

Resonance 881

Chapter 0881: Mission Accomplished

Li Luo walked out of the Enchanting Fire Water Pond with a look of satisfaction. After he put the crimson bracelet back on his wrist, he turned over and looked at Li Lingjing with a warmer gaze now.

She had not created any trouble during his breakthrough. Instead, she had provided advice to help him with it. With this, Li Luo was beginning to trust her a little more.

It seemed like the Li Lingjing in front of him was not the Soul Eater True Devil. Otherwise, it would definitely have made use of his breakthrough earlier to sneak up on him. After all, that was the best opportunity for a surprise attack.

"It was all thanks to you, Cousin Li Lingjing." Li Luo smiled and thanked her with both hands cupped together.

Next, he turned back to take a look at the Enchanting Fire Water Pond. After his cultivation earlier, the water in the pond had become much clearer. Most of the energy that had been stored in it over the years had been absorbed by him to break through into the Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Tier.

"Can I bring some of this pond water out with me?" Li Luo asked after giving it some thought.

This Enchanting Fire Water Pond was a truly magical opportunity. Although most of the perks had been enjoyed by him, it would still be great if he could bring the remaining pond water back for Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and the rest. Besides, he had not fully absorbed the Sacred Infant Fruit that he squeezed into the pond earlier. It would be such a waste to leave it here like this. When he thought about this, he took out a huge jar from his pocket sphere and attempted to collect the pond water.

However, he was soon faced with disappointment. As soon as he took the water out of the Enchanting Fire Water Pond, it turned into steam and evaporated into thin air.

On the side, Li Lingjing saw what he was trying to do and told him immediately, "The water-fire energy is a heavenly treasure. You'll not be able to collect the water like this. If you're planning to bring some back for your companions, you should look for the tree trunk from the Sacred Infant Fruit Tree. You'll be able to contain the water with that."

Li Luo's eyes lit up immediately when he heard this. He turned around and walked out of the crack in the mountain. Arriving back at the mouth of the volcano, he chopped off a part of the trunk from the Sacred Infant Fruit Tree before returning.

He hollowed out part of the tree trunk and started to collect the mysterious pond water with it. As he had squeezed a Sacred Infant Fruit into the pond earlier, there were now traces of gold light swimming in the water. This was the essence of energy from the Sacred Infant Fruit. It was a really valuable treasure, and Li Luo would naturally collect as much of it as he could. After he had fully filled the tree trunk with water, the energy left in the Enchanting Fire Water Pond was really dismal. It seemed like it'd take many generations of protection by the Fire Spirit Monkeys before it could regain the level of energy it used to possess.

"You sure collected all that you can. Those Fire Spirit Monkeys are going to be left crying when they see this," Li Lingjing commented when she saw the thin energy left in the Enchanting Fire Water Pond.

After enjoying all the benefits, Li Luo was also going to take the remaining energy along with him. He was truly exploiting the pond fully. Without changing his expression, he replied to her, "You should know that I came from an outer divine continent. Back there, such a valuable resource would've been enough to cause an all-out war between the various forces. Now that I have the opportunity, there is no chance I will let it go to waste."

Li Lingjing was speechless at his reply. "With your foundation, you sure don't seem like someone who has spent a childhood in the outer divine continent."

Li Luo simply laughed and answered back, "Although the resources in the outer divine continent pale in comparison to the inner divine continent, there are still many talents that aren't inferior to me."

"Aren't inferior to you? You must be exaggerating," Li Lingjing said with a smile. She clearly did not believe his words. After all, Li Luo's foundation was considered one of the best even amongst the younger generation in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. How could anyone in a resource-deprived outer divine continent be better than him?

Nonetheless, Li Luo simply smiled and did not explain any further. The person he was referring to was none other than the dazzling, white swan back home.

Speaking of which, it had been nearly half a year since they separated back in Xia Kingdom. He wondered how she was doing in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. Surely the college was full of talented individuals too. However, he believed that Jiang Qing'e would be able to shine regardless of where she was.

At this moment, a hint of longing surfaced in his eyes. He took a deep breath and suppressed it.

In less than half a year's time, he had managed to move from the Fiend Palace Tier to the Glass Fiend Tier. The Fiend Finisher Tier was also within sight now. Such an amazing pace would've been unthinkable if he had stayed in the Astral Sage College. Ultimately, the Astral Sage College was lacking in both resources and opportunities compared to the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

Furthermore, Li Luo had not wasted any time in his cultivation during this period. With his remaining three years of lifespan, he had not taken a break at all as he wanted to fight for his survival once Jiang Qing'e obtained the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus.

Li Lingjing had managed to endure so much just for her own survival. After seeing this, how could he possibly relax right here?

Li Luo got his emotions under control and said to Li Lingjing, "Let's go."

Li Lingjing nodded in agreement. However, she hesitated a little and asked, "Do I need to appear like this in front of them?"

She was referring to Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, Deng Fengxian, and the rest. Clearly, she was still resistant towards this as her current look was truly kind of weird.

Hearing her words, Li Luo recalled how troublesome it would be if anyone saw her like this. He gave it some thought before he replied, "If you can hide it, let's hide it."

At present, Li Lingjing seemed to have fused with the Soul Eater True Devil. Even Li Luo was not sure of how she was currently. However, it was surely not a good thing to get tangled up with a True Devil Other, so he thought it was best to keep it a secret as much as they could.

"However, your situation is really special. Once we leave the Dark Domain, I'll inform City Lord Li Feng about it and have him look over you. At the same time, I'll let the Respected Elder know about it and see how he intends to deal with it. Are you okay with that?" Li Luo asked.

He stared intently at Li Lingjing as he asked the question, prepared to communicate with the Three-tailed Heavenly Wolf should she show any signs of resistance. If that happened, he would have to try and deal with it with brute force.

Fortunately, Li Lingjing did not show any signs of revolt. She simply pondered over it for a moment before nodding in agreement.

"It would be fortunate if the Lineage Chief could help me separate from the Soul Eater True Devil." As soon as she finished her sentence, the corruption around her started condensing. In the next moment, she turned into a black pearl with a slender, white face flowing inside. It was a clearly eerie and strange object.

Li Luo did not dare to touch it directly. He took out a jade box and let the black pearl go into the box by itself. Following this, he summoned up his resonant power and formed layers of protection around the box before he put it away carefully.

He did not say anymore words as he dashed out of the volcano and straight back to the mountain range.

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In the outer region of the mountain range.

Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, Deng Fengxian, and the members of the four banners were all waiting.

Li Jingtao and Deng Fengxian were still calm, but the restless Li Fengyi had been pacing up and down repeatedly. Her face was full of impatience and worry. After all, it had been a few days since Li Luo had departed, and there was no news of him. Things were starting to seem a little off.

Li Fengyi gritted her teeth and said to Li Jingtao after coming to a halt, "Let's wait another day. If Little Brother is still not back, Li Jingtao, you can head out of the Dark Domain and get the Western City Dukes that are standing guard outside to come in here and search!"

Hearing this, Li Jingtao wanted to tell her to calm down. However, he noticed the impatience in her eyes and decided to nod and reply, "Alright."

At the same time, Li Fengyi looked over to Deng Fengxian and said coldly, "You can prepare to lead the Gold Light Banner and search the mountains with me! If we can't find Little Brother, none of us are leaving!" Deng Fengxian nodded helplessly. However, his expression suddenly changed at this moment. He looked into the distance far out in the forest.

Sonic booms could be heard as the wind was split.

Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao sensed this as well, so they turned their heads in a hurry. A familiar figure emerged in the distance. In the next moment, the figure went straight into the forest.

The members of the four banners all turned around to take a look. Over at the Green Nether Banner, a look of pleasant surprise appeared on the faces of Zhao Yanzhi, Li Shi, and the members.

"Our leader is back!" the crowd exclaimed as they heaved sighs of relief in their hearts.

Under their surprised gazes, Li Luo apologized to Li Fengyi and the other two as soon as he landed. "Sorry for making you guys worried."

"Where did you go, Little Brother? Are you alright? What about the Soul Eater True Devil?" Li Fengyi bombarded him with questions. At the same time, her tense body finally relaxed after seeing Li Luo safe and sound.

Li Luo smiled and replied, "The Soul Eater True Devil was chased away using a secret method the Respected Elder passed to me. After which, I went deeper into the mountain range and found a precious opportunity, so it took up quite a bit of my time there."

After explaining, he took out the three hollowed tree trunks from his pocket sphere and passed them to Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian. "I've not forgotten about you guys. Everyone will get a share," he said.

It was largely due to Li Luo's personal reasons that they ended up heading into the Dark Domain in search of the Sacred Infant Fruit. The three of them had gone through a lot of danger due to him, so he could not let them return empty-handed. He had tried his best to make it up to each of them with this.

The three of them looked a bit stunned when they received the tree trunks and opened them up. They were a little moved when they saw the fire-water energy flowing in them, filled with traces of mysterious, golden light.

"What a pure and enchanting energy." The three of them echoed in surprise. "I guess you still have a little conscience." Li Fengyi put it away with a soft smile on her pretty face.

At the same time, Li Jingtao also chuckled a little as he put it away.

Only Deng Fengxian was a little hesitant about it. He had not been on very good terms with Li Luo, and there had been friction between the two previously. They were simply from the same lineage, and he did not know whether to accept Li Luo's gift or not.

"You're not giving my Little Brother face?" Li Fengyi frowned upon seeing his hesitation. Coming after him with her punches, she continued, "Aren't you scared that the three of us will beat you up here and now if you refuse to accept this?"

Hearing this, Deng Fengxian did not hesitate any longer and took a tree trunk too. Li Luo smiled when he saw this. Without any hesitation, he told them seriously, "Mission accomplished. Let us hurry out of here."

The other three naturally agreed. This visit to the Dark Domain had been fraught with dangers that far exceeded their imagination. Whether they had succeeded in their mission or not, they felt it best to leave here as soon as possible.

As such, the four of them led their banners and headed out of the Dark Domain rapidly.

Chapter 0882: Restoring the Spirit

The group quickly made their way to the teleportation platform and left the Dark Domain, finally reentering the outside world again. When they stared at the coiled-up clouds and saw the comforting, blue sky, lightly caressed by the wind that was not filled with the depressive air nor buffeted by the endless whispering, the group felt a sense of peace.

They couldn't help but let out sighs of relief as the stress in their bodies was gradually washed away.

The expedition to the Dark Domain was riddled with dangers, and even the number of True Devil Others they had encountered couldn't be counted on one hand. Although they had managed to leave relatively intact, one's heart would still palpitate in fear upon thinking back.

