

Nine Star 3581

Chapter 3581

Now it was Xue Yifan's turn to be startled. "Dean Long Chen, have you met senior Xia Guhong?"

"I've drunk wine with him twice. It was big brother Xia that saved my life," said Long Chen.

"To have drunk your fill with the monarch of the Grand Xia, to be brothers with this peerless hero, it seems that dean Long Chen is also a figure on that level." Xue Yifan had a reverent expression when he spoke of Xia Guhong.

Xia Guhong had once led the Alldevil Star-Field to glory, taking over wide expanses of the Alldevil Star-Field's land. He then became the hero of the human race.

Originally, Xia Guhong was not a native of the Alldevil Star-Field, but his lover was from this place. It was only due to this that Xia Guhong led the heroes of the Grand Xia over to help the Alldevil Star-Field.

The woman who loved and was loved by Xia Guhong was called Luo Qingying. She was also exceptionally talented and powerful. Together with Xia Guhong, the two of them were a heavenly match. Their feelings for each other were as deep as the sea, and they were called divine and immortal Dao-companions by countless people.

With the two of them joining forces, they led the human race in a long campaign against the Alldevil Star-Field, contributing unrivaled merit. In their era, the human race's territory crazily grew to the point of unprecedented splendor in all of history.

Later on, the Alldevil Star-Field's name was changed due to their contributions, becoming the Hongying Star-Field, named after them, Xia Guhong and Luo Qingying.

However, when the human race's situation took such a huge turn for the better, the interior began to fracture. That was because the Alldevil Star-Field's ore deposits were simply too rich.

After taking over so much land, they immediately began excavating the ore crazily. But who the ore went to became a problem.

At the same time, with the human race in such a good state, countless merchants came flooding in from the outside world. Those merchants were like hyenas that had smelled the scent of carrion, and they flocked over.

Back then, Xia Guhong proposed to Luo Qingying to drive away those merchants and only work with the Huayun Trading Company.

Unfortunately, when Luo Qingying raised this proposal, countless people opposed it, especially her own family. They were the most against it.

That was because the Luo clan had made an agreement with the Soaring Dragon Company. The Soaring Dragon Company had given them a huge amount of bribes that caused the Luo clan's Elders to decide on working with them.

The other merchants also eyed other powers, forming collaborations with them. As a result, the solid alliance of the Alldevil Star-Field fractured. At the start, in order to survive, everyone worked together against their common enemies. But when their lives were guaranteed, under the allure of profit, this so-called alliance could not endure a single blow. The various powers began to expand their territory, fighting over ores and even starting fights with each other.

Back then, the battle was only half won. Hence, Xia Guhong and Luo Qingying proposed to everyone to stop fighting and work together. Once the Alldevil race was fully expelled, they could decide on how to distribute the ores.

Regretfully, under the encouragement of the merchants, the people's hearts had long since been clouded by greed. There was only profit in their eyes, and they were fighting over the resources first before anything else. Some people even criticized Xia Guhong, saying that he had helped the Alldevil Star-Field because he wanted it as his treasury, using the Alldevil Star-Field's wealth to revitalize the declined Grand Xia.

Xia Guhong was enraged and killed countless people spreading those rumors. But that only raised more people's suspicions.

Hence, the enraged Xia Guhong directly left, not caring about them any longer. He allowed them to destroy themselves. Together with Luo Qingying, they left this hurtful place that they had fought for. The place where so many of his brothers had fallen over the years only gave him insults and abuse in return. Luo Qingying was profoundly aware that Xia Guhong had only done this for her, so she felt even worse than he did.

Her family in particular had done many despicable things in order to fight for more resources. She saw all of that and chose to sadly leave with Xia Guhong.

Xia Guhong and Luo Qingying left for a hundred years, and people crazily dug up the resources. There was no one left to fight the Alldevil race.

After a hundred years of rest, the Alldevil race came to reclaim their territory. As a result, the human race was like a rotting dam. They were instantly blown away like rotting sticks.

As for the merchants, they were the first to leave. People were unable to stop the Alldevil race's advances and retreated on all fronts. It was unknown just how many people died during this period.

All the land was lost. Many ore deposits were barely touched, with less than a single percent excavated before they were taken over by the devil beasts.

It was only at this time that people knew repentance. It was only now that they knew how foolish it was to force out Xia Guhong and Luo Qingying. They had destroyed their own defenses.

But it was all too late. Although they had accumulated a great deal of wealth, that wealth could not be directly transformed into combat power. In the end, countless people died in those lands.

They were forced further and further back, all the way to where they had started. There, the human race had a natural line of defense that gave them a breather.

The human race was badly wounded and only had less than a tenth of their experts. It was at this time that they thickened their faces and pleaded for aid from Xia Guhong.

However, Xia Guhong ignored them, allowing them to destroy themselves. But when Luo Qingying received a blood letter from her mother, her heart softened. Keeping it from Xia Guhong, she quietly returned to the Alldevil Star-Field.

But she had never expected that the ones to await her were the experts of the Alldevil race instead. They had set up a huge trap for her. A portion of the people in her own family had defected to the Alldevil race's side and sold her out. In the end, the ones to leave her the heaviest wound were her own family.

Even though she was severely wounded, Luo Qingying still slayed countless experts. Even so, by the time Xia Guhong rushed over, she was already so badly wounded that despite Xia Guhong's overwhelming power, he did not possess the ability to save her life.

Luo Qingying died just like that. But before her death, she made Xia Guhong promise not to exterminate her family.

At that time, Xia Guhong was too shocked and enraged to promise anything. But with Luo Qingying dying with that pleading expression, there was no way he could refuse her.

When Luo Qingying died, Xia Guhong was aggrieved. That anger then fell on the Alldevil race.

Carrying the corpse of his beloved, Xia Guhong charged his way into the depths of the Alldevil Star-Field, leaving millions and millions of corpses in his wake. It was said that he had pierced the deepest devil sea in the star-field's depths and slaughtered his way to the devil world.

Ten days later, covered in shocking wounds, he silently left with his beloved's corpse. After that, the Grand Xia Nation disbanded and their final monarch vanished without a trace. No further legends arose about him.

As for the Luo clan's people who caused Luo Qingying's death, they were torn to pieces by countless enraged experts.

After that, the Luo clan fell apart, splitting into many branches. They only recovered the slightest bit after all these years. But now, they were considered a third-rate power in the Alldevil Star-Field. People often killed and plundered them. It was unknown if that counted as their retribution.

"I didn't expect big brother Xia Guhong to have such a sad past!" Long Chen sighed. Even a hero like Xia Guhong was suppressed by the hands of fate. The heavens were truly cruel to him.

Thinking back to the sad expression that had come across his face when they had been drinking wine... he must have been thinking of Luo Qingying's death. That had truly been a huge impact to him.

No matter how strong a person was, they also had a soft spot. Long Chen didn't dare to imagine how Xia Guhong had passed these years. If that tragedy happened to Long Chen, he'd have long since become a crazed devil. He would be unable to keep his promise like Xia Guhong and would have slaughtered everyone in the Luo clan.

"The Luo clan sold out Luo Qingying back then, and now they are selling out the entire Alldevil Star-Field?" asked Long Chen. A cold chill appeared deep in his eyes. His big brother Xia might not attack due to his promise, but Long Chen wouldn't be caring about it so much!

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"In truth, at that time, when the Luo clan caused Luo Qingying's death, their interior was already fractured. The group that trapped Luo Qingying were long since crushed to dust. Actually, those who killed them were also people of the Luo clan. They did this to look after themselves, killing the offenders to appease the anger of the rest of the Alldevil Star-Field. Their actions were correct. By diverting attention and scattering people's hatred, they made themselves out to be the victims as well. Although the rest of the Alldevil Star-Field rejected them, they didn't hunt the Luo clan down until they were exterminated. But who would have thought that they would suddenly rise and align themselves with the Alldevil race?" Xue Yifan sighed.

Originally, people thought that the Luo clan had become a third-rate power, and so no one bothered with them. However, unexpectedly, the Luo clan once more sided with the Alldevil race. They had established secret transportation formations that allowed them to extract ore from the territory of the devil beasts. This allowed them to create the best battle armors and weapons and raise a powerful batch of elites.

This was done secretly for hundreds of years. By the time people realized anything was up, it was too late. They were an incredibly powerful threat.

With the Luo clan on the inside, the Alldevil race could directly enter. Under the Luo clan's directions, their attacks struck the right targets. Countless human territories were destroyed, and their strongholds were annihilated. Furthermore, by using the Alldevil race's power, they actually sealed the gateways, cutting off the Alldevil Star-Field from the rest of the world, leaving them unable to even request aid.

That wasn't all. The Luo clan was doing their best to discourage people and had succeeded in drawing some powers to their side. They even formed blood contracts with the Alldevil race.

