

**Chapter 4381: An Unfair Battle**

“He showed mercy?”

Everyone jumped in shock. The palace master had shown mercy on those two? Why did they not see any of that?

“It was an unfair battle.”

The palace master shook his head and vanished from sight just like that, leaving a group of stunned experts wondering.

“What unfair battle?! They wanted to destroy the Nirvana Overflow Heaven! How could the palace master let them off?!” shouted someone suddenly.

They didn’t see the palace master show any mercy, but for him to personally admit it, it meant that he had had a chance to kill the red-haired monster and the Red Fur Heaven Roarer, but had let them off.

The human race’s experts could not comprehend this. They were clearly enemies, so why let them off?

“Perhaps the palace master has his own pride? The red-haired monster already lost its head, affecting its power. Did the palace master disdain killing them?” wondered one person.

“But this isn’t some martial competition! This relates to the future of the human race! When they come back, who else but the palace master can stop them? If the palace master doesn’t appear in time next, who knows how many people will die? The palace master is being irresponsible!” complained another.

Quite a few people nodded along. The palace master had truly treated this too lightly. If he had had a chance to kill them but had let them off, that was equivalent to throwing the others into danger.

What if their next merger was done with both of them in top condition, and they were capable of beating the palace master? Then the Nirvana Overflow Heaven would be thrown into danger.

The voices of complaint grew as everyone started to feel like the palace master had gone overboard this time. How could he throw the human race into danger just for some reputation?

“Everyone, if you have time to complain, you should spend it on cultivation. If you have the ability, you can deal with the red-haired monster yourself, instead of criticizing others,” barked Long Chen.

Long Chen could not endure listening to these complaints, and his expression grew dark.

“Dean Long Chen, you can’t say that. Just because you have power, is the human race under your command now? Are we not even allowed to voice our complaints?” demanded an angry half-step Eternal.

Long Chen’s words were quite sharp, like a slap in the face of the whiny complainers. Of course, they were displeased.

With someone else taking the lead, another person immediately joined in. "Exactly, we're just talking. What's the harm in it? Can't we even talk?"

"The stronger you are, the greater responsibility you carry. Since that's the case, the palace master should be carrying out his responsibility. Is this wrong?"

"Hmph, in the end, the human race really has no unity. In this world, power is king, so whoever's fist is bigger is right. However, some people just start acting like emperors when they aren't even kings, refusing to let others speak."

"You...!"

Guo Ran and the others were enraged by their sharp words. These people might not have any power themselves, but their mouths were quite vicious, and their ability at fanning flames was not weak.

"What? Do you want to kill us? So without you, we can't live? The strong are respected in this world. We respect you, but we can also respect the experts of other races for being stronger. There are plenty of powerful people in this world!" sneered an elder.

"You... how shameless! You've completely lost the dignity of your ancestors!" Xia Chen clenched a talisman, having the urge to wipe all of them out.

They had even spat out such cowardly words. It went without saying that people like them would be the first to betray the human race in a battle against other races.

"So what if I'm shameless? You won't even let us speak our minds! How are we any different than slaves under you? Rather than relying on you, we will rely on others if we have to! Whoever gives us dignity is who we'll follow! That's up to us! What can you do?" sneered that elder fearlessly.

"Don't think that destroying the Great Desolate World makes you a god! The devastation of that world has stirred grievances with other races! When their retribution arrives, it will be on your account! Every life lost in that conflict will bear the weight of your sins!"

Suddenly, Long Chen extended a hand, and dozens of elders cried out in shock as they floated toward him.

"What are you doing?! Are you going to silence people by killing them!?" they shouted.

"Look, Long Chen wants to be a tyrant! All who defy him will be killed! Look at his true-!"

Long Chen pointed a finger, unleashing a gust of wind that pierced that person's head. Just like that, his shout came to an end.

After his head exploded, countless scenes appeared in the air, showing moments of his collusion with the humanless world's lifeforms.

He was tasked with a mission to incite the people in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, inflaming their sentiments against Long Chen and tarnishing his reputation. Simultaneously, he aimed to boost the humanless world's standing, driving more factions to join their side. He was essentially a shill for the humanless world.

Amongst the scenes were ones where he received benefits and kowtowed to the humanless world's experts like a chicken pecking for corn. Seeing the scenes, the onlookers were enraged, deeming this person as one of the worst kinds of people. Quite a few people had been incited by him.

As for the ones captured by Long Chen, they were finally afraid after witnessing the death of their "comrade". Long Chen looked at them and sneered, "You want to bind me with morality? As long as I have no morality, you cannot bind me. I also cannot be bound by reputation, so your play has no effect on me. Did you think that I would hold back in order to make a good name for myself? You're wrong. I act only according to my heart. I do whatever I want."

Another gust of wind pierced an elder's head. Then, Long Chen's Spiritual Strength erupted, and numerous scenes appeared just like before.

Like the previous elder, this one had also obtained many benefits from the other races, helping them carry out their goals. However, this elder was helping the Great Desolate World.

When the Great Desolate World was destroyed, he was terrified, afraid of getting his recompense. He only stood out to protect himself by muddying the waters.

Unfortunately, he just had to encounter Long Chen. Not swayed by public opinion, Long Chen directly killed them and conducted a soulsearch.

These experts were all higher-ups of their own factions. But while their cultivation bases were high, their true power was trash. They had relied on their status to live, only using their higher realms to bully juniors.

As a result, in front of Long Chen, their spiritual defenses were a joke. He directly conducted soulsearches, revealing their true selves.

"Dean Long Chen, don't kill me! We were forced! I have elders to take care of and children to raise...!"

Long Chen snorted and slew the remaining experts at the same time, ignoring their pleading and tears. After that, countless scenes appeared in the air, showing that these people were all traitors.

When Long Chen's sharp gaze swept over the other experts in the crowd, they instantly tensed, cold sweat soaking their clothes.

## **Chapter 4382: Matters of the Main Academy**

Long Chen's gaze was as sharp as a blade as he swept it over the crowd. A few people who had guilty consciences didn't dare to look at him directly.

The execution of those traitors shocked them, especially those who had thought that Long Chen would be swayed by public opinion and unable to do anything to them.

Long Chen coldly said, "I know there are more of you who have been bought by the other races. You're absolutely right. Every person has the right to make their own choices in life, as everyone is pursuing a better life for themselves. However, your freedom to choose cannot be above other people's pain and suffering. Selling out other people's lives as gambling chips for profit; killing people and taking their fortune—did you really think that joining the other races would exempt you from all laws and justice?"

Keep dreaming. Since you've already done what you've done, there's nothing left to say. I'll just warn you that such deeds always exact a bloody price."

Long Chen's words were icy and merciless, akin to a judge's verdict. Hearing this, the traitors among the crowd felt a cold chill.

"You traitors of the human race, just wait for your trials. The High Firmament Academy will create an alliance among the major sects to systematically root out those who betray our kind. Everyone, keep an eye on each other. I believe that the traitors are a minority, and anyone who dares to run will be swiftly beset by attacks from all sides," shouted Long Chen.

Numerous experts applauded upon hearing this announcement. After all, traitors were the most hateful existence in any era. They were arrogant when their backings came in full force, causing harm to their own side by spreading rumors to manipulate public sentiment.

However, some people didn't dare to rashly confront them because they didn't know the future fate of the world. They were wary of acting impulsively, fearing they could become the next target. However, hearing that those traitors would be rooted out and dealt with, some people clapped so loudly that their hands hurt.

Some individuals directly began pointing fingers at some groups, accusing the latter as traitors and dogs of the other races. Some were even ready to unsheathe their blades and take direct action against them.

However, Long Chen had made it clear that these traitors would undergo an investigation and trial, preventing anyone from taking revenge independently. After all, they also feared the potential for false accusations driven by personal grievances.

The accused individuals lowered their heads, not daring to say a word. They directly gave up resisting, kneeling remorsefully.

