It left him so gloomy that he wanted to cough up blood.

Jin Fugui nodded at Gu Yanying and was about to leave when Li Qingshan suddenly said, "Commander, there's something else I'd like you to preside over to ensure it is carried out fairly!"

"Oh? What is it?"

Jin Fugui recovered some friendliness. Although Li Qingshan came off as rather unruly, he was still his subordinate after all, and he did indeed have the right to be unruly. With his cultivation, he had the opportunity of pushing past the second heavenly tribulation under the age of thirty. There were only a handful of geniuses like that across the entire Green province. As long as he did not die along the way, he could definitely stir up the nine provinces.

Li Qingshan said nothing more and opened his hundred treasures pouch. With a smack, a small medal fell onto the ground, followed by a great rustle. Thousands of medals fell out like flowing water, forming a small mound before him.

"What's this?" Jin Fugui was rather confused.

"Li Qingshan, y- y- you!" Si Qing's face twisted slightly. He almost began to breathe fire.

"This is for the reward that his highness Si Qing promised. Basically all of them are here, so please tally them up, your highness!" Li Qingshan said calmly.

Basically all the medals Si Qing had allocated were here. Even if a few were missing, there would be no more than a hundred.

Back then in the Asura Field, when Han Teiyi challenged the Asura General again.

Hua Chengzan advised Li Qingshan. "Qingshan, you better gather these medals, just in case something happens."

Li Qingshan smacked his forehead. "I almost forgot about this." This had been a rule that Si Qing had set down in the first place, the main objective of this competition. From the lackeys he had slain, he had already obtained a thousand medals from their hundred treasures pouches.

As a result, he ordered the asura to scavenge all the hundred treasures pouches from the battlefield littered with the remains of thousands of cultivators. Then he sent them off to other battlefields. He basically left the weapons scattered on the battlefields to them as a reward.

The asura completed this task very easily, so Li Qingshan obtained thousands of medals.

At this moment, Liu Zhangqing and the others arrived. Seeing the situation, they all took out their medals and handed them to Li Qingshan. It was no longer possible for them to exchange anything from their enemy, Si Qing, with these medals. Even if they were shameless enough to do so, Si Qing might not necessarily acknowledge it. As a result, they passed them all to Li Qingshan without holding back at all.

A single medal could only be regarded as possessing some value, but it was not enough for Li Qingshan to take it seriously. However, when all of these medals were gathered together, that would be tens of millions of spiritual stones, as well as countless pills, talismans, spiritual artifacts, and arcane artifacts. It was truly a tremendous sum. He obviously could not let Si Qing get away scott-free, wanting to have this debt resolved properly.

Si Qing's face darkened at times and turned green at others. He never planned on issuing these rewards. In his plan, all the cultivators would die, serving as sacrifices for the Asura Field, but he never expected that not only would someone survive, but they would even basically gather all the medals too.

Jin Fugui looked at the trembling Si Qing and did not feel any pity at all. He had set the rules of the game himself, using absolute advantage and strength to subdue everyone, only to end up like this in the end. It was as funny as it could get.

"I will mention this to his majesty too!"

Gu Yanying understood that the appearance of three people broke Si Qing's game—Mo Yu, Northmon, and Li Qingshan. Although she knew Li Qingshan and Northmoon were the same people, she did not know that even Mo Yu had been drawn over here by Li Qingshan.

Chapter 663 - The Lotus Seeds Have Already Rotted Away, I Am Still Me

Gu Yanying returned to the Waterside Pavilion of Listening Wind. When she recalled the Exhibition Matches of the Nine Prefectures this time, she still found it extremely interesting. A refreshing fragrance lingered around her nose, and a pretty figure lifted up the curtains, walking out. Qian Rongzhi held a white, porcelain bowl with both hands and smiled.

"Master, you've returned!"

"Looks like you didn't waste this time either." Gu Yanying's eyes shone slightly and also smiled.

"Rongzhi would never let down the great lengths master has gone to to nurture me. Please try out my culinary skills." Qian Rongzhi presented the bowl before Gu Yanying. The lotus seeds were glistening and snow-white, perfectly round and full. There was a small, porcelain spoon in the bowl.

Gu Yanying extended her hand to accept it when Qian Rongzhi suddenly said, "Ah, it's the wrong bowl!" Tipping her hands gently, the bowl fell and smashed to pieces with a clank. The lotus seeds scattered across the ground.

Gu Yanying was mildly taken aback. Qian Rongzhi had already turned around and returned behind the curtains, emerging again immediately. She held another porcelain bowl in her hand, but when she brought it before Gu Yanying, it was a bowl of pitch-black mud. There was a small, porcelain spoon in the bowl too.

Qian Rongzhi smiled with a hint of cruelty and resolve.

Gu Yanying gazed at her and sighed. She suddenly felt rather exhausted. “Why won’t you give yourself an opportunity for your wounds to heal?”

“Thank you for your kind intentions, master, but it’s already too late. My wounds have already grown fetid, covering my body. If I were to shave away the rotten flesh, then nothing would remain!”

Qian Rongzhi lowered her head slightly, gazing at the bowl of mud. If lotus seeds could not bloom into lotus flowers, then they could only rot away into mud. Just how many despaired lotus seeds did this bowl of mud contain?

Gu Yanying was left momentarily speechless. Fleeing from suffering and sadness and pursuing happiness and joy was the instincts of all creatures. Even the buddha who had attained emptiness and non-self called the world he existed in “great joy”—paradise.

People were most welcome to suffer, but if they understood how they could obtain happiness and joy and possessed the ability to obtain happiness and joy, yet they chose to conquer this instinct, willingly sinking into the mud, refusing to admire the lotus flowers and refusing to search for the lotus seeds, then even the buddha would struggle to bring them salvation.

As a result, Gu Yanying said, “You’ll probably be even more talented with the Illustrations of Naraka than me!”

“Thank you, master.”

“There’s no need to thank me. I originally thought I saw the shadow of my past on you, so I did many boring things. Looks like I was wrong.”

After listening to the Unraging monk’s explanations, Gu Yanying originally believed Qian Rongzhi was extremely suited to practising the Demon Suppression Statuary. Now, as it seemed, that was not true. If she condensed a demon heart, she would only let it develop and go crazy until she entered hysteria, becoming a demon among demons.

“Fortunately.” Qian Rongzhi drank the entire bowl of mud in a single gulp and smiled resplendently. “I am still me!”

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Ru Xin returned to benevolence island, passing through the long passageway underground. The white light lit up with her steps, extending into the centre of the underground room.

A man with a very ordinary appearance sat among a pile of books, meditating. He was Chu Tian. Through these several days of hard work, he had managed to squeeze his cultivation back to the second layer of Qi Practitioner.

This speed was basically unforgivably slow to him. One reason for this was because of the many hidden wounds left over from the destruction of his cultivation, and the other reason was because he had insufficient cultivation resources. He could not make bricks without straw.

“Fellow Ru, I need some pills.”

“I’m not your mother. I already give you food and shelter, so am I supposed to give you pills too? Will you show me filial piety in the future? I came to check on you to see whether you died or not. Since you’re not dead, you better just stay here then.”

Chu Tian smiled. “Fellow, you’ve got quite the temper. What happened during the Exhibition Matches of the Nine Prefectures this time?”

Ru Xin was mildly taken aback, noticing there was something wrong with her emotions. There was a ball of flames burning within her, spreading uncontrollably. She waved her hand.

“Alright, I can give you some regular pills, but if they’re too precious, it won’t do.”

Chu Tian bowed slightly. “Thank you. I’ve managed to recall many things recently, which includes a cultivation method that I think is very suitable for you.”

“Really? What’s it called?”

“The Heavenly Tome of Cloud Furnace, one of the Myriad Heavenly Tomes. It incorporates the arts of alchemy, placing your body into an alchemy furnace and practising both qi and the body. Combined with the Daoist Arts of Cloud Furnace, it can lead to endless wonders. Although you’ll have to endure quite a bit of torment and pain when you practise it, it’s definitely worth it. There’s probably only a small fistful of cultivation methods from this world that can compare to it. You can treat this as repayment to you and your master for saving my life.”

“What pills do you want? As long as you don’t go overboard, I can provide all of them to you!”

Ru Xin nodded. The value of a decent cultivation method went without saying to a cultivator, while a cultivation method that could be titled as a “Heavenly Tome” definitely was anything but ordinary. Compared to it, these pills were nothing.

“I do have another request!” Chu Tian pulled out a medical classic from beside him. “Please use the techniques of the school of Medicine to change my appearance. I want to go out and start over!”

Ru Xin remembered something. The school of Medicine did have techniques to change appearances, but they were not frequently used. Not only did it require extremely great skill, but it also touched on the physiognomic fate, so it could not be changed so easily.

And, changing appearances required some extremely-precious materials. One of them was “merfolk muscle”. In short, it was flesh carved from the bodies of Merfolk of the South sea. Only then could the new appearance merge perfectly with the body. There were no regular cultivators who could afford these items.

“Alright. I’ll find a way to gather materials!”

Ru Xin pondered about this for a while. There actually was no need for her to go to the South sea and capture a merfolk or carve flesh from her body. As long as she was willing to pay a great price, she could basically purchase all of these materials. If she really tried to use her flesh, it would be a guaranteed failure, as she was not Merfolk through and through.

Fortunately, she had always been refining pills for Li Qingshan, so she built up quite a sizable sum of resources. Gathering the materials should not be too difficult.

“Then I’ll be waiting here for the news of your success. I’ll definitely pay you back once you help me with this!”

As a result, Chu Tian passed on the Heavenly Tome of Cloud Furnace and the Daoist Arts of Cloud Furnace to Ru Xin before explaining some of the important points. It was so wondrous that it left Ru Xin utterly amazed. The cultivation process was indeed difficult, basically refining herself like a pill. She required a top-of-the-line pill cauldron and even some supplementary materials.

The cultivation process was extremely laborious too. As she endured the pain, she also had to control the interaction between water and fire with great precision. Once the Heavenly Tome of Cloud Furnace was practised to a certain extent, she could turn her body into something akin to jade, making her impervious to damage and maintaining her youth forever. Her lifespan would be much longer than regular cultivators.

In the end, Ru Xin gave a few pills to Chu Tian, and Chu Tian handed a portrait he had personally drawn to Ru Xin. Ru Xin glanced at it and saw a relatively youthful and striking face, but it made her think of something.

“Even if you change your appearance, it’s still possible for her to see through your identity if you don’t change your stature. That woman has a lot of suspicions.”

“I’ll definitely be able to find a way to retrieve what I’ve lost.” Chu Tian smiled faintly, but it was filled with great determination that he would never allow to falter.

