

## Nine Star 4471

### Chapter 4471: Helping the Holy Tree

Last time, after the Heavenly Fiend Prefecture's battle, Long Chen and the others had gained countless corpses. However, Xia Chen and Guo Ran needed to perform maintenance on the Dragonblood warriors' weapons and armor afterward, as well as prepare for the Esoteric Spirit World's conquest, so they didn't have time to deal with the corpses.

Since that was the case, those corpses were still in their hands, waiting to go through their processing before being given to Long Chen.

This time, Long Chen got the corpses of five Saints, so he carefully stowed those remains away, refraining from directly tossing them into the black soil. Otherwise, Guo Ran and Xia Chen would never forgive him.

Even the corpses of Eternal experts were regarded as priceless treasures in their eyes, signifying that the corpses of Saints were more than enough to drive them crazy. Xia Chen, in particular, could use the essence blood of Saints to craft Saint-level talismans capable of unleashing an attack on the level of a Saint's blow.

Long Chen first put away the corpses. Only once they were safely within the primal chaos space did he relax.

As the battle approached the end, the Dragonblood Legion focused on guarding the gate, while the Earth Spirit race pursued the remnants alongside Gu Yang, Li Qi, Song Mingyuan, and the others.

However, finding all the leftovers would take some time. Fortunately, no one was in a rush. Xia Chen had already set up a formation to repair the barrier. Once restored, the Esoteric Spirit World would once again be sealed off from the Darklight Heaven.

There was no longer a need for more experts to be fighting, so Long Chen, Yu Qingxuan, and Bai Shishi followed Ye Ling and Ye Xue to the Earth Spirit race's ancestral land.

This once beautiful wonderland now lay in ruins, with rivers tainted by dirty water and the air filled with the stench of decay. Countless corpses of wild birds and beasts floated in the contaminated waters, evoking tears from Ye Ling and Ye Xue.

Similar to the Spirit race, the Earth Spirit race would create a beautiful home wherever they went. As they liked purity, the rear mountains of the High Firmament Academy had been turned into a wonderland by them.

Having dwelled in this land for countless years, the Earth Spirit race had cultivated it into a home. Witnessing its degradation to its current state evoked a surge of anger, even in outsiders like Long Chen.

The devastation was done by the Corrupt Blood Tree Demons. Only they had the power to so quickly turn a thriving land into a land of death.

Ye Ling and Ye Xue pressed forward with tears in their eyes, and they quickly saw a large mountain. At the top of the mountain stood a single tree. While not exceptionally tall, its crown was vast, resembling a giant mushroom that covered the entire mountain.

The size of the crown was greater than any other tree Long Chen had ever seen, almost comparable to a prefecture. However, this enormous tree was dying, its leaves yellow and wilted.

Seeing this scene, Ye Ling and Ye Xue wept uncontrollably. This was their holy tree, the source of the Earth Spirit race's faith energy.

It was thanks to the protection of this holy tree that the Earth Spirit race had managed to repel their enemies countless times. It was what allowed Ye Ling to safeguard her people even under the attacks of two Saints.

During the last confrontation, when those two Saints managed to recruit a third Saint, the holy tree had exhausted its power to shield the Earth Spirit race.

The battle used up its core energy rapidly. Once it was all exhausted, the holy tree would die, and the Earth Spirit race would be slaughtered. Faced with this dire situation, Ye Ling made the difficult choice to flee the Esoteric Spirit World. Without the need for the holy tree's protection, its precious energy could be conserved for self-defense. This strategy would temporarily render it impervious even to the combined might of three Saints.

However, Ye Ling hadn't expected those bastards to collude with the Corrupt Blood Tree Demon race. Now, their sacred land was tainted, and the holy tree's core was damaged.

If they had returned a few days later, it wouldn't just be their sacred land that was destroyed; their holy tree would be dead as well.

When Ye Ling and Ye Xue appeared, divine light fell from the holy tree like comforting hands caressing their faces.

This poignant scene only intensified the tears streaming down Ye Ling and Ye Xue's faces. In a sudden gesture, Ye Xue formed hand seals, unleashing the aura of a Doyen. She used her own core energy to heal the holy tree.

However, two rays of holy light suddenly descended and disrupted her efforts. The holy tree prevented her from continuing her actions.

"It's useless. The holy tree's core has been corroded. We still came back too late," said Ye Ling as she wept helplessly.

Bai Shishi and Yu Qingxuan's eyes were red. They too felt a profound sense of sorrow. The Corrupt Blood Tree Demon race was truly hateful. How could there be such a vile lifeform in this world?

"Long Chen, what are you doing?"

Bai Shishi suddenly noticed Long Chen walking forward alone. He approached the rear of the mountain where a bottomless hole was located, and black liquid bubbled inside.

"Helping it recover."

Long Chen smiled. He then dipped his hand into the black hole, and white flames burst out of his hand.

In an instant, the black liquid ignited, burning and freezing at the same time. Following that, giant chunks of ice were thrown out of the hole.

Witnessing this, Ye Ling and Ye Xue were overjoyed. Though they had nearly given up hope, Long Chen reassured them that he could aid the holy tree's recovery.

The holy tree had stopped Ye Xue from healing it, telling her that she didn't need to waste the effort. However, that didn't mean that Long Chen couldn't do it. Ye Xue had absolute confidence in Long Chen.

Ever since Long Chen had taken one of her Sacred Light Pistils and then returned a Snow Lotus Pill that allowed her to directly awaken as a Doyen, she trusted him fully.

Suddenly, explosive sounds came from underneath, as if something was roaring with fury. Ye Ling cried out, "How hateful! It's the Corrupt Blood Tree Demon's Saint seal!"

When Long Chen froze the black water and tossed it out, they realized that this hole surrounded the holy tree's main root.

Countless black marks were now etched into the main root, exuding an evil aura indicative of the ongoing corrosion. The black liquid was the result of the corrosion.

Long Chen's expression changed after seeing those marks. They resembled a seal, akin to putting maggots on bone. If he were to forcibly destroy them, it would damage the holy tree's core, potentially leading to its destruction.

Fortunately, Xia Chen could help Long Chen with this issue. He was busy guarding the exit, so they sent an urgent message to him. In just a moment, he quickly arrived, and upon seeing this seal, he used multiple methods and finally succeeded in undoing it.

Countless members of the Earth Spirit race had already gathered at this location, and they all prostrated themselves toward Xia Chen, viewing him as a deity. This admiration filled Xia Chen with immense pride.

After this seal was undone, Long Chen formed hand seals, and the space behind him split open. Soil then poured out, carrying the essence of primal chaos.

When the divine soil filled the area around the holy tree, it quivered. Following that, a scene that stunned the Earth Spirit race's experts occurred.

## **Chapter 4472: Dealing with Corpses**

The bottomless pit was filled with new soil. After that, the withered holy tree quivered, and its yellow leaves gradually grew green once more, pulsing with vitality.

"This is...!"

Ye Ling, Ye Xue, and the rest of the Earth Spirit race's experts were overwhelmed with shock. Following that, tears of joy streamed down their faces as they witnessed the salvation of their holy tree.

The holy tree held profound significance for the Earth Spirit race, representing their faith. If it perished, they would be akin to children losing their mother. That kind of grief could not be described with words.

Looking at Long Chen, they were filled with gratitude. Even if they had to sacrifice themselves for Long Chen now, they would do it without hesitation. In their hearts, he had ascended to the status of a god-like figure.

As time passed, the holy tree started to thrum with newfound vitality. Divine light then flowed out of it, purifying the foul water.

A complete purification process unfolded as the land throbbed with life. Innumerable seeds sprouted, laboring to break through the soil and bask in the sunlight.

Long Chen had originally thought that this place would take tens of thousands of years to recover. Hence, he was surprised to discover that the desolate land harbored countless hidden seeds. To resist the corruption, some vegetation had gone into a dormant state to survive longer.

Now that their chance came, new plants quickly sprouted, and the desolate land was filled with life under the holy tree's light.

The foul stench vanished, replaced by the smell of flowers and plants. The once hellish landscape was now transformed into a breathtaking wonderland.

The transformation seemed to occur almost instantly, as if the holy tree was a grandmaster magician. If Long Chen hadn't personally witnessed it, he wouldn't have dared to believe it.

As Long Chen watched this stunning scene, his heart was also moved. Those seeds of life made him think of the human race.