Perhaps it was because of Harmony, and although there were some shortcomings to it, it was the only way to deal with the True Devil Others. If not for it, they would have all just been slaughtered by a single one.

"I'm afraid I wouldn't dare to enter the Dark Domain without the protection of Harmony." Zhao Yanzhi smiled bitterly.

Li Shi, Mu Bi, and the rest also felt a little distressed in their hearts. Their Earth Fiend strength was simply insufficient within the Dark Domain. If they had wandered in alone, just a casual Heavenly Disaster-class Other would be able to wipe them all out, much less a True Devil.

It seemed that this location was truly a little too dangerous for them.

Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and the rest knew that their banner members had suffered from quite a fright. Thus, they ordered them to stand down and adjust their mental states before leaving for the sealed entrance where Li Feng and the rest were already waiting.

"Four Banner Leaders, you're back." Li Feng hurriedly stepped forward. Seeing that they were unscathed, he let out a sigh of relief.

Out of the four, three were direct descendents of the Lineage Chief and had exceptional standings. If anything happened to them in his city, he might very well lose his position as the City Lord.

"We saw the people from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao leaving like beaten pigs a few days ago. Zhao Jingyu lost both arms and seemed particularly pitiful. It caused me to worry endlessly, wondering what sort of dangerous situation you were thrown into. If none of you had emerged in the next day or two, we would have dispatched people to search for you." Li Feng grimaced at this point.

If not for the fact that each of these Banner Leaders could possess the strength of a first-grade Duke, he would have sent people to search for them long ago. So long as they did not forcefully plough their way through the Dark Domain, there should be few True Devil Others who could truly threaten them.

"Well, we did encounter some troubles, but we managed to emerge safely in the end." Li Luo smiled.

Li Feng nodded. "Now that you're out of the Dark Domain, we should start by purifying any of the corruption on you."

He waved his hand, and a Duke from the Western Region stepped forward. Holding a silver mirror, it released purifying rays of light that bathed the four banners.

However, Li Luo opted to avoid the purifying light. Seeing Li Feng's suspicious gaze, he pulled him to the side.

"City Lord Li Feng, can you guess who I saw in the Dark Domain?"

Li Feng shook his head with a look of suspicion.

Li Luo calmly replied, "I saw Elder Sister Li Lingjing."

The old man's eyes shrunk. "How can this be? Her spirit was harmed and she spent the day languishing in a confused state. She can barely leave the old manor, so how could she possibly be in the Dark Domain?"

Li Luo fell into silence for a moment. "You must remember the mysterious Soul Eater True Devil that swallowed half of her spirit, yes?"

When he heard these words, his expression became unbearably ugly, and spoke in a gloomy voice, "Lingjing told me about it. However, when the seal was released, we dispatched countless experts into the Dark Domain to exterminate that Other, but we have never even found a trace of it. Additionally, I have never heard of anyone else encountering it. Thus, I cannot even guarantee that such a thing exists. In the past, I had even thought that this mysterious True Devil was actually a figment of Lingjing's imagination as a result of the corruption that infected her."

At this point, his expression changed once again as he stared at Li Luo. "Perhaps you saw it, Banner Leader?"

Li Luo nodded.

He then proceeded to give an explanation of all that had happened to him.

When Li Feng heard that Li Lingjing had sealed half of her spirit within the jade ornament and took the initiative to pounce inside the True Devil's mouth in a bid to fight for her life, eventually leading to the current result, his wizened expression turned into one of complete shock which he was unable to hide.

"How could this be? How could Lingjing triumph over the True Devil?" Li Feng asked with disbelief.

"The Soul Eater True Devil had already been fighting with me and was grievously injured. Elder Sister Lingjing struck at an opportune moment, and her willpower and tenacity far surpass my imagination. The fact that she could still retain a sense of clarity despite having half her spirit constantly eroded by the True Devil Other is something even certain Dukes are unable to do," Li Luo calmly replied.

Li Luo then stretched out a hand, and a black pearl appeared. On the surface, a white face could be seen whilst emanating a strong air of corruption.

"Lingjing?" Li Feng gasped when he recognized the familiar visage.

Li Luo quickly stored the object. "Based on what Elder Sister Lingjing said, so long as this object is brought near her body, her spirit will be able to return. At that point in time, her talent and potential will also be restored."

Li Feng's face was full of complicated emotions. There was both happiness and sadness within. Happiness because Li Lingjing was an exceptional genius only seen once in a hundred years. If she was able to go back to normal, it would be wonderful news for the Western Region's Li Family. However, she had been tormented by the True Devil Other for far too long and possibly corrupted. No one could guarantee what she truly was right now, a human or an Other...

"The reason I'm telling you this is because I wish you to accompany me and closely watch Elder Sister Li Lingjing recover. After this has been done, no matter the result, to accompany me and her to Dragon's Fang Mountain and be inspected by the Respected Elder," Li Luo explained.

Li Feng sighed. "I understand."

Li Luo wanted him to accompany them, to ensure that he could watch over Li Lingjing and ensure nothing complicated arose.

"Then let us go ahead first," Li Feng suggested as he glanced at the four banners, who were undergoing purification.

Li Luo thought about it and nodded. He wanted to quickly resolve this issue as holding the black pearl truly felt like he was burdened with an exceptional task.

He then turned around to let the rest of the Banner Leaders know that they would regroup at Western City. Although the others found it a little strange, they simply nodded.

After making the arrangements, under Li Feng's lead, they hurriedly rushed towards Western City.

Half a day later.

The two arrived and rushed straight for the old manor without pause.

"How has Lingjing been these past few days?" Li Feng asked an old butler.

"Patriarch, Young Mistress Lingjing fell into a coma on the day after you left and has yet to wake," the butler anxiously replied.

Li Luo's gaze narrowed slightly. Li Feng had left for the Dark Domain with him, and the reason for the coma should be due to hiding the remaining half of her spirit within the jade ornament. Her body was now an empty husk and had naturally fallen into a coma.

Li Feng nodded as he hurriedly brought Li Luo into her room.

Inside were countless items that belonged to a young lady. Li Feng hurriedly chased everyone out while Li Luo approached the bed. All he saw was Li Lingjing quietly lying there, her beautiful complexion pale and lacking blood. She was breathing so lightly it was almost unnoticeable.

Li Lingjing had taken the initiative to separate her spirit from her body to achieve her aim. What she had done was extremely risky, and if they took too long, her spirit and body would be completely disconnected from each other and the body would degenerate, eventually decaying.

The choice she had made was a tremendous gamble. If anything had gone wrong, she would not have managed to return.

This conviction caused even Li Luo to feel a sense of respect for her.

With a thought, he flipped his palm and a black pearl appeared. With the pearl's appearance, the entire room seemed to turn dark and the air was plunged into coldness.

Li Feng's expression was heavy. Majestic amounts of energy surged out of him, and his Duke Bergfrieds appeared, emanating a suppressive aura. Forming a hand seal with both hands, energy enveloped the entire room, preventing any corruption from escaping.

Li Luo lowered his head as he focused upon the black pearl. On its surface was a familiar, pale face that seemed a little agitated.

"Sister Lingjing, I invite you to return to your body now."

Upon hearing Li Luo's soft voice, the face within the pearl turned into a ray of light that shot into the forehead of the sleeping lady.

Once her spirit left the black pearl, endless amounts of corruption surged out, and even a strange whisper could be heard in the room. At this point, it seemed to have gained some form of sentience as it too shot out of the pearl, heading directly towards Li Lingjing's body as well.

"Foul creature!" Li Feng bellowed angrily as his domineering resonant power formed countless wheels of light, directly protecting her body.

Alas, despite Li Feng's best efforts, the black light easily bypassed the protection and tunneled into Li Lingjing's lower abdomen.

This sudden development caused the two of them to look extremely sullen.

Chapter 0883: Variant

Li Luo and Li Feng were frowning. Li Feng hurriedly stepped forward and lightly removed the robes covering her lower chest. A flat and white belly was revealed.

The two could also see that at the side was a black scar. It was like a black rune that was alive, wriggling slowly. Its mouth was connected to its tail, like a long worm.

A strange aura could be felt coming from it.

"This is the aura of the Soul Eater True Devil," Li Luo glumly explained.

A bitter smile surfaced on Li Feng's aged features. "Lingjing's own body is too weak. How can I purify the Soul Eater True Devil if it has adhered to her bone like gangrene? While Li Lingjing has returned her spirit to her body, it has been entangled with her flesh."

Li Luo's brows were furrowed as he replied, "Just what is the Soul Eater True Devil trying to do? Why does it act so strangely compared to other True Devil Others?"

The Soul Eater True Devil possessed extraordinary intelligence and was able to devour the talent of humans. This was something he had never seen other Others possess.

Additionally, from the exchange of attacks they had previously, the Soul Eater True Devil was a third-grade True Devil. Li Luo couldn't say that was weak, but when compared to the Dragon's Fang Lineage, this could barely be considered an expert.

However, he could feel that the Soul Eater True Devil demonstrated a mysterious strength that surpassed the average third-grade True Devil.

Li Feng shook his head. "This is the first time I've encountered something like this after countless trips to the Western Region's Dark Domain."

"That means that it purposefully hid itself to find opportunities to devour exceptional geniuses," Li Luo explained.

Li Feng's gaze turned solemn. This deceitful True Devil was a little strange. It was completely different from the normal True Devil Others, and he simply could not guess the reason for its actions. All he could do was helplessly say, "Others come in all sorts of strange and weird forms and are hard to capture. Seeing a few True Devil Others that possess unimaginable strength is not unexpected. Perhaps this might even be the exception."

"Perhaps." Li Luo did not have any other answers to this as he stared at the faintly wriggling, worm-like seal on Li Lingjing's lower abdomen. "It looks like Cousin Lingjing will need to spend some time in Dragon's Fang Mountain to recuperate."

If the Soul Eater True Devil's mark could not be dealt with, no one would know if or when she would be truly corrupted. In order to reduce any chances of this happening, she had to be brought to Dragon's Fang Mountain and inspected by the Respected Elder, to see if there was any way to solve this.

"Perhaps if the Lineage Chief is able to take action, that would be beneficial to Lingjing. I have to thank you for this, Banner Leader Li Luo." Li Feng sighed gratefully and then bowed sincerely.

Although the Western Region's Li Family was a branch of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, their bloodline was a little too far removed from the main one. If not for Li Rouyun's hard work and efforts to become Green Nether's Hall Master, their family may have continued to deteriorate. At that point, it would have been difficult to even request a meeting with the Lineage Chief with their positions, much less get him to take action.