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In the Qing Xiao dwelling, the Eight Gates Formation of Golden Locks continued to operate mindlessly, guarding an empty dwelling until a figure appeared on the horizon, flying over quickly and landing at the entrance of the dwelling. The formation obviously let him in.

Li Qingshan gently touched the three words “Qing Xiao’s Home” that Xiao An had personally written. He could not help but look in the direction of the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga, but his gaze obviously struggled to cross the many mountains. As a result, all he could do was look away before recalling everything he had gone through during the past few days.

Sure enough, Si Qing was unable to produce such a great sum of resources. Even when Li Qingshan recalled his expression where he almost went crazy from poverty, he still found it extremely hilarious. In the end, he only barely managed to pay up thirty percent of the spiritual stones, talismans, and pills.

Li Qingshan even wanted to put in a few snide remarks, but Jin Fugui’s gaze stopped him. He said, “You’ll receive what belongs to you sooner or later. The imperial clan won’t leave you unpaid, but you should also know when to stop. Even your master cannot necessarily handle everything. Unless you become a monk in the Chan Monastery of Deva-Nāga, the world still belongs to the imperial clan.”

As a result, Li Qingshan stopped badgering on about this. Everything he had obtained already left him extremely satisfied.

After Jin Fugui took his leave, Si Qing immediately took off, rushing to the Dragon province to explain himself. He did not throw down any threats at Li Qingshan either, just glancing past him indifferently

and saying, “Li Qingshan, I admit I’ve underestimated you, but this won’t happen again. One day in the future, I will make you understand just how fortunate it would have been for you to die here today.”

It was filled with absolutely irreconcilable hatred, which even made Han Qiongzhi shiver on the side.

Li Qingshan laughed. “Cut the bullsh*t. Hurry up and pay me back!” Si Qing left furiously.

Afterwards, Gu Yanying told Li Qingshan in private that Jin Fugui would be reporting this matter to the imperial court. With how prideful the imperial clan was, they would definitely settle Si Qing’s debt for him even if they dismissed him as a prince. The punishment that Si Qing would receive would be slightly heavier too.

Li Qingshan smiled. “With the size and prosperity of the Si clan, they’re obviously not lacking the small bit of change they owe me!” It led to quite a few eye-rolls from Si Bao.

However, Gu Yanying shook her head. “But this might not necessarily be good. The imperial clan is already in enough pain from losing the Asura Field. Now that you’re adding insult to injury, they just need to say something, and you’ll be in great trouble. Bottom lines are not to be crossed!”

Li Qingshan vaguely understood what Jin Fugui was trying to say, but he was not worried. There were two sides to everything, just like how good fortune followed disaster and disaster lurked within good fortune. Surely he could not be interested in receiving benefits while still being afraid of offending anyone.

He would handle the problems as they came. The only thing he was worried about was the imperial clan directly sending a third heavenly tribulation cultivator to wipe him off the face of the world. If that happened, then there truly was nothing else he could do. He could only take off and get out of here.

He also understood what Gu Yanying was trying to say. She was warning him against becoming complacent, just in case he dug a hole for himself.

As a result, Li Qingshan said, “After eating the Fruit of Wisdom. I think I’ve comprehended quite a few more things. I plan on going back and entering secluded cultivation so that I can make a push for Golden Core.”

“If you need anything, you’re most welcome to let me know.”

Gu Yanying nodded. She also had an outstanding debt to Li Qingshan. However, now that Li Qingshan had the identity of the first disciple of the Unraging monk, there was no need for her to hide it so much. She could easily write it off as a form of investment.

Li Qingshan said, “I want to buy a few Virtue Accumulation pills, the more years the better.”

Chapter 664 - Recognising Me As Me, Kicking Up a Stir Once More

Virtue Accumulation pills were one of the few pills that could be mass-produced. There were a lot of pills with similar or greater efficacy than it, but many of the materials and spiritual herbs could not be planted en-masse, so either there was an extremely low yield from farming, or people were forced to collect them from lands of wilderness.

Virtue Accumulation pills were different. Every single herb that went into its production could be planted in gardens. Of course, it would take a long period of time. The older the herbs were, the greater efficacy they possessed and the better the Virtue Accumulations pills refined from them would be.

The most ordinary Virtue Accumulation pill was equivalent to a year of cultivation. Beyond that, there were three-year Virtue Accumulation pills, five-year Virtue Accumulation pills, and so on. Although absorbing the effects and removing the residue from the body would take some time, it could still drastically decrease the amount of time spent on cultivation. Although the spiritual herbs that went into its production could be farmed, they were still extremely expensive.

However, if ingesting pills led to an unstable foundation, then the time saved would be spent on the bottleneck. No matter how great the medicine was, it could only serve as a powerful supplement, unable to completely replace the cultivator's process of cultivation. The cultivator still had to consider and bear the trade-offs themselves.

"I don't have a lot of Virtue Accumulation pills on me. The best one I have is a five-year Virtue Accumulation pill, but it's worth a hundred times more than regular pills."

"I'll take it." Li Qingshan did not hesitate at all, buying five Virtue Accumulation pills. Three of them were regular Virtue Accumulation pills, one was a three-year pill, and one was a five-year pill.

Afterwards, he lingered around for a few more days in the commandery city. Before he left, he gave the five-year Virtue Accumulation pill to Han Qiongzhi. They spent more time apart than together, so he could only make it up to her slightly in other ways.

He could still remember how Han Qiongzhi's expression was rather strange as she held the Virtue Accumulation pill. Her joy from obtaining a precious pill had been completely drowned out by some other emotions. It was as if she wanted to turn him down, but she still accepted it in the end.

Li Qingshan understood that perhaps he should stay here for some time, but he also knew it was time for him to set off again. He could not remain anywhere for anyone for lengthy amounts of time. All he could do was constantly advance, striving towards beyond the Nine Heavens. He did not even have the time to acknowledge his own feelings.

As a result, after a parting kiss, he left.

Li Qingshan dismissed his thoughts and made his way into the Qing Xiao dwelling. He took out the Asura Field. Ever since he stole it, he never had the opportunity to examine it closely. It basically seemed no different on the outside, just now dyed with a colour of blood-red with some additional, eye-catching and bright-red inscriptions.

He tossed it up gently, and the Asura Field expanded, reaching the size of a yurt. Li Qingshan walked in, and his surroundings changed. An expansive land unfurled before him. At the same time, he assumed his form with the scarlet hair and pupils, spreading his wings and flapping them gently. The scenery around him immediately stretched into thousands of streaks of light, receding behind him rapidly.

He stopped in front of the towering tree. The sun vines flowers were still blooming. The blooming period was not over, decorating the great banyan tree with resplendence.

Li Qingshan declared loudly to the great tree, "From today onwards, I am the owner of this place. I am Northmoon. Sir, you must be the Great Banyan Tree King of the Ten Daemon Kings!"

Right now, the most important resource in the Asura Field was the Great Banyan Tree King. Not only could he provide him with tree sap that could quickly recover spiritual qi, but he could also bequeath him with wisdom and inspiration. He could ask him about many problems he encountered with cultivation. As a result, the first thing he did when he entered the Asura Field was visit him.

"It's you?" The Great Banyan Tree King said in surprise.

"It's me what? You've seen me before?" Li Qingshan was taken aback, but he showed none of it.

"You're Li Qingshan!"

"What are you blabbering on about? How can I be a lowly human?" Li Qingshan raised the pitch of his voice unhappily.

The Great Banyan Tree King suddenly began to chuckle aloud. His colossal body shook gently. His laughter was filled with understanding.

"It's no wonder that I sensed the Asura Field had been refined by someone inside. So it was all you. That kid Si Qing is probably about to cough up blood from anger."

Li Qingshan's body slackened. "Fine then. How did you manage to tell?"

"I might have lived for over ten millennia, but I haven't grown that senile just yet. How could I not recognise you after seeing you a mere few days ago? Compared to your appearance and aura, your microexpressions, the way you talk, and your body language stands out just as much in my eyes."

Li Qingshan was forced to admit that sometimes, he could not fool everyone just by changing his face and surrounding himself in daemon qi. At the very least, he could not fool the Great Banyan Tree King who only grew more insightful with age.

The reason why his dual identity had never been seen through was because most of the people he made more contact with under the identity of Northmoon did not know Li Qingshan, while the people that Li Qingshan was familiar with rarely had any contact with Northmoon. As a result, it led to an insufficient amount of information. Combined with the fact that his clone was there to confuse everyone, that was the only reason why he had managed to maintain this secret until now. With this as a lesson, he would definitely pay extra attention to this.

"Then please keep this secret for me, fellow!"

"Don't worry. To me, this tiny secret of yours is nothing. I'm keeping many more important secrets than that!"

The Great Banyan Tree King had experienced the change of the ages, so while Li Qingshan's existence was a little strange, he did not stand out too much compared to the people of the past. Of course, this was only his current belief.

With the Great Banyan Tree King's promise, there was no reason for Li Qingshan to worry anymore. As a result, he smiled. "Since we know each other, then I'll get right to it. Actually, there are still many aspects of the Arts of the Boundless Ocean that puzzle me, so please give me some guidance, fellow!"

.....

On Moon Court lake, rain poured down heavily as the waves surged madly.

A huge, red carp swam about and rolled around in the lakewater, sometimes bobbing to the surface and sometimes diving to the bottom.

Bolts of lightning tore through the night sky, tailing behind it.

"What's happening?"

Two beautiful, female night roamers stood on a tall lookout tower in the dwelling at the centre of the lake. One possessed a noble bearing, her eyes twinkling like stars, while the other was alluring, with large breasts and wide hips. They were Ye Liusu and Ye Liubo. Their gazes passed through the rain, plunging into the depths of the black water.

Ye Liusu said, "The carp under master seems to be undergoing a tribulation!"

Ye Liubo was surprised. "It's just becoming a Daemon General, so why is there such a great disturbance?"

Ye Liusu vaguely guessed why, but she did not mention it. This would only happen if the carp possessed the Water God Seal, but he would never hand the Water God Seal to anyone else unless he had no other choice. She could not help but become slightly worried.

The carp named "Li'l Red" by Li Qingshan returned to Moon Court lake with the Water God Seal. The power in the Water God Seal obviously flowed into its body.

So far, the Water God Seal had basically refined all the water within the Ruyi commandery already, whether it was above or below ground. The Ruyi commandery was extremely rich with water resources, enough to rival ten Jiangnans, so just how vast was the water spiritual qi?!

Even just absorbing a thousandth of the spiritual qi was equivalent to consuming who knew how many pills for a water element daemon. And, daemons did not possess as many realms and bottlenecks as humans. The greatest struggle they faced was accumulating spiritual qi.

With the Water God Seal as a foundation, it had reached the cusp of Daemon General in a mere few days, causing the heavenly tribulation to descend, and it obviously used the power of the Water God Seal to contend against the heavenly tribulation.

