

Nine Star 4051

Chapter 4051: Primal Chaos Divine Item Heaven Earth Cauldron

“Qingxuan, you...!”

Long Chen was startled. Yu Qingxuan’s words made him sober up a bit.

“Long Chen, I know that you love me, but I can’t be selfish. If big sister Meng Qi treats me this well, how can I marry you here? What about big sister Meng Qi and the others?” said Yu Qingxuan softly.

“But...”

“There’s no buts. Big sister Meng Qi wants you to marry me, but I know that big sister Meng Qi is the heart of your heart. I would be letting down big sister Meng Qi if I were to marry you like this. You know that I don’t care about ranking. All I want is to be at peace.” Yu Qingxuan’s voice was soft but firm.

Long Chen was moved, but he also felt guilty. Yu Qingxuan was advocating for him, while Meng Qi was advocating for Yu Qingxuan. The love of such women was something difficult to repay even if he tore apart his own body.

This feast was originally prepared for Yu Qingxuan. Since they didn’t have much time, it was supposed to be a simple wedding ceremony.

However, Yu Qingxuan actually rejected this wedding, so Jiang Huixin could only end things here. After the simple feast, Yu Qingxuan was sent off by Jiang Huixin and the others. She then joined Long Chen at the transportation formation.

“Qingxuan, I know that we can’t keep you here. Your father and I know that an eagle must one day spread their wings and fly away from the nest. But no matter how far or high you fly in the future, remember that when you’re tired, you will always have a home in the Vermilion Bird Empire.” Jiang Huixin held Yu Qingxuan’s hands with teary eyes.

She knew that once Yu Qingxuan left, she would be like a kite whose string was cut. It was unknown whether they would even meet again in this life. As her mother, Jiang Huixin was even more unwilling to part with her daughter.

“Mom, forgive your child for being unfilial...” Yu Qingxuan was also crying. She also didn’t want to leave her mother.

“Alright, good child, look after yourself! Go!” Jiang Huixin knew that this would only make leaving harder for Yu Qingxuan. Hence, she wiped away her tears and sent them to the transportation formation.

“Don’t worry, I will definitely look after Qingxuan,” promised Long Chen.

Jiang Huixin nodded and waved her hand, bidding them farewell. After that, Guo Ran, Xia Chen, and all the Dragonblood warriors stepped onto the transportation formation as well.

Yu Qianxue, Zhu Yunwen, Zhu Yifeng, and the others all waved goodbye to Long Chen. They thought back to how they had barged through the trial by fire with him. They thought of how they had fought

alongside him. They didn't want him to leave, but they knew that Long Chen was a dragon, and the Vermilion Bird Empire was too small to contain him. Perhaps even the entire Violet Flame Heaven was too small. He had to soar in an even vaster sky.

The transportation formation glowed once more before Long Chen and the others vanished. Once they were gone, Jiang Huixin finally couldn't hold back her tears.

"I'm sorry. I'm a coward to have made you endure this. You didn't deserve it." Just then, an apologetic voice rang out. It was Yu Xiaoyun.

Only then did people realize that he hadn't truly passed out from the wine. He simply didn't have the courage to watch as Yu Qingxuan left.

They all felt bitter about having Yu Qingxuan leave them as a child. Amongst all their children, they owed Yu Qingxuan the most, but they could only give her the least.

Since they couldn't give her anything, they could only endure the pain of letting go and letting her pursue her own happiness. As long as she was happy, they could endure any pain.

"Xiaoyun!" Jiang Huixin directly fell into Yu Xiaoyun's embrace and wept. Yu Xiaoyun then comforted her. Looking at the empty transportation formation, he sighed, "Raising a daughter is like growing a flower. You protect it, water it, and nourish it. In winter, you worry about the cold and in summer, you worry about the sun. But when she one day grows up, she is taken by a bastard called a son-in-law."

Suddenly, Yu Xiaoyun turned toward Yu Qianxue and the other princesses. "All of you, remember! My daughters can only marry in, not out! I don't want to see any shameless bastards like Long Chen again!"

All the princesses, including Yu Qianxue, looked at each other in baffled silence. From the start, the Vermilion Bird Empire's princesses had never married out, no?

...

The void quivered. The scenery before Long Chen and the others then changed as they appeared in a barren wasteland.

The Vermilion Bird Empire had sent them off on a transportation formation with no fixed node. That way, no one would be able to tell where they had gone based on the spatial fluctuations.

"Boss, are we really leaving just like that? We just did something that shook the nine heavens! We should bask in that glory!" grumbled Guo Ran.

It had to be known that Guo Ran had truly shown off a brilliant light this time. On the battlefield, he had led the Dragonblood Legion in killing many Earth Venerates.

Now was his time to become famous, but instead he was silently running away. He was a bit unwilling to accept that. At the very least, he had to let others know what he looked like.

"Can you grow up a bit? Did you not see how serious senior Ye Wusheng was when she warned us? An expert on her level might come to find boss! What are we going to use to stop someone like that?" scolded Xia Chen.

Guo Ran simply had to let the world know about everything he did, or he would never settle down. He was just like Mo Nian. But Mo Nian didn't bother intentionally announcing himself. His fame was built up through his own abilities.

"Do you think that you won't have a chance to make a name for yourself when you follow me? The main thing is that taking out the bronze cauldron at the end probably poked the bear's nest," said Long Chen.

Even the dragon expert had told him not to use the cauldron, or countless terrifying existences would hunt him down.

Ye Wusheng had said the same thing. She clearly recognized its origins, which was why she wanted Long Chen to quickly leave.

"Boss, just what is this bronze cauldron from the three thousand worlds? I've flipped through all the ancient records that I could access, but I didn't find anything about it!" said Guo Ran.

"How would I know?" retorted Long Chen.

Buzz.

Just then, a jade tablet on Long Chen's waist flashed rapidly. Looking at it, he was delighted. It was the Huayun Trading Company's message.

However, when he read the message, his expression stiffened, and shock gradually filled his face.

"Boss, what is it?" asked Guo Ran hastily.

Long Chen didn't reply and simply handed the tablet to Guo Ran. Xia Chen impatiently stepped forward to take a look.

"One of the ten great primal chaos divine items, the Heaven Earth Cauldron, appeared within the Vermilion Bird Empire, shattering the dome of the heavens as well as the ten thousand Daos. Its qi is Yin and its character is soft, so it is suspected to be the Earth Cauldron of the Heaven Earth Cauldron. This information has already spread and shaken the nine heavens. Seek asylum as quickly as possible."

"Primal chaos divine item, the Heaven Earth Cauldron?"

Everyone was completely shocked by this.

Chapter 4052: Nirvana Overflow Heaven

When they saw the message from the Huayun Trading Company, even Long Chen was shocked. Although he knew that this cauldron's origins would be astonishing, he didn't expect it to be one of the ten great primal chaos divine items.

The primal chaos divine items were the strongest divine weapons of the nine heavens and ten lands. There were only ten of them, and Long Chen only knew that one of them was the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow.

Xia Guhong had the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow's karmic luck supporting him. Thus, when he used a trace of its power, he was unstoppable.

And that was only a trace of its karmic luck, not the true Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow. But it was enough to terrify countless people.

As for this bronze cauldron in Long Chen's hands, it was also one of the ten great primal chaos divine items. Furthermore, it was the actual item, not just some karmic luck.

"Wait, what does it mean, the Earth Cauldron?" asked Guo Ran, rereading the message.

"The Heaven Earth Cauldron is probably two cauldrons, the Earth Cauldron and the Heaven Cauldron. Only when they are merged together are they the true Heaven Earth Cauldron. This must be the Earth Cauldron," said Long Chen. However, even he couldn't say anything for sure, as he didn't have further knowledge of the ten great primal chaos divine items, let alone the others.

"If that's true, who knows how many people will come after you?" said Xia Chen heavily.

"Tch, what's there to be afraid of? Anyone who dares to come, we'll kill!" Guo Ran brandished his sabers obstinately.

This battle had caused Guo Ran's confidence to inflate. These two sabers of his were made with the divine weapons he had smelted in the underground tomb of the three thousand worlds.

It could be said that his current equipment was as valuable as an entire city, and it embodied his greatest techniques.

With this battle armor, he could even fight Weng Taibei alone, so it could be seen just how powerful he was.

"Boss, what do we do now?" asked Xia Chen.

Long Chen thought for a moment. "Did you finish what I asked you to do?"