The Alldevil race swore using their blood that as long as the traitors helped them unify the Alldevil Star-Field, they would not harm a single hair on their heads. They would even allow the traitors to freely mine the ores in this star-field.

As a result, some weak-boned people believed them and gave up fighting against them. They joined the Luo clan's side, turning sides to point their blades at their fellow humans.

Previously, against just the fierce Alldevil race, people weren't afraid. After all, they were devil beasts. Despite having powerful bodies, their intelligence was limited.

However, now, with the Luo clan scheming for them, all kinds of tricks were being used. The human race was repeatedly forced to fall back and took countless casualties. They hated the Luo clan to death.

The Luo clan was originally skilled at scheming, so their mental warfare struck people right in the hearts, causing people to despair. As a result, the entire Alldevil Star-Field was covered in a layer of fear.

"Here in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, I see everyone is a powerful tiger with plenty of fighting spirit. It seems that things aren't as grave as you make them out to be. I don't know about

fighting the external forces, but when it comes to fighting the internal forces, it seems that your people are very arrogant.”

That was true. Long Chen was unable to see the slightest worry in the people of the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. They were still fighting amongst themselves, spending their energy on their own people.

Xue Yifan shook his head. “People are foolish because they don’t know their own power. Or perhaps they are afraid that others will not realize just how powerful they are, so they must suppress others to give meaning to their lives. People like that always end up as stepping stones for the experts to climb up. But the world is simply like this. Let me put it this way: without them, the world would not produce any true heroes.”

Long Chen was startled and then nodded. As expected, this dean was truly wise. These words were quite thought-provoking.

However, Guo Ran didn’t understand. He couldn’t help asking, “How are they useful?”

Xue Yifan smiled. “They are the stones applying pressure to you, the shackles binding your feet, and the reins binding your wings. Heroes either silently die under immense pressure or suddenly erupt. If you want to suddenly soar to the heavens in one go, you must free yourselves of the stones, shatter your shackles, and break your reins. Regretfully, you didn’t have that courage. I was always waiting for you to erupt, waiting for you to raise your butcher’s blade. They are all your whetstones. But you refuse to hone yourself against them. You only hid and silently honed your blade. Do you know? In order to become a true expert, you must cut your way through the thorns and thistles. You must possess the will to advance forward bravely. For many things, you absolutely cannot retreat, because once you retreat, your blade will crumble.”

Only then did Guo Ran understand. He prostrated himself in admiration toward the dean’s wisdom. But he still had no regrets. He chortled, “If you want a hero, then that is my boss. He definitely fits your description the best. Boss has fought for a lifetime. If he isn’t fighting, then he’s on the way to his next

fight. As for me, well, there is also a place for me. The big whetstones will be left to my boss. I'll use the small ones."

Xue Yifan bitterly smiled. "I've really slapped myself in the face this time. I've grown old and misjudged."

Originally, Xue Yifan was planning on properly raising Guo Ran. He truly had a very high opinion of him. Thus, when others bullied Guo Ran, he watched, not giving him any help, waiting for the day that Guo Ran would explode from the pressure.

He was always puzzled about why someone with such good talent as Guo Ran would be like this. No matter where he went, he would be a dominating expert. Experts all had their own dignity. So why was this fellow willing to be so cowardly?

But now that Long Chen had come, he finally understood. Guo Ran was like a vine. It didn't matter how long and thick he grew. Ultimately, he still needed to rely on a large tree, and Long Chen was that tree.

This tree was truly big enough. It could block the wind and rain for Guo Ran. It was what resulted in his character, so all the dean's efforts and hopes were for naught. Thinking back, he couldn't help feeling regretful. All of that great talent was wasted on Guo Ran.

Seeing Guo Ran's shameless appearance, Long Chen couldn't help smiling. He understood Guo Ran far too well.

This fellow liked to slack off and be lazy. He wouldn't move until you moved him. Other than forging and showing off, he wasn't interested in anything.

Even when it came to showing off, it had to be in the simplest way that saved the most energy. Have him carry such a heavy burden? It shouldn't even be mentioned. This fellow was unable to hold up under any pressure.

"Then what is the situation of the entire Alldevil Star-Field like?" asked Long Chen seriously.

"Up until now, the Alldevil Star-Field as a whole appears acceptable. We are just barely capable of fighting off the Alldevil race. After all, the various major powers have natural strongholds. With the ore veins beneath the land, it is difficult for the Alldevil race to progress past those strongholds. Only some smaller cities are in a very dangerous state, as they are besieged by the Alldevil race. Also, the Luo clan knows that we are unwilling to watch as they are killed. Although we can send them resources, we cannot resolve the actual problem. If this continues for a long time, the human race will definitely be at a disadvantage. The biggest headache is that the human race is still not in a rush, and their fighting spirits are not particularly strong. The worst thing is that the Luo clan is constantly spreading rumors, and under the pressure and enticement, people's hearts aren't united. That is the greatest worry," said Xue Yifan.

Long Chen nodded. Those capable of surviving in the Alldevil Star-Field had to have their own trump cards. The Alldevil race would definitely have difficulty wiping out the human race here. However, as long as people's hearts were in chaos, there was danger.

"This old man wishes to beg dean Long Chen for aid. Is dean Long Chen willing to listen?" Xue Yifan looked at Long Chen solemnly.

"Go ahead."

"Dean Long Chen, can you help us resolve this crisis? Lead our human race against the Alldevil race. I am willing to give up the position of dean for you," said Xue Yifan.

"What?!"

Guo Ran instantly shot up, not daring to believe his ears.

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Guo Ran couldn't believe his ears. The dean was actually willing to abdicate his position for Long Chen? What was going on?

Long Chen shook his head. "Dean, I trust that with your methods and wisdom, you must have the ability to deal with the current crisis."

This dean was far too steady. That unflustered appearance made him seem unfathomable. He was a true sage. Long Chen refused to believe that someone like him was really helpless in this predicament.

Xue Yifan shook his head. "To save people, you must first save the heart. To save flowers, you must first save the roots. If the heart dies, if the root withers, then no matter how many times you save it, it's the same. It will still not be able to escape its fate of being destroyed. The best medicine for saving the heart of the people is a hero, a hero that can lead an entire era. That hero can shine a light for people to follow, saving their souls. It can purify what is rotten. To answer your question, an old man like me doesn't just have an old body but also an old mind. The times have already changed. Even if I do my best and settle this current crisis, it won't change anything. When the next crisis descends, old-timers like myself will already be buried, and the Alldevil Star-Field's human race will still be destroyed.

"The human race here is already completely rotten. Hence, we need a new seed that is full of life to give hope to this world, to correct the system of values here, and to unite this plate of scattered sand. That is the only way to truly save the Alldevil Star-Field. A hero's light can affect generations, even dozens of generations. It can last through a thousand years, through all ages. All people worship heroes and will follow in their footsteps. That will allow them to see further and not be lost within what they see before them. Only when humans have a belief in their hearts do they have bottom lines and know respect and gratitude. Only then can the human race experience a thousand tribulations without falling."

Long Chen nodded. As expected of this wise dean, his words were truly moving, and it made Long Chen think of the five Sovereigns.

They had died for countless years, yet people still remembered them. People were still filled with respect and gratitude toward them. Thus, no matter how chaotic the Martial Heaven Continent became, the light of the five Sovereigns continued to shine in their hearts. Even in times of despair, they still had hope.

“That’s an amazing status! Boss, why don’t you try it!? In any case, it won’t come at any loss to you.” Guo Ran was moved by this. If they settled this crisis, their names would be immortalized in history. Then that would really be badass.

“If we must try it, then it should be you. How big of an influence can an outsider like me cause? You are different. You are one of the Four Heavenly Dragon Heroes, a disciple native to this place. A hero must be a native in order to be in touch with the common people. Only then can their voice be persuasive,” said Long Chen.

“Me? No, no!”

Guo Ran shook his head like a rattle. “I definitely can’t. A little person like me can’t raise such a big flag.”

This fellow had once more returned to that person who simply wanted to follow Long Chen without worrying about anything. To have him profit and show off, he naturally wouldn’t disagree. But to have him do everything himself would make him immediately beat the drum of retreat.

“Guo Ran, you’ve learned a great deal during your time in my Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, right? Now that the college has trouble, don’t you think it’s unreasonable for you to simply leave?” Xue Yifan looked at Guo Ran with a smile.

Guo Ran instantly sat up straight. With a bitter expression, he said, "Dean, I will never forget your favor of raising me. Even if you have me cross a mountain of blades or a sea of boiling oil, I will not frown in the slightest. But I really can't do this. If I die, then that is because I didn't study hard enough and my techniques are inferior. Dead is dead; I won't complain. But to have me lead the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College and even the entire Alldevil Star-Field? If I die, how would I face the people behind me? I cannot carry this responsibility!"