Two figures appeared near a port on the shore of Moon Court lake. One was a brutal and fierce-looking man, while the other was a sunken-faced scholar with a black feather fan. They were E Dan and Jia Zhen.

"That bastard Northmoon actually dared to fool us. I won't be satisfied until I massacre all of his subordinates." E Dan ground his teeth.

“Killing them all is too much of a waste. We better capture them and sell them off as slaves in the Dragon province. It can make up for quite a bit of our loss. Daemons and male night roamers can be sent into the arenas, while female night roamers should fetch a good price!” Jia Zhen waved his feather fan. He seemed extremely calm, but his eyes also blazed with wickedness.

As Si Qing’s left and right hand men, they had always been courteously received and deeply trusted by Si Qing. They had received many benefits because of Si Qing’s identity as a prince. When the lord was worried, his ministers would be insulted. When the lord was insulted, his ministers would die. Now that Si Qing had been forced to return to the Dragon province for punishment despite just taking his position, they felt utterly humiliated. They had to get revenge.

As a result, they cast aside all of their schemes and decided to crush him with absolute strength. After seeing the situation of the Moon Court lake, they reached the same conclusion.

“There’s a daemon undergoing the tribulation. From the disturbance, don’t tell me it’s that wretched daemon Northmoon? He was already so powerful despite being a Daemon General. If he can break through to Daemon Commander, then just who can still keep him at bay in the Ruyi commandery?” E Dan frowned.

Jia Zhen calculated by making a few hand signs. “It’s just the first heavenly tribulation, so it shouldn’t be Northmoon. To be able to make such a disturbance...” He pondered for a while, and his eyes lit up. “It’s very likely for the Water God Seal to be in the daemon’s possession!”

As long as they obtained the Water God Seal, then they could make up for their loss of the Asura Field. If they could fuse it with a Mountain God Seal and refine the true “God Seal of Mountains and Water”, then they would have basically accomplished their entire objective of coming here in the first place.

Right when the two of them were about to take action, a voice suddenly rang out from behind.

“My good friends, it’s really been some time! What has brought you to my humble abode all of a sudden today?”

Within the rainstorm, a naked man with scarlet hair and scarlet pupils strode across the surface of the water. A devilish smile stretched over his handsome, flawless face. He was Northmoon, or more accurately, Li Qingshan’s mirror clone.

Just like how when enemies met, their eyes would redden with rage, E Dan’s eyes did indeed redden immediately. He gave off a violent aura, immediately scattering the rain around him. He stared at Northmoon like a monster who wanted to gobble him up.

“Northmoon!”

Jia Zhen raised his fan and stopped E Dan. “Northmoon, hand over the Asura Field, and we’ll clean the slate between us. We’ll leave immediately. Or, do you really plan on continuing until one side is dead?”

However, he had already made up his mind inside. When Northmoon handed over the Asura Field, he would immediately steal the Water God Seal, clipping his wings before finding another opportunity to kill him.

“Ah, about that. I do admit that I am somewhat at fault, but the Asura Field isn’t with me. It has been stolen by Mo Yu. I almost died at his hand. I only managed to escape after quite a lot of difficulty.”

Northmoon laid out his hands and said helplessly.

However, he secretly frowned inside. With this clone alone, he definitely did not stand a chance against either one of them. Even if his main body rushed over, he could not contend against their combined efforts. Unless Lolth was willing to help out, he did not have the slightest hope at winning at all.

Although he had viciously screwed over Si Qing by playing along, he had never been in possession of any advantages when it came to a direct confrontation. The best result was taking back the Water God Seal despite the risks. He would be in no shape to worry about anything else.

Chapter 665 - The Stormy Night, the Battle for the Water God Seal

In the commander city of Ruyi, Liu Zhangqing and the others boarded the Soaring Dragon ship again. When they bid farewell to Li Qingshan, Ru Xin secretly told Li Qingshan about her “request”, which was to borrow the Water God Seal and cultivate for some time.

This request was basically as simple as it could get for Li Qingshan. The Water God Seal had come from her in the first place, and she could not even use up a tenth, or even a hundredth, of the spiritual qi within the Water God Seal.

Li Qingshan agreed happily. Afterwards, he bid farewell with Han Qiongzhi and found a small lake in the mountains, using the Watermirror’s Image again and creating a mirror clone, which he sent to Moon Court lake.

He never expected to run straight into this storm, as well as Jia Zhen and E Dan. The Water God Seal was at risk of being lost.

As a result, he purposefully told some lies to mislead their senses. Mo Yu must not have gone out of his way to tell them he had obtained the Asura Field, right?

As one of the people who had been fooled, Mo Yu indeed did not publicly announce his failure, and Si Qing did not have the opportunity at all to face him.

Jia Zhen and E Dan exchanged glances. They truly were rather uncertain about whether the Asura Field was in Northmoon’s hands. Logically speaking, there was instead a very great chance that it was not in his hands!

As the crown prince of the Green province daemons, Mo Yu’s strength and reputation even exceeded Northmoon’s. In a one-against-one situation, he obviously had a better chance at victory. Back then, it was Mo Yu who had caught Northmoon and moved him elsewhere. Clearly, victory had been within his grasp.

Jia Zhen suddenly asked, “How do you know the Dragon Asura turned into an Asura Field?”

“I watched and waited for a very long time too. If I didn’t even know what it was, why’d I try and steal it? Sigh, I didn’t think it would all be in vain. Mo Yu is A’qing’s enemy, as well as my enemy. We should work together against him and take back the Asura Field. If we were to get into a dispute, wouldn’t others just get a good laugh out of us?”

The more Li Qingshan spoke, the more he believed he really had a real fucking silken tongue. At the same time, he made his way towards them, expressing he had no ill intentions.

“That makes sense!”

Jia Zhen nodded before suddenly turning around and flying off towards the depths of Moon Court lake. At the same time, E Dan threw a punch. The force of the punch turned into a vicious, black wolf head, producing a shrill howl. It opened its mouth filled with sharp teeth and chomped viciously at Li Qingshan.

Regardless of whether the Asura Field was in Northmoon’s hands or not, they were determined to steal the Water God Seal!

However, Li Qingshan’s reactions were a beat faster. Before the two of them struck, he had vaguely sensed it through the spirit turtle. He directly unfurled his wings and rushed off into the air, heading towards Moon Court lake.

However, as soon as the wolf howl appeared, it seemed to overwhelm his mind. His body stiffened, and the wolf head had already caught up to him like his shadow. He turned around and threw a punch, landing it on the wolf head and using the innate ability of the Tremors of the Ox Demon.

Boom!

The two forces collide violently. A thatched hut and several skiffs docked near a simple village were immediately destroyed, producing a great pit. All the rainwater within five kilometers away had been swept clean, shooting into the surroundings like bullets and piercing countless trees.

At that moment, Li Qingshan’s clone was heavily injured, and a sizeable chunk of his daemon qi had vanished. E Dan was even a little more vicious than he had imagined. He definitely could not be compared with regular Golden Core cultivators. He only needed one more strike to put his clone in danger of collapsing.

He used the Watermirror’s Image urgently and channelled daemon qi into his clone from his main body. All of the wounds sustained and the daemon qi lost recovered very quickly.

However, in that moment, Jia Zhen had already flown several kilometers away, wanting to retrieve the Water God Seal first before pinching Li Qingshan with E Dan.

Li Qingshan waved his right hand, and a violet talisman flew out. He bellowed out, “Freeze!”

Jia Zhen’s figure suddenly stiffened like a tiny insect glued to the space, completely immobilised. “A Freezing talisman! E Dan, keep him busy!” He channelled his powers in a hurry. Although he never expected Northmoon to use a precious violet talisman right from the beginning, the Freezing talisman could not keep him trapped for too long. Instead, it made him stop worrying, as he became certain that this definitely was not Northmoon’s main body.

E Dan did not need Jia Zhen’s reminder. Seeing how the punch was effective, E Dan followed up with another punch. The aura condensed into half a wolf. The wolf howl even drowned out of the crashing rain and lightning.

If that landed on him firmly, then he probably would not have the time to recover at all. He would directly disperse. All Li Qingshan could do was flap the wings of wind and fire. The huge wolf lunged over from behind. Without even looking back, he waved his hand backwards. "Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell!"

Half-transparent hexagons formed a thin screen of light, covering his back. It clearly reflected the huge wolf's figure.

E Dan did not take this small obstacle seriously at all. The huge wolf collided against the screen of light and ripped it apart easily, but a small part of the force was rebounded. The huge wolf twisted and exploded loudly.

The shockwave alone caused Li Qingshan's back to ache, but he was in no shape to care so much anymore. Right now, he was in a race against Jia Zhen. If he could reach the Water God Seal before Jia Zhen and then immediately use the Watermirror's Image to hand the Water God Seal to his original body, then he would have won.

He continued to fly over, only to see Jia Zhen staring at him sunkenly. His body trembled gently and flickered with light, about to break free from the Freezing talisman's restraint at any time. A foul gust of air swept over from behind, and E Dan swelled up in size, becoming a giant of almost thirty meters tall. His clothes were ripped apart, revealing the vivid tattoo of a black wolf on his chest. He roared furiously as he strode over, actually no slower than how fast he flapped his wings. He was truly surrounded by enemies.

Jia Zhen's arm suddenly moved, waving his fan gently and pointing it towards the incoming Northmoon.

The lightning in the sky seemed to receive directions and find their target in that moment. They gathered together into a scorching snake of lightning, crossing through the air with unbelievable speed and striking Li Qingshan.

Boom!

Li Qingshan's entire body shuddered. He felt no pain, only deep numbness. He was temporarily immobilised. Only afterwards did he feel agony everywhere. If Jia Zhen had not been under the effects of the Freezing talisman when he used this technique, then the bolt of lightning would have completely ended the race for Li Qingshan.

Before he could even return to his senses, a fierce gust of wind arrived behind him. The enlarged E Dan extended his hand towards him. He only needed to close his hands around him forcefully, and his clone would immediately be reduced to pieces.

Li Qingshan gritted his teeth and took out the second violent talisman. He activated it!

With a flash of golden light, a steel fortress appeared around him. This was a defensive talisman.

The steel fortress twisted and changed shape under E Dan's brute force, producing an ear-splitting sound, but it managed to forcefully stop him. Li Qingshan had already used this opportunity to fly towards the centre of Moon Court lake.

Jia Zhen swung his fan away, and a whirlwind began to whistle, sucking Li Qingshan in.

The clash on the shore reached the island in the centre of the lake. Ye Liubo exclaimed happily, “Big sister, it’s master’s daemon qi!”

“He’s currently clashing with someone. Gather everyone quickly!”

