

Chapter 4421: Sacred Light Pistil

The Earth Cauldron now exuded spiritual fluctuations that Long Chen could sense. Although it was very faint, the vast might contained within it made Long Chen's soul quiver.

In front of this tiniest bit of spiritual pressure, Long Chen felt absolutely tiny. He didn't even feel like this when he fought against Saints.

The Earth Cauldron returned to Long Chen's spiritual space. This time, Long Chen wasn't putting it in; rather, it was simply coming in by itself. Now, it could freely enter and leave his spiritual space.

"Thank you for what you've done for me. You will get the return on your investment." Unexpectedly, the Earth Cauldron spoke to him.

Its voice was not male or female, more like the sound of the Grand Dao. Every syllable was disciplined, powerful, and also thought-provoking, as if its voice could allow him to see deeper into the mysteries of the cosmos.

"Senior is too courteous. It can be said that we have a destiny together. Last time, you even helped me with the counterfeits. I still have to thank you for that," said Long Chen hastily.

Long Chen was pleasantly surprised to be able to communicate with the Earth Cauldron, a divine item from the primal chaos era. If he could obtain its help, he wouldn't have to fear anything.

"That was because I also needed the energy of those corpses to recover. I helped you imitate the appearance of the Heaven Cauldron to see if I could create karma between you and the Heaven Cauldron, then you would be able to find my other half."

As Long Chen heard this, his eyes lit up with excitement. "Senior, do you know where the Heaven Cauldron is? How about we go look for it right now?"

If he had the complete Heaven Earth Cauldron, he could annihilate even Saints with a single smash!

"There isn't enough karma yet for us to find it. However, I have a feeling that it is about to emerge once again. We'll still be in time to get it then. This time, the nourishment of your medicinal pills and Huo Linger's help allow me to recover a trace of my Spiritual Strength, so I'm now capable of talking with you. I have something to ask of you," said the Earth Cauldron.

"Senior, please ask!"

"That girl called Ye Xue, she is a Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus with the purest Spirit Root. Ask her if you can have one of her Sacred Light Pistils. If you can, transplant it into the primal chaos space to give rise to more Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotuses. It is an extremely precious holy medicine. With it as a main ingredient, the pills you refine will have powerful sacred energy. It is something that the two of us urgently need," said the Earth Cauldron.

"That... I'm not so sure I can ask something like that."

Long Chen was in a difficult position. He wasn't exactly sure what this Sacred Light Pistil was, but if it could be transplanted into the primal chaos space, it had to be the very core of a plant.

In that case, the Sacred Light Pistil had to be extremely important to Ye Xue. Perhaps during normal times, he could just thicken his face to ask for it.

However, he had just done them a huge favor. Even Long Chen wasn't shameless enough to seek payment so soon.

"It is rather shameful. However, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus is exceedingly important to us right now," sighed the Earth Cauldron.

It also knew that asking for such a thing was inappropriate. However, there was no way around it. The Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus was simply too precious and too rare. That was why the Long clan would go to such an effort just to obtain her.

"Long Chen, what is it?" Ye Ling inquired, observing Long Chen's peculiar expression. He opened his mouth several times, but the conflicted thoughts in his mind did not permit him to speak.

"Ah... It's a bit difficult for me to say," Long Chen admitted, casting an awkward glance at Ye Ling and Ye Xue. In all his life, Long Chen had never been so embarrassed when he had to request for something.

"Big Brother Long Chen, do you need my help with something? Just tell me. Xue-er won't turn you down," said Ye Xue.

Long Chen was startled. He couldn't help glaring at the Earth Cauldron inside his spiritual space. "Senior, you..."

"I didn't say anything. She is a Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus, and her sacred energy makes her sharply perceptive to other people's feelings," answered the Earth Cauldron.

Tch, he should have just thrown out the Earth Cauldron and made it ask her. After all, it was the one who wanted this. Long Chen helplessly stuttered, "In-in truth... in truth..."

However, when it came down to it, Long Chen was unable to say it. Beads of sweat formed on his forehead, signaling his inner struggle.

Ye Xue seemed to see through Long Chen's thoughts, and a warm smile appeared on her face. "Big Brother Long Chen, do you want my Sacred Light Pistil to increase your aptitude? Do you want to become a Heavenly Doyen with it? That is fine. I have three of them, so you can have two. Becoming a Doyen isn't important to me. In any case, I don't have any fighting skills, so helping you would be best."

"No, no, I just need one! A single one! I'll return it to you very soon!" said Long Chen hastily.

So Ye Xue only had three Sacred Light Pistils, but she wanted to give him two? Furthermore, it sounded like if she did so, she would no longer have a chance of becoming a Doyen.

Even then, there was no reluctance or hesitation in her voice, which made Long Chen feel incredibly guilty.

"You really just want one?" asked Ye Xue.

"Just one!" Long Chen nodded vigorously.

"That's great. Then I still have a chance of becoming a Doyen." Ye Xue smiled and extended her hand, condensing a foot-long pistil out of the sacred light flowing from her head.

A holy light bathed the world as immortal qi emanated from the earth, creating a swirling aura around them. This one pistil seemed to possess the power to change the world. When Ye Xue took it out, her face instantly paled. Despite her attempt to maintain a smile, it was evident that she had entered a weak state.

Observing her condition, Long Chen was overcome with a sense of distress. With two trembling hands, he accepted the Sacred Light Pistil and solemnly vowed, "I, Long Chen, will remember this favor."

"Big Brother Long Chen, you're too courteous. The Earth Spirit race owes you so much that we will never be able to repay you," said Ye Xue.

"Dean Long Chen, mutually helping each other is simply natural among us. You don't need to mind this favor so much." Even Ye Ling pushed aside the pain of seeing Ye Xue like this to comfort Long Chen.

Long Chen nodded. After cupping his fists to Ye Xue and Ye Ling, he left, unable to bear their sincere gazes.

Once he was back in his own residence, he let out a sigh of relief. Looking at the Sacred Light Pistil in his hand, he didn't feel any joy but a heavy burden instead. The feeling of owing others was truly difficult to bear.

"Don't waste time. Plant it quickly. If we can refine the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill within three days, we can let Ye Xue grow back her Sacred Light Pistil," urged the Earth Cauldron.

"Really?!"

Long Chen instantly jumped up and threw the Sacred Light Pistil into the primal chaos space.

Chapter 4422: Refining the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill

After throwing the Sacred Light Pistil into the primal chaos space, Long Chen was about to find a suitable place in the central medicinal field for it when the Earth Cauldron stopped him.

"It can't be planted here. It is an ice element species, whereas this place is filled with fire elements. Plant it near the border."

Thinking about it, Long Chen realized that it was right. The primal chaos space was now incredibly vast. However, the central region was filled with the immense Fusang Trees and Moon Trees. They had already spread out and occupied their own territories in the central region.

Fortunately, after the primal chaos space expanded, the edges of the primal chaos space remained empty. Hence, Long Chen carefully planted the Sacred Light Pistil in the border region.

Upon contact with the soil, delicate hair-like roots emerged from its base, and frost instantly covered the ground. The frost rapidly extended over thousands of miles, persistently growing. The single pistil was like a seed and quickly produced a leaf.

There was only a single leaf and no sign of a flower. The leaf had a hexagonal shape, with veins gradually forming on its surface. A potent sacred aura coursed through these veins.

Upon the birth of the first leaf, an astonishing event unfolded. The Sacred Light Pistil rapidly withered, causing Long Chen to panic at the sight. Was it unable to grow in this place?

“Don’t panic. This is the particularity of the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus,” reassured the Earth Cauldron, as if anticipating this outcome.

The Sacred Light Pistil withered, and that thumb-sized hexagonal leaf slowly fell. Once it fell, the withered root system seemed to awaken and connect to the fallen leaf.

With the nourishment of the root system, the leaf started to glow. Following that, two edges on the top of the leaf produced two tiny shoots. Those two shoots quickly produced two more hexagonal leaves.