Xue Yifan smiled with a gratified expression. "Not bad. I didn't pick the wrong person. After throwing off that flashy outer shell, you are a hero inside. You are mainly lacking confidence. If dean Long Chen didn't come, when the devil beast army came and pressured us, when it was a time of life and death, when you had no other choice, you would not flee. You would still raise this flag."

For Guo Ran to say such a thing, Xue Yifan was very pleased. This proved that his vision was still sharp. But Long Chen's arrival had ruined his plans.

"That's enough. Let us do this. Having received the favor of others, when they ask for aid in return, Guo Ran, you have no room to leave," said Long Chen.

"Boss, I..." Guo Ran instantly began to panic.

"Can you please grow up a bit? You are the Dragonblood Legion's general. Can't you even do such a small thing? Furthermore, what are you afraid of? Won't your boss be right here the whole time?" Long Chen angrily clapped Guo Ran on the back of his head, scolding him for failing to improve.

After that, Guo Ran realized that Long Chen was right. He still had his boss to cover him from behind. If he really couldn't do it, he could always shove it all to his boss, and his boss would carry it.

"Hahaha, good, then with boss's support, I will definitely show off in a flashy way this time! Don't worry boss, I won't make you lose face!" promised Guo Ran, laughing confidently. He seemed to already be seeing himself leading an army of millions of battleships, crushing their enemies heroically.

Seeing Guo Ran laughing arrogantly, Xue Yifan smiled. But Long Chen glanced at him. "And how will you show off? There are still quite a few people waiting for you outside to put you in your place."

Guo Ran's smile instantly stiffened. "That's right. Those fellows are all targeting me. How am I supposed to lead them?"

"That will depend on yourself. If a hero wants other people's approval, there is always one shortcut." Xue Yifan smiled and took out a golden tablet. He then gave it to Guo Ran.

"Proxy dean?!"

Guo Ran was stunned after looking at this tablet.

"What? Are you dissatisfied? The proxy dean is on the same level as the actual dean, with almost the same authority. Once the proxy dean takes their position, they are observed for ten years, and if they pass and contribute great merits, they can be the real dean after a vote from the assembly. The rules are not broken. Dean Guo Ran, do you have any further questions?" asked Xue Yifan with a smile.

"But if I have this tablet, will they really respect me?" Guo Ran didn't quite believe it.

"Does whether or not people respect you have anything to do with this tablet?" asked Xue Yifan.

"What...?"

Long Chen couldn't bear continuing to watch. Guo Ran was truly foolish. Even now, he didn't understand Xue Yifan's intentions. "This tablet gives you the right to lawfully kill people. Anyone who disobeys you, you can kill. You kill until they submit. Now, do you understand?"

"Dean Long Chen is really smart. Well, the rest is up to you. I won't send you off," said Xue Yifan.

Long Chen and Guo Ran then walked out of the palace gates. As soon as they did, they were surrounded by a mob.

"It's time for you to show off."

Looking at this hostile group, Long Chen crossed his arms in front of his chest and smiled.

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The area in front of the gates was already packed with people, and there was no getting through them. They had clearly come to argue with Xue Yifan.

By killing people, Long Chen had infuriated them. It seemed that they weren't planning on giving face even to the dean. They were demanding justice.

Originally, there were four elders, but now there were seven. That appearance seemed as if they were going to force the dean to hand Long Chen over.

Seven elders, all wearing the same robes. Those were robes only to be worn during an assembly. They represented the dignity of the Assembly Elders.

Other than the seven Assembly Elders, there were also hundreds of late stage World Kings. All of them were coldly glaring at Long Chen with icy killing intent.

Clearly, by killing people inside the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, Long Chen had humiliated the entire college. They were unable to let such a thing pass.

Now, hundreds of late stage World Kings appeared. That kind of battle array was truly a bit frightening. However, Long Chen didn't place these World Kings in his eyes.

The Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College's cultivators weren't actually powerful themselves. Their essence, qi, and spirit were cultivated only to advance as quickly as possible. Hence, these late stage World Kings were unable to even display the World King Divine Radiance.

Their true combat power was about that of a third Heavenstage World King in the outside world. Their auras were empty. Without their battle armors, all of these people would not be able to stop a single blow from Long Chen's saber.

Seeing how arrogant they were acting, Long Chen sneered. At this distance, if he did attack, he guaranteed that these people wouldn't even have a chance to summon their battle armors before they were sent to see a Yama King.

This was clearly the result of living too peacefully and losing their sense of danger. To put it frankly, they were a group of old idiots.

“Where is the dean? Why has he not come out yet?” asked an Assembly Elder with a walking stick. Long Chen’s guess was correct. They were here to make demands of the dean.

“Oh, what simple and clean clothes. Are you about to take your leave?” Guo Ran acted like he didn’t understand that elder’s words, looking at him curiously.

This elder didn’t understand at first, but he quickly understood what Guo Ran was saying. He was saying that they were about to die in clothes for the dead.

“Little brute!” That elder furiously shouted.

Pow!

As a result, Guo Ran immediately stepped forward and slapped him in the face, sending him reeling to the ground.

Although Guo Ran’s movements weren’t as natural and graceful as Long Chen’s divine face-slapping art, at this distance, when they were caught off-guard, Guo Ran still managed to barely pull it off.

“You old fogey, who do you think that you’re talking to? If I didn’t have pity for your old bones, I’d beat the crap out of you right now!” Guo Ran rolled up his sleeves, pointing and cursing at that elder.

Guo Ran actually dared to attack an Assembly Elder? Everyone was stunned. Following a moment of stunned silence, furious roars rang out and they charged forward.

“Who? Who dares to even touch me?!”

Guo Ran suddenly raised a tablet, fearlessly shouting at this crowd. When they saw that tablet, everyone was dumbfounded.

“Proxy dean?”

They didn’t dare to believe their eyes. The proxy dean was equivalent to the actual dean. After ten years, through a test and evaluation, he could be promoted to the position of dean. This was a rule known to everyone in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College.

“It’s definitely fake!” called out one person. They refused to believe this.

“Fake? Why don’t you take out a fake for me to look at?” Guo Ran disdainfully sneered. Seeing these people’s bulging eyes that were full of shock, he was very pleased inside. It felt like all his grievances from the last two years were finally released.

“You... you...!”

That Assembly Elder was now lifted up off the ground and pointed his cane at Guo Ran, quivering with rage to the point that he couldn’t even speak.

“You? What you? You old fogey, did your family not teach you that it’s rude to point at others? I am the dean now! Although it’s just the proxy dean, you better be more courteous to me. Otherwise, I will charge you with... with... Boss, what did they accuse you of?” Guo Ran’s mind suddenly short-circuited, and he looked back at Long Chen.

"A junior offending a senior," said Long Chen.

Guo Ran slapped his leg. "That's right! Fuck, now it's finally my turn to say this, you old bastards. I am the senior, and if a junior dares to offend me, this senior will naturally slap you!"

Guo Ran was full of spirits now. It was definitely the pleased appearance of a petty person who had achieved his dream. You could see none of the calm steadiness that a dean should possess. Hence, these people clenched their teeth furiously.

They had never dreamed that the dean would bestow the proxy dean tablet to Guo Ran. Guo Ran was acting like he was number one now, not placing anyone in his eyes. And yet, there was nothing they could do.

"Bastard, choosing a proxy dean needs to go through an assembly first! We refuse to accept your status!" shouted an Assembly Elder.

"Are you an idiot? Or have you grown muddled with age? The Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College's proxy dean is chosen by the dean. Only the final evaluation process needs to go through the assembly. Keep yapping and I'll slap you!" retorted Guo Ran disdainfully. Did this old fellow think that he didn't know anything?

"Xue Yifan, get out here! What is going on- Cough, cough!" One of those ancient elders roared, but perhaps it was due to his overwhelming anger, he ended up in an intense coughing fit.

"Shout a bit louder and you'll really be falling and needing to be buried. Don't worry, everyone will come say goodbye. But even if you break your throat shouting, the dean personally gave me the proxy dean tablet. That is his confidence in me. Right now, whatever I say counts in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. It would be best if you are more obedient, or don't blame me for settling our past debts!" Guo Ran stuck his hands on his waist as he sneered.

Long Chen was speechless as he watched from behind. As expected, even if you gave a monkey imperial robes, they wouldn't look like the crown prince. He knew that Guo Ran was trying to act like an arrogant expert looking down on all others, but no matter how Long Chen looked at him, he only seemed to be a petty rogue who had won a fight.

However, Long Chen didn't say anything. Guo Ran was now the main character, and he could do whatever he wanted to do. It wasn't necessarily bad to let him vent for a bit.

"Guo Ran, don't get so pleased just yet!"