"It's done. In three more days, the formations should stealthily activate. The three branch academies will be revitalized, and the High Firmament Academy's experts will be able to cross heavens," said Xia Chen.

When Long Chen and the others left the three thousand worlds, he had told Xia Chen and Guo Ran to stealthily activate the three branch academies of the High Firmament Academy in the Violet Flame Heaven.

Long Chen knew that Enpuda, Liao Bencang, and the others' focus would definitely be on him. He would then draw their attention, giving Xia Chen and Guo Ran a high chance of success.

However, Long Chen hadn't expected Enpuda to be so treacherous. The latter had actually used Liao Bencang as bait and sacrificed him to open the hell gate. Thus, Long Chen almost died this time.

Fortunately, just as Long Chen planned, with Enpuda and Liao Bencang focusing on him, Xia Chen and Guo Ran managed to find the foundation stones of the branch academies and stealthily set up formations.

The formations would merge with the foundation stones. It would take some time to awaken them, but once they did, the High Firmament Academy would instantly sense it.

However, this was the Violet Flame Heaven, while the High Firmament Academy was in the Darklight Heaven. They were in different heavens, and the border of the heavens was tough. Thus, the amount of energy needed to awaken the foundation stones was much greater. If it was Long Chen, he definitely wouldn't be able to pull it off. However, it was nothing difficult for Xia Chen.

"Three days? We can't wait for that. The Huayun Trading Company's information network is the fastest and most accurate. Although the Vermilion Bird Empire has locked down the information, there is no such thing as an impervious wall. If the Huayun Trading Company has received this information, the other major powers will soon receive it as well. We have to leave here within one day, or we might not be able to leave," said Long Chen.

The Huayun Trading Company's information network was top tier. However, the other major powers also wouldn't be lacking in this regard.

In particular, the Soaring Dragon Company had a deep enmity with Long Chen, so they would definitely spread this information as quickly as they could so that everyone knew.

After all, the appearance of the Heaven Earth Cauldron would definitely drive countless experts crazy, to the extent that even experts on Ye Wusheng's level would come. Although Long Chen was confident in himself, he wasn't so crazy as to think that he was unrivaled. Now that the news had leaked, he had to leave.

"Should we ask for the protection of the Wine God Palace?" proposed Guo Ran.

Long Chen shook his head. "Since when did our Dragonblood Legion rely on others to survive? Furthermore, considering how major this matter is, not even the Wine God Palace might be able to stop it. We can't implicate them."

The Wine God Palace had graced Long Chen with their favor, especially Xia Guhong. He had treated Long Chen like a brother, so how could Long Chen cause trouble for him?

"Let's go. We'll go to the heavenly boundary river. We're leaving the Violet Flame Heaven," said Long Chen.

The heavenly boundary river was how Long Chen had entered the Violet Flame Heaven. Who would have thought that he would be leaving through it again after staying in the Violet Flame Heaven for just a while?

"Hehe, then are we going to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven? It's even stronger than the Violet Flame Heaven!" Guo Ran was excited.

"Yes, we're going to an even vaster world."

Long Chen took a deep breath. The Nirvana Overflow Heaven was even more perfectly preserved than the Violet Flame Heaven. As its inheritances ran deep, the experts there were even stronger. Furthermore, the stronghold of the Long Aotian's Long clan was located there.

In other words, going to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven would bring him one step closer to his father. Long Chen was nervous when he thought about that. He had no idea how his father was.

When it came to his mother, he hadn't gained that much information, but he knew that with Luo Zichuan present, her life was not in danger.

Luo Zichuan was a smart man. If he refused to tell Long Chen the situation with his mother, he had to have his own reasons. Long Chen also refused to believe that his grandfather would harm his mother.

Thus, compared to his mother, he was more worried about his father. From the start, after dealing with Qingxuan's matter, he had been thinking of going to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven to find his father. Even if he hadn't exposed the Heaven Earth Cauldron, he would still be in a rush to go there.

"Hahaha, excellent! That fellow Mo Nian said that he would go to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven after leaving the three thousand worlds! Now, we can see who can make a name for themselves there first!" Guo Ran laughed excitedly.

"Who cares about making a name? He either couldn't continue running where he was, or there were too many people who wanted to kill him, or he ran out of tombs to dig up," said Long Chen disdainfully. He truly understood Mo Nian far too well.

"Let's go!"

As Long Chen waved his hand, Xia Chen summoned their newly built flying boat. The curtain of the heavens was like rippling water, and the flying boat merged into the void just like that, vanishing without a trace.

Chapter 4053: Going to the Tiger

The Violet Flame Heaven was engulfed in turmoil as word spread like wildfire about the discovery of a primal chaos divine item.

Countless ancient monsters that could be considered living fossils came out, and a relentless armada of battleships charged toward the Violet Flame Heaven, echoing with the thunderous roars of terrifying beasts. The world trembled in the face of this unprecedented upheaval.

Practically, every major force sent people over. After all, the primal chaos divine items had the secrets of the primal chaos era on them. Whoever could obtain them would obtain the karmic luck of a primal chaos divine item.

For example, Xia Guhong had obtained the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow many years ago. Although the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow vanished later on, just the trace of its karmic luck that resided within Xia Guhong was enough for him to terrify countless experts.

As for when Long Chen used the Earth Cauldron, there was no karmic luck support. In other words, the Earth Cauldron had yet to truly accept him as master, and anyone could still take it.

As a result, Long Chen became a thick piece of meat eyed by many hungry wolves.

Everyone knew that if they themselves weren't strong enough, even if they obtained the Earth Cauldron, they wouldn't be able to keep it. To make it worse, they might even bring calamity upon their sect.

However, they all believed in luck. If they could really become the master of the Earth Cauldron, they would be unmatched in this world.

In any case, throughout the entire Violet Flame Heaven, everyone was talking about Long Chen. They even dug out his background.

When they learned that he was the High Firmament Academy's youngest branch dean, they were startled. After that, they were even further stunned by his list of impressive wins in combat.

However, the shock was just an initial reaction. In front of the allure of the Earth Cauldron, people were willing to even throw away their lives. Nothing could deter them from pursuing this captivating and dangerous quest.

RUMBLE!

A fiery warhorse the size of a mountain tore through the void, akin to a bolt of lightning shooting through the air.

Wherever it went, it left behind a path of fire that even space was burning. It was a terrifying sight.

"Damn, that warhorse's aura is much stronger than a three-flower Earth Venerate. Was it on the level of a Heaven Venerate?"

A flying boat was hidden in the void. If Xia Chen had not reacted quickly and slowed them down, they might have been struck by that fiery warhorse. Guo Ran was stunned.

"Don't worry, now is your time to make a name for yourself. You can chase after it and kill the person on the back of the horse, claiming it for yourself," said Xia Chen.

"Are you being serious?" Guo Ran jumped in fright.

"Didn't you say that you wanted to make a name for yourself?" asked Xia Chen innocently.

"Fuck, good brother, don't undermine me like this!" exclaimed Guo Ran with embarrassment. He had to swallow back what he had said before.

The main thing was that Guo Ran had not thought that the cauldron would possess such a terrifying background. If he had known that it would draw out such terrifying existences, he wouldn't have bragged so much.

"This might be a bit troublesome."

Long Chen looked in the direction the warhorse went and turned a bit solemn.

"It really is a bit troublesome." nodded Xia Chen.

"What is troublesome? Can you not leave everyone else standing there like fools?" asked Guo Ran, looking at Long Chen and Xia Chen.

"Look where they're going? That's the direction of one of the ferry crossings of the heavenly river. Although it's not the ferry crossing that we're going on, this means that the other crossing points must

have similar existences guarding them. They are really fast. We won't be able to leave before they lock down all the exits. If we go now, we'll be going straight to them," explained Xia Chen.

"I don't think that's all. If they can seal the exits, they probably won't let us reach the heavenly river's shore. However, considering how large the heavenly river is, they cannot lock down the entire thing. We can only take the risk of crossing the heavenly river through somewhere else," said Long Chen.

"But the heavenly river is filled with dangers. It is home to devil beasts and demonic creatures, and straying from the main path might lead one into a giant horde of them. And there are terrifying fiend eyes that can devour us all in a single glance. I've also heard of the tales of floating corpses that appear on the heavenly river. Those unfortunate enough to encounter those corpses are beset by ill fortune," said Yu Qingxuan.

Within the nine heavens, there was the heavenly river, the Nether Sea, and the fiend lake. In truth, they were all one thing. It was just that every place had a different name for it.