The human race had also weathered countless tribulations. Prairie fires turned the grass to ash, yet when the wind blew away the fire, the grass resiliently sprouted anew. In the face of adversity, humanity entered a form of hibernation, only to surge forth with renewed vigor once the tribulations subsided.

This powerful life force embodied a commitment to tenacity and attachment. Despite enduring many hardships, the human race clung tenaciously to life, defiantly fighting against the force of fate.

Observing the seeds sprouting amid adversity filled Long Chen with profound motivation and granted him fresh insights.

"Dean Long Chen, thank you for everything. My Earth Spirit race is eternally grateful to you."

Suddenly, Ye Ling led the Earth Spirit race in kowtowing toward Long Chen.

"Senior, don't be like this! It was nothing more than a minor effort from my side," said Long Chen, trying to pull her up.

However, Ye Ling continued to bow according to their ancient etiquette before slowly rising. "The holy tree has said that you are our Spirit race's guiding star, so the Earth Spirit race will unwaveringly follow you, even in the face of death," declared Ye Ling.

She was serious. Furthermore, she made a deliberate distinction between the Spirit race and the Earth Spirit race in her words. Yet, Long Chen remained oblivious to this nuanced detail.

“You don’t need to be so courteous. Without you, I also wouldn’t have made such a huge profit. We are simply mutually benefiting,” said Long Chen humbly.

In truth, Long Chen had a great distaste for this kind of custom. Other than to one’s parents, Long Chen felt like no one should kowtow to anyone.

If someone sincerely felt gratitude, they should remember it in their heart. Some words and things should be simply left in the heart. That would be more significant than saying it out loud.

Long Chen was precisely that kind of guy. If someone helped him, he rarely said thanks. However, when they needed his help, he would go through fire and brimstone to help them without hesitation.

Although Long Chen knew that the Earth Spirit race was a simple race that expressed exactly what they thought and that they cared deeply about this kind of etiquette, Long Chen still didn’t like it.

The holy tree was rapidly recovering, and Xia Chen had fully repaired the exit of this world. The majority of their adversaries had also been eliminated, though it was possible that a few remnants were still hiding somewhere. Xia Chen, however, wasted no time in setting up sensing formation discs and strategically placing them. Any remaining stragglers would be swiftly dealt with.

The Dragonblood Legion naturally didn’t need to do anything against those weaklings, having no interest in killing such feeble opponents.

On the contrary, for the Earth Spirit race, these remnants were their sworn enemies who had to be completely eradicated. Thus, this task was assigned to them.

After undergoing two intense battles in a row with no time to rest, the Dragonblood Legion finally had some time to adjust their condition.

The battle in the Heavenly Fiend Prefecture had been extremely stimulating for them, so many of them already felt like they were on the edge of breaking through. However, to not affect their state in the Esoteric Spirit World, they consciously suppressed their cultivation bases. Now, with that consideration set aside, they were prepared to enter seclusion to further their progress.

Only Xia Chen and Guo Ran continued to work. They sought out a secluded spot in the Esoteric Spirit World to handle the aftermath of the battle—the corpses.

Long Chen joined them in the effort. The processed corpses were thrown into the primal chaos space, destined to be consumed by the black soil.

A while back, Long Chen had tossed the Ten Thousand Dragon Nest onto the black soil. But even after several days, there were no signs of it breaking down.

The Earth Cauldron had told Long Chen that this black soil had miraculous power, but that power also had to mature. The more corpses it devoured, the stronger it got.

In its state now, devouring the Ten Thousand Dragon Nest was a bit too much. It was like gnawing at a bone, resulting in the decomposition being very slow.

Hence, it was better to first break down these corpses. The more corpses the black soil devoured, the stronger it grew.

With this reminder from the Earth Cauldron, Long Chen cursed himself for being foolish. He actually hadn't taken note of this detail.

Previously, the black soil had required a huge amount of time just to decompose Immortal King corpses, but now those corpses could be instantly absorbed. Long Chen had always assumed that the strength of the black soil was related to his cultivation base and the size of the primal chaos space. Yet, it was actually different. The black soil had its own laws. The more corpses it absorbed, the stronger it got.

Long Chen was excited after learning this. If the black soil got stronger, wouldn't he be able to directly devour the likes of the Corrupt Blood Tree Demon Saints just by spraying them with it?

Even if it didn't prove fatal, dealing a severe wound to them would be enough. Then Long Chen would have the power to slay Saints himself.

The black soil had a terrifying killing power toward plant-type lifeforms. If he encountered experts like them in the future, wouldn't one toss of black soil get him a huge harvest?

Long Chen was instantly motivated to work even harder. He, Xia Chen, and Guo Ran quickly extracted the crystal cores, Neidans, essence blood, and other important parts of the corpses before Long Chen tossed the rest into the primal chaos space to be absorbed.

After tossing more and more corpses into the black soil, Long Chen suddenly noticed a change in the Heavenly Dao Tree at the center of the black soil.

"This is...!"

When he saw seven sparkling fruits on the Heavenly Dao Tree, Long Chen's heart skipped a beat.

### **Chapter 4473: Heavenly Doyen Fruit**

"Heavenly Doyen Fruit?!"

Long Chen held his breath when saw those seven sparkling fruits.

After Long Chen had slain Netherdragon Tianye, a budding Doyen, he was filled with hope and checked to see if a Heavenly Doyen Fruit would appear. To his dismay, the Heavenly Dao Tree yielded no new growth.

Later on, in his fight with Netherdragon Tianzhao, Long Chen wanted to kill that bastard so badly, as he wanted to see whether the Heavenly Dao Tree possessed the transcendent power to produce a Heavenly Doyen Fruit.

Despite his efforts, Netherdragon Tianzhao managed to flee after using a sacrificial technique. Nevertheless, Long Chen had slain countless budding Doyens, yet there was no discernible response from the Heavenly Dao Tree.

With that, Long Chen assumed that Triple Supremes were the limit of the Heavenly Dao Fruit. After all, Doyens were masters of the heavens, and so it seemed reasonable that their power could not be assimilated by the Heavenly Dao Tree.

He stopped thinking about it after that. However, this discovery made him jump.

“Heaven-defying, absolutely heaven-defying!” Long Chen roared. The Heavenly Dao Tree was absolutely heaven-defying. It was actually able to produce Heavenly Doyen Fruit, signifying that he could create Heavenly Doyens in the future.

In other words, the Dragonblood Legion would become a legion of Doyens, masters of the heavens. Long Chen’s spirit was set ablaze.

He immediately plucked one of those Heavenly Doyen Fruits. Sensing the Heavenly Dao energy inside of it, he suddenly became pensive.

“This isn’t right. This Heavenly Dao energy is different from those Doyens...”

Long Chen sensed something off. The auras of those Doyens always disgusted him, but the aura of this fruit evoked a sense of familiarity.

“Could it be that these Heavenly Doyen Fruits will birth Doyens that are different from the original Doyens from whom their power is derived?”

Long Chen stared at the Heavenly Doyen Fruit suspiciously, his discovery stirring a sense of unease within him.

“Oh?”

Long Chen’s attention was piqued when he suddenly discerned a peculiar feature within the boundless Heavenly Dao runes inside the fruit. A distinct pit with a five-point star caught his eye, its irregular and mysterious nature making him curious.

“One star Heavenly Doyen Fruit?”

Long Chen’s mouth opened on its own.

Long Chen suddenly thought of Netherdragon Tianzhao, and lightning seemed to flash through his mind. Now, he had a guess as to why those Heavenly Doyens were so different from Netherdragon Tianzhao.

“A one star Doyen. In other words, the weakest level of Doyen. So, Netherdragon Tianzhao must not have been a one star Doyen.”

The more he thought, the more he felt that was the case.

“Hehe, good, then I can create my own Dragonblood Heavenly Doyen Legion.” Long Chen laughed excitedly. With Doyen power backing their dragon blood power, the Dragonblood Legion would go through a complete transformation.

However, Long Chen still hadn’t had a chance to test these Heavenly Doyen Fruits, so he couldn’t make any rash moves.

If a Dragonblood warrior could only consume a single Heavenly Doyen Fruit in their lifetime, what if their aptitude was forever set to a one star Doyen? What if future Heavenly Doyen Fruits could not change this?

Hence, Long Chen didn't want to rashly use them. Once he found some stronger Heavenly Doyen Fruits, he'd find someone to make some tests.

