

## Nine Star 4481

### Chapter 4481: Golden Metal Soul Refinement

In front of the gates of the High Firmament Academy, countless people had pitched tents across the wilderness, turning this place into their temporary home. Other than that some empty land right in front of the entrance, the rest of this area had been occupied by lifeforms of various races.

Ever since Long Chen defeated the self-proclaimed first Heavenly Doyen, Netherdragon Tianzhao, his name echoed throughout heaven and earth. The revelation that a Heavenly Doyen was unable to defeat the Sage King drove countless experts mad. Furthermore, under their push, some people started to “speak up” for Long Chen, saying that so-called Heavenly Doyens were trash in front of Long Chen.

As a result, Long Chen was instantly pushed to the heart of the storm. Long Chen himself didn’t realize that he was being targeted by all Doyens and budding Doyens, including the human race’s.

By defeating the first Doyen of the world, Long Chen had essentially slapped the faces of all other Doyens. Hence, anyone who could defeat him would soar like a shooting star.

Fame and profit were the most enticing things to people. While cultivators might not care that much about profit, fame was something they would bleed for, and they would not hesitate to risk their own lives for it.

When a person died, their name would remain. However, within the long flow of history, most heavenly geniuses were nothing more than specks of sand that drifted away. Nevertheless, every person hoped to leave their own brilliant mark on history.

When Long Chen led the army into the Esoteric Spirit World, people had already gone to the High Firmament Academy to challenge him. Terrifying experts emerged from all around the world just to challenge him.

At that time, Long Chen was in seclusion in the Esoteric Spirit World, so he naturally didn’t do anything about it.

As a result, an increasing number of experts gathered. Terrifying heavenly geniuses were like ants here, surrounding the gates of the High Firmament Academy. If Long Chen didn’t come out, they wouldn’t leave.

However, Long Chen, being in the Esoteric Spirit World and unaware of the situation, naturally did not come out to confront them. As time passed, the crowd grew more chaotic.

That was because gathering so many heavenly geniuses was like mixing dragons and snakes. Many heavenly geniuses were arrogant existences who looked down on all others.

In the end, conflicts started to erupt amongst the challengers. Almost every day, multiple battles between Doyens would occur, leading to the death of some.

Meanwhile, the disciples of the High Firmament Academy simply watched from the other side of the gates, observing how Doyens fought.

The other experts also got to see a free show. Some older experts had specifically come to assess the battles and impart lessons to their juniors.

As time went by, the region in front of the High Firmament Academy's gates turned into a neatly laid-out fighting ring for heavenly geniuses. As long as they didn't get close to the entrance, the academy ignored them and let them fight.

These Doyens were clearly lacking compared to Netherdragon Tianzhao. After all, the academy didn't even need to activate its grand formation when they battled, as they were unable to cause any significant damage to the surroundings.

As more time passed, people started to get bored. Just like the saying, "A full bottle doesn't make noise when shaken; it's the half-empty bottles that make the most noise," these arrogant fellows were mostly second-rate, predominantly spoiled rotten brats.

Constantly praised by those around them as unmatched, they started to believe it as well. It was only when they engaged in actual combat that the truth became evident—they were not tigers but mere kittens.

Under the lead of some actual experts, those people were driven away. After the unruly group was kicked out, everyone's focus returned to the High Firmament Academy.

Every day, people shouted, trying to provoke the academy into action with infuriating insults. To make things worse, the voices of Heavenly Doyens were echoed by the Heavenly Daos, so every word entered the academy, and not even the formation could block them.

It went without saying that this constant stream of curses could easily enrage others. The disciples weren't the only ones who found it unbearable; even some elders were incensed.

After all, these bastards had gone too far, cursing the High Firmament Academy from top to bottom, not even letting off the attendants and cooks. Their cursing simply encompassed everyone.

The subjects of the curses were Long Chen, Bai Letian, and the palace master.

Fortunately, the palace master was in a secret room and couldn't hear their cursing. Otherwise, he'd have long since started a slaughter.

As for Bai Letian, he completely ignored them as this level of insults was unable to affect him at all.

However, while he was fine with it, the others didn't have that level of apathy. To insult their dean was to insult the entire High Firmament Academy.

As a result, the elders of the academy repeatedly asked Bai Letian to tell Long Chen about this. How could they simply permit these arrogant fellows to shout at their door?

Under their pressure, Bai Letian finally sent a message to Long Chen. Long Chen and the others returned just in time to see five Heavenly Doyens standing in front of the gates, taking turns cursing.

They cursed Long Chen for being a gutless rat, the High Firmament Academy for its decline to the point where they should just disband, and all the experts inside the academy to just die. They even claimed that they would spare them if they kowtowed to them.

At first, Long Chen and the others thought it was a mere provocation. However, hearing the curses, they were consumed by rage.

“Long Chen, I heard you have several beautiful women! Hand them over! You’ll be dead, so you might as well let us enjoy them, hahaha!” One sharp-mouthed expert who looked like a monkey laughed lecherously.

“He’s mine.”

Bai Shishi’s face instantly became icy, and killing intent exploded out of her. She then shot out of the flying boat.

The moment Bai Shishi flew out, the space around her twisted, and she vanished.

Within the flying boat, Bai Xiaole had three flowers revolving in his eyes. He had used a pupil art to assist his sister.

The monkey-like Heavenly Doyen was in the midst of cursing vigorously and was still lost in his lecherous delight. He didn’t even hear the startled cries in the distance.

Suddenly, the space behind him quivered, and golden divine light illuminated the world. From within the light, a goddess statue emerged along with a golden lotus throne.

Finally, the monkey-faced Doyen noticed something off. Knowing that he had no time to summon his manifestation, he took out a shield.

Runes flowed on top of this shield, emanating an ancient aura that gave off a heavy pressure, shaking people’s souls. This was a powerful Eternal divine item.

**BOOM!**

The moment he summoned the shield, a golden sword pierced into it, resulting in a tremendous explosion that shattered the powerful Eternal shield.

The monkey-faced Doyen had one of his arms obliterated in the blast. He cried out in terror and hastily fled. But it was too late.

“Golden Metal Soul Refinement!” Bai Shishi shouted furiously and formed hand seals, conjuring a golden divine pool in the sky. A terrifying heat twisted heaven and earth.

The monkey-faced Doyen retreated straight into that golden pool. However, the moment he did, he bubbled and let out a miserable shriek.

#### **Chapter 4482: Reckless**

The golden divine pool seemed to be scalding. As it enveloped the monkey-faced Doyen, the immense heat caused him to start bubbling.

**BOOM!**

He finally summoned his manifestation. However, to everyone’s surprise, this golden liquid was melting his manifestation as well. As a result, he was unable to use his Doyen power.

“AHH!”

The monkey-faced Doyen struggled frantically, but the golden liquid stuck to him tightly, continuously burning him and his soul.

He couldn't blame anyone for this; his provocations had been too infuriating. Bai Shishi's killing intent was at full power. While she could kill him in one blow if she wanted to, she refused to do so. This golden liquid was her core energy and could transform into all kinds of forms. In this particular state, it wasn't at its strongest, but it inflicted the most excruciating pain.

This was a kind of torture. The golden liquid slowly burned away all of his power, stripping away his life bit by bit. He was experiencing unimaginable pain at the moment.

It was Bai Shishi's first time using this move as she truly hated this monkey.

The Dragonblood Legion descended as well. In groups of eighteen, they started to choose their own Doyen targets. The first four squads attacked at the same time, catching the four Doyens off-guard with their overwhelming power. The Doyens were instantly left flustered, retreating in a panic.

Sharp blades slashed through them, bringing with them a rain of blood. These swords exuded a sharpness that sent shivers down the spines of those witnessing it.

The edges of these swords now incorporated special materials—the Saint-level materials from that mysterious world. This addition greatly increased their offensive speed and power.