However, no one pitied them. They had harmed countless people during this period and had never had pity on their targets.

Orders quickly spread throughout the world, and the human race's experts went out in full power to lock down the traitorous sects and families, preventing them from running.

The number of traitors was surprisingly low, and there were maybe only be two or three traitorous factions among a hundred sects. The majority were actually principled, while some factions had merely observed from the sidelines. After all, only a few brainless fellows would join the other side for some tiny benefits without fully understanding the situation.

The traitors found themselves completely isolated. Given their outnumbered status, attempting to flee was nothing short of a fool's dream.

However, dealing with the traitors was a much more arduous process, so Long Chen would not participate in that. He trusted the High Firmament Academy to handle that well.

When the chaos finally settled, Long Chen added, "When it comes to the palace master having mercy, I have a few things to say."

The crowd instantly went silent, wanting to hear Long Chen's opinion.

"Previously, someone said that greater the power, the greater the responsibility. I really dislike this principle. This is purely an attempt to control people through morality. If this was said by the palace master, it would be no problem. However, the flavor changed when other people said it. First of all, the palace master was the one fighting, and so he had the right to kill them or let them go. We have no right to criticize him either way. After all, his power was earned through his own diligence, not granted by us. What right do we have to force him to act according to our will?"

The crowd was silent. No matter what, letting those two terrifying existences still made them extremely unhappy.

"Second of all, the palace master is not part of the human race. You cannot judge him according to our standard. In truth, in the eyes of the prideful dragon race, our human race is no different from those other races. In fact, we might be worse. At the very least, their side was united when it counted, while we..." Long Chen eyed the traitors disdainfully.

Only after Long Chen had said this did they recall that the palace master was no human, and so he had no duty to think of the human race.

Looking at the traitors, every person felt ashamed. Perhaps in the palace master's eyes, the human race was an extremely loathsome existence.

For him to help them was a favor, not duty. Hence, questioning his actions was truly spitting on his kindness. Upon reflection, they had the urge to dig a hole for themselves.

As a result, people's resentment toward the palace master waned, replaced by a deep sense of guilt.

"Dean Long Chen, we were indeed foolish. Please help us apologize to the palace master later," said an elder.

Long Chen shook his head. "There is no need for an apology. I believe the palace master has seen through the situation long ago, which is why he departed without saying much."

However, this response only intensified their feelings of guilt, leaving them at a loss for words.

"It seems that the humanless world will be silent for some time, so everyone can focus on cultivation. We will deal with the traitors. Even if it's just killing the chicken to warn the monkeys, it is still meaningful. Some individuals need to learn the repercussions of their actions and what it means to be a human." After uttering these words, Long Chen departed with his people.

Long Chen had no need to concern himself with the fate of the traitors, as they would undoubtedly be handed over to the High Firmament Academy. Furthermore, their sentencing would not be determined solely by the academy, but by virtuous experts of esteemed reputation chosen by various factions.

Having just fought an intense battle, Long Chen and the others were exhausted. The confrontation with the red-haired monster, in particular, had been extremely taxing, resulting in injuries to their souls. If they didn't rest, these injuries would likely become irreparable wounds.

They returned to the academy with weariness in every step. Their previous excitement had dissipated, crushed under the overwhelming might of the red-haired monster. It had dealt a significant blow to the morale of the Dragonblood Legion.

However, upon their return, they saw someone running out to speak to them.

“Dean Long Chen, we’ve just received word. You must hurry back to the main academy in the Darklight Heaven.”

“Did something happen in the main academy?” Long Chen inquired, a sense of shock evident in his voice.

### **Chapter 4383: Eighteen World Gates**

“Palace master!”

Long Chen quickly rushed to the palace master’s residence and found that the palace master was in the midst of packing, gathering all the things he needed for cultivation. He had practically emptied his room.

Seeing Long Chen, the palace master simply nodded at him. “You’re back. I thought that you would keep wasting time on those senseless idiots. Good, I won’t need to push you. Hurry and gather your stuff. We have to go. You won’t have time to heal from your wounds.”

“What happened? Why are we in such a rush?” Long Chen couldn’t help but ask.

“I’m not sure about the details, but it seems to be related to your generation. I heard that eighteen world gates have opened on that side. Things will get very chaotic soon.”

Long Chen jumped in shock. “Eighteen world gates?!”

Long Chen had never really thought of the main academy ever since leaving the Darklight Heaven. Hence, it never occurred to him that, while the Nirvana Overflow Heaven had two world gates, the Darklight Heaven would have eighteen. Just what kind of chaos was undergoing in the Darklight Heaven?

At the same time, he had a thought. He had gone from the Darklight Heaven, to the Violet Flame Heaven, and then the Nirvana Overflow Heaven; each location grew progressively more powerful. Previously, he hadn’t been able to understand how an unfathomable existence like the High Firmament Academy would have its main academy in the Darklight Heaven instead of the Nirvana Overflow Heaven. However, now he felt like he had grasped something.

Long Chen had assumed that the Nirvana Overflow Heaven was the core of the nine heavens, but it seemed like he had been thinking too simply. Some aspects were not as straightforward as they initially seemed.

“Palace master, if you leave, what about that red-haired monster? If it tries to get revenge in your absence, no one will be able to stop it,” said Long Chen.

“Don’t worry. Both it and the Red Fur Heaven Roarer have lost their heads. It will take them years to recover. Moreover, our departure is a well-kept secret, and even if they were to find out, it wouldn’t make a difference. I’m not the only one in the academy who can take his life,” said the palace master with a slight smile.

Long Chen was taken aback. There were even more formidable experts within the academy, and he had been entirely unaware of their presence?

“Hurry and gather your things. We have to leave. The order came directly from the sweeping elder, so don’t tarry,” ordered the palace master.

From the way the palace master spoke, he felt utmost reverence for the mysterious sweeping elder. Despite his usual cold and indifferent demeanor toward others, he didn’t dare to show the slightest hint of disrespect toward the sweeping elder.

Hearing that everyone here would be fine, Long Chen was at ease. No longer asking questions, he hurried back to gather everyone.

Each Dragonblood warrior had their designated room in the academy, filled with the items essential for their cultivation. Now, these belongings needed to be packed.

Guo Ran and Xia Chen, in particular, possessed the most intricate and numerous treasures. Moreover, they couldn’t let others help them, as it would likely result in chaos. As a result, they were in a frenzied rush to pack their things.

Fortunately, the moment Long Chen received word that something was happening in the main academy, he already told them to prepare. Hence, by the time he came back from the palace master’s residence, everyone had mostly finished packing up.

When the palace master arrived, the Dragonblood Legion had already assembled. As his gaze swept over the Dragonblood warriors, a hint of admiration appeared on his face.

His admiration wasn’t for their efficiency or their uniformity. Rather, it stemmed from the fact that, even after facing an immense life-and-death battle, with weariness hanging on their faces and wounds all over their bodies, all Dragonblood warriors still had sharp glints in their eyes.

Even in a weakened state, their fighting spirit remained unshaken. It was as if the instinct to fight had been etched into the very depths of their souls. As long as they still drew breath, they would never give up fighting.

They followed the palace master down a secret passageway and arrived in the depths of the academy. There was a grand transportation formation on top of the foundation stone.

When everyone stood on top of it, the palace master activated the formation. Following that, the foundation stone slowly lit up. However, even after waiting for a while, no one felt anything. They couldn’t help looking at each other.

“This is a transportation formation for crossing heavens, and it needs some time to activate. At the very least, it will only react two hours from now. Just wait,” said the palace master.

Hearing his words, everyone slowly relaxed their tense nerves. Since the formation wouldn’t activate soon, they started recuperating here.

“Palace master, what does this formation use to transport people across heavens?” asked Xia Chen curiously. He had yet to see any formations capable of crossing heavens like this.

"It uses karmic luck," responded the palace master.