"Aunt Yun and I have a close relationship, and this is something I have to do to repay her." Li Luo waved his hand. When he needed help most, she had taken out a treasure to temporarily resolve Jiang Qing'e's Heart of Light, which had undergone Sacrificial Ignition. That treasure was originally meant to assist in Li Lingjing's recovery.

It was precisely because of this development that Li Luo felt a sense of goodwill towards Li Lingjing, and he even disregarded her ploy.

As the two continued to speak, the lying Li Lingjing suddenly opened her apricot-shaped eyes, now looking full of spirit. There was no longer any bewilderment or confusion in them like before.

As she gradually propped herself up, she stretched out a hand, touched her lower abdomen, and sighed. "As expected, nothing is ever so simple. This thing seems to have become entangled with me."

"Cousin Lingjing, it seems you have mentally prepared yourself for this," Li Luo said.

Li Lingjing nodded as she calmly replied, "I was very weak already, and scheming against this True Devil was like dancing on the tip of a knife. However, it has given me a chance for more, and I would do so again if I had to. Instead of remaining confused and lost all day, it is better to stake it all in a single fight. At the very least, I have regained my talent, so there is hope for me in the future."

"You are truly a decisive individual." Li Luo smiled.

Li Lingjing gave Li Luo a smile. "No matter what, I owe you a huge favor, Cousin Li Luo. This is something I will never be able to repay."

Her expression was beautiful and moving, and the disheveled appearance of her hair was now full of vitality in contrast to her originally drained and withered state.

Additionally, with her potential now regained, her self-confidence had been restored.

Li Feng's eyes glinted as he grinned. "This favor is simply too massive. Banner Leader, if you don't mind, how about you take Lingjing as your maid? That would settle everything. What do you think of that?"

Li Lingjing was the most outstanding jewel of the Western Region's Li Family in the past hundred years. She was beautiful and a genius talent. Countless geniuses of the Western Region had set their eyes on her, but none had attained her favor. However, if she were to be paired with the Third Young Master of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, that would be a wonderful thing!

The sudden suggestion almost caused Li Luo to sprain his back. Although his words sounded wonderful... What kind of maid? He was referring to something else entirely!

Li Luo's mouth twitched slightly. "City Lord, you must be joking. We are brothers and sisters. How can she possibly be a maid?"

"The relationship of being a brotherly cousin is simply just for appearances. Our bloodline is far removed from yours, and relationships between the youths of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li are not uncommon nor surprising!"

Li Luo couldn't help but roll his eyes. Li Feng was simply being too unreasonable! He had just helped restore a heavenly genius in the family, yet this old geezer was still trying to pull a fast one and devour him completely!

Li Luo turned towards Li Lingjing. Based on his first impressions, his cousin was decisive and proud. Li Feng's arrangements would likely incur her wrath.

However, what he saw was her kneeling atop her bed, her jade face a little flushed as she blushed, avoiding his eyes.

This left him speechless, and he shook his head. "I am heartened by your good intentions City Lord, but unfortunately, I have a fiancée."

Li Feng was taken aback when he saw Li Luo's serious expression. In the end, he could only sigh with disappointment. "What a pity."

He no longer raised the topic of a maid. In any case, he wasn't truly serious about giving away his family's precious jewel just to be a maid.

Li Lingjing gave a slight smile as she said, "Cousin Li Luo, don't take this to heart. The City Lord is old and often comes up with extravagant hopes. Our little Western Region's Li Family would not dare to vault up the societal ladder like this."

These words left Li Luo slightly dumbfounded as to how to reply. In the end, he could only dryly smile. "Cousin Lingjing, you should take some time to rest. Once we get to the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range, I'll take you for a stroll and try to see if we can get rid of the disease that's affecting you."

With that, he turned around and left.

Shortly after he left, Li Feng sighed helplessly and looked towards Li Lingjing. "The problem afflicting you is not a minor one. I'm afraid that if you go to the Dragon's Fang Mountain and find that the problem cannot be resolved, you might be treated as an Other and dealt with appropriately. However, if you have Li Luo as your backer, things will be much safer."

Li Lingjing lightly nodded in agreement.

"This was a result I had prepared myself for when I struggled against the Soul Eater True Devil. I owe Cousin Li Luo a massive favor, and when the time comes, I will repay him. City Lord, you should not give others more trouble. No matter how things end, I have no regrets over my choices."

These words caused Li Feng to fall into silence.

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In a secret room somewhere far away.

In the center of the room was a single black altar.

Atop the altar were countless copper lamps, and atop each one were countless struggling expressions. All of the lamps were alight, and as the tiny flames flickered, they gave off a dark, cold air.

Suddenly, one of the lamps dimmed immensely, almost on the verge of being extinguished.

"Hmm?"

A pair of eyes opened within the dark room and observed the copper lamp with a look of confusion.

The silence lasted for a moment before a white hand stretched out of the darkness. On one of the fingers was an ancient ring that had an eye engraved upon it. The eye's sclera were black, while the pupils were white. The eye looked extremely strange, as though it was a living object, occasionally opening and closing. The black and white coalesced into one, like seeing Yin and Yang combine.

The pale hand grasped the dimly-lit lamp, and a low voice spoke out.

"Variant number three has been injured? What happened?"

Chapter 0884: Return Trip

On the second day, Li Fengyi and the others returned to Western City. After meeting up with Li Luo, they set off for the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range immediately.

However, there were two more individuals on their return trip.

They were none other than Li Lingjing and Li Feng.

Li Fengyi and the rest were quite surprised when they saw that Li Lingjing had regained her spirit. It was even more shocking to learn that she had regained her talent.

After all, Li Lingjing was one of the top geniuses in the previous generation of the Twenty Banners. She was really well known back then, and everyone expected her to become the most outstanding expert from the Western Region's Li Family.

Unfortunately, no one had expected her to get into an incident with a True Devil Other right before the Twenty Banners' selection was held. Everyone sighed in dismay learning that this left her in ruin even though she was lucky enough to survive.

Most people had expected her to be one of the eligible candidates for the Dragon's Head once she was selected into the Twenty Banners.

It was unfortunate that she was forgotten as the other talents in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li rose up.

At the head of the Dragon Vessel.

Li Luo was sitting cross-legged while he enjoyed his fragrant tea. It was a relaxing scene as he watched the ship sail through the clouds with the vast land underneath.

He had spent close to a month in the Western City Dark Domain. However, it had been a really fruitful trip for him. Not only had he obtained a Sacred Infant Fruit, he had also managed to reach the Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Tier.

Although he was still in the Fiend Body Tier, the protective shield that came with being a Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend was enough to pose a big headache for any Fiend Finisher with less than three hundred feet worth of Fiend Dipper energy.

"I've finally caught up," Li Luo muttered to himself.

He was just a Fiend Palace Tier cultivator when he came to the Twenty Banners half a year ago. There was a huge gap between him and the other top Banner Leaders, such as Li Qingfeng and Lu Qingmei. This was something that even he himself could not deny.

In fact, it was not a matter of how talented they were. It was simply a difference in the resources available in the inner divine continent compared to the outer divine continent. There were multiple subtleties between the Fiend Palace Tier and the Fiend Finisher Tier. Even though Li Luo had a few tricks up

his sleeve to help him win against stronger opponents, talents like Li Qingfeng were not ordinary individuals either. They would surely possess their own aces. As such, Li Luo had tried to avoid any direct confrontation with them as much as possible.

Fortunately, he had Harmony to help him bridge the gap. Although there was still a gap even with Harmony, it was narrow enough for him to make up the difference with his other tricks. This allowed Li Luo to be a considerable force within the Twenty Banners too.

After half a year of hard work, Li Luo had entered the Glass Fiend Tier at long last. Coupled with his Tri-Radiance Glass Ring, he was finally confident enough to directly face off against the top talents from the Twenty Banners with his individual strength.

As for the upcoming Twenty Banners Dragon's Head selection battle, he also felt more assured about it.

He understood that the other elites were not people he could look down upon. While he was catching up, they were surely improving as well.

As Li Luo thought about all this, he took out the five intimidating dragon fangs from his pocket sphere.

"I wonder if I can get a single drop of Dragon Fang Essence from these dragon fangs," he thought to himself. He stared at the objects with eyes full of expectation. He could barely wait to start the extraction process and see if there were any surprising results.

He could only proceed with his Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation training once he obtained a Dragon Fang Essence. This was a Transcendent Duke Art that he had been dying to learn for a really long time.

"If you'd like to get a Dragon Fang Essence, I suggest you don't do it yourself." A voice drifted over as Li Luo was pondering it.

He lifted his head and saw Li Lingjing climbing up the stairs. Dressed in a light-yellow gown with green ribbons, she looked really charming with a white, lustrous glow on her fair face.

Two strands of green ribbons hung down her shoulders, falling on her plump breasts and outlining her graceful curves.

Her slender waist was wrapped with a graceful and tight silk belt. As the wind blew against her, her dress adhered closely to her body, highlighting her slim and curvy figure.

There were many male members of the Green Nether banner on the deck at this point. When Li Lingjing appeared, they could not help but stare at her secretly and whisper among themselves.

Li Luo also took a few looks at her as she walked over. With a smile, he commented, "Cousin Lingjing, you are such a beauty. It's truly a loss for the previous generation of the Twenty Banners that they didn't get to meet you."

Li Lingjing's appearance was indeed charming. With the recovery of her spirit, she seemed to have regained her self-confidence, making her even more dazzling.

She knelt down on the cushion beside the tea table. With her red lips slightly curled up, she said, "Cousin Li Luo, you are too sweet with your words."

"I don't have any outstanding traits, except for the fact that I'm honest," Li Luo replied sincerely.

"What a good trait. Coupled with your handsome face, your luck with the ladies must be incomparable," she responded with a smile.

"The appearance I have merely came from my parents. I still prefer others to focus on my inner beauty," Li Luo stated seriously.

Hearing this, Li Lingjing covered her mouth and giggled softly. "Cousin Li Luo, if you continue to be so funny, I'll truly want to be your maid."

Li Luo suddenly looked bitter and responded, "Cousin, stop playing tricks on me. I dare not let you be my maid. You are too outstanding—I am afraid I will not be able to explain it to my fiancée in the future."

With a curious look, Li Lingjing asked, "Do you really have a fiancée?"

Li Luo nodded and said, "How could I lie about that?"

Thinking back, it seemed like Jiang Qing'e had called off their engagement when she left previously. Strictly speaking, maybe she was no longer his fiancée?

When he thought about this, the tea in his hand did not feel sweet anymore.

It was not like their feelings for each other would change without a piece of paper, but it still felt a little off without it.