The heavenly river referred to the border between heavens. Also, the wall between the nine heavens was very thick and could be likened to several star-fields layered on top of each other.

However, some people also said that this space was just a fake concept. According to them, the distance between heavens was as thin as a piece of paper.

It was just that when people tried to cross this paper, they had to go through its entire length and not its width.

They said that in the immemorial era, peak experts could directly cross the heavenly river and enter a new heaven at will.

However, most people felt like this story was impossible. The laws of the heavenly river restricted a person's power, so either the legends were fake or the immemorial era's heavenly river had different laws from the present.

In any case, within verifiable records, there was no one capable of simply crossing the heavenly river at will.

Thus, anyone who wanted to cross heavens would obediently use the ferry crossings. There were also several comparatively safe shipping routes.

Crossing the heavenly river outside of those areas was no different from courting death. Even those so-called safe shipping routes could have dangers come upon them. Thousands of ferries would mysteriously vanish each year, leaving a trail of uncertainty in their wake. Yet, going outside of those areas was even more dangerous. The odds of someone reaching the other shore using those alternative paths were too low.

"I'm not worried. I always do things like this," said Long Chen with a smile.

He had the Ghost Sovereign's mark, so the fiend eyes would ignore him. As for the rest, he wasn't afraid of them.

Yu Qingxuan smiled and didn't say anything again, as she had the utmost confidence in Long Chen. If Long Chen said that he wasn't worried, then there was nothing to fear.

Thus, Xia Chen had the flying boat slowly fly to the border of the heavenly river. On the way, they saw countless experts going back and forth. Even the weakest of those experts were three-flower Earth Venerates.

There were also some young experts. Although they were young, their auras were shocking, so their power was probably not inferior to Kun Tu.

Clearly, the senior generation had gone crazy, and even the new generation of heavenly geniuses was drawn into it. Their ambition extended far beyond merely obtaining the Earth Cauldron; they were driven to surpass Long Chen and etch their names in history for all to remember.

Everything went as Long Chen expected. Countless experts gathered around the heavenly river, seeming to have calculated that Long Chen would definitely leave the Violet Flame Heaven.

Three days later, Long Chen had fully recovered and still had an eyepatch on, but it wouldn't affect him in combat.

At this time, Xia Chen's flying boat slowly reached their crossing point. However, once they got close, Xia Chen's expression changed. The ferry crossing that they wanted to use to cross the heavenly river was blocked.

"Boss, there is a barrier up ahead. We will definitely be noticed if we try to go through it. What do we do?" asked Xia Chen.

"Charge. If gods block us, we will kill gods. If devils block us, we will kill devils," said Long Chen, battle intent burning in his eyes.

BOOM!

When the flying boat touched the barrier, the void quivered. The giant barrier was instantly pierced, and at the same time, countless spatial gates opened.

"Hahaha!"

When that arrogant laughter rang out, countless figures flew out of the spatial gates, surrounding Long Chen's flying boat.

Chapter 4054: Enemies on a Narrow Road

"The heavens really do look after my Soaring Dragon Company. Could it be that this was all foreordained? Long Chen, you destroyed so many of my branches, but today, you've brought me the Earth Cauldron. Excellent. Hand over the Earth Cauldron, and I'll let you live."

At this moment, an elder with white hair and a beard blocked their path. In the wake of his arrival, heaven and earth rumbled, and a powerful pressure descended upon the scene. His voice was so powerful that it left people in a state of daze.

"A Heaven Venerate!"

They were so unlucky. The random spot that they chose actually had a Heaven Venerate standing guard over it.

This elder's pressure alone was incredibly powerful, countless times stronger than an Earth Venerate. Now, they could see that the difference between an Earth Venerate and a Heaven Venerate was very great.

They were fearless toward Earth Venerates, but against Heaven Venerates, they were like ants.

To make it even worse, other than this white-haired elder, over twenty three-flower Earth Venerates were surrounding Long Chen and the others as well, leaving them with no chance to escape.

"Don't resist!" shouted one of them.

"Of course, my bad luck never fails me. Just my luck to stumble upon the Soaring Dragon Company again," muttered Long Chen, a wry smile crossing his face as he looked at the experts of the Soaring Dragon Company. He then slammed his hands together and summoned a flash of golden light.

"Dragon King Battle Armor!"

Amidst a resounding dragon cry, the sacred might of a dragon surged forth, shattering the oppressive pressure wielded by a Heaven Venerate.

"Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw!"

Long Chen didn't dare to hold back in the slightest against a Heaven Venerate, thus, he instantly started with his strongest trump cards. A dragon claw then reached out of his divine ring toward the Soaring Dragon Company's Heaven Venerate.

"A dragonfly trying to shake a tree. It is laughable that you don't know your own power. As a Heaven Venerate, heaven and earth are me, and I am heaven and earth. A little Immortal King like yourself thinks that you can defy the heavens?"

The Heaven Venerate simply sneered and formed hand seals. The next moment, the ten thousand Daos rumbled, and primal chaos qi flowed into a barrier in front of him.

BOOM!

Long Chen's giant dragon claw smashed into the barrier, causing the void in millions of miles to crack like a mirror. It was like the entire world was shattered by this attack.

However, Long Chen's expression changed. With this attack, he had figured out the secret of the Heaven Venerate realm. He also knew why Divine Venerates were split into Mortal, Earth, and Heaven Venerates.

A Mortal Venerate's power came from themselves, and an Earth Venerate borrowed the power of the ten thousand Daos. However, a Heaven Venerate was different. They were existences that had merged with heaven and earth. Thus, to fight a Heaven Venerate was akin to fighting heaven and earth.

Having merged the three flowers into one, there was no longer a distinction between them and the world. Therefore, a Heaven Venerate was the true master of any world that they went to. If Long Chen wanted to beat one, he had to have the power to destroy an entire world.

At this moment, Long Chen's aura made the Heavenly Daos rumble, causing the cracks in the void to constantly heal and break. Those Earth Venerates were unable to even get close to him and were forced back, coughing up blood. They were shocked. The current Long Chen was even stronger than what the rumors said.

The Soaring Dragon Company's Heaven Venerate was also shocked. "How powerful. But even so, how can you fight heaven and earth? Just hand over the Earth Cauldron. Seeing how talented you are, I can make an exception and accept you as—"

Just then, an arrow appeared right in front of him and pierced straight through his Heavenly Dao defense. Seeing it, he jumped in fright and hastily extended a hand.

BOOM!

The arrow exploded on his palm, causing the Heaven Venerate's expression to change. This arrow might have broken through his barrier, but it didn't possess any actual killing power.

In other words, even if he had allowed the arrow to reach his face, it wouldn't harm him at all. His hasty block was just an instinct.

Just as he had a bad feeling, Long Chen's dragon claw pressed down, and due to the distraction, his barrier shattered.

BOOM!

The sharp claw raked through his barrier and struck his body. When it reached him, divine light erupted from his body. The elder was blown into the distance, but he didn't seem injured.

"When merged with heaven and earth, you can borrow the power of heaven and earth to attack and defend. To kill a Heaven Venerate, you must possess the ability to destroy the power of heaven and earth." Long Chen's heart shook. He had figured out the power of a Heaven Venerate. In order to kill one, you would need to be able to shatter heaven and earth. Otherwise, it was useless.

However, this Heaven Venerate still felt his blood flipping inside of him from being struck. Long Chen's sacred energy had given him a great deal of pressure.

Thus, he felt shocked and enraged. It was said that all those beneath Heaven Venerates were ants and that the Heaven Venerate realm was a dividing line within the cultivation world. All those who could fight across realms ended up failing when it came to the Heaven Venerate realm.

No matter how strong the Earth Venerate was, they still wouldn't be qualified to challenge a Heaven Venerate. However, a little Immortal King like Long Chen actually possessed such immense power. The elder was in disbelief.

Long Chen's potential was too terrifying. If they allowed him to grow up, he might become a legendary existence.

“Heaven and Earth Displacement! Strip away the ten thousand laws! Condense the formation!”

Suddenly, thousands of talismans surrounded that Heaven Venerate. Following Xia Chen’s shout, the talismans ignited.

The Heaven Venerate’s expression completely changed as he found himself cut off from all of heaven and earth. He instantly realized that Xia Chen’s formation had temporarily cut him off from the world. With this, he wouldn’t be able to rely on the power of heaven and earth to fight.

“Dragonblood Cross Slash!”

In an instant, the power of all the Dragonblood warriors poured into Guo Ran. Guo Ran and Xia Chen’s combination was perfect. Just as the formation took effect, the Dragonblood Cross Slash fell.