With this new excitement coursing through his veins, Long Chen continued to work. He tossed the corpses that Xia Chen and Guo Ran had gone through into the black soil.

The two of them didn't even care about ordinary corpses, so the weaker ones had long since been tossed into the black soil and devoured in an instant.

Conversely, the corpse of a budding Doyen required a couple of minutes for complete dissolution, while Eternal corpses, originally taking days, now took just two hours.

When these powerful corpses were devoured, the life energy they unleashed caused all the vegetation within the primal chaos space to grow rapidly.

As a result, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus had once more flowered. Long Chen then plucked the three Sacred Light Pistils and planted them.

Due to the immense amount of life energy within the primal chaos space, the Sacred Light Pistils instantly germinated and started to grow once they were planted—one grew to three, three grew to nine. Due to the unending stream of corpses, the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotuses rapidly spread.

Feeling the change, the Earth Cauldron couldn't help but come out and swirl around the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotuses. They were incredibly important to it, so it couldn't help but feel moved.

The Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotuses weren't the only ones growing rapidly. All the vegetation within the primal chaos space was flourishing, and the most significant transformation occurred in the Fusang Trees and Moon Trees.

Their leaves had flames burning on them, but now their power was condensed and reserved. Every leaf had produced countless flame runes.

Finally, Long Chen turned his focus away from the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotuses and approached a Fusang Tree. Striking the trunk, he caused an enormous leaf to descend slowly.

This enormous leaf shrank until it was only the size of a palm in Long Chen's hand. Its appearance resembled solid gold, and it had an astonishing weight akin to a divine weapon.

The edges of the leaf had a sawtooth pattern, giving it a shockingly sharp appearance.

Long Chen took out a sword and slashed the leaf, eliciting a metallic ringing sound. To his surprise, not only did the sword fail to penetrate the leaf, but it also incurred a noticeable nick in the blade.

"Amazing. Even World Domain divine items cannot cause any damage to it."

Long Chen waved his hand, sending the leaf flying out.



BOOM!

The next moment, the leaf exploded in midair, and golden flames filled the air. A tiny leaf actually hid such terrifying destructive power.

“This is practically a natural flame talisman. Hahaha, I’m going to have another trump card!” Long Chen laughed.

This single leaf’s power was indeed shocking but still not to the point of being useful to Long Chen. It was not that threatening to Eternal experts and budding Doyens.

However, as more corpses were tossed in, the Fusang Trees and Moon Trees continuously grew, and their leaves constantly had new runes appearing on them. In the future, they would definitely become terrifying killing items.

If even the leaves were so powerful, then the actual branches had to be even more explosive. However, Long Chen still hadn’t thought about how to use them.

The growth of the Fusang Trees and Moon Trees made Huo Linger the happiest of all. She was like a gluttonous cat watching as her little fish pond grew, eating her fill every day.

The primal chaos space was also transforming with the addition of these corpses. New laws gradually merged into the primal chaos space as the corpses disintegrated, giving the impression that the primal chaos space possessed its own heavens, complete with the capacity to evolve. High above, Lei Linger was swimming in the clouds, surrounded by lightning.

The thunderforce emanated from the corpses, initially perplexing Long Chen. Seeking understanding, he turned to the Earth Cauldron for answers.

The Earth Cauldron’s answer was extremely straightforward: heavenly tribulation. Long Chen suddenly had an epiphany as he realized that the thunderforce bestowed upon these corpses during their lifetimes was now being absorbed by the primal chaos space.

Now, Lei Linger no longer needed to starve between Long Chen’s tribulations. With the continuous absorption of thunderforce from the potent corpses, Lei Linger finally acquired her own cultivation land within the evolving primal chaos space.

Time passed quickly as they worked. After half a month, Xia Chen and Guo Ran finally finished dealing with the corpses. When they were done, Ye Ling and Ye Xue ran over to them.

“We’ve opened the Esoteric Spirit Eye!”

Hearing this news, Long Chen was delighted.

#### **Chapter 4474: Esoteric Spirit Eye**

The Esoteric Spirit World served as a channel that connected to two other realms. While one link led to the Darklight Heaven, the second forged a connection to a mysterious and boundless world—the very source of the endless primal chaos qi within the Esoteric Spirit World.

Back in the humanless world, Long Chen had also come across a similar phenomenon. However, a distinct disparity lay in the fact that the Esoteric Spirit World's channel directly interfaced with this mysterious and arcane dimension.

From the mysterious primal chaos eye in the humanless world, Long Chen could sense primal chaos qi gushing out of there. Nonetheless, traversing through it proved to be an impossible feat.

One reason why Long Chen was in such a rush to help the Earth Spirit race reclaim the Esoteric Spirit World was also due to this selfish motivation. After hearing about the Esoteric Spirit Eye, he wanted to know just what kind of world it was.

When Long Chen, Xia Chen, and Guo Ran were busy dealing with the corpses, the Earth Spirit race mobilized their forces to search for the Esoteric Spirit Eye. Finally, under the old nest of the Fiend Demon race, they found the Esoteric Spirit Eye.

The Fiend Demon race was one of the Earth Spirit race's mortal enemies, and they had tried to seal off the Esoteric Spirit World, preventing the rest of the world from enjoying the endless primal chaos qi gushing out of it.

However, there was no way to truly seal off the Esoteric Spirit Eye. The Fiend Demon race had put down a forceful seal on it, only for that seal to suddenly explode and almost wipe them out.

After that, they realized that they could only enjoy the benefits that the Esoteric Spirit Eye brought, and they couldn't keep it for themselves.

Nevertheless, the Fiend Demon race persisted in employing some petty tricks, doing their best to retain the purest primal chaos qi within their territory before allowing it to spread throughout the world. That was more beneficial to their cultivation.

The Earth Spirit race didn't mind this, given the abundant amount of primal chaos qi in this world. The actions of the Fiend Demon race had negligible effects on the Earth Spirit race's cultivation progress.

However, the Fiend Demon race didn't know about their indifference. To prevent the Earth Spirit race from one day claiming the Esoteric Spirit Eye, those idiots set down countless mechanisms to conceal its aura. As a result, the Earth Spirit race was aware of its existence but remained oblivious to its precise location.

After that, the Fiend Demon race was wiped out of existence, with the higher-ups slain by the palace master and the Dragonblood Legion. As for the remaining small fish, they didn't know about this secret. As a result, the Earth Spirit race had to spend a great deal of time and effort before they finally found the Esoteric Spirit Eye beneath the nest of the Fiend Demon race. When they did, they immediately alerted Long Chen.

Long Chen was overjoyed to hear this news. Having dealt with the corpses, Xia Chen was busy examining the Saint cores and blood to create the best talismans from them. Guo Ran was also thinking of adding Saint runes to his armor to increase its power.

However, when their boss ordered them, they directly followed him to the Fiend Demon race's ancestral land. The once proud nest was in ruins, with the original structures torn down. Nature had started to

reclaim the area, manifesting new vegetation that seemed to be attempting to cleanse and rejuvenate the scarred land.

At the heart of this desolate region, there was an enormous empty space. It was at this moment that Long Chen finally beheld the Esoteric Spirit Eye.

The Esoteric Spirit Eye was an enormous lake. Its long and narrow shape resembled an eye, and it was as flat as a mirror. Endless primal chaos qi gushed out of this expansive space.

“What pure primal chaos qi! It’s like the mist produced by top grade primal chaos spirit stones,” exclaimed Xia Chen.

The primal chaos qi here was comparable to qi gathering formations made with top grade primal chaos spirit stones. It had to be known that Xia Chen didn’t have that many top grade primal chaos spirit stones, so he treated each one as a treasure to be used on his talismans and Guo Ran’s tools. He wasn’t willing to waste them on qi gathering formations.

This indicated that the primal chaos qi coming out of the lake was incredibly dense, akin to the output of a top-tier natural qi gathering formation. The Dragonblood Legion would be able to cultivate much more effectively here.

“The humanless world’s primal chaos eye was garbage compared to this place,” said Guo Ran.

Having entered the humanless world with Long Chen and claimed the primal chaos qi from the primal chaos eye, the two of them had felt the primal chaos eye to be a peerless treasure back then. But now, they found something even more extraordinary.

“Race leader Ye Ling, have you gone down to take a look?” asked Long Chen.