Li Luo let out a sigh in his heart. He had wanted to draft a new engagement with Jiang Qing'e after breaking off the previous one. However, she had ignited her Heart of Light, and he naturally forgot about all these small matters.

"Aren't you from the outer divine continent? So is your fiancée also from there?" Li Lingjing continued to ask curiously.

Li Luo nodded.

Li Lingjing chuckled again and responded, "Cousin Li Luo, you really impressed me. Even after coming to the inner divine continent, you still remember your lover. There are many noble girls in the Dragon's Fang Lineage for you to pick from, as long as you are willing to ask."

With a smile, Li Luo said, "I have never felt that way"

Li Lingjing nodded and continued with great interest, "But even if you don't think so, with your talent and background, you will definitely become one of the top bachelors in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent in the future. When the time comes, there will be many peerless beauties falling in love with you. By then, maybe you'll still miss your old lover. But how will she feel when faced against so many opponents prettier than her?"

Li Luo was taken aback when he heard this. His expression turned a little complicated.

Prettier opponents? How would she feel?

Would the big white swan really think about such things? Seeing his reaction, Li Lingjing acted as if she was speechless and did not probe any further. She picked up the teapot and poured herself a drink.

After a while, Li Luo stopped thinking about it. As he looked at the young lady with a strange smile on her lips, he felt like Li Lingjing's temperament had become a little... devilish.

This must have been the result of being entangled with the Soul Eater True Devil.

However, in a way, it also made her seem a little more charming.

Li Luo shook his head and did not think about it further. Coming back to the topic, he tapped on the five mottled dragon fangs.

"Cousin Lingjing, why did you tell me not to do it myself if I wanted a Dragon Fang Essence?"

Chapter 0885: Secret Art of Extraction

Li Lingjing smiled sweetly when she heard Li Luo's question. She then raised her slender finger and pointed to the five dragon fangs, saying, "Because not a single drop of Dragon Fang Essence has been born in them."

Li Luo stared in disbelief. He couldn't help but ask, "How do you know? Can you sense the Dragon Fang Essence?" That was something that even the strong and powerful Dukes couldn't do, right?

"I can sense it indeed. But it's a very abstract feeling. I'm not too sure how it'll really turn out in the end," Li Lingjing said as she revealed her clean and white teeth. She turned her head slightly towards Li Luo and continued, "Cousin Li Luo, why don't you give it a try? Try and extract from one of the fangs and see if my feeling is right?"

This placed Li Luo in a really tough position. He was unable to decide what to do now as these dragon fangs were really precious to him. It had taken so much effort to obtain them, and they were his only hope to cultivate the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation. If he missed this chance, he would not be able to master the art by the Dragon's Head competition. Clearly, this would not be good news for him.

Of course, he could make a bet and go for it. If Li Lingjing's feeling was off, he could get lucky and extract a drop of Dragon Fang Essence out of one these five dragon fangs.

After giving it some thought, Li Luo decided to trust Li Lingjing's feeling and restrained the gambling urges.

"Cousin Lingjing, you didn't come all the way here just to remind me of this, right?" Li Luo asked seriously as he stared at her beautiful face with a strand of demonic air hovering about.

Fiddling with her teacup, Li Lingjing replied with a slight smile, "You really are smart. Although these dragon fangs do not contain any Dragon Fang Essence yet, I have a secret art that can make them give birth to the essence when mixed with spirit materials. The success rate is not high, but if you're lucky, it would not impossible to get one drop of Dragon Fang Essence out of these five fangs."

Li Luo was surprised to hear about this. "There's such a secret art? How do you know about it?"

Li Lingjing sighed a little. "Have you forgotten about the Soul Eater True Devil? I'm not the only talented one who has fallen prey to it. The memories of other talented individuals have been swallowed by it too. Since I'm tangled up with it, these memories have also become mine. That's how I learnt about this secret art." Li Luo finally understood. If what she was saying was true, her knowledge far exceeded that of most of the Dukes. In that case, her takeover of the Soul Eater True Devil was a blessing in disguise.

"Are there any conditions to doing that?" Li Luo asked calmly after giving it some thought.

"Like having you accept me as your maid?" Li Lingjing chuckled as she teased him.

In response, Li Luo replied helplessly, "Please be serious, Cousin Lingjing."

She had been showing more and more potential in the past few days. Now, she even had the memories and knowledge from all the talented individuals eaten by the Soul Eater True Devil. This meant that even Li Luo himself wouldn't feel right about having her as his maid.

Most importantly... Li Luo wouldn't dare to.

This was partly because of the special state that Li Lingjing was currently in. If the Soul Eater True Devil returned one day and corrupted him, it would be a complete disaster.

With such a big risk, how would Li Luo dare to accept her?

Hearing his response, Li Lingjing sighed as well. Her smile disappeared as she calmly replied, "I would like you to promise me one thing."

"What is it?" Li Luo asked.

Her eyes lowered a little as she continued, "To protect my life."

Li Luo froze for a moment when he heard this. With a frown on his face, he asked, "Cousin Lingjing, do you feel unsafe about going to the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range?"

Li Lingjing replied honestly, "Of course. The Soul Eater True Devil is really mysterious. Now that I am entangled with it, even the Lineage Chief himself may not be able to separate us completely. In that case, the most simple and direct solution will be to get rid of me along with it.

"The Western Region's Li Family is not a highly respected family in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. We only have my aunt as the Third Hall Master of the Green Nether Hall. However, that's not enough to influence the others if it really boils down to a vote on whether they should eliminate me along with the Soul Eater True Devil. Most likely, no one will be able to protect me then."

Li Luo listened to her as she explained herself with total composure. He was slightly taken aback. Her mind was really deep and calm. It was no wonder she could remain conscious despite the Soul Eater True Devil's corruption and had even made a comeback against it.

"Do you really think I'll be able to protect you?" Li Luo slowly asked.

"The Lineage Chief has always been serious and fair. However, he feels some remorse when it comes to you, his grandson. If anyone in the Dragon's Fang Lineage has a chance to change his mind, it'll surely be just you," Li Lingjing responded.

"Cousin Lingjing, you're really tricky to make use of even this," Li Luo said with a calm expression.

"I just want to survive. Is there anything wrong with that?" Li Lingjing said as she suddenly clenched her fist. Veins started showing on her jade-white, slender arms as she looked at Li Luo directly. Her emotions were surging.

"Do you think I wanted to become like this? Anyone would be disgusted if they found out that there's another in me. But do I have a choice? This is my only way to survive!" Li Lingjing shouted.

Li Luo was slightly taken aback when he saw how emotional Li Lingjing had gotten. Who would have expected his words to spark such a strong response? She had always been so composed in their previous interactions. However, Li Luo could empathize with her. Despite her strong and tough appearance, she was clearly affected by the Soul Eater True Devil.

Li Luo pondered over it for a moment before he replied in a deep voice, "You're not wrong. In fact, I admire you. It is true. Among all the young generation's talents that I have met, there aren't many that can be compared to you."

Hearing this, Li Lingjing stared deep into Li Luo's eyes, but he did not avert her gaze. She gradually calmed down when she saw the sincerity in his eyes.

She lightly brushed apart her hair and said, "Sorry for getting so emotional."

Li Luo replied in a gentle tone, "Don't worry about it. I believe you'll be able to resolve this. After all, you've already cleared the hardest part. What else is there to worry about?"

Li Lingjing bit her red lips lightly as she responded, "Let's hope your well wishes come true."

At this point, Li Luo pondered for a few seconds before he continued, "There is no need to worry too much about what happens next. Since you're coming with me, I'll be responsible for your safety. I can promise to protect you to the best of my abilities as long as your mental state does not get completely consumed by the Soul Eater True Devil. After all, you're a talent in the Dragon's Fang Lineage too. With your extraordinary potential, you may even become a King in the future. It'll be a heavy loss for our Dragon's Fang Lineage to lose someone like you so easily."

Hearing this, Li Lingjing simply stared back at Li Luo in a daze.

Li Luo was getting a bit embarrassed by her look as he voiced out, "Cousin Lingjing, although it's very charming of me to say that, you'll need to restrain yourself a little. If not, my fiancée will not let you off when she learns about this."

Li Lingjing rolled her eyes when she heard his words. She replied with a half-smile, "Now you've aroused my competitive spirit. If I meet her in the future, I'll have to ask her for some advice."

In the next moment, she reached out her jade hands, and a scroll appeared. She handed it over to Li Luo.

"This is the secret art that I've been talking about."

Li Luo opened it hurriedly. The scroll was filled with beautiful characters written in ink that had yet to dry completely. It was clear that this had just been written not too long ago. After reading through it, Li

Luo memorized the details in his heart and said with a bitter laugh, "It's indeed a good secret art. However, we'll need a King Stage helper on top of the various spirit materials..."

"This is a tough requirement for others, but it shouldn't be an issue for you, right?" Li Lingjing responded with a chuckle.

Li Luo nodded and replied, "Looks like I'll have to trouble the Respected Elder again."

However, he was clearly in a good mood. With this secret art from Li Lingjing, there was a higher chance for him to obtain a Dragon Fang Essence now. If that happened, he would finally be able to cultivate the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation.

Following this, the two chatted happily for another moment before Li Lingjing stood up and left.

There were many secret glances at her as she walked through the hallway back into her own room. When she closed her door shut, her tiny body leaned back against the door and she heaved a sigh of relief.

She raised her right hand up and looked into her pale palm. In the middle was a strange, black light, wriggling in it like a worm.

As the black light shone onto Li Lingjing's face, her eyes appeared a little dark as she whispered to herself, "Cousin Li Luo, I hope that you can keep true to your words..."

"If not... I won't sit around and wait for death quietly."

"I have finally gotten a chance of survival after fighting so hard. I will not let others cut it off, no matter what happens."

Chapter 0886: Chatting with Uncle Biao

Countless days later, the four banners arrived back at the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range.

Li Luo, Li Fengyi, and the other two reported the completion of the mission before dispersing their banners. The trip to the Dark Domain had taken almost an entire month, and they had encountered countless dangers. Everyone was weary and tired, thus it was time to allow them to recuperate for a period of time.

Li Luo then bade his farewells to the other three Banner Leaders before leading Li Lingjing and Li Feng towards Green Nether Peak.

When they arrived, they saw a familiar figure awaiting them. Li Rouyun.

"Aunt Yun." Li Luo glanced at her, and she quickened her steps towards them. On the way back, he had taken the initiative to inform her of Li Lingjing's recovery.

Li Rouyun doted upon Li Lingjing and treated her like a daughter. Even though she was busy managing the Green Nether Hall's affairs, she would still spend copious amounts of effort to obtain spiritual medicines to enable her to recover. Now that she had suddenly received news of Li Lingjin recovering, she was filled with both surprise and joy.