Everyone's hearts shook. The notion of using something as intangible as karmic luck as a form of energy was entirely new to them.

"Palace master, I have a question for you, but don't get angry," said Long Chen suddenly.

The palace master was taken aback by this. "Go ahead."

"Many people claim that you dislike talking, but I don't sense that you're as the rumors describe," Long Chen remarked.

Hearing this sudden question, Bai Shishi glared at Long Chen. How could he randomly joke around with someone as serious as the palace master?

Acting like he didn't notice Bai Shishi's gaze, Long Chen finished his question, enraging her.

The palace master couldn't help but laugh. "Who told you that I don't like talking? Oh, it must have been that fool Bai Zhantang."

Hearing the palace master call Bai Zhantang a fool, Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole were embarrassed, but they didn't dare to retort. After all, their father was the vice palace master, so the palace master was qualified to speak about him like this.

"Talking to that fellow is like playing the zither for a cow. That's why I can't be bothered to speak to him. Perhaps that led him to believe I don't like talking. In truth, I rarely speak because others can't understand me. There's nothing to discuss between a chicken and a duck. However, in all of you, I see a reflection of my younger self and my hot-blooded brothers. It reminds me of the time when we all fought side by side," the palace master sighed.

"Where are your brothers?" asked Guo Ran frankly. As soon as he started asking, Long Chen already had a bad feeling. Nevertheless, this fellow spoke too quickly, and Long Chen couldn't stop him in time.

As expected, a flash of pain appeared in the palace master's eyes. "They're all dead, and I am the only one left. If it weren't for the sweeping elder, I'd have long since joined my brothers as well."

Long Chen had anticipated this outcome the moment Guo Ran spoke. Given the palace master's reclusive nature, it was quite obvious that he had gone through such an experience.

However, what Long Chen hadn't expected was that the sweeping elder had actually saved the palace master. This revelation shed light on the deep reverence the palace master held for the sweeping elder.

This reply made the atmosphere tense back up. Guo Ran felt awkward, hating himself for not considering the implications beforehand.

In an attempt to shift the focus, Long Chen hurriedly changed the subject. "Palace master, was that red-haired monster an Eternal expert, or someone beyond the Eternal realm?"

This question instantly made everyone's ears perk up.

## **Chapter 4384: Three Realms of Eternity**



All the Dragonblood warriors had participated in the battle against the red-haired monster, and before encountering it, they had swept through the Great Desolate World.

During that period, the Dragonblood warriors discovered that the Eternal experts were not invincible, and this shattered the mysterious mask of Eternal experts.

A few dozen ordinary Dragonblood warriors could block the attack of an Eternal expert. If over a hundred people joined forces, they even stood a chance of killing an Eternal expert.

As for the likes of Gu Yang, Li Qi, Song Mingyuan, Yue Zifeng, Guo Ran, and Xia Chen, they could kill Eternal experts one-on-one.

As their captains were capable of killing Eternal experts as soon as they entered the World King realm, the morale of the Dragonblood warriors soared to unprecedented heights. They even got a bit arrogant.

However, the arrival of the red-haired monster directly shattered their arrogance. It turned out there were still undefeatable existences for them within the Eternal realm.

The aura of the red-haired monster had clearly been that of an Eternal expert, but it was monstrously powerful. Ordinary Eternal experts were like ants in front of it.

That was why all the Dragonblood warriors listened closely for the answer to this question. They all wanted to know what kind of existence that monster was.

The palace master sank into thought. "This question of yours is a bit difficult for me to answer. In truth, when it comes to cultivation realms, I don't really understand them. After all, my dragon race's cultivation realms aren't quite the same as those of other races, and I can't explain my experiences to you. Based on the human race's realms, the Eternal realm is split into three levels just like the Divine Venerate realm: there is the Mortal Venerate, the Earth Venerate, and the Heaven Venerate. However, in the Eternal realm, it's a bit more muddled.

"The first realm is simply called the Eternal realm, where the concept of 'eternity' refers solely to the physical body. The physical body forms a resonance with the Heavenly Daos, and as long as someone doesn't damage it, it can theoretically exist for as long as heaven and earth—if heaven and earth remain, the physical body will not decay. Therefore, this 'eternity' refers solely to the body not affected by the power of time. It does not signify an invincible body that cannot be destroyed or killed. If the physical body sustains damage, the 'eternity' is likewise impaired, and the power of time will once more induce decay. In that case, the Eternal expert will merely live longer.

"This first realm of Eternity is typically referred to as the Eternal realm, with one's Eternal energy concentrated in the body. The second realm of Eternity involves using the body as a foundation once it gets strong enough, and the Eternal energy is then squeezed out to ignite the fire of the soul, granting eternal life to the soul. An individual at this stage is known as a Saint."

Hearing that, Long Chen and his companions realized why the red-haired monster kept calling itself a Saint. So it was in the second realm of Eternity.

"The red-haired monster just broke through to the second realm, and all its Eternal energy was squeezed into its soul. That was why it looked like a withered corpse. After all, breaking through to the second realm requires abandoning the first realm. The body's Eternal energy will recover over time after

reaching the second realm, but it was in the midst of that recovery when you interrupted its seclusion. That's why you were able to destroy its head. If its physical body had fully recovered, breaking its head wouldn't have been so easy," explained the palace master.

"So it was all just luck. I'm ashamed," admitted Long Chen, a tinge of fear creeping into him. He hadn't expected to encounter such a terrifying enemy in the humanless world. He had thought that they could easily sweep through it just like in the Great Desolate World.

"It just became a Saint, and its physical body had yet to recover, so it was only able to use the power of its soul. That's why despite being from the devil race, it could use hand seals like the human race and unleash magical arts. However, magical arts are not its forte. Its real strength lies in the devil race's divine abilities. Yet, with its physical body weakened, it was unable to unleash those divine abilities. It could only be considered the weakest of all Saints. Even in its merged state, it was unable to unleash its true potential. Hence, I couldn't be bothered to kill it. In truth, I hoped for it to recover so I could face it in the humanless world. There, it wouldn't be restrained by the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, and we could engage in a fair fight. I would make it pay the price for disrespecting the dragon race. However, the sweeping elder has already sent a message, so I don't dare to tarry. To tell the truth, now I feel a bit regretful for not killing the two of them with a slap. I don't know if I'll ever get a chance to teach them a lesson," sighed the palace master.

Now, he no longer had any of the air a palace master should have. He was just like a big brother complaining about stuff, and that made them feel even closer to him.

They found it comical yet also shocking. Based on what the palace master said, he had the confidence to beat the red-haired monster and the Red Fur Heaven Roarer in their peak state. If that were really the case, then he was truly powerful, so powerful that his power seemed boundless.

"Palace master, are you saying that the red-haired monster was the weakest Saint we could have encountered?" asked Xia Chen.

"I suppose so. After all, it had just depleted the Eternal power of its body to kindle the Eternal fire of its soul. It lacked the time to stabilize its realm and recover its Eternal energy. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been able to flee from the humanless world, and I would have had to go in to save you," said the palace master.

They felt deeply moved to hear that. Clearly, every action Long Chen took had been under the vigilant gaze of the palace master. He had been keeping watch over them the entire time.

"That's why the next time you encounter a Saint, you should run as far as you can. After all, the difference in realm is immense. It's not embarrassing to run," the palace master advised solemnly.

"Once the Eternal fire of the soul is kindled, a Saint possesses tremendous Spiritual Strength. You already witnessed how it could unleash devastating magical arts despite not specializing in them. If its physical body were in prime condition and it could use the devil race's divine abilities that it specializes in, plus its Eternal Spiritual Strength, even all of you together would not be able to stop one attack from it. Furthermore, the most important thing is that a Saint has almost no weak points. Even if their physical body is destroyed, because their soul is Eternal, they can claim another body or just give birth to another one, and they can rapidly return to their peak. There are times when they feel that their body

is too limiting, so they will seize someone else's body. Long Chen, you would be an excellent candidate in their eyes. You have to be careful," warned the palace master.