As a result, one gave birth to two, two gave birth to four, four gave birth to eight, and eight gave birth to sixteen. What Long Chen found curious was that the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus had no stalk. It consisted of leaves only.

The hexagonal leaves were crystalline, with sacred light flowing within them, looking like colored glass. Their beauty could make a person forget all their vexations.

“Toss all the corpses into the black soil. Don’t hold back,” instructed the Earth Cauldron.

Only then did Long Chen manage to pull himself out of his rapture. He had a large stock of Eternal corpses, and many of them had Neidans or crystal cores. Since they were treasures to Xia Chen and Guo Ran, directly decomposing them would be a waste.

Hence, Long Chen did a quick extraction. After taking out those cores, he tossed the corpses into the black soil. As more corpses fell into the black soil and were devoured, vast life energy filled the primal chaos space.

Sensing so much life energy, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus started to grow even more rapidly. However, after it reached one hundred and twenty-eight leaves, its growth speed clearly slowed down.

Its leaves didn’t go straight up but spread in every direction, looking like a holy ice spirit flower vase.

“Work hard. The Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus must have one thousand and twenty-four leaves to produce the Sacred Light Pistil. It is the main ingredient to refine the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill,” said the Earth Cauldron.

Hearing this, Long Chen clenched his teeth and stopped bothering with the Neidans and crystal cores. He directly tossed all his stock of Eternal corpses into the black soil.

“Senior, do you think this is enough? If it’s not, I’ll get more fertilizer right now.” Long Chen was determined to make this work. If the number of corpses wasn’t enough, he was ready to take a stroll through the new worlds that had just opened.

“It should be enough,” said the Earth Cauldron.

The Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus quickly gave rise to five hundred and twelve leaves, and a new batch of leaves quickly grew. At this moment, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus was already bigger than a person.

Its form underwent a continuous transformation, resembling a beautiful maiden in a dance. Additionally, a colossal world of ice had manifested around it.

Surprisingly, this ice didn't exude coldness; rather, it emitted a sensation akin to sacred light purifying the soul.

After a sequence of changes, a total of one thousand and twenty-four leaves emerged. Finally, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus had achieved its ultimate form.

A snow-white lotus flower then appeared. When its nine leaves opened, they revealed three tender flower pistils, and three pillars of sacred light soared into the heavens.

At this moment, all the corpses that Long Chen had gathered were devoured. The giant Fusang Trees and Moon Trees had once more grown immensely.

However, what surprised Long Chen was that their flames had actually weakened slightly. Their power was starting to withdraw inside of their bodies.

Every single leaf of the trees had a powerful flame rune. If you were to pick off a single leaf and detonate it, it would be enough to wipe out an ordinary World King.

The Fusang Trees and Moon Trees were still growing stronger, but it seemed that they were still a far cry from the Fusang Trees and Moon Trees that existed in the legend.

Long Chen didn’t pay much attention to them, as his focus was on the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus. He reached out and carefully plucked the three flower pistils.

When the three Sacred Light Pistils were extracted from its body, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus instantly crumbled, transforming into ice fragments.

“It’s fine. Even if it loses all of its Sacred Light Pistils, it won’t die in this place. However, it will take some time for it to be reborn. Ignore it for now. Come out. We’re going to refine the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill,” urged the Earth Cauldron.

When Long Chen left the primal chaos space, he was holding three Sacred Light Pistils.

The Earth Cauldron materialized in front of him. Without him needing to say anything, Huo Linger also appeared and started to warm up the Earth Cauldron.

The Earth Cauldron said, “My Spiritual Strength isn’t enough to refine this pill. Furthermore, my strength is difficult to replenish, so I will need to rely on your Spiritual Strength to refine this pill.”

“That’s fine. I have plenty of Spiritual Strength,” said Long Chen indifferently. He had absolute confidence in his Spiritual Strength.

“It will be different this time. We are refining a Saint Pill. Do you understand what a Saint Pill is?”

“Could it be...?”

“Yes, it is a pill used by Saints. Your Spiritual Strength is powerful, but it’s still not enough to fully refine a Saint Pill. Thus, during the refinement, you will need to use soul nourishing pills to recover your Spiritual Strength. I will control the tempo of the refinement to give you some time to recover. However, we also don’t have that much time. If the refinement time is stretched out too much, the medicinal pill’s spirituality will plummet, and the produced pills will be of low quality. It would be a waste of treasure,” said the Earth Cauldron solemnly.

Long Chen’s heart shook. They were going to refine a medicinal pill used by Saints? Then the difficulty would probably be heaven-defying with his current abilities. Not daring to be careless, Long Chen focused and entered his top condition.

“Let’s begin.”

A golden flame rose in the Earth Cauldron, and the three Sacred Light Pistils in Long Chen’s hand flew into its body.

Chapter 4423: Peerless Grade Heavenly Tribulation

When three Sacred Light Pistils entered the Earth Cauldron, the Earth Cauldron’s runes lit up, and divine light condensed into eighteen barriers around it.

“I’m too weak in my current state. In order to fully lock down the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill’s sacred nature, I will require outside power. Are you alright?” asked the Earth Cauldron.

“I’m fine.”

Long Chen nodded. The Earth Cauldron had used his Spiritual Strength to create these barriers, preventing the pill’s energy from leaking.

After all, the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill’s sacred energy was extremely precious, and even the Earth Cauldron cared about it immensely. It even chose a secluded place far from the academy for the refinement.

As Huo Linger’s flames rose, Long Chen saw the three Sacred Light Pistils start to melt. Contrary to other medicinal ingredients, they didn’t turn into powders but a liquid ice crystal instead.

When it turned into a fist-sized crystal, the majority of it suddenly vanished, leaving behind only a thumb-sized crystal.

Following this, various precious medicinal ingredients flew out of Long Chen’s primal chaos space, entering the Earth Cauldron. Long Chen didn’t need to do anything. He just had to watch.

The next moment, currents flowed through the barrier, merging into the Earth Cauldron. Long Chen realized that the Earth Cauldron was extracting the power of the ten thousand Daos for this refinement.

“Damn, if it were another pill furnace, absorbing this much energy from heaven and earth would have caused it to explode.”

A vast surge of energy was pouring into the cauldron, and Long Chen’s heart shook just by sensing its magnitude. He would also absorb the energy of heaven and earth when he refined pills, but it was barely a smidge compared to what was being absorbed now.

The Earth Cauldron resembled a whale engulfing water, and even Long Chen couldn't shake off the concern of a potential explosion due to the sheer magnitude of this energy influx.

As expected of a Saint pill, its power really is terrifying.

Suddenly, Long Chen felt a burst of pain in his soul. At this moment, his Spiritual Strength poured into the Earth Cauldron, causing Huo Linger’s flames to instantly reach their peak. Within the cauldron, astral winds and lightning erupted, as if millions of wild beasts were engaged in a fierce battle. Wild energy raged within the cauldron.

Despite Long Chen possessing Pill Sovereign memories and extensive experience with alchemy, this was his first time seeing such a thing.

There was no need for him to do or control anything. He was just like a spectator, watching the refinement process from within the cauldron—a novel experience for him.

Inside the Earth Cauldron, tens of thousands of energy currents clashed, repelling and merging. They seemed to form alliances and jointly combat common foes. This frenzied skirmish compelled these power streams to unleash their utmost potential. Victory meant absorbing others, while defeat equated to being devoured.

As there were too many streams of energy, the battle was incredibly intense. Long Chen’s Spiritual Strength was rapidly exhausted.

Suddenly, the Earth Cauldron quivered, and Long Chen's soul eased. He couldn’t help but sigh with relief, realizing that his Spiritual Strength was now down to thirty percent.

Even without a prompt from the Earth Cauldron, Long Chen hastily consumed a soul nourishing pill to swiftly replenish his depleted Spiritual Strength.

Long Chen’s Spiritual Strength had barely recovered to eighty percent when the Earth Cauldron could no longer prevent those energies from fighting, and the intense battle started once more.

Left with no other choice, Long Chen had to stop recovering and use his Spiritual Strength to help the Earth Cauldron control these energies.