Ye Liusu passed an order. Beneath the lookout, the night roamers answered valiantly. As the commander of the night roamers chosen by Northmoon, she had already used her abilities to consolidate her authority even though it had already been a very long time since Li Qingshan last visited, gradually leading the night roamers back to their former glory.

“But how can we help master with just us?”

Ye Liubo was willing to even die for him, but she also understood it was impossible to partake in his battles with their strength.

“Have you forgotten? Send everyone to the altar and have mother hold the ritual!”

“Oh yeah, I almost forgot. What about you then, big sister?”

“I’ll be going outside!”

“Outside!?” Ye Liubo gazed in the direction of the lakeshore. The indirect shockwaves of the battle there were enough to make her shiver inside.

“I’m not participating in the battle. I’m going to retrieve the Water God Seal. Oh right, send someone to contact Spider Queen Lolth.”

Before Ye Liubo could reply, Ye Liusu had leapt off the lookout, merging into the darkness. She did not understand the exact situation too well, but she could tell the Water God Seal played an important role in it all.

With his strength, he could escape even if he could not defeat them. His chances of being directly slain were not large. However, if this Water God Seal were lost, then that would be a loss that could not be made up for.

The pitch-black rain whistled down as Li Qingshan heaved heavily. In the moment prior, he had almost been finished off several times. He had already used up all of his violet talismans, but he only managed to stop Jia Zhen and E Dan’s advance slightly, unable to harm them in any way.

Both of them demonstrated terrifying strength that surpassed regular Golden Core cultivators. Either one of them possessed the power to fight against his original body. It was all thanks to the rare violet Freezing talisman he had used in the beginning that he managed to last until now, preventing Jia Zhen from using his full strength.

However, the power of the Freezing talisman had run out too.

Jia Zhen shuddered and broke free. He smiled in a sunken manner, but he felt a hint of regret inside.

Originally, I was worried that was his original body, but it turns out it’s just a mere clone. I should have just worked with E Dan right from the beginning and killed him. He wouldn’t have even been able to use those violet talismans, Jia Zhen thought quickly.

With a wave of Jia Zhen's hand, it was Li Qingshan's turn to be immobilised this time. The huge wolf enveloped him in the blink of an eye. He did not even have the time to recall his clone. His clone directly disintegrated, disappearing from the world.

Before an absolute difference in strength, he could already be described as having tried his best by managing to put up such a degree of struggle.

After waving his fan, Jia Zhen did not even check the result, sending lightning towards his original location.

After carrying out Ye Liusu's orders, Ye Liubo waited on the shore, gazing at the sky full of wind and rain anxiously. Suddenly, she shuddered inside. "Master's daemon qi has vanished! It can't be. That's merely master's clone. He might have erased his aura and fled. Master won't die!"

"What are you muttering about?"

Ye Liusu walked out of the dark lake and water flowed off her body. She carried a slippery little child in her right hand, who only seemed four or five years old. He constantly kicked his feet and put up a struggle, but it did not seem like human behaviour.

"What's this?"

"That fish!"

Ye Liusu tossed the kid onto the ground, and the child wanted to return to the lakewater.

Ye Liusu said coldly, "You must be called Li'l Red, right? There are people outside who've come to steal the Water God Seal. Sir Northmoon has entrusted the Water God Seal to you, so if you lose it, I don't think I need to tell you the consequences, right?"

After keeping them busy for a while, Li'l Red finally underwent the heavenly tribulation and became a Daemon General. However, he was exhausted from the tribulation, so Ye Liusu easily caught him. She said nothing at all, directly bringing him to the water dwelling in the centre of the lake before explaining herself. When he heard that, Li'l Red immediately stopped trying to approach the lake.

Boom!

A turbulent force slammed violently against the formation around the water dwelling. The formation on the outside was already on the verge of shattering.

A giant arrived on the lake shore, with a scholar standing on his shoulder. He noticed Li'l Red at first glance and pointed out with his feather fan. "Hand over the Water God Seal, and we'll spare you lives!"

PS: Hahahaha, defying the heavens worked! It's the last few days of this month already. Your votes are my motivation. Please watch as Dream Teller creates a legend of defying the heavens!

Chapter 666 - With a Punch Thrown, the Wind and Lightning Pale

The aura that the two of them gave off was so great that Ye Liusu and Ye Liubo had never seen anything like it. Even Spider Queen Lolth paled in comparison. Although there were many formations separating

them, it gave them no sense of safety at all. It was as if as long as they were willing, they could easily slaughter them all, no different from crushing ants.

Under such pressure, even Golden Core cultivators would tremble inside. Ye Liusu maintained her composure. "Please allow us to consider it!"

"No, you can't give the Water God Seal to anyone else!" Li'l Red leapt a meter into the air and said with his tender, childish voice.

"We're just considering it, so what's wrong with that? We don't stand a single chance against opponents like that. Even if we lose the Water God Seal, sir Northmoon shouldn't blame us. However, we're probably incapable of making a decision over something so major, so we better return and gather everyone to discuss this."

Ye Liubo also behaved like she was considering it, exchanging glances with Ye Liusu. Handing over the Water God Seal was impossible. They wanted to buy some time first.

"We don't have that much time for you to consider. I'll count to ten. If you still don't hand over the Water God Seal, then you better be prepared to be buried with Northmoon!" Jia Zhen said in a sunken manner.

They had only killed Northmoon's clone earlier. His main body would probably arrive very soon, and this would become troublesome.

Without Si Qing, their combined efforts were not enough to kill him. If they had not made arrangements beforehand, then probably even the three of them would struggle to keep him from running away. Although they were undefeatable, there was truly nothing they could do if he fled as soon as he retrieved the Water God Seal.

They did not believe Northmoon would care about the fate of these night roamers. He would find a way to avenge them afterwards at most. However, they did not believe the night roamers had any loyalty towards Northmoon either. Night roamers had always been renowned for their treachery and cunning. As long as they overpowered them and obtained the Water God Seal, then it would all be smooth sailing from then onwards.

"Ten, nine, eight..."

"Big sister, what do we do?" Hearing Jia Zhen's countdown, Ye Liubo became anxious inside. Sure enough, these two people were not so easy to fool. She glanced at Ye Liusu beside her, only to discover she was relieved.

They refused to waste any time, which meant they were still worried. If they were completely worry-free, then they would let them take as much time as they needed. It would instead prove that the situation had already become the worst-case scenario. Probably even buying time would be useless.

This worry obviously came from Northmoon. She calculated his flying speed and stopped worrying as a result. Right now, all they could do was buy as much time as possible.

Jia Zhen counted to one.

"Alright, we'll hand over the Water God Seal!" Ye Liusu said.

Jia Zhen was unsurprised. E Dan slammed the formation with his huge hand and roared madly, "Bitch, hurry up and hand over the Water God Seal!"

Ye Liusu said, "But you have to swear a solemn oath to the heavens that you definitely won't harm us after you obtain the Water God Seal! Otherwise, wouldn't we just be idiots if you turn against us after we give you the Water God Seal?"

"Do you really think a bitch like you has the right to make us swear a solemn oath?"

E Dan became more and more furious. The black wolf tattooed on him radiated with raging daemon qi, which wondrously merged together with his aura. His body swelled up once again, and many parts of his body became covered in long, black wolf hair. His mouth protruded forwards, his spine arched upwards, and his eyes shone with a green light. He seemed half-human, half-wolf.

"Alright!" However, Jia Zhen agreed to it immediately, swearing a solemn oath to the heavens. He sneered inside, Do you really think a mere oath can restrain us?

To cultivators, there were indeed a few oaths that could not be carelessly sworn, but these oaths only became a personal restraint when they were sworn sincerely from the bottom of their hearts. Otherwise, the strong could easily overwhelm the weak and make them swear eternal loyalty, or they would suffer the consequences of their oaths.

And, even if an oath sworn from the bottom of the heart was broken, there would not be something like punishment from the heavens. It would only be easier to develop inner demons. Oaths with greater restraining powers required certain techniques or arcane artifacts. However, there was obviously no need for Jia Zhen to take a solemn oath seriously that was no different from a lie through his teeth.

He had already made up his mind. A weak point would definitely appear in the formations during the moment they handed over the Water God Seal. By then, all he had to do was break through and capture all of the night roamers and daemons as slaves. Later, he could sell them off in the Dragon province.

Ye Liusu considered it for a moment before sighing. "Actually, forget about it."

"What did you say?" Jia Zhen's face sank.

Ye Liusu ordered Li'l Red, "Use the Water God Seal quickly to stop them for a moment. Sir Northmoon will be coming to our rescue very soon."

"You bitch!"

Jia Zhen's expression changed drastically. He never imagined that even ants would be bold enough to fool him.

"Jia Zhen, I told you already. That trick of yours isn't appropriate everywhere. It's just some third-rate formations. Even if there were some additional layers, they still can't withstand a blow of mine. When I get through the formation, I'll definitely finish off these two bitches!"

E Dan had run out of patience a long time ago. He did not approve of Jia Zhen's thoughts of trying to scheme around and find shortcuts everywhere very much at all. As he said that, he threw a punch at the formation.

Suddenly, a surging wave slammed against him from behind. His body over thirty meters tall staggered, and the punch landed on the formation, but it failed to achieve what it was supposed to. The barrier of light became riddled with cracks, but it continued to hold on firmly.

It was Li'l Red who had just transformed successfully wielding the Water God Seal.

E Dan was not injured, but he was surprised inside, The power of the Water God Seal is actually so great. It already possesses so much power in the hands of a measly Daemon General who just underwent the heavenly tribulation. If Northmoon obtains it, wouldn't he be even more difficult to deal with? I need to get through the formation as quickly as possible!

He let out a wolf howl at the sky and launched a flurry of punches with both fists like claps of thunder. The layer of formation collapsed the moment it was struck.

Jia Zhen waved his feather fan around, barraging the formations with various techniques like a thunderstorm. It seemed disorderly, but he varied the type and element of his technique to target the special characteristics of each formation.

Li'l Red desperately controlled the Water God Seal to obstruct the two of them. However, with his cultivation at Daemon General and all the rivers and lakes of the entire Ruyi commandery, he was unable to unleash the full power of the Water God Seal at all.

Most of the formations around the dwelling came from the major protective formations they had stolen from various sects during the war. Although they were already among the best of the best in the Clear River prefecture, these sects were only small sects with Foundation Establishment cultivators. To Jia Zhen and E Dan, two peak Golden Core cultivators, they could only be regarded as third-rate.

Watching the formations being peeled away one by one, Ye Liusu became stern. Ye Liubo looked back and said anxiously, "The altar still hasn't been activated?"

Suddenly, a dark shadow rose up from the centre of the island, which made the dark night filled with heavy rain seem even more sunken.