Ye Ling shook her head. “The holy tree told us not to go, saying that it involved too much karma. So we found it, we only went to inform you.”

Karma? Long Chen wasn’t afraid of such a thing. Clearly, the holy tree’s perception was amazing. It didn’t permit Ye Ling and the others to go down but instructed them to relay information about the Esoteric Spirit Eye to Long Chen. This implied that it knew Long Chen wasn’t afraid of this karma.

Long Chen nodded. He had Ye Ling and Ye Xue guard the surroundings in case anything happened.

After that, he directly dove in with Xia Chen and Guo Ran. After entering the Esoteric Spirit Eye, Long Chen’s heart shook.

To his surprise, the Esoteric Spirit Eye was bone-chillingly cold. Guo Ran immediately summoned his battle armor, while Xia Chen also condensed a barrier around himself.

The Esoteric Spirit Eye was deep. The further they went down, the colder it got, to the point that frost appeared on Guo Ran’s armor. However, curiously, the water around them wasn’t freezing.

Despite the bone-chilling coldness of the water, Long Chen’s robust physical body rendered him impervious to it, while Xia Chen’s barrier effectively shielded them from the cold. In this manner, the trio continued their descent.

As they descended further, not only did the water pressure intensify, but the cold transcended its physical impact, seeping into the soul. Guo Ran, in particular, was reaching the limits of his endurance.

“Boss, I feel like...”

“Fine, you can go!” Long Chen glared at him and already knew what he was thinking.

Although Guo Ran’s combat power was shocking and comparable to weaker Doyens, his power primarily stemmed from his battle armor. In this environment, the effect of his battle armor seemed to be limited. Hence, the minute the cold started invading his soul, he started to beat the gong of retreat.

Long Chen didn’t force him to continue and pressed down with Xia Chen. Thankfully, Xia Chen’s Spiritual Strength was extremely powerful, enabling him to control thousands of talismans at once and resist the cold and pressure.

The Esoteric Spirit Eye was like a bottomless hole. Fortunately, Xia Chen wasn’t Guo Ran. His combat power, willpower, and Spiritual Strength were all strong, so he followed close behind Long Chen.

“Boss, we’re almost at the end!”

Xia Chen suddenly let out a delighted shout. It was no longer dark beneath them as there was a spot of light.

The two were rejuvenated and went straight for it. When they were less than a hundred miles from it, an overwhelming force abruptly impeded their advance, bringing them to an abrupt halt.

“There’s a barrier!” Xia Chen’s expression changed.

## **Chapter 4475: Endless Treasures**

A hundred miles from the source of light, the powerful pressure became solid, blocking Long Chen and Xia Chen from advancing any further.

Long Chen extended his hand, feeling like he was pushing through something extremely elastic. As long as he did it lightly, he could slowly pull back his hand. But with every extra inch he attempted, the pressure increased exponentially.

If he were to force it and the elastic nature vanished, it would be like facing a heavy star, and he would have no chance of advancing at all.

Long Chen pushed a bit harder, and in response, a formidable backlash resonated through his abdomen, causing a sharp ache. The intensity of the resistance left him genuinely astonished; this barrier possessed unprecedented strength.

Meanwhile, Xia Chen was busy studying the barrier. Yet, the more he studied it, the graver his expression became.

“How is it? Do you think you can break it?” asked Long Chen.

“No. It’s impossible. This is an unsolvable barrier, and our power definitely cannot break it,” answered Xia Chen eventually. He had never encountered such a tricky barrier before. Xia Chen felt like his hands were tied, unable to find any leverage point.

This barrier was the result of the friction between two worlds, so breaking it would require a complete understanding of the laws of both worlds. Even with a million years at one’s disposal, grasping the laws of the Esoteric Spirit World would be an immensely challenging feat, let alone the laws of the mysterious world on the other side.

That was because the laws of the world were in constant flux, evolving and adapting. Constant changes happened as they were affected by other worlds.

That was why Xia Chen described it as impossible. In other words, no formation master could possibly do anything about it.

Perhaps if a person’s power could surpass both worlds, they could break the barrier through brute force. But did such a person really exist in this world?

Long Chen’s heart sank. He knew Xia Chen’s ability all too well. If Xia Chen said it was impossible, then they would have come here for nothing. They had to go back up.

“However, I do have a way for us to get closer to the exit. Boss, just wait a moment. I’m going to try something,” said Xia Chen.

Xia Chen started to take out formation discs and set them up around him. Sometimes, he would take out several hundred at once or even tens of thousands. As more and more formation discs were embedded in the surroundings, Long Chen felt the pressure in front of them shrink.

An hour later, millions of formation discs were floating in the air. Xia Chen was sweating.

“When did you get this rich?”

Seeing all these formation discs, Long Chen was stupefied. Just how much time and effort had been spent on these formation discs?

“Hehe, with Big Sister Qingxuan’s medicinal pills, I can save time on cultivating. Now, all my time goes into inscribing formation discs and talismans. This is my full stock. Boss, let’s go slow. Once we reach the limit, we won’t be able to go any further. Otherwise, if we trigger an expulsion from the other world, all of this money will evaporate,” said Xia Chen.

He couldn’t break the barrier, but he was able to let them move within the range that the barrier allowed so that they could get closer. However, they should not trigger the world’s expulsion.

Long Chen nodded, and the two carefully crept forward. Long Chen couldn’t help admiring Xia Chen’s formation arts, as the two got closer and closer to the exit.

The exit was a few dozen meters wide, resembling a giant mirror. Both Long Chen and Xia Chen simultaneously halted at a specific distance from this mirror—this marked the limit. One step forward, and the world would reject them. If that were to happen, the formation discs that Xia Chen had set up would be obliterated, while Long Chen and Xia Chen would be in danger of dying.

Yet, having arrived here, they could see through the mirror. At first, the barrier was in flux due to their movements, so the image was not clear. However, once they stopped moving, the image grew clear.

When they saw the scene on the other side, Long Chen and Xia Chen's eyes widened. Moreover, Xia Chen's eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

"That's... that's..."

There was an unending barren mountain range on the other side. However, while there were no trees growing, specks of metallic light could be found all over the place. Xia Chen pointed at them, feeling too emotional to speak.

Although Long Chen didn't know much about immortal metals, looking at those metallic marks, he knew that they couldn't be ordinary.

"Boss, those should be Saint-level materials! Furthermore, they're the most primitive kind of divine materials, possessing innate divinity! If you use them to make arrowheads, they can even slay Saints!" exclaimed Xia Chen.

"Well, does just recognizing them mean anything? We can't get them, right?" Long Chen couldn't help but sigh, feeling vexed. Although he did his best to remain calm and repeatedly told himself not to get greedy, it was harder with Xia Chen shouting excitedly.

At the summit of the mountain lay fist-sized golden lumps, appearing deceptively close as if Long Chen could reach out and touch them. Despite that, they were, in fact, worlds apart.

"There's more over there!"

Xia Chen suddenly pointed at the next mountain peak with black specks on it. Long Chen didn't recognize them, but Xia Chen did. They were another kind of Saint-level divine material.

Long Chen felt like he couldn't endure it. Seeing treasures but not being able to touch them was worse than torture.

Long Chen then looked into the distance and saw a lush forest beyond the mountain range. The blue of the sky was out of the ordinary, and the stars in the sky felt so close to them. This world gave off a primal feeling, as if it was still in its most primitive state.

The world was silent, devoid of any signs of life. Yet, unexcavated treasures lay scattered all around, inspiring awe in both Long Chen and Xia Chen.

"That's definitely the legendary Divine Wind Iron! If added to regular Wind Iron, it will add flexibility. If you then add Bloodrinker runes, it will possess explosive power. Fuck, I had never imagined I would see these things... And that silver metal, although it's not clear, I can't be wrong about those marks! That's Heavenly Star Bright Silver! Guo Ran dreams of obtaining such a multipurpose Saint-level divine material! If he saw this scene, he'd be crying right now...!" Xia Chen was normally calm, but he couldn't contain himself now. Since Long Chen ignored him, he started to talk to himself.

It would be fine for him to talk to himself, but now, every word seemed to ignite a fervor in Long Chen's heart. If Xia Chen hadn't explained, Long Chen could have feigned ignorance and treated the items as

insignificant. However, Xia Chen just had to explicitly state what every treasure was, as if afraid Long Chen might not know just how valuable they were.

