

## Nine Star 4021

### Chapter 4021: Blue Flame Empire Lord Lan Tianba

When the army of Lightning Thunderclap Battleships arrived, the Blue Flame Empire's experts immediately came out to greet them. It had to be known that the Lightning Thunderclap Battleships were a symbol of the Violet Thunderclap Empire, so everyone here thought that the Violet Thunderclap Empire's people had come.

However, what greeted them was an enormous flame lotus. When it appeared, those Lightning Thunderclap Battleships instantly vanished.

"It's a fake! Activate-"

The first person to react quickly roared, but Long Chen gave them no time at all.

BOOM!

The World Extermination Flame Lotus that had been brewing for a long time smashed down, causing the grand formation, which had just been activated, to shatter. The flame lotus then smashed into the heart of the capital.

As a result, a wave of fire decimated the buildings, instantly turning this grand capital city into ruins. Even Zhu Yunwen and the others were dumbfounded.

Long Chen was too vicious. They had never seen such a terrifying sight before.

"You sons of bitches of the Vermilion Bird Empire, how dare you?!"

A furious roar rang out. After that, an elder in blue robes with a crown on his head charged out.

"The Blue Flame Empire Lord, Lan Tianba!"

Zhu Yunwen and the others' nerves tensed when they saw this elder. After all, he was a three-flower Earth Venerate.

The Blue Flame Empire only had two three-flower Earth Venerates. One of them was besieging the Vermilion Bird empire, and the other was right in front of them.

"Bastards, you dare to disguise yourselves as people from the Violet Thunderclap Empire?! Not one of you will leave alive!" Another elder came out of the rubble and immediately charged at Long Chen.

He was a Double Supreme Divine Venerate, and his face twisted with fury. He had just gathered the army here and was admonishing them.

That was because just now, Weng Tianyao's master had come and transmitted Weng Taibei's words, calling for them to prepare for battle.

Weng Tianyao's master had only given some simple orders, but the Blue Flame Empire was the weakest of the eight empires, so in order to express their loyalty and sincerity, they immediately summoned their forces.

Soon after Weng Tianyao's master departed, Long Chen and his companions arrived. Seeing them, the soldiers were surprised to see people from the Violet Thunderclap Empire returning so soon. However, their bewilderment turned to shock when Long Chen unleashed his devastating World Extermination Flame Lotus upon them.

Millions of their elites, the majority of which were World Kings and even over a hundred thousand Divine Venerates, were wiped out in an instant. They were caught off-guard and without any defenses.

In the end, they died without even understanding what was going on. They had never dreamed that they would all die within the safest place inside the Blue Flame Empire.

Other than those elites, there were also millions of soldiers within the buildings. It could be said that the current capital was filled with the empire's elite soldiers, but the majority were slain with one attack from Long Chen.

Hence, they felt like they were going crazy. At this moment, the ruins exploded as hundreds of Divine Venerates came out of the ground. The majority of those survivors were Double Supremes.

It was only thanks to their immense power that they managed to survive Long Chen's attack. However, they were still left in a wretched state. Even though they survived, they were injured.

When Zhu Yunwen and the others arrived at the capital, they could sense countless powerful auras. But now, only a few hundred survivors remained in the entire capital, and all the other auras had disappeared.

Although they had experienced the Vermilion Bird's trial by fire and become true experts, they were still frightened by such ruthlessness.

Looking at that black figure standing in front of them, they all rejoiced that this figure was a friend, not an enemy.

At this moment, Lan Tianba attacked and blue flames exploded out of the space behind him, instantly covering the entire capital. Upon seeing this, Zhu Yunwen and the others' hearts quivered. They felt like their bodies were suppressed by some kind of power.

"The divine might of a three-flower expert."

This was the most terrifying aspect of a three-flower expert. Their manifestation was one with the heavens, suppressing the aid of the heavens toward all others. With the ten thousand Daos obeying them, only fellow three-flower experts could resist this.

However, Zhu Yunwen and the others were only Immortal Kings. They were blessed by talent, and with their Heavenly Dao Crowns, they were able to resist World King Divine Radiances, the pressure of Divine Venerates, and even the suppressive effects of faith energy. But the power of the three flowers was an entirely separate concept.

If it was before the trial by fire, they wouldn't have been able to move a single finger under this pressure.

This pressure reminded them of the pressure in the trial. However, the pressure here was even stronger.

Fortunately, they were still able to resist this pressure, so they clenched their weapons and stored up energy. With the pressure being resisted by eight hundred thousand of them, the effects were diminished.

Although this would definitely affect their combat power, if they all summoned their manifestations and joined forces, they weren't afraid of it.

Within this blue flame domain, Lan Tianba moved like a phantom, suddenly appearing in front of Long Chen. His hand, resembling blue lightning, aimed directly at Long Chen's throat with deadly intent.

In response, Long Chen calmly swung his hand, and in that instant, a dazzling golden light erupted. Lan Tianba's face contorted in agony as he was sent hurtling backward like a shooting star.

Seeing this, the experts that had followed him into battle were caught off-guard. Struck directly by his body, they were blown apart by the impact.

BOOM!

Lan Tianba slammed into the heart of the city. This capital, which had become a hole in the ground, now had a deeper hole smashed into it.

Upon seeing this scene, Zhu Yunwen and the others' jaws dropped, and they stared at Long Chen in disbelief. He actually slapped a three-flower Earth Venerate away? Was he a monster?

It wasn't just Zhu Yunwen and the others who were shocked. Even Long Chen stared at his own hand in disbelief, feeling like it was inconceivable.

However, Long Chen wasn't shocked by his power. What truly astonished him was his reaction speed. Even in front of a three-flower expert, he felt as if everything was within his control.

He also found that his speed, reactions, perception, and everything else had gone up by more than one level.

"It's nothing to be surprised about. You never intentionally trained your spirit, soul, and will. But in the Vermilion Bird Empire, you awakened their power, so your improvement will naturally be rapid," said the dragon expert lightly.

However, while it spoke calmly, it couldn't conceal how pleased it was. Clearly, for Long Chen to become so powerful was also something it was proud of.

"Die!"

Just then, the ground shook and Lan Tianba charged out of it. The moment he came out though, Long Chen's figure vanished.

When he reappeared, he was already in front of Lan Tianba, slamming his foot into his abdomen. In an instant, Lan Tianba's body curled up and slammed back into the ground ten times faster than he had charged out. The spot that he fell was exactly the same as before.

The earth exploded once again. But unlike before, the entire city suddenly began to rise out of the ground, like some monster was standing from beneath the city. Following that, a violent immemorial aura rose.

With a furious roar, a giant wolf broke free from the ground, its wild power causing the stars to shake.

“Blue Flame Voracious Wolf. Hehe, you’ve finally come.” Long Chen smiled sinisterly.

## **Chapter 4022: Fighting a Three-Flower Earth Venerate**

The Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was a flame divine beast of the immemorial era. Although its reputation was not as magnificent as the Vermilion Bird, it was still a well-known existence.

When its head broke free from the ground, lifting the entire city into the air, the wolf's mouth revealed fangs stretching for miles, and its two eyes resembled blazing suns, radiating a scorching and fearsome aura.

Its roar in particular seemed like it could tear apart people’s souls. Fortunately, everyone had experienced the Vermilion Bird’s trial by fire and was able to endure this pressure. Otherwise, just this roar would have been enough to shatter their Yuan Spirits.

“Great Voracious Wolf Ancestor, these invaders possess the inheritance flame of the Vermilion Bird! They are your sacrifice! Enjoy them!” shouted Lan Tianba.

This Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was the Blue Flame Empire’s faith divine beast. During this time, they had offered it countless offerings in preparation to awaken it. Unexpectedly, it was forcibly woken up by Long Chen.

If the offerings they gave to awaken it didn’t meet its requirements, it would be infuriated and devour countless lifeforms as compensation. Thus, the Blue Flame Empire didn’t dare to awaken it for nothing.

So, now that it was forcibly woken, it roared furiously. Lan Tianba’s shout then locked its attention onto Long Chen and the others. Now, eating them was the only way to placate its fury.

As expected, when it looked at Long Chen and the others, flames burst out of its eyes, and its killing intent erupted.

With another furious roar, the earth was torn asunder, and its giant body came out of it.

Its body was almost the same size as the entire capital. The moment it showed up, a violent pressure caused the world to quiver, and faint cracks appeared within heaven and earth, as if the very world was being torn apart.