As they devoured each other and merged, they were eventually reduced to just a few streams of energy. However, each of those energies grew gradually stronger.

The stronger they grew, the greater the burden they placed on his Spiritual Strength. It was his first time feeling that his Spiritual Strength was severely lacking.

Fortunately, the Earth Cauldron would take control when Long Chen felt like he was about to run out of strength, giving him time to recover.

Several times, he felt like his head would split open, and he would faint. But fortunately, he managed to hang on.

Eventually, those streams of energy were reduced to just two. They crazily fought each other, and after countless clashes, they finally merged into one.

Once they merged into one, Long Chen let out a sigh of relief. He felt powerless now.

“You don’t have that much time to rest. I will stall the condensation of the pill, and you have to recover to your peak as fast as possible,” urged the Earth Cauldron.

Hearing this, Long Chen took a deep breath and consumed a soul nourishing pill again. His Spiritual Strength rapidly recovered. The condensation of the pill was the most challenging phase, with success or failure hinging on this critical step.

Six hours later, a booming noise startled Long Chen out of his meditative state. Looking up at the sky, he was shocked to see that the world had darkened.

Tribulation clouds covered the sky, charged with lightning. An ominous aura of destruction permeated the air, causing Long Chen's hair to stand on end. He didn’t know how many times stronger this tribulation was when compared to his World King tribulation.

“What kind of heavenly tribulation is this?!” inquired Long Chen.

“It’s peerless grade heavenly tribulation,” answered the Earth Cauldron.

“Peerless grade heavenly tribulation?! Are you saying...?” Long Chen looked inside the cauldron. Nine pills spun rapidly inside, and each of them was covered in profound lines. They were like nine stars containing unimaginable power.

“Impossible! There can only be one peerless grade pill of its own kind in the world!”

The term “peerless grade” inherently suggested exclusivity, signifying that no other pill could attain its level.

For example, if a person had a peerless grade Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill, then no one could refine a second peerless grade Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill.

However, if a person really did have some heaven-defying power and managed to refine a second peerless grade Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill, then the moment it formed, the first peerless grade Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill would fall apart.

Thus, peerless grade pills were essentially legends, and almost no one had ever seen one before. Yet, the legends about them were so common that almost everyone knew of them.

Inside the Earth Cauldron were nine pills in the process of formation, yet they had already surpassed the confines of a top-grade golden pill. There was a qualitative distinction.

Having witnessed the peerless grade pill refined by Yu Qingxuan, Long Chen recognized that these nine pills were also of peerless grade. This revelation left him utterly flabbergasted, toppling his understanding of alchemy.

“Saint lightning has appeared to destroy these nine pills. Have Lei Linger come out to enjoy their baptism. Also, you should prepare yourself. Awakening the spirits of these pills demands your full Spiritual Strength. Success or failure will depend on this,” instructed the Earth Cauldron.

Long Chen called out Lei Linger, and as the Earth Cauldron quivered, Long Chen slammed his hands on it, channeling his Spiritual Strength into it without restraint.

The nine pills inside suddenly lit up as if they had been bestowed with life. At the same time, a bolt of lightning came crashing down from above the nine heavens.

BOOM!

Lei Linger charged into that bolt of lightning. Following that, a shocking scene unfolded before Long Chen—Lei Linger was blasted to bits by that bolt of lightning.

Chapter 4424: Eternal Physical Body

Long Chen was shocked. Despite Lei Linger's formidable strength, she was shattered by this tribulation lightning.

Lei Linger reformed, only to be swiftly torn apart once more, and this cycle repeated nine times. The ninth time she recondensed, her form was more translucent, and she had an incredibly weak aura.

Long Chen was horrified by this. If this continued, Lei Linger would really perish. Even though she was a lightning spirit, she couldn't endure this kind of assault.

Just as Long Chen wanted to help Lei Linger, she suddenly vanished, being summoned into the Earth Cauldron.

As a result, the heavenly tribulation seemed to have lost its target and suddenly redirected its fury toward Long Chen. When it did, an instinctive terror gripped him as the sensation of impending death descended.

In a desperate response, Long Chen summoned his starry sea manifestation and unleashed his full power.

BOOM!

The impact shattered his divine ring and blasted away the scales covering him. His blood flew through the air. Almost instantaneously, Long Chen was reduced to a mere lump of flesh.

Devoid of all his senses, he slumped lifelessly, looking very miserable. His hair was scorched, smoke came out of his mouth, nose, and ears, and he fell into unconsciousness.

Long Chen had fought against heavenly tribulation for many years. But unexpectedly, he was almost killed by one bolt of this heavenly tribulation.

Just as he passed out, he wondered, just what the hell was this heavenly tribulation?

The Earth Cauldron's sacred light enveloped Long Chen, causing the heavenly tribulation to lose its target once more. After a brief shudder, the tribulation slowly dissipated, restoring tranquility to the world.

Long Chen lay on the ground, a bloody and battered sight. However, while he was unconscious, he continued to recover. In less than the span of an incense stick burning, scabs covered his entire body.

The scabs grew thicker until they finally formed a giant cocoon around Long Chen. Within the cocoon, Long Chen still had to endure a terrible torment.

That terrifying lightning continued to ravage him endlessly. It was like a fish caught in a net, trying to escape his body with all its might.

However, Long Chen firmly locked the lightning in place, and it grew frantic, wrecking him with all its power. Fortunately, his recovery speed outpaced the damage inflicted to him, healing any areas that the lightning tore through. As it ravaged Long Chen's body, its power slowly merged into him through the wounds.

Long Chen was constantly being torn apart, but that energy was gradually weakening as it ran rampant through him.

After a day, the lightning was finally unable to move around anymore, its power firmly confined within him.

Three days later, the giant bloody cocoon slowly split apart, and Long Chen pushed it open. Looking at the state of his skin which resembled that of a newborn, he was stunned.

"This is a peerless-grade pill tribulation. Because it is a Saint pill, the heavenly tribulation's power is at the Saint level, carrying a powerful Eternal energy within. Your physical body was just strong enough to withstand a single strike from it. Now, although you are in the World King realm, your physical body can be considered Eternal. But that's not the most significant change. Look at your Spiritual Strength," explained the Earth Cauldron.

"Heavens!"

Long Chen didn't dare to believe it. His Spiritual Strength was many times stronger than before. This fact left him stunned.

"A Saint-level heavenly tribulation contains the power to destroy the soul, so it contains a certain law specialized toward the soul. Since it failed to destroy your soul, it became fertilizer to strengthen your soul. This way, it will be much easier to refine the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill next time," said the Earth Cauldron.

Sensing the changes in him, Long Chen was overjoyed. His physical body had been incredibly strong, but now it instantly leaped to a new level. This blow from the heavenly tribulation had helped him immensely.

"Many thanks, senior!"

“No need for courtesy. Through refining the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill, I can rapidly recover. We are just helping each other. You should send a Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill to that nice girl. Have her immediately consume it,” urged the Earth Cauldron.

A medicinal pill that looked like it was made of white jade appeared in Long Chen’s hand. The moment it appeared, this world was lit up by its sacred light, becoming a wonderland.

Long Chen didn’t waste time and immediately summoned his Kunpeng wings. In just a moment, he got into the rear mountains of the academy and found Ye Xue. When he saw her, he could see that her face was still dim, her eyes despondent. Clearly the damage from losing the Sacred Light Pistil was greater than she had expected.

“Big Brother Long Chen!” As soon as Long Chen arrived, Ye Xue hastily stood up and acted like she was fine. That appearance of hers was heart-breaking.

“Here, open your mouth!”

Without wasting any time, Long Chen sent the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill into her mouth. Ye Xue didn’t even know what Long Chen was feeding her, but since he told her to eat it, she followed his direction.

“This is...!” After consuming the pill, her manifestation spontaneously materialized before her—an immense snow lotus.

The snow lotus initially possessed two pistils, but a third one rapidly sprouted from it.

Ye Xue's radiance was restored. At this moment, divine light gleamed in her eyes, and she exuded an aura of sacred brilliance.