Ye Liusu and Ye Liubo both eased up. They left Li'l Red here so that he could continue obstructing them with the Water God Seal as they flew towards where the shadow rose up from.

In the embrace of a small hill, a pitch-black altar had already been constructed. The altar was carved with patterns that fell in line with the night roamers' style, as well as countless stars and mysterious inscriptions.

Northmoon had told Ye Liusu to lead the night roamers back underground in the past. Aside from the defences from the numerous formations, the reason why Ye Liusu was bold enough to return to this Moon Court dwelling was because of this altar.

Kneeling night roamers filled the surroundings of the altar. They all crossed their hands as if they were praying faithfully. Power gathered towards the black altar and rose upwards.

Ye Mingzhu stood on the altar with her hair dishevelled, chanting away as her figure danced about madly like the fleeting, drifting shadow above her. It was like her shadow had been blown into the sky by this power, yet it also maintained a connection with her body, preventing it from being blown away.

With the True Spirit pills Northmoon awarded to them, large numbers of night roamers who were caught in a bottleneck broke through the first heavenly tribulation. Coupled with the powerful night roamers that existed in the first place, there were over a hundred night roamers that had undergone the first heavenly tribulation now. And further outwards, there were thousands of regular night roamers that had not undergone the heavenly tribulation, all summoned here to partake in this mysterious ritual. They channelled all of their powers into the altar without holding back.

Seeing this, Ye Liusu relaxed slightly. This way, they could buy a little more time, but she also became rather worried again. Just how much longer could the formations last? But at this point, overthinking would do nothing. She arrived before the altar with Ye Liubo and also dropped down on one knee. Both of them crossed their hands.

The shadow above the altar gradually consolidated. Ye Mingzhu suddenly let out an inhuman howl, and the shadow completely consolidated. It seemed like a two-dimensional shadow had been pumped full of air. It was no different from Ye Mingzhu's figure now.

Outside the dwelling, Jia Zhen and E Dan worked together and smashed through half of the formations before long. One by one, formation discs shattered and formation banners were reduced to dust. Li'l Red had already collapsed on the ground out of exhaustion.

At this moment, a familiar voice rang out from afar. "My good friends, it's really been some time! What has brought you to my humble abode all of a sudden today?"

He said the exact same thing as if time had flowed in reverse.

Jia Zhen and E Dan glanced back at the same time. Northmoon flapped his wings of wind and fire and tore through the air like a scarlet bolt of lightning. The sky full of wind and rain gathered around him, truly surging with daemon qi.

The two of them could not help but think, He's just a Daemon General, and he's already in possession of such great power and such flexible abilities. If he undergoes another heavenly tribulation and becomes a Daemon Commander, probably the only thing we can do is flee at the mere sight of him. Today, we've completely fallen out with him. If none of us can undergo the third heavenly tribulation, then there'll be endless problems.

However, with the arrow notched and the bow drawn, they already had no choice but to fire.

As the voice rang out, Northmoon had already appeared before him. He said the same thing with a completely different tone and bearing, no longer possessing even the slightest hint of fakeness anymore. There was only naked viciousness.

E Dan suddenly looked back. "Northmoon, you've finally come! Jia Zhen, continue with smashing through the formations. I'll fight him! Northmoon, I am the first disciple under the Beast King of the Mountain Manor of Myriad Beasts from the Dragon province. Are you bold enough to face me in battle!?"

Li Qingshan said nothing. He simply transformed into his original form and threw a punch. It seemed slow, but it actually moved swiftly, pushing forward inch by inch. Tiny, black cracks gathered on the fist, basically providing him with a boxing glove.

It was the same move—Tremors of the Ox Demon—but compared to the punch from his clone, who knew how many times more intense the bearing and force was.

Boom!

With a great rumble, even the wind and lightning paled.

E Dan stumbled a few steps backwards. His eyes widened as his right arm trembled gently. Blood trickled down like a stream.

This wretched daemon's strength was so great that it was basically beyond belief.

Chapter 667 - Intense Battle in the Lake, Each to Their Own Abilities

Above the lake pouring with rain, bolts of lightning ripped through the night sky.

An invisible shockwave expanded into the surroundings. In that moment, countless terrifying waves were shattered and torn apart. A large region of water recovered momentary peace before immediately becoming even more turbulent.

Two colossal figures faced one another in the centre of the lake. A pair of scarlet eyes that glowed like embers and a pair of verdant wolf eyes clashed together in the air, sending sparks flying. They were filled with fury and bloodthirstiness.

However, apart from fury and bloodthirstiness, there was a steady sense of strength; he was like a mountain, gazing down at E Dan before him.

A pair of curved ox horns plunged into the air, and a pair of ox hooves stood on the ground. The deep lake water only reached up to his waist. The colossal waves constantly slammed against his chest that was pitch-black like rock.

E Dan stood near the island, so he stood on land that was much higher, but he was still over a head shorter than Li Qingshan, forcing him to raise his head and gaze at this "wretched daemon" who had spent much less time cultivating and possessed a lower cultivation than him.

Blood flowed down from this right arm, dyeing the water red in the blink of an eye. Apart from the alarmingly-great strength, the terrifying power of tremors in the punch was the true reason for his injury.

The shrill howl of a wolf completely tore through the night sky, coming from both E Dan and the mouth of the black wolf tattoo at the same time. His muscles rippled, and his bones extended, swelling in size once again. Strands of black, spear-like wolf fur erupted from his body, covering him completely and turning him into a black wolf standing on its hind legs. He even grew a long wolf tail that waved around wildly.

Li Qingshan felt threatened too. He loathed this person very much, but he was a worthy opponent. Regular Golden Core cultivators definitely were not in possession of a body and power like that. However, he felt confused inside. Is he also half-human, half-daemon? What kind of place is the Mountain Manor of Myriad Beasts?

The Mountain Manor of Myriad Beasts was one of the large sects of the Dragon province, basically standing on equal ground with the three great sects of the Green province, or even surpassing them in certain aspects. They were specially responsible for tending to the Menagerie of Exotic Beasts for the imperial clan of Great Xia.

E Dan's master, the Beast King, was the lord of the manor, a great cultivator renowned throughout the Dragon province. To be able to become the first disciple under the Beast King in the Mountain Manor of Myriad Beasts where strength was revered, E Dan was obviously much more powerful than his fellow cultivators.

Disciples of the Mountain Manor of Myriad Beasts would draw a beast soul into their body from childhood, turning it into a tattoo. When they fought, they did not have to rely on anything else. They only needed to release the beast soul, and they would possess terrifying battle prowess able to triumph over other cultivators at the same realm.

However, the more they released the beast soul, the easier it was for the bestial nature to influence them. As a result, most of the disciples behaved barbarously and violently, not bound by morals and rules. They did whatever they wanted, almost akin to the demonic path. And, the beast soul could even devour their souls if they were careless, turning into a sacrifice for the beast soul. Most disciples of the Mountain Manor of Myriad Beasts died to beast souls, so unless he had to, even E Dan was reluctant to release the power of the beast soul to such a degree.

Roar! E Dan's back arched high into the air. He stomped his feet into the ground behind him and erupted with startling speed in that moment, lunging towards Li Qingshan.

Why would Li Qingshan be afraid of a direct confrontation with him? He advanced firmly, throwing a punch.

At this moment, he suddenly experienced an omen of warning, and there was a flash of white light.

"Come, lightning!"

Jia Zhen pointed his feather fan at the sky. A lightning snake even thicker than a tree descended from above. Majestic lightning filled the surroundings.

Li Qingshan shuddered. He was unscathed thanks to his powerful body, but every single moment mattered in a clash between the strong!

Bang! E Dan pushed Li Qingshan into the lakewater violently, mauling away viciously and kicking up great waves.

After reaching the fifth layer of the ox demon, Li Qingshan's ox hide became extremely tough. E Dan managed to reduce his throat to a bloody mess, but he was unable to rip it apart completely. Even if he managed to rip it away, he would not die as long as his tiger bones remained standing.

"Good!"

Li Qingshan was overjoyed instead of being surprised. He wrapped his arms around E Dan firmly, and with the Strength of the Earth as a foundation, he feared no one in a direct confrontation of brute strength.

E Dan felt his waist ache as his bones groaned gently. He felt like he was about to be snapped in half. After spending quite the effort, he finally managed to rip apart Northmoon's throat, but what appeared was not blood, but flames. Northmoon seemed completely fine. If he could not break out of this situation soon, he would definitely be the first to die.

However, he definitely did not choose close combat because he had lost his sense of rationality after releasing the beast soul. He growled, "Jia Zhen, forget about the formations. Kill this wretched daemon first!"

The mud at the bottom of the lake suddenly began to rumble. Stone giants stood up from the soil at the bottom of the lake. Every single one of them was around twenty to twenty-five meters tall. They seemed like children beside Li Qingshan's figure that stood over sixty meters tall, but every single one of them was filled with strength. They grabbed Li Qingshan's hands and feet and tugged hard.

After completely releasing the beast soul, E Dan's strength had already become alarmingly great. He was only overwhelmed because he had matched up against a monster like Li Qingshan. Now that he had the assistance of the stone giants, he immediately turned the tables and gained the upper hand.

Li Qingshan's body shuddered as he unleashed the power of tremors, shaking the stone giants to pieces, but in the blink of an eye, even more of them emerged as if they were endless. However, his daemon qi was not endless, so if this continued, he would definitely be the first to give way.

This was obviously Jia Zhen's handiwork. As he watched the battle in the water, even he was surprised. This was the first time he had ever seen E Dan lose the upper hand in close combat, forcing him to rely on external assistance.

The daemon had to be eliminated!

He waved the feather fan again and again, unleashing various techniques. With each wave, E Dan would grow a bit stronger, becoming even more powerful. A defensive light enveloped him, such that even his wounds rapidly healed.

He had not sent out a single ranged spiritual artifact or arcane artifact the entire time either. He only waved the feather fan around in his hand, but it seemed like a piece of cake for him to use techniques of the five elements. All of them were startlingly powerful, so even Li Qingshan could not afford to underestimate them.

Li Qingshan had already left many people surprised when he wielded five arcane artifacts at the same time at Foundation Establishment, but at peak Golden Core, Jia Zhen wielded twice as many arcane artifacts as him. His hands were adorned with rings, a necklace hung around his neck, a pouch of fragrance hung from his waist, and he was dressed in special robes. There were a total of ten arcane artifacts, where none of them were below mid grade. The feather fan in his hand was even a priceless supreme grade arcane artifact.

However, none of these arcane artifacts could directly attack the opponent like flying swords. They all strengthened his techniques and recovery rate. He was the exact opposite of E Dan, who did not rely on any external items. Jia Zhen pushed the specialty of human cultivators to the limit.