Suddenly, a tall and thin man walked out of the crowd, and Long Chen narrowed his eyes slightly. This person's Blood Qi was like a mountain, and the divine light in his eyes was electric. In terms of the power of his Blood Qi, within the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, he was like a crane amongst chickens. He stood out a great deal. This was a true expert, one that shouldn't be much inferior to Feng Xiang, Zhao Mingxuan, and the like.

If such a figure then put on battle armor, causing his power to crazily soar, he definitely couldn't be underestimated.

"Wang Zixu, so what if I'm acting very pleased? Will you bite me?" demanded Guo Ran disdainfully.

This Wang Zixu was said to be the head of the Four Heavenly Dragon Heroes, the strongest of them all. He had always looked down on Guo Ran and applied pressure on him. They could be said to be mortal enemies.

Although all three of them suppressed Guo Ran, Wang Zixu was the one who applied the most pressure.

"I refuse to accept you. According to the academy's rules, if someone in the same realm does not like the proxy dean, they can challenge the proxy dean to a fight. Do you dare to accept my challenge?" sneered Wang Zixu.

"Boss, I can't beat him. What should I do?" Guo Ran suddenly transmitted to Long Chen.

"That's fine, agree. Three days later, kill him!"

Long Chen eyed Wang Zixu and smiled slightly. Guo Ran needed to show his might, and now someone was sending themselves right over. Perhaps this was what it meant when people said 'kind words could not advise a ghost that was about to die'.

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In terms of power, Guo Ran wasn't a match for Wang Zixu. Moreover, it wasn't just Wang Zixu. Even Xie Liuer and Leng Hui were slightly stronger than Guo Ran.

That was because Guo Ran had spent too little time in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College and had been constantly suppressed by all sides, restricting him and leaving him unable to grasp certain resources.

Furthermore, Wang Zixu and the others' battle armors were made out of the very best materials. It wasn't just their own bodies that were powerful, they also had the support of their families. Hence, it could be said that Guo Ran didn't lose in terms of talent and intelligence, but in terms of background and wealth.

Wang Zixu and the others naturally looked down on Guo Ran, but they were also deeply afraid of his forging talent. It was precisely due to this that they constantly suppressed him. Their sneers and mockery were to cover up their own worry. They were afraid of being surpassed.

Guo Ran didn't even have any assurance against Leng Hui and Xie Liuer, let alone the strongest amongst them, Wang Zixu.

However, Long Chen's words set him at ease. He had no confidence in himself, but he had absolute confidence in Long Chen.

Guo Ran was about to agree when a person walked out of the crowd and sneered, "What? Are you afraid? If you're afraid, then hurry up and scam out of the Heavenly Dragon- Ah!"

"Fuck off!" Guo Ran kicked that person in the crotch, causing him to tumble to the ground and hold his crotch with both hands, rolling.

"All day, you only know how to help dogs eat crap. The price of crap has even appreciated in value due to your consumption!" Guo Ran kicked him away.

This person was quite the unlucky fellow. Normally, he was useless and only knew how to suck up. But this time, he had just arrived and joined the crowd. Seeing Wang Zixu challenging Guo Ran, he immediately jumped in to show his support for Wang Zixu, not knowing about Guo Ran's current status.

"Wang Zixu, I've endured a long time. Since you dare to challenge me, fine, I'll give you a chance. Don't say that I'm bullying you. You just spent a batch of resources yesterday and fought a large battle, so I'll give you three days to recuperate. Three days later, let us meet on the life-and-death stage. This time, we will determine who is higher and who is lower, as well as life and death," said Guo Ran coldly.

Upon hearing Guo Ran's words, everyone's heart shook. Guo Ran had always been enduring silently in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. He had never dared to directly face the other three heroes. That was what resulted in his position being the lowest amongst the four heroes.

However, today, Guo Ran suddenly grew unyielding. Not only did he want to decide who was stronger between himself and Wang Zixu, but he also wanted to decide life and death. That was astonishing.

"Alright, then I'll wait for you. Three days later, I will smash you and your garbage armor apart, showing you that a lowly ascender is not qualified to be mentioned in the same sentence as us," sneered Wang Zixu.

Hearing that, Long Chen narrowed his eyes slightly. This fellow had also angered Long Chen with this sentence. Now, killing intent burned in his eyes.

Normally, if others insulted him, he wouldn't care too much. But he was unable to accept someone insulting his brothers. Just from Wang Zixu's arrogant tone, Long Chen could tell just how much grievance Guo Ran had suffered during this time.

The moment Long Chen's killing intent was unleashed, the clear sky began to change color, and the air became cold and dark. People felt a chill deep in their bones.

As for Wang Zixu, his back suddenly turned cold, and his hair stood on end. It felt like an ancient beast had suddenly set its sights on him. Hence, an intense sensation of danger welled up within his soul. He stared at Long Chen in horror.

Long Chen hadn't unleashed any aura at all. He was only looking at Wang Zixu coldly. However, the killing intent exuding from his body caused the space around him to twist. Everyone was stunned by that.

They were unable to imagine how a person's killing intent could manifest physical changes and affect spacetime.

Only then did they take note that this person was so young that he didn't seem fit to be the dean of the High Firmament Academy. In any case, he was an absolutely terrifying existence!

"I'll give you a single warning. Keep your mouth clean, or I'll kill you before the three days are up," said Long Chen coldly.

His voice was heavy and icy. It didn't contain the slightest emotion, yet it was filled with the powerful confidence of an expert. It shook people to the core.

Wang Zixu's expression changed several times. He wanted to retort, sneer, and express that he didn't care about Long Chen in the slightest. But he didn't dare to.

He had a premonition that if he dared to do that, Long Chen would strike like lightning. Thus, he didn't dare to move. He was afraid that the slightest thing might bring forth Long Chen's attack.

He even felt that he wouldn't even have a chance to summon his battle armor before Long Chen's attack landed. It seemed that none of the people around him could protect him.

"Hmph, big words. Let's talk about it in three days!" Wang Zixu merely snorted and left.

However, many sharp-eyed people spotted the light coming from the back of his neck. That was the reflection of his sweat. Did Wang Zixu just get scared away? That made people gasp. The grand leader of the Four Heavenly Dragon Heroes had been scared to the point of sweating by someone. If this information spread, just how many jaws would drop to the floor?

“Boss is mighty!” Seeing that Long Chen was able to scare off Wang Zixu with just a gaze, Guo Ran chortled, feeling very pleased.

“What might? You were bullied for over a year by idiots like this? Just how did you survive in this world?” Long Chen looked at Guo Ran disappointedly, seemingly let down.

“Isn’t that only because I had no choice?! Boss, I’m not you!” Guo Ran shrugged, feeling a bit wronged.

Long Chen took a deep breath and suppressed his anger. The reason he was angry was because he just noticed how much his brother had suffered.

However, thinking about it carefully, Guo Ran truly couldn’t do anything. He couldn’t beat them. It wasn’t as if he could directly challenge them to a life-and-death match. Otherwise, it would be no different than sending himself to his death.

“Let’s go!”

Long Chen patted Guo Ran’s shoulder. He was very angry, but he also felt sorry for this brother of his. Guo Ran had never been very tough. For him to suffer humiliation here just to survive made Long Chen feel ashamed. The great general of the Dragonblood Legion had actually fallen to the point of being bullied by anyone. Thinking of this, Long Chen felt aggrieved. He wanted to smash the entire Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College apart.

“I’m sorry, boss. I’ve lost your face,” said Guo Ran shamefully when he saw Long Chen’s expression.

“Good brother, what are you talking about? It’s your boss’s fault. I didn’t look after you properly, causing you to fall to this point. Your boss swears that starting today, no one will dare to bully you. As for those people that bullied you before, I’ll make them kneel and beg for forgiveness.”

Long Chen eyed the surrounding experts, his gaze as sharp as a blade. As a result, those late stage World Kings felt their hearts pounding wildly. It felt like a sharp blade was pressed against their throats.

“Hehe, I know that with you here, I’ll never get bullied!” said Guo Ran with a simple-minded chortle.

“Let’s go. I’ll help you improve yourselves. Three days later, whatever grievances you have will be settled.”

After that, Long Chen and Guo Ran simply passed through the crowd, vanishing from their sight. Not a single person dared to block them.

As for the dean, standing in his palace, he saw everything. Right now, an unfathomable smile appeared on his face.

“The Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College has been silent for so long like dead water. Now I can see some liveliness, hehe!”

Chapter 3586

“Long Chen, Guo Ran, are you alright?” Xie Qianqian was waiting for them anxiously at Guo Ran’s residence.

By the time Long Chen and Guo Ran came here, this place was already completely blocked by people. The people on Guo Ran's side were kicked out and not allowed back in.

When Guo Ran arrived, he was also blocked by those people. In his fury, he directly sent those guards flying, showing off his proxy dean tablet, saying that anyone who dared to act so arrogantly again would be directly killed.