“Big Brother Long Chen!”

Ye Xue stared at Long Chen in disbelief. When Ye Ling came over, she was also stunned to see this scene. Ye Xue’s Sacred Light Pistil had recovered. Furthermore, all three of them were showing signs of merging.

Long Chen smiled. “I like you better like this.”

“Ye Xue, how do you feel?” asked Ye Ling hastily.

“Master, I feel... like I’m about to become a Heavenly Doyen!” Ye Xue’s voice quivered.

“If you have this feeling, you have to go into seclusion immediately!” exclaimed Ye Ling excitedly. She hastily alerted her people to set up a seclusion place for Ye Xue. Furthermore, all the Earth Spirit race’s experts gathered and started to sing a beautiful song. It was most likely a blessing for Ye Xue.

Long Chen didn’t understand these things, but he knew that the Earth Spirit race was going to do everything they could to make Ye Xue a Heavenly Doyen.

Considering that he couldn’t help any further, he shouldn’t disturb them anymore. With that in mind, he stealthily slipped away.

When he returned to his refinement room, he asked the Earth Cauldron, “Senior, what use does the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill have for us?”

“Refining it allows me to extract the purest sacred energy to nourish myself. Moreover, the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill is an all-purpose medicinal pill. It can be used as a healing pill, helping a person recover from the verge of death in an instant. It can also be used to recover your exhausted qi, increase your realm, nourish your mind, heal the spirit, increase your comprehension, and break through bottlenecks. Practically everything that you can imagine, it can do.”

“What? It’s that amazing?” Long Chen had never heard of such an all-purpose pill before. This Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill was basically a priceless treasure, capable of saving his life at a critical time.

“Senior, just what is a Heavenly Doyen?”

Long Chen finally asked a question that had been lingering in his mind. He felt like the Earth Cauldron would definitely know the answer.

Chapter 4425: The Heavenly Daos Have Already Changed?

“Those chosen by the heavens, individuals pampered and loved by the Heavenly Daos, embodiments of the ten thousand laws who rise up with destiny—these are the beings known as Heavenly Doyens. Every single Doyen is someone chosen by the heavens and enjoys exceptional blessings. Whether in terms of strength, comprehension, or talent, they stand as apex existences. However, this apex... it usually isn’t something you achieve by relying on yourself...” The Earth Cauldron suddenly paused for some reason.

“Not by relying on yourself? Then what does it rely on?” asked Long Chen in confusion.

“It relies on the accumulation of your ancestors or the favor of the Heavenly Daos. An explosion of luck can propel one into the ranks of Doyens. Take that Earth Spirit race girl for instance. The accumulated blessings spanning millions of years from the Earth Spirit race have been channeled into her, giving her the chance to become a Heavenly Doyen. Without that accumulation of luck from the Earth Spirit race, no matter how good her talent is, it would have been meaningless. Sometimes, there is no such thing as fairness when it comes to the Heavenly Daos,” explained the Earth Cauldron.

Long Chen was startled. For the Earth Cauldron to say this, didn’t that mean that becoming a Heavenly Doyen depended solely on the heavens?

If that was the case, there was no chance that he would become a Doyen. The heavens were always against him.

“Then let me ask you, if Heavenly Doyens represent the heavens, doesn’t that mean they guide the growth of the world?” inquired Long Chen.

“In theory, yes.”

Long Chen couldn’t help but press on. “But the Heavenly Daos are supposed to be a natural and autonomous cycle. If the Heavenly Daos are directed by others, can they still be considered the Heavenly Daos?”

“That’s a good question,” the Earth Cauldron commended Long Chen.

However, despite the commendation, Long Chen found himself waiting in vain for an answer. That left him a bit speechless. Just as he was about to press further, the Earth Cauldron spoke once more.

“Whether or not the Heavenly Daos remain true to their nature isn’t important. What matters is that you comprehend the essence of the Heavenly Daos.”

“Are you saying that the Heavenly Daos have changed?” asked Long Chen.

“I didn’t say anything.”

Long Chen was stunned. The Earth Cauldron was speaking vaguely, as if guiding him somewhere without saying it directly. Long Chen seemed to realize something yet also wasn’t sure what it was.

The Earth Cauldron didn’t elaborate further. Long Chen knew that it didn’t want to inflict him with great karma. In the previous heavenly tribulation, his accrued karma had been settled. However, if the Earth Cauldron disclosed too much information, Long Chen would just accumulate more karma, making his next heavenly tribulation even more terrifying.

Thinking of his last tribulation and how close he had been to death, Long Chen didn’t dare to pursue this topic anymore. He should rely on himself to comprehend certain things.

“Alright, no need to dwell on random thoughts. You still have a path ahead to tread. When the time is right, you will see what needs to be done. Let us keep refining pills. We have enough Sacred Light Pistils to refine nine furnaces of the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill. This pill is extremely important to us, so we should hurry up,” urged the Earth Cauldron.

Long Chen nodded and started to refine the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill together with the Earth Cauldron. With his prior experience, the process was way smoother. Furthermore, his augmented Spiritual Strength removed the necessity for any breaks, enabling them to finish the refinement in one go.

Furthermore, the disturbance inside the cauldron was stronger than last time. The Earth Cauldron explained that the interruptions during the previous session had impacted the pill’s spirituality. But this time, without the need for interruptions, more spirituality was locked in, and it enhanced the potency of the medicinal energy.

When this refinement was complete, the heavenly tribulation appeared once more. Similar to the previous occasion, Lei Linger charged up and was shattered nine times before reaching her limit.

On the other hand, Long Chen was almost killed in one blow yet again. The thunderforce was then sealed inside him, triggering another transformation.

This cycle repeated nine times, with Lei Linger progressing from withstanding nine attacks to enduring eighteen.

Yet, Long Chen showed no signs of improvement. He remained on the brink of death after a single attack, left battered and unconscious, incapable of resisting a second attack.

Through this process, his Spiritual Strength strengthened even further. It had expanded so vast that refining the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill posed no difficulty to him.

After nine refinements were complete, the Earth Cauldron’s aura had clearly strengthened. The process of refining the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill proved highly advantageous for it.

Long Chen now had eighty Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills in his hand. Nevertheless, as per the Earth Cauldron's guidance, he could only use them one by one and shouldn't take out two at once.

The appearance of two pills simultaneously in this world, whether in a spiritual ring or another dimension, would inevitably lead to the destruction of one. The law dictated that no two peerless pills could coexist in this world. However, this restriction didn't apply within the primal chaos space.

Upon leaving the primal chaos space, however, they would be limited by this law. Thus, these eighty peerless-grade pills could only be left in the primal chaos space for now.

This refinement process took up a full month of Long Chen's time, during which he made huge gains.

"I'm sorry, but I can no longer refine ordinary pills for you after today. It would just exhaust my energy for nothing. I can only assist you in refining pills on the Saint level from now on," expressed the Earth Cauldron apologetically.

To be explicit, once the Earth Cauldron recovered to a certain realm, refining lower-tier medicinal pills would yield no benefits for the Earth Cauldron. It would merely deplete its energy for nothing.

"No need for apologies, senior. I won't require your assistance for ordinary pills," Long Chen immediately reassured.

In truth, Long Chen didn't need to refine such pills, as Yu Qingxuan had plenty of pills that she refined herself.

Unfortunately, throughout this period, Long Chen failed to awaken the pill formula for the eighth star, and there was no indication of the eighth star's emergence. Instead of focusing on advancing his realm, Long Chen was spending his time searching for the cause, but thus far, he hadn't identified any reason for it.

Determined not to waste any more time on this matter, he shifted his focus to advancing his realm. The world had changed, and there was ample primal chaos qi around now. The human race's cultivation speed had soared, and the difficulty of cultivation had dropped. With the help of medicinal pills, everyone's cultivation speed was beyond imagination.

However, for most people, their cultivation progress could only be deemed above average, as they had to focus on constructing a robust foundation. Remarkably, the new generation of World Kings had the greatest cultivation speed. This new generation, risen after the gates to the other worlds opened, had already reached the great circle of the World King realm and were ready to become Venerates at any moment.

