

Resonance 891

Chapter 0891: The Frightening Origin Reversion Institute

Everyone's faces turned ugly as soon as they heard Li Jingzhe mention the Origin Reversion Institute. As Li Rouyun and Li Feng had been living in the inner divine continent, they naturally had more information on it. As such, they knew just how scary the Origin Reversion Institute was. For Li Luo, he had seen how the Xia Kingdom and the Blackwind Empire had fallen to ruins due to that organization.

Even Shen Jinxiao was just a pawn for them.

"Is the Origin Reversion Institute famous in the inner divine continent?" Li Luo asked after a moment of thought.

"Not just famous, they are simply notorious," Li Rouyun replied in a deep voice.

"They're one of the most mysterious forces in the world, having already existed for a really long time. Not to mention the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, even the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing, with the longest history, pales in comparison to it," Li Feng added on with a bitter smile.

"Furthermore, they're an extremely frightening force. Their traces can be found almost everywhere in the inner divine continent. It's one of the main things that the various Heavenly Emperor forces guard against because a Heavenly Emperor power was once wiped out by them," Li Feng continued.

At this point, Li Luo could not help but ask with a shocked face, "They've wiped out a Heavenly Emperor power?"

As their name suggested, every Heavenly Emperor power had a Heavenly Emperor helming it that was on par with his great ancestor, Heavenly Emperor Li. They were practically unrivaled, standing at the top of the world. Yet such a powerful figure had been defeated by the Origin Reversion Institute?

"The destruction of that Heavenly Emperor power was mainly due to the fall of their Heavenly Emperor. And this was due to the interference of the Origin Reversion Institute. The most scary part about them is not their pure power alone, it's the fact that they have hidden themselves in all parts of the world so deeply that no one is able to root them all out. It was only after the incident that we deduced who was behind it. The Heavenly Emperor in question fell because one of his trusted aides joined the Origin Reversion Institute and spent decades waiting for a chance to strike him. This eventually led to the destruction of the entire Heavenly Emperor power," Li Jingzhe slowly explained. His aged face was becoming colder and more stern as he talked about this. From the look in his eyes, Li Luo could tell that he was taking this matter more seriously with the Origin Reversion Institute coming into the picture.

At this moment, Li Luo could not help but break out in cold sweat. It was only now that he realized just how scary the Origin Reversion Institute was. It seemed like the downfall of the Xia Kingdom and the Blackwind Empire were just tiny matters for the Origin Reversion Institute. After all, they even dared to tangle with Heavenly Emperor powers! What was a pathetic and tiny country in an outer divine continent to them?

With ice-cold eyes, Li Rouyun added, "The Origin Reversion Institute is extremely weird. The things they do are beyond crazy. They're probably the only people to ever willingly get close to the Others and even work hand in hand with them. In the past few years, a lot of Other Disasters have broken out in the

inner divine continent largely due to them. They've always believed in the so-called unity of good and evil. Hence, they've always been pushing for the merge of the real world and the shadow world. Those people are simply lunatics." Her deep disgust and hatred towards the Origin Reversion Institute was evident in her tone.

Of course, most people in the world probably felt this way towards them as well.

The Others were extremely disturbing creatures. To a normal human, they were even more scary than natural disasters. Once an Other Disaster was unleashed, even a nation would be powerless before it, falling to ruins. It was an exceedingly terrifying scenario that most people could not even imagine.

At this moment, Li Luo's face turned uneasy as he asked, "With so many Heavenly Emperor powers in the inner divine continent, why don't we work together and eliminate such an existence?"

Li Jingzhe replied lightly, "Of course we've tried. However, we're unable to root them out completely. The Origin Reversion Institute has an extremely long history that is on par with the Academic Federation, perhaps even dating all the way back to the origin of the world. The Academic Federation has been searching for them for all these years and even formed an alliance with one of the Heavenly Emperor powers. Sadly, the effect was marginal as the Origin Reversion Institute simply lied low for a while before causing trouble again when things subsided."

Li Luo froze for a second while he listened to Li Jingzhe's explanation. These terrorists were basically roaming free in the world and no one could do anything about it?