The Heaven Venerate roared, “Ignorant brats, do you really think that a Heaven Venerate without the power of heaven and earth is like a fish outside of water?!”

As he formed hand seals, a strange flower appeared behind him, possessing only three colorful petals and lacking any stamens. When they spun, he unleashed a punch.

BOOM!

The Dragonblood Cross Slash exploded. The attack containing all the power of the Dragonblood warriors, an attack that could instantly slay an Earth Venerate, was unable to stop an attack from a Heaven Venerate.

“Divine Dragon Pendulum Tail!”

Just after the Heaven Venerate destroyed the Dragonblood Cross Slash, Long Chen’s leg whipped out, and a giant dragon tail whistled toward him.

“You-!”

The Heaven Venerate was enraged. Long Chen and the others’ attacks were combined perfectly, giving him no chance to breathe.

He had just used the power of his manifestation to shatter the Dragonblood Cross Slash when another powerful attack came from Long Chen. He now realized that everything beforehand had been preparation for this one attack.

Most infuriating of all, he had no way to stop it anymore.

BOOM!

The impact sent Grand Dao runes flying through the air. When the sound of bones breaking rang out, that Earth Venerate hacked up blood and shot back like a shooting star.

Two unlucky fellows were struck by his body and blown apart. After all, Earth Venerates were simply unable to endure that terrifying power.

“Let’s go!”

Long Chen was a bit pale. To unleash two of his ultimate attacks in such a short time was extremely taxing to him. His body wasn't quite able to endure it.

"You want to leave?! Leave behind the Earth Cauldron first!"

BOOM!

Suddenly, the void quivered, and a giant claw crashed down toward Long Chen and the others. Long Chen's expression changed. So there had been another Heaven Venerate hidden in the surroundings.

Chapter 4055: Dragon Sparrow Divine Might

As the claw fell, a burst of demonic qi erupted. They couldn't see the attacker, but from that giant claw, they could tell that it was a Heaven Venerate from the demonic beast race.

"You dare to steal from my Soaring Dragon Company?! Courting death!"

At this moment, the Soaring Dragon Company's Heaven Venerate rose. His injury was not light, but he still roared when he saw someone come to take what was his.

Still, it was too late for him to rush over. Clearly, this demonic beast Heaven Venerate had been lying in wait for a long time just for this opportunity.

Long Chen's emotions swirled with a mix of shock and fury. He had the urge to smash this fellow with the Earth Cauldron, but he was also afraid that they had come prepared and were baiting him into using it.

After all, Long Chen knew little about the Earth Cauldron. If others had a method to restrain it or instantly become its master, he would lose it.

However, he had no other choice at this time. His Blood Qi was still fluctuating wildly from unleashing those two previous attacks, so he couldn't unleash another attack without some time to recover. Clenching his teeth, Long Chen stopped caring about his misgivings.

As Long Chen readied himself to strike back with the Earth Cauldron, an unexpected turn of events unfolded. The void suddenly tore open, and a brilliant flash of saber-light sliced through it with unparalleled precision, like a divine stroke.

The formidable giant claw, which seemed indomitable a moment ago, was no match for the overwhelming power of the saber-light. It was sliced apart with astonishing ease, as if it were no more than soft tofu. Blood then gushed forth, creating a crimson shower, accompanied by a gut-wrenching shriek that pierced the air.

"The Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow! Xia Guhong, you...!" The demonic beast roared furiously, but his words were cut short, becoming indistinct as fear gripped him. The sight of the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow had struck terror into his heart, and he could no longer bear to face such a formidable opponent.

On the other hand, Long Chen was delighted. He hadn't expected Xia Guhong to take action at this critical time. With the attack that destroyed the claw of that demonic beast, he also cut open a gulch in heaven and earth, blocking the Heaven Venerate of the Soaring Dragon Company.

“We’re leaving!” Long Chen knew that Xia Guhong had created this opportunity for him. With Xia Chen and the others, they got on the flying boat and whistled away, rapidly vanishing.

Long Chen and the others had just fled when the void repeatedly exploded behind them. One terrifying aura after another appeared as multiple Heaven Venerates were arriving, but they were one step too late. Long Chen had already fled.

These Heaven Venerates then looked at the endless heavenly river and hesitated. In the end, no one dared to enter the heavenly river.

The legends were that the higher your cultivation base, the more likely you would provoke some terrifying existence in the depths of the heavenly river. Perhaps Immortal Kings and World Kings would have some chance of survival, but a Heaven Venerate essentially had no chance of coming out alive.

Let alone entering the unexplored parts of the heavenly river, even if they were to use the safer shipping routes, Heaven Venerates would often face blockades. They would end up being targeted by terrifying existences within the heavenly river, and once they did, the other people with the Heaven Venerate would have difficulty fleeing.

The heavenly river was a place that caused even Heaven Venerates to feel fear. Thus, even the allure of the Earth Cauldron could not make them take the risk of entering.

They still had no idea where Long Chen was going. If he were to just run around randomly in the heavenly river, they would definitely draw out some terrifying existences.

“Xia Guhong, what do you think you’re doing?!”

The Soaring Dragon Company’s Heaven Venerate roared furiously, but no one replied. Xia Guhong did not appear in the end.

However, an attack that cut through the body of a Heaven Venerate as easily as tofu and tore open a spatial restriction that could not be crossed was definitely not something that could be done with an ordinary divine weapon.

As primal chaos qi still hung in the air, everyone could tell who had attacked. It had to be Xia Guhong who possessed the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow’s karmic luck.

While the rumor was that the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow had vanished, a trace of its karmic luck remained on Xia Guhong. It was said that this trace of karmic luck was enough for him to unleash three attacks.

After three attacks, he would need to recuperate for a long time to recover that karmic luck.

Back in the Violet Flame Heaven, Xia Guhong had used the might of the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow to intimidate all his enemies. He said that each attack would definitely take one of their lives. At the time, no one had dared to test him.

Now that the Grand Xia Dragon Sparrow’s divine might reappeared, although it was just a trace of the power of its karmic luck, it was enough to stop them.

Xia Guhong didn't speak or appear, but that simple attack was enough to stop these Heaven Venerates in their tracks.

However, as a result of this, these people were all filled with hatred for Xia Guhong. He had caused them to lose their chance to obtain the Earth Cauldron. Among them, the Soaring Dragon Company's Heaven Venerate was particularly enraged. Failing to secure the Earth Cauldron was humiliating enough, but being injured by a group of brats was a grave blow to his pride and reputation.

Long Chen had entered the heavenly river. So, in theory, they should all leave now as their efforts were all useless.

However, not one of them left. Many of them refused to believe that Long Chen would really dare to cross the heavenly river. They suspected that Long Chen was planning on tricking people into leaving while he actually went in a loop and stealthily returned to the Violet Flame Heaven.

In the end, they didn't loosen their traps throughout the heavenly river and continued to guard this area, waiting for Long Chen to return. However, it was fated that their efforts would go in vain.

At this time, Long Chen and the others had switched flying boats. In a giant ship, they started crossing the heavenly river.

"Heaven Venerates really is terrifying. The difference between Heaven Venerates and Earth Venerates really is immense," said Guo Ran.

The others also felt a burst of fear. After all, Heaven Venerates were all unimaginably powerful. Their strength was so overwhelming that even when they all joined forces, they couldn't beat one. So, if they didn't flee this time, they wouldn't even have a chance to survive.

Xia Chen had even used a formation to separate that Heaven Venerate from the Heavenly Daos, and then Guo Ran and Long Chen had attacked at the best times. But even then, they were unable to pose any fatal danger to that Heaven Venerate, leaving them feeling dejected.

Guo Ran in particular had thought that he would be able to sweep through the heavens now, only to be beaten so badly that his confidence was gone. He was listless.

"It's not that you're too weak but that your enemies are too strong. To be able to fight across so many realms is already very impressive," said Yu Qingxuan. She couldn't help encouraging them when she saw how dejected they were.

A Heaven Venerate was an almighty existence, so it was already a huge accomplishment for them to be able to flee from one. But they still weren't satisfied? They seemed to be brooding just because they couldn't beat a Heaven Venerate.

"Qingxuan, ignore them. They're doing it on purpose just to hear you say that," laughed Long Chen.

Ignoring whether or not they could win, the fact that they had the courage to stand against a Heaven Venerate was already enough to make them famous.