Long Chen's heart trembled as he heard this warning. No wonder the red-haired monster remained unaffected even after losing its head. It seemed that after becoming a Saint, the physical body no longer possessed any weaknesses.

"Then how do you plan to deal with them?" asked Long Chen.

The palace master shook his head. "I don't know either. In any case, if I wanted to kill a Saint, I would have to use my dark divine abilities. However, while I'm confident in defeating them, killing them is a different thing."

Hearing this, Long Chen hesitated. He wanted to ask about the third realm—the realm above the Saint realm.

However, the formation suddenly lit up, and all conversation ceased as everyone directed their attention toward it. A thick spatial energy then enveloped them, and in an instant, they disappeared.

#### **Chapter 4385: Unbelievable**

Long Chen and the others felt a buzzing sensation in their heads. Following that, they passed out. Unaware of how much time had elapsed, the haze in their consciousness abruptly lifted, and Long Chen was the first to regain consciousness. Gradually, the others also started to wake up one after another. They then looked around blankly. That feeling was truly bizarre.

After everyone woke up, they found that their wounds had recovered by quite a bit. Long Chen couldn't help asking, "Palace master, how long were we asleep?"

"Three days. Due to the urgency, I shortened what should have been half a month's travel time to three days. That's why you passed out. However, if you weren't injured, we could have completed the journey in half a day. Alright, we've arrived at the Darklight Heaven's main academy. Exercise your muscles a bit and throw off your sluggishness," said the palace master.

Everyone hastily stood up. When they tried to move around, they felt like they were submerged in water, their bodies numb. It seemed like the formation's spatial energy had yet to fully dissipate.

After exercising a bit, they recovered, and the palace master led them off.

Before them, an enormous gate slowly opened, and three middle-aged men whom Long Chen had never seen before appeared in front of them.

"Greetings, palace master!" said the three of them as they bowed to the palace master in unison.

To everyone's surprise, these three people wore robes of the Battle God Palace and were all Eternal experts.

Oddly enough, the palace master had just stepped into the Eternal realm because of the opening of the world gates. However, these three men had somehow reached the Eternal realm as well.

The palace master nodded. "Where is the dean?"

“The dean has long since been waiting for you and Dean Long Chen. Please come!” said one of them.

The three of them led the way, and everyone followed them. Guo Ran then stared at the three of them, his eyes widening. After he looked at Long Chen several times, Long Chen finally shot him a glare.

Long Chen had already noticed that these three were also members of the dragon race. However, they belonged to a different branch, not the dark one. Guo Ran, unable to contain his excitement, wanted to communicate with Long Chen through spiritual means. However, with four Eternal experts nearby, Guo Ran's Spiritual Strength would undoubtedly be detected and overheard. Talking about others behind their backs was very rude.

They continued down a passageway and went through three thick stone gates before the surroundings brightened. When Long Chen and the others saw the world before them, they were stunned.

The world before them was desolate, marked by ruins and dilapidated walls scattered all over. A pervasive air of decay lingered here, like poison invading their bodies, making them feel extremely uncomfortable.

The Dragonblood warriors couldn't help but shiver. The environment here felt extremely eerie.

“You're injured, so this rot poison will make your injuries worse. But don't worry, it's not fatal. Before the gates opened, this was another path to reach Eternity. While challenging, it's not worse than the conventional path,” explained the palace master.

“Using decay to stimulate Eternity?” inquired Long Chen, clearly astonished.

This single statement immediately impressed the three middle-aged men. Expressing astonishment in their eyes, one of them praised Long Chen. “No wonder you could become a branch dean of the High Firmament Academy at such a young age. Your comprehension is truly admirable. I apologize for our previous rudeness, Dean Long Chen.”

The three of them cupped their fists toward Long Chen. The supreme existence at the top of the Battle God Palace was obviously the palace master, and the three of them were his disciples. However, every single one of them had their own temperaments and pride.

As Eternal experts, they naturally didn't regard a mere World King like Long Chen highly. Although they had heard of his name, they still felt like he had achieved his current position thanks to luck.

That was why when the three of them greeted them all, they only bowed to the palace master without looking at Long Chen.

That wasn't to say that they were looking down on Long Chen. It was simply the principle of the Battle God Palace—that power commanded respect. To earn their respect, one had to have something worthy of respect, and the status of dean alone was far from enough.

They had endured hundreds of years of suffering to understand this principle—using the power of decay to catalyze the physical body's generation of Eternal power.

However, Long Chen had not even reached that height and was unable to touch such a thing. Yet, in such a short time here, he already grasped the essence of this place, shocking the three of them. They instantly understood that they had underestimated him and apologized for their previous rudeness.

Long Chen hastily cupped his fists back at them. He could also see that the three of them were extremely prideful, but they were qualified to be proud. Anyway, Long Chen never felt anger over other people's disdain.

After all, those with strong hearts were indifferent to others' opinions, and only those with fragile hearts constantly sought praise and admiration. If they were looked down upon, they wouldn't be able to find a sense of existence, leading to feelings of anger.

"You've been in the academy for too long. Your bodies are rusty, and even your senses have grown dull. Dean Long Chen's power is not below yours. If you have the chance, you should exchange some pointers with him," said the palace master.

The three of them were completely shocked by this, staring at Long Chen in disbelief. They knew the palace master wouldn't joke with them, but they were truly unable to believe that Long Chen had the power to fight them.

The palace master then turned to Long Chen. "The three of them are experts of our dragon race. Just like you, they've had rough lives. They survived by slaughtering their way out of a mountain of corpses and seas of blood. They are true experts, but life in the High Firmament Academy is too peaceful. As a result, their spiritual perception has regressed, so they were deceived by your appearance and can't see through your depth. However, their instincts aren't completely gone. They're simply in slumber. After a few battles, once they see blood, their instincts will awaken. When that time comes, hehe..."

The palace master chuckled and didn't say more. It seemed that he was truly a battle-crazed person, always feeling an intense thirst for battle.

The three of them were taken aback to witness the palace master's rare enthusiasm toward someone. He was clearly viewing Long Chen favorably. In all their years following the palace master, they had never seen him talk so much to others.

"Dean Long Chen, we really misjudged. If we have the chance, we will be happy to experience your pointers. Please don't mind our previous rudeness." One of them looked at Long Chen with newfound respect, but along with that respect was a burning fighting spirit. Clearly, everyone in the Battle God Palace was battle-crazed, just like the palace master.

However, Long Chen didn't want to exchange pointers with anyone. To tell the truth, he disliked doing such a thing, fighting like it was touch sparring. That was against his instincts. If one were to just constantly exchange blows like this, their battle instincts would regress.

Long Chen was not one to make a move lightly, but once he did, it was a battle to the death. The goal of fighting was not to defeat the other side, but to kill them in the simplest and most efficient manner.

Long Chen was about to politely decline when he saw a broken-down palace up ahead. When they passed through the gates, he saw hundreds of people waiting for them.

Seeing those people, even Long Chen couldn't help gasping.

"Unbelievable!"

**Chapter 4386: Not Speaking Reason, Only Talking With Fists**

Long Chen and the others were taken aback to find that all these hundreds of people were Eternal experts, and despite their middle-aged appearance, they were still in the prime of their lives.

They were different from the Great Desolate World and humanless world's Eternal experts, who were already old fellows with regressed Blood Qi. In contrast, the Blood Qi of these experts remained vibrant and robust.

When Long Chen and the others walked over, a powerful Blood Qi crashed down on them. Had they never fought against Eternal experts, the intensity of this pressure would have paralyzed them.

Long Chen couldn't fathom when the High Firmament Academy had acquired such a formidable force. The sheer number of Eternal experts left him utterly astonished.