Li Qingshan frowned. Sitting there and waiting for his doom had never suited him. With a violent wriggle, E Dan immediately struggled to keep him at bay. He called out at Jia Zhen, "Stop treasuring those talismans of yours!"

"I'll obviously use them when I need to!" As Jia Zhen spoke, he tossed out a violet talisman, which stuck to E Dan's back.

E Dan erupted with golden light, condensing the avatar of a guardian king around him. It was a Strength Talisman of the Guardian Kings that Li Qingshan had not seen in a very long time, but who knew how many times more powerful the violet talisman was compared to that yellow talisman of the past.

At this moment, a black shadow suddenly appeared behind Jia Zhen, vaguely resembling Ye Mingzhu. However, it was completely pitch-black, without any facial features. It gripped a dagger-shaped cluster of darkness in its hand, plunging it towards Jia Zhen's back!

Chapter 668 - The Asura Field Unleashed, the Spider Queen Appears

Who knew how many battles Jia Zhen had been through in his life, so how could he fall to a sneak attack defencelessly? In that moment, at least five layers of defensive light appeared around him, both from his defensive arcane artifacts as well as defensive techniques he had cast. Even Li Qingshan probably could not smash through them with a single punch.

However, the dagger made from shadows passed through the numerous layers of defences silently, making Jia Zhen shiver inside. He wanted to dodge, but he was a step too slow. He felt his back ache as the black dagger pierced his heart.

With a plop, Jia Zhen turned into a cluster of water and dispersed after being stabbed. His original body shifted over thirty meters away, gazing at the shadow as he recovered from the shock. He became both surprised and furious. He had almost messed up a simple task, almost dying to a mysterious assassination.

The path of assassination had always been about striking when the enemy was unprepared and defeating the strong despite being the weak.

On the black altar, Ye Mingzhu, who had originally been dancing about madly, had stopped as if she had lost control over her body. Right now, all of her consciousness had been drawn away from her body, channelled into the dark shadow.

She was filled with endless delight as if she wanted to merge with the sweet curtain of night. If she possessed this power, just where couldn't she go? However, she also understood this power did not belong to her, and it could not be maintained for too long.

However, her chances at overcoming the second heavenly tribulation had increased drastically with this experience. She had heard how a pill called the Origin Spirit pill existed in the world. If she could obtain one, then she would have a very good chance at undergoing the second heavenly tribulation and stepping into a brand-new realm of cultivation.

"Come, lightning!"

Jia Zhen pointed his feather fan at the sky furiously, and the lightning roared down.

Ye Mingzhu dismissed her thoughts. The shadow merged into the darkness once more, waiting for her opportunity to strike.

Jia Zhen glanced around cautiously, unable to cast techniques recklessly like before anymore. Li Qingshan immediately felt like a great burden had been lifted from his shoulders. If this half-human, half-wolf thing could stay a little further away from him, it would be even better.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the lake, the wolf-man E Dan, enveloped in a guardian king's avatar, waved his fists madly and struck Li Qingshan. Every single punch could smash open mountains. Even with Li Qingshan's powerful body and tough hide, E Dan managed to smash his organs into pieces.

Li Qingshan opened his mouth and spat out, but he did not spit out blood, but a ball of flames. "Let's go see the stars together!" He grabbed E Dan's shoulders with a great laugh and suddenly unfurled his gorgeous wings, rushing into the air with E Dan.

The starlight scattered quietly on the sea of clouds. There was no rain there, only flickering lightning. The sound of thunder boomed out from the clouds.

Suddenly, the cloud layer erupted, and two colossal figures burst out of the sea of clouds, breaking the silence.

"There's finally no one to disturb us anymore. Let's have a good conversation!"

Li Qingshan planted his fist in E Dan's face, and the guardian king avatar became riddled with cracks. E Dan tilted his face back and flew away. At the same time, he stomped down on Li Qingshan's chest forcefully, producing a creaking of bones.

When they parted, E Dan immediately opened his huge mouth and let out a wolf howl, while Li Qingshan sucked in a deep breath and unleashed a tiger roar.

The two sounds basically rang out at the same time, criss-crossing and colliding mid-air.

Boom!

The thick clouds parted, forming a great hole. It was possible to make out Moon Court lake that had become very small from there.

The light from the stars and the moon used the opening to sprinkle down on the lake pouring with rain.

Ye Liubo raised her head. She was in a state of utter joy. "I knew it. Master would never die. Master would never lose."

Ye Liusu nodded. "Focus. Let's use our Night Roaming God to assist him!"

"Alright!"

As a result, the two of them focused on praying, channeling their powers into the black altar.

The Night Roaming folk had once worshipped the Night Roaming God. After being forced underground and becoming a part of Spider Queen Lolth's reign, they were forbidden from worshipping the Night

Roaming God. That was until Ye Liusu united the night roamers once more and revived this faith from the ancient records, constructing an altar.

The altar could condense the power of the entire race in a single person and exhibit startling power. It could allow the Night Roaming God to possess them so that it could descend. Under Ye Mingzhu's control, the shadow moved through the darkness and circled around Jia Zhen, sometimes close by and sometimes far away.

Jia Zhen glanced around cautiously with his brows firmly furrowed. The sneak attack earlier had destroyed the life-saving arcane artifact on him, and the remaining arcane artifacts were unable to give him any sense of safety.

As one of the seven great otherfolk races, the night roamers really do have some tricks. If I had been a regular Golden Core cultivator, I would have died from that attack from earlier. However, since you've failed to kill me with that sneak attack, don't even think about touching another hair on me!

Jia Zhen suddenly raised his right hand and channeled his powers into a ring with a gemstone on his ring finger. The transparent gemstone suddenly shone brightly, illuminating a rage of five kilometers and adding splendour to the streak of moonlight from the sky.

Under the resplendent light, a black figure appeared vaguely, constantly twisting under the light like it had sunken into mud.

"Yin, yang, and the five elements promote and regulate one another. There are no techniques that cannot be defeated!" Jia Zhen said. The pure-white light condensed into a long spear in his right hand, which he hurtled at the shadow.

The shadow swung its dagger and cut apart the spear, causing it to shatter in the air. However, its darkness had become slightly thinner.

At the end of the day, night roamers still pursued the way of assassination, where they would flee as soon as their strike failed. It was impossible for Jia Zhen to maintain this radiance forever. He would have to give way some time, which was the assassin's opportunity. However, a direct confrontation like this was not what they were adept at either.

At this moment, E Dan rushed through the clouds and descended from above. Many parts of the golden avatar around him were twisted and distorted, riddled with cracks and on the brink of shattering.

A scarlet streak of light flew about around him, constantly smashing into his body, producing great, resonant booms. With each collision, the golden avatar collapsed slightly, and the cracks grew denser.

That was Li Qingshan. He had reverted to his form of scarlet hair and pupils. He pushed his speed to the limit. Although E Dan could fly as well, he was clearly not as nimble as the winged Li Qingshan. Fighting in the air, he basically could not fight back at all, so he rushed back down without any regard.

E Dan's eyes flashed. He saw the black altar, understanding it to be the source of the black shadow, so he targeted the Moon Court dwelling.

Boom!

E Dan slammed his head against the Moon Court dwelling, and the sound from the collision drowned out all of the thunder. His golden avatar completely shattered, destroying several formations in a single stroke. The remaining formations shook and crumbled, on the verge of shattering too.

Li Qingshan's eyes lit up, using the opportunity to take off and fly towards the dwelling.

During his clash with E Dan, he seemed like he had firmly grasped the upper hand, but the situation had already become rather dangerous. Whether it was the wings of wind and fire or the power of tremors, they possessed alarming might, but that was all on the precondition of consuming vast amounts of daemon qi. He had never tried to use the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell to defend exactly because of this reason.

Once his daemon qi ran out, basically all of his innate abilities would be rendered unusable. Even if he possessed endless physical strength, he would still be a sitting duck. He could even face the danger of dying. Daemon General happened to be where his bottleneck was after all. He had always been waiting for an opportunity to retrieve the Water God Seal. Once he did, he could advance and retreat freely. Jia Zhen and E Dan would be powerless against him too.

"Stop him! Don't let him take back the Water God Seal!"

Jia Zhen quickly repelled the shadow that had already become extremely thin and waved his feather fan at Li Qingshan. Bands of pure-white light wrapped around his hands and feet. At the same time, E Dan lunged back violently, unleashing a swipe with his huge claw.

Li Qingshan suddenly took out an item, targeted E Dan with it, and snickered.

"The Asura Field!" Jia Zhen and E Dan cried out involuntarily at the same time.

A blood-red swirl spiraled out of the Asura Field. E Dan was unable to react in time, hurling into the swirl head-first and vanishing.

Li Qingshan broke free from the restraints and crossed through the remaining formations, entering the Moon Court dwelling and landing heavily on the sandy shore. He scooped up Li'l Red in a single stroke and smacked his belly, making him spit out the Water God Seal. Afterwards, he took a quick glance at the area between his legs.

"Fuck, another male! So much for giving you such a feminine name like Li'l Red. You can go mess around with Li'l Blue in the future!" He tossed "him" onto the sandy ground indignantly.

"Northmoon, so it really was you!" Jia Zhen's face sank. Northmoon had retrieved the Water God Seal. They had already lost half the battle.

"So what if it was me?"

Li Qingshan turned around and smiled, swallowing the Water God Seal in a single gulp. He immediately felt endless water spiritual qi channelling into his body and spreading throughout him. His daemon qi recovered rapidly, and he felt refreshed.

Jia Zhen threatened him. "The Asura Field belongs to the imperial clan. Do you know the consequences for trying to claim it for yourself? You even offended Mo Yu. Even the Dragon King of Ink Sea won't protect you. You really are even more foolish than I imagined you to be."

“The Water God Seal belongs to me. Do you know the consequences of trying to claim it for yourself? You even offended your grandfather. Even your grandmother won’t protect you. You ask who your grandfather is? It’s obviously still me. You really are even more foolish than I imagined you to be.” Li Qingshan completely dismissed Jia Zhen’s threats with disdain.

Jia Zhen’s face changed. “Wretched daemon, you have no idea of death and danger!”

Li Qingshan barked, “Cut the bullsh*t. Are you bold enough to face me in the Asura Field? Would you like to see me smash in your sh*tty heads in there? Or should I just smash in your sh*tty head here first?”

Jia Zhen sneered. “Do you think I’m as foolish as you? You think you can keep E Dan trapped with this Asura Field that had just been refined? Of course, you’re welcome to flee, but I’ll massacre all the night roamers on the island, as well as all the daemons under your command! Are any of them particularly familiar with you? I’ll give them some special treatment!”