When the Earth Cauldron returned to Long Chen's spiritual space, Long Chen checked the primal chaos space. The Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus had already regrown. However, without the addition of new corpses, its growth was extremely slow, and it had only given rise to sixty-four leaves, a great distance from a thousand leaves.

"I'll eat one first and see the effect."

Long Chen carefully took out a single Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill. As he consumed it, it instantly melted in his stomach. The power contained in this tiny pill was beyond his imagination. A sea of power instantly permeated every corner of his being.

His blood, meridians, tendons, soul, and mind were all nourished. After this vast power unfurled in him, it then condensed in his chest. Following that, an uncontrollable force blasted toward his current bottleneck.

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

Three explosive sounds rang out. At that moment, Long Chen was completely stunned.

Chapter 4426: Challenge Letter

A berserk aura erupted out of Long Chen, blasting apart the clouds in the sky and sending waves of raging qi in every direction.

"I advanced three realms!" Long Chen exclaimed, his own power overwhelming him. It felt almost like a dream. Having just achieved consecutive breakthroughs, the energy coursing through him continued to surge as if he were on the verge of another breakthrough.

Long Chen was now in the fourth Heavenstage of the World King realm, bypassing the early stage and leaping directly to the middle stage. This rapid rate of advancement was undeniably terrifying.

A single medicinal pill was capable of doing such a thing. Apart from the consecutive advancements, Long Chen felt that his blood, meridians, tendons, bones, soul, mind, and other powers had all elevated to a higher level.

Just as the Earth Cauldron said, the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill truly was an all-encompassing elixir. Its effects extended beyond merely elevating his realm, touching every aspect of his being.

"I no longer need to stuff myself with pills!" Long Chen was so moved that he almost wept.

For years, whenever he wanted to advance, he had to stuff himself with so many medicinal pills that he wanted to vomit. While others ingested pills one by one, he practically devoured them by the barrel. This routine had become so repetitive that he started to question the meaning of life.

Eating pills wasn't something fun. Moreover, pills that raised a person's realm had violent medicinal properties and bad tastes. Yet, even when on the verge of vomiting, Long Chen still had to keep stuffing himself with them.

Now, with a single pill, he comprehended the true meaning of a blessing. In the future, he would no longer have to force-feed himself in such a manner.

The Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill's effect was so immense that its medicinal energy was still flowing inside of him even after raising his realm by three levels. Since its medicinal effect was not gone, he couldn't consume a second one any time soon.

Its power was even greater than he had expected, lasting a long time. He had to wait until its power was used up before consuming the second one. Otherwise, it would be a waste of such treasure.

BOOM!

Long Chen abruptly swung his hand, causing the void to erupt in a burst of energy. His aura coursed smoothly within him, and his energy moved exactly as he wished.

Despite the recent explosive advancement, Long Chen displayed no signs of disorientation. Instead, it was like he had been in this realm for a long time. His foundation was incomparably robust, enabling him to wield this newfound power with familiarity and ease.

"As expected of a Saint pill, it's incredibly powerful. No wonder the Earth Cauldron can't refine other pills after refining the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill. I also can't eat other pills after consuming it! It's easy to go from frugal to extravagant, but to revert from extravagant back to frugal is no good!" Long Chen let out an emotional sigh.

"Where am I going to get more fertilizer?"

Long Chen suddenly grew itchy. Now, he was in an even greater rush than the Earth Cauldron to refine more Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills.

Just then, the tablet on Long Chen's waist started to flash rapidly.

"Is there something going on in the academy?"

Long Chen was startled. This was an urgent summon, so Long Chen immediately used his Kunpeng wings to return to the academy.

As soon as he arrived, he saw a group of figures outside the mountain gates.

"What's going on? Is this a joint attack on the academy?"

However, once Long Chen got close, he realized that despite the numerous numbers, they were all just spectators as they weren't acting overbearing or arrogant.

Instead, an arrogant voice resonated from within the gate, its sound extending across thousands of miles.

"Where is Long Chen? After I've come out to see him, is the illustrious Dean Long Chen really going to cower like a tortoise?"

Despite the speaker raising his voice as loudly as he could, there was a formation here, so his voice was unable to reach the inner academy. Clearly, this person was saying this to the people outside.

"We already told you that Dean Long Chen is not in the academy right now. If you wish to issue a challenge, you'll have to wait until Dean Long Chen returns," explained one of the attendants by the gates, his tone neither servile nor overbearing.

This attendant was only an Earth Venerate and was no longer young. Against that person's pressure, he was clearly at a disadvantage. However, he still did his best to keep his voice calm.

The troublemaker was an expert from the demonic beast race, distinguished by two prominent horns on his head and an overpowering Blood Qi. What surprised Long Chen was the uncanny similarity between this person's aura and that of the Netherdragon Tianye. It seemed that this guy was also aiming to become a Heavenly Doyen.

Long Chen instantly realized that this person was from the nether dragon race. Accompanying him were hundreds of other World Kings, each emanating formidable auras—effectively all Triple Supremes.

Behind these World Kings were over ten Eternal experts. Their aura was many times stronger than that of an average Eternal expert. They ranked just below the Saints Long Chen had previously encountered.

"Hmph, Long Chen killed a heavenly genius of our nether dragon race. Despite our nether dragon race opting for peace before force, extending a challenge letter rather than a declaration of war, Long Chen hides like a coward. The High Firmament Academy also lacks the courage to present its experts. What does that mean? Is the number one academy in the world unwilling to accept a challenge letter?" sneered that heavenly genius of the nether dragon race.

"That's right, what is the High Firmament Academy doing!? After taking other people's lives, you guys don't even dare to accept other people's challenge letters! How do you have the face to exist within the nine heavens?"

"What number one academy? The reputation doesn't live up to the truth. If you don't dare to accept challenges, you should change your name to the coward academy."

"I feel like we shouldn't issue a challenge anymore. Just destroy the gates! Then we'll see if the High Firmament Academy will keep cowering or not."

The spectators were shouting loudly. Clearly, they weren't here just to watch.

The majority of these idiots came from their own worlds. Knowing that the nether dragon race was sending a challenge letter to the High Firmament Academy's Long Chen, they immediately flocked over to watch.

The experts from various worlds were all extremely apprehensive toward the High Firmament Academy, so they wanted to use this chance to see the academy's attitude. Was the High Firmament Academy still a peak existence of the nine heavens? Or had it really declined as everyone said?

The attendant's expression shifted as he witnessed the disturbance. Just as he was uncertain about how to handle the situation, a sinister voice echoed, "You're going to break down my High Firmament Academy's gates? Alright, we'll welcome you at any time. Go ahead. I'll break your heads next."

Long Chen's voice instantly suppressed the chaos, redirecting everyone's attention.

At some point, a black-robed man had appeared above them, and none of them even sensed anything.

The Eternal experts' pupils shrank. They had previously gathered information on him and knew that Long Chen had slain a budding Doyen—Netherdragon Tianye. However, they hadn't expected him to be this terrifying.

He arrived without drawing anyone's attention. In other words, with his power, he was capable of killing any one of them before they even realized it.

"Dean Long Chen!" The attendant's expression shifted as if he had just seen his savior.

Long Chen nodded at him, signaling him not to worry and trust him to handle the situation. Long Chen then surveyed the scene, eventually locking eyes with the budding Heavenly Doyen. A smile played on Long Chen's lips.

"What challenge letter? Instead of waiting for some duel, why don't we start right now? Do you prefer a one-against-one duel, or would you like to come at me all together?"

Chapter 4427: Scram

Long Chen stood proudly before the gates of the High Firmament Academy, facing millions of experts without the slightest fear. His demeanor exuded arrogance and dominance, and his voice reached every ear with clear disdain. It seemed that he didn't view any of them as even remotely significant.

Among the gathered crowd were heavenly geniuses of the current era and seasoned experts of the senior generation. There was even a particularly formidable genius on the verge of becoming a Heavenly Doyen. Yet, Long Chen boldly issued a challenge to all of them.