It was only then did these people learn that Guo Ran was the proxy dean. They almost pissed themselves as they fled.

"Big sister Qianqian, it went fine. I'm now the proxy dean. Fuck, it's time to properly settle my debts with those people that targeted me."

Guo Ran lazily flashed his tablet, stunning Xie Qianqian, Tu Hu, and the others. They couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"Boss, let me introduce you. This is Tu Hu, this is Zhang Zhao, this is..." Guo Ran introduced Long Chen to his brothers here one by one.

Guo Ran had been suppressed the entire time in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, but he also had his loyal brothers. They had gone through life and death with him without ever abandoning him.

Those disciples were all exceptionally moved to see Long Chen. They had heard far too many stories about him. Today, they were finally seeing a legendary existence.

Other than Xie Qianqian and her husband, there were sixteen others that Guo Ran viewed as true brothers, the people that he trusted the most. It was because they were his faithful brothers that they were monitored by the others.

However, while Guo Ran was suppressed, his home was still not bad. He had his own independent territory where he could be like a king.

Since there were no outsiders here, everyone went into a cultivation room. When Long Chen carefully examined Guo Ran's body, his expression gradually grew serious.

"Boss, what is it? Your expression is a bit frightening. Am I going to have an early, heroic demise?" Guo Ran grew a bit apprehensive.

Long Chen then slapped him on the back of his head, cursing, "You lazy idiot, why did you abandon the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art?!"

After Guo Ran ascended to the immortal world, due to not having Long Chen's eye on him, he didn't continue cultivating the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art. That was because cultivating it was too bitter and took too much time. In order to study forging arts better, he had stopped his cultivation of the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art.

On the cultivation path, if you weren't rowing forward, you were regressing. After checking Guo Ran's body, Long Chen found that Guo Ran's dragon blood energy had almost completely withered. That was why Long Chen was so angry. With no one keeping an eye on this fellow, he started acting lazy.

"Boss, it wasn't that I was lazy, but I spent night and day studying forging arts! Otherwise, there's no way for me to live here," said Guo Ran, feeling aggrieved.

“Bullshit! Do you think I don’t know you? The Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art doesn’t need to be meticulously trained. As long as you occasionally circulate your dragon blood, your dragon blood energy won’t dry up. You were clearly lazy and didn’t want to put in so much work. No wonder you can’t even beat those idiots. The power of your body has regressed too much,” said Long Chen angrily. This fellow was good in all other areas but was simply too lazy.

It had to be known that the support of his battle armor was based on his own power. The stronger his own power was, the stronger he would be in his battle armor.

A supreme battle armor couldn’t be controlled without a powerful physical body. Amongst the four of them, Guo Ran’s physical body was clearly the weakest, and not just by one level.

If Guo Ran had been willing to suffer and hadn’t abandoned the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art, even if his physical body wouldn’t be as strong as theirs, he wouldn’t be thrown so far behind. That was what disappointed Long Chen the most.

“Boss, a mighty, divine, unrivaled hero like you must have a way to fix things, right?” said Guo Ran with a smile.

It seemed that this fellow was always waiting for Long Chen to find him and help him improve again. His principles were clearly to be lazy and feel good for a while if he could, and be lazy and feel good forever if he could as well. This trait was truly a disease from deep within his bones that couldn’t be cured by any medicine.

“I can’t be bothered with you. Eat this pill.” Long Chen handed Guo Ran a medicinal pill.

Guo Ran directly consumed it without even looking at it. But as soon as it entered his stomach, his expression changed.

“AHH!”

Guo Ran suddenly let out a miserable shriek. His clothes were blasted off, and blood poured out of his skin. He collapsed on the ground, frothing at the mouth and twitching, causing everyone to jump in fright.

“Stop! Do you want to harm your senior apprentice-brother Guo Ran to death?” shouted Long Chen.

Tu Hu and the others had hastily stepped forward to help Guo Ran. Seeing him like that, they thought that he was about to die.

Guo Ran was constantly twitching, but he worked hard to wave his hand at them, indicating that he was fine. He then looked at Long Chen.

“Boss... are you... activating... my dragon blood? Is there... a gentler approach...”

Guo Ran’s voice contained a sobbing tone. He knew what Long Chen was about to do, so he couldn’t help pleading.

“A more gentle approach? This is the price of being lazy. If you hadn’t been lazy, I could let you activate your dragon blood in your sleep. But your dragon blood has almost vanished. If you want to activate it, you must endure pain. The dragon blood must sense your pain and once more permeate every part of you. You’ve spent over a year slacking. Now, in just a day, you need to endure all the bitterness that should have been spread throughout the year. This world is fair, and there are no shortcuts to glory.” Long Chen shook his head. In the end, Guo Ran had to pay the price for his own laziness.

“Do you want to get stronger as well?” Long Chen looked at Tu Hu and the others. They then looked at Guo Ran miserably wailing on the ground and didn’t immediately reply to this question.

Tu Hu clenched his teeth. "Senior apprentice-brother Long Chen, give me a medicine like this as well. I want to suffer the same pain as senior apprentice-brother Guo Ran."

"We do as well!" The others also spoke up one after another.

Long Chen nodded. At the very least, Guo Ran had done a good job choosing his brothers. So many of them were willing to suffer together with him. That was enough to show Guo Ran's character.

"These are some fruits. Eat them in this order. Remember, it must be in this order. Otherwise, you will die." Long Chen handed four Heavenly Dao Fruits to every person.

They were one Mortal, Spirit, Earth, and Heaven tier fruit for every single one of them. Normally, their true effect would only manifest in the Immortal King realm. However, because the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College's disciples pursued increasing their realms as quickly as possible, their realms were unstable. These Heavenly Dao Fruits could stabilize that foundation.

If the foundation was unsteady, it would be like a tree with no roots. The greater the tree, the more likely it would fall. The Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College's disciples were truly too dependent on their armor.

All things had good aspects and bad aspects. The good thing was that their supremely powerful battle armors were capable of increasing their power by ten or even dozens of times. Furthermore, as they constantly researched, their battle armors only grew stronger.

But the bad aspect was very clear as well. They were no longer pure cultivators. Their own power was far too lacking. Without their battle armor, they couldn't bear a single blow from someone in the same realm.

Thus, after eating these fruits, their heads suddenly grew murky. They collapsed and started sleeping. Only Guo Ran continued to wail in pain as if he was being tortured.

“If you had known that this would happen, would you have acted the same?”

Watching Guo Ran suffer, Long Chen shook his head. He then sat down lotus style, and a clump of flames appeared in his hands. After a while, a drop of golden liquid appeared within these flames. This liquid was Long Chen’s essence blood. As soon as it appeared, a vast dragon might appeared and shook this entire space.

Chapter 3587

When that drop of dragon blood was forced out from Long Chen’s body, his face instantly paled a great deal.

“Boss, you...!”

Guo Ran stared in shock at Long Chen.

“I’m going to switch out your blood. This golden dragon essence blood has been absorbed by me, causing it to lose most of its divine nature. But it still possesses immense power. It should be just right for you. You can endure it,” said Long Chen.

“Boss, I...” Guo Ran choked back a sob.

“Can you please show a bit of growth? You won’t die. You’ll just suffer some pain,” said Long Chen angrily.

“No, it’s just that boss, you treat me so well. I... I don’t know how to repay you,” said Guo Ran, tears streaming down his face.

“This move is useless against me. I won’t be soft on you. Also, in order to increase the effectiveness of the merger, it must be done in the place that hurts the most. You must endure. Protect your mind and don’t let your will slacken. If it fails and I have to once more extract my essence blood, I also won’t have much true dragon essence blood left,” said Long Chen.

Although this dragon blood already contained Long Chen’s will, Guo Ran’s will was far too lacking. It might be worse than an ordinary person’s.

If during the merger, Guo Ran’s will crumbled, then Long Chen would have to immediately give up. Otherwise, Guo Ran’s soul would be severely damaged. Even his life might be in danger.

But once he gave up, the dragon blood’s vitality would vanish, and it would be a true waste. At this time, Guo Ran’s veins were bulging on his forehead. He was in so much pain that he almost reached his limit.

Long Chen then split this drop of essence blood into three portions. First was the biggest portion, then a smaller portion, and then the smallest portion. That smallest portion fell onto Guo Ran’s forehead.

Buzz.

Golden marks instantly covered Guo ran’s entire body. His entire body quivered, and his eyes rolled up.

“Wake up!”

Long Chen shouted, dragging back Guo Ran’s consciousness just as he was fainting.

Long Chen had the urge to slap him. His willpower was far too weak. Long Chen almost had no confidence in this now. How had the Dragonblood Legion produced such a marvel?

“You must endure! Otherwise, my blood will have been spilled for nothing!” scolded Long Chen.