Hence, their dissatisfied appearances were another way of showing off. They wanted Yu Qingxuan to see it and praise them, and she actually fell for it.

“Hehe, boss, what are you saying? We’re clearly very dissatisfied with our display...” Guo Ran awkwardly laughed.

Guo Ran's awkward laughter was a clear giveaway, so Yu Qingxuan couldn't help but shake her head in amusement. It was evident that their apparent dejection was staged, all for the sake of her attention.

“In truth, a Heaven Venerate is not unmatched. My formation just now wasn’t strong enough to fully cut him off from the Heavenly Daos. If I could fully separate him from the Heavenly Daos, we could launch all-out attacks and exhaust him. In the end, we might be able to kill him,” said Xia Chen.

“If we were prepared beforehand and willing to pay any price, perhaps we could beat a Heaven Venerate. But it is impossible for us to kill one. A Heaven Venerate is one with heaven and earth. So, if he wants to flee, we can’t stop him. I think if we wish to kill a Heaven Venerate, we cannot use technique. We can only use brute force,” said Long Chen.

“What kind of brute force?” asked Guo Ran.

“A force that can destroy a world. This can come from a magical art, a divine weapon, or a formation. In any case, the principle is that this power must destroy laws and the foundation of the ten thousand Daos. It must be truly apocalyptic,” said Long Chen.

“I understand. If our power doesn’t go through a qualitative change, it cannot pose a threat to a Heaven Venerate.” Xia Chen nodded.

“Not good! Boss, there’s a huge whirlpool up ahead! We’ve lost control of the battleship and are being sucked into the whirlpool!”

Suddenly, the Dragonblood warrior in charge of steering cried out.

Chapter 4056: Sea Whale Heaven Whale

“So soon?”

Long Chen was startled. They were not even half a day into the heavenly river. As this area was still the border of the heavenly river, there shouldn’t be any fiend eyes here yet.

When Long Chen and the others arrived at the head of the ship, they were shocked to find a giant whirlpool in the distance sucking their battleship in. The immense force was not something that the battleship could resist.

“No, this isn’t a fiend eye.”

Long Chen’s heart shook. The whirlpool was giant, but it didn’t have the sinister aura of a fiend eye.

Just then, giant fish jumped out of the water, causing huge waves. Every single one of them was the size of a mountain.

These fish had powerful auras. Using the human race’s standards, they could be considered World Kings.

More and more fish began to jump from the water. Amongst them were various sea demons, some of them with auras comparable to three-flower Earth Venerates.

Within this giant sea region, countless sea creatures were in a panic, seemingly trying to flee into the sky.

“We can’t control the battleship! If it gets sucked in, it’ll be crushed.” Xia Chen’s expression changed.

The heavenly river had special laws over its space, so most people were unable to fly through the air here. That meant that if their battleship was crushed, they would be lost in the sea. They would then either die inside the stomachs of some fish monster or be smashed apart by one of their stronger members.

Just as everyone was panicking over this terrifying phenomenon, they suddenly felt the ship rise. An immense force then tossed the battleship into the sky.

“There’s something in the water! Grab the railing!”

Long Chen's heart pounded fiercely, as he had never experienced anything like this before. To ensure the safety of everyone on board, he instructed them to grip tightly onto the battleship, preventing them from being thrown off by the intense turbulence.

BOOM!

As the battleship was flung into the sky, the sheer force exerted within the confined space left the passengers dazed, their blood churning within. They watched in awe as the vessel soared several miles upward.

However, what awaited them was an indelible sight, forever etched in their memories. From the depths of the sea emerged a gigantic mouth that swallowed the entire whirlpool space in a terrifying display.

All those giant fish and sea demons were devoured by that giant mouth, stunning Long Chen and the others.

Fortunately, they had been on the outer edge of the whirlpool, so they were not devoured.

They observed in awe as the colossal mouth closed and gradually submerged back into the sea, leaving behind tumultuous waves that continued to rage for an extended period.

As the battleship descended, Xia Chen skillfully utilized talismans to regulate their descent. With precision, he guided them to land on the crest of a massive wave, ensuring a safe touchdown.

Even though they weren’t struck head-on by the wave, the battleship still endured a rough ride, resulting in numerous cracks appearing on its surface. Thus, even the process of landing on the back of one of these terrifying waves almost destroyed the battleship.

Even once the mouth had vanished and the giant waves settled, they remained in a state of shock and disbelief.

Although they could all count as experienced people, they had never seen such a horrifying sight before. How could millions of powerful lifeforms be devoured just like that?

For a moment, they could only look at each other in dumbfounded silence. Almost in unison, they asked:

“What was that?”

Everyone looked at Long Chen.

“It was a whale. It is said to be the largest lifeform in the world, larger than the Kunpeng and the dragon,” said Long Chen, taking a deep breath.

“Bigger than a dragon and Kunpeng? How is that possible?! The Kunpeng was originally a fish, the overlord of the sea! How could it permit another lifeform to be bigger than it?” asked Guo Ran.

“I don’t know. I only read something in an ancient tome that said that the biggest lifeform in this world is the whale. It can hide in the deep sea or high in the heavens. Those in the sea are called sea whales, and those in the sky are called heaven whales. Sea whales are ferocious and capture sea kings for food, capable of devouring the sun and moon. The heaven whales, on the other hand, swim beyond the Heavenly Daos, and only those with destiny can see them. As for their size, they eclipse the nine heavens,” said Long Chen.

“Eclipse the nine heavens?!”

Everyone once more jumped in shock. What thing could grow that big? How was it even possible?

“To be honest, I can’t be certain about what we just encountered. The information in that ancient record was more like a legend than a factual knowledge. It’s not that trustworthy, so I can’t say for sure if it was really a sea whale. But in any case, that’s all I know.” Long Chen shrugged.

After all, Long Chen had only read a vague introduction to it, so his understanding of a sea whale’s form or characteristics was limited.

Furthermore, they hadn’t really gotten a clean look at the mouth. Its sudden appearance had twisted the space, making it impossible for them to describe its shape or size accurately.

However, the frightening experience left them with a newfound respect for the sea. There were many secrets hidden within the nine heavens and ten lands, and all they had witnessed was merely a tiny drop in the ocean of hidden wonders yet to be explored.

Once the waves settled, Xia Chen skillfully assessed the correct direction they needed to follow, and the journey resumed. However, the unsettling experience had left everyone much more cautious and alert.

If that monstrous mouth had targeted them, then even a Heaven Venerate would be no match, reduced to a mere snack with no ability to resist.

“Don’t worry. We’ll just travel normally. It could be a blessing, and if it’s a disaster instead, well... it can’t be avoided. What will come will come,” said Long Chen with a smile.

Long Chen knew just how amazing his luck was; it had nothing to do with being careful or not. Thus, he could only charge ahead blindly and face what he met.

Xia Chen skillfully navigated the battleship as usual, while he and Guo Ran continued to repair it during their journey. Fortunately, the path ahead remained peaceful, and apart from occasionally encountering formidable sea demons, they faced no imminent threats.

In fact, they ended up going over the head of some enormous entity one time, and it only glanced at them before ignoring them.

Not all the lifeforms in the heavenly river were violent. Occasionally, some dolphins would appear and frolic around the battleship. They seemed very friendly.

Curiously, after the dolphins appeared, they no longer encountered any of those ferocious sea demons.

Thus, Long Chen had a thought and had Xia Chen follow the dolphins. He felt that these were kind lifeforms, and they should be familiar with the surroundings. Most likely, if they followed the dolphins, they would be able to avoid some dangers.

As expected, they enjoyed a peaceful journey for ten days, faithfully following the guidance of the dolphins. However, on the eleventh day, Xia Chen had to make the difficult decision to part ways with their marine companions, because if they continued to follow the dolphins, they would only go astray.

They had no choice but to venture alone now. The dolphins then bid them farewell and continued to swim in the distance until they vanished from sight.

As they continued onward, the seawater gradually transitioned from its familiar blue hue to an unsettling shade of black. The darkness sent shivers down their spines, leaving them on edge as they continued their voyage.

“There’s another whirlpool up ahead!” called out Xia Chen. In an instant, everyone directly tensed up.

“Now this is a true fiend eye.” Long Chen eyed the giant whirlpool and waved his hand. “Let’s go see it.”

Chapter 4057: A Sea of Skeletons

“Boss, did I mishear something?!”

Xia Chen couldn't believe his ears. The legends of a fiend eye were well-known, and even he had heard about them. According to the tales, anyone unfortunate enough to be sucked inside the fiend eye would never return.