Although those swords were still Eternal items, the addition of the new materials made them absolutely top grade. Just like that, a slash from a Dragonblood warrior cut a Doyen's Eternal spear in two. Their weapons were simply not on the same level.

The Dragonblood warriors' assault looked chaotic, completely different from their usual fighting style. Yet, their killing power was even more terrifying.

Eighteen sharp swords approached a Doyen from different directions and with different timings. If the Doyen blocked one, he or she couldn't defend against the others. In the end, the Doyens struggled to protect themselves but were swiftly drenched in blood.

The Dragonblood warriors were in no rush to kill them. Their swords repeatedly sliced through flesh. In a matter of breaths, the four Doyens practically became pork chops, their flesh cut off piece by piece.

“Save me!”

One of those Doyens cried out in terror, wanting to form an alliance with the others beside him. However, no one paid him any attention.

The Doyens were weakening bit by bit as their injuries mounted. At this moment, the Dragonblood Legion wasted no time. Their attacks intensified, and they swiftly killed those four Doyens, slicing their Yuan Spirits apart.

“No!”

Just then, a terrified and unwilling roar came from the golden pool. The monkey-faced Doyen let out one final scream before being turned into mist, his soul extinguished.

Five Heavenly Doyens met their demise in a matter of seconds. Furthermore, the ones to slay them were not Doyens or even budding Doyens. This revelation shocked everyone.

People looked toward the flying boat and saw Long Chen looking over things apathetically. As they observed him more closely, a shiver ran down their spines. Long Chen's aura was even more terrifying than during his battle with Netherdragon Tianzhao.

"A group of reckless idiots. You don't know what respect is. If you all want to die so badly, why can't you just do it yourselves? At least, you'd be able to leave your corpses intact that way. Now, you just had to get yourselves killed by others. Why bother?" Guo Ran sneered at those stupefied experts.

"You can't put it that way. People are born with nothing, and they will die with nothing. I feel like doing this isn't bad. At least, it saves them from stinking somewhere up when they die," replied Xia Chen.

The two played off each other's words, shocking and enraging these experts. The Dragonblood Legion actually didn't place them in their eyes, viewing Doyens as ants.

"Damn humans, what right do you have to be arrogant?! Long Chen, I challenge you to a battle! Do you dare to accept?!"

A furious roar suddenly rang out, and a muscular man with two hatchets on his back and a face covered in facial hair walked out. His Blood Qi was shocking, and veins wriggled beneath his skin like snakes. The pressure he exuded far surpassed that of the recently slain Doyens.

When this guy appeared, Long Chen's eyes gleamed with excitement, but he wasn't the only one who did this. Guo Ran, Xia Chen, Gu Yang, Yue Zifeng, Li Qi, Song Mingyuan, and Bai Xiaole's eyes also lit up.

This was a powerful Heavenly Doyen. Based on what they saw, his power could be on par with that of Netherdragon Tianzhao. They were all tempted to fight him.

"Boss, you wouldn't..." started Xia Chen.

Long Chen was speechless. When did this fellow become so sinister? Xia Chen immediately used words to prevent Long Chen from ruining their fun.

"Fine, go ahead. But remember, I don't want him alive," said Long Chen helplessly.

If he was going to be their boss, he had to act like one. He couldn't fight with his brothers over resources.

Hearing that, they were all delighted. Guo Ran was itching to get started.

"We'll do it fairly! Rock, paper, scissors!"

"Damn!"

As a result, Guo Ran, the one to propose this competition, was the first to be eliminated. He retreated sullenly and turned away, drawing circles on the ground sadly.

After a few rounds, Xia Chen became the final winner. The others could only accept their defeat and stare at him enviously.

“Don’t worry, your time will come. After all, fortunes come and go!” said Xia Chen proudly.

Their actions left people stupefied. The hatchet-wielding man was one of the main pillars of their alliance this time, and he was extremely powerful. However, the Dragonblood Legion actually treated him like this.

Rather than Long Chen himself fighting, his subordinates were using such a method to decide who would fight him? Did they view him as nothing more than a piece of meat?

After staring in confusion for a while, the hatchet-wielding man was enraged. Steam almost burst out of his ears, and his killing intent exploded. If looks could kill, the Dragonblood Legion would have been killed countless times over.

“Remember, don’t let him run. His life is useful to me,” transmitted Long Chen.

Xia Chen nodded and walked through the air toward the hatchet-wielding man. It presented a stark contrast—the Heavenly Doyen was a robust and muscular figure, while Xia Chen appeared frail in comparison. His aura was feeble, and it looked as if that man could crush him in his hand.

“Since you want to die so badly, I’ll kill you first!”

The large man roared and summoned his Heavenly Dao manifestation. Within it, an enormous figure emerged—a formidable greater demon. Seeing this, everyone suddenly comprehended the source of his potent Blood Qi.

As his hatchets materialized in his hands, his Doyen power surged. Innumerable runes illuminated his hatchets, and he swung one down toward Xia Chen.

Facing that powerful attack, Xia Chen raised a single hand, as if wanting to block that hatchet barehanded.

“What?!”

At that moment, both friends and foes alike jumped in shock.

### **Chapter 4483: Terrifying Saint Talisman**

"Blocking an Eternal divine weapon barehanded?!"

Seeing this scene, even Long Chen couldn’t help but jump in shock. This little fellow Xia Chen was being a bit too arrogant, no? He could easily lose his life like this.

BANG!

Just then, the hatchet-wielding Doyen slammed one of his weapons onto Xia Chen’s palm, causing the entire world to tremble from his explosive power.

To everyone's surprise, Xia Chen's palm remained unscathed. A talisman affixed to his palm, exuding a sacred aura.

"The aura of a Saint?!"

Long Chen suddenly realized that this talisman had to be crafted with Saint essence blood. It was no wonder that Xia Chen dared to be so arrogant.

Blood sprayed out of the hatchet-wielding Doyen, and he trembled from the impact.

He had never imagined that Xia Chen would possess such terrifying power. The backlash almost killed him in an instant. Even though he survived, his arm was numb, and his insides were shaken.

Seeing him vomit blood while he was the one attacking, both friends and foes were astounded. They couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"You're going to kill me? How are you going to do that? How about I kill you instead?"

Xia Chen pushed the hatchet aside slowly with his right hand and raised his left hand. After that, a talisman moved from his left palm to his opponent's chest.

Suddenly, Xia Chen's left hand lit up, and a beam of light pierced straight through that Doyen's chest.

It not only pierced through him but also left a giant hole in the void. With spatial blades swirling within it, the giant hole looked like a gaping maw.

Xia Chen's attack was absolutely terrifying, leaving that powerful Doyen with no chance to resist, slaying him swiftly in two moves.

"What a shame. He got to show off instead of me. He did tell me that he had just finished his two Saint talismans yesterday and was looking for a chance to test their power," sighed Guo Ran.

"Xia Chen really is a genius to have come up with Saint talismans so quickly. Although there's still a difference in power compared to the attacks of a real Saint, below the Saint level, perhaps no one can block these talismans," said Long Chen.

Xia Chen was truly brilliant. He had made these Saint talismans by studying the runes on the corpses of Saints, without anyone teaching him the process. He had come up with it based on his own intellect, showcasing a monstrous talent in this field.

After gathering his opponent's hatchets, Xia Chen returned to his spot behind Long Chen as if nothing had happened.

"Hey, there must be more of you who want to challenge us, right? Come, I'm the weakest of everyone here, so just challenge me! If you miss this chance, you won't get another...!" After Xia Chen managed to show off so brilliantly, Guo Ran was unwilling to leave things as they were and immediately started shouting.

However, this provocation wasn't very effective. These experts were still in shock because of Xia Chen's terrifying attack.

In one blow, a powerful Doyen met his demise. Hence, they thought that if Xia Chen wanted to kill them, he could just do it without a problem. However, they didn't know that... Xia Chen had only made two Saint talismans, and he had just used them.