Guo Ran couldn’t even reply. He could barely nod as he strived to maintain consciousness.

When the first portion of golden blood merged into Guo Ran’s body, his slumbering Blood Qi finally awoke. They merged. After all, Guo Ran was also a Dragonblood warrior, and he had cultivated the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art. Hence, there was not much rejection with this dragon blood. After some pain, he grew accustomed to it.

Marks appeared on Guo Ran’s body. They were like scales and were his dragon battle armor.

Once those marks appeared, Long Chen sent the second portion of blood into his body. This portion clearly didn’t make Guo Ran suffer as much as the first one. He only clenched his teeth and endured.

With this second portion, actual scales appeared on Guo Ran’s body, but those scales were still tender. As time passed, they continuously grew stronger.

After two hours, Long Chen sent the third portion into Guo Ran's body. Guo Ran finally couldn't endure anymore and fainted.

However, this time, Long Chen didn't wake him up. The crucial part had passed. As the channels had been dug, now the water was flowing freely. Even though Guo Ran was unconscious, the third portion still automatically entered his dragon scales.

This dragon blood automatically changed Guo Ran's physical body. It was the opposite of when Long Chen managed to merge with it. Long Chen had changed from the inside to the outside. But that was something that Guo Ran was unable to endure.

Thus, Long Chen had thought of a method. As long as he endured the impact of the first and second portions of dragon blood, it would count as a success.

Guo Ran was covered in dragon scales. As his dragon blood was coursing within him, his body was constantly twitching. But he himself didn't feel anything.

After accomplishing this, Long Chen sighed with relief. Guo Ran was the one Long Chen worried about the most within the Dragonblood Legion. With this kind of foundation, he wasn't fit to be a warrior.

Sometimes, Long Chen even admired himself. How did he manage to turn this marvel into an expert? Even he found it to be inconceivable.

Guo Ran slept for two full days. During this time, Xie Qianqian, Tu Hu, and the others finished digesting the Heavenly Dao Fruits that Long Chen had given them.

After awakening, sensing how their bodies seemed completely transformed, they were incredibly refreshed. Their blood and qi were flowing smoother than ever, and they were filled with energy, energy that seemed several times stronger than before.

“Long Chen, what did you feed us? How can our power suddenly grow by several times? We’re so much stronger than anyone in the same realm. I can’t believe it!” Xie Qianqian was incredibly excited, to the point that her words were rather incoherent.

The others were just as excited. With their new power, they could add many new runes to their battle armors, increasing their overall power.

“You’re not much stronger than ordinary experts. It’s just that you’ve finally reached the level of ordinary experts. Your previous selves were far too weak.” Long Chen shook his head.

To tell the truth, giving them so many Heavenly Dao Fruits was truly a waste of natural treasures. Those Heavenly Dao Fruits could allow them to rise all the way to peak Immortal Kings without worrying about their realms growing unstable. It would make up for their rush in climbing realms.

“That doesn’t matter. My power is so much stronger now, and I can upgrade my battle armor! I can add more runes!” Xie Qianqian didn’t mind Long Chen’s evaluation. She was still as excited as ever.

With every bit of increase in actual power, their battle armor multiplied it. It was due to this that the Alldevil Star-Field’s experts pursued cultivation speed over anything else. Increasing their realm was the fastest path to increase their power.

In any case, they were existences that relied on their battle armors to survive. Thus, even if their realms were unstable, they didn't really care. This now made up for that fatal weakness, which was that even ten of them in the same realm couldn't beat a single person from the outside world.

If they were attacked before summoning their battle armor, they could easily be wiped out. Thus, as long as they weren't in safe places, they would always be wearing their armor.

"Senior apprentice-brother Guo Ran...!"

Tu Hu and the others suddenly let out a startled cry. They saw Guo Ran in the distance. He was already standing, but his body was covered in blood. There was black sticky liquid on the ground around him.

When he stood up, Xie Qianqian hastily turned away. That was because the current Guo Ran was not wearing anything.

Guo Ran woke up at this time and hastily took out new clothes. However, he had just taken them out and they were already ripped into shreds in his hands.

"Heavens...!"

Guo Ran's jaw dropped in astonishment. Those clothes were very sturdy, but they were torn apart like paper in his hands. Only then did he realize that his power had instantly exploded to an unimaginable level.

Guo Ran carefully put on new clothes. Sensing the huge changes in his body, as well as the dragon blood swimming powerfully within him, he had the urge to cry. It was like he had returned to the Dragonblood Legion and was once more that dragon-blooded tiger.

“Now, are you confident?” Long Chen smiled.

“Haha, boss, don’t worry! This time, I will definitely reclaim my lost dignity!” Guo Ran laughed high-spiritedly.

The next day was the day of their match. Now, Guo Ran and the others were in peak condition. They walked toward the martial stage with soaring killing intent.

Chapter 3588

In the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College and perhaps even in the entire Alldevil Star-Field, all the martial stages were gigantic. A sect could normally only have one.

That was because these cultivators were all fully equipped. Once a fight started, there was mass destruction. If the martial stage wasn’t sturdy enough, it would be all too easy to affect the area outside.

Moreover, the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College’s martial stage was made with the best materials. Those materials were normally used to test the destructive power of battle armors.

A martial stage made out of such materials couldn’t possibly be easy to break. Furthermore, it was rather easy to repair. Unfortunately, those materials were very expensive and only produced in the Alldevil Star-Field. The outside world almost never got a chance to see them.

This martial stage looked to only be a few dozen miles wide. But with the formation supporting it, its true size was thousands of miles.

At this time, there was already a sea of people around the martial stage. Other than some experts taking turns on duty to guard the city, almost everyone else had come here.

The martial stage's grand formation runes lit and then extinguished, lit and then extinguished. They were testing the condition of the grand formation, seeing if any runes had been damaged.

When Long Chen, Guo Ran, and the others arrived, countless gazes concentrated on them.

However, the majority of those gazes were cold and mocking. In particular, when they looked at Long Chen, their gazes were full of killing intent. That appearance was as if they wanted to immediately attack and eliminate him. That was because Long Chen had come to their Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College and killed people. That was unacceptable to them. It was a kind of disgrace.

But very quickly, those gazes became shocked. They suddenly noticed that Guo Ran, Tu Hu, Xie Qianqian, and the others seemed different than before. Their faces were glowing. It was like they were completely different people.

"A group of idiots, so stupid that there's no cure for them. Boss, should we just leave after this fight? Why do we have to save these idiots?" Seeing those gazes, Guo Ran's fury soared.

Long Chen was the person that Guo Ran revered the most. He didn't feel much when others looked down on him, but for them to look at Long Chen with such gazes was unacceptable to him.

"A person has to finish what they started. After all, you received the favor of the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. They raised you. Otherwise, you wouldn't have your current accomplishments. The majority of your current abilities are thanks to the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, right? The dean himself was secretly looking after you, so you owe the dean a huge favor. Our Dragonblood Legion

can never owe anyone. Right now, whatever personal debts and enmities you have must be settled by yourself. Isn't it better to not owe anyone anything?" Long Chen patted Guo Ran's shoulder and gave him some advice.

"Alright, I'll listen to boss," said Guo Ran. He clenched his teeth as he looked at those people's gazes.

"Senior apprentice-brother Guo Ran, if you leave, you must bring us with you! We want to go muddle along with you!" declared Tu Hu and the others.

"What are you going to follow me for? If you muddle along with me, you won't even be able to eat. I'm going to follow boss!" said Guo Ran.

Tu Hu and the others looked at Long Chen. These people were life-and-death brothers with Guo Ran. They were unwilling to leave him, and Guo Ran was unable to leave them. Since Guo Ran had cast this problem to Long Chen, they were looking for his response.

Before he answered though, ear-splitting cheers suddenly rang out. In the distance, Wang Zixu, Xie Liuer, and Leng Hui were walking over together. The crowd went wild.

Compared to Guo Ran's arrival, it looked like the difference between the clouds and mud. These three were native experts of the Alldevil Star-Field, and they grew up here. They had powerful backgrounds even within the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. As for Guo Ran, he was nothing more than an ascender from a lower world.

The immortal world's people had a natural sense of superiority over ascenders and looked down on them. Thus, Guo Ran's rise within the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College was exceptionally difficult.

The cheers brought on by the three of them already proved the bias between them and Guo Ran. Even if he had become one of the four heroes, countless people still looked down on him inside.

Even if someone was stronger than you, as long as you had the backing of a stronger power, you could just look down on them. Even if someone's current position was higher, so what? You could continue to look down on them, and they would be helpless. Perhaps this was a kind of sickness in the human race's bones.

Long Chen and Guo Ran brought everyone over to the front of the martial stage. This place was already packed with people. They were waiting for Long Chen, and they blocked his path.