It had to be known that when Long Chen first arrived in the academy, their strongest expert was Dean Bai Letian, and he was supposedly only an Immortal King.

At that moment, Long Chen couldn't help but wonder how the academy had declined to a state where even minor powers dared to provoke them, and yet no powerful experts dared to come and wipe them out.

Now, he grasped the truth. The real powerful forces were well aware of how terrifying the High Firmament Academy was, and they couldn't be bothered to warn the suicidal fellows who went to provoke them. Instead, they observed with a sense of satisfaction as these reckless challengers faced the consequences of their actions.

"Dean Long Chen, it's been a long time, and your cultivation base only continues to soar. Admirable!"

Long Chen was still shocked by what he saw, momentarily forgetting his manners. Bai Letian, noticing Long Chen's astonishment, was the first to break the silence with a hearty laugh and a warm greeting.

"Greetings, Dean! Greetings, Seniors. This little one was so shocked by your powerful and heroic appearance that I forgot how to speak. Please forgive my lack of manners," Long Chen expressed with a smile.

Hearing Long Chen's genuine praise, these solemn experts cracked a slight smile, and the tense atmosphere diminished.

These people were all Eternal experts, while Long Chen was merely a World King. However, according to common etiquette, all of these experts needed to greet Long Chen as if he was their superior. After all, Long Chen's status as a dean was special.

However, Long Chen chose to address himself as the junior instead, speaking humbly and respectfully. He even flattered them and made them feel fond of him.

All these Eternal experts had crossed paths with countless heavenly geniuses, yet never before had they witnessed someone with such extraordinary power and prestige effortlessly maintaining a low-key presence.

While some heavenly geniuses did treat them respectfully, the arrogance in their eyes could not be concealed. Those geniuses didn't know just how high the heavens were.

On the other hand, Long Chen was neither servile nor overbearing, devoid of arrogance or greed. He did not radiate any sense of superiority, yet no one dared to underestimate him. Rather, it left an impression that he possessed genuine internal strength, leaving people unconsciously drawn to him and feeling a fondness for his presence.

“Everyone, sit. No need to stand on courtesy.”

Bai Letian waved his hand, indicating for everyone to sit. Although the palace was broken down, there was ample space, so even with over five thousand Dragonblood warriors present, it didn’t feel packed.

Bai Letian’s gaze swept over Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole, and he was happy to see that they had gotten stronger. Bai Xiaole, in particular, finally had a light in his eyes—a confidence that only the strong had. Bai Xiaole had finally grown up.

Bai Letian wanted to praise them a bit, but this wasn’t the place to do so, so he held back. At this moment, the palace master sat down beside Bai Letian, and the latter asked, “Palace master, how is the situation in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven?”

The Darklight Heaven and the Nirvana Overflow Heaven were practically different worlds, so information traveled very slowly between them. The most recent news they had gotten here was about Long Chen and the others undergoing tribulation.

“The Great Desolate World has been decimated by Long Chen and the Dragonblood Legion, while the humanless world has suffered extensive destruction. They can no longer recover from this blow,” revealed the palace master.

These experts couldn’t help but be stirred by this revelation. A newfound respect shone in their eyes as they looked at Long Chen and the others.

An Eternal expert said, “Dean Long Chen truly is amazing. Those two worlds had quite a few Eternal experts. It’s no surprise that you have such severe internal wounds after fighting them.”

These experts could see that Long Chen and the others were still fatigued from their recent battle. Their spiritual fluctuations were not entirely stable, and it was evident that their injuries were far from minor.

“You’re wrong.” The palace master shook his head. “Those Eternal experts were unable to harm them.”

“Oh? The injuries weren’t caused by Eternal experts?”

“When they destroyed the Great Desolate World, everything went smoothly. However, when they attacked the humanless world, they got so unlucky and actually encountered a fellow who had just become a Saint,” said the palace master.

“A Saint?!”

Those Eternal experts jumped in shock, and even Bai Letian was startled.

“Isn’t the Nirvana Overflow Heaven a dead-end? The primal chaos qi cannot cycle there, so how can it produce a Saint?” asked an Eternal expert.

“That fellow is from the red devil race,” said the palace master.

Hearing that, these experts nodded in comprehension. They all knew of the red devil race's innate divine ability.

The palace master then told them how Long Chen and the others had fought the red-haired monster. When they heard that the Dragonblood Legion's combined might was capable of blocking the attack of a Saint, they were filled with complete disbelief.

Furthermore, when they learned that Long Chen managed to destroy that Saint's head, their expressions lit up with genuine amazement. If they weren't acutely aware that the palace master was not the kind of person to exaggerate, they would have assumed that he was just telling a story.

When they looked at Long Chen again, it was like they were looking at a monster. Their gazes were completely different from before.

"It was just luck," said Long Chen with a smile.

The palace master also told about how Long Chen had dealt with the traitors of the human race. Following that, these experts nodded, feeling like Long Chen had done quite well.

Bai Letian smiled. "Dean Long Chen has always acted with humility and etiquette. It's rarely seen in the junior generation. However, humility has to be reserved for the right people. This time, we urgently asked Dean Long Chen to return because we want a powerful spokesperson. Throughout the entire High Firmament Academy and the Battle God Palace, we cannot find anyone more suitable than Dean Long Chen, so we hope that Dean Long Chen can put aside that humble attitude and be a bit more arrogant when facing those from outside the academy. You can be a bit more unreasonable, a bit more domineering..."

Long Chen and the others were stunned, especially the Dragonblood warriors. They felt that their boss was already quite domineering. How was he supposed to be even more domineering?

The experts beside the palace master already wanted to speak several times and finally couldn't help but interrupt, "Dean, I'm sorry for interrupting you, but may I speak?"

"Alright. We'll leave it to the vice lightning palace master," said Bai Letian, not minding the interruption.

The vice lightning palace master looked at Long Chen. "I will explain it simply. Previously, we talked reason to others. However, starting now, we're no longer talking reason. We don't have time to do so. In the future, we'll be talking with our fists."

Long Chen was still dumbfounded, not understanding what they meant.

At this moment, a large mirror appeared inside the palace, projecting a scene that left Long Chen and the others momentarily stunned. The sight was so intense that it felt like flames were about to erupt from their heads.

## **Chapter 4387: Ghost Bat Race**

From the projection, they saw an ancient city bustling with activity. It was a prosperous and lively place.



However, what caused flames of fury to explode out of Long Chen and the others was the horrifying sight of countless humans being treated like livestock—neck collared, bodies chained. Some were forced to pull carriages, while others were led through the streets like dogs. Cages lined the streets, containing young men and women who were being shamefully sold in public.

The humans were enslaved, turned into beasts of burden. At this moment, killing intent glinted in Long Chen's eyes. Such degradation was the ultimate form of humiliation against the human race.

"Where is this?" demanded Long Chen darkly.

"This is the Yuyang World, one of the worlds that opened to the Darklight Heaven this time," explained one of the Eternal experts.

"To dare to humiliate the human race like this, they really go too far. Once we recover, we'll go see them," said Guo Ran, unable to watch this scene.

"Humiliate the human race? No, they asked for this humiliation, so they can't blame others," replied that Eternal expert.

"What?"

The Eternal expert continued, "They asked for this as no one forced them to enter the Yuyang World. They went in willingly."

"How can that be?" exclaimed Bai Shishi with disbelief.

"It truly is the case. The Yuyang World's primal chaos qi is extremely dense, and the Heavenly Daos there are also very suitable for the human race's cultivation. With their unique laws, cultivating in the Yuyang World not only accelerates your cultivation speed but also enhances your understanding of the Heavenly Daos. Thus, countless human experts flocked toward it. However, the Yuyang World has its own natives. The majority of them have powerful bloodlines and are not willing to give up their territories. While they don't harbor animosity toward the human race, neither do they harbor much favor. Perhaps there is a slight contempt. So, to enter the Yuyang World to cultivate, many humans willingly become slaves, selling both their bodies and souls. So what can you do about such a thing? Save them?"