Zhu Yunwen and the others were shaken. They had never imagined that one day they would be fighting an immemorial divine beast that could reach the level of being a faith totem.

“Imperial disciples, activate a barrier! Seal this place! Do not permit anyone to run or transmit any news. Yunwen, Yifeng, Qingxuan, Qianxue, all princes and princesses, summon the Vermilion Bird manifestation. You will face Lan Tianba,” shouted Long Chen.

“What about the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf?” asked Yu Qianxue hastily.

“It’s mine. Get to work!” Long Chen shot toward the Blue Flame Voracious wolf just like that.

Seeing Long Chen move, the others also got to work. As eight hundred thousand imperial disciples joined forces, summoning their manifestations, their figures merged into one enormous immemorial Vermilion Bird. It soared above the nine heavens and formed a barrier around the capital city.

Within the Vermilion Bird’s trial by fire, they had learned how to combine their manifestations. Now, they could show it off.

“Kill!”

Zhu Yunwen, Yu Qianxue, Zhu Yifeng, Yu Qingxuan, and the others unleashed their manifestations. Flames exploded as they attacked Lan Tianba.

If it was before, they would have been full of reverence for this three-flower Earth Venerate. But one kick and slap from Long Chen had blasted away that reverence.

In their hearts, three-flower Earth Venerates were now just humans. If Long Chen could slap them, then they couldn’t be that terrifying.

“Qingxuan, Vermilion Bird Cries at the Ten Thousand Daos!”

Zhu Yunwen suddenly shouted, and Yu Qingxuan shot toward the front of their formation. The next moment, her hand made a sword seal, and her sword whistled down, unleashing a rainbow arc. After going through the trial, Yu Qingxuan’s Heavenly Rainbow Flame was finally starting to awaken. When she unleashed her full power, her sword looked as if it could cut down the very stars.

As for Zhu Yunwen, Yu Qianxue, Zhu Yifeng, and the others, they also attacked at the same time. Flame energy merged into Yu Qingxuan’s sword.

With Yu Qingxuan as the main attacker, she combined the power of over twenty people, directly attacking Lan Tianba.

Seeing this, Lan Tianba hadn’t expected them to be so skilled in combination arts. He suddenly realized that he, a grand three-flower Earth Venerate, was actually locked down by Yu Qingxuan.

What he didn’t know was that he wasn’t really locked down by Yu Qingxuan, but by the Heavenly Rainbow Flame. The Heavenly Rainbow Flame didn’t care what level the opponent was. Once you were locked down, there was no escaping it.

“Ignorant juniors, face your deaths!” Lan Tianba roared furiously, and a flame saber appeared in his hand. Brilliant blue divine radiance then emanated from the weapon, filling the surroundings with an otherworldly glow.

With an overwhelming display of power, Lan Tianba swung his saber down with astonishing force, ripping through the very fabric of the heavens.

BOOM!

Both their attacks clashed—the full power of a three-flower Earth Venerate met the combined force of over twenty heavenly geniuses of the current era, causing flames to explode into the heavens.

As a result, other than Yu Qingxuan, everyone else coughed up blood. The power of a three-flower Earth Venerate was unimaginably terrifying.

Fortunately, they had learned how to share the pressure within the Vermilion Bird's trial by fire. So, although they were injured, it wasn't fatal.

The other good thing was that Lan Tianba also coughed up blood. Clearly, even a three-flower Earth Venerate was unable to block their full power.

This fact invigorated them. Being able to rival a three-flower Earth Venerate, just how prestigious was such a claim?

“Die!”

Lan Tianba was shocked and enraged at being injured, so he shot toward them like a bolt of lightning. Seeing that their combination attack was a real threat to him, he took advantage while they were injured to press the attack, giving them no breathing room.

“Heavenly Rainbow Killing Blow!”

However, just as he moved, Yu Qingxuan became one with her sword, shooting out like a loose arrow. She was so fast that by the time he reacted, her sword was already pressed against his throat.

BOOM!

Lan Tianba was sent staggering back, while Yu Qingxuan was forced back a hundred miles before being able to stabilize herself. Now, an unhealthy rosiness appeared on her cheeks. After all, the attack of a three-flower Earth Venerate was not so easy to receive.

Even if Lan Tianba was injured and didn't have time to accumulate power, just half of his full-power attack was already enough to injure her and shake her spiritual qi.

“Die!” Seeing Yu Qingxuan injured, Lan Tianba shot after her. This was his best time to attack.

“You can die instead!” Just then, Zhu Yifeng's sword slashed down. Following him were Yu Qianxue and the others.

“You...!”

What infuriated Lan Tianba was that this attack was precisely Yu Qingxuan's previous attack, but this one had all their power merged into it.

BOOM!

Lan Tianba was sent flying and hacking up blood. As for Zhu Yunwen and the others, they also coughed up blood, but they grew increasingly excited.

Inside their minds, they were roaring with excitement. They could now fight three-flower Earth Venerates head-on, so who dared to look down on them now?

Just then, the recovered Yu Qingxuan unleashed a tempest of attacks, giving Lan Tianba no chance to recover.

As a result, Lan Tianba was repeatedly injured. It was like he was drowning, and they were doing their best to keep his head underwater, giving him no chance to breathe. As long as he had no chance to recover, he would stay in a weakened state.

It was not easy for him to finally force away Yu Qingxuan, but then Zhu Yifeng and the others attacked, keeping him pinned down.

Blocking Zhu Yifeng's attack further injured him, and then Yu Qianxue took his spot to attack Lan Tianba again.

Yu Qingxuan was in charge of disturbing him, while everyone else joined forces to attack him, leaving him with no room to retaliate. Finally, Lan Tianba grew afraid as he knew that he was entrapped. If he had no chance to recover, he would eventually die.

"Great Voracious Wolf, you...!"

Lan Tianba shouted for aid from the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf, as the others were already slain by the imperial disciples.

However, halfway through his shout, he was shocked to find that the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was covered in flames.

"Raging Flame Prison!"

Long Chen's voice rang out. Following that, a sacred chanting sound resounded throughout heaven and earth.

### **Chapter 4023: Subduing the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf**

Sacred chanting resounded throughout heaven and earth like the imperial edict of a god.

As Long Chen chanted, white flames rose and a terrifying heat unfurled. Surprisingly, the dome of the heavens was about to collapse from the heat, but a layer of frost still covered the earth, as if it had become a land of ice and snow.

This time, Huo Linger didn't hold back. The full power of the Ice Soul was unleashed into the strongest Raging Flame Prison where the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was trapped inside.

The Blue Flame Voracious Wolf roared and struggled against the prison, but even as flames exploded out of it and its claws raked across the prison, it was unable to break free. It then suddenly opened its mouth, and a blue flame sphere smashed into the flame prison.

BOOM!

The huge flame sphere caused the prison to deform. It began to twist but didn't break.

At this moment, the pillars of the prison had black flames flicker over them. Those black flames possessed a sinister aura, akin to the devil's maw devouring the blue flames.

When the wild Blue Flame Voracious Wolf saw those black flames, it instantly went still. It recognized the origin of those flames.

Those were the Yan Xu Flames. Even after devouring it, it was still so powerful that Huo Linger wouldn't lightly use them. She couldn't fully control them yet.

However, with the support of the Nirvana Scripture and Long Chen, she unleashed it to devour her opponent's power.

Thus, the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was now like a terrified rabbit. It was no longer even thinking about obtaining some sacrificial offering and only wanted to flee.

However, the more it struggled, the more the prison shrank, terrifying it. Also, the power of the Ice Soul gradually permeated throughout its body, weakening its flame energy.

As for the Yan Xu Flame, it was like maggots devouring his energy. As a result, the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was rapidly weakening.

"The Yan Xu Flame really is terrifying. Even an immemorial divine beast is restrained by it." Long Chen couldn't help being shocked as he watched its effect.

As he was forming hand seals and chanting, his spirit, soul, and will merged. In this state, every syllable of the Nirvana Scripture that he chanted seemed to be able to control this world's fate.

Long Chen was overwhelmed by a profound feeling he had never experienced before. It became evident to him that he had undergone a complete transformation through his dedicated practice of the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art.

The flame energy of the world flowed under Long Chen's control. Before this, he could only control the power of heaven and earth. But now, he had a feeling like he could control anywhere the Nirvana Scripture could reach. He even felt like he could extract the flame energy of the imperial disciples for himself.

But of course, he didn't do so. That would just be weakening his own side. Strangely, he found that he was unable to support them with flame energy. He was only able to use this flame energy to support himself and Huo Linger whose soul was linked with his.