Li Luo also knew this point and naturally stood aside.

Li Lingjing, who was behind him, watched Li Rouyun quickly approach, her eyes welling up red as she huskily said, "Aunt..."

She similarly began to briskly walk towards her, directly entering her embrace.

Li Rouyun was similarly teary-eyed and constantly stroked Li Lingjing's head as she spoke. "The heavens have taken pity on you! You've finally recovered. These years have been so painful for me."

Li Lingjing tightly hugged Li Rouyun's waist, burrowing her face in her bosom as teardrops fell. "Aunt, I've missed you so much."

Even Li Feng sighed emotionally at this sight.

Li Luo was no exception, quietly standing aside and letting the two vent their emotions. A good while later, Li Rouyun dabbed at the edges of her eyes and a smile bloomed on her face.

"Li Luo, you really are my family's lucky star. Just a random trip to Western City and you managed to help her recover." Li Rouyun smiled.

Li Luo didn't exactly know how to reply. He had yet to explain the situation about the Soul Eater True Devil to her, but she was simply too happy right now. He didn't want to dampen her happiness, and perhaps it was too soon to do so.

Li Luo glanced at Li Lingjing. This situation was one that could not remain hidden forever. How the news would be broken to Li Rouyun would be a different matter altogether, and he was happy to leave it in Lingjing's hands.

"Aunt Yun, why don't you take Cousin Lingjing and City Lord Li Feng somewhere to rest? It's possible that tomorrow... they might have to meet the Respected Elder," Li Luo said.

Li Rouyun paused for a moment. "Meet the Lineage Chief?"

Li Luo nodded and did not say anymore, just waving his hand before he left for his own abode, leaving behind a wondering Li Rouyun.

With Li Luo's departure, Li Lingjing tightly clutched Li Rouyun and gave a forced smile.

"Aunt, let's go. Let me explain to you what happened."

When Li Luo arrived back at his lodgings, he saw a familiar figure before him. He had a greasy face that held a hint of ferocity. With a gleaming, pig-butchering knife by his side, this man just emanated a sense of brutality.

Ox Biaobiao.

"Uncle Biao, why are you here today?" Li Luo smiled with surprise.

Ox Biaobiao was currently sitting in the courtyard feasting and drinking before a table laden with delicacies. When he heard Li Luo's voice, he raised his head and beamed. "You brat, you're finally back. Get over here, I've prepared countless tonics and medicinal cuisines for you to replenish your weary body."

Li Luo grinned and sat down as he stared at the table full of food and sighed. "It's been a long time since I've personally tasted your handiwork, Uncle Biao. The Dragon Fang Lineage might be more powerful than House Luolan, but in terms of food, it simply can't compare!"

With that, he tucked into the food without further hesitation, gorging himself.

Ox Biaobiao was so flattered that he couldn't stop smiling, proudly replying, "That is the truth. There might be numerous experts here that are stronger than those of House Luolan, but when it comes to cooking dishes, I'm afraid there are almost none that are my equal."

Li Luo gave him a thumbs up in support.

Ox Biaobiao then passed him a cup of wine as he sighed at Li Luo. "You went through so much danger to get me some medicine. You should have told me earlier, I would have accompanied you."

Li Luo was stunned by these sudden words before he recovered with a smile. "How did you find out?"

"When you were gone for so many days, I was naturally worried and went to look for Li Rouyun," Ox Biaobiao replied.

"Don't worry, Uncle Biao. My parents were simply too unreliable and left behind a mess for Sister Qing'e and I. If not for your unceasing protection, House Luolan would not have survived. This favor is something I've etched into my heart. I did not have the strength to repay you before, but now that I'm in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, no matter the price, your recovery is the most important thing to me. I think this is something even my parents would agree with," Li Luo seriously stated.

"Since they are so unreliable, as the son, I have to naturally do my best and wholeheartedly find a solution for you, Uncle Biao!"

Upon hearing these heartfelt words, Ox Biaobiao gave a radiant smile. He did not say any more, only shoveling more food onto Li Luo's plate. A hint of warmth could be seen on his ferocious demeanor.

"When your injuries have recovered, I hope that you'll become a Green Nether Hall Master. Of course, if you don't wish to be burdened, you're free to also leave and perhaps find some old friends. I'll fully respect your decision," Li Luo continued.

Ox Biaobiao nodded. "I do have some things from the past that I wish to deal with. However, there is no rush. Staying in the Green Nether Hall for a period of time and helping you out is fine. Once you've taken control of the hall, it will not be too late for me to go."

He did not say much more. He held out his hand, and a mysterious, rhombus crystal appeared, immediately causing worldly natural energy to surge.

The crystal exuded a mystical sort of charm, and anyone who gazed upon it would naturally feel a deep longing towards it.

"You previously entrusted me with this Divine Matter. Now that my recovery is imminent, I will return it to you," Ox Biaobiao said.

Li Luo stared blankly at the Divine Matter. It was an object that all Dukes held an infinite desire for. Back when they were in the Xia Kingdom, every single Duke had coveted this object, and its mere existence had placed House Luolan in danger.

On the other hand, Ox Biaobiao had very willingly surrendered it back to him.

"Uncle Biao, to be honest, this object isn't very useful to me," Li Luo said.

"Not today, but it will be in the future. I have languished for countless years, so even if you were to give it to me, it would be squandering a treasure." Ox Biaobiao laughed.

"Your parents obtained it from an ancient remnant many years ago, so it should belong to you. However, I'd recommend that you not leave it on your person. It is an alluring object to any Duke, and keeping it would only put you in danger."

Li Luo looked at Ox Biaobiao's expression and understood his intentions. He carefully received the object and stowed it away.

It was as Ox Biaobiao had said. The object was simply too precious, and Dukes would waver in front of it, especially those that had the possibility of breaking into the King Stage. If they knew about this, it would be difficult to avoid malicious intentions, so he simply could not keep it with him.

Thinking about it quickly, he decided to ask Li Jingzhe to safekeep the item. He was his grandfather and a King, so he would not covet the Divine Matter. And after investigating Ox Biaobiao's situation, he naturally knew of its existence.

"Was it because of this that my parents were chased down in the ancient remnant by the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing?" Li Luo frowned as he thought about it.

Divine Matter was a peak-grade treasure, but the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing was extraordinary themselves. It couldn't possibly be because of this that two Heavenly Emperor powers were on the cusp of war, right?

"The situation at that time was extremely complex. The two parties had accumulated too much enmity... The Divine Matter did not possess such enthralling desire to cause it." Ox Biaobiao sighed as his gaze quickly swept the area before he continued in a low voice, "I think that your parents obtained something even more miraculous. As for what it is, I'm afraid no one else but the two of them would know. The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing probably felt the same way and thus pursued them relentlessly."

Li Luo's gaze shrank. Just what could his parents have obtained in the ancient remnant that could exceed even the Divine Matter in value? His heart trembled, but Li Luo firmly squashed this feeling down. He glanced at Ox Biaobiao, and they no longer raised the topic again.

Instead, he continued to ravenously stuff himself. When he could eat no more, he patted his stomach with a satisfied look and reclined on his chair.

"Uncle Biao, I'm reminded of the times back in House Luolan..."

Li Luo comfortably raised his head as he watched the gradually ascending moon. Although the conditions here in Dragon's Fang Mountain far surpassed anything he could ever imagine at House

Luolan, his heart would never forget that tiny manor that he called home. It brought him a sense of comfort like nothing else could.

Ox Biaobiao similarly sighed and then smiled. "It's a pity that the headquarters turned into a breeding ground for the Others."

Li Luo's eyes turned into slits as he thought about the individual who had left the deepest impression on him, his gaze turning murderous.

Shen Jinxiao.

That damn beast. It was his machinations that caused House Luolan to fall and even forced Sister Qing'e to ignite her Heart of Light, forcing the two of them to part.

This enmity was deeply etched into his heart.

Yet at the same time, Li Luo couldn't help but to think of that beautiful woman and sigh.

"Sister Qing'e, are you doing well at the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College?"

Chapter 0887: Jiang Qing'e's Promotion Battle

In the early morning, Jiang Qing'e opened her clear, golden eyes and looked at the curtains beside her bed. There was a hint of restlessness in them, as if she had just awakened from her sleep. She lay quietly on her bed. Currently, she was at the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. Even though it had already been close to half a year, she still had not gotten used to it. She still preferred her own room back in House Luolan. From that room, she could walk out and see a bridge leading straight to Li Luo's room.

When she thought of Li Luo, her lips curled up slightly. Then she reached under her pillow and took out an old, yellowish envelope.

She placed the envelope in front of her, and there was a beautiful word written on it—Marriage.

This was the marriage agreement that she had personally written in the past.

However, it was considered annulled now.

As she gazed at the envelope, she flicked the side of it lightly with her slender fingers. Deep within her golden eyes, there was a deep smile coming forward.

"It's been annulled..." A soft, light laugh came out.

In the next moment, she sat up from her bed. The sunlight peeped in from the window and landed on her delicate body in her pure-white nightgown. It was embroidered with a big, white swan, looking extremely cute on her.

It was sewn on by Tan Tailan in the past.

As the sunlight shone onto her nightgown, it also unknowingly highlighted her charming figure.

For a moment, it was as if the sunlight had been given a perfect shape. Jiang Qing'e lightly brushed her hair away as she tapped on the marriage agreement in her hand. She whispered to herself, "How bold of

you, Li Luo. How dare you break off our engagement. In that case, you can worry about it until we meet again. The big, plump swan has wings. Once it flies away, it'll be too late for you to regret it."

When she imagined Li Luo getting onto his knees, begging for her to stay with tears all over his face, her mood for the morning lit up all of a sudden.

She then got out of bed, washed up, and prepared herself for the day. Afterwards, she reached out for the white uniform of the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. It was an intricately designed uniform, sewed with golden strings and a large, stunning, golden sun at the back.

After putting on her shirt, she turned back and stored the marriage agreement properly. She did not keep it in her pocket sphere, she simply kept it close to herself.

When she pressed onto the marriage agreement in front of her chest, the image of Li Luo appeared in her mind again.

"How are you doing in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, Li Luo?"

"I believe you'll be a shining star with your capabilities, regardless of where you were. Let's work hard together."

At this point, Jiang Qing'e pushed open the doors to her room and stepped out with the sunlight shining on her delicate body.

Today, she would have a promotion battle.

Not long after her arrival in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, she had managed to enter the famous Heavenly Star Hall. This was a hall that was only available in the ancient colleges. It was even higher tier than the Four Star Hall back in the Astral Sage College.