One on one, or all together? Just how arrogant was that? The academy's experts felt their own blood heating up hearing those words. On the other hand, the experts of the various worlds were enraged by this disdain.

The budding Heavenly Doyen was particularly enraged. Although he had yet to make his breakthrough, he had never faced someone who was a match for him. Seeing that Long Chen was also a mid stage World King like him, he fearlessly shouted, "Big words! Then today I'll--"

One of the Eternal experts of the nether dragon race suddenly interrupted him. "Hold it. We only came to send a challenge letter, and our young master Netherdragon Tianzhao wishes to fight Long Chen. If you take over, you will offend him."

That heavenly genius's expression sank, but he didn't dare to disobey Netherdragon Tianzhao's wish. He then looked at Long Chen coldly. "Brat, enjoy the last few days of your life! Netherdragon Tianzhao will soon take your dog head-!"

This time, it was Long Chen who interrupted him with a slap in the face. At this distance, no one could evade this divine strike.

A crisp sound rang out. The power of this slap was perhaps not enough to injure him, but it was enough to stun every single person here.

The budding Heavenly Doyen felt a stinging pain coming from his cheek. The look of the stunned onlookers intensified his fury, causing him to roar in anger after a brief moment of shock

"I'll kill you!"

He was just about to attack when the older Eternal experts grabbed him and dragged him to the rear.

Not even looking at him as he was dragged away, Long Chen coldly spat out a single word to all the others here.

“Scram.”

Those experts were incensed, but when they looked into Long Chen’s eyes, for some reason, their souls shivered. An overwhelming aura of death sent a chilling shiver down their spines.

Ultimately, they chose to remain silent. As the experts of the nether dragon race departed, the rest followed suit, withdrawing from the scene.

Seeing Long Chen completely crush this group of arrogant experts, the High Firmament Academy’s experts regarded him with a newfound admiration. For someone to make millions of experts retreat with a single word, it was an awe-inspiring display of dominance.

“How gutless. You’re going to scram just because I tell you to? Can’t a few of you stay behind to fight?” Long Chen himself was a bit surprised that the entire crowd left just like that.

Originally, he had thought that a few arrogant fellows would be unwilling to leave just like that. As long as they dared to step forward, Long Chen could openly kill them and throw them into the primal chaos space as fertilizer.

However, to his dismay, not a single individual here displayed the slightest resilience. Their collective lack of backbone left him feeling disappointed.

Suddenly, a streak of golden light shot toward Long Chen. A casual wave of his hand allowed him to catch the object—a letter crafted from immortal metal. Surprisingly dense, it felt as heavy as a mountain.

“Presumably this is their challenge letter,” said the attendant. He was amazed that they would spend such precious immortal metal on a challenge letter.

“You should all retreat a bit,” urged Long Chen.

They didn’t understand, but they immediately fell back. As Long Chen unfolded the letter, he found a golden sheet of paper, with only one name inscribed upon it: Netherdragon Tianzhao.

Instantly, the name gleamed, and a formidable aura emanated from it.

BOOM!

The golden paper exploded, unleashing a violent force that shook the world. Cracks spread in every direction, leaving the attendant and the other disciples stunned.

The scales on Long Chen’s palm shattered, and blood stained his arm.

“Dean!”

Everyone was shocked. This sudden turn of events dumbfounded them.

“A Heavenly Doyen? As expected of someone chosen by the heavens. He can even draw out the power of the ten thousand Daos and infuse it in his writings. Interesting!” Long Chen looked at his bloody palm and smiled. A fiery heat appeared in his eyes.

A true Heavenly Doyen. Finally, Long Chen experienced the true power of a Heavenly Doyen.

This challenge letter was more than just a message—it was a manifestation of the power dynamics between experts. Netherdragon Tianzhao had embedded thirty percent of his power within it. If Long Chen couldn't withstand this initial impact, he wouldn't be considered fit to confront a Heavenly Doyen.

In response, Long Chen had also blocked it with thirty percent of his power. However, the resulting detonation exceeded his expectations, drawing upon the power of heaven and earth. Consequently, the force unleashed was more intense than he had anticipated, leaving his palm bloodied in the aftermath.

Long Chen didn't feel any rage at this. Instead, he felt his blood heating up. He had finally found a real opponent. A Heavenly Doyen was even stronger than he had expected.

The stronger the opponent, the more it stimulated his battle intent. After all, it had been a long time since he encountered a powerful opponent.

“Dean, are you alright?” The others stepped forward now.

“I'm fine. The reputation of a Heavenly Doyen really isn't for nothing.” Long Chen smiled. His arm had already fully recovered, showing no sign of previous wounds.

Long Chen intentionally refrained from using the life energy of the primal chaos space. He wanted to allow the wounds to persist for a while to fully experience the might of a Heavenly Doyen.

However, the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill's energy was still coursing through his body, and it immediately started the healing process. He couldn't even stop it.

Chapter 4428: Collectively Coming Out of Seclusion

Heavenly Fiend Prefecture, Life End Mountain, Dragon Extinction Ridge.

Located in the remote southwestern region of the Darklight Heaven, this place was a desolate wasteland seldom frequented by people.

According to ancient tales, an apocalyptic battle unfolded here in the primal chaos era, leaving the area teeming with the burial sites of countless fiends. Due to the pervasive contamination from their corpses, the land became inhospitable for cultivators.

However, all of a sudden, this once-forgotten place captured the attention of the entire world, all thanks to a single challenge letter.

The one issuing the challenge, Netherdragon Tianzhao, was the strongest heavenly genius of the nether dragon race. As the first Heavenly Doyen of this generation, he achieved a milestone unparalleled in this era. So it was no wonder people would be curious of him.

While there were rumors of budding Heavenly Doyens making breakthroughs in the various worlds, up until now, no one had publicly acclaimed that they made this final breakthrough.

Heavenly Doyens, recognized as the representatives of the will of the Heavenly Daos, stood as unmatched existences in this world. They were regarded as experts with limitless prospects.

Although countless people had heard of how terrifying Heavenly Doyens were, no one had seen one yet. Brimming with curiosity to verify the legend, many of them were attracted to this region.

However, many people found it strange as well. Why did a Heavenly Doyen challenge someone who wasn't even a Supreme? This curiosity caused countless people to gather information on Long Chen. At the same time, information from beyond this heaven finally reached the Darklight Heaven. In particular, the information about Long Chen came from the Nirvana Overflow Heaven.

"Sage King?! Long Chen is this era's Sage King?!"

When they received this information, people finally understood why a Doyen like Netherdragon Tianzhao would challenge someone like Long Chen to a battle.

A Sage King was this world's strongest heavenly genius. Even if Long Chen hadn't killed Netherdragon Tianye, Netherdragon Tianzhao still had to challenge Long Chen if he wanted to be the best.

The two of them were the strongest heavenly geniuses of their worlds. If they encountered each other, there would definitely be a fierce battle—a competition between two races.

After a while, more information regarding Long Chen's actions in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven reached the crowd. When they learned that Long Chen had directly led people to destroy the Great Desolate World and even fought against a Saint of the humanless world, they were completely stunned.

Even if that Saint was in its weakest state following its recent advancement, Long Chen still managed to destroy its head in its own world. This feat was absolutely shocking.

Originally, they had thought that Netherdragon Tianzhao only challenged Long Chen as an excuse to test the High Firmament Academy's stance. As a result, most of these experts had assumed that Long Chen wouldn't be a match for Netherdragon Tianzhao.

After realizing that Long Chen was also a terrifying monster, they knew that the battle between the two of them would be spectacular.

Upon receiving the challenge letter, Long Chen publicly announced the time and location of the fight. As a result, countless experts immediately rushed to the Heavenly Fiend Prefecture.

In just seven days—a mere flicker of time for most experts—they would engage in combat. Fearing to miss this historic battle, some factions mobilized their full forces to personally witness the clash between a Heavenly Doyen and the reigning Sage King.