"Besides, the truly scary thing about the Origin Reversion Institute is what they're doing behind the scenes. You never truly know who belongs to their faction, and their ability to manipulate humans and their emotions is much more frightening than the Others," Li Jingzhe said with a cold voice.

"No one can guarantee that they've not infiltrated any of the Heavenly Emperor powers or even the Academic Federation."

At this moment, Li Luo felt a chill run up his spine. It was like the air turned eerily cold all of a sudden.

"It sounds like they're invincible," Li Luo commented.

Hearing this, Li Jingzhe shook his head and replied, "If they were really invincible, there would be no need for them to hide in the shadows. Although the Origin Reversion Institute should not be underestimated, their belief goes against mankind's at its very core. Once they come out of the shadows, they'll make enemies out of the whole world."

Li Luo heaved a sigh of relief when he heard this. Such a terrifying force was something he should stay away from for now.

"Just now, you mentioned that the Soul Eater True Devil inside Cousin Lingjing was created by the Origin Reversion Institute. What's their objective in doing so?" Li Luo asked, changing the topic of the conversation back to the Soul Eater True Devil.

"The Origin Reversion Institute has always been conducting wild experiments on the fusion between mankind and Others. They've created numerous disturbing things over the years. The Soul Eater True

Devil can be considered mild compared to those terrifying creations. However, it seems like it can swallow the spirit and talent of an individual. This is a special trait that's unheard of to date.\

"On top of that..." Li Jingzhe paused for a moment, and his eyes turned serious.

"The Origin Reversion Institute has planted this True Devil Other in the Dark Domain of the Western Region. Who knows what they are truly plotting in the dark? Could they have set their eyes on the Dragon's Fang Lineage?" Li Jingzhe continued.

Li Luo was startled to hear this. "We have to guard against this."

Having seen what happened to the Blackwind Empire and the Xia Kingdom, Li Luo did not want to see the same scenario afflicting the Dragon's Fang Lineage. After all, this was like a second home to him.

"I'll pass down the orders later for each region to examine and check their Dark Domains carefully. It seems like we may have to bring forward the inspection to prevent a disaster from happening," Li Jingzhe slowly said.

Li Luo nodded in agreement before he asked, "So, Grandpa, are you able to get rid of the Soul Eater True Devil in Cousin Lingjing?"

When he said this, the faces of Li Rouyun, Li Lingjing, and Li Feng turned serious, and they listened anxiously for his reply. This reply would ultimately decide Li Lingjing's fate .

Li Jingzhe pondered for a moment before he looked at Li Luo and said, "The Soul Eater True Devil was created by the Origin Reversion Institute, so it's really unusual, but I can give it a try."

Following this, he stretched out his hand, and a crimson light flashed in the center of his palm. Everyone watched as it grew into a crimson flame around the size of his palm.

There were nine fire dragons circling around the flame. As it grew in strength, the worldly natural energy in the surroundings shook violently.

All of a sudden, Li Luo and the rest could feel raging flames surging from the depths of their hearts. It was like they were about to be reduced to ashes.

At this moment, there was a really pressurizing force coming from the flame. It appeared to be even stronger than that of a Duke.

"Nine Dragon Fire Sword Veil!" Li Rouyun exclaimed softly.

She noticed the look of confusion on Li Luo's face, so she whispered to him, "This is a King-grade treasured artifact that our Lineage Chief is famous for. It is extremely powerful, with the ability to burn anything and everything in the world. Once released, it envelops the land across thousands of kilometers and incinerates everything."

"King-grade treasured artifact..." Li Luo secretly clicked his tongue. He had never seen such a treasure before. Based on the pressure it emitted, he could tell that a single strand alone would be enough to wipe him out.

"The Nine Dragon Fire Sword Veil contains Dragon Fire Sword Energy. If you want to purify the Soul Eater True Devil in your body, you have to enter the veil and let the Dragon Fire Sword Energy incinerate it."