"Don't endure," said Long Chen.

BOOM!

Guo Ran immediately kicked the closest person in the chest. That person then let out a grunt and flew back. The people beside him were also knocked away, tumbling back into the distance. Plenty of seats immediately opened.

"It is forbidden to use martial force here! Guo Ran, you are so brazen-!" roared the person who had just been kicked.

As a result, he had just said this when Tu Hu and the others stepped forward, and multiple fists immediately beat him bloody.

"Lu Qing, you little bastard, you dare to shout in front of the dean? You dare to utter the dean's taboo name? You need to be beaten to death!"

Lu Qing was one of Leng Hui's subordinates. Since he already had enmity with Tu Hu and the others, they just took the chance to get revenge on him. After that, the sound of bones breaking occasionally rang out. Tu Hu and the others really did seem like they would kill him.

As for those people with Lu Qing, seeing this scene, they stepped forward to help him. However, the first person was sent reeling back by a punch from Xie Qianqian. She was quite vicious and used this opening to land a powerful kick to that person's crotch.

An explosive sound rang out. As a result, that person's body quivered intensely, and his eyes rolled up into his head. He directly fainted without even making a sound.

Tu Hu, Xie Qianqian, and the others were like tigers beating these people until they cried out for their mothers and fathers. What was inexplicable to them was that Tu Hu and the others would previously only be the ones beaten. How were they so ferocious today? Almost everyone charging at them was knocked down with a single punch.

The chaos here immediately caused quite a few people to rush over. Although they appeared to be coming to stop the fight, they were really there just to tilt the scales, wanting to suppress Tu Hu and the others. As a result, Tu Hu and the others were full of power and addicted to this feeling. It didn't matter who came, they didn't let these people off.

In just a short time, over a hundred people were on the ground. Due to it being forbidden to use martial force in this place, no one summoned their armor. Anyone who did would be directly expelled. Thus, it was only a fight of physical bodies.

Guo Ran watched as Tu Hu and the others struck flesh with every single one of their punches. It was truly satisfying. He also wanted to join in but was held back by Long Chen.

“Grow up a bit. You’re going to fight over this little bit with them?” said Long Chen irritably.

“Stop!”

“Who is causing a scene!?”

“Cease this at once!”

“What a scandal!”

As the chaos grew, the elders were no longer able to sit still. They roared to stop things.

However, Tu Hu and the others could not be controlled. They had been suppressed for so long and couldn’t pull back their anger.

That feeling of having endless energy in their bodies was incredibly refreshing. They had never felt so good in their lives. They seemed to be unrivaled existences at this moment, and they even had an urge to kill people, as if even if gods came, they would kill gods. They pretended that they didn’t hear the chidings, and they simply beat anyone who came at them.

“Not bad, not bad. Youngsters should have this kind of vitality.”

Suddenly, a voice rang out. Everyone then looked over to see Xue Yifan floating in the sky in white robes. He was laughing as he watched this chaotic scene. He didn't seem angry at all, and nor did he have any intention of stopping them.

Chapter 3589

The dean had personally descended. He even praised Tu Hu and the others, causing countless people's hearts to shake.

Ever since Guo Ran had obtained the proxy dean tablet, the entire Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College felt like it was about to explode. Countless people begged to see the dean, and the Assembly Elders even blocked the gates to his residence, but Xue Yifan never gave them any reply.

It was only now that Xue Yifan appeared. Looking at the chaos, he wasn't angry. Instead, he even seemed to be encouraging them. Now people were sure that Guo Ran's tablet had been given by the dean.

Tu Hu and the others were in the midst of beating people to satisfaction when they saw the dean arrive. With the dean here, they felt bad beating people up, thus they reserved themselves, leaving over a hundred experts lying on the ground groaning in pain. They didn't get up for a long time.

"Dean, you've hidden yourself for three full days, refusing to see us. What are you intending?" asked an Assembly Elder.

"It was to keep my ears clear of chatter. Even if I saw you, it wouldn't change my decision. Moreover, your banal comments are irritating to listen to, so I decided to avoid it," said Xue Yifan with a smile, not showing the slightest anger toward the Assembly Elder's aggressive stance.

Xue Yifan sat down in his specific place. His position was facing everyone, and he could also see the entire martial stage.

“What kind of morality and capability does Guo Ran possess to represent the dean?! Why did you not inform the assembly first? If you just make decisions on your own, what is the point of having an assembly hall?” demanded another Assembly Elder, shouting passionately.

Of the twelve Assembly Elders, nine were standing together, all of them gloomy-faced. It seemed that they were ready to unite and target the dean.

Seeing that, everyone jumped in shock. What was going on? Nine Assembly Elders were questioning the dean at once? Was that an attempt to force the dean out of his position?

They knew that the assembly had almost the same authority as the dean. The reason that the assembly was established was precisely for fear of the dean’s authority growing too great. If the dean stubbornly clung to his own course and made the wrong decisions, there would be no one to stop him. Then the entire college would be destroyed.

This legislation started with good intentions. This way, the dean and the assembly would keep each other in check, allowing the college to maintain a perfect system. This would avoid fatal mistakes.

However, throughout history, although there had been disagreements between the dean and the assembly, everything had been settled through voting and peaceful settlements. There had never been such a thing before. After all, the Assembly Elders were absolutely enraged and fighting the dean openly now.

Hence, everyone’s heart began to pound hard. What kind of time was it for such a thing? The devil beasts were pressing on them from the outside. If the assembly and the dean started fighting, the entire Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College would fracture.

"After today's battle, you will know Guo Ran's morality and capability. As for whether the assembly has any use or not, everyone, I'm sure you know it best!" said Xue Yifan, declining to give his own personal opinion.

"Boss, what is going on?" Seeing this scene, Guo Ran himself jumped in shock. The assembly wouldn't really be trying to remove the dean, would they? Without the support of the dean, he would be doomed.

"The dean is using you to rebuild the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. This dean's vision really is far!" Long Chen looked at the calm Xue Yifan, as well as the gloomy Assembly Elders. He smiled.

Although Long Chen didn't know how Xue Yifan would act exactly, he could see that he was a wise elder. Everything was under his control. In comparison, these elders of the assembly were worthless straw bags. They couldn't even see what kind of time it was. They had lived all this time for nothing.

"Xue Yifan, what are you intending? If you don't give us a clear explanation today, all of us Assembly Elders will immediately vote to cast you out! As long as eleven of us agree, you will need to abdicate your position as dean!" shouted an Assembly Elder threateningly.

According to the academy's rules, if the dean did not handle things properly, severely affecting the college's safety, then the twelve Assembly Elders had the authority to impeach him. If eleven of them agreed, then they could remove him from his position.

Hearing this, the millions of experts around the martial stage were completely silent. They could only hear their own heartbeats. This was a huge affair beyond anything that they had experienced.

“You’ve united nine of you. So you’re just missing two more?”

Xue Yifan smiled, calmly saying, “In truth, I’ve tolerated you for a long time. Seeing you walk further and further on your paths of courting death, I gave you many warnings. But you ignored them all.”

“You...!” Those Assembly Elders’ expressions immediately changed.

Xue Yifan didn’t give them a chance to speak, continuing, “The twelve elders of the assembly are supposed to mutually control the dean. This was the rule made by the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. It was an ancient lesson inherited from the High Firmament Academy. Afraid that the dean’s authority would grow too big, if a shameful dean appeared, it would bring about the downfall of the college. Do the twelve of you Assembly Elders still remember the number one objective of the assembly? The Assembly Elders must be upright, not using their position for personal desires. They cannot touch the college’s wealth. All things must be considered from the viewpoint of the college as a whole. They must always be thinking of the college, loyal to the assembly. They would die to uphold the assembly’s sacred justice. Let me ask you, have you done any of that?”

Xue Yifan’s face grew strict, and even his voice grew cold. As a result, those Assembly Elders’ expressions all changed. A touch of panic appeared in their eyes.

“The current assembly has long since changed. You say that you are loyal to the college, loyal to the assembly, that you would die to uphold the assembly’s sacred justice. Tell me, were you upholding the assembly’s sacred justice, or were you simply upholding the profits and face of your families? Right now, which one of the twelve Assembly Elders is not a major businessman? Which one is not using their own authority to benefit their families? Do you really think that I don’t know about all those things you did? The assembly only possessed a sacred justice for the first thirteen generations. After that, they were seduced by privilege and profit. The corruption in the assembly grew until you were all fighting each other for profit regardless of means, regardless of honor and shame. What kind of time is it for you to be stuffing your pockets as much as possible? What time is it for you to be suppressing the college’s talents? Your eyes can only see the profits before you, but not the crisis pressing down on you. You can only be called the peak of foolishness. What right do you have to be Assembly Elders?”