"How can this be?"

Guo Ran and the others clenched their teeth, not knowing where to vent their anger. At first, they had thought that these people were forcibly enslaved. However, they actually did it willingly?!

"There's more."

The vice lightning palace master shifted the image. Now, numerous humans were prostrating themselves toward a strange totem. Following that, they sent a drop of their own blood toward the totem.

In an instant, their bodies lit up, and their auras climbed crazily. Every single one of them broke through one realm after another, their excited cries echoing in the air.

“As expected, all you need to do is worship *god*, and you can raise your realm!” said one of those people.

Guo Ran and the others were shocked by what they saw. Was there such a cultivation method? It was impossible.

However, these scenes were recorded with photographic jades; they couldn’t be faked. Those people had truly had sudden breakthroughs.

Even Long Chen was dumbfounded by what he saw. If that was true, what was the point of bitterly cultivating? Everyone could just go worship a god.

However, Long Chen could understand their excitement at making such a breakthrough. Anyone would be excited by such a miracle.

Following that, the scene changed. Those people and the totem were gone, replaced by a desolate wasteland littered with dried-up corpses.

Looking at their robes, Long Chen knew that the corpses were the disciples who had just been shouting excitedly upon their breakthroughs. This scene further stunned people. Just what was going on?

“As expected. After forcibly raising their realm, they exhausted their potential. Then, all their power is reabsorbed by the totem, including their cultivation base and lives.” Long Chen’s gaze instantly turned cold.

“The scammers are extremely crafty. What you saw before was the images they spread publicly in order to draw people over. They’re inviting people to try it free of charge, saying that using the power of their god can help people advance. In truth, after one try, they can’t stop. Their souls are already controlled by an invisible power that roots itself deeper and deeper in them until it consumes their entire existence. Countless people have fallen for it. We gathered the gruesome scene afterward and publicly released it, but some people still believe in that god instead of us,” said the vice lightning palace master helplessly.

“Hmm, sacrifice a drop of essence blood and people advance... And then withered corpses and a totem? Wait a moment, senior, can you replay the first scene? I want to look at the totem.” Long Chen suddenly thought of something.

The vice lightning palace master replayed the first scene for him. Guo Ran and the others all stared at the totem closely, but they didn’t notice anything in particular.

The totem was extremely complex, and they couldn’t find any familiar pattern. They could vaguely see a mark of the sun and moon on it, but that was it.

Seeing Long Chen staring at it so intently, the senior experts also looked at it curiously. However, it was too indistinct for them to see anything.

“We’ve looked at it many times. This totem pole’s sketches are to trick others, drawing them into a trap. We are investigating, and we still can’t find its origins...”

“It’s the primal chaos era’s Ghost Bat. That sun and moon are its eyes,” said Long Chen suddenly, his voice extremely firm.

Hearing that, quite a few Eternal experts were stunned. “Dean Long Chen, are you sure? The Ghost Bat race went through several hunts to extinction in the primal chaos era! They should no longer exist.”

Guo Ran and the others were unaware of this existence, but those Eternal experts had been around for a long time and knew many secrets. However, even they were stunned to hear of the Ghost Bat now.

“Pretty sure,” said Long Chen.

Pretty sure? That was essentially set in stone if it was said by Long Chen. If he didn’t feel confident, he wouldn’t say such a thing with such a tone.

“If it really is the revival of the Ghost Bat race, the world is going to be thrown into chaos. A tribulation is about to come.” Even the vice lightning palace master’s expression changed.

Guo Ran and the others were still befuddled. Having never heard of the Ghost Bat race, they didn’t know why everyone was treating them so seriously.

“Is the Ghost Bat race really so amazing?” asked Bai Xiaole.

Bai Letian solemnly said, “Describing them as *amazing* isn't accurate; *terrifying* is the appropriate term. If what Dean Long Chen states is true, the resurgence of the Ghost Bat race poses a genuine threat to all humans. While we can't be certain, we must brace ourselves for the worst-case scenario. Dispatch people to monitor them immediately. We need to eliminate them swiftly before they have a chance to grow.”

The atmosphere grew heavy after the matter of the Ghost Bat race was brought up. Everyone was silent for a moment before the vice lightning palace master continued, “The matter of the Ghost Bat race can be set aside for now. We will handle it. Dean Long Chen, we have an even more crucial mission for you.”

## **Chapter 4388: Who is the King of this World**

“Senior, please speak.”

Long Chen knew that the academy had to have an important mission for him if they had called him back so urgently.

“Time is of the essence, so I will have to be rude,” declared the vice lightning palace master as he stuck out a finger.

Long Chen instantly understood. The vice lightning palace master intended to convey information to him through Spiritual Strength. Given the volume of information, using photographic jades would be time-consuming.

However, such a method of information transmission might come across as excessively rude. If Long Chen were an ordinary disciple, the vice lightning palace master wouldn't hesitate, but considering Long Chen's position as the dean of a branch academy, a figure of notable status, such an approach seemed inappropriate. So the vice lightning palace master had to ask for permission first.

Long Chen nodded and walked closer, letting the other party’s finger press against his forehead. A wave of information then poured into his mind.

This was all the important affairs that had occurred after the eighteen world gates to the Darklight Heaven opened. It included the strength of those races, as well as their attitudes toward the human race.

Of the eighteen worlds, seventeen were hostile toward the human race, and their relationship was like fire and water. Only the Yuyang World showed no particular hostility toward the human race. Instead, it was simple contempt.

It could be said that there wasn't the slightest bit of friendship between the eighteen worlds and the human race. Other than the Yuyang World, the other worlds were just like the Great Desolate World and the humanless world.

However, there was a major difference here. Each of these eighteen worlds surpassed the humanless world and the Great Desolate World in size. It was rumored that these eighteen worlds were connected to an outer realm, and the primal chaos qi originated from that outer realm, resulting in all eighteen worlds having even stronger experts.

What shocked Long Chen the most was the revelation that each of the eighteen worlds housed not just one, but multiple Saints.

Furthermore, these Saints were in a league of their own, incomparable to the red-haired monster. They were true Saints who had achieved that realm countless years ago—true overlords.

Nevertheless, these formidable Saints would not casually leave their respective worlds. Thus, as long as people didn't enter their worlds, there was no need to worry about encountering them.

The opening of the eighteen worlds threw the Darklight Heaven into chaos. Given that the human race here was comparatively weaker than that in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, as soon as the gates opened, countless humans eagerly threw themselves into the other side. Their zealous enthusiasm resembled a fear that others might seize their spots if they were too late.

These traitors had even offered the invaders to take over their entire family and sect as a token of their sincerity.

In the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, thanks to Long Chen, the majority of humans retained their rationality, and only a minuscule fraction betrayed the human race.

However, the Darklight Heaven was different. The minute the gates opened, humans rushed into them, pleading to become subordinates to seek superior cultivation environments and resources. They were prepared to sacrifice anything for their desires.

Right from the start, numerous humans willingly aligned themselves with the other races, and astonishingly, they were prepared to go to any lengths to achieve this, displaying no trace of embarrassment.

The current Darklight Heaven was filled with humans willing to sell themselves into slavery, and they even looked down on others for not selling themselves. Strangely, once enslaved, they felt superior to other humans.

That was not all. Hearing about the environment in those eighteen worlds, experts from other heavens even started to take the risk of crossing heavens just to come to the Darklight Heaven. They were willing to bankrupt themselves or become bandits just to get enough money to come over.

The price for boats that could cross heavens was already extremely high, but due to the demand, the price soared to extremes, yet that didn't slow down the people wanting to come over.

In any case, the Darklight Heaven was now in complete chaos. Stepping out of the academy, one would encounter countless lifeforms previously unseen, and they would be running around rampantly as if they were strolling in their own backyard.