Others who saw a fiend eye would instantly flee, but Long Chen wanted to get closer? Did he have something wrong with his head?

“Go. It’ll be fine,” said Long Chen.

On his previous journey from the Darklight Heaven to the Violet Flame Heaven, Long Chen had encountered a fiend eye. To his dismay, he and all the other passengers on the ship were just regarded as sacrificial pawns by the Soaring Dragon Company.

During that particular moment, Long Chen became acquainted with a brother and sister named Bai Fang and Bai Rui. Tragically, the two of them had endured a harrowing past, and even after that, they were still schemed against by the Soaring Dragon Company.

Because of this matter, Long Chen found himself grappling with a profound sense of guilt, which then fueled his intense hatred toward the Soaring Dragon Company.

Seeing the fiend eye again, he was reminded of the siblings' sacrifice. But now, he had undergone a significant transformation and possessed the Earth Cauldron, which granted him power far beyond his previous self. With his newfound strength, he wanted to investigate the fiend eye further.

Feeling helpless, Xia Chen could only steer the battleship toward the giant whirlpool. Once they were closer, an irresistible force pulled them in. Within the heart of the whirlpool, space quaked with explosive rumbles, and fierce winds howled relentlessly.

It felt like hell on earth. The entire area was filled with a sinister aura that sent shivers down their spines, making their hair stand on end.

Yu Qingxuan stood by Long Chen's side, her face a bit pale. Seeing her fright, Long Chen comforted her. "Don't worry, I'm here. I just want to understand something."

Suddenly, the deafening sound of the storm subsided, and the raging winds were gone. In this peaceful atmosphere, their battleship slowly fell.

Just like that, they had reached the heart of the fiend eye. Within this enormous whirlpool, their battleship was as tiny as a speck of sand.

Surrounded by the giant walls of the whirlpool, it felt as though they were sinking into the jaws of a malevolent creature.

Now, the battleship could no longer escape. All its runes had lost effect, so they could only watch as they slowly descended.

The most frightening thing about this place was the complete absence of sound. The eerie calmness made it feel like a realm of death, where silence prevailed and all life seemed to have vanished.

Long Chen stood at the very front of the ship, observing everything without a hint of fear. He suddenly asked, "Qingxuan, do you feel like the aura of this place is a bit familiar?"

Yu Qingxuan was startled at first, but after sensing it, she was astonished. "Now that you mention it, it really is a bit familiar. It's like..."

"The aura of hell," said Long Chen.

"Could it be...?"

Long Chen nodded. "Most likely, this fiend eye is connected to the Nether Emperor."

"If it's related to the Nether Emperor, why did you have to come here?!" Yu Qingxuan turned pale. Was this not throwing themselves into the enemy's net?

Long Chen smiled slightly. "It is precisely because it is related to the Nether Emperor that we have to come and take a look."

Yu Qingxuan didn't know that the Nether Emperor had been slain by the Nine Star Master and was still in the middle of nirvanic rebirth. Of course, if that wasn't the case, the Nether Emperor wouldn't be searching for heavenly geniuses from various races to serve as seeds for his plans.

Time seemed to stand still in this place. They didn't know how long it was before they saw what was on the bottom of the whirlpool

When they saw it, even Long Chen gasped. It was a giant sacrificial altar with a mountain of endless skeletons piled up around it. They could see no end to those skeletons.

Guo Ran and the others felt chills. These skeletons were all human skeletons, and the number was simply impossible to calculate.

At the heart of the altar was a strange tree, a giant towering tree. However, within this enormous space, it appeared small.

As they got closer, they saw that this tree's roots were embedded into a skull. However, the skull was covered by so many skeletons piled up around it that they couldn't see its exact shape. Thus, they didn't know if it was a human skull or some other lifeform.

For some reason, when Long Chen saw this skull, he thought of the skull that he had seen in the Immemorial Path thanks to the Eastern Wasteland Bell. His heart then pounded wildly. Were they connected?

The number of skeletons littering this enormous space was incredulous. They were piled up thousands of miles high, further than the eye could see. Even the Dragonblood warriors were shaken by this sight.

"The majority of these skeletons are in the Immortal King and World King realms. Only a very small portion is in the Divine Venerate realm," said Xia Chen after examining the skeletons. All of them were high level cultivators.

"Just how many people are here? Trillions? Trillions of trillions?" Guo Ran's voice quivered.

This was not just a number but lives lost. Therefore, at the same time as they were shaken, they were also filled with rage.

The human race was actually viewed as prey to be slaughtered and sacrificed here? It was unacceptable. Buzz.

Suddenly, space quivered and a horrifying aura engulfed them, causing them to startle in fear.

"A Heaven Venerate?!"

They took out their weapons, thinking that a Heaven Venerate had managed to chase after them in the heavenly river.

However, they quickly realized that they were wrong. This Heaven Venerate's aura was chaotic and hadn't locked onto them, so they weren't his target. In fact, he was fleeing.

The next moment, the void quivered, and they quickly saw his figure. It was an elder in gray robes. With a sword in his hand, he swung it through the void, causing cracks to split open. He then used the cracks as stairs and ran up them.

It was evident that he had been pulled into the fiend eye and was desperately attempting to break free. Unluckily for him, the fiend eye's interior was governed by unique laws that nullified the power of

Heavenly Daos, including Xia Chen's talismans. Unable to use his full power but still able to still cut through the void, it seemed that he was truly a terrifying Heaven Venerate.

However, no matter how he struggled, he was still descending rapidly. When he was near the bottom, he noticed Long Chen and the others.

Startled by the sudden turn of events, the Heaven Venerate didn't even get a chance to react before the strange tree sprang to life. Its branch shot forward, piercing him like a deadly spear.

The Heaven Venerate let out a horrifying scream as a faint wisp of smoke emanated from the wound. In an instant, his essence, qi, and spirit were completely drained.

Devoid of his body, the Heaven Venerate's clothes dropped to the ground, and his sword clattered onto the altar. Unable to comprehend how a Heaven Venerate could just vanish like that, Long Chen and the others stared at each other in appalled silence.

Chapter 4058: Life Crystal

The Heaven Venerate was pierced by a branch, and his body mysteriously vanished. His clothing and sword simply fell to the earth, leaving Long Chen standing in stunned silence. He was struggling to grasp the surreal scene unfolding before him.

Long Chen had never encountered a more formidable existence than a Heaven Venerate. The collective might of all those who had crossed his path paled in comparison to the power wielded by such an expert. And yet, in a matter of moments, one had been effortlessly eliminated just like that, leaving everyone present in a state of disbelief.

They could only stare at the tree in horror. The scene before them was too terrifying.

“Don’t move. I’ll go take a look at it.” Long Chen walked toward the altar.

When he reached the altar, he found that the ground beneath his feet was bone. In other words, the heart of the altar truly was a skull.

Long Chen then arrived beneath the tree. As he touched its scale-like bark, his expression suddenly changed and he shouted, “How brazen! You dare to not reveal yourself before this lord?!”

Guo Ran and the others were dumbfounded. What was their boss doing? Was he shouting at a tree?

However, the tree didn’t respond, not reacting at all. So, Long Chen furiously swung his hand.

The next moment, black soil flew out, covering the roots of the tree. This was the black soil of the primal chaos space.

Buzz.

To their surprise, black qi suddenly rose out of the tree and blocked the soil. After that, a panicked voice rang out.

“Great Nether Emperor son, forgive me! Please take back your punishment!”

Within the black qi, a strange elder appeared, draped in black robes. His stature was small and withered, yet an exquisite sapling could be seen sprouting from the crown of his head. At this moment, that sapling's leaves quivered, looking as if there were countless eyes on it.

This elder hastily kowtowed toward Long Chen reverently, causing Guo Ran and the others' jaws to drop. They didn't know what they were seeing. Why would such a terrifying existence be kowtowing toward Long Chen?

With a sweeping gesture, Long Chen commanded the black soil to retract, drawing it back into the depths of the primal chaos space. He had long since noticed that there was something off with the tree. So, it was actually a powerful tree demon.

Upon their descent, the tree had unmistakably sensed their presence, but it directly ignored them after that. Even so, Long Chen still sensed its divine sense the moment it swept over them.

At that moment, Long Chen knew that this tree demon was the guard of this place, and he also noted the diagram of the hell flower on the altar below. Due to these factors, he could guess its identity.

However, as for why this tree demon would see them and then ignore them, he had no idea. That was why he took this risk, and it worked. He managed to scare the tree demon.