Everyone wanted to see who was stronger: the reigning Sage King or a Heavenly Doyen. Did Long Chen really represent the human race's greatest power?

Just as the outside world was going crazy, the High Firmament Academy was quiet. Everyone from the Dragonblood Legion was in seclusion, advancing rapidly.

Long Chen was also digesting the leftover medicinal energy, bringing himself to his top condition. As time passed, seven days later, he emerged from seclusion.

His cultivation base had undergone another breakthrough, reaching the fifth Heavenstage. By now, Long Chen had absorbed nearly all of the medicinal energy from the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill.

Although Long Chen's seclusion was quite short this time, it was enough for him. The Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill had no side effects, solidly raising his realm.

After coming out of seclusion, Long Chen felt incredibly refreshed and powerful. Now, he had the utmost confidence in himself.

“Boss!”

When Long Chen emerged, he found that the Dragonblood Legion was waiting for him, along with Yu Qingxuan, Bai Shishi, Bai Xiaole, and the others.

“Damn, your advancement rate is amazing!” Long Chen found that Gu Yang, Li Qi, Song Mingyuan, Yue Zifeng, Guo Ran, Xia Chen, Bai Shishi, Bai Xiaole, and the others had reached the seventh Heavenstage. Now, they were all late stage World Kings.

“It’s all thanks to Big Sister Qingxuan’s medicinal pills. I feel that advancing through the World King realm is even easier than the Immortal King realm,” said Bai Shishi. She stood beside Yu Qingxuan, nodding to her gratefully.

After all, Yu Qingxuan’s medicinal pills were all top-grade golden pills with shocking effects, and along with the primal chaos qi eruption, her skills also advanced. This period really marked an era of heavenly geniuses erupting with power.

Since that was the case, not only the Dragonblood Legion but all cultivators also advanced like there was no tomorrow. Overall, the difficulty of breaking through bottlenecks had fallen.

“Boss, take a look. What do you think of my new battle armor?” Guo Ran waved at Long Chen excitedly.

“These characters...”

Long Chen suddenly focused on the several immortal characters on Guo Ran’s armor. A sense of immense pressure enveloped them—they were Jiuli immortal characters.

Long Chen had seen second-generation Jiuli immortal characters before, and they hadn’t given off such terrifying pressure. Hence, Long Chen suspected them to be first-generation Jiuli immortal characters. However, when did Guo Ran gain the ability to inscribe first-generation Jiuli immortal characters?

“Hehe, these are first-generation Jiuli immortal characters! Actually, it’s all thanks to boss. I encountered Li Chenggang of the Calligraphy Sect, and he was really interested in my armor. After that, he directly gave me seven first-generation Jiuli immortal characters and even broke them down for me. When I added them to my battle armor, it was like adding wings to a tiger! Now, I’m not afraid of anyone anymore!” said Guo Ran arrogantly.

Having upgraded his armor and merged first-generation Jiuli immortal characters into it, he was confident to take on any heavenly genius in the same realm.

“Boss, why don’t I fight for you? I’ll put that Netherdragon Tianzhao in his place!” Guo Ran patted his chest confidently.

“You are indeed powerful, but you aren’t there yet. Even I might not be able to kill him,” answered Long Chen.

“What? Boss, are you kidding?”

Guo Ran was shocked. In his heart, his boss was unrivaled, and no one in the same realm could beat him.

Long Chen simply smiled and didn’t reply further. He then turned to everyone. “My duel with Netherdragon Tianzhao might result in a chaotic battle at the end. I’ll warn you once. As soon as someone interferes in our battle, my brother will kill them without hesitation. Dragonblood warriors! Pick out the strongest people. It would be best if you could keep their corpses intact for me.”

The Dragonblood warriors all smiled as they understood what Long Chen wanted.

Long Chen was about to leave when several figures appeared.

Chapter 4429: Descending Upon Heavenly Fiend Prefecture

“Race leader Ye Ling, Little Crane, why are you here?” Long Chen was surprised to see Ye Ling walking over while holding Little Crane’s hand.

Moreover, several other beautiful maidens were with them. They wore white robes, and rainbow light surrounded them. Their eyes were like clear springs capable of cleansing the soul.

“Big Brother Long Chen, these are my three aunts!” Little Crane ran over and excitedly introduced them to Long Chen.

In an instant, Long Chen found himself in an awkward position. These maidens looked like sixteen or seventeen-year-old girls. Seeing no other way around it, Long Chen could only thicken his face and say, “Greetings, aunts.”

If Little Crane called him big brother, then he couldn’t call them big sisters. That would throw the seniority into chaos.

He knew that these maidens only looked young, but they had lived for countless years, so calling them aunts wasn’t something weird. Still, Long Chen couldn’t help but feel embarrassed to do so.

These three beautiful maidens seemed very shy. After returning Long Chen’s greeting, they were all blushing and didn’t even dare to look at him.

“Big Brother Long Chen, are you going to beat up bad people? I want to go and cheer for you!” Little Crane looked at Long Chen excitedly. It seemed that she was getting a bit violent now. “I even dragged over my three aunts to help me cheer for you!”

Long Chen was speechless, but he couldn’t refuse her and just nodded. He then turned to Ye Ling and asked, “Race leader Ye Ling, how is Ye Xue?”

“She’s doing well, very well! However, she is at a critical juncture at the moment and can’t come to cheer for you. Please don’t feel offended by it,” answered Ye Ling.

“Hehe, race leader, what are you talking about? This is just a little scuffle. I don’t need a big cheer squad,” said Long Chen with a smile.

“You can’t put it that way. Your enmity with the nether dragon race stemmed from my Earth Spirit race. My Earth Spirit race must stand up for you no matter what,” remarked Ye Ling.

Long Chen realized that Ye Ling was here to intimidate her enemies. After all, there would definitely be people from the Esoteric Spirit World among the spectators, and she could show them her connection with the High Firmament Academy.

If Ye Ling didn’t do this, they would get even more arrogant, so even though Ye Xue was at a critical juncture, Ye Ling still wished to come with Long Chen.

“Well, let’s go!” said Long Chen.

“Are they not sending you off?” Looking around, Ye Ling saw that other than the Dragonblood Legion, no one else had come to send them off. She couldn’t help finding it curious.

“Why bother? It’s nothing big. I don’t need to disturb them for such a thing,” said Long Chen.

Long Chen knew why nobody came to see him off. Right now, his actions represented only himself and had nothing to do with the High Firmament Academy.

This way, Long Chen didn’t need to restrict himself based on the academy’s values and could do whatever he wanted. This act was like covering your own ears while stealing a bell, but sometimes, this was the best way to deal with shameless people.

As they stepped on a transportation formation, it activated and teleported them away. Once they were gone, multiple figures appeared around the formation.

Amongst them were Dean Bai Letian and the palace master. Behind them were the higher-ups of the academy.

The palace master couldn’t help but ask, “Are we really not going?”

Bai Letian simply smiled. “Sometimes, we need to learn to let go. Since we’ve left things to Long Chen, let him do as he pleases. Now isn’t the time to expose the academy’s power. We’ll wait until Long Chen can’t handle everything himself and fix the chaos left in his wake.”

After over ten transportations, Guo Ran summoned a flying boat, and they all flew off toward the Heavenly Fiend Prefecture.

They had to use the transportation formations of the large prefectures to get where they were, and every time, they would see countless experts around the formations. Apparently, the crowd had long since surrounded the transportation formations just to see Long Chen for a moment.

They were mostly weak cultivators who didn't have the ability to go to the Heavenly Fiend Prefecture, so they could only hope for Long Chen to pass by here.

Every time Long Chen appeared, heaven-shaking cheers would erupt. Although Long Chen and his companions would only stop in one place for a while, the mere sight of him was enough to satisfy the cheering experts.

After all, Long Chen's battle with Netherdragon Tianzhao was extremely significant. It was the ultimate showdown between the human race's Sage King and the nether dragon race's Heavenly Doyen. This battle would go down in history as one of the most influential battles of the new era.