Xue Yifan grew angrier and angrier as he spoke, until his voice was like thunder shaking the air, shaking the nine heavens. His voice even contained killing intent that made their hearts turn ice-cold.

“Dean, the time for my fight with Guo Ran has come. I hope that you permit this battle.” Just then, Wang Zixu walked forward.

Guo Ran was startled. What was the meaning of this fellow running forward at this time? Was he challenging the dean’s dignity?

“This fellow is on the side of the Assembly Elders. He is challenging you now to turn the tides, to twist the crux of the battle. If he kills you, he will be the proxy dean. Then when he stands on the side of the assembly, even the dean might not be able to punish the Assembly Elders for their sins. This battle will decide their life and death,” said Long Chen. He had seen such a thing many times. Wang Zixu had no choice but to walk forward.

Guo Ran wasn’t too foolish. Knowing that this was the time, that this was the chance for him to display his abilities, he cleared his throat and shouted, “I swept through the four seas and crossed a thousand mountains, causing huge waves between heaven and earth. My battle armor’s divine blades could settle all lands beneath the heavens. I am the unrivaled hero, Guo Ran! Wang Zixu, do you have any final words to say? If you don’t say them now, you’ll never have a chance to do so in the future!”

Guo Ran appeared on the martial stage, appearing incredibly domineering and wild. In the eyes of the disciples of the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, he seemed like a different person. His previous yes-man self had changed to the point of even saying such an arrogant and shameless verse. It stunned people.

“A loser general is all you are. What face do you have to be so arrogant?”

Wang Zixu also came onto the stage. Just as both of them were on the martial stage, the grand formation activated. Rays of divine light then enveloped the martial stage, a sign that the battle was about to start. Tu Hu and the others' hearts instantly clenched.

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Guo Ran and Wang Zixu appeared on the martial stage a few meters away from each other. They coldly looked at each other, brimming with killing intent.

"My boss taught me that after knowing shame comes bravery. Have you not found that I am no longer the old Guo Ran? The current me has undergone a heaven-toppling transformation. Let me tell you, this is the result of all my hard work in secret. As for you, you are still thinking of the old me that was constantly suppressed. Today is the last day of your life!" declared Guo Ran arrogantly.

Long Chen himself felt his face reddening a bit when he heard this. Guo Ran really was as shameless as ever. What secret hard work? Was that not the result of Long Chen's efforts?

The current Guo Ran had abundant Blood Qi, and divine light flowed in his eyes. As his blood circulated, vague waves of a sacred and holy aura came from him. That was the specific aura of the true dragon.

Long Chen had already fully merged with the true dragon essence blood. That blood had sunk into his bones. Hence, as long as Long Chen didn't use it, others would have difficulty sensing it.

As for Guo Ran, he had just merged with it and had yet to fully control his aura. Thus, the qi of the true dragon was leaking out. It made Guo Ran appear full of a holy and sacred aura. It was truly intimidating.

In the eyes of the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College's disciples, Guo Ran had gone through a heaven-toppling transformation. It was unbelievable.

Most importantly, the current Guo Ran was full of arrogance and confidence. He gave off a sense of ease as if everything was within his control. Such ease made people think that he was unfathomable.

“A deliberate act to mystify others. No matter how much you’ve changed, you’re nothing more than a lowly ascender. What qualifications do you have to be mentioned in the same breath as us? Some people are born naturally above others, while some should simply lay at the feet of the strong. As for you, no matter how strong you are, you are not fit to be anything more than a servant,” sneered Wang Zixu.

In front of that provocation, Guo Ran didn’t get angry. Instead, he smiled slightly. “Keep acting arrogant. Keep acting wild. Keep up your display. Let me see just how you rein it in once we start.”

“Cut the crap! Summon your battle armor! Let us decide life and death!”

As Wang Zixu said this, his body suddenly shot toward Guo Ran, reaching him in an instant. His saber slashed down on Guo Ran.

Everyone let out startled cries. Although Wang Zixu had warned Guo Ran in advance, he didn’t actually give him any chance to prepare. This attack was far too sudden.

“Blood Merged Armor?! How can that be?!”

Xie Qianqian cried out in shock, her expression changing.

Blood Merged Armor was a secret art of the highest level in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. It split the battle armor into two portions, one outside the body and one inside.

Just as the name implied, the Blood Merged Armor was used to merge the armor into the body, hiding it beneath the skin. It could protect a person's bones and internal organs better. At the same time, it allowed them to fight without summoning their armor.

The inner armor could also work with the outer armor to once more raise a person's combat power. It was one of the highest secret arts of the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College. Furthermore, it was said that a person would only be qualified to train in it once they became an Immortal King.

However, Wang Zixu was only a late stage Divine Lord. Clearly, his family had gone against the rules and transmitted this secret art to him in advance.

With the Blood Merged Armor, Wang Zixu's saber whistled through the air at Guo Ran like a bolt of lightning. Even before his saber arrived, he already caused such a powerful gust of wind that the entire space quivered. This attack was something that would make even late stage World Kings change their expressions. Even if they had summoned their complete battle armor, they might not necessarily be able to block that attack.

BOOM!

Metallic ringing rang out and a whirlwind blew around Guo Ran. The astral winds shook the formation, causing it to quiver slightly.

People then saw a static scene. Wang Zixu was still in his slashing posture. As for Guo Ran, he was holding a golden battle saber and blocked Wang Zixu's attack.

For a moment, everyone was completely silent. Wang Zixu's full-power attack was actually easily received by Guo Ran.

The winds caused the formation to boom, so no one doubted just how powerful Wang Zixu's attack was. And yet, it was unable to shake Guo Ran in the slightest.

"Boss really is the boss. This power is too powerful!"

Guo Ran held his saber with a single hand. At this moment, boundless power was coursing through his body. No matter how Wang Zixu's power tried to press down on him, he was as steady as a boulder, immovable. Guo Ran's eyes became filled with wild heat.

Long Chen had said that the current Guo Ran possessed a tenth of his power. So, Guo Ran wanted to know just how strong a tenth of his boss's power was.

And just like what he had imagined, his boss really was the boss. A tenth of his power was enough to let Guo Ran completely dominate this battle. He was unrivaled within the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College.

As the two sabers clashed, an ear-piercing rumbling rang out and sparks flew. The two of them were still competing in terms of power.

Everyone looked at the calm Guo Ran who seemed completely relaxed. Just how strong was the current Guo Ran? Even without summoning his battle armor, he could block Wang Zixu in his Blood Merged Armor state.

Wang Zixu's expression also changed. He had originally been thinking that if nothing unexpected happened, he would kill Guo Ran with this one move.

He hadn't expected his full-power attack to be blocked. Furthermore, Guo Ran seemed to not be using any effort at all, so a bad premonition was born in Wang Zixu's heart.

"So what if you have the Blood Merged Armor? At most, it can raise your power by three times. You think that little bit of power is enough to beat me? Even if you sneak attack me, you cannot shake me in the slightest," snorted Guo Ran. He suddenly shoved his saber forward.

Wang Zixu instantly felt an immense force strike him. He couldn't help retreating.

Two long grooves appeared in the ground beneath his feet. He was pushed all the way to the edge of the barrier before stabilizing.

All the experts watching gasped and looked at Guo Ran like he was a monster. Just what was going on with him? How did he suddenly become so terrifying?

After staring in shock at Guo Ran, people also couldn't help glancing at someone sitting at the corner of the martial stage. They then stared at that mysterious and terrifying black-robed man. It was only after this man arrived that Guo Ran transformed.

Guo Ran was so powerful that even the Assembly Elders' expressions changed. They looked at Xue Yifan and saw that his expression was still calm, as if everything was as he had predicted. He didn't show any fluctuations from this scene, and that made their hearts clench.

Just then, runes appeared on top of Wang Zixu's body. After that, pieces of battle armor appeared, covering him. He had finally summoned his outer battle armor. At that moment, his aura grew explosively, instantly rising dozens of times.

His battle armor rumbled and the earth quivered. The martial stage beneath his feet became covered in cracks.

“Even Wang Zixu’s Heavenly Howl Battle Armor has appeared! Heavens, he directly summoned his strongest battle armor!”

Startled cries rang out from the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College’s disciples. All of them had different sets of armor, for use on different kinds of battlefields and against different kinds of opponents.

Wang Zixu had sixteen battle armors, and his current set was violet gold. It was the strongest of his sixteen battle armors and was actually passed down in the Wang clan.

After Wang Zixu advanced to the Divine Lord realm, he obtained the inheritance of the Heavenly Howl Battle Armor. However, people had never seen him use it.

“Guo Ran, summon your Martial Heaven Battle Armor! Today, I will completely crush you so that you are convinced!”

Wang Zixu’s killing intent overflowed after he put on this battle armor. His voice had a metallic ringing in it now. He then pointed his saber at Guo Ran, his sharp aura locking onto him.