Other than that, he also found that he was capable of using the power of his spirit, soul, and will through the Nirvana Scripture to rapidly consume the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf's flame energy and give it to Huo Linger.

As a result, the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf roared in terror, but it was meaningless. As time passed, it grew weaker and weaker, while Huo Linger only grew stronger.

In truth, the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf only ever had one chance to escape, and that was to unleash its full power the moment the flame prison condensed. Then it would have had a high chance of shattering the flame prison.

But in the end, it was the heroic spirit worshiped by the Blue Flame Empire. Having stayed alive thanks to the Blue Flame Empire's offerings and faith energy, it would not use up so much of its energy for nothing, or replenishing it would be too difficult and take too long.



Thus, it hadn't unleashed a full-power attack right at the start, resulting in it being caught in this prison of death. It had lost its only chance of escape.

Long Chen couldn't help sighing with relief. This time, his life finally took a turn for the better. Originally, he had thought that it would take a great price to subdue this Blue Flame Voracious Wolf. But it turned out to be quite easy.

The eight hundred thousand imperial disciples had fully sealed down this area, so no information could leave this place. As there was no worry about other variables intruding, everything was under control.

"Don't let him escape!"

Suddenly, Yu Qingxuan cried out. They had just exchanged blows with Lan Tianba, causing him to cough up blood and shoot back. However, the way he flew back was a bit odd, and Yu Qingxuan instantly had a bad feeling.

As expected, Lan Tianba was a crafty old fox. Seeing that the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was trapped, he knew that it was over. Thus, he borrowed their combination attack's power to fly away in the other direction, wanting to escape their blockade.

Lan Tianba was extremely fast, and by the time they reacted, he was already at the edge of the barrier.

"Ignorant juniors, just you wait! Your Vermilion Bird Empire will pay a bloody price!"

Lan Tianba's saber lit up with divine light, unleashing a full-power attack at the barrier.

However, just as his saber slashed onto the barrier, all the imperial disciples, including Yu Qingxuan and Zhu Yunwen, rapidly formed hand seals. A giant Vermilion Bird totem then appeared on top of the barrier, blocking Lan Tianba's saber.

BOOM!

Half of Lan Tianba's body instantly collapsed and his saber flew away. He almost exploded.

The miserable Lan Tianba had never expected that the strongest technique of the eight hundred thousand imperial disciples would actually be defense. Of course, that was how they had managed to resist the terrifying pressure of the trial by fire.

The combined defenses of eight hundred thousand Vermilion Bird empire's experts possessed such power that the backlash almost took Lan Tianba's life.

Even in his peak condition, he wouldn't be able to break their absolute defense, let alone in this weakened state. But if he was in top condition, at least, he wouldn't be half-dead after trying.

Zhu Yifeng's sword then slashed down, taking advantage of Lan Tianba's confusion to cut off his head, shattering his soul. Just like that, an empire's master, a majestic three-flower Earth Venerate, was slain by their combined forces.

Looking at Lan Tianba's head, they felt like they were dreaming. They didn't dare to believe that they had actually done this.

Just then, on Long Chen's side, within the endless flames, the giant Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was dragged into a black spatial gate by the flame prison.

BOOM!

The spatial gate then slammed shut and the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf vanished. The next moment, Long Chen raised his head and laughed.

"Success!"

#### **Chapter 4024: Sending a Big Gift**

Within the primal chaos space, the indomitable Blue Flame Voracious Wolf was no longer the slightest bit ferocious, its eyes only filled with terror.

Like usual, no matter how powerful it was, once it arrived at the primal chaos space, it would just tuck its tail between its legs. Looking at the cowering Blue Flame Voracious Wolf, Long Chen smiled.

The primal chaos space was practically an unrivaled existence. As long as Long Chen could drag the other side inside, they would have to submit.

Regretfully, the primal chaos space was not all-powerful, and dragging an opponent inside was not easy.

"Huo Linger, quickly devour it."

Looking at the quivering Blue Flame Voracious Wolf, Long Chen felt no pity. For its spirit to not extinguish after all this time, who knew just how many souls had been offered to it?

Numerous heroic spirits forged a deep connection with their believers. As devotees offered sacrifices to these spirits, they bestowed blessings upon their faithful followers.

Among these heroic spirits, the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf stood out for its infamous brutality. It had earned the position of being the faith divine beast of the Blue Flame Empire. To attain such a status, both the empire and the creature itself had likely engaged in dark and terrible deeds to nourish its power and influence.

At this moment, Huo Linger transformed into eight hundred white flame dragons and began to tear at its body.

The Blue Flame Voracious Wolf yelped in pain, but its power seemed to be restrained here. Let alone in its weakened state, even in its full-power state, it would have no ability to resist within the primal chaos space.

Seeing that Huo Linger was steadily devouring it, Long Chen's mind exited the primal chaos space. At this time, Zhu Yifeng came over while holding Lan Tianba's head.

"Boss, we actually killed a three-flower Earth Venerate!"

"Not bad. But don't get overconfident. This fellow is the weakest of three-flower Earth Venerates. I heard that he originally didn't even have the power to reach this level, but after offering a large number of sacrifices to the Blue Flame Voracious Wolf, it used its power to forcibly help him condense the three

flowers. Thus, his power cannot compare to the other three-flower Earth Venerates. Even so, being able to kill him with just your combined effort is enough to prove the bravery of the Vermilion Bird Empire,” said Long Chen, first giving them a warning to avoid them getting conceited. But they did deserve a praise.

“Big brother, what do we do now? Return to the empire and attack them from behind?” asked Zhu Yifeng.

“No, no, it’s still too early. Before the information spreads, let’s do another round of plundering.”

Long Chen then brought them around to search for the Blue Flame Empire’s treasures. They quickly found a secret space. When they saw it, they almost shouted in excitement.

The treasury displayed a breathtaking sight with battleships and war chariots meticulously arranged in neat rows. As far as the eye could see, there was an abundance of battle armor and divine weapons. Moreover, an enormous mountain of Heavenly Flame Crystals added to the awe-inspiring spectacle, shining brilliantly in their magnificent splendor.

Although they had been excited by the Violet Thunderclap Empire’s treasury, in the end, those treasures were of lightning elements.

However, the Blue Flame Empire’s treasures were all of flame elements, so they were practically made for them.

“There’s no time to split them up. Just bring out a hundred Lightning Thunderclap Battleships and a hundred of the Blue Flame Empire’s battleships to make us seem like a contingent composed of both of their empires. We’ll now go to the Feather Cry Empire. Their relationship with the Blue Flame Empire isn’t good, so we’ll gamble that we can attack a bit faster than the information reaches them,” said Long Chen.

Right now, they no longer doubted his words, so they immediately carried out his orders. They emptied the treasury and rushed to the Feather Cry Empire at full speed.

According to reason, closeness bred fondness. But it was the opposite for empires. The closer they were, the worse their relationships would be. That was especially true for two empires that were evenly matched in power. It was all too easy for conflicts to erupt between them.

**BOOM!**

The battleships crossed through the barrier, directly barging into the Feather Cry Empire. Before the guards could even ring the alarm bells, Long Chen’s voice was like thunder resounding throughout the air.

“The Violet Thunderclap and Blue Flame Empires have arrived! Alert your Empire Lord! The plan has changed. Gather your troops for battle!”

Hearing that announcement and then looking at the specific Lightning Thunderclap Battleships and Blue Flame Battleships, the soldiers didn’t dare to tarry. They immediately sent word to the capital.

Then, just like that, Long Chen and the others swaggered toward the capital.

When they passed through the large cities, other flying boats actually lined up around them like an escort for a respected guest.

Obviously, this escort had to be the Feather Cry Empire welcoming the Violet Thunderclap Empire, not the Blue Flame Empire. But since they had come together, the Feather Cry Empire had to express enough sincerity.

Otherwise, if the Blue Flame Empire were to properly fawn over the Violet Thunderclap Empire and gain their support, the Feather Cry Empire would have difficulty surviving their pressure.

Originally, everyone was nervous inside the battleships, afraid of being exposed. But unexpectedly, everything went according to Long Chen's calculations.

However, when they saw how things were going so smoothly that they even had escorts, they realized the crux of it. So Long Chen had seen through how the Feather Cry Empire would react in order to curry favor with the Violet Thunderclap Empire.

His enemies were dancing in the palm of his hand, causing the imperial disciples to almost prostrate themselves toward him in admiration. Such control over politics was beyond their imagination.