Despite maintaining a calm expression, Xia Chen was screaming inside. These two Saint talismans were still in the prototype stage, and he wasn't certain of the full extent of their power.

The purpose of this duel was to test the practicality of these two talismans. Having not expected the two prototypes to possess such terrifying power, Xia Chen immediately wanted to go into seclusion and perfect these talismans.

"Hey, what are you waiting for? Weren't you shouting about fighting just before? What happened to your pride and arrogance? Were they all fake? Are you afraid? How about I tie one hand behind my back? If that's still not enough, you can come at me together!" Guo Ran continued to provoke them.

These people were furious, but the sight of Xia Chen slaying that Doyen had been seared into their minds, terrifying them so much that they didn't dare to fight.

"Hmph, what's the point of being so arrogant? Once my race's number one genius comes out of seclusion, you'll only be able to flee for your lives!" snorted one person.

"That's right, Long Chen, just you wait! Soon the real experts will come to find you! Don't keep cowering like a tortoise!" Numerous shouts rang out as they mentioned several names, but no one had ever heard of these names before.

Seeing them resort to just shouts, Long Chen and the others knew that the battle was over today. These people were too afraid to fight themselves.

Long Chen coldly replied, "The High Firmament Academy is a pure land that doesn't like bad guests crowding it. I'll count to three, and if you don't scam, don't blame me for slaughtering you all. One!"

BOOM!

The instant Long Chen started counting, countless experts scattered like birds. Some heavenly geniuses didn't even bother taking their tents, and before Long Chen could count to two, they were all gone.

They all knew his ruthlessness. If they didn't run, that would give Long Chen an excuse to kill them, and not one of them would survive then.

"What trash. These people need to be put in their place," sneered the Dragonblood warriors.

"Long Chen, what are you smiling about?" Bai Shishi suddenly saw Long Chen smiling strangely.

"Hehe, it's nothing," chuckled Long Chen.

"Keep acting mysterious. I'm not talking to you." Bai Shishi snorted and turned away.

Long Chen was smiling because he had just seen a new fruit condense on the Heavenly Dao Tree. Furthermore, it had two stars on it.

In other words, his guess was correct. There were huge differences between Heavenly Doyens.



The hatchet-wielding Doyen stood out as a powerful expert among the Doyens today, causing Long Chen to order Xia Chen to eliminate him. Xia Chen successfully carried out his mission, using two Saint talismans to slay the powerful Doyen. Consequently, Long Chen acquired a two-star Heavenly Doyen Fruit.

The matter of the Heavenly Doyen Fruit couldn't be spread, as it carried huge implications and potentially some karma. Hence, Long Chen had to deal with it personally.

Returning to the academy, the academy's disciples unleashed heaven-shaking cheers, gathering to welcome them back. Xia Chen and the others' display had been the greatest show for them.

Furthermore, upon their return, Long Chen and the others were astonished to see formidable Doyens and numerous budding Doyens among the academy's disciples.

Long Chen nodded inside. As expected, the academy's foundation was truly shocking. They actually also had the ability to create Doyens.

When they got to their residence, Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole went to see Bai Letian. One reason was to pay respects to their grandfather, while another was to probe his attitude. Did he have any new instructions for them?

Long Chen had actually been planning on seeing Bai Letian himself. However, he had a pressing matter to deal with now, so he couldn't do so. As he returned to his own room, he waited a moment, and someone soon knocked on his door.

"Senior apprentice-brother Long Chen, you were looking for me?" The person who had come to see him was Mu Qingyun.

Mu Qingyun, Luo Bing, Luo Ning, Zhong Ling, Zhong Xiu, and the others had also returned to the academy. Long Chen had called Mu Qingyun over.

"Yes. I have something important that I need your help with today. Don't tell anyone about this matter," said Long Chen solemnly.

Mu Qingyun hastily nodded. As she had absolute trust in Long Chen, she would do whatever he told her to do.

Long Chen had Mu Qingyun consume a one-star Heavenly Doyen Fruit and paid close attention to her. Once she consumed it, her aura rapidly changed, and three days later, she had awakened as a Doyen. She now had a feeling like she was the master of this world.

"Here's another one."

Long Chen then passed the two-star Heavenly Doyen Fruit to her. He was full of anticipation.

#### **Chapter 4484: Lifehunter Race, Heavenly Province's Ying Tian**

As Mu Qingyun ate the second Heavenly Doyen Fruit, Grand Dao runes started to flow around her. Even in this secluded room, she could feel the power of the Heavenly Daos trying to pour through her, and she couldn't stop it even if she wanted to.

“Senior apprentice-brother Long Chen...”

Mu Qingyun was stunned. She had just become a Heavenly Doyen, and now, she felt her Doyen power shoot up as if she had broken free of the restrictions of the room, and her senses stretched limitlessly. This experience felt almost like a dream.

“Good, very good!” Seeing that Mu Qingyun’s Doyen power could skyrocket again after becoming a Doyen, Long Chen was excited.

Mu Qingyun was now a two-star Heavenly Doyen. In other words, a stronger Heavenly Doyen Fruit could overwrite the effect of the weaker fruit.

Most importantly, when Mu Qingyun became a Heavenly Doyen, Long Chen detected none of the dislikable aura typical of other Doyens. It seemed that consuming the Heavenly Doyen Fruit would make one different from other Doyens.

“If the heavens are blind, then I’ll take everything from it myself,” Long Chen muttered through gritted teeth. The heavens were no longer the same, and if the Heavenly Daos were going to be unfair, he would claim what he desired by his own means.

The Heavenly Dao Tree was absolutely heaven-defying. With it in Long Chen’s possession, the Dragonblood Legion would become a Heavenly Doyen Dragonblood Legion.

“Qingyun, I’m going to ask you to stay here for a few days. Can you go into seclusion for a while?” asked Long Chen.

Mu Qingyun understood. The fruits that Long Chen had given her were too heaven-defying. If this matter was exposed, it would be dangerous, so she needed to go into seclusion. Once more Heavenly Doyens appeared in the academy, she wouldn’t draw too much attention when she emerged.

In the meantime, she also needed to get accustomed to her new Doyen power, so she obediently nodded. “If you wish for it, I’ll stay in seclusion the entire time, whether it’s ten years or a hundred years.”

Long Chen laughed. “There’s no need for that. Just stay in seclusion for two months, and keep your aura reserved when you do go out.”

After arranging things with Mu Qingyun, Long Chen called over several squad leader warriors of the Dragonblood Legion and distributed the remaining Heavenly Doyen Fruits to them. There was no rush to give the fruits to Guo Ran and the others

Given their current formidable strength and ongoing rapid growth, bestowing the Heavenly Doyen Fruits on them wouldn’t offer significant benefits. It would be better to strengthen the Dragonblood warriors.

After that, Long Chen just needed to wait for them to undergo the transformation. During that period, Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole returned.

Both of them looked rather grave. Bai Xiaole said, “Boss, based on the academy’s reports, quite a few terrifying existences have appeared throughout the various worlds connected to the Darklight Heaven.”

“Oh? How terrifying?” asked Long Chen.

“Boss, have you heard of the Lifehunter race?” asked Bai Xiaole.

“The Lifehunter race? The peerless assassins from ancient times who were said to be able to take people’s lives through space? Didn’t they go extinct long ago?” Long Chen’s expression changed.

The Lifehunter race was considered the progenitor of all assassins, with a history that could be traced all the way back to the primal chaos era. Proficient in witchcraft, formation arts, concealing arts, sneak attacks, fate reading, and bloodline curses, they were the world’s most ancient and formidable assassins.

This race might have been terrifying, but their presence in history was short-lived. They had a flash of prosperity in the immemorial era but quickly vanished in the flow of time.

Cultivators of this era, both in the junior generation and the senior generation, were familiar with the tales of this terrifying but elusive race.

Long Chen had read through an introduction on them, but he felt like the details on them were too unbelievable to fully trust.