The minimum requirement to enter the Heavenly Star Hall was to be at the Heavenly Resonance Tier.

In other words, it could be said that all the elites of the college in the past decade had gathered in the Heavenly Star Hall.

There would surely be Dukes coming out from this group in the future. This was definite. As for whether there would be any Kings, it would depend on the individual's destiny.

There was an upper hall and a lower hall in the Heavenly Star Hall.

Jiang Qing'e was in the lower hall currently. However, she would be challenging a student from the upper hall today. If she won, she would be able to move up.

There were a total of ninety-nine seats in the upper hall. Each of them was occupied by a person in the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier, and ownership would be decided based on elimination.

In other words, there were a limited number of seats available. For one to break into it, they would have to kick another person out of it. Such was the harsh reality of the competition.

As such, the promotion battle had always been the most talked about topic in the college.

Moreover, this promotion battle involved Jiang Qing'e, the most famous newcomer in the past six months.

When she arrived at the battle venue, there were already crowds of people seated in the audience. It was a bustling and lively place.

When she walked in, there were countless passionate gazes staring at her.

The Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College was a place full of hidden talents. There were a lot of gifted individuals here. In fact, even some of the talents from the Heavenly Emperor forces trained here.

Nonetheless, Jiang Qing'e had been the talk of the town since her entry into the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College six months ago. Apart from her charming beauty, she also had a formidable aura surrounding her. She got into the lower hall of the Heavenly Star Hall as soon as she arrived. Furthermore, she had never lost a single battle to date and had fought her way up as a newcomer to the top in the lower hall. This was a spectacular achievement.

In less than half a year, she was already taking part in the promotion battle.

Even though this wasn't an unprecedented record in the history of the school, it was still quite a rare event.

Amidst the lively atmosphere, Jiang Qing'e stepped onto the battleground under everyone's fiery gazes. At this moment, a teacher on the stage asked her, "Jiang Qing'e, are you ready for the promotion battle?"

"Yes," Jiang Qing'e replied with calm and steady eyes.

"Who would you like to challenge?"

"The ninety-sixth seat of the upper hall, Senior Lu Jinguang."

This was not a surprising choice to most. After all, there was a higher chance of success if one picked an opponent in the lower ranks.

At this point, a figure jumped out of the elevated platform in the arena. In a flashy entry, he landed on the battleground in the center. Shocking resonant power emanated from his body, and the space around him began to vibrate.

This was Lu Jinguang, the ninety-sixth seat of the upper hall. He was the opponent that Jiang Qing'e had selected.

Lu Jinguang had a tall and straight figure, appearing pretty handsome. He also emitted an unusually sharp aura. With his appearance on stage, the crowds had started to cheer. He was clearly quite famous in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

This was expected. After all, he had to be really gifted to have gotten into the upper hall. Such a guy would naturally have fans as well.

Lu Jinguang smiled cheerfully at Jiang Qing'e and said, "Who'd have thought I'd be chosen by you, Junior Jiang? Haha. Even if I lose this match, it'll still be a happy day."

Jiang Qing'e shook her head slightly and replied, "It's because you're the only one with a metal resonance among the lower ranks."

Hearing this, Lu Jinguang was a little taken aback. "So what if I have a metal resonance?" he asked in surprise.

However, Jiang Qing'e did not reply to him.

In the same moment, another laugh sounded off from the elevated platform in the distance. "Brother Lu, Junior Jiang is a newcomer. Don't hurt her too badly, or it'll look bad on us in the upper hall."

The attention and gazes of the crowd were drawn over to the one who had spoken. A young man was standing on the platform with his hands behind his back and a smile on his face.

This young man had untidy, long hair that was red like fire, and an air of dominance surrounded him. When he spoke, strong resonant power flowed out and the air around him seemed to quiver from the heat.

When the crowd noticed the fiery-haired young man, low whispers started to break out amongst them.

"Is that... Senior Wei Chonglou?"

"Tsk. He is one of the top experts in the college. He's among the top ten in the upper hall of the Heavenly Star Hall. Having spent quite a number of years studying here, he's a senior in our school."

"I heard that he happened to chance upon Senior Jiang three months ago. He was captivated by her stunning beauty and tried all means to get close to her. However, it didn't seem to work out in the end."

"Is he trying to help Senior Jiang secure a spot by coming forward now?"

"Hehe, what a charismatic guy. If only he had his eyes on me..."

In the battle arena, Lu Jinguang looked up at the young man. With a smile, he replied, "Brother Wei, please don't put pressure on me. Junior Jiang here is no ordinary opponent."

As they chatted among themselves, Jiang Qing'e's face remained calm like still water. She did not even raise her head to look up at the elevated platform. She simply stared at the teacher referee in the arena.

"Teacher, may we begin?"

Hearing this, the teacher nodded. Amidst the bustling cheers from the crowd, he declared the start of the battle.

As soon as he spoke, Lu Jinguang started forming his handseals first. In the next moment, his resonant power surged up without any restraint.

An extremely sharp, golden light resonant power materialized in the air and formed a huge, golden blade manifestation that was thousands of feet tall.

The metal resonant power in the blade flowed through it like surging tides. It appeared to be extremely sharp.

A terrifyingly domineering aura exuded from the golden blade and expanded in the air, filling the arena with unparalleled sharpness.

This was the trademark of the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier.

Only those who had reached it could condense their resonance into an extremely powerful and deadly physical object.

When Lu Jinguang summoned up his Greater Heavenly Resonance power, an endless and mysterious beam of sacred light burst out behind Jiang Qing'e at the same time. In the next moment, it transformed into a large, golden sun that shone brightly onto every dark corner.

Nonetheless, her golden sun appeared more abstract in comparison to the golden blade from Lu Jinguang.

This was because Jiang Qing'e had not truly entered the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier yet.

She seemed to be just one step away.

Regardless, this still left many of the crowd in awe. After all, Jiang Qing'e was only promoted to the Lesser Heavenly Resonance Tier half a year ago. In just six months' time, she was already showing signs of breaking into the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier.

Such a speedy pace of progress was an amazing feat even in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

However, Lu Jinguang heaved a sigh of relief when he witnessed this scene. With a laugh, he said, "Junior Jiang, you seem to have been too hasty with your challenge. If you had waited a while more, you'd surely be able to enter the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier soon at your pace of. With that, you'd have a much better chance of success."

Hearing this, Jiang Qing'e replied calmly, "If I had waited until my breakthrough, this fight would have nothing to do with you anymore."

Lu Jinguang was shocked by her reply. He could not help but laugh out helplessly. This Junior of his was not just beautiful, she was the first person that he had ever seen with such pride.

"Let me have a taste of your skills, then."

Lu Jinguang did not say much more. His eyes suddenly turned sharp. As one of the seats in the upper hall of the Heavenly Star Hall, he was naturally gifted too. He was definitely a genius who could defeat opponents above his cultivation level if it were outside this college. Now, he was at risk of getting defeated by someone below his level...

Lu Jinguang did not want to become a stepping stone for someone else.

As such, he changed his hand seal. His peerlessly sharp resonant power pierced through the air in all directions. In the next moment, a cold voice resounded.

"Duke Art, Imperial Fortress Sword Light!"

At this moment, the various elders of the college looked down from the elevated platforms around the arena.

Chapter 0888: Unparalleled Purification Power

When the sharp and huge, golden blade light fell down from the sky, some of the Heavenly Star Hall's upper hall members looked surprised upon witnessing this domineering aura. The spectators from the Four Star Hall were even more stunned.

With this strike from Lu Jinguang, everyone could see how he had gotten into the upper hall.

Moreover, Lu Jinguang was not going to give his opponent any chance to retaliate. He had gone for a killing move right off the bat. Over the years, many had been defeated by this single strike of his.

As the crowd watched in awe, Jiang Qing'e lifted her beautiful, charming face. Her golden eyes were fixed on the falling blade light. She had witnessed many dazzling, gifted individuals in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College in the six months she had spent here. If they were in the Astral Sage College, they would surely be far superior when compared against Gong Shenjun and the First Princess.

For example, Lu Jinguang might just be a lower ranked individual in the upper hall here. However, many of the experienced Greater Heavenly Resonance cultivators in the outer divine continent wouldn't be his match.

Everyone in the Heavenly Star Hall was talented enough to defeat opponents above their own tier, regardless of whether they were in the upper hall or lower hall.

This was one of the reasons why the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College could withstand the tides of time as the oldest college.

When Jiang Qing'e raised her slender, jade hands, her brilliant light resonant energy surged like a tidal wave. A copy of herself appeared behind her, and worldly natural light energy flowed endlessly.

Ninth-grade light resonance, Light Spirit Avatar.

This was the signature move of a ninth-grade resonance cultivator. With this, worldly natural energy would flow into the user endlessly, giving the cultivator exceptional stamina in a fight.

Moreover, the ninth-grade spirit avatar could also boost the power of one's resonance arts. Along with the emergence of the Light Spirit Avatar, Jiang Qing'e pointed her slender finger to the front. Light energy condensed at her fingertip and then floated outwards. A wild storm was summoned the moment it left her finger, and the light energy transformed into a holy flame of light.

The flame rose into the air. There was a clear cry at the next moment, and the flame of light morphed into a Phoenix. The Phoenix's body was burning with the fearsome flame Jiang Qing'e had just released, and it transformed all of the worldly natural energy around it into the purest light energy.

"Duke Art, Incandescent Flame Phoenix!"

The Phoenix let out a cry and then flew straight towards the falling blade light. When the two clashed, a storm of energy swept up like a tornado with the sparks of flames flying out in all directions.

Luckily, there was an energy shield around the arena that kept the energy waves contained. Many of the student spectators were shocked to see a raging energy storm erupt from the collision.

Nonetheless, they kept their eyes fixed on the fierce battle taking place before them.

The two energies continued to erode and destroy each other. In the end, the Phoenix disappeared without a trace, while the golden blade-light had weakened considerably. When it reached Jiang Qing'e, it couldn't even get through the protective resonant aura around her body anymore.

When they witnessed this, the crowd burst out excitedly. Lu Jinguang's attack had been stopped by Jiang Qing'e.

One important factor was that Lu Jinguang was already deep into the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier, while Jiang Qing'e was merely at the peak of the Lesser Heavenly Resonance Tier.

Was Jiang Qing'e given a chance because of Wei Chonglou's words earlier?

As the chatter continued amongst the crowd, the look in Lu Jinguang's eyes started to get serious. He was very sure that he had not held back.