In truth, they simply overestimated Long Chen. Ignoring whether or not Long Chen really did have such a gift, the truth was that he couldn't be bothered to use it.

Ever since the miserable defeat of the Martial Heaven Continent, Long Chen had affirmed his cultivation path. He no longer bothered wasting his energy on schemes.

What was the point? Long Chen had planned and strategized so much for the final battle of the Martial Heaven Continent. They even had a genius like Li Tianxuan with countless calculations and countless preparations. But in the end? If it weren't for the dragon expert, everyone would have died.

As a result, now, Long Chen was just blindly following his heart's desire. In any case, as long as he was strong enough, whatever he did was right. He didn't want to waste his precious energy and time on senseless schemes.

The battleships rapidly closed in on the capital. After all, Long Chen was in a race against time. He was gambling, gambling that the Feather Cry Empire had not received word of the Blue Flame Empire's destruction before they arrived.

The Feather Cry Empire's capital quickly appeared in the distance. When Long Chen saw the state of the formation around the city, he smiled. Zhu Yunwen and the others were also delighted.

Their grand formation was not at full power or in any combat state. In fact, when they entered, the Feather Cry Empire's experts were lined up to welcome them.

"Prepare yourselves. We're going with our original plan," said Long Chen.

Everyone got to work, inserting countless crystals into the battleships. They then raised their attack power to the maximum.

"Brother Qin Yu, I am sorry to make you personally welcome me. Today, I'll give you a big gift. Please kindly accept it." Long Chen suddenly imitated Weng Taibei's voice and shouted to the capital.

That elder called Qin Yu was their Empire Lord. As it was his first time being called brother by Weng Taibei, he felt moved. "Empire Lord Weng, for you to personally come, I... I... what the fuck?!"

Qin Yu was in the midst of saying some courteous words when he was shocked to find that the battleships seemed to have gone out of control and were barreling toward him.

## **Chapter 4025: Silver Wing Blood Falcon**

The Feather Cry Empire's experts stood stunned as twenty battleships smashed into their capital like cannonballs.

Seeing the impending disaster, countless people cried out in shock and scrambled to avoid it. However, the attack was so swift and unexpected that most of them couldn't dodge in time.

Ten Lightning Thunderclap Battleships and ten Blue Flame Battleships, each laden with Heavenly Lightning Crystals and Heavenly Flame Crystals, collided with the ground, resulting in a world-shaking explosion upon impact.

The devastating blast rocked the area as flames and lightning spread, killing the surrounding experts, leaving destruction and chaos in its wake.

In an instant, the glorious capital was razed to the ground, leaving Qin Yu in a state of shock and rage. He actually thought that the battleships had gone out of control. But when he saw Long Chen and the others in the air, he understood.

"Warriors of the Vermilion Bird Empire, the time to protect the Vermilion Bird Empire's people and dignity has come! The enemies before you are not humans, they are bloodthirsty jackals! Raise your weapons, pierce the armor of your enemies, cut off their heads, and protect your families in the empire! On the battlefield, there is no mercy, no compassion. What you need is the courage to fight to the death against your enemies, the courage to face death and fear without retreat!"

"Kill!"

Long Chen shot toward Qin Yu, his Blood Qi rumbling like wild thunder.

"You are Long Chen? Brat, you're courting death!" Qin Yu finally understood that Long Chen and the others had disguised themselves as the experts from the Violet Thunderclap Empire and the Blue Flame Empire to cause a calamity for him.

Just now, the detonations of those battleships had killed countless experts, which were mostly his empire's elites, causing Qin Yu's heart to drip blood.

Thus, seeing Long Chen coming at him, Qin Yu exploded with killing intent. His three flowers then quivered, and he unleashed a claw at Long Chen, instantly using his sharpest killing blow.

As the sharp claw raked through the air, an enormous claw-image filled the sky, resonating with the Heavenly Daos. The moment he made his move, all of heaven and earth fell under his control.

BOOM!

Long Chen's fist then smashed into the claw, spreading a ripple through the world. In the end, both Long Chen and Qin Yu grunted and fell back, being evenly matched.

"What?!"

Long Chen, an Immortal King, was able to fight evenly against a three-flower Earth Venerate, someone two major realms above him. The Feather Cry Empire's experts couldn't believe their eyes.

BOOM!

Following that, there was another intense explosion. To everyone's surprise, Yu Qingxuan was attacking a white-haired elder, who was also a three-flower Earth Venerate. She and the other imperial disciples once more joined forces to fight a three-flower Earth Venerate.

However, this three-flower Earth Venerate's power was actually inferior to Lan Tianba. That was because his realm was entirely created through piling up medicinal pills and outside forces.

If Lan Tianba could be considered a half-step three-flower Earth Venerate, then this person was a quasi three-flower Earth Venerate. As a result, after receiving one blow from Yu Qingxuan and the others, he already hacked up blood.

Yu Qingxuan, Zhu Yunwen, and the others were dumbfounded by this sight. During their intense fight with Lan Tianba, they had sustained numerous injuries, and on their way to this place, they had only managed to partially recover their strength. Thus, they had anticipated another grueling and bloody battle. But to their surprise, this elder turned out to be considerably weaker than expected.

"Is he a fake?" shouted Yu Qianxue.

"Who cares? Kill him first!" responded Zhu Yifeng.

They then joined forces against the elder. As for the other experts of the Feather Cry Empire, they tried to help as well, but the imperial disciples forced them back.

Although the detonation of the battleships had killed a portion of their experts, there were still millions and millions of them. In truth, the Vermilion Bird Empire was at an absolute disadvantage just by looking at the number. Fortunately, the imperial disciples had completely transformed themselves, so they simply slaughtered their enemies, decimating the Feather Cry Empire's experts.

Meanwhile, Long Chen was fighting Qin Yu. As the fight went on, the Blood Qi in his body circulated even faster and stronger.

After learning the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art, Long Chen's essence blood, spiritual qi, and bones all had spherical runes inside of them. They were burning, like a melting glacier, unleashing an endless flood of energy throughout Long Chen's body.

Every time Long Chen's fist struck out, the void collapsed, as if heaven and earth could not contain his power.

On the other hand, Qin Yu, the Empire Lord, had his three flowers revolving behind him. As he did so, the ten thousand Daos rumbled, and countless runes flowed on top of his body. He was clearly going all-out.

“Your Blood Qi is deficient, as well as your soul. Have you been consumed by wine and women?”

As Long Chen fought, he began to force back Qin Yu. Slowly, he realized that his opponent seemed to be in a weakened state and not trying to hold back.

Clearly, Qin Yu’s aura was slightly stronger than Lan Tianba’s, but his actual combat power was a level weaker. So, it was very curious.

Long Chen knew that this was their final chance for a sneak attack. In a bit, the destruction of the Blue Flame Empire would quickly become widespread knowledge. There was no chance for another sneak attack, so Long Chen wanted to test himself against a powerful expert.

“Ignorant brat, if I hadn’t just sacrificed a large portion of my essence blood and soul, would you even be able to receive three attacks from me?!” raged Qin Yu.

Following his roar, the earth began to shake, and a giant sacrificial altar broke out of the ground. On it, there was a totem pole of an immemorial devil bird.

It seemed to be a falcon with sharp claws that looked to be made of gold, but its wings were silver. As for its eyes, they were filled with an ominous light.

“Oh, to awaken it, you sacrificed your blood and soul. No wonder you’re so weak,” said Long Chen.

This Silver Wing Blood Falcon was also an immemorial beast, known to be bloodthirsty and ferocious. In order to worship such a heroic spirit, you had to offer it enough blood soul energy as tribute.

Furthermore, in order to awaken it, Qin Yu had sacrificed a huge amount of blood soul energy from others to it, but it still wasn’t enough. In the end, he sacrificed a portion of his own blood soul energy to awaken it.

When this totem appeared, a berserk fearsome aura radiated throughout the world. After that, a giant figure flew out of it. It was the Silver Wing Blood Falcon.

In an instant, it locked onto Long Chen, seemingly sensing his powerful Blood Qi. Even without orders from Qin Yu, it already opened its mouth and inhaled, causing a giant vortex to appear.

Before Long Chen could react, he was sucked into the Silver Wing Blood Falcon’s stomach. Long Chen’s disappearance then caused Yu Qingxuan and the others to cry out.

It happened so suddenly that even someone as powerful as Long Chen had no ability to resist. He was instantly devoured.