According to the record, the Lifehunter Assassins could use the blood, flesh, bones, and even the hair of their target to carry out a sacrificial verdict. The concept of this sacrificial verdict seemed even more fantastical. It was claimed that within heaven and earth existed the Lifehunter God, who would judge the value of the life of all living beings.

Apparently, this technique involved a gamble to determine whose life was more valuable. Once the sacrificial verdict was carried out, the one with a more valuable life would live, while the other one would perish. If both lives were equally important, both would die.

When Long Chen read that, he almost laughed. Just who had come up with that nonsense? It was hilarious, and no one would believe such a thing.

Long Chen had dismissed this story as a mere myth back then. The only reason he remembered the Lifehunter race was because it was said that their demise was related to a deadly conflict with the violet blood race. Although the exact nature of the confrontation remained shrouded in mystery, the association with the violet blood race made a lasting impression on Long Chen.

Now, hearing about them again, he was shocked. So, this world really did have a Lifehunter race.

“Boss, you’re truly amazing! How did you know about this?” Bai Xiaole praised him before continuing, “The dean said that the Lifehunter race has resurfaced and reestablished their organization in the Heavenly Province, which was once their faith shrine. If their faith was ever cut off, the name of the Heavenly Province should have also been impossible to use. Yet, the Lifehunter race has successfully revived it, indicating that their legacy was never entirely extinguished. They were merely biding their time and recovering all along.”

Long Chen gasped at that. “If the Heavenly Province has been secretly growing ever since ancient times, the amassed power they’ve garnered over the years must be truly formidable.”

“That’s right. The dean also said that the fact they could endure for countless years and now suddenly come back in such force is probably related to the violet blood race,” said Bai Xiaole.

"Is it a declaration of war against the violet blood race?" Long Chen sneered.

The violet blood race was renowned as one of the most potent bloodlines within the human race, maintaining its prominent status since the primal chaos era. While the true violet blood bloodline rarely appeared in this world, their influence remained strong.

On the other hand, the Lifehunter race had only been famous for a single moment in history. In Long Chen's eyes, they were like foam generated by the waves in an ocean. Just how many people would care about them?

However, despite his disdain, he couldn't afford to underestimate a race that dared to challenge the violet blood race.

After years of patient waiting, their sudden resurgence under the banner of the Heavenly Province meant that they had come prepared.

"The rumors say that the Heavenly Province has a peerless heavenly genius called Ying Tian. He is hailed as the invincible killing god. My grandfather has warned you to be careful of him, saying that he surpasses Netherdragon Tianzhao by countless times and will be one of your strongest opponents," conveyed Bai Xiaole.

Long Chen's heart shook. Countless times stronger than Netherdragon Tianzhao and identified as one of his strongest opponents by the dean? The dean was not one to make judgments lightly. The gravity of this warning emphasized the formidable nature of Ying Tian.

"Is there anyone else?" asked Long Chen.

Bai Xiaole answered, "There's also—"

However, before he could finish, Long Chen's expression suddenly changed, and he shot out like a bolt of lightning. Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole were startled and hastily followed him

## **Chapter 4485: Heavenly Province's Assassin**

"Boss, what is it?"

Bai Xiaole saw Long Chen turn into a golden streak that charged toward the inner academy.

"Don't ask. Just go!" Bai Shishi knew that things were bad when she saw Long Chen's expression change. Thus, she and Bai Xiaole followed as quickly as they could.

Long Chen's Kunpeng wings propelled him with unmatched speed, and a streak of light shot through the academy, bewildering the disciples.

Without hesitation, Long Chen went straight to a certain building in the inner academy. This was the region where the core disciples of the inner academy resided. It was filled with the academy's top geniuses.

"Luo Ning, watch out!"

Long Chen's shout was like an explosion of thunder, shaking the heavens. At this moment, a violet light erupted within one of the buildings, tearing it apart, accompanied by a chorus of horrified screams.

Rushing into the chaos, Long Chen found Luo Ning in critical condition. A sharp blade had pierced her heart, and her violet blood nearly drained. The flame of her soul flickered, on the brink of extinction. Long Chen, gripped by horror, reached out to her. Yet, in that moment, a slender blade silently thrust toward his right ribs without a sound.

Holding Luo Ning with his right hand, Long Chen left his right side exposed. The moment this blade appeared, a chilling sensation enveloped Long Chen's ribcage, causing half his body to instantly stiffen.

Although the blade had not physically pierced him, it felt as if it had struck him, inflicting genuine pain.

It was like an illusion art, but an illusion art was not something that could bewilder Long Chen. This feeling was more like a premonition, compelling him to instantly recoil.

Dragon scales appeared on his right ribs, covered in stars that coalesced into a formidable astral shield. After setting this defense, Long Chen continued to reach toward Luo Ning.

The moment Long Chen held Luo Ning's wrist, the slender blade struck Long Chen's astral shield and dragon scale defenses.

A long cut marred his right ribs. Furthermore, as the blade sliced through his flesh, Long Chen's violet blood was crazily absorbed by a mysterious force.

Long Chen was startled. Now, he understood the reason behind Luo Ning's violet blood vanishing instantly. It seemed that this sinister blade was made specifically to counter violet blood. It had to be a bloodsucking weapon.

"Oh?" A surprised exclamation echoed from the dust, as if the assassin didn't expect to only get so little violet blood after piercing Long Chen's defenses.

"Divine Dragon Tail Pendulum!"

Long Chen's enraged roar reverberated as he swung his leg, unleashing explosive power. An immense dragon tail followed suit, sweeping through the air and tearing the very fabric of the void asunder.

A sharp blade swung through the air several times, leaving several large cuts in the void. A translucent figure then shuttled through these cuts and actually avoided the area of Long Chen's attack.

After that, Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole arrived. Seeing that translucent figure, Bai Shishi immediately summoned her manifestation, and her golden sword slashed toward that figure.

"Come back!" Long Chen cried out. He was holding Luo Ning's wrist, sending his violet blood into her arm. He shot out as well.

Just then, Bai Shishi's sword fell onto that slender blade, and sparks flew. Finally, they could see the appearance of that blade.

It was a sword, measuring four feet in length but only as wide as a single finger. Covered in barbs with holes throughout it, the sword had a flexible body, reminiscent of a viper.

“Xiaole, bring her back!” shouted Long Chen.

Bai Shishi had thought that her attack would cut through this sword or at least force her opponent back. To her surprise, the peculiar sword not only thwarted her attack but also wound around her blade like a viper. Mimicking the striking motion of a serpent, it swiftly lunged toward her.

In an instant, Bai Shishi experienced a searing pain in her soul, causing her body to stiffen. Helplessly, he could only watch as the sword aimed directly at her head.

Suddenly, space twisted, and Bai Shishi vanished. The strange sword pierced through the air but didn’t harm Bai Shishi.

In that crucial moment, Bai Xiaole’s pupil arts had saved Bai Shishi. Now, both of them stood silently, pale with fright. None of them had expected their opponent to be so terrifying. One move was all that separated them from death. Had Bai Xiaole hesitated in the slightest, Bai Shishi would have met her demise.

Just then, Long Chen charged out, wielding the Seven Peak Sword in his hand.

The two swords repeatedly clashed, exchanging a hundred blows in the blink of an eye. When they finally disengaged, Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole’s expressions changed. Long Chen’s shoulder was bleeding as he had been struck by that person again.

“It seems that you must be Long Chen?”

The translucent figure didn’t choose to press the attack but instead retreated a bit, pointing the mysterious sword at Long Chen.

It was the voice of a man but extremely odd. The voice was completely different from that of a human.

In fact, his voice was just like his sword; hearing it made their souls quiver. His voice alone was like poison.

“Who are you?” demanded Long Chen.

“It seems that you really are Long Chen. What a disappointment. Why did Master Ying Tian see you as his opponent? You really are overestimated.” The translucent figure shook his head, his voice full of disdain.