“Then it looks like I have to shove you in there too!” Murderousness and malice erupted from Li Qingshan like a tsunami, ready to strike at any time.

“I’m afraid you don’t have the energy to spare!” Jia Zhen’s figure suddenly split into two, and then into four, and then into almost a hundred in the end, scattering into the surroundings and talking together.

How crafty!

Li Qingshan cursed inside. If he used the spirit turtle to divine, finding the real Jia Zhen would be nothing difficult. However, he currently had his right hand behind his back, maintaining the Asura Field. Jia Zhen was right. If he could keep E Dan trapped so easily and then finish off Jia Zhen in a one-on-one battle, he would have done so long ago. The battle earlier would have never happened.

Right now, the surface of the Asura Field was constantly rising and falling. E Dan rampaged around inside, about to break out at any time. Instead, it took Li Qingshan tremendous amounts of effort and daemon qi to control the Asura Field and keep E Dan suppressed.

Having been refined recently, the Asura Field was like a newborn baby. It possessed the potential to become an arcane treasure, but it did not have much combat capacity right now. After all, its original form, the Dragon Arena, had never been used for battle in the first place.

The two of them faced one another with the remaining formations between them. Jia Zhen was waiting for E Dan to emerge, while Li Qingshan was trying to come up with a counterplan. For a moment, they entered a stalemate.

“Northmoon, looks like you’re in trouble!”

Suddenly, an extremely familiar voice rang out. Li Qingshan glanced backwards, only to see Lolth in her black tight suit standing on a rock nearby. Her vermilion lips curled slightly, completely as if she was watching a show. She clearly had no plans of lending any assistance.

“Since you’re here, then cut the bullsh*t. Help me out. I can run away whenever I want to. Do you think they’ll spare you then? They’ll probably fuck you a hundred times!”

Li Qingshan's eyes lit up, approaching Lolth as he spoke. As long as Lolth managed to keep E Dan busy in the Asura Field for a moment, he would be able to finish off Jia Zhen first.

He did not doubt Lolth's powers. She was still a carapaced Daemon Commander after all, and she possessed a powerful, defensive innate ability. E Dan was vicious, but he lacked an attack like the Tremors of the Ox Demon. It would not be so easy for him to butcher Lolth.

"Hah, I never imagined there would be a time when you would ask me for help. Why should I help you? And what benefit will I get from helping you? Tell me! I want to watch you die!" Lolth smiled in an extremely bewitching way, looking down on Li Qingshan right before her. She recovered some of her prideful mannerisms as a queen.

Li Qingshan stared right into her eyes and licked his lips. "Yeah, if I win, I'll fuck you a hundred and one times to pay you back for your kindness!"

Lolth exclaimed furiously and in surprise, "What!?"

"Get in there!" Li Qingshan flapped his wings and lunged over, casting the Asura Field over her.

Lolth never expected Li Qingshan to still attack her while he was facing off against a powerful enemy, nor did she know what an Asura Field was capable of. Before she could even respond, she had already vanished into the blood-red swirl, and the fluctuations in the Asura Field immediately stopped. Clearly, E Dan had already received this gift.

As for whether they would fight or not, Li Qingshan was not worried at all. If a frenzied wolf and venomous spider were locked up in a cage, there definitely would not be a different result.

As a result, he casually stowed the Asura Field away and turned around, saying to Jia Zhen, "I want to make a bet with you!"

"Betting on what?" The numerous Jia Zhens spoke together, and their voices layered and echoed on top of one another.

"I want to bet there's an idiot between us!" Li Qingshan gazed at the many Jia Zhens.

"Who are you betting on?"

"Obviously you! Dead people can't use their heads!"

Li Qingshan leapt up, lunging straight towards the real Jia Zhen. He had only said that so he could use the spirit turtle to determine where the real Jia Zhen was.

Tsunami-like waves rose up from the turbulent lake, sweeping straight towards Jia Zhen. As the true master of the Water God Seal, only Li Qingshan could unleash its true powers.

"Oh no!"

Jia Zhen used an escape technique without the slightest hesitation, turning into a streak of light and shooting off into the distance. He only needed to hold on for a while longer, until E Dan killed the Daemon Commander and broke out of the Asura Field. If they worked together, they would still be undefeatable.

However, as he thought about that, he saw Northmoon arrive right beside him. He actually flew no slower than the streak of light.

Chapter 669 - The Spider Queen Forced into Battle, the Torrential Rain Pours

By the time Lolth returned to her senses, she had already arrived in a strange space.

Various kinds of terrains—glaciers, forests, deserts—stood with clear boundaries, littered across the expansive space as blocks. Every single block was exactly the same size. A blood-red swirl constantly spun in the sky.

On a pure-white glacier in the distance, a black wolf-man that stood over thirty meters tall howled at the sky. Suddenly, he raised his head, and a pair of verdant eyes locked onto Lolth. In the next moment, the glacier exploded, sending ice and snow into the air. The wolf-man had already vanished.

Lolth's pupils constricted. She raised her head, only to see a colossal shadow blotting out the sky, lunging towards her. The huge claw of a wolf whistled down.

Boom!

The sand dune that Lolth stood on had been completely flattened, transformed into a sandstorm that wreaked havoc.

Lolth leapt backwards with the sandstorm, having dodged by a hair's breadth. She felt greatly shocked. He had lunged over from so far away, yet if it were not for her eyes' innate ability, she would have almost failed to respond in time. The wolf-man's speed and strength were already equivalent to the strongest of Daemon Commanders, definitely not something she could defeat. She ground her teeth in hatred for Northmoon.

As she thought, a gust of foul air assaulted her. An enormous wolf head opened its gaping mouth filled with sharp teeth and bit towards her.

Lolth opened her vermilion lips and spat out. A spiderweb unfurled and enveloped the wolf head, but E Dan simply swung his claws and sent Lolth flying. She hurtled into a rainforest, smashing through several dozen towering trees before coming to a stop.

Lolth maintained a defensive posture. The tight suit on her arms was ripped to shred, revealing her silver skin. Her silver face twisted slightly as her eyes shone with fury and malice. No matter who it was that tried to kill her, all of them would have to pay.

E Dan ripped away the web on his head forcefully and pulled off a few tufts of black wolf fur at the same time. His claw that had struck Lolth had been dyed with a layer of black venom, which constantly spread. He bit down and ripped off the flesh that the venom infected.

The pain put him in an even greater frenzy, convincing him that Lolth was Northmoon's helper who had come to prevent him from escaping the Asura Field. He had to kill her. After releasing the beast soul, his mentality was already severely affected, but his instincts to fight and kill became sharper and sharper.

Lolth climbed up to her feet quickly, gazing at the great banyan tree in the distance and immediately rushing over without any hesitation at all. The forest rapidly receded around her.

She had to use the terrain to keep his colossal figure at bay. If they fought in the open, there would be no room for her to fight back at all once his claws or teeth caught her. By then, all she could do was release all of her venom and take him down with her.

As soon as she set off, the growling from behind rapidly approached her. It would probably take a few seconds at most before it caught up to her. She arrived before the great banyan tree and gathered her daemon qi in her eyes, forming mysterious, beautiful ripples. Her eyes lit up, piercing through the thick bark and seeing the tree holes hidden inside. She leapt up and shot towards one of the tree holes.

E Dan arrived before the tree too, extending his wolf claw towards her while she was mid-air; it was like he was trying to catch a fly.

Lolth spat out a strand of spider silk, which stuck to the tree. She tugged it and suddenly sped up, slipping between E Dan's fingers by a hair's breadth. At the same time, she swung the poisonous whip in her hand to smash apart the bark, diving into the tree.

Before she could even catch her breath, there was a great boom from behind. Splinters flew everywhere. A claw plunged into the trunk, grabbing Lolth.

Lolth was shocked. She released strands of silk again and again, binding herself to the great banyan tree. E Dan possessed great strength, but the silk was extremely tough. He was unable to pry her out immediately.

E Dan let out a strange howl, and Lolth felt a great force wrap around her as if he was trying to crush her to death. She bit down on E Dan's hand viciously, injecting it with venom without holding back at all.

The great banyan tree shook violently, and sun vine flowers scattered. Sensing that the home they depended on was being heavily damaged, the sun vines all awakened, dancing about once more and shooting towards E Dan.

E Dan shivered inside. Even he refused to let these sun vines wrap around him. With a violent roar, he tugged hard and ripped apart all of the spider silk, wrenching Lolth out of the tree. He kicked off the trunk and leapt into the distance, but he felt his ankle tighten. A sun vine had caught him. The sun vines all surged over like snakes and dragons.

He came to a sudden halt, but his reactions were extremely fast. With a swipe of his claws, he cut apart the sun vines and dove into the jungle. With a great rumble, who knew how many trees he had crushed, but at least he had escaped the range of the sun vines' attack.

Suddenly, he felt his right hand grow numb, unable to use any force anymore. The venom had already infiltrated deep into his flesh. Lolth used this opportunity to break free, fleeing towards the great banyan tree that was surrounded in dancing vines.

Boom!

E Dan grabbed his poisoned right hand and stomped down on her.

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Above the lake, the rain became more and more violent. It was no longer simply rain; it was like an overflowing river from heaven, dousing the world with water and flowing to the edges of the world. Even the roaring thunder had settled down as if the rain had extinguished it.

Under the control of the Water God Seal, rolling water spiritual qi gathered from across the Ruyi commandery, from every single river and lake, leading to such a phenomenon.

In the pitch-black darkness, only two specks of light flickered around.

Jia Zhen was surrounded in layers upon layers of protective light, which came from various powerful defensive techniques of yin, yang, and the five elements, but they did not clash or conflict with one another. The various colours melded together, reaching a strange harmony. It was like a fortress that could never fall.

Regular cultivators would choose only one type out of yin, yang, and the five elements to practise. Only ancient cultivators would practise all seven, and the difficulty would not merely be seven times greater. Without startling talent, even starting off was impossible, let alone reaching late Golden Core.

Jia Zhen happened to be a genius like that, which was why Si Qing relied on him as his right-hand man, referring to him as “sir”.

Not only did his powers surpass regular Golden Core cultivators, but yin, yang, and the five elements formed a cycle in his body. As such, the speed and power of his techniques were alarming. On top of that, he basically knew all the techniques, even able to use abstruse and profound elemental manipulation techniques with ease.

His arcane artifacts only added brilliance to his splendour and made him even stronger. He was even skilled in divination. When combined with his strategy, it allowed him to take into account every single possibility. He could always be several steps ahead of his opponent. However, Northmoon’s fate had always been hidden away, and even he was unable to peer into it.

Jia Zhen asked sunkenly, “Wretched daemon, do you think you can defeat me just because you trapped E Dan?”

“I’m not going to be defeating you. I’m going to be killing you!”