“Great heroic spirit, enjoy this top grade sacrificial offering!” shouted Qin Yu.

“A little Silver Wing Blood Falcon thinks it can devour true dragon essence blood? Are you not afraid of biting more than you can chew?”

Just then, Long Chen’s sinister voice rang out from within the Silver Wing Blood Falcon’s stomach. They then heard a roar that was like a god’s.

“Dragon King Battle Armor!”

## Chapter 4026: An Immense Battle Starts

Following Long Chen's shout, that giant Silver Wing Blood Falcon emitted golden light, so bright that it even covered up its silver hue.

After that, people were shocked to see its body starting to inflate, growing larger and larger. The Silver Wing Blood Falcon also seemed to have a bad feeling and opened its mouth wide, as if trying to spit Long Chen out.

BOOM!

However, it was already too late. In a dramatic way, the falcon's body exploded, unleashing a torrent of astral winds that swept through the surroundings. The ensuing explosion was so powerful that golden light illuminated the entire world.

"Summon the defensive formation!" shouted Zhu Yunwen hastily.

In an instant, the imperial disciples formed hand seals. Although they had been spread throughout the battlefield, they immediately gathered together. After that, the Vermilion Bird barrier enveloped them.

BOOM!

Terrifying essence blood power struck them, and the impact was like a star exploding, blowing their surroundings apart. As for their opponents, they were blown out of existence.

Just like that, an entire capital vanished, along with millions of their experts. The detonation of an immemorial beast was really terrifying.

As the golden light slowly dimmed, Long Chen's figure appeared.

"How foolish. Did you think that you could touch my dragon king essence blood?"

These words weren't Long Chen's, but the dragon expert's. Clearly, the Silver Wing Blood Falcon's desire to devour true dragon essence blood was a daydream.

"Little fellow, what do you think? You're finally seeing the true power of the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art!" The dragon expert's voice contained a touch of pride.

Even Long Chen himself was shocked. He had never imagined that he would one day control such power.

In the Vermilion Bird space, he had no references, so he didn't know just how high his power was rising. Now, he finally witnessed the difference between the current him and his old self.

"The power is terrifying, but the exhaustion is also shocking. That single attack took thirty percent of my energy." Long Chen couldn't help bitterly smiling.

A single eruption of power where he immediately reigned in his aura actually cost him thirty percent of his energy. Based on that, he would probably only be able to maintain his strongest state for a few breaths' time.



“Your control is too lacking, so the majority of your energy is just canceling itself out. Furthermore, your human race’s bodies aren’t as powerful as the dragon race. The amount of power that you can store is also limited. For you to have reached this extent is already far beyond my original expectations. So, just take it easy. As your cultivation base grows, your physical body will be able to hold more power, and your control will also increase. The strength and time limit will then grow as well,” consoled the dragon expert.

There was no way around it. After all, a human couldn’t grow to nine feet. As for the true dragon race, after becoming dragon kings, they could easily reach a length of thousands of miles. There was no comparison between the two. Even so, Long Chen’s current power was already far beyond the dragon expert’s original expectation.

Suddenly, blood splashed through the air as two swords swiftly swung through the sky. In a seamless and coordinated attack, both Yu Qianxue and Zhu Yunwen struck simultaneously, causing two heads to be sent soaring into the sky.

“Excellent. Three three-flower Earth Venerate heads, two of them being Empire Lords. That’s enough to raise our side’s morale.” Zhu Yunwen smiled excitedly as he held Qin Yu’s head.

However, he quickly saw Long Chen looking at the head in his hand hesitatingly, so his heart sank.

“Brother Long, did I say something wrong?”

“You shouldn’t have wiped out his soul. I was planning on finding out some information.” Long Chen bitterly smiled.

Long Chen felt Weng Taibei to be quite sinister. Perhaps this sinister plot was something only the Empire Lords were somewhat aware of.

When he had slain Lan Tianba, he hadn’t had time to leave him alive. As for Yu Qianxue and Zhu Yunwen, they had attacked too quickly for Long Chen to stop them.

“Ah... Sorry, brother Long. I was too brash,” said Zhu Yunwen awkwardly.

“It’s fine. If he’s dead, he’s dead. They are only following the orders of the Violet Thunderclap Empire, so they might not even be aware of their top secrets. Let’s clean up the battlefield and return to the Vermilion Bird Empire,” said Long Chen.

“Big brother, we were quite fast this time and no one escaped. Perhaps we can do another sneak attack?” proposed Zhu Yunwen.

The others looked at Long Chen with anticipation. They had annihilated two imperial capitals in such a short time, having accomplished something unprecedented in history.

If they could attack another empire on top of it, their names would go down in history, and it would alleviate the pressure on the Vermilion Bird Empire.

“If we keep launching sneak attacks, the eight empires will definitely fall into disarray. They’ll be afraid of being the next target and be forced to defend. Even if we stop attacking, it will still apply a great deal of pressure on them,” said Yu Qianxue.

In their opinion, as long as the other side wasn't prepared, even if they couldn't beat their enemies, they could always run. The fact that they had repeatedly fought three-flower experts had given them a boost of confidence.

Long Chen shook his head. "There will be no other chance. The success of this sneak attack was mostly luck, and news of the Blue Flame Empire should have already spread. Moreover, the eight empires will not be withdrawing to their capitals to defend, as they don't know our next target. Rather than letting themselves be run wild by us, they will instead launch an all-out assault on the Vermilion Bird Empire. Then we'll be the ones forced to defend passively. Furthermore, if they are able to somehow calculate where we're going and ambush us midway, they won't need much to annihilate us. Just five three-flower Earth Venerates are enough to wipe us out. Further risks now are not worth it when compared to the gains. In order to avoid huge casualties on the side of the Vermilion Bird Empire, we have to immediately return before the eight empires launch their assault."

Upon hearing this, everyone's hearts shook. It seemed that they had been thinking too simply.

"There's another important point. Weng Taibei and Weng Tianyao's master mentioned something but didn't explain it in detail. You have to know that enemies you can see aren't that frightening, but the ones you don't see coming? That's the true terror. If we can't find any clues, we have to prepare ourselves in advance," said Long Chen.

Everyone nodded. They then cleaned up the battlefield and returned to the Vermilion Bird Empire on their battleships.

In order to avoid them from being blocked by others, Long Chen intentionally took them on a detour. When they reached the border of the Vermilion Bird Empire and saw the destroyed city along with endless corpses, Zhu Yunwen and the others' eyes instantly turned scarlet.

## **Chapter 4027: Shadow of the Weak**

Everything went as Long Chen expected. The eight empires had launched a ferocious assault upon learning of the sneak attacks. The tall city walls of their empire now lay in ruins, and the battlefield was strewn with lifeless bodies, emanating a grim and pungent scent of blood in the air.

"This was where our imperial father was defending! We have to reinforce him!" shouted Zhu Yunwen.

"You go. Qingxuan and I will reinforce the empresses. We'll split up here," said Long Chen.

In truth, Long Chen had no intention of reinforcing Yu Xiaoyun. He was well aware that the emperor's strength far surpassed their expectations.

Before coming to the Vermilion Bird Empire, Xia Guhong had told him that while in terms of intelligence, Yu Xiaoyun was a straw bag, in terms of power, he was a monster.

However, Long Chen knew that from the viewpoint of members of the imperial family, being faithful patriots was necessary. As the emperor had supreme might, they held him as a god in their hearts.

So, if the emperor was leading the troops in battle, they had to accompany him. Even if their own mothers were in danger, they had to view the emperor as the most important thing, unless he gave them the order to reinforce the other sides.

Long Chen's original plan was to lead them to reinforce the others, but he still respected their choice. After all, the competition for the position of emperor was not always aboveboard.

If these princes and princesses wanted the position of emperor, they had to obtain the approval of the current emperor, so displaying their full power in front of him was their best chance. If the emperor didn't see all their efforts, it would be like dressing up for a walk at midnight.

As for why Long Chen brought away Yu Qingxuan, it was to express their position in terms of the competition for the spot of emperor.

"Brother Long..."

Seeing Long Chen wanted to leave them, they lost their mental pillar. Zhu Yunwen instantly grew anxious.

"Big brother...!" Zhu Yifeng also hesitated.

"You are all princes and princesses with your own burdens to carry. The storm tests the grass, the fire tests the gold; it is time to bare your fangs at your enemies and defend the Vermilion Bird Empire's dignity. Remember, every single one of you is a main character, a hero. Go and show off your power. Display your own light. Make history remember your name," encouraged Long Chen.