“You’re from the Heavenly Province?!” Bai Xiaole and Bai Shishi cried out in shock. The dean had just warned Long Chen, and the Heavenly Province was already here for him.

Not only had they come, but they had even managed to sneak through the academy’s grand formations. It was like their formations were mere decorations. Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole were shaken. The Lifehunter race was even more terrifying than they had imagined.

“With your power, you aren’t qualified to be Master Ying Tian’s opponent. Even if I can easily slay you. Unfortunately, Master Ying Tian has given his orders, so I can’t kill you,” said that person indifferently.

The academy’s disciples had gathered because of the disturbance and were all stunned. What had happened to this world? How did such a terrifying existence appear out of nowhere?

From the translucent figure's tone, he was merely Ying Tian's subordinate, but he had the power to injure Long Chen and even said that he could easily slay him? They were completely dumbfounded.

"Luo Ning!"

At this moment, a horrified cry rang out as Luo Bing saw her little sister unconscious. She hastily rushed over.

Seeing this, the translucent figure vanished, and Long Chen moved at the same time.

### **Chapter 4486: The Qualifications to Fight**

Luo Bing was startled awake from her seclusion and immediately sensed a bloodline call, causing her soul to nearly flee in terror. The sensation was accompanied by an alarming realization that Luo Ning's soul was on the brink of extinguishing.

Rushing out, she directly saw Luo Ning in Long Chen's grasp, her head hanging as if she was about to die at any moment. In that moment of shock, her head went blank, and she sprinted toward them.

The translucent figure also vanished, and Luo Bing felt an unsettling tremor in her soul, which rendered her unable to take another step. The mysterious sword, akin to a fiend's life-ripping fang, lunged toward her chest.

An explosion of lightning erupted before his sword could reach her, and a lightning spear rushed over. Surprisingly, the lightning spear wasn't aimed at that translucent figure but Luo Bing.

As this lightning spear was about to reach her, the translucent figure, who had clearly been below it at first, seemed to move up just to be hit by it.

"Oh?" This translucent figure seemed a bit surprised that Long Chen had predicted his path. Now if he wanted to kill Luo Bing, he would have to block the lightning spear first.

As the lightning spear gave him a sense of danger, his sword suddenly spun, and the point of the sword met the spear.

BOOM!

After the translucent figure was sent flying, Long Chen appeared in front of Luo Bing, and only then did Luo Bing's condition return to normal. She could finally move again.

"Use your bloodline power to stimulate Luo Ning's blood and soul, quick!" Long Chen handed Luo Ning to Luo Bing.

Prior to this, Long Chen had chosen to endure the strikes from the mysterious expert's sword rather than release his hold on Luo Ning. The reason was clear—her soul was on the verge of vanishing, and without his support, she would die.

However, Long Chen's violet blood was too powerful to be absorbed by her. If attempted, it would rip through her meridians, and even if he did save her life, she would be crippled.

At best, he could sustain her life and prevent her from dying. However, with Luo Bing present, he didn't need to worry any longer.

Luo Bing hastily grabbed her sister and infused her with her own violet blood. Luo Ning's withered soul immediately showed signs of reviving, and the flame of her soul gradually rekindled.

Long Chen sighed with relief upon seeing that. As Luo Ning's life was no longer in danger, he focused his attention on this mysterious expert. Killing intent exploded out of him.

"Do you know how foolish what you are doing is?" asked Long Chen, every word dripping with killing intent.

"Foolish? No, the true fools are you humans. Your bloodline has declined, but you aren't even aware of it. Do you really think that you are as strong as the original violet blood race?" scoffed that mysterious figure.

He then shook his body a few times. After blocking Long Chen's lightning spear, quite a few lightning runes stuck to him, unable to penetrate the surface of his skin. Nonchalantly, he flicked them off.

Bai Shishi and Bai Xiaole were both shocked. They all knew that Long Chen's thunderforce originated from heavenly tribulation, possessing incredible power. Yet, this mysterious expert seemed impervious to it, effortlessly flicking off the lightning runes.

Most importantly, he was not the strongest expert of Heavenly Province as he called Ying Tian "master". In other words, he was at most just one of Ying Tian's powerful generals.

The mysterious figure looked at the surroundings, and with an indifferent tone, remarked, "My Heavenly Province is back, and this is a declaration of war on the violet blood race. I am here because the High Firmament Academy has the violet blood prey we seek. Additionally, I am here to deliver Master Ying Tian's challenge. But I didn't expect that you, too, are someone from the violet blood race. Now, I am contemplating whether to forgo Master Ying Tian's orders and slay you immediately. Your blood... is very important to me." His sword, resembling a viper, remained in constant motion. Its pointed head aimed at Long Chen, as if probing for weaknesses.

Just then, the Dragonblood Legion also rushed over. When they saw this mysterious figure, their pupils shrank. They instantly sensed just how terrifying he was.

"Oh?"

When this mysterious figure spotted Yue Zifeng in their ranks, his eyes suddenly went red, and his pupils shrank to tiny dots.

As for Yue Zifeng, his expression turned grave, and he reached back for his sword.

"Boss, Leave this person to me!"

Yue Zifeng's sharp senses told him that amongst all of the experts here, only he and Long Chen could accurately judge this mysterious figure's true power.



As a sword cultivator, Yue Zifeng specialized in killing people in one blow and was the bane of all assassins. As a result, most assassination arts were a joke in front of him. In this aspect, he held a greater advantage than Long Chen.

His Sword Dao was something he had the utmost confidence in. However, this mysterious figure also emanated immense pressure on him. If they were to fight, no one could say for sure who would survive.

Yet, this feeling also profoundly stimulated him. True sword cultivators thrived under the threat of death, and Yue Zifeng found himself profoundly invigorated by the challenge.

Yue Zifeng had been following Long Chen for a while now, but not many people could make him feel such a sense of death, especially within the same generation.

"I'm sorry, brother. This isn't just a personal battle between us. It's a clash between our races, and I have to personally do this," said Long Chen. As he stared at this mysterious figure, his killing intent intensified even further.

Long Chen had violet blood, making him a member of the violet blood race. However, he didn't feel any bloodline hatred toward the mysterious figure. Even Luo Bing and Luo Ning didn't sense anything.

Long Chen had only sensed danger from the violet blood fluctuations in Luo Ning when she was targeted. Although Luo Ning herself remained unaware of being targeted, Long Chen had swiftly rushed to her aid the moment he sensed the danger.

Long Chen didn't know if it was because their violet blood energy had regressed to the point that they could no longer feel the bloodline hatred, or the Lifehunter race had been unable to leave a permanent mark on the violet blood race's bloodline back then.

However, when Long Chen witnessed Luo Ning being pierced through the heart, when he held her cold body, and when he saw her lying there like she was dead, a surge of killing intent consumed him.

"Hehe, good. Go ahead and attack me. If you attack me and I just counterattack, Master Ying Tian can't blame me!" the mysterious figure laughed. He pointed his strange sword at Long Chen as if not placing him in his eyes.

"Then let me see how strong the Lifehunter race is to challenge my violet blood race!" Long Chen exclaimed, swiftly springing into action as both his Dragon King Battle Armor and Seven Star Battle Armor instantaneously activated.

## **Chapter 4487: A Hard Battle**

BOOM!

Long Chen's lightning spear pierced through the void, but this mysterious expert employed some technique that rendered him illusory. As the void was pierced through, he simply vanished, sending shivers through everyone's heart. He was practically a ghost, completely untraceable.

Amongst the spectators, Yue Zifeng was clenching the hilt of his sword, staring at a certain spot in the void. The veins on the back of his hand protruded, conveying his readiness to strike at a moment's notice.

This was Yue Zifeng's first time being so tense in a long while. After all, this mysterious figure was absolutely terrifying, causing Yue Zifeng to feel worried for Long Chen.

BOOM!

The lightning spear flew and pierced the spot that Yue Zifeng had been staring at.

The void repeatedly exploded as one hole after another was blasted into it. However, people only saw Long Chen, not that mysterious expert.