Just as the two of them were examining this world, a rock on the mountainside moved. Long Chen cried out in excitement when he saw that.

#### **Chapter 4476: Mysterious Lifeform**

This seemingly ordinary rock was not a stone but a lifeform with stone-like marks all around it. Its outer layer blended seamlessly with the surrounding stones, causing Long Chen and Xia Chen to overlook it until that moment.

Long Chen's excitement surged as the "rock" revealed itself to be a three-meter Stone Spirit. It seemed to have been sleeping here.

"Hey, hey!"

Long Chen waved at that lifeform, but it remained oblivious to his gestures, neither responding to his voice nor diverting its gaze in his direction. It simply stretched before once again assuming a kneeling position, becoming completely motionless.

Once it stopped moving, Long Chen and Xia Chen almost lost track of where it was. It seamlessly blended with the stone mountain, leaving the two observers utterly astonished. Initially thinking they hadn't paid enough attention before, they now witnessed the lifeform seemingly vanish right before their eyes. Its camouflage proved to be truly remarkable.

"It seems that this mysterious world hides many dangers!" remarked Long Chen.

Xia Chen nodded in agreement. For this Stone Spirit to possess such adept camouflage abilities, some terrifying existence had to be threatening it, forcing it to evolve in this manner.

However, through the barrier, Long Chen and Xia Chen were unable to sense this Stone Spirit's aura, so they weren't sure how strong it was.

As more time elapsed, the Stone Spirit moved once more. It shifted a bit and then came to a stop, repeating the process multiple times as if testing something.

It was very careful. After moving and stopping several times, it finally lowered its guard and crawled to the very peak of the mountain, looking around.

As it shed its camouflage, Long Chen realized that it was a bit similar to a butterfly, but it had a long tail and was covered in stone-like scales. Its scales were constantly blending with the stones around it, rendering it exceedingly challenging for others to detect.

Once it crawled to the peak of the mountain, it surveyed its surroundings. Long Chen, once again, started waving his hand. Struck by inspiration, he waved a multicolored banner in an attempt to capture its attention.

"It sees us!" cried out Xia Chen excitedly.

Long Chen was also excited and continued waving the banner. His gaze locked onto the Stone Spirit's eyes, which were a deep, ruby-like shade. Normally closed, its eyes became visible when it fixed its gaze on Long Chen.

"It's a Stone Spirit! Haha, now there's hope!" Seeing those eyes, Long Chen was delighted. It belonged to a species of the Spirit race, and it appeared to be a kind one.

After staring at Long Chen for a while, the Stone Spirit went still and closed its eyes again, ignoring the two of them.

Long Chen and Xia Chen were instantly disappointed. If it was merely ignoring them, there seemed to be little they could do. In response, Long Chen closed his eyes, silently extending his senses to encompass everything in the world beyond.

As expected, he managed to grasp some spiritual fluctuations. However, due to the barrier, that feeling was very vague.

At this moment, the Stone Spirit finally moved. It came up to the barrier and looked at Long Chen and Xia Chen.

Long Chen and Xia Chen were delighted. Before Long Chen could think of how to communicate with it, Xia Chen started gesturing, pointing at those chunks of immortal and divine metals, and then pointing at himself. He then clasped his hands and bowed repeatedly as if begging.

The Stone Spirit looked at them curiously. It didn't seem to understand Xia Chen at all.

Observing the situation, Long Chen tried to use his Spiritual Strength to form a connection with this Stone Spirit. However, the barrier's power was just too immense. He could barely sense the Stone Spirit with his soul and couldn't transmit any information.

Despite Long Chen's repeated attempts, they all ended in failure. Xia Chen also gestured, but the Stone Spirit showed no response. It didn't seem to have ever communicated with humans, so it didn't understand what Xia Chen was saying. However, it finally ran over to the piece of immortal metal that Xia Chen had pointed to and dug it out.

Xia Chen shouted excitedly. The Stone Spirit finally understood.

Waving and beckoning, Xia Chen tried to lure the Stone Spirit over. After staring at him for a while, it seemingly understood his intention. It came up to the barrier and slowly rolled the foot-sized sphere of immortal metal toward the barrier.

The barrier quivered, and the sphere of immortal metal slowly passed through the water-like barrier, reaching Long Chen and Xia Chen.

Long Chen and Xia Chen shouted excitedly. They had the urge to hug that Stone Spirit and kiss it.

Long Chen waved to express his thanks, and the Stone Spirit seemed to understand and grinned happily.

Long Chen harbored profound goodwill toward the Spirit race, and he also had the Spirit race's blessing on him. Seeing a member of the Spirit race, he felt like it would definitely help them, much like how he would unfailingly aid the Spirit race whenever they sought his help.



The piece of immortal metal slowly floated over to Long Chen and Xia Chen, passing through the barrier easily. Xia Chen shouted and reached out to receive it, but he was pushed aside by Long Chen.

After that, Long Chen's arms bulged as he caught the immortal metal. It was shockingly heavy. If Xia Chen were to receive it, his arms would instantly shatter.

Seeing this scene, Xia Chen felt a burst of fear. In his excitement, he had forgotten just how heavy Saint-level immortal metals were. It might seem to be floating, but it was as heavy as a star.

After carefully examining the marks on the immortal metal, both of them were overjoyed.

Feeling intense excitement, Xia Chen shouted, "The purity is so high that it's hard to believe! This basically isn't an ore but a perfectly refined immortal metal!"

After personally touching it and sensing the immortal metal's terrifying aura, Xia Chen finally understood just how shocking this treasure was.

Observing the two of them dancing jubilantly, the Stone Spirit displayed remarkable intelligence. It immediately grabbed another piece of immortal metal and tossed it through the barrier.

"Be gentle!"

Xia Chen jumped in shock, but the Stone Spirit unreservedly tossed another piece of immortal metal their way. Successive pieces of immortal metal then followed suit. Xia Chen, instead of expressing delight this time, was gripped by horror.

The Stone Spirit was excitedly tossing more pieces into the barrier. Suddenly, it picked up a piece that was as big as itself, squatting down to forcibly rip out a chunk that was several meters thick. When this large piece struck the barrier, the barrier quivered, giving rise to a giant whirlpool.

BOOM!

The barrier suddenly turned dark, transforming into a black hole. In an instant, Long Chen and Xia Chen's figures vanished.

The Stone Spirit stood by the barrier quietly for a while, gazing at the pitch-black barrier. It scratched its head, not knowing what had just happened.

#### **Chapter 4477: Time to Refine Pills**

"Retreat!"

Long Chen and Xia Chen shouted at almost the same time. They couldn't bother with those pieces of immortal metal and just shot back. When they escaped the region of the barrier's resistance, Xia Chen immediately put away his formation discs.

BOOM!

A terrifying black current blasted out of the barrier, sending Long Chen and Xia Chen flying.

Thankfully, Xia Chen had taken out several talismans to increase his defenses; otherwise, he would have been crushed by this current.

The current swept them over, propelling them forward. Suddenly, along with an explosive sound, they heard Ye Ling and Ye Xue's startled cries.

Standing guard over the Esoteric Spirit Eye, Ye Ling and Ye Xue hadn't seen anything crazy the entire time. However, the water level suddenly sank and exploded, and they saw Long Chen and Xia Chen come flying out of the Esoteric Spirit Eye.

Pieces of stone also came flying out, creating sizable craters upon impact with the ground.

"Heavens, what is this?!"

Ye Ling and Ye Xue stood in stunned silence. Meanwhile, Guo Ran, who had come to see what was going on, stared wide-eyed, almost unable to believe what he was witnessing.

At the sight of those natural immortal metals, Guo Ran couldn't contain his excitement and let out a triumphant roar. In contrast, Long Chen swiftly made his way back to the Esoteric Spirit Eye.

The Esoteric Spirit Eye had returned to its calm appearance—as flat as glass. However, when he stood on it, he found that the surface of the water seemed frozen, and he was unable to enter it.

Moreover, the unending stream of pure primal chaos qi emanating from it had also ceased. Long Chen jumped in fright when he realized that. If, in pursuit of a few pieces of immortal metals, he had inadvertently deprived the Esoteric Spirit World of its primal chaos qi, the consequences would be catastrophic.

Ye Ling and Ye Xue's expressions also changed. They ran over to the Esoteric Spirit Eye and stood on the surface of the water.