This encouragement set their blood on fire, stimulating their pride.

"Everyone, take care. Crush your enemies. The dawn of victory will cast its light across every corner of the Vermilion Bird Empire. After the war, we can drink and eat until we're satisfied," said Long Chen. He then left with Yu Qianxue.

Even once Long Chen was gone, his heroic words still continued to echo throughout heaven and earth, not dissipating for a long time. It aroused the battle intent within their souls.

"Crush our enemies! We are the descendants of the Jiuli bloodline, the heirs to the Vermilion Bird's will. We can't lose face for our ancestors!" Zhu Yunwen roared and led all the princes and princesses away.

"Kill!"

The eight hundred thousand imperial disciples roared as well, their killing intent shaking the heavens. It was like their anger could only be quenched through killing their enemies.

...

A pair of golden wings suddenly appeared on Long Chen's back. As the giant wings covered the sky, his speed instantly shot up.

While flying, Yu Qingxuan held on tightly to Long Chen's chest, and his arm was around her waist. Watching as the space around her twisted, it was like they were in a spacetime channel. She couldn't see their surroundings at all.

“Long Chen, these wings...!” Yu Qingxuan’s eyes suddenly widened.

“Yes, they’re Kun Tu’s wings. I refined them and extracted the runes. Now they’re mine, hehe. The Kunpeng race’s speed really is nice,” chortled Long Chen.

The fastest person that Long Chen had ever seen so far was Cloud. It was said that the Cloud Chasing Heaven Swallowing Sparrow’s speed was slightly better than the Kunpeng race, but the attack and defense of their wings was a far cry from the Kunpeng race.

Previously, Long Chen had obtained the secret arts of the Lightning Falcon race, making his speed astonishing. But compared to the Kunpeng race, they still paled in comparison.

Long Chen’s Kunpeng wings caused space to distort because he was incredibly fast. Due to this, he could only vaguely grasp the terrain around him through his divine sense.

The major cities inside the Vermilion Bird Empire were in chaos, and there were battlefields all over the place. He could even see people from the Vermilion Bird Empire fighting and killing each other.

“Long Chen, why does this happen? Are people’s hearts really so dark?” Seeing the experts that had betrayed the Vermilion Bird Empire and become their enemies’ dogs, slaughtering their old comrades, Yu Qingxuan thought that they were even crueler than the real enemies.

She was unable to understand these people. Why had they become like this? It was incomprehensible to her.

“Many people look like sheep. Facing the strong, they are gentle, humble, and pitiable. But against the weak, they become ruthless fiends, venting their own repressed feelings a hundred times over onto people who are weaker than them. The weak make things hard on the weak, the poor make things hard on the poor. You can’t even imagine just how merciless that world is. So the people that look the most pitiable might not be pitiable. Or perhaps I should say amongst pitiable people, there are also hateful people. Now, you see their hateful side. When the empire wins and they are caught, they will cry and weep for mercy. Then you’ll see their pitiable side. When a person commits wrongs, you can forgive the harm that they’ve done to you. But you cannot forgive them for the harms that they’ve caused to other people. After all, you cannot give forgiveness on behalf of others. In the end, the bitter fruit that you brewed must be consumed by yourself,” said Long Chen.

Long Chen had seen far too many people like this, so he was already numb to it. He also knew that the executions would descend in the end.

“Long Chen, I find that you are powerless in life a lot. I always feel pain in my heart when I see those ugly things. I feel like I’ve experienced this pain before, as though there are some scenes that I’ve seen before. Sometimes, I just cry for no reason. I feel like I don’t even know who I am.”

Long Chen looked at Yu Qingxuan. He saw her distress and pain, knowing that there was no way to fully erase all the memories of her past reincarnations. But she couldn’t actually remember those memories. As they layered on top of each other, they would definitely be chaotic.

Tightly holding her, he said, “Don’t feel lost. Don’t feel afraid. Starting now, I will protect you. I will not permit anyone to hurt you.”

Upon hearing this, Yu Qingxuan's lost expression vanished, and a beautiful smile gradually appeared in her lips. Learning her head against Long Chen's chest, she felt his powerful heartbeats. For her, Long Chen's embrace was the warmest abode.

But suddenly, the void exploded, causing the sun and moon to lose their light. Some kind of violent power had destroyed the laws of the ten thousand Daos in the surroundings. Within endless fragments of spacetime, a figure came flying out of a collapsing space.

"Mom!"

When Yu Qingxuan saw that figure, she cried out. It was none other than Jiang Huixin, but a worrisome sight greeted her—blood trickled from the corner of Jiang Huixin's mouth, a clear sign of her injuries.

After Jiang Huixin emerged from the collapsing space, three three-flower Earth Venerates followed her, showcasing their formidable presence.

At this sight, Long Chen released Yu Qingxuan and flapped his wings, flying like a bolt of lightning. At that moment, a fist covered in golden dragon scales, which emitted blinding divine radiance, struck one of the three.

#### **Chapter 4028: Slaying an Earth Venerate**

BOOM!

Long Chen's fist smashed down with overwhelming power, crashing down upon those three elders who had just forced back Jiang Huixin and were chasing after her.

Long Chen charged forward like a furious battle god, his speed so fast that it caused the very void to collapse. The ferocity of his strike enveloped all three of them, causing a wild wave of sand to rise and the Grand Dao runes to shatter. Within this wild tempest, they couldn't see clearly, so they fell back.

"Who's there?!"

All three of them felt their Blood Qi flipping inside of them, but they were surprised to not sense the other side's three-flower aura. Thus, one of them shouted furiously.

This person was precisely the expert of the Violet Thunderclap Empire, Weng Tianyao's master.

"Your dad!"

A sneer rang out. After that, a pair of golden wings appeared and a fist smashed toward Weng Tianyao's master.

When this elder finally saw Long Chen, his eyes were full of disbelief. He refused to believe that the person to knock them back was actually this little Immortal King.

Seeing Long Chen actually dare to attack him, he furiously stabbed his sword at Long Chen's chest. He didn't believe that Long Chen would dare to ignore his attack.

Contrary to his expectations, the direction of Long Chen's fist didn't change, and an invisible force suddenly knocked aside his sword, forcing it off its original path.

BOOM!

Long Chen's fist then smashed into the face of Weng Tianyao's master, causing countless cracks to appear on his head. The impact was so potent that it nearly took his life.

His power had been focused in his sword, and he hadn't anticipated some mysterious energy to cause his attack to miss. Thus, Long Chen's fist came very close to shattering his head.

Weng Tianyao's master was instantly sent flying and vanished without a trace.

"What a shame. I just missed a little bit." Long Chen sighed inside. He had almost killed his enemy with this attack.

If Long Chen had summoned the Dragon King Battle Armor, this attack would have definitely blown him apart. But if he had summoned it, the latter would have sensed the threat of death and refused to fight Long Chen.

Just like that, Long Chen's Kunpeng wings flapped, and he vanished, chasing after Weng Tianyao's master.

"Three flowers condense, five qis are born!"

Weng Tianyao's master was covered in cold sweat. He roared, and with just a thought, his almost broken head rapidly healed.

At the same time, flames erupted from his three flowers, as he no longer dared to be the slightest bit careless. He actually ignited the power of his three flowers.

Seeing Long Chen chasing after him, he knew that if he was forced into a passive position, what awaited him was a furious tempest of attacks.

Long Chen was the typical case of a frontal attacker who would push the enemy toward death through constant attacks once he took the advantage, not giving his enemy the room to recover.

As an expert who had experienced countless battles, Weng Tianyao's master knew that if he dodged, he would only die faster. So, he had to counterattack, even if he was still injured.

"Violet Lightning Pierces the Clouds!"

As Weng Tianyao's master merged with his sword, his three flowers quivered. He then attacked with his sharpest killing blow, fighting for his chance to recover.

As long as he could force Long Chen back, he would have a chance to recover. It would also buy time for his comrades to assist him.

To his surprise, his all-out attack struck nothing but empty air. The Long Chen who had been charging at him turned out to be just an illusory image.

"Not good!"

A chilling realization washed over him, causing his hair to stand on end. A dreadful sense of impending doom engulfed him.

“Three flower protection!”

He suddenly found that he had lost track of Long Chen, who was so fast that his perception couldn't keep track of him. Hence, his three flowers spread above his head, forming a giant barrier around him.