People got goosebumps. An invisible enemy was like a blade pressing against their throats at all times, exuding immense pressure.

"What new Sage King, you're only-"

BOOM!

Just as a cold sneer rang out, Long Chen's spear pierced the void again. However, this time, his power was many times greater, causing lightning to fill the sky.

Being hit by it, the translucent figure finally reappeared. At this moment, millions of Seven Peak Swords condensed behind Long Chen and shot toward him.

"Supreme Blood Ignition, Ten Thousand Swords Fly!" Long Chen roared. Through his probing blows, Long Chen finally grasped an opening, and the timing of his attack was so perfect that the translucent figure could not dodge.

"Lifehunter Spirit Slash!" the translucent figure snorted. All of a sudden, the space behind him collapsed, forming a waterfall-like whirlpool that erupted with terrifying Doyen power.

"He's a Doyen!" Startled cries rang out. The translucent figure was finally forced to show his real power. It turned out that he was an absolutely terrifying Doyen, and his Doyen power was many times stronger than Netherdragon Tianzhao's.

It was now evident that this mysterious expert didn't just rely on his bizarre assassination arts to sneak into the academy. It wasn't just skill; he wielded terrifying power as well.

The sword in his hand suddenly became straight and sucked the enormous whirlpool behind him. A ray of light then shot out from the tip, intercepting the barrage of Seven Peak Swords hurtling toward him.

BOOM!

An immense explosion rocked the world. It was the first time since the battle started that the two exchanged a head-on attack.

The High Firmament Academy's grand formations were all activated now. The terrifying astral winds made those formations creak as if they might shatter at any moment.

Even the disciples felt suffocated while they were protected by the formations. For some of the weaker disciples, it felt as if their souls were being torn apart, and they clutched their heads in pain.

"Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw!"

A dragon claw stretched out of Long Chen's divine ring. In response, the mysterious figure snorted, and a strange red light appeared in his eyes. Uttering incomprehensible syllables, he merged with his sword and swiftly propelled himself toward the dragon claw like a bolt of lightning.

With his eye as the core, numerous blood-colored runes cascaded across him, forming the silhouette of a tall and slender man. Colliding with the dragon claw, he seamlessly transitioned back into translucence. After that, blood-colored light ignited on his sword, merging his bloodline power into the blade.

BOOM!

A scene that shocked everyone occurred. The sword instantly pierced through the immense dragon claw and continued onward to Long Chen's chest.

Startled cries echoed as Long Chen's formidable Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw was shattered. The sword was already right at his chest.

Ignoring the imminent threat, Long Chen recklessly thrust his lightning spear toward the man's chest. The onlookers' hearts now clenched in anxiety.

Even the Dragonblood warriors' expressions changed. This mysterious expert was absolutely terrifying, surpassing their understanding. Compared to him, Netherdragon Tianzhao was trash, unfit to even carry his shoes.

Everyone held their breaths, as time seemed to flow slowly. Two weapons steadily closed in on one another, moving at an identical pace. Meanwhile, Long Chen and the translucent figure were staring at each other coldly, devoid of the slightest emotion.

Just as the sword was about to pierce Long Chen's chest, that person's pupils shrank. He suddenly changed the course of his sword, stabbing it into Long Chen's lightning spear.

BOOM!

The lightning spear detonated with a deafening explosion. Black lightning then surged forth, unleashing a formidable and destructive aura that instantly obliterated the surrounding buildings. The impact crushed the academy's grand formations and sent the disciples behind the barrier flying.

"Saint power?!"

Xia Chen and the others were taken aback. Long Chen's lightning spear actually contained the power of a Saint. However, Xia Chen didn't know just how much stronger it was compared to his Saint talisman.

That translucent figure coughed up blood, finally solidifying and revealing his true appearance. A short-haired man with pockmarks on his face stood before Long Chen and the others. Clad in gray armor, this man was skinny like a beanpole. His right hand was entirely gone, with blood flowing down his armor.

Seeing his true appearance, everyone didn't fear him as much. After all, what people feared the most was the unknown. Once it was visible, the fear factor somewhat diminished.

Despite losing an arm, the Lifehunter expert didn't panic and coldly remarked, "I didn't expect you to have such a move. If I hadn't reacted fast enough, I would have been the one to die."

Just now, he had been willing to go through with that suicidal exchange, confident that he could slay Long Chen while, at worst, sustaining a severe injury.

However, as Long Chen's lightning spear was about to pierce the Lifehunter expert, the latter's soul suddenly quivered. His innate assassin instincts then kicked in, causing him to make a swift change in tactics—an instinct that proved uncannily accurate. The lightning spear imbued with Saint power had been set to detonate in advance. If the Lifehunter expert hadn't evaded in time, he wouldn't have survived.

After devouring the corpses of so many Saints, the primal chaos space released the Saints' tribulation lightning around. Although it was only a small amount, after being absorbed by Lei Linger, it was more than enough to kill this expert.

"Even if you react fast, it won't alter the outcome. You'll still die today," declared Long Chen.

This time, Lei Linger didn't conceal her power. The formidable aura of a Saint was unleashed as Long Chen launched another attack.

#### **Chapter 4488: Lifehunter Peak**

"You think that you can kill me? Those words are too audacious for your feeble mouth!" sneered the Lifehunter expert. Suddenly, his previously destroyed arm regenerated. Moreover, as it regrew, he once again vanished from sight.

"What?!"

Startled cries rang out. They had thought that he had been so wounded by Long Chen that he had lost the ability to conceal himself. However, it turned out that he also possessed terrifying healing abilities.

When he vanished, Long Chen didn't panic. This was entirely within his expectations, and he nonchalantly stabbed his lightning spear in front of him.

An immense power collapsed the void, generating a giant vortex that sucked the Lifehunter expert inside. He was visible now.

Long Chen's lightning spear wasn't directed at the Lifehunter expert. Instead, it aimed at the vortex's center that drew everything around it.

Just as Long Chen's spear was about to strike the Lifehunter expert again, he was also drawn toward the center.

"Lifehunter Peak Instant Kill!" the expert shouted, once again enveloped in those blood-colored marks. However, this time, his sword took on a violet hue.

At the sight of the violet light, Luo Ning, who had just awakened, seethed with anger. The violet light symbolized not just her violet blood power but the essence blood of numerous experts from the violet blood race that this strange sword had absorbed.

BOOM!

The lightning spear and the sword clashed once more, unleashing a brilliant explosion. Following that, a wave of destruction spread.

Long Chen's lightning spear exploded, and the impact sent him flying back. As for the Lifehunter expert, blood sprayed out of his mouth, and his expression changed.

"Damn!" Guo Ran and Xia Chen cursed. If Long Chen had a powerful divine weapon, that attack would have been enough to kill this fellow.

While a weapon condensed from his thunderforce was powerful, it was still one step lower than a true divine weapon.

After that, Long Chen summoned his lightning spear once more and shot back.

Long Chen's power seemed limitless. Meanwhile, the Lifehunter expert was still coughing up blood, so Long Chen instantly locked onto him.

At this moment, Long Chen knew that this terrifying assassin had just revealed an opening. The latter was afraid.

Their last exchange had leaned on outside forces. Long Chen had harnessed Lei Linger's energy, while the Lifehunter expert had utilized the energy amassed within his divine sword over countless years.

The crucial difference lay in the fact that Lei Linger's power was practically limitless, whereas that sword's power was depleting. If it continued, that sword would break.

Losing that sword would be akin to losing both his arms—a circumstance the Lifehunter expert couldn't afford.

"We'll end things here. I'll take your life next time," sneered the Lifehunter expert, and he suddenly appeared in front of the academy's gates.

"Keep dreaming!" shouted Xia Chen as he swiftly formed hand seals. All of a sudden, multiple layers of light covered the academy. Xia Chen had added layers of shields on top of the academy's formations.