Li Qingshan grinned. The splendid phoenix wings blazed away behind him as he used the innate ability of the wings of wind at the same time. The wind stoked the fire, extending them to thirty meters across. With each flap, he could cross a startling distance, making a beeline for Jia Zhen. He was no slower than escape techniques.

The two specks of light collided, emitting extremely radiant light. As it ripped through the darkness, it swallowed their figures.

Around the black altar, the praying continued, and the shadow that had become extremely thin slowly recovered.

Chapter 670 - May Your Soul Become an Asura

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

In that moment, even Li Qingshan himself had no idea how many times he had punched out, unleashing his valiant spirit to his heart's content. Before the reckless attacks, the fortress constructed from seven layers of light began to totter. Shockwaves and light collided and flared, illuminating his handsome and wild face.

Moon Court lake sprang alive, like a colossal beast lying on the ground below, constantly roaring and growling at the sky. It was also like a murderous army under the lead of their only commander, constantly capturing cities and seizing territory.

Li Qingshan felt endless delight, completely submerging in the passion of fighting. At the same time, he constantly rose up in the air, overlooking all the bodies of water in the Ruyi commandery.

After refining all the bodies of water in the Ruyi commandery, this was the first time he had fought with the Water God Seal. His will and the boundless water merged together. He was the rivers and lakes that surged and roared away.

Perhaps due to the enlightenment from the Fruit of Wisdom, or perhaps he had comprehended the meaning of the boundless ocean, his understanding of the Arts of the Boundless Ocean deepened yet again. He could feel he was already standing at the gates of Golden Core, with the Ocean pearl waving at him. He only had to take another step forward, and he would enter a brand-new world.

He could ingest the Origin Spirit pill as soon as he returned this time and push for the second heavenly tribulation. However, he had to win this battle first!

Jia Zhen became paler and paler as if the water was about to swallow him. Everywhere around him was whistling and raging water. He was basically unable to tell anymore whether he was in a lake or an ocean abyss.

However, he was not a sitting duck. Whenever Northmoon struck out, he would definitely strike back. Vast lightning and eye-piercing, golden light was constantly summoned, whistling out towards Li Qingshan. He did not need to think. He only had to use his powers to unleash his mightiest techniques and barrage Northmoon with them blindly.

Ripping apart his skin and tearing away his flesh, Northmoon was covered in heavy wounds. Basically his entire right arm had been reduced to bone, which was a horrifying sight.

However, this only made his attacks become even more frenzied. As long as he did not receive consecutive attacks, these horrific wounds would heal extremely quickly. The flames only had to burn past them, and they would vanish completely.

That's the flames of the phoenix! He has the bloodline of the phoenix! Jia Zhen had been through countless battles in his life, but for the first time, he felt like he had no chance at victory. He could not help but develop a thought, Don't tell me this wretched daemon can't die?

Li Qingshan obviously could die. As long as his tiger bones were crushed and his daemon core was destroyed, he would die too, but that was no longer within the abilities of a Golden Core cultivator, no matter how startlingly talented and alarmingly powerful the Golden Core cultivator was.

With the Water God Seal as a foundation, he was not afraid of depleting his daemon qi. It was perfectly possible for him to maintain the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell the entire time, such that his wounds would not be so severe.

However, in an intense battle, some conflict and clashing would appear between the spirit turtle and phoenix. As a result, he purposefully avoided using the innate abilities of the spirit turtle while making the phoenix constantly heal his wounds. He did so to avoid overstraining himself.

Another colossal wave slammed over. A shadow even darker than darkness suddenly appeared behind Jia Zhen, which was the shadow that had almost taken Jia Zhen's life, the Night Roaming God that had descended from the ritual.

Under the prayers of countless night roamers, it had recovered its strength, becoming even darker and more concealed. The dagger in its hand had been swapped out for a long, slender sword, which it stabbed out with smoothly like the flowing clouds, silently penetrating the layers of defensive light and approaching the back of Jia Zhen's head.

Ever since the previous sneak attack, Jia Zhen had always been on guard. The feather fan in his hand lit up with white light, and he swept it at the shadow behind him. "Piss off!"

Bang!

The light and shadow collided, producing a sound like a collision between solid objects. The shadow twisted and retreated, becoming slightly thinner, but it still had not been destroyed. It immediately merged into the darkness again, waiting for its next opportunity.

Boom!

While Jia Zhen was distracted, Li Qingshan pushed the powers of his tremors to the limit and dispersed the outermost, yellow defensive light. The remaining six layers of light immediately lost their perfect equilibrium. Six still seemed to remain, but at least a great chunk of the defensive power had vanished.

Jia Zhen's face changed drastically. Unable to hold his ground any longer, he immediately turned into a streak of light and fled into the horizon. As for E Dan's life, it really came down to that old saying, "Better that he's dead than me."

Li Qingshan flapped his wings and did all that he could to catch up, sticking closely behind the streak of light. Only when he chased for several hundred kilometers did he pull back his wings and hover in the air, watching as the streak of light vanished into the horizon. He shook his head gently. If Xiao An were here, just where could this bastard run off to after a sweep of the Blood Sea Banner?

A pursuit like this would not lead to any results, and he could instead fall for a trap from his opponent if he were careless. At their realm of cultivation, hunting down an opponent of similar cultivation truly was difficult. It only demonstrated the importance of spatial arcane artifacts like the Blood Sea Banner and the Asura Field.

And, if he still did not enter the Asura Field to provide assistance, Lolth would be finished off. She had already left him very surprised for lasting for so long.

A bird in the hand was worth a hundred in the bush. If he allowed E Dan to escape and then Jia Zhen looped back, that would be stupid of him.

As a result, Li Qingshan immediately erased all of his aura and dove into a river on the surface. He entered the underground river again, flying about randomly along the riverway.

Before the ripples on the surface of the river had even settled, a streak of light shot over. Jia Zhen did return. He spread out his soul sense and searched before carrying out divination, but how could he find Li Qingshan's tracks? He frowned heavily. This time, E Dan was probably in danger!

He was tempted to return to Moon Court lake and massacre the night roamers, but he was afraid of running into Northmoon again. If he were careless, his life might even be in danger. The night roamers were not worth that risk, and the strange shadow left him rather fearful.

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In the Asura Field, the blood-red swirl began spinning once again, unbeknownst to anyone.

Lolth had been ripped in half along her waist. Her perky bottom and round, slender legs, or in other words, her terrifying spider abdomen and furry spider legs, were already nowhere to be seen.

Only the upper half of her body lay on the grassy plains, her daemon qi completely depleted. She was hanging on by a single breath.

E Dan failed to get her with that stomp, allowing her to slip away. It led to another series of darting around and confrontations using the terrain of the great banyan tree. However, before E Dan's one-sided strength, she was caught once again very soon. There was not a particularly intense clash, and she was reduced to such a state.

Of course, E Dan had paid a certain price for this. He was forced to cut off his right arm that was filled with venom. Although he managed to regrow it immediately with his extremely-powerful body, it took up a lot of power. His breathing was slightly ragged, and a hint of frenzy gradually appeared in his verdant eyes.

"Die!"

E Dan bellowed, slamming his claws towards Lolth.

"Northmoon, you'll die a horrible death!"

Lolth cursed powerlessly, about to blow up her daemon core when a black storm descended from above.

E Dan's claws hung in the air. A familiar figure appeared before Lolth, holding up the huge wolf claws with a single hand. He glanced back and smiled. "Are you alright?"

Even he felt a little sorry when he saw how tragic her condition was, but that was the consequence of trying to amuse herself while he fought!

Li Qingshan originally thought Lolth would erupt with abuse or viciously curse him, but she said rather feebly, "Save me!" He could not help but become surprised before laughing. "Of course. You're technically my woman- er, female daemon!"

With a thought, he delivered Lolth and the severed bottom half of her body out of the Asura Field.

"Northmoon!" E Dan growled, filling Li Qingshan's face with a gust of foul air as his claws whistled over.

Li Qingshan's body swelled up, reaching over sixty meters tall. He forcefully received the claw without moving at all, and a few brutal claw marks appeared on his chest, but he was unfazed. He looked down at E Dan from above and said with his metallic voice.

"E Dan, it's time for you to die!"

E Dan recovered a sliver of clarity from his frenzy, suddenly feeling slightly uneasy. He could smell the scent of death. He leapt back nimbly and stared at Li Qingshan. From his eyes, he could already tell that only a single person would be leaving this battle alive. There would not be a second person.

"You forced me to do this. You better not regret it!"

Li Qingshan took a step forward. Under his iron hoof, the ground shook. "Come!"

E Dan let out a howl of despair. After the howl rose to its apex, he cast aside all of his fear and despair as if the final shackle had collapsed. He completely released the beast soul, allowing the beast soul to devour his soul. He would never be able to recover human form or consciousness again.

His back arched high into the air as his arms extended, basically draping onto the ground. Right now, E Dan seemed more wolf than human. This was the absolute power that came with absolute sacrifice. His aura spiralled upwards in a frenzy, already approaching the power of kings.

Li Qingshan opened his huge mouth and let out an excited smile. He roared, "Come!"

Murderousness boiled as battle intent rose up. The blood-red swirl spun faster in the sky.

A tiger's roar and a wolf's howl rose up at the same time. Li Qingshan and E Dan lunged at one another at the same time, colliding loudly in the air and smashing to the ground.

In that moment, fists and claws came and went, spattering blood into the air.

Both of them were neither human nor beast. They were like shamanistic gods of the primordial times, embroiling in the wilderness.

Roars and howls rang out again and again. The ground cracked, like a war drum being struck again and again.

The blood-red swirl was like a lone eye, watching this in satisfaction.

The newly-created Asura Field was gradually elevating and approaching perfection with their battle. Even more asura descended from the sky. In the beginning, they were regular asura, but towards the end, an Asura General directly descended.

They all watched their battle from afar, completely entranced by it. Their techniques and skills in battle might not be on par with true Asura Commanders, but this almost-primitive clash was something completely different.

E Dan struck like the wind, actually injuring Li Qingshan again and again in the beginning. However, Li Qingshan did not take a single step back, suffering injury but not dying. The Water God Seal supported his daemon qi, while the Strength of the Earth supported his physical strength. He stared at the storm-like barrage of attacks and advanced with a crazy smile.

After reaching its peak, E Dan's powers began to decline helplessly. No matter how great the power of the beast soul was, it was not endless.

In the end, Li Qingshan pierced E Dan's chest with his pair of ox horns, hoisting him up and smashing him onto the ground. His iron hooves stamped down heavily on his chest, crushing his bones and making his chest cave in.

Right when he was about to die, E Dan recovered a sliver of clarity. There was no fear. There was no pleading. He only said two words, "You've won."

"May your soul become an asura!"