He couldn't sense Long Chen, so he had no idea where Long Chen would come from, leaving him only able to unleash an omnidirectional defense. But that caused his defensive power to plummet.

Even so, there was no way around it. He didn't dare to gamble, afraid that by the time he sensed where Long Chen was coming from, it would be too late to block him.

Just as he summoned this protection, Long Chen's hand was like claws tearing through his defense.

As the protective barrier around him crumbled, the three flowers that represented his power vanished, causing Weng Tianyao's master to cough up blood. But the moment his defenses crumbled, he sensed where Long Chen was, and his sword slashed toward him.

BOOM!

The impact shattered the arm of Weng Tianyao's master and sent his sword flying.

“Die!”

Just as Long Chen was preparing to launch the killing blow, the other two elders arrived. However, Long Chen didn't even look at them.

Long Chen's foot simply stamped down on Weng Tianyao's master, and the latter instinctively raised his arm to block, only for that arm to be broken as well.

It had to be known that in the trial by fire, Long Chen's physical body had been strengthened crazily. So, even three-flower Earth Venerates were a far cry from him now.

Seeing Long Chen ignore them to attack Weng Tianyao's master, the two elders were surprised and angered. They immediately prepared full-power attacks for him.

But before they could do so, the void collapsed and two flame swords slashed down. Yu Qingxuan and Jiang Huixin had also joined in the fray, attacking them from behind.

If the two elders wanted to attack Long Chen, the defenseless Long Chen might die. But they would also have no chance of survival.

In an instant, their hearts grew cold as they realized that everything was within Long Chen's calculations. He had grasped the battlefield's tempo perfectly.

Unless they were willing to exchange their lives for Long Chen's, they could only give up on attacking him. Unable to make such a resolution, they chose to switch to blocking.

Two explosive sounds then rang out. As Jiang Huixin's sword slashed down, her target hacked up blood, and even his weapon cracked. Clearly, on his own, he wasn't a match for Jiang Huixin.

Jiang Huixin was powerful. If it was a one-against-one or even a one-against-two, she would have victory in her grasp. But she was at an immense disadvantage against three.

As for Yu Qingxuan, her Blood Qi flipped inside of her after the impact, but her target also didn't get off lightly. Rainbow flames burned his body, consuming his core energy.

With Jiang Huixin coming, they didn't dare to continue fighting in this condition and fled in fright. They simply didn't have the power to save their comrade.

The next moment, Long Chen's claw stabbed through the head of Weng Tianyao's master, causing him to shriek. His soul was being forcibly read.

BOOM!

Suddenly, he exploded, transforming into a blood mist. Meanwhile, Long Chen's expression had changed.

"Qingxuan, protect yourselves. They are carrying out a Nether River Sacrificial Ceremony. I'm going to stop them."

"Nether River Sacrificial Ceremony?" Upon hearing this, the ever-calm Jiang Huixin's expression completely changed.

## **Chapter 4029: Insidious Scheme**

With a few flaps of his wings, Long Chen instantly reached his max speed, feeling full of anxiety.

"What a sinister scheme. They aren't planning on devouring the Vermilion Bird Empire but completely wiping it out. When the Nether River Sacrificial Ceremony is complete, the spatial gate will open, and the Nether River's water will flood into the Vermilion Bird Empire. This water is toxic, filled with endless resentment, so wherever the water goes, all life is extinguished. How would they benefit from that? Are they going to pay such a huge price just to erase the Vermilion Bird Empire?"

Long Chen could not comprehend why the Violet Thunderclap Empire would do such a thing.

This was clearly a big chunk of meat that they were going to destroy without taking a single bite. It made no sense for Long Chen.

From the memories of Weng Tianyao's master, Long Chen saw their plan—an altar for the Nether River Sacrificial Ceremony had secretly been constructed in the city bordering the Vermilion Bird Empire. This city served as the stronghold for the empire's traitors, attracting countless renegades and individuals who had chosen to abandon their allegiance to the empire.

Before launching their assault, the eight empires had announced that they were only targeting the imperial family, not indiscriminately killing commoners. Hence, they intentionally carved out a non-combatant area, which was precisely the grounds of the ceremony.

Unaware of the impending death trap that awaited them, the traitors continued to gather others in hopes of earning the favor of the eight empires.

As Long Chen slew Weng Tianyao's master, the ceremony promptly commenced. The grand formation activated, and in an instant, black flames consumed the entire city.



The black flames that engulfed the city were the fiendish flames of hell, and those sacrificial lambs could only meet their demise after suffering endless pain.

“AHH! What’s going on?!”

“What are these flames?!”

“No! I don’t want to die!”

“It’s a trap! They’re killing us!”

“Heavens, is this the Vermilion Bird God’s punishment for betraying the empire?”

Countless experts wept as they tried to flee. But the moment they left the city, they were shocked to find a black barrier in front of them.

No matter how they charged at it, they were forced back by a terrifying force. Meanwhile, the flames on their bodies grew, and no one could extinguish them.

“No!”

Amidst the chaos, cries of despair echoed through the air as millions of experts found themselves trapped within the flames, enduring excruciating pain. The hellish flames mercilessly consumed their bodies, souls, and Yuan Spirits, prolonging their suffering rather than granting them a swift end.

As their lives were slowly extracted by the formation, the feeling of regret, hatred, and unwillingness lingered in the air. This endless resentment was then absorbed by the formation.

The next moment, the image of a gate gradually appeared in the sky. It seemed to have the design of a flower on it, but it was too indistinct to see it clearly.

As time passed, more and more resentment was absorbed by the gate, and the gate slowly lit up.

“Not good! The sacrifice is already starting!”

While rushing over, Long Chen sensed those horrifying fluctuations and grew even more anxious.

BOOM!

Suddenly, Long Chen was struck by a ray of divine light, resembling two shooting stars perfectly crashing into each other.

The impact sent Long Chen tumbling backward, his Blood Qi flipping inside of him, and stars spinning in his eyes. He almost coughed up blood.

When the divine light scattered, Long Chen saw an enormous figure which caused his pupils to shrink in astonishment.

“Long Chen, I will repay the enmity of cutting off my wings a hundredfold today!” The enormous figure vanished, replaced by a man exploding with killing intent.

“Kun Tu!”

Long Chen hadn't expected Kun Tu to actually come. Most shocking of all, his Blood Qi was so powerful that it didn't seem the slightest bit weaker than Long Chen's.

After sensing his aura, Long Chen suddenly realized that Kun Tu had become a World King. Just how was that possible? It had only been a short time since they had last met. How could he advance to the World King realm so quickly?

With the World King Divine Radiance behind his head, his Blood Qi shook the surrounding space, causing ripples of death to spread. An enormous Kunpeng image then appeared behind him.

The current him was like the master of the world, his gaze exuding such power that others dared not meet his eyes. As he stood there, his icy killing intent bore down upon Long Chen like an unyielding force. As for his eyes, they glowed with golden runes, as if on the brink of bursting into flames at any given moment.

Through gritted teeth, Kun Tu vowed, "Long Chen, I will tear your corpse apart today!" His intense hatred for Long Chen was palpable. Merely seeing Long Chen already brought forth a surge of animosity from deep inside him.

"I don't have time for you. Scram!" Long Chen's Kunpeng wings flapped, and he shot at Kun Tu like a bolt of lightning.

In front of Kun Tu who had become a World King, Long Chen wasn't the slightest bit afraid. He simply stamped a foot at him.

"Die!" With a resounding roar, Kun Tu unleashed a powerful punch, determined to strike Long Chen.

Yet, to his surprise, Long Chen's attack was a clever feint. In a swift motion, Long Chen's Kunpeng wings flapped, propelling him high above Kun Tu's head, and he swiftly made his escape.

After all, the gates of hell had been opened and Long Chen had to stop it. Otherwise, everything would be over.

"Bastard, where do you think you're going?!"

Feeling enraged, Kun Tu transformed into a giant Kunpeng, and countless runes flowed on top of his wings. He then shot after Long Chen like a shooting star.

What shocked Long Chen was that after becoming a World King, Kun Tu's wings were completely different. Many of the runes that appeared on his wings were different from Long Chen's wings.

Furthermore, his speed was actually greater than Long Chen's. Although Long Chen flew away first, Kun Tu already caught up to him in just a few breaths' time.

As Kun Tu closed in on him, Long Chen swiftly swung his saber out. In response, Kun Tu folded his wings and met Long Chen's attack head-on. The collision sent powerful shockwaves rippling in all directions. As a result, Kun Tu's body staggered backward, coming to a halt, while Long Chen skillfully harnessed the force of the impact to maintain his flight.