"You're the one dreaming. What a pitiful frog at the bottom of a well," the Lifehunter expert sneered. He simply stabbed Xia Chen's barriers with his sword. The barriers then rippled, and he passed right through them.

"What?!" Xia Chen's expression completely changed. Somehow, this Lifehunter expert had a method to nullify all kinds of defensive formations.

"Remove your formation!" shouted Long Chen

Xia Chen hastily undid his work. Following that, an explosive sound rang out as Long Chen forcibly ripped a giant hole in the academy's outer barrier.

The Lifehunter expert had a mysterious power that nullified the formations' effects. On the other hand, Long Chen had to use raw brute force.

With Long Chen in pursuit, the two of them vanished from sight, leaving the academy's disciples staring at the hole in silence. They still felt like they were dreaming.

Xia Chen just stood there, overwhelmed by humiliation. As a formation master, someone had actually deemed his proudest work as trash.

"Luo Ning, are you alright?" At this time, Yu Qingxuan ran over to Luo Ning's side. Seeing how pale she was, Yu Qingxuan hastily fed her a medicinal pill.

"I'm fine. It's thanks to Big Brother Long Chen's warning back then. Otherwise, that sword would have pierced my head instead of my chest." Thinking back, Luo Ning shivered in fear.

Back then, she hadn't sensed anything. It was Long Chen's bloodline power that startled her and raised her sense of alarm. After that, she launched her own attack, resulting in that assassin switching the angle of his attack.

However, even though she managed to deviate his attack, when that mysterious sword pierced her, it sucked away her blood, leaving her soul almost crumbling.

If Long Chen hadn't come and injected his own violet blood to prevent her soul from dissipating, she wouldn't have lasted long enough for Luo Bing to arrive. Just thinking about it, Luo Ning felt traumatized.

Just as everyone was discussing that terrifying Lifehunter expert, two people were watching everything from a high vantage point of the academy. They were Bai Letian and the sweeping elder.

"The Lifehunter race revealed themselves in such a high-profile manner to target the violet blood race. However, the real violet blood race has not appeared in countless years, so Long Chen is now the world's strongest expert of the violet blood race and the Lifehunter race's main target. However, to dare to brazenly barge into my academy to kill people, they really are looking down on me," said Bai Letian.

Bai Letian's tone remained flat, but a profound iciness simmered in his eyes. Even someone as amicable as him was genuinely enraged.

On the other hand, the sweeping elder remained indifferent. Observing the hole in the formation, he calmly remarked, "This world has been thrown into chaos. If you cannot even find the source of the chaos, don't even think about fixing the threads."

Bai Letian bitterly smiled. "Sweeping elder, are you saying that my realm is still lacking?"

"If you cannot remain calm, it only shows that you're still too young. Nevertheless, this anger shows that you still have some spirit. That is a good thing. Anger itself is not detrimental, but it becomes undesirable when unleashed prematurely. Long Chen is even younger, and he may not endure as well as you. Thus, let him handle certain matters on our behalf. Refrain from adding fuel to the fire. Allow events to unfold in their proper sequence," advised the sweeping elder.

"Disciple understands." Bai Letian bowed.

The sweeping elder nodded. "Our academy has endured for many years. At this crucial moment, we must continue enduring. As for Long Chen, let him go wild. You can just feel good about supporting him."

"Yes," replied Bai Letian before departing. Observing as he left, the sweeping elder sighed.

"It's nice to be young."

...

The void exploded. Golden wings sliced through the air as Long Chen surged like a bolt of lightning.

BOOM!

Long Chen thrust his lightning spear once again, forcing a figure to materialize from the void.

### **Chapter 4489: Forced to the Brink**

BOOM!

The lightning spear destroyed the void, forcing a figure to come flying out wretchedly. The Lifehunter expert spat out blood as he had been interrupted more than ten times while moving through space with his secret art.

The Lifehunter race had countless terrifying divine abilities. Amongst them, their abilities to conceal themselves and move through space were unparalleled.

While formation masters channeled this power from heavens and earth, the Lifehunter race had this innate ability. Their bodies were like formation discs for them to carry out spatial transportation.

However, Long Chen had already locked onto this Lifehunter expert, so every time he tried to use this technique, Long Chen accurately stopped him.

Long Chen's main disadvantage lay in the fact that his area of attack was so huge that he was exhausting a huge amount of energy. Fortunately, the energy that he was exhausting was Lei Linger's, and Lei Linger was constantly replenishing her energy as the primal chaos space absorbed the five Saint corpses. The thunderforce they were unleashing was enough to fuel these enormous attacks.

On the other hand, the Lifehunter expert was running out of energy after being repeatedly injured. Unable to fight or run, he was no longer able to remain calm.

As Lei Linger was absorbing the tribulation energy of the five Saints, her attacks possessed the aura of a Saint and were even stronger than Long Chen's. Despite this, the Lifehunter expert managed to block her assaults multiple times and still endured, preventing Long Chen from delivering a fatal blow. Hence, it went without saying that he was incredibly powerful, overshadowing even Netherdragon Tianzhao.

The Lifehunter expert stabbed the void with his sword and vanished just like that.

Seeing this, Long Chen shot after him. With his Kunpeng wings at full power, Long Chen's speed was still one level higher than that of the Lifehunter expert.

The Lifehunter expert unleashed countless movement arts, even using clones to confuse Long Chen. However, he was unable to escape.

This was the reason why this Lifehunter expert felt fear. His race excelled in assassination arts, boasting incredible speed and illusionary movement techniques. If they failed at an assassination, they could easily flee, and no one would be able to catch them.

However, Long Chen was faster than him, which terrified him even more than being beaten in combat.

With Long Chen following close behind him, he felt like there was a fiend hunting him, and he was unable to escape no matter what he did. He had never experienced such a miserable feeling before.

Strangely, despite being able to catch up and attack at any moment, Long Chen didn't do anything. He was just following the Lifehunter expert closely.

Long Chen had the upper hand now. He had to refrain from making a rash move and letting his target escape. After all, his goal wasn't to beat but to kill this bastard. The closer Long Chen got to this point, the more he had to keep his cool. Right now, Long Chen was using Lei Linger's power, so he was using up very little of his own energy, unlike his opponent.

Although Long Chen didn't know much about the Lifehunter race, from his opponent's fighting style, he could deduce that his opponent belonged to the explosive style that lacked endurance.

Once Long Chen survived the initial assault, he could just exhaust his opponent. The more time that passed, the more advantageous it would be to Long Chen, and the greater his chances of killing his opponent.

The Lifehunter expert also knew this, which was why he had been trying to use countless means to shake off Long Chen. However, he was only wasting his energy. The more energy he used up, the more he panicked. The confidence he had when he first entered the academy was long gone.

With a resounding shout, Long Chen's lightning spear struck multiple times, causing heaven and earth to quake as lightning surged. He skillfully disrupted the Lifehunter expert's movement art eight times.

"You are courting death!" the Lifehunter expert roared with fury. He had just used a secret art to unleash eight movement arts, and as long as one worked, he would be able to escape.

However, Long Chen stopped all of them perfectly, causing his opponent to use up most of his remaining energy.

"Since you've pushed me to this extent, you can die with me!"

The Lifehunter expert's visage contorted, his eyes ablaze with scarlet intensity. He stopped fleeing and suddenly shot straight toward Long Chen, his sword aimed right at Long Chen's throat.

Suddenly, Long Chen let go of his lightning spear. It passed right by the Lifehunter expert and stabbed the space behind him.

At this moment, the Seven Peak Sword materialized in Long Chen's hand, blocking the mysterious sword. Subsequently, the Lifehunter expert exploded.

Shortly after, a space in the distance erupted, and the Lifehunter expert was forced out of the void again. He had used a scheme, acting like he was launching a suicidal blow while what attacked Long Chen was just a clone. However, the sword was real.

Despite that, he was unable to trick Long Chen, losing his sword in the process. He spat out blood, and no one knew whether it was due to rage or injury.