"Your ninth-grade light resonance is truly formidable. Is that an upper ninth-grade or lower ninth-grade?" As Lu Jinguang whispered these words to himself, his eyes became sharper. The air around him also became denser. As someone from the upper hall, he was clearly a talented individual himself. Even though ninth-grade resonances were strong, they might not be invincible.

At this moment, Lu Jinguang clapped his hands together, and a small, golden light appeared between his palms. At the point of contact, the light cut open his palm like a razor-sharp knife.

Fresh blood flowed out instantly and mixed with the golden light. In the next moment, the light left his palm and the resonant power around him surged up.

Before the gazes of the crowd, the golden light transformed into a radiant, golden sword.

The golden sword vibrated slightly, and three thin cracks formed on its blade. Golden light started flowing out of each one. From a distance, it looked as if there were three vertical eyes on the sword.

And the mysterious eyes were filled with endless energy.

Many of the Heavenly Star Hall members on the elevated platform changed their expressions as soon as they saw this. Without a doubt, this was the signature move that had made Lu Jinguang rise to fame.

He hovered in the air while he looked down at Jiang Qing'e. "Junior Jiang, if you can take this strike, I will give up my seat to you willingly," he said casually as he pressed the sword sigil in his hand.

"Duke Art, Imperial Fortress Sword Light: Tri-Eye Heavenly Sword."

Lu Jinguang pointed his finger out, and the Tri-Eye Heavenly Sword suddenly let out a shocking sword cry. Like a mighty, golden dragon piercing through the void, it slashed down directly towards Jiang Qing'e.

Jiang Qing'e stared at the golden sword that was slicing through the air. She could feel a chill run up her spine from facing the Tri-Eye Heavenly Sword directly. Evidently, her opponent was an extraordinary person.

Yet she remained undaunted by the strike and replied calmly, "There's no need for you to give up. I'll take it from you with my own strength."

Her slender, jade fingers formed mythical hand seals rapidly, and a phosphorescence glow appeared around her hands. For a moment, her snow-white skin looked so clean and pure that others would not dare to touch her.

At the same time, another mythical figure emerged behind Jiang Qing'e. This caught everyone by surprise.

It was another ninth-grade Light Spirit Avatar!

Now with two Light Spirit Avatars behind Jiang Qing'e, the worldly natural light energy around the space suddenly began to rush in, as if it was being pulled in by a very strong whirlpool.

The huge amount of energy was further refined by the two Light Spirit Avatars before flowing into Jiang Qing'e's body, making her resonant power spike up at an astonishing pace.

The crowd watched on in awe.

"What's that?!"

"Double ninth-grade light resonance?!"

"Oh my God, my eyes are going blind from the light!"

"What kind of monstrous talent is that?! Someone like this has probably only been seen a few times even in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College's long history!"

"I've heard about this before, but it's my first time seeing it from Junior Jiang."

"I see. So this is why the Third Principal thinks so highly of her. After all, she wouldn't have asked for her personally if it was just a ninth-grade light resonance. But... a dual ninth-grade light resonance is a totally different matter."

The surprised chatter continued among the spectators as everyone was wildly excited about the history that was unfolding before them. It was a really rare event even in an ancient college. With all these gifted individuals gathered here, not even dual resonance cultivators were considered rare. Similarly, a ninth-grade resonance would only rouse a few surprised faces.

But... someone with a dual ninth-grade light resonance before reaching the Duke Stage? It was the first time many of them had personally laid eyes on something so rare.

While everyone was overcome with wonder, Jiang Qing'e's clear face showed no signs of changes. She had completely shut off all the interference from the outside and was solely focused on channeling all her resonant power into activating this Duke Art taught to her by the Third Principal successfully.

"Duke Art, Pure Light World Sigil."

Along with her soft and gentle voice, Jiang Qing'e stretched out her hands, and the condensed, sacred light burst out. For a moment, it was like the whole place and everyone's vision had been enveloped by the holy light.

In fact, many sensed a feeling of unease rising within their hearts when touched by the holy light. It possessed extremely condensed purification power.

This was the signature trait of light resonances—they would purify anything not in line with them.

Many of them were astonished to see the purity and refinement of her light resonant energy. Ultimately, it had been refined by two ninth-grade light resonances.

The bright light filled the air. When the light sigil called out, many of the spectators watched on as it clashed with the Tri-Eye Heavenly Sword.

However, there was no deafening roar from the collision this time. When the two came into contact, the extremely concentrated power of purification permeated the air and the power of unparalleled sharpness in the metal resonant power dissipated into nothing.

Starting from the tip of the blade, the Tri-Eye Heavenly Sword gradually disappeared into thin air.

This was a truly frightening degree of purification. Many of the spectators felt a chill in their hearts when they witnessed this scene. The light sigil continued traveling through the air. A few moments later, it appeared right in front of Lu Jinguang.

As Lu Jinguang stared at the sigil in front of him, he could sense the light resonant energy rapidly eroding the resonant power in his body. Looking at the charming figure below, he laughed out bitterly and raised both arms. "Junior Jiang, it's your win."

Chapter 0889: All Worthless

The crowd erupted as soon as Lu Jinguang admitted his defeat. Most of them stared at the worldly beauty in the arena with surprise and amazement.

It was not rare to see a Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College student defeat a stronger opponent. After all, the students here were all gifted individuals gathered from different regions all over the divine continent. In another sense, it had even more stringent selection criteria than those found in the Heavenly Emperor powers.

Moreover, the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College was one of the founders of the Academic Federation, so their foundation was naturally solid. If any of their students were placed outside, they would surely possess this ability to defeat opponents of higher tiers. However... this was in comparison to those outside the college. If it was against an opponent from the college, it would no longer be an easy feat.

In particular, the Heavenly Star Hall was made of the strongest individuals in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. It held the true experts of the school, and it was even more challenging to enter it. After all, who was not a heavenly genius here?

As such, many of them were truly stunned by Jiang Qing'e's victory.

They watched with complex gazes. From now on, Jiang Qing'e would move from the lower hall into the upper hall of the Heavenly Star Hall. This was an insane pace of progression.

At the same time, the faces of the gifted students on the elevated platform changed when they witnessed what had just happened. From the previous battle, it was clear just how much talent and potential Junior Jiang possessed. It seemed like the peaceful days in the upper hall would begin to change once she entered.

With her exceptional aptitude, they knew that she would not be satisfied with staying at the ninety-sixth seat for long.

Back in the arena, Jiang Qing'e thanked Lu Jinguang for the match before she turned around to make her departure.

She was about to leave the bustling arena when someone jumped down from the elevated platform and appeared in front of Jiang Qing'e in a flash.

This was none other than Wei Chonglou, the guy who had spoken to Lu Jinguang earlier.

His fiery hair was really conspicuous. With his tall and straight build, he exuded an air of dominance, and many junior girls amongst the spectators watched in excitement.

After all, he was one of the top ten students in this prestigious ancient college, meaning he was one of the most talented students in the entire school.

Wei Chonglou cupped his hands together and greeted Jiang Qing'e with a smile. "Congratulations on entering the upper hall, Junior Jiang."

Jiang Qing'e took a look at him and asked indifferently, "Senior Wei, do you need something from me?"

He nodded and replied then with a hearty laughter, "Since you've been promoted to the upper hall now, you made it just in time for the upcoming training exercise in the Wild Spirit Plains. If you don't mind, we can form a team for it. I don't have much of an edge, but I am experienced. I've participated in it multiple times, and my team usually returns with bountiful rewards."

He was very straightforward. Without hiding anything, he expressed his thoughts out in public.

Anyone could tell that he was clearly interested in Jiang Qing'e. He was making use of this chance to get closer to her. However, they could not deny that this was an attractive offer that was hard for anyone to turn down.

Many of the male students could only watch Jiang Qing'e's charming and beautiful face with stomachs full of jealousy. There was finally a new beauty in the college, but this senior had already set his eyes on her.

Nonetheless, they did not dare to show any signs of dissatisfaction despite their envy. After all, there was no doubt about Wei Chonglou's strength.

As the crowd watched on, Jiang Qing'e's face remained calm. She did not appear to be moved by his offer at all. She simply shook her head and replied, "Thank you for your kind intentions, Senior Wei. However, I prefer to work alone."

Despite getting rejected by her in public, Wei Chonglou's face did not change either, nor did he pester her about it. With the same warm and gentle smile, he responded, "No worries, Junior Jiang. If you ever

need help, feel free to reach out to me. Although I am not the highest ranked student, I'll surely help you to the best of my ability."

He then continued in an earnest tone, "By the way, you've not reached the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier yet. If you need help with training or sparring in the future, I'll always be available for you. We can both improve ourselves that way."

This display of his demeanor and frankness had once again won the hearts of many female students among the spectators. They felt that Jiang Qing'e was being arrogant. Senior Wei Chonglou had already lowered himself for her, yet she was unwilling to accept him.

It was like Jiang Qing'e was completely disinterested in the things that they treasured. At the same time, many of the male students sighed secretly. Wei Chonglou was really good at this. With his looks and capabilities, they felt that the newly promoted Senior Jiang would fall for him sooner or later.

As the students were having those thoughts, Jiang Qing'e's eyes did not waver at all. She looked at Wei Chonglou directly. No doubt, he was considered the cream of the crop in all aspects. He was definitely one of the top talents in the younger generation. Perhaps due to the difference in their experience, he was even more charismatic than Gong Shenjun.

Sadly, none of this was enough to move her heart.

She had come to the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College for cultivation. She just wanted to reach the Duke Stage as fast as possible so that she could set off and look for Li Luo. She had no interest in all the other boring stuff at all.

Nonetheless, Wei Chonglou was pretty happy with it as he had looked into Jiang Qing'e's mysterious, golden eyes. After all this effort, he had finally gotten this beauty to take notice of him.

"Senior Wei..." Jiang Qing'e started in her calm voice.

"How may I help you, Junior Jiang?" Wei Chonglou replied with a smile.

"I already have a fiancee."

When he heard these words, the smile on his face froze for a moment.

The chatter in the surroundings paused abruptly, and everyone turned and looked at Jiang Qing'e. They all stared at her with looks of astonishment.

None of them had expected such sudden news to come from her mouth.

Wei Chonglou froze for a few seconds before he regained control with his strong heart and said with a smile, "Is this an excuse you came up with so that I'll not bother you? In that case, I am deeply apologetic about it." In response, Jiang Qing'e shook her head slowly. Her calm but serious eyes took away the smile on Wei Chonglou's face.

In the end, he pondered for a while and said, "Junior Jiang, it does not matter whether your words are true or not. I will not give up. Besides... if I remember correctly, you're from an outer divine continent, right? Does that mean your so-called fiancee is from the outer divine continent too?"