Once Long Chen and the others stepped onto the flying boat, Little Crane was still as excited as ever, looking at Long Chen worshipfully. Seeing so many people cheer for Long Chen and shout his name as they passed by made her feel an unprecedented excitement.

"Big Brother Long Chen, you're the greatest hero of the human race now! You're amazing!"

Little Crane watched the city fade into the distance, but she felt like the cheers had yet to fade.

"The human race definitely needs a hero. However, I am not fit for it," sighed Long Chen.

"Why not? I feel like Big Brother Long Chen is a grand hero!" Hearing this, Little Crane turned to him in confusion.

"Because being a hero is too tiring. Your big brother prefers to be free and do whatever he wants," explained Yu Qingxuan.

Yu Qingxuan looked at Little Crane pamperingly and smiled. However, it wasn't just her. Everyone's attention was on her.

Every single one of her movements attracted their hearts. This little girl made them naturally feel close to her, giving them the urge to protect her.

"Big Sister Qingxuan, why can't a hero be free to do whatever they please?" asked Little Crane as she ran over to Yu Qingxuan's side and stared at her.

Yu Qingxuan directly picked her up and looked into her large eyes. She smiled. "You'll understand once you grow up. However, big sister hopes that you'll never understand them."

"Why not?"

"Because your big brother likes you best when you don't understand those things."

"Oh! Hehe, then I won't understand those things! I want my big brother to like me forever! Once I'm as big as my aunts, I'll marry Big Brother Long Chen!" Little Crane giggled.

Everyone laughed while Long Chen was embarrassed. This girl really was so innocent that she could even say such a thing.

"Little Crane, how old are your aunts?" asked Guo Ran.

"I don't know. But from their birth until now, they've seen eleven generations of your academy's deans!" Little Crane counted with her fingers.

Everyone gasped. The rainbow crane race's longevity was truly shocking. If they had to wait until Little Crane grew up, they would have likely vanished from this world.

"We've arrived at the Heavenly Fiend Prefecture."

Suddenly, the flying boat quivered and started to slow down. At the same time, everyone's blood began to heat up in anticipation.

Chapter 4430: Jiang Clan's Heavenly Genius

Heavenly Fiend Prefecture was an empty wasteland permeated with an oppressive air of decay. It was like inhaling even a single breath in this desolate place would age a person rapidly.

This region was not suitable for cultivators to live in, and the strange atmosphere proved unsettling for both humans and other races alike. Only some low-level insects and rats scurried around beneath the surface. It was literally a land of death.

To Long Chen's surprise though, when they arrived, this place was bustling with activity. Grand formations had appeared on top of mountains, gathering sparse spiritual qi.

Seeing that there wasn't enough spiritual qi in this area, people were willing to extract the primal chaos qi from their primal chaos spirit stones to maintain their formations here.

It was because these mountains had grand peering formations. After all, the spectators didn't want to get close to Life End Mountain or Dragon Extinction Ridge. For a battle on this level, getting too close would be fatal.

However, if they were too far, they wouldn't be able to see clearly. Thus, they chose this location and used formations to watch—a safe, efficient, and painless solution.

When Guo Ran's flying boat passed over them, Long Chen and his companions felt their blood quickening in their veins. The further they went, the more formations they saw. They then quickly arrived at an endless black mountain range.

This mountain range was as black as ink, devoid of a single blade of grass. True to its name, Life End Mountain, all signs of life had long vanished from this desolate place.

At the center of this mountain was a giant ridge that looked like a wriggling dragon cutting the Life End Mountain in two.

Where the head of this dragon should be was a giant chasm. If someone looked at it from the sky, the whole picture looked like a dragon without a head. Thus, this place was called Dragon Extinction Ridge.

There were so many legends about this place. However, those legends were so ancient that there was no way to confirm them.

All people knew was that there had once been a world-destroying clash that severed the vitality of this place, turning it into a land of death.

Now, numerous people were surrounding Life End Mountain. Although they were spectators, those who dared to come here were all peak heavenly geniuses or Eternal experts. As a result, they were full of themselves and disdained to use formations to watch the battle.

After all, a formation could only provide a two-dimensional viewing experience. It lacked the depth, the tangible auras, and the pressure of an actual battle, making it far from immersive.

Today was the day of the immense battle, so a sea of people had long since gathered here. Heavenly geniuses of various factions had come from different worlds just to watch this fight.

When Guo Ran's flying boat arrived, it drew everyone's attention, and the chattering came to a sudden halt. The silence was suffocating.

After the flying boat came to a stop, Long Chen walked out of it while holding Little Crane's hand. Instantly, millions of sharp gazes concentrated on him.

Ninety-nine percent of those gazes harbored hostility. Suspicion, disdain, provocation, and in some instances, dense killing intent emanated from them.

Confronted with those sharp gazes, perhaps someone else would have crumbled under the oppressive pressure. However, Long Chen was completely unfazed.

A lifetime of battles had rendered him immune to such minor intimidations, and being scrutinized by a multitude of hostile idiots was nothing new for him.

In contrast, Little Crane found the attention of so many people unsettling. She tightened her grip on Long Chen's hand, clearly discomforted by the intense scrutiny.

"What a dense bad aura," said Little Crane.

Of course, it was dense. Those who could come here were true experts—individuals who were not raised in the farm but on the battlefield.

Every expert here had experienced many bloody battles. When they unleashed their hostility, that terrifying aura made ordinary people's souls quiver.

Let alone Little Crane, even a Saint like Ye Ling couldn't help but frown, feeling very uncomfortable with so many people gazing at her.

On the other hand, the Dragonblood warriors were all relaxed, following Long Chen without a care.

Amongst the Dragonblood warriors, Guo Ran was looking left and right, his gaze sweeping through the crowd excitedly.

"Damn, there are so many people! If they were to attack me all at once, I wonder if my armor would be able to block them all?" Guo Ran snickered. Despite stating a worry, that smile on his face looked like he needed a beating. This was clearly a low-grade way of showing off.

"Long Chen, it's been a long time. I missed you."

Just as they all got out of the flying boat, a burst of fragrance blew over, and Feng Fei walked over with a smile.

In truth, Feng Fei didn't have much of a relationship with Long Chen, and they could not be considered friends. However, Feng Fei still greeted him as if they were close friends.

"It really has been a long time. How are you?" Long Chen returned Feng Fei's greeting. However, he was then startled, noticing a strange aura on her—a bit similar to that of Netherdragon Tianye.

"Oh? You even see through this? I only awakened a trace of a Doyen's qi thanks to my clan's help. I can't even be considered a budding Heavenly Doyen yet." Seeing his gaze, Feng Fei smiled and looked behind him. "Oh, where is that beautiful jealous girl of yours? Can I step a bit closer this time?"

The jealous girl she spoke about was Tang Wan-er. Last time, Tang Wan-er had expressed immense hostility toward Feng Fei, giving her a deep impression. That was why she maintained a set distance toward Long Chen this time.

Long Chen was speechless. If Tang Wan-er were really in the flying boat or in the crowd, Feng Fei would have just poked a hornet's nest.

"It's not good to gossip about others behind their backs!" Bai Shishi asserted.

Long Chen was taken aback. Bai Shishi was actually speaking up for Tang Wan-er? His heart warmed. It seemed that Bai Shishi already considered Tang Wan-er one of her people. As she didn't have Yu Qingxuan's magnanimity, she was naturally displeased that someone else would talk about Tang Wan-er badly.

"My apologies. It was my mistake to make a joke like that. I hope Fairy Shishi doesn't take offense." Even though Bai Shishi's words were sharp, Feng Fei didn't mind at all. She apologized while smiling frankly, surprising everyone.

After all, Feng Fei was a heavenly genius of the Heavenly Divinity race's Jiang clan, and there were already indications that she would lead the junior generation. No one had expected her to be so nice.

"Miss Feng Fei, do you have any advice for me?" asked Long Chen, not wanting to waste time on this.

"I came to introduce you to a few of my friends." Feng Fei waved his hand, and a group of people walked out from behind her.

When Long Chen saw who they were, his pupils shrank slightly.