For the human race, getting into the other worlds was as difficult as ascending the heavens. Without powerful guarantees, they needed to have a spiritual seal placed on them, effectively turning them into slaves.

Even so, a line of experts formed, wanting to get into those worlds. Becoming slaves was a price they were willing to pay and even risk their lives for.

When Long Chen first saw those people being treated as livestock, he was enraged. However, that fury had now been doused with a bucket of ice-cold water. This chill was nearly sufficient to induce despair. Long Chen found himself unable to pinpoint a target for his anger. Looking at these people being taken advantage of, Long Chen could only feel pity, not anger.

"Dean Long Chen, this is the current situation of the Darklight Heaven—a pinnacle of chaos. However, these fellows are cunning, unlike the fools of the humanless world and the Great Desolate World. They are intentionally sowing discord among us, and it won't be long before they start using these people to probe the High Firmament Academy. Morale is a problem. The cultivation world has always revered strength, but the human race's experts are entirely overshadowed by the elites of those worlds, and this only encourages their overbearing attitudes. The heavenly geniuses of those worlds are setting up forces within the Darklight Heaven, gathering followers amongst the human race. Quite a few of our geniuses have submitted to idolizing the strong or pursuing resources, aligning themselves with their cause. It's only a matter of time before all human experts, except for Lord Brahma's followers, become their slaves," conveyed the vice lightning palace master.

"Lord Brahma's followers are exempt? The experts of those worlds don't dare to touch Lord Brahma's followers?" Long Chen's heart shook.

"Correct. Lord Brahma's followers ignore them, and they ignore Lord Brahma's followers in turn. Once, some followers of Lord Brahma whose faith wasn't strong enough decided to join the other worlds' forces. As a result, those forces directly killed them for the betrayal."

Long Chen sneered, "Interesting. The Sage King Convention was entirely a huge trap. Lord Brahma manipulated us to open the gates to those worlds, and now their experts won't touch Lord Brahma. They can't even be bothered to maintain a facade!"

Hearing this, the Eternal experts here fell silent. They were also aware of the schemes, but such matters were not to be spoken of casually. It was preferable for the younger generation not to bear the weight of such knowledge, as they didn't want these youngsters to be under too much pressure.

"Vice lightning palace master, why don't you tell me what I have to do?" Long Chen stated, taking a deep breath and suppressing his anger.

"It's very simple. Once you've finished recuperating, take a walk and tell them who the real king of this world is!"

## **Chapter 4389: World King Pill**

The Dragonblood Legion then departed, leaving behind Bai Letian, the palace master, and hundreds of Eternal experts in the palace.

"Dean, I feel like Long Chen knows too much. This much pressure is not a good thing for him," remarked an Eternal expert.

"Yes, they're practically children. That is the time when they should be carefree. Yet, whether it is Long Chen or the Dragonblood warriors, they all mature too fast. They all have a level of maturity and responsibility unbecoming of their age," sighed another Eternal expert.

The Dean shook his head. "There is no way around it. They grew up in the midst of hardship, so whether it was Long Chen or the Dragonblood warriors, they could only walk through the thorny path of cultivation themselves. Every step came with life and death hanging in the balance. In comparison, Shishi and Xiaole are like children who haven't faced such hardships. That's the difference. If no one shelters the children with an umbrella, they must brave the rain themselves. If they can make it through, they survive. If not, they perish. That's just the cruelty of cultivation."

When it came to Long Chen's experiences, Bai Letian understood more than anyone present. Behind Long Chen's power lay an inconceivable amount of pain and torment. People only saw his radiance, not the mountains of hardships behind him.

One of the experts said, "That is why I am worried about Dean Long Chen. What if he cannot achieve the result we want? We're not lacking arrogant people, but their power often falls short of their arrogance. Dean Long Chen is undoubtedly powerful, but he's too mature. It seems he has transcended the age of arrogance. I don't know if he-

"Our human race is grappling with a crisis of confidence. People's hearts are in disorder. If we fail to produce a hero, the human race will crumble. The various worlds are closely monitoring our High Firmament Academy, and even Lord Brahma is in hiding. The High Firmament Academy can remain silent no longer. Within danger, there is opportunity. Many factions are secretly accumulating power, knowing that the first target of those worlds will be the High Firmament Academy. As long as we stand firm, they don't have to worry and can peacefully develop. However, we don't have the luxury to do so. We must counterattack to take back the initiative. The reason so many of us gathered here today was to give Dean Long Chen confidence. We don't want him worrying about the consequences right now as he has to run rampant. However, I really don't understand the look in his eyes when he left. I don't know if he will be able to fight freely," said the vice lightning palace master.

"All of you are worrying for nothing."

Suddenly, the palace master spoke, and everyone turned to him.

“You all don’t understand him. Long Chen actually doesn’t like to use his head. He prefers to rely on simple force. It’s only when his power falls short that he has to employ his intellect, analyzing the situation to achieve the maximum gain at the minimal cost. Long Chen has always been fighting against adversity, so he had no choice but to be meticulous, or he’d have long since died. Now, with our support, he is more clear-minded than anyone about what he needs to do. You’re worrying that he won’t cause enough trouble? Hehe... I’m worried that he’ll cause so much trouble that we won’t be able to handle it.”

“What?”

Those Eternal experts looked at each other, and the entire palace fell silent.

...

Three days later, Long Chen was the first to come out of seclusion. Despite sustaining the most severe injuries, his wounds healed rapidly. The abundant life energy within the primal chaos space healed his injuries well.

In his opinion, the reason he needed three days to recover was because of the Saint’s power lingering in his wounds.

Had it not been for the red-haired man, the wounds inflicted by the Eternal experts wouldn’t have taken this long to heal.

However, this realization also served as a warning for Long Chen. In the future, he couldn’t afford to be careless when facing Saints. A single misstep, and the consequences could be fatal.

With Long Chen’s power restored, his realm also advanced to the first Heavenstage of the World King realm, a progress attributed to the consecutive intense battles that had triggered his instincts.

“It’s too bad that I’ve been too busy to make medicinal pills. With their help, I could have reached the third Heavenstage by now, maybe even the fourth Heavenstage,” grumbled Long Chen.

Long Chen had consumed an unimaginable number of medicinal pills in his lifetime. Over time, Long Chen had formed a gradual resistance to the effects of medicinal pills, and the best way to trigger this effect now was the stimulation of a life-and-death battle. Unfortunately, he had missed this chance.

Long Chen felt helpless about it himself. Refining pills didn’t require him to pay attention as he could just let Huo Linger and the Earth Cauldron do it. However, doing so for a prolonged time would affect her condition, and Long Chen couldn’t afford this during a big battle. As one of Long Chen’s strongest trump cards, Huo Linger had to remain in her peak condition at all times to guard against any unexpected dangers.

While the pills were important, the battle against the Great Desolate World and the humanless world was even more crucial. Thus, during that period, Huo Linger wasn’t refining anything.

So, the first thing Long Chen did after coming out of seclusion was to enter the primal chaos space and refine World King Pills with Huo Linger.

At this moment, the Earth Cauldron quivered, and its runes lit up. Long Chen sighed, "When I wanted your help during a fight, you pretended to be asleep. But when it comes to refining pills, you're quite awake."

The Earth Cauldron's runes were selective in assisting Long Chen, offering their aid only when he was engaged in refining pills. It seemed that the act of refining pills was the only occasion when it willingly cooperated with Long Chen and engaged in communication.

"Heavenly World Grass."

"Ten Thousand Tribulation Root."

"Three Flower Fruit."

"Fantasy Water Lily."

"Ah, that's right, the Fantasy Water Lily can be replaced with the Devil Eye Water Lily for even greater effect."

As Long Chen gathered the medicinal ingredients, he suddenly recalled that one of the main ingredients could be replaced by a seventh-tier Devil Eye Water Lily. The seventh-tier Devil Eye Water Lily held an equivalent cultivation level to the Heaven Venerate realm.