Fortunately, after a bit, the water softened, allowing them to immerse their hands for several inches. Simultaneously, the primal chaos qi gradually resumed its flow.

Long Chen breathed a sigh of relief. The reactivation of the primal chaos qi indicated that he hadn't damaged the Esoteric Spirit Eye beyond repair.

Covered in sweat, Long Chen contemplated the gravity of the situation. If he had indeed destroyed the Esoteric Spirit Eye, the weight of that mistake would have haunted him all the time.

Two hours later, they could go several meters deep into the water, but that was the extent of their progress. Reaching the bottom would require a considerable amount of time.

Long Chen thought of the Stone Spirit who might be waiting for them on the other side. It was probably baffled and had no idea what had just happened.

No one knew whether it would still be there once they could go down again. Long Chen then sighed and swam back up with mixed emotions.

After surfacing once more, Long Chen saw Guo Ran hugging the pieces of immortal metals and talking to himself like a crazy person. As for Xia Chen, he had countless formation discs set up in front of him to check them for damage.

Fortunately, toward the end, Xia Chen had gathered them quickly, so only a few hundred were damaged. The rest were still fine. If he had been a bit slower, they would have been all ruined. Then he would have to cry.

“Boss, with this biggest piece of immortal metal, how about I make you a new weapon!?” Guo Ran ran over excitedly.

Hearing that, Long Chen was moved. Ever since the Minghong Saber exploded, he had never found a weapon that suited him. Testing the latter forms of Split the Heavens was impossible with an ordinary weapon, as it couldn't withstand his formidable astral energy.

If he had a good weapon, his combat power would definitely rise by a level. Reflecting on his past battle with Netherdragon Tianzhao, Long Chen mused that a powerful weapon would have significantly eased his victory.

However, Long Chen couldn't help feeling a burst of pain as the image of a sinister, pitch-black divine weapon flashed in his mind. Sighing, he spoke, “These immortal metals should be used to equip our brothers if possible. I don't need a weapon right now.”

“Alright. Then I'll study and see how to use these materials best,” Guo Ran laughed excitedly. This dense fellow didn't even notice the change in Long Chen's emotions.

After obtaining these immortal metals, Guo Ran dragged Xia Chen away as they had to study how to purify Saint-level immortal metals together.

Having obtained a huge amount of essence blood from powerful experts, including the essence blood and runes of multiple Saints, along with Saint-level immortal materials, both of them now had ample room for improvement.

Ye Ling and Ye Xue returned to their people and started to extract the spirit stones from this area. They understood that they had nothing else to give him, and it was the only way they could express their gratitude.

Long Chen stayed by the Esoteric Spirit Eye for a day and night, but despite his efforts, he was only able to descend less than a hundred meters. Ultimately, he resigned himself to the fact that reaching the bottom again was impractical. At this rate, it would be months before he could make another attempt.

Hence, the matter of the Esoteric Spirit Eye could only be temporarily set aside. Long Chen then returned to the Earth Spirit race's ancestral land. Immortal mist now covered this area, and the enormous holy tree was emitting divine light that enveloped the Dragonblood warriors beneath its crown. They seemed to be sleeping and cultivating at the same time.

When Long Chen sensed their cultivation bases, he jumped in shock. Only a few days had passed since his last encounter with them, yet the majority had already reached the ninth Heavenstage. Only a small fraction remained at the eighth Heavenstage.

Bai Shishi, Yu Qingxuan, and the others were surrounded by divine light, exuding a sacred aura. The rhythm of the ten thousand Daos resonated with their breaths. All of them had entered a state of being one with the heavens.

No wonder their cultivation bases had advanced so quickly, so the holy tree was helping them. Otherwise, even with the support of medicinal pills, such a speed would have been implausible.

“It’s rare for me to have nothing to do. It’s the best chance to increase my realm.”

Preoccupied with various affairs until now, Long Chen hadn’t had a chance to cultivate peacefully in a long while. There was no one to disturb him here, so he took out a Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill and devoured it.

BOOM!

Its power erupted within him. Suddenly, a gentle energy enveloped him and lifted him off the ground.

It was the holy tree guiding him to its crown. At the top, Long Chen saw the twinkling stars in the sky, surrounded by condensed immortal spiritual qi.

“Many thanks.” Long Chen hastily thanked the holy tree, which was helping his cultivation. While assimilating the medicinal pill, he also absorbed the spiritual qi of heaven and earth. Typically, he would use his divine ring for this purpose, but thanks to the holy tree’s help, he didn’t need to.

Countless leaves seemed to form a spirit gathering formation for him. Without any disturbance, all the power of the Esoteric Spirit World was being drawn to aid Long Chen.

As millions of divine rays enfolded Long Chen, spiritual qi was infused into him, merging seamlessly with the energy of the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pill. His aura grew crazily as the medicinal energy from the pill was flawlessly unleashed throughout him.

Long Chen was pleasantly surprised. With the holy tree helping him absorb the medicinal energy, the process became remarkably smooth. However, the effect of a single pill was insufficient to propel him directly to the seventh Heavenstage.

After all, the seventh Heavenstage was the start of the late stage, so the amount of energy required for Long Chen to make this breakthrough was terrifying.

Long Chen gritted his teeth and popped the remaining Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills into his mouth one by one.

When the final one was absorbed, his bottleneck finally shattered, and Long Chen, with an explosive sound, ascended to the seventh Heavenstage. After reaching this level, he felt a profound enhancement in his strength and a closer connection to the stars in the sky.

“Senior, do you have time? We should refine some pills.”

Long Chen beckoned to the Earth Cauldron. This time, he wanted to rise all the way to the peak of the World King realm.

## **Chapter 4478: Ninth Heavenstage World King**

Tribulation clouds gathered in the sky, and within them, Lei Linger swam, crazily absorbing the power of tribulation lightning.

Beneath the clouds, a bronze cauldron quivered. Divine light blazed all around it, and even the destructive might of the heavens was unable to suppress its sacred aura.

As it revolved, the tribulation clouds seemed afraid of it. However, the divine runes on the bronze cauldron were one with the ten thousand Daos, persistently drawing down an endless deluge of heavenly tribulation.

This marked Lei Linger's thirty-sixth Saint pill tribulation. At first, she struggled to withstand this level of tribulation and would explode upon encountering them.

However, she could now endure multiple attacks. With each assault, she absorbed more tribulation energy, causing her aura to surge exponentially.

Right now, Lei Linger was even more terrifying than Huo Linger, thanks to the Saint aura enveloping her—a power granted by the Saint pill tribulations.

**BOOM!**

Eventually, Lei Linger reached her limit. She erupted into lightning runes, tightly securing the thunderforce, and retreated to the primal chaos space to gradually absorb it.

The Earth Cauldron then blazed with light, dispersing the tribulation clouds in the sky. At this moment, the Earth Cauldron seemed completely unmatched, and even heavenly tribulation was nothing more than a tool for refining pills to it. The Earth Cauldron could summon and dispel it at will.

After the Earth Cauldron returned to the primal chaos space, nine peerless grade Saint pills were reflected in Long Chen's eyes. This was the thirty-sixth furnace of Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills, and now, Long Chen was out of Sacred Light Pistils.

However, that was fine. He still had plenty of corpses to fuel the primal chaos space. The absorption of the five Saint corpses and the Ten Thousand Dragon Nest was still underway. It wouldn't be long before he accumulated another substantial batch of Sacred Light Pistils.

"It's been hard on you, senior," Long Chen remarked, gazing excitedly at the stack of Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills.

"The hardship was well worth it. All the refinements have awakened seven of my core runes. I owe you my gratitude," replied the Earth Cauldron.

Refining so many Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills without pause had depleted a significant portion of Long Chen's Spiritual Strength. He went without pause, relying on medicinal pills to replenish his energy.

Throughout the refinement process, the Earth Cauldron's voice gained depth, signifying its growing power. It vaguely emitted the feeling of dominating heaven and earth. Finally, a glimpse of the formidable divine might of one of the ten great primal chaos divine items was unveiled.

Most importantly, this was just the tip of the iceberg. If it were to fully recover, who knew what kind of terrifying power it would possess?

Long Chen felt a sense of absolute security thanks to it. Also, refining the Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills was immensely beneficial to both Long Chen and the Earth Cauldron, as well as Lei Linger. The latter had finally eaten her fill, and with her mastery of Saint-tier lightning, her strength was now so formidable that even Long Chen felt a sense of alarm.