The mysterious sword somehow teleported back into his hand and absorbed the blood he had just spat out, resonating.

“Lifhunter Peak Kill Sword Dance!”

With a furious roar, he became one with his sword and pierced toward Long Chen.

Long Chen’s expression was serious. Lightning materialized in his hand, transforming into a lightning blade that shielded him.

Explosive sounds shook the heavens. In the blink of an eye, they had clashed thousands of times. The Lifhunter expert’s attacks were like a storm, while Long Chen’s lightning blade was an impermeable barrier.

Finally, there was a loud and short sound. The Lifhunter expert was sent flying, blood oozing from his mouth. With disheveled hair and a pale complexion, he stared at Long Chen in disbelief.

“I didn’t beat you last time, not because you were faster or my reactions were slower. I was busy saving someone. Did you really think that you could beat me in close-range combat?” Long Chen pointed his blade at the Lifhunter expert coldly.

Previously, Long Chen had only been injured because he had to look after Luo Ning. Now, he showcased his technique as the king of close-range combat.

The Lifhunter expert panted. Engaging in close-range combat was considered taboo for assassins, and it also drained his energy. However, he had no choice but to take the risk.

In the end, the last exchange and Long Chen’s words told him that he wouldn’t win with this method either. Caught in a dilemma, his face contorted with rage.

“You are the one who forced me to do this!” he snarled.

Suddenly, the Lifhunter expert gritted his teeth, and a clump of violet blood appeared on his sword. When that violet blood emerged, Long Chen’s expression changed.

#### **Chapter 4490: Lifhunter Life Death, Verdict of the Heavenly Daos**

It was the very blood that the sinister sword had extracted from Long Chen. The violet blood gleamed, casting a hue of violet across the sky. All of a sudden, Long Chen’s heart shook, as if some invisible judge was appraising him. At that moment, Long Chen grasped the Lifhunter expert’s intention.

“Lifhunter Life Death, Verdict of the Heavenly Daos!”

A strange mark appeared on the Lifhunter expert’s forehead. Following that, an ethereal structure appeared between Long Chen and the Lifhunter expert. Beside this construct, a pair of translucent hands slowly tallied the marks of a ruler. Below their feet, a giant set of scales emerged, with Long Chen and the Lifhunter expert positioned on opposite sides.

Long Chen and the Lifhunter expert were restrained by the translucent hands manipulating the scales. It was as if it was measuring their weight.

Suddenly, those hands came to a stop. The Lifehunter expert was brimming with animosity and calmly awaited the result.

He was staking his life, unleashing the Lifehunter race's strongest trump card.

The Lifehunter race possessed a unique cultivation method, part of which involved increasing the weight of one's life.

However, invoking the verdict of the Heavenly Daos was considered a taboo technique. Once deployed, there was no going back.

While the Lifehunter race possessed a unique method to enhance the weight of their lives, providing them a considerable advantage in this aspect, there were no absolutes in the world. This was due to the inherent diversity of individuals' lives. If the Lifehunter experts encountered some people with powerful fates, they would definitely die upon using this divine ability on them.

The weighing process had started. Whose life was more valuable? Whose life was worth less?

While Long Chen didn't understand this strange technique, he instantly sensed where its strangeness originated from. At first, Long Chen had an uneasy feeling. However, when those hands stopped, Long Chen instantly felt at peace.

For some reason, Long Chen felt incomparably close to these emotionless hands.

Long Chen could sense that these hands were fair, absolutely just. Compared to the Heavenly Daos, they were far more righteous.

*Buzz.*

Finally, those hands stopped measuring, and the scales blazed with divine light. The Lifehunter expert's heart plummeted as the moment of life and death approached. Whose side would the scales lean to?

However, when the hands left the scales, instead of tilting in one direction, the scales unexpectedly cracked open, revealing enormous fissures.

"What's going on?!" the Lifehunter expert shouted in shock. Such a scenario had never been documented in the annals of the Lifehunter race.

**BOOM!**

The scales exploded, and an enigmatic force reduced the Lifehunter expert's body and soul to dust.

The Lifehunter expert was dead, wiped out of existence by some mysterious power. One could say that he was destroyed alongside his scales.

Long Chen stood there blankly, still processing what had just happened. Somehow, everything was over before he could grasp the situation.

After the scales were gone, the pair of hands slowly retreated into the heavens, and the world reverted to its original state.

At this moment, Long Chen realized that when the scales and hands materialized, the two of them had been drawn into a strange space, separate from the reality he knew.

Hence, when the scales vanished, Long Chen's expression suddenly changed, and he hastily checked the primal chaos space.

"Hahaha, even in strange spaces, the Heavenly Dao Tree still works!"

Long Chen saw a completely new Heavenly Doyen Fruit on the Heavenly Dao Tree and laughed crazily.

"One, two, three, four, five! Damn, this fellow actually has five star patterns on his Heavenly Doyen Fruit! No wonder his Doyen power was so monstrous!"

After studying all of the Heavenly Doyen Fruits in his possession, Long Chen estimated that Netherdragon Tianzhao should have been a three-star Heavenly Doyen.

A three-star Doyen and a five-star Doyen. The two simply weren't on the same level.

This time, Long Chen was somewhat lucky. The presence of Lei Linger and her Saint-level thunderforce made dispatching the Lifehunter expert relatively easy. Without her assistance, the task would have proven challenging.

After all, such an intense Doyen power was absolutely terrifying, and Long Chen's astral energy couldn't contend against it directly. Without Lei Linger by his side, the conflict would have turned into a battle of attrition.

In such a scenario, the Lifehunter expert could have unleashed his assassination arts without restraint, forcing Long Chen into a passive stance. Even if Long Chen won in the end, he would need to exert so much effort and the Lifehunter expert might just escape.

While it looked as if everything had been under his control, and that he had been the one to force the Lifehunter expert to the brink, Long Chen knew that luck was a big part of that.

"It seems that I have to quicken the pace and refine the Ten Thousand Dragon Nest," said Long Chen as he looked at the Saint corpses on the black soil. It would take a bit more time to devour them all.

Once the Saint corpses were done with, he had to deal with the Ten Thousand Dragon Nest. As it was a big pile of dragon corpses, their decomposition would take a long time.

However, once it was done, the entire primal chaos space would transform once again, and Lei Linger and Huo Linger would grow to an unimaginable level.

Long Chen reached out his hand to pluck the new Heavenly Doyen Fruit.

"Not good!"

Suddenly, Long Chen's expression changed. With no time to pluck the fruit, he returned to his body. Wielding his lightning spear once more, he thrust it behind him with all his power.

BOOM!

With an explosive sound, a black dragon claw destroyed the lightning spear that contained a Saint's aura.

"You?!"

When Long Chen sensed the attacker's aura, he was shocked and enraged. He hadn't expected him to appear here.

It was none other than the leader of the nether dragon race. Long Chen had been lost in his delight after obtaining the Lifehunter expert's Heavenly Doyen Fruit, so he hadn't expected to encounter an opponent here.

"Damn bastard, hand over my Ten Thousand Dragon Nest!"

As the nether dragon race leader transformed into an enormous dragon, a black sword shot out of his mouth, releasing the explosive power of a Saint.

Faced with this terrifying Saint's attack, Long Chen couldn't dodge. With a resounding roar, he summoned a lightning shield in front of him, and his Kunpeng wings spread as he flew off.

The nether dragon race leader was not an ordinary Saint and could be considered a terrifying existence amongst Saints. As Long Chen couldn't even beat ordinary Saints, fighting him would be crazy.

"You think you can get away?! Keep dreaming!" the nether dragon race leader roared.

BOOM!

Long Chen's lightning shield instantly exploded when it met the black sword, leaving him defenseless against its onslaught. The black sword mercilessly slashed Long Chen, causing blood to spray out of his mouth. As the darkness encroached upon his vision, he couldn't help but think, "It's over."

He lamented the fact that he was just too unlucky.