Li Jingzhe took a pause in his explanation and looked at Li Lingjing. He then continued, "The Dragon Fire Sword Energy is extremely tyrannical. It contains both the essence of sword intent and dragon fire. If you bathe yourself in this sword intent, you may be able to separate yourself from the Soul Eater True Devil. However, this is an extremely dangerous method. Bathing yourself in the Dragon Fire Sword Energy will bring you pain beyond your imagination. If your mind wavers even a little, it could easily cost you your life. Are you willing to try?"

As soon as he finished, Li Rouyun and Li Feng's faces turned pale. Even they themselves would not be able to hold out for long in the Nine Dragon Fire Sword Veil. They might be burnt to ashes shortly after entering. Although Li Jingzhe would restrain his power when Li Lingjing entered, it was still an extremely dangerous proposition.

Hearing this, Li Lingjing's face became pale as well. There was unconcealable fear in her eyes as she stared at the Nine Dragon Fire Sword Veil. Signs of an inner struggle arose in her eyes, but she came to a decision very soon.

She took a deep breath and shouted, "Lineage Chief, I'll do it!"

She knew that this was an option that was only presented to her thanks to Li Luo. If she turned it down, there would be few options left for her, seeing how vigilant Li Jingzhe was when it came to matters relating to the Origin Reversion Institute.

On her side, Li Luo sighed secretly. He truly admired Li Lingjing for her determination and courage. After all, there were not many who would dare to let dragon fire burn them.

There was a flash in Li Jingzhe's eyes when he heard her reply. He then nodded and said, "What a decisive and determined girl. Let's see how your luck holds, then."

As soon as he finished speaking, he waved his sleeve. and an invisible force seemed to have taken hold of Li Lingjing's delicate body. In the blink of an eye, she turned into a stream of light and flew into the Nine Dragon Fire Sword Veil.

Li Jingzhe held onto the fire veil with one hand and pointed his fingers at it with the other. In the next moment, the nine dragons around it let out faint, draconic roars. Then one of them turned to face the fire veil and breathed out a ball of crimson flames that contained countless sword lights that were boiling hot and extremely sharp.

The flames rained down and enveloped a slender figure that was sitting cross-legged.

Chapter 0892: Li Lingjing's Potential

The crimson flames flared up ferociously. Even though they were standing outside the fire veil, Li Luo and the rest could sense the tremendous power within those flames. As they engulfed Li Lingjing, the three of them could see her beautiful, snow-white skin melt off her body.

She shook intensely, as if she was trying her best to endure the excruciating pain. As the crimson flames burned, the sharp sword energy within them sliced off her flesh inch by inch. It was a torture that no ordinary individual could withstand.

The faces of the three spectators changed when they witnessed this scene.

Controlling the fire veil with his hand, Li Jingzhe lightly commented, "Although I have suppressed the power of the Dragon Fire Sword Energy to its lowest, it's still extremely terrifying for her. However, this little girl has a very strong heart. She's able to grit her teeth and persevere. It's no wonder she was able to retain her spirit despite the numerous years of invasion from the Soul Eater True Devil. She is indeed talented. If she can survive this ordeal, she may end up becoming the strongest person in the Western Region's Li Family."

The Respected Elder rarely praised anyone like this.

Hearing this, Li Feng could not help but let out a happy smile. At the same time, he was also worried about whether Li Lingjing could endure the pain.

The Nine Dragon Fire Sword Veil was so fearsome that even he could sense its might. Furthermore, Li Lingjing had just recovered. He did not know how long she would be able to withstand this blaze.

Li Rouyun watched with a broken heart as the slender girl suffered in the flames. Her eyes had turned slightly red as she prayed that her niece could make it through this safely.

"This will probably take two hours or so. You may all wait outside," Li Jingzhe said to the three of them.

Hearing this, Li Rouyun and Li Feng bowed politely and left the pavilion.

After their departure, Li Jingzhe showed an inexplicable smile to Li Luo and said, "My guess is that you are trying to protect her. From the reports earlier, I can see that she has made use of you. This girl has a really devious mind, willing to hold out until the very end just to maximize her chances. Her achievements in the future will likely be spectacular."