With the refinements completed and the second batch of Sacred Light Pistils yet to grow, the Earth Cauldron returned to Long Chen's spiritual space to digest its gains.

Long Chen then started to consume these Saint pills one by one. Half a month later, he finished digesting over three hundred Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills, and his cultivation base rose to the peak of the ninth Heavenstage of the World King realm.

If Long Chen were an ordinary person, he would be just one step away from entering the Divine Venerate realm. However, as he cultivated the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art, he still had three more Heavenstages to break through.

The last three Heavenstages were the most difficult and required the most energy. Based on Long Chen's estimate, to reach the peak of the twelfth Heavenstage, he would have to eat at least thirty thousand Sacred Light Snow Lotus Pills.

However, that was already excellent. Without the assistance of the Earth Cauldron, Long Chen would have had to rely on consuming World King Pills to progress, potentially requiring the ingestion of tens of millions of pills. The prospect of having to cram a mountain of pills into his stomach was too horrifying. He would definitely vomit blood after that.

Upon reaching the ninth Heavenstage, Long Chen felt disappointed for not awakening the eighth star's pill formula. This concerned him deeply, as he didn't know whether altering the course of the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art had rendered him unable to unlock the remaining pill formulas.

All he could do was console himself by entertaining the thought that he might unlock the next pill formula upon ascending to the rank of Divine Venerate. Emerging from seclusion after consuming the pills, Long Chen found that the Dragonblood Legion had come out as well.

They had all broken through to the ninth Heavenstage. However, they had advanced so quickly that their auras were a bit light, so they would need some time to solidify their new realms. If they were to make their breakthrough in this state, their heavenly tribulation would be extremely dangerous.

As a result, they had a rare chance to relax for a few days. Other than Xia Chen and Guo Ran who were working all the time, the rest of the Dragonblood warriors split up and roamed throughout the Esoteric Spirit World.

Under the influence of the holy tree, the entire Esoteric Spirit World had transformed into a paradise devoid of enemies—a pure sanctuary. It was even more relaxing and peaceful than the High Firmament Academy.

With a rare moment of leisure, Long Chen accompanied Bai Shishi and Yu Qingxuan, relishing this opportunity for relaxation and peace.

“Peaceful days are really nice. Just how great would it be if every day was like this?”

The three of them stared at a waterfall before them, its cascading waters releasing sparkling mist. Bathed in sunlight, a magnificent rainbow spanned between two mountains, captivating Yu Qingxuan’s gaze as she admired its beauty. Yu Qingxuan was content with simplicity and hated fighting. She would rather live a simple, peaceful life.

Seated in front of the waterfall, the trio immersed themselves in its beauty. Bai Shishi, however, countered Yu Qingxuan’s sentiment, shaking her head as she remarked, “We can’t vainly look for days like this. This world isn’t so beautiful. The only reason we are able to see this beautiful world is because others are shielding the shadows for us so that we can see the light.”

Hearing this, Long Chen was startled and looked at Bai Shishi in shock. He hadn’t expected Bai Shishi to be able to spout such a deep philosophy.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” demanded Bai Shishi somewhat angrily. That look in his eyes deserved a beating.

“You’ve grown up,” said Long Chen seriously.

“Scram!” Bai Shishi blushed and rebuked him. This might be praise, and Long Chen’s expression was also serious. However, his eyes were now on her chest, giving those words an entirely different meaning.

“Stop messing around. Long Chen, I have something serious to tell you. I’ve been nervous the last few days. I can somehow feel... *it*...” Yu Qingxuan’s tone turned solemn, a touch of fear permeating her words.

“What is *it*?” asked Long Chen.

“The Nether Emperor’s presence. I can sense it again.”

Immediately, Long Chen’s expression completely changed, and he shot up.

#### **Chapter 4479: Miraculous Golden Lotus Seed**

“You sense him again?!”

Long Chen’s expression completely changed. Last time, he had severed Yu Qingxuan’s connection with the Nether Emperor, ensuring she was no longer a daughter of the Nether Emperor. However, she could now sense the Nether Emperor’s presence again.

“I feel like he is staring at me, as if he’s omnipresent, watching every move I make. It’s as though a sinister presence is lurking in the shadows, observing me. I can’t shake this feeling, and it’s only intensifying,” expressed Yu Qingxuan fearfully.

Upon discovering that she was a daughter of the Nether Emperor and destined to be consumed by him, she had to accept her fate. However, everything changed when she crossed paths with Long Chen. Suddenly, she found herself reluctant to accept the grim destiny that awaited her. She didn’t want to die and wanted to be with Long Chen forever. For the first time, she was confronted with the fear of losing something precious.

“Big Sister, don’t worry. We’ll stand by your side and fight the Nether Emperor together,” promised Bai Shishi, holding her hand.

Long Chen’s expression also grew serious. He then asked the Earth Cauldron, “Senior, what do I have to do to fully sever the connection between the Nether Emperor and Qingxuan?”

“To be a daughter of the Nether Emperor is to be a seed of the Nether Emperor. They are the seeds sown by the Nether Emperor for his revival. Unless you can kill him, this connection will not vanish,” explained the Earth Cauldron.

Long Chen sank into thought. The implication was evident—this connection could not be severed, and the Nether Emperor would be able to find her at any moment.

A surge of anger coursed through Long Chen. Qingxuan’s fear pained him, yet he found himself powerless in the face of this inescapable fate.

“The golden lotus seed you possess is miraculous, and its blessing can temporarily shield Yu Qingxuan from the Nether Emperor’s gaze. However, this effect has a time limit. Once she can sense the Nether Emperor again, you will need to carry out the blessing once more,” said the Earth Cauldron.

Hearing the Earth Cauldron characterize the golden lotus seed as miraculous, Long Chen felt a mix of astonishment and joy. As one of the ten great primal chaos divine items, the Earth Cauldron wouldn’t casually label anything as miraculous. Hence, the origins of the golden lotus seed had to be shocking.

Long Chen hadn’t expected the seed given to him by the mysterious Aunt Gong in the Heavenly Flame World would be a treasure of this caliber.

“Can I give the seed to Qingxuan?” asked Long Chen hastily.

“This golden lotus seed isn’t something that can be given away casually. There are certain—well, some things are better left unsaid. Just understand that you are the only one who can use it,” replied the Earth Cauldron.

Hearing this, Long Chen was shaken. It seemed that the golden lotus seed was of extraordinary importance.

After that, Long Chen told Yu Qingxuan to sit still, while he communed with the golden lotus seed. Obediently following his will, the small golden lotus seed materialized above Yu Qingxuan. As its divine light enveloped her, Yu Qingxuan quivered. The fear and nervousness on her face instantly softened, and she seemed to relax instantly.

As more light fell on her, a golden mark appeared on Yu Qingxuan’s forehead, looking identical to the mark of the golden lotus seed. After this mark materialized, Yu Qingxuan smiled contentedly. She could no longer sense the will of the Nether Emperor; she felt free.

Then, the golden lotus seed returned to the primal chaos space. It seemed that carrying out this blessing hadn’t depleted much of its energy, which brought relief to Long Chen.

“Long Chen, I’m free! I can no longer sense the will of the Nether Emperor,” said Yu Qingxuan excitedly.



“The golden lotus seed’s blessing can temporarily shield you from the Nether Emperor’s senses. At the very least, you won’t sense his presence for several months. If you ever feel it again in the future, just let me know, and I’ll carry out the blessing again. This will also help assess the effectiveness of the blessing,” explained Long Chen.

The Earth Cauldron was the one predicting the expiration date of the blessing. However, as the exact time wasn’t something it could confirm, they would need to test it first.

Yu Qingxuan nodded obediently. Free from the oppressive gaze of the Nether Emperor, she felt considerably more at ease, and her bright smile lightened the atmosphere.

The three of them continued to talk and laugh, unaware that night had fallen. They eventually lay down on the ground, with Yu Qingxuan on Long Chen’s left side and Bai Shishi on the right.

Long Chen rested on the ground, looking at the starry sky as his mind immersed in the stars. Through his heightened senses, he caught the mental whispers between Yu Qingxuan and Bai Shishi. The soothing melodies of birds and insects filled his ears, evoking an unparalleled sense of peace within his heart.

Suddenly, Yu Qingxuan raised her head and rested it on Long Chen’s shoulder. Under the starlight, Bai Shishi could see Qingxuan’s smile and wink.