Speaking of this, Long Chen was reminded of Lian Wuying. She had transformed into a *seed* after their confrontation on the Sage King martial stage, and Long Chen had tossed that *seed* into the primal chaos space.

He had forgotten about that matter. When Long Chen advanced to the World King realm, the primal chaos space instantly grew once more, causing the three thousand Fusang Trees and Moon Trees to move autonomously and claim their own territories.

However, they all maintained a set distance from each other as if forming some kind of formation.

As for the place where he had planted the *seed*, it was occupied by a Fusang Tree. The lily pool was now gone.

Long Chen started to search for them. In a shadowy corner of the primal chaos world, he found a black pool.

This pool had tens of thousands of devil lilies. They were enormous, but in front of the Fusang Trees, they appeared unremarkable. Without specifically looking for them, he wouldn't have known where they had run off.

"Damn, so they have all reached the seventh tier. Good, good. I'll refine some supreme World King Pills with them."

Long Chen was delighted to find them and immediately gathered them for alchemy.

## **Chapter 4390: Once More Seeing Little Crane**



This time, Long Chen refined pills in the outside world. When the Pill Flame rose, the Earth Cauldron's aura circulated, and it absorbed the primal chaos qi crazily.

Long Chen was completely focused. It was his first time refining pills in this kind of environment. He had to observe how primal chaos qi affected the refinement.

After all, the Pill Sovereign memories might contain countless pill formulas, but that was far from enough for refining pills. After all, the intensity of the flame had to be adjusted based on the changes in the outside world.

Other than that, Long Chen needed the fastest speed, so he was searching for the most optimal refining method to teach Huo Linger.

Long Chen quickly realized that he had overthought it. The Earth Cauldron's runes flowed and started refining on their own, causing Long Chen to frown several times. The Earth Cauldron was refining on its own, but...

"What are you doing? This is wrong!" Long Chen tried to change the flame several times but was interrupted by the Earth Cauldron.

"Big Brother Long Chen, the Earth Cauldron wants us to refine the pills according to its own method," said Huo Linger suddenly.

"You can communicate with it?"

"I can grasp some simple emotions."

"Fine then."

Long Chen let it be. The Earth Cauldron refined the pill on its own, and he had no way to intervene. However, he knew that this refinement would likely end in failure.

The Earth Cauldron quivered. After that, the lid opened, and nine pills flew out. They were all middle-grade World King Pills. For an ordinary alchemist, if they managed to refine nine middle-grade pills on their first attempt with a new pill formula, they would definitely be overjoyed.

However, this was unacceptable for Long Chen. How could he eat this kind of medicinal pills? Let alone middle-grade pills, even high-grade pills had almost no effect considering his resistance to medicinal pills.

"I told you that this wouldn't work..."

Long Chen finally voiced his discontent, but he shut his mouth halfway through. Quite a bit of rust now fell from the Earth Cauldron.

Long Chen came to a sudden realization. The Earth Cauldron's goal was not to get him pills that he could consume; it was to help itself.

"Fine, I understand. You can keep going!"

Long Chen didn't force it. He had Huo Linger and the Earth Cauldron continue refining like this to help the Earth Cauldron recover.

If the Earth Cauldron could recover a bit of its power, it would be able to help Long Chen immensely. Hence, he departed alone, leaving behind enough medicinal ingredients for them.

In any case, the Earth Cauldron had his spiritual seal on it, so it could just find him later. There was even less that needed to be said about Huo Linger. As long as they were near each other, their souls were linked.

The Earth Cauldron was absorbing a huge amount of primal chaos qi during its refinement. While the primal chaos space had an immense amount of primal chaos qi derived from the corpses and primal chaos spirit stones, these resources were limited. On the other hand, the primal chaos qi of heaven and earth was limitless and free. Naturally, Long Chen wouldn't waste the primal chaos qi within the primal chaos space.

Long Chen then went to the main High Firmament Academy. The place he had just been in was actually the realm of the Battle God Palace—a secret world at the back of the academy.

The Battle God Palace's location was a closely guarded secret of the High Firmament Academy, and only a select few within the academy were privy to this information. After all, the Battle God Palace was their secret weapon.

Long Chen had to go through two transportation formations after leaving the world of the Battle God Palace to secretly return to the academy.

When the Elders guarding this place saw Long Chen, they jumped in shock, unable to believe their eyes. Clearly, the likes of them were not informed that Long Chen had returned to the Darklight Heaven.

“Greetings, Dean Long Chen!”

Those four Elders hastily bowed to Long Chen after recovering from their shock.

“Elders, I just got back. It is a secret of the academy, so help me keep this secret,” said Long Chen.

“Don't worry, we understand!” said the four of them.

Long Chen departed. After that, to make it more convenient to get around, he created a mask for himself.

Created using the runes of his violet blood, this mask was capable of changing his form, rendering people incapable of discerning his true appearance or aura.

Once he finished preparing, his Kunpeng wings unfurled on his back, and he soared into the sky like a shooting star. Upon reaching a tranquil, dense forest, he slowed down. He looked around for a long time but didn't see what he was looking for.

“Big Brother Long Chen, are you looking for me?”

At this moment, a melodic voice filled with delight echoed, and auspicious clouds filled the sky. A graceful crane glided toward Long Chen, radiating with rainbow light.

In an instant, this serene forest became covered in auspicious light, akin to a wonderland.

“Little Crane, you’re not sleeping!” Long Chen was pleasantly surprised. He had only come to test his luck.

For some reason, upon returning, he felt an urgent desire to see Little Crane. Perhaps in his heart, he already viewed her as his little sister. Come to think of it, he and Long Xiaoyu hadn’t seen each other for a while, and Xiaoyu was a little girl just like Little Crane.

In fact, Long Chen felt a wave of emotion swell within him now. He knew that after so many years had passed, his little sister had grown up. But in his memory, Long Xiaoyu was still that little girl.

“Big Brother Long Chen!”

Little Crane flew over to Long Chen and transformed into a girl before throwing herself into his embrace, her large eyes full of delight.

“Big Brother Long Chen, you really are the best! I was dreaming of you coming back, and then I sensed your aura! The dream wasn’t lying to me! You really did come to find me!”

Little Crane’s black and white eyes seemed to be the purest, most beautiful gemstones in the world. Gazing into them seemed to cleanse a person’s soul, causing them to forget all the pain and suffering in the world.

“Your big brother has always been thinking of you. The world is in chaos, and I was worried that you would be bullied by bad people, so I’m relieved to see you well,” said Long Chen.

Long Chen was always worried about this little girl. While he knew that the rainbow crane race was an auspicious beast of the Heavenly Daos, the world was in chaos now. Perhaps they had been protected by the very Heavenly Daos before, but even the very heavens had changed. All kinds of monsters were running rampant, and no one could be unrivaled forever.

“Big Brother Long Chen, you really are the best, hehe!” Little Crane looked at Long Chen happily. “That’s right, big brother, bring me out to play! I’ve always wanted to see the outside world.”

“The outside world is full of bad people. Are you not afraid of them?” asked Long Chen.

“I’m not afraid! I know you will protect me!” declared Little Crane.

“That’s true. However, I need to kill people from time to time. I don’t want your pure eyes to be stained by slaughter,” said Long Chen sadly. He didn’t want Little Crane to see the cruelty of this world.

“My mom told me that the rainbow crane race has its own mission, and she has agreed to let me see the outside world,” said Little Crane.

Looking at her pure face, Long Chen knew that she wasn’t lying. “Alright, then I will bring you out to play for a few days.”

Long Chen laughed. Carrying Little Crane on his back, he flew off with his Kunpeng wings. With Little Crane’s tinkling laughter in his ears, he smiled.

“Boss Long San is back! People of the Darklight Heaven, quiver in fear!”