Based on Long Chen's thinking, the fiend eye was connected to the Nether Emperor. In that case, since Long Chen had absorbed the Nether Emperor's mark, the fiend eye wouldn't make things hard on him. That was why he dared to be so brazen.

"This little elder was ignorant. Seeing you come with humans, I didn't dare to rashly greet you. Please forgive me," said the elder fearfully.

"What nonsense. Do you think that this lord would believe such lies? How could you not recognize my aura? Why is it that the others immediately come greet me when I arrive, but you alone have the guts to ignore me? You even killed a Heaven Venerate in front of me? Are you trying to scare me off?" demanded Long Chen.

"I would not dare!"

Seeing Long Chen chide the elder and the elder not daring to retort, Guo Ran and the others were dumbfounded. Their boss was too badass, wasn't he? That was an existence that could slay Heaven Venerates! Just what was happening with this world?

"This lord wishes to know how long you have been here," said Long Chen coldly.

"This lowly elder has been here for eighty-seven million years. During this time, I have always been carrying out my work dutifully," answered the elder respectfully.

Long Chen nodded. "Then amongst the guards, you're actually quite young."

Long Chen actually had no idea. He was just trying to see what information he could dredge up.

"Yes, yes! This lowly elder truly has not been working for the great Nether Emperor for long! Compared to my seniors in the other fiend eyes, I am a junior. However, I will definitely work hard to not betray the Nether Emperor's expectations!"

As expected. No wonder he didn't even mention the Ghost Sovereign's mark. It seemed that he was unable to sense it. Otherwise, he would be questioning Long Chen.

Even if he didn't ask directly, he would be suspicious and ask a few roundabout questions. Since that was the case, it seemed that this tree demon's power was inferior to the fiend eye that Long Chen had previously encountered.

"This lord has been ordered by the Nether Emperor to inspect the sixteen fiend eyes in this region. I will judge just how much you have contributed," said Long Chen arrogantly, his hands clasped behind him.

In any case, his Nether Emperor mark was clearly sensed by this tree demon. With this status, he could spout nonsense without care.

"Sixteen fiend eyes? This section of the heavenly river only has thirteen, right?" The tree demon elder was startled.

Ah, Long Chen had gone too far. He should have gone with a lower number. However, just who was Long Chen? His face was astoundingly thick, so he didn't even twitch. "Did you think that the Darklight Heaven and the Violet Flame Heaven had no fiend eyes between them? Did you think that this lord was just bragging?"

"This lowly elder would not dare! Since you have come to inspect the situation, please take a look," said the elder, finally rising from his kowtow.

At this moment, the altar beneath Long Chen's feet split open. Only then did Long Chen realize that there was such an enormous space down below.

Standing here, Long Chen could see the interior of the space. Countless chains extended inside, intricately linking to the core where a giant crystal resided.

To his surprise, it was a cubic crystal stretching over thirty miles in length with an enormous amount of energy flowing within it.

Moreover, this crystal contained such pure life energy, which could only form when countless lives were merged into one.

Long Chen understood that the life energy of all the skeletons had been extracted and injected into this crystal. In an instant, the purpose of the fiend eyes became clear to him. The Nether Emperor had been slain by the Nine Star Master and was still in the midst of a nirvanic rebirth. Therefore, this entire thing must be related to the revival of the Nether Emperor, leaving him feeling shocked and enraged.

How many fiend eyes were set up within the nine heavens and ten lands? Just how many members of the human race were they killing?

"This crystal's life energy is astonishing. Perhaps it really does have the ability to revive a dead person. However, as a member of the human race, how can I use the lives of my people to heal myself? I'll need to think of a way to destroy it." Long Chen made his resolve.

"Don't destroy it. That would be too wasteful." Suddenly, the dragon expert's voice rang out in his mind.

"Then what am I supposed to do?" asked Long Chen.

“Take it and feed it to the Earth Cauldron. It can help the cauldron recover,” said the dragon expert. “However, if you want to take it, you’ll need to think of a way to deal with that tree demon first. That fellow won’t be so easy to provoke. With your current power, you definitely aren’t a match for it. Sometimes, when you don’t have power, using wits is your only option.”

Long Chen’s gaze suddenly turned to the tree demon, causing that elder’s expression to change subtly. Seeing Long Chen’s gaze, the elder had a bad feeling.

Chapter 4059: Undying Dragon Tree

“Great son of the Nether Emperor, do my humble efforts meet your esteemed satisfaction?” inquired the tree demon, its voice quivering with a mix of trepidation and respect. Yet, its fear did not stem from Long Chen’s presence, but rather from the weight of his exalted status.

“Don’t call me the son of the Nether Emperor. Call me the lord of the Nether Emperor. Can you not see that I am different from the sons of the Nether Emperor? I have the Nether Emperor’s supreme will on me. I don’t believe that you can’t see it.” Long Chen then took off his eyepatch and opened his left eye.

The image of the hell flower materialized within Long Chen’s black pupil, looking like the devil’s eye. But immediately after, black traces of blood quickly flowed out of his left eye, so he hurriedly shut it and put on the eyepatch.

His left eye had yet to fully recover, so opening it was still very painful. However, this was enough.

As expected, the tree demon was so frightened upon seeing it that he kowtowed reverently. Just looking at that pupil caused him to shiver in fear.

After the hell flower was absorbed by the Purgatory Eyes, it had gone through a transformation. Its energy was beyond the scope that Long Chen could control. Thus, even if Long Chen’s cultivation base wasn’t worth anything in front of this tree demon, this hell flower could still terrify him.

“This lowly elder greets the great lord of the Nether Emperor!” cried the tree demon hastily.

Seeing him so frightened, Long Chen felt very confident. He said, “You are not a member of my Netherworld. You come from the Undying World, am I right?”

The elder was startled. “Great lord of the Nether Emperor, although I am not a lifeform from the Netherworld, I don’t dare to be the slightest bit-”

Long Chen flapped his hand. “You don’t need to be afraid. I am not questioning your loyalty to the Nether Emperor.”

Hearing that, the elder instantly relaxed a great deal. Long Chen continued, “Do you come from the Undying World’s Corpse Devil Demon Forest?”

“Reporting to the-”

“You can just speak directly,” interrupted Long Chen.

“Yes.”

“If I have not misjudged, you should be from the Undying race’s Undying Dragon Tree, correct?”

The tree demon was startled, not expecting Long Chen to have seen through his origins. However, he still didn’t know if that was a good thing or a bad thing. Thus, with a quivering voice, he said, “Yes, this lowly elder was originally from the Undying Dragon Tree race.”

“Then I will ask you a question. Do not lie, or it would be the greatest betrayal toward the Nether Emperor.” Long Chen’s expression suddenly grew dark and strict.

“Great one, please ask your question! This lowly elder will not dare to hide the slightest thing!”

“What relationship do you have with the Undying Willow race?”

The Undying Dragon Tree. Long Chen had seen an introduction about them in the High Firmament Academy. Just like the Devil Eye Water Lily, they were from the Undying World, but Long Chen wanted to be sure.

“Do not hesitate!” ordered Long Chen coldly.

The elder was originally hesitant to answer, but once Long Chen urged him on, he could only clench his teeth and say, “Our Undying Dragon Tree race is a subsidiary of the Undying Willow race. We have sworn our lives to the Undying Willow race.”

Long Chen smiled. That was the answer he had been hoping for. Seeing this smile, the elder instantly relaxed a great deal. It seemed that Long Chen was satisfied with his answer.

“May I know what relationship the great lord of the Nether Emperor has with our Undying Dragon Tree race?” probed the elder.

“Don’t move.”

Long Chen pointed at the elder’s head, sending images relating to Liu Ruyan into his mind.

“So you have such a deep relationship with our Emperor race!” The elder’s delight was overwhelming, almost bordering on disbelief.

The images Long Chen gave him were of Liu Ruyan fighting alongside him and the others, along with some conversations they had. It was enough proof of their connection.

“Hehe, since you’re on the side of the Undying Willow race, it should be easy to talk now. Tell me, how did you end up here? Why are you helping the Nether Emperor?” asked Long Chen.

“I...” The elder hesitated.

Long Chen smiled. “In order to express my sincerity, I’ll tell you who I really am. I’m not the son of the Nether Emperor, nor am I his daddy. Actually, I have no relationship with the Nether Emperor at all. I faked my identity to come and take a look at this place. And now, I want to see if I can steal the life crystal.”