Immediately, Bai Shishi blushed. Yu Qingxuan wanted her to sleep on Long Chen’s other shoulder, but Bai Shishi was too embarrassed to do so.

Suddenly, a powerful hand drew her in, intensifying Bai Shishi’s blush as she instinctively struggled. However, Long Chen persisted and firmly nestled her head against his shoulder.

Bai Shishi felt a wave of embarrassment, but after a brief struggle, she succumbed, sensing her heart pounding. As she was overwhelmed, her chat with Yu Qingxuan also came to a halt.

The world became silent as the two of them were using Long Chen’s shoulders as pillows. All they could hear was each other’s breathing and heartbeat. At this moment, the world seemed to freeze.

Long Chen stealthily patted Bai Shishi’s shoulder, causing a quiver from her as she bit her lip, holding back tears that threatened to spill.

In an instant, Bai Shishi comprehended Long Chen’s feelings. Although it was just a light pat on the shoulder, it conveyed a depth of emotion that resonated fully with her.

Bai Shishi knew that Long Chen liked her but struggled to get closer to her, always cautious not to say something that could provoke her. She also knew that Long Chen had many wives, yet she still chose to be with him. Given her prideful nature, only she knew how much grief she had to endure.

Long Chen was well aware of her sacrifices. However, mutual understanding required time, and the two of them hadn’t had many moments alone to navigate and explore these emotions together.

Even so, Long Chen couldn’t afford to spend so much time with his women. Hence, although it was just a pat on the shoulder, Bai Shishi could sense the depth of Long Chen’s feelings for her.

At that moment, she felt like all her sacrifices were worth it. At the very least, Long Chen was always thinking of her, caring for her, and carefully protecting her feelings.

Enveloped in the tranquil sounds of each other's heartbeat and breathing, the three of them drifted into sleep. As the sun gradually rose, warming the earth, the abrupt gust of wind startled them awake.

"Big Brother Long Chen, the academy has sent an urgent summons for you," announced Ye Xue from a great distance.

#### **Chapter 4480: Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon**

The Esoteric Spirit World's gates were opened once more, and countless experts of the Esoteric Spirit World had gathered on the other side. They were the ones who had jointly used a secret art to send a message into the Esoteric Spirit World. At this moment, Long Chen and the others removed the formation, reconnecting the two worlds.

When the gates opened, the aura of the Darklight Heaven flooded in, causing Long Chen and the others to instantly sense something off. They realized why the academy would summon them so urgently.

"The Darklight Heaven is changing."

After sensing the aura of the Darklight Heaven, Long Chen was shaken. It was no longer so pure; instead, it seemed corrupted, with a newfound brutality and a pervasive murderous aura filling the air. Merely being present in this environment felt like it could make a person more bloodthirsty and violent.

The air was filled with an aura that Long Chen detested. Standing in this world, he instantly felt like he was being targeted. As he looked up at the sky, black clouds slowly covered the sun, casting a pervasive darkness over the world.

"It's filled with the aura of Heavenly Doyens." Long Chen's expression darkened. The detestable aura belonged to Doyens, masters of the heavens.

Guo Ran and the others also sensed the change in the Heavenly Daos, but their sensitivity to it wasn't as acute as Long Chen's. Hence, they jumped in shock after hearing it.

"Race leader, Dean Long Chen!"

When Long Chen and the others finally came out, the Earth Spirit race's experts hastily greeted them.

"We received orders from Dean Bai Letian to request Dean Long Chen's return."

Long Chen nodded. There was no need for them to say anything else. He already knew why Bai Letian would call him back.

"Big Brother Long Chen, I'll go with you," said Ye Xue.

However, Long Chen rejected her offer. "You have a more important mission. The Earth Spirit race has many outstanding geniuses, so help them awaken as Doyens. The Earth Spirit race must be powerful enough to protect itself. Grow while you can. Let us deal with the matters of the academy ourselves."

All this time, Ye Xue had been helping the Dragonblood warriors to the point of delaying her own people's cultivation. Knowing this, how could Long Chen possibly monopolize her support?

Ye Xue nodded in understanding. After that, Long Chen bid farewell to race leader Ye Ling and flew back to the High Firmament Academy in a flying boat.

The Esoteric Spirit World was now under the control of the Earth Spirit race. The holy tree had not only recovered, but due to Long Chen's divine soil, it had grown even stronger. Its power was capable of covering the entire Esoteric Spirit World, enough to protect the whole Earth Spirit race.

This time, the Dragonblood Legion was returning home after a great victory, and every single one of them had gotten so much stronger. Furthermore, with the help of the holy tree and Ye Xue, their realms had solidified, leaving their foundations extremely solid despite their rapid advancement.

Other than that, it had been their first time relaxing in several years. This rare opportunity had elevated their mental realms to unprecedented heights. Apart from the inability to directly advance to the Divine Venerate realm, there was no longer anything considered taboo to them. The Dragonblood warriors were in peak condition, resembling howling wolves.

BOOM!

Suddenly, as they were flying through the air, an enormous figure whistled past them, almost striking Xia Chen's flying boat. The powerful astral winds sent their flying boat reeling.

"What is that?!"

Bai Shishi and the others cried out in shock as they only saw a silver wing shoot by, not its full form.

"Little Nine says that it's a Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon, a beast from the desolate era. They were overlords from the same era as Little Nine's people," explained Bai Xiaole.

Everyone was startled. An overlord from the same era as the Violet Pupil Nine Tail Fox? Then it was truly an amazing existence.

"Eh, why isn't Little Nine speaking?" asked Bai Shishi.

Previously, the Violet Pupil Nine Tail Fox was quite talkative. While not overly chatty, it would often interject a few words into conversations with everyone.

However, lately, it had been silent. Even though it recognized the Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon, it had Bai Xiaole speak for it.

Bai Xiaole answered, "Little Nine can't talk right now. It's awakening its Heavenly Doyen divine rune. Speaking would distract it and affect this process."

As expected of the Violet Pupil Nine Tail Fox race. Even without anyone's help, it was capable of becoming a Doyen.

Most importantly, even before it became a Doyen, its power was already comparable to one. Once it came out of its seclusion, its power would be even more terrifying.

For Bai Xiaole to have such a terrifying contractual beast, many people envied him. After all, the famously weak Bai Xiaole had transformed into a formidable force after forming a contract with the Violet Pupil Nine Tail Fox.

“That Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon is very arrogant. If it had struck our flying boat, I would have made it my mount,” complained Xia Chen irritably as he stabilized the flying boat.

The Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon’s speed was shocking. It had most likely seen the flying boat and known that its flight would affect them, but it didn’t care and didn’t change its path.

Fortunately, this kind of astral winds wouldn’t damage the flying boat. Hence, while Long Chen was displeased, he wouldn’t cause trouble for that falcon just because of this matter. After all, the Dragonblood Legion wasn’t so petty.

Given its speed, Long Chen could have caught it if he had rushed off immediately, but by now, it had long since vanished. This matter could only be left here, but they were not happy about it.

“That Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon’s aura isn’t inferior to Netherdragon Tianzhao’s. That’s a tough fellow,” mentioned Long Chen, eyeing the direction it went.

Hearing that, everyone was startled. Due to how fast it had flown by, they hadn’t even seen it clearly, let alone sensed its aura. However, it was actually on the same level as Netherdragon Tianzhao?

“Too bad that it left so fast. I’d like to personally experience the power of the Gold Eye Silver Wing Heaven Splitting Falcon race,” said Guo Ran. Currently at the seventh Heavenstage, both he and Xia Chen held the lowest cultivation bases in the Dragonblood Legion, as their studies and work during this period had delayed their cultivation progress.

However, this didn’t represent that their power was stagnating. Guo Ran had upgraded his battle armor again, merging some Saint-level materials into it.

As for Xia Chen, he had inscribed new talismans using materials harvested from the corpses of Saints and other powerful items. As a result, Long Chen couldn’t even estimate both of their powers now.

The Dragonblood Legion expressed disappointment at missing the opportunity to fight a Doyen on the same level as Netherdragon Tianzhao. At this moment, they desired a chance to measure themselves against such an expert, as they were uncertain about the extent of their own power.

The flying boat continued. When they entered the land of the High Firmament Academy, all the Dragonblood warriors instantly stood up.

“We can’t miss this chance too!”