"Coward! If you have guts, fight me properly!" roared Kun Tu, chasing after Long Chen once more.

Undeterred by Kun Tu's pursuit, Long Chen pressed on, propelling himself forward at full speed. As Kun Tu was closing in on him once more, Long Chen's keen eyes spotted a black barrier looming ahead.

Countless people were screaming in pain inside of the black barrier. As the black flames burned, black threads slowly floated into the sky.

At this moment, Long Chen saw a black spatial gate slowly condensing in the sky, having a strange design on it. Long Chen actually felt that the design was slightly similar, however, he was unable to recall where he had seen it before.

When Long Chen saw that the barrier was still present, he was relieved. So, he was still on time. If the spatial gate was not fully condensed, there was still a chance to stop it.

As Long Chen prepared to charge toward the barrier and shatter it, the space in front of him suddenly distorted and warped.

The next moment, he found himself confronted by the Kunpeng race's patriarch, as well as the Alldevil race's old monsters, the Netherworld's experts, and even the Nine Underworld Hall's master, Liao Bencang.

All the experts that had fought Xia Guhong in the Violet Flame Heaven Capital had appeared. Moreover, as Long Chen had killed almost all their disciples, the moment they saw Long Chen, their eyes turned scarlet.

"You bastard of the human race, return my people's lives!"

One of the devil race's elders roared and was the first to charge out.

"Let's settle things today!" Seeing all these powerful experts, Long Chen showed no hint of fear. Instead, his blood was set ablaze with battle intent.

"Dragon King Battle Armor!"

### **Chapter 4030: Rich Boy Bringing Wealth**

BOOM!

As Long Chen's golden scales lit up, they enveloped the entire sky with golden divine light, resembling golden battle armor.

Moreover, the brilliance of this golden light was so intense, akin to the radiance of the sun, that it rendered people unable to open their eyes in its presence. Along with its appearance, Long Chen's overwhelming aura shook the world.

"Did you think that the likes of you could stop me?"

With a thunderous roar, he summoned the Dragon King Battle Armor. It had to be known that after cultivating the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art, the armor now possessed an unparalleled level of might.

Hence, Long Chen exploded with power. While channeling the corporeal and incorporeal powers in his body, he had the desire to shatter heaven and earth with a punch.

At this moment, the Alldevil expert charged at Long Chen with his spear, and the power of a three-flower Earth Venerate crashed down upon him.

The spear was like a demonic dragon striking from its cave, letting out a furious roar. However, when a golden hand caught the spear head, that wild spear instantly turned silent. Even the spear's runes rapidly dimmed until they vanished.

"Run!"

Seeing this, all the other experts of the Alldevil race rushed forward to assist. As for the attacker, he was shocked. His spear, once fierce and unyielding, now seemed as helpless as a mad dog facing a mighty dragon, losing its connection to him.

A chilling sensation of death then engulfed the elder, prompting him to flee even before the others could shout at him to do so.

"Do you think that you can run?"

Long Chen then snorted and shoved the spear, and it instantly reached that elder of the Alldevil race.

In front of countless shocked gazes, the spear pierced through the elder's body and continued to strike the other experts of the Alldevil race that were rushing over.

The spear was shockingly fast, and another three-flower Divine Venerate smashed his own spear at it to block it.

BOOM!

As a result, both of the spears exploded, and that Alldevil race's elder hacked up blood, unable to receive even a single attack from Long Chen.

"Useless trash, scram! Long Chen's life is mine!"

At this moment, Kun Tu's icy voice rang out, and a golden wing slashed down like a heavenly blade.

Unable to react in time, Long Chen was smashed into the ground by the wing. That enormous wing practically pierced through the earth, causing cracks to spread beyond the horizon.

Even the three-flower Earth Venerates were left trembling in fear by the overwhelming might of this attack. Such ferocity was unheard of in their lifetimes.

What was most astonishing was that this devastating power emanated solely from the physical prowess of the body. Devoid of any fluctuations from the Heavenly Daos, it was a force that struck with the swiftness of lightning and proved challenging to detect beforehand.

Seeing that huge Kunpeng figure, all the people here were filled with awe. The Kunpeng race was indeed worthy of being a legendary supreme existence.

Just as everyone thought that the battle was over and that Long Chen was smashed apart by that blow, Kun Tu's giant body began to quiver.

"What?!"

The earth continued to crack, and Kun Tu's wing pressed deeper into the ground. The ground was deforming from the immense power.

"Long Chen's still not dead?"

Everyone was shaken. Long Chen hadn't had any defenses just then, so that attack should have been fatal.

"No, he's not pressing down, he's...!"

At this time, they were horrified to see that Kun Tu's claws were bracing against the ground not to press down with his wing, but in an attempt to drag his wing out of the ground.

It was as if something under the ground was dragging his wing into the earth.

Even the Kunpeng patriarch's expression changed. He then transformed into a giant Kunpeng and grabbed Kun Tu, dragging him away.

The next moment, a rain of blood fell. Kun Tu was pulled away, but his wing was forcibly ripped off.

"AHH!"

Kun Tu shrieked in pain. These wings were the greatest treasure he had obtained from their ancestral lands. As for his original wings, they had been torn off by Long Chen, practically crippling him.

So, in order to gain greater power, Kun Tu had ventured into the ancestral lands and inherited an ancestor's wings. However, as those wings possessed his ancestor's runes, after merging with them, he was unable to control his realm and directly soared into the World King realm.

According to reason, that was a good thing. But in truth, it was like plucking out sprouts to make them grow taller, severely damaging his foundation. He would quickly find himself reaching his cultivation limit.

However, Kun Tu no longer cared about it. The impact of being defeated by Long Chen in the three thousand worlds was a serious blow to him. If he couldn't get his revenge, let alone reaching his limit, he would probably have never been able to advance out of the Immortal King realm.

Inheriting these wings caused his power to soar. Even then, these wings weren't his, so in order to truly display their power, he required time to merge with them.

But when he received news of Long Chen's whereabouts, how could he wait? He directly charged over. As a result, the foundation of his wings was superficial, and now one of them was forcibly ripped off.

"Long Chen!"

Kun Tu roared. This was not the result that he had wanted, completely different from what he had anticipated.

Before coming, he had thought of countless ways to torment Long Chen. In fact, he had even thought about what move to use on Long Chen in order to prevent himself from accidentally killing Long Chen.

So, now that his wing had been torn off again, he was overwhelmed by shock and rage. His head was blank. After all, the reality was far too different from his goal.

Even the Kunpeng patriarch hadn't expected this. What infuriated him the most was that Kun Tu had explicitly told him that he had reached the third step of merging these wings with his body.

However, for his wing to be torn off just like that, it was clear that he hadn't reached that step. In his urgency to kill Long Chen, Kun Tu had actually lied to the Kunpeng patriarch.

That giant wing vanished. After that, space twisted, and Long Chen appeared with Kun Tu's original wings.

Long Chen was amazed to find that this wing possessed an immemorial aura, which made him realize that these wings were not ones that Kun Tu had grown again, but treasures that he had inherited.

Also, only a very small portion of this wing's runes had been activated. Clearly, Kun Tu was unable to unleash their full power, but he had still come to get revenge.

Now, Kun Tu was no longer an enemy in Long Chen's eyes, but an adorable rich boy sending him wealth.

Long Chen had just refined his wings and was still immersed in his joy over their speed, but Kun Tu was already in a rush to send him another set.

At the same time, Long Chen was grateful to the dragon expert. If it was up to him, he would have already killed Kun Tu in the three thousand worlds. Then he wouldn't have such a nice treasure.

"Did no one teach you to give gifts in pairs? If you're going to give me such a nice gift, I'll respectfully receive it!"

Long Chen shot after Kun Tu with flames bursting out of his body, making him look like a blazing sphere.

"Ignorant brat, die!"

Seeing this, the Kunpeng patriarch roared furiously. Long Chen was actually ignoring him and coming straight at Kun Tu. That was a complete disdain of his existence.

He immediately attacked, his sharp claws raking through the air, sealing Long Chen's path.

However, what no one had expected was for Long Chen's body to suddenly explode before these claws even touched him.

In that instant, the Kunpeng patriarch's expression changed. As he turned around, a scene of horror greeted him: Kun Tu let out a piercing scream and a cascade of blood followed. Behind him stood Long Chen, holding yet another bloody wing.