"You're right. We are both from the outer divine continent. But it doesn't matter to me, because in my eyes, every other guy in the world is..."

She paused for a moment, then she took a look around the arena. To have made it here, everyone was clearly exceptionally outstanding. Some of them had even made a name for themselves in the inner divine continent.

In the end, she went on to finish her sentence in an indifferent tone.

"Worthless."

Following this, she did not bother to look at Wei Chonglou's twisted face or the bustling chatter of the crowd. She took her steps deliberately, walked past Wei Chonglou, and headed out of the arena.

She could tell that the spectators were getting noisier on her way out. Without a doubt, they were clearly affected by her words.

Seeing this reaction, her red lips curled up slightly.

"Li Luo, I've planted quite a number of seeds of discord for you. If you don't want to get a beating from the rabble in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, please work harder in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li.

"But if you really can't handle it... there's still me."

Chapter 0890: Clear Eyes of the Heavenly Dragon

At the peak of Dragon's Fang Mountain.

When Li Luo arrived at the quiet courtyard on the main peak the next day, Li Rouyun, Li Lingjing, and Li Feng were already waiting there.

"Li Luo."

Li Rouyun rushed forward when she saw Li Luo walking over. He could see the unconcealable worry and panic on her face.

It was clear that she had heard about Li Lingjing's new problem.

Li Luo tried to comfort her a little. "Don't worry, Aunt Yun. Let's have the Respected Elder take a look at it first. He's a King after all. He may have a way to help Cousin Lingjing get rid of the Soul Eater True Devil."

Li Rouyun responded in a bitter tone, "I gave it a try yesterday, but it was totally useless. I can't even find a trace of the Soul Eater True Devil."

Hearing this, Li Luo frowned a little. Li Rouyun was a sixth-grade Duke, much higher than Li Feng, yet her efforts were still useless. It seemed like the Soul Eater True Devil entanglement was much more tricky than he had expected.

At the same time, he sensed that the Soul Eater True Devil was not as simple as he had thought. Based on its strength, it was just a third-grade True Devil, yet even a sixth-grade Duke like Li Rouyun could not get rid of it?

This was really odd.

Li Rouyun looked at Li Luo and continued in a sad voice, "The Soul Eater True Devil is really peculiar. Now that Lingjing has been entangled with it, I am afraid that others will suggest eliminating them both if we're unable to separate them successfully."

She was very clear on how the people viewed the Others. Mankind was always vigilant and hostile towards them, and the various forces in society treated them as a potential disaster. Now that Li Lingjing got caught up with one, the topic was a ticking time bomb. From a safety point of view, it was best to eliminate both of them if they were unable to purify the Other inside her.

However... Li Rouyun was not ready to accept this. She treated Li Lingjing like a daughter, and the girl had finally recovered from the cruel, half-dead state she had been in ever since her spirit was half-consumed. It would be too much of a blow to see Li Lingjing killed.

At this point, Li Luo slowly said, "As long as Cousin Lingjing retains her\ consciousness and control over her body, I feel that it's unnecessary to eliminate her. I've promised her that I will do my best to protect her. I'll keep to my promise for sure. However, this is all assuming Cousin Lingjing is able to maintain her sanity. If she's ever unable to hold down the Soul Eater True Devil, or if it takes control of her... Aunt Yun, you will have to be prepared to lose her."

That last sentence was a very cruel thing for Li Luo to say. Nonetheless, it was a necessary one. The possibility of such a scenario was not completely zero. If that happened, Li Lingjing might be totally consumed by the Soul Eater True Devil and would no longer be herself.

Hearing this, Li Rouyun dabbed at the corners of her eyes and replied softly, "I understand."

If it really came to that, she would no longer be able to protect Li Lingjing no matter how much it would break her heart. For now, she could only focus on protecting her niece before then.

Li Luo nodded. He sighed a little in his heart before he said, "Let's go. We'll visit the Respected Elder and see what he has to say."

Following this, he opened the doors himself and stepped in first. Witnessing this, Li Rouyun, Li Feng, and Li Lingjing exchanged nervous glances with each other.

In their eyes, Li Jingzhe was the head of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. He had always been stern and serious. Even for Li Rouyun, meeting him was always a stressful experience. Most of the time, she would simply nod in agreement without any voice of dissent.

It was even worse for Li Feng as he was merely Western City's City Lord. Even the chance to meet Li Jingzhe was extremely rare for someone of his status.

The three of them followed Li Luo into the courtyard, walking along the tree-lined path for a while before finally arriving in front of a lake that was as clear as a mirror.

There was a stone pavilion beside the lake, and an old man was sitting there fishing.

Li Luo brought the three of them over to the stone pavilion and then bowed down slightly before greeting the old man politely. "Grandpa."

Li Jingzhe turned over and took a quick look at Li Luo. At this moment, a tinge of happiness surfaced on his cold and serious face, and he said, "You've reached the Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Tier!"

Li Luo nodded with a smile. "I happened to chance upon a rare opportunity during my visit into the Dark Domain. With its help, I've managed to cultivate it."

"Not bad. Now you'll stand a better chance at winning the upcoming Dragon's Head selection battle," Li Jingzhe responded.

Next, his eyes shifted over to the other three.

"Lineage Chief!"

Li Rouyun greeted him nervously as soon as she noticed his gaze sweeping over. At the same time, Li Feng and Li Lingjing followed suit hurriedly and bowed down as well.

Li Jingzhe waved his hands at the basic courtesy, then his gaze paused at Li Feng. He slowly said, "The Western Region's Li Family is our extended family. In the past, one of your elders cultivated alongside me."

Li Feng quickly responded, "Indeed. That was recorded in our family's chronicles. The elder instructed us in the Western Region's Li Family to follow your lead, Lineage Chief."

However, Li Jingzhe did not care much about Li Feng's flattery. Instead, he turned over to Li Lingjing and asked, "Is this little girl the one that was consumed by the True Devil Other?"

All of a sudden, there was a strong sense of pressure on Li Lingjing as she noticed his gaze moving to her. An indescribable fear surfaced in her heart because she knew that if Li Jingzhe wanted to, he could make her disappear without a trace in an instant.

Under this oppressive pressure, she could not help but clench her fists despite her usually composed temperament. Her body even started to shake a little.

Li Luo spoke up at this moment. "That's right, Grandpa. It's all thanks to the help of Cousin Lingjing that I was able to get the rare opportunity that helped me enter the Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Tier successfully. As such, I've brought her back with me to see if there's any way to help her."

When he finished his sentence, the terrifying pressure on Li Lingjing gradually faded away. In her heart, she heaved a sigh of relief and thanked Li Luo earnestly. She understood why he had said those words.

"I've read through the reports. The Soul Eater True Devil that you encountered is truly kind of strange." At this point, he turned towards Li Feng and asked, "Previously, the Western Region had not reported anything about the Soul Eater True Devil, correct?"

Li Feng responded in a hurry, "Respected Elder, I apologize for my incompetence. We scouted the Western Region's Dark Domain multiple times in the past but did not manage to find any traces of it."

Li Jingzhe nodded and then continued, "What a naturally gifted young girl. If not for that unfortunate incident, she would've surely been a talent in the Dragon's Fang Lineage now."

At this moment, he flicked his finger, and a drop of water rose up from the lake. The droplet floated over and hovered in the air in front of him.

Next, a strand of resonant power emerged from the tip of his finger. It was a truly minute strand that was hardly visible. However, everyone, including Li Luo, felt the resonant power in their own bodies start to tremble as soon as it appeared. Their resonant power shivered in fear just like how a wild animal would shudder in front of the king of the forest, not daring to relax in front of it for even a single moment.

The terrifying strand of resonant power slipped into the water droplet, then the droplet started to rotate. A few moments later, the water expanded into the deep, blue dragon-eye that was about fifty meters wide.

The eyes of the dragon were unfathomable, and a terrifying dragonfear seeped out of this one. The air around it trembled from the sheer pressure it emitted.

At this moment, the eye stared directly at Li Lingjing.

Li Lingjing could sense that there was nothing she could hide in front of it. It stared right through her, even seeing her spirit and her mental self. It was a really mysterious force that could peer through everything.

"Don't worry about it. This is the Clear Eye of the Heavenly Dragon. It can see the flow of all worldly natural energy and pierce through any kind of barrier. Corruption can't even hope to hide from it," Li Jingzhe explained in a faint voice.

Hearing this, Li Lingjing was no longer so worried.

In the next moment, ray after ray of dark-blue light shot out of the Clear Eye of the Heavenly Dragon and scanned Li Lingjing's tiny body. After a while, Li Luo noticed something amazing. Li Lingjing's body had started to turn translucent when the rays scanned it repeatedly. After a while, her body seemed to have completely disappeared, and a mysterious body of light remained in her original position.

"This is her spirit, or spirit body..." Li Jingzhe explained. Then he waved his hand, and the void started to vibrate. A ray of light fell onto the Clear Eye of the Heavenly Dragon, then the eye started to expand rapidly all of a sudden.

The rays of light scanning Li Lingjing's spirit grew even stronger at this point.

The faces of Li Luo, Li Rouyun, and Li Feng changed when they noticed a black shroud clouding Li Lingjing's spirit.

There was an evil and chilly air around the black shroud. At the same time, soft and insidious whispers could be heard coming from it repeatedly. This was truly disturbing and could easily cause one to lose one's sense of self.

In particular, Li Luo even felt a sense of familiarity from it. This was the Soul Eater True Devil!

With the help of Li Jingzhe, the tricky Soul Eater True Devil that had hidden deep within Li Lingjing had finally been found.

However, the shroud was deeply entangled with Li Lingjing's spirit.

Without any expression, Li Jingzhe looked at this and asked, "Is this the Soul Eater True Devil? Interesting. It's not a simple Other. It seems like it's been mixed with something else. This is not a natural Other—it's man-made."

Hearing this, Li Luo's pupils suddenly shrank. A look of horror appeared on his face as he asked with a faint voice, "Was this Soul Eater True Devil artificially created? Impossible! Others can be created? Who'd do such a crazy thing?"

At this point, Li Jingzhe explained, "Others are normally born as a condensation of negative emotions from mankind. But I can sense some familiar signs on this Other. They are probably the only ones in the world who could create such a thing."

"Who are they?" Li Luo couldn't help but asked.

However, there was already an answer in his heart at this point.

Li Jingzhe slowly spat out the three words. "The Origin Reversion Institute."

There was a chill in Li Luo's heart when he heard this.

As expected...

It was the mysterious Origin Reversion Institute yet again.