“You...!” The elder couldn’t believe his ears. “Are you not afraid of me...?”

Long Chen smiled. "Don't think that just because you are stronger that you can lie to me. You don't have the power to lie in front of me, so I believe you."

The elder stared at Long Chen for a long time before bitterly smiling and shaking his head. "Little brother, you should leave. You cannot take the life crystal. Even if you have a relationship with the Undying Willow race, I cannot help you. Once the life crystal is taken, I will also die."

"I know. You have the Nether Emperor's seal on you, but I can help you remove the seal. You can regain your freedom," said Long Chen.

"You... you can do that?" In an instant, the elder's calmness was shattered, his voice quivering with both excitement and nervousness.

"Of course. There would be no point in me lying to you. You were caught by the Nether Emperor and forced to act as a guard here, right?" asked Long Chen.

The elder nodded. Actually, he wasn't caught by the Nether Emperor himself, but by some of his attendants who found him in the Undying World.

During that time, the Nether Emperor's seal was forcibly imposed upon him, and he found himself ensnared within the intricate web of the Devil Eye Grand Formation. Just like that, he became the Nether Emperor's slave, tasked with the arduous duty of harvesting life energy.

According to him, various forces would send a few sacrifices his way, and he was only in charge of gathering them. Amongst those powers was also the Soaring Dragon Company. Additionally, some of those powers would simply lure Heaven Venerates into the surroundings, and he would be in charge of killing them.

As this explanation sank in, Long Chen realized a sobering truth: the lives lost here weren't claimed by the Nether Emperor, but rather by the actions of fellow humans.

Those powers that were sacrificing humans to the Nether Emperor were definitely related to him. As for what benefits there were for them, this elder didn't really know. After all, he was only in charge of the reaping.

Certain powers would draw their most powerful enemies here to get rid of them without using the slightest effort, for example, that poor Heaven Venerate. He had been sent here through a trap transportation formation.

Other than the sacrifices, the fiend eye would also draw in any prey that wandered here. Anyone who attracted its attention would die, as even Heaven Venerates were nothing in front of the power of a fiend eye.

After all, this place was backed by the power of the Nether Emperor. Even if it was just a trace of it, it wasn't something that ordinary Heaven Venerates could resist.

After learning all of this, Long Chen said, "Senior, prepare yourself. I am going to start absorbing the Nether Emperor's seal. However, I have one condition. Once you regain your freedom, you must be my guard for a certain amount of time. Once I become a World King, you can leave, and we will owe each other nothing. Is that acceptable to you?"

Chapter 4060: Devouring the Life Crystal

"If you can help me remove my bindings and leave this damnable place, I will be your guard for a lifetime!" implored the elder of the Undying Dragon Tree race.

In this place, he was nothing more than a slave to the Nether Emperor. He had no freedom at all. Having guarded this damn place for millions of years, he was about to go crazy.

Therefore, Long Chen's condition wasn't even worth mentioning. After all, Long Chen was already an Immortal King. According to this elder's standard, in the blink of an eye, Long Chen would become a World King.

Moreover, as long as he could leave this place, he was willing to accept any conditions at all. As an Undying Dragon Tree, being trapped in the heavenly river was torture. The laws of this place were constantly eroding his body.

After so many years, all he could do was preserve his cultivation base. Just managing to prevent his power from regressing was already an enormous fortune to him.

"No need. Once I have the power to protect myself, you can return to the Undying World. You can also help me send word to the Undying Willow race. Help me ask where a friend- no, where two friends are."

Long Chen had a feeling that Liu Ruyan and Chu Yao were together. After all, the two of them never left each other. If Liu Ruyan had returned to the Corpse Devil Demon Forest, she would definitely have brought Chu Yao.

"Prepare yourself. It might be a bit painful, so you must endure." Long Chen took a deep breath and once more tore off his eyepatch.

Buzz.

The moment Long Chen opened his left eye, the hell flower once more appeared. This time, Long Chen used his pupil art to activate the hell flower, and a terrifying death energy erupted.

The hell flower mark on the altar then lit up. At the same time, strange lines also appeared on the elder's body.

The elder couldn't help but scream in pain, his whole body quivering. However, if this was his price of freedom, he would endure it without complaint.

As the entire fiend eye quivered, some kind of black energy formed ripples of death that converged into Long Chen's Purgatory Eyes.

Just like that, blood ran out of his left eye once more, and it was even more painful than the last. However, Long Chen wasn't afraid. He knew that absorbing this energy would strengthen the Purgatory Eyes. It wasn't a bad thing for him.

As long as he could endure, the Purgatory Eyes would grow stronger. On the other hand, the elder was almost convulsing on the ground, feeling like his soul was being stripped out of his body. However, he bitterly endured and held back his screams.

He knew that Long Chen had to be enduring a similar pain to him. Also, as a member of the Undying Dragon Tree race, he had his own pride. He couldn't be lacking compared to a member of the junior generation.

BOOM!

Suddenly, the entire fiend eye shook one final time, and endless black energy poured into Long Chen's left eye.

When it was done, Long Chen hastily shut his left eye. Half of his face was now covered in blood, looking like it was stained by black spiderwebs.

Intense fiery pain pierced his eye, as though his eyeball might break. The pain also extended to half of his head, creating a sensation as if it was about to explode.

"Master, are you alright?!" The elder urgently ran over to Long Chen.

At this time, the elder's face was no longer scrunched in pain. Instead, he was beaming gratefully. Long Chen really had managed to remove the Nether Emperor's seal on this elder, so he had finally escaped his shackles and regained his freedom.

"You don't need to call me master. There's no need to be so courteous. You can just call me Long Chen." It was only after a bit that Long Chen recovered enough to reply.

"How can that be? You are my greatest benefactor, and I will never be able to repay you in this lifetime. You want me to be your guard? Then during this time, you are my master. My Undying Dragon Tree race cannot be known as ingrates who do not repay kindness," said the elder solemnly.

The Undying Dragon Tree race. They were a famous race within the Undying World, and they cared a great deal about their reputation.

After receiving such favor from Long Chen, this elder was full of gratitude. Thus, he was determined to protect Long Chen to death during this time.

At this time, Xia Chen, Guo Ran, and the others also ran over. As for Yu Qingxuan, she was aggrieved to see Long Chen in such pain, but she didn't say anything. She only fed him a healing pill to alleviate the pain.

After consuming the pill, Long Chen could feel the pain fading quite a bit. The elder then said, "Master, do you really want to take this life crystal? If you take it, the fiend eye will crumble and the Nether servants may come to hunt you down."

"Senior, in order to make it easier in the future, I'll just call you Uncle Tree, alright? Uncle Tree, this life energy is very useful to me. I must take it. As for the rest, I don't care that much. So, please guard me while I take it."

Long Chen then went to the life tree. After he formed hand seals, the void quivered and a bronze cauldron appeared.

The Earth Cauldron had always been like a dead object, so Long Chen was only capable of using it to smash people and defend. However, when it appeared today, countless runes quivered on its body as if it had come to life.

It was automatically drawn to the giant life crystal, and in an instant, the enormous amount of life energy within the crystal vanished.

It had to be known that this elder had spent countless years absorbing life energy. This meant that the lives of trillions and trillions of experts were absorbed in a second.

After absorbing the life crystal, quite a bit of rust fell from the cauldron, and the portions that were free from rust began to emit a strange shine. Through this light, it was possible to see its profound runes.

“All of this life energy only allowed a third of its rust to fall? Sigh, I guess awakening it will need at least two more of these life crystals!” Long Chen couldn’t help being shocked. The Heaven Earth Cauldron was truly worthy of being a primal chaos divine item. Fully restoring it would take some effort.

From the area without the rust, Long Chen could feel a slight spiritual connection. “This is...!”

“Yes, you now have the power to use it,” said the dragon expert.

“Really? Then can I use it to suppress Heaven Venerates?” asked Long Chen excitedly.

“Yes, in theory.”

“What does that mean? In reality, I...?”

“I said that you could use it, not drawing out its full power. You misunderstand. It is the Earth Cauldron of the Heaven Earth Cauldron, and it is not a fighting weapon. Its focus is on defense. Anyway, you are too weak to activate even a single one of its runes, let alone activate its actual defensive might,” said the dragon expert.

“Then doesn’t that mean that I can’t use it?” demanded Long Chen, his excitement extinguishing.

“You can’t use it in combat. But you can use it for other purposes.”

“Like what?”

“For example, refining pills.”

“What?!”

Long Chen was instantly revitalized.