Li Luo pondered for a bit after hearing this before replying, "I've let it slide since fate brought us together. And after everything happened, I realized it'd be a pity to lose someone as talented as her. After all, she is part of the Dragon's Fang Lineage and will surely become a pillar of strength for us if groomed well. It would be such a waste if she died."

Li Jingzhe nodded in agreement and then replied, "Indeed, she has a lot of potential in her. She used to possess a quasi ninth-grade resonance. However, I saw that she's already reached the ninth-grade when I investigated her body earlier. I believe the incident was a blessing in disguise. She must have absorbed the Soul Eater True Devil and made its power her own. This must have led her to a breakthrough into the next grade.

"Lower ninth-grade Abyssal Serpent resonance."

Hearing this, Li Luo stared back in surprise. "Spending all these years in exchange for a lower ninth-grade? That's not too bad."

True ninth-grade resonances were rare. Even he had only come across one so far since he had arrived in the inner divine continent. It belonged to Qin Yi.

"With her aptitude, it will not be hard for her to make up for all the time she's lost. There aren't many in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Guardian Armies that can really rival her," Li Jingzhe commented.

In the next moment, a smile suddenly appeared on Li Jingzhe's face, and he said, "This little girl is pretty nice and she's indebted to you. It'll be a good ending if you can make her fall in love with you. With her potential, she is quite worthy of your status. In this way, I will also have more legitimate reasons to help her out."

Li Luo's face froze for a moment as he replied, "Grandpa, you are thinking too much. I don't have such thoughts at all! I already have a fiancée, and she's much better than Li Lingjing, whether it's in appearance, temperament, or potential!"

With some doubt in those words, Li Jingzhe asked back, "There's such a person from a place like the outer divine continent?"

Li Luo responded helplessly, "Those things don't matter, actually. The key here is our feelings!"

Li Jingzhe pondered for a moment before he said, "You are the grandson of the leader of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Your status is much higher than that of princes from random dynasties or nations. Since they have thousands of wives in their harems, it is perfectly normal for you to accept a few too."

Hearing this, Li Luo didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He did not want to discuss this any further, so he took out the five dragon fangs and changed the topic. "Grandpa, I have another small request to trouble you with. I managed to obtain these dragon fangs on my trip, and I would like to ask you for help in order to extract a Dragon Fang Essence."

Li Jingzhe took a glance at the five mottled dragon fangs and said, "Where did you pick up this trash?"

Li Luo froze for a moment when he heard this. He had fought so hard to get these dragon fangs from Zhao Jingyu, and yet it was no different from rubbish in the eyes of Li Jingzhe.

However, that was to be expected. Someone of Li Jingzhe's status had come across countless treasures that were much more valuable in his lifetime. These dragon fangs were costly for Li Luo but likely nothing in the eyes of his grandfather.

"It's not like Dragon Fang Essence can be extracted from every dragon fang. Your odds aren't great with the ones in your hands," Li Jingzhe told him bluntly.

"Well, I actually have a secret art..." Li Luo sheepishly said before he took out the scroll that Li Lingjing had passed him earlier.

Li Jingzhe took it and glanced over it momentarily before he commented, "This extraction method is indeed quite special, but it is also nonsensical."

Li Luo was deeply shocked to hear this. He had made a deal with Li Lingjing just for this. Refusing to leave at this, he asked, "What? Why?"

"Just the fact that it requires a King to help out reduces its value. A drop of Dragon Fang Essence is only thirty million skygold. What do you think is the price of getting a King to act?" Li Jingzhe responded.

Li Luo was dumbfounded. He had a reliable backer in the form of Li Jingzhe... a King, so he had not given this much thought. However, to get a normal King to help out... With their standing in society, it would definitely cost much more than just thirty million skygold. Besides, which King Stage cultivator would lower themselves and help someone out for just thirty million?

With that sum of money, it would be simpler to buy the Dragon Fang Essence directly instead.

When he thought about it, Li Luo immediately stared at the beautiful figure in the fire veil with resentful eyes. Although the secret art given by the other party was almost tailor-made for him, it was definitely a bad trade no matter how he thought about it.

In that case, he could only pray that when Li Jingzhe used the secret art, there would be more than one drop of Dragon Fang Essence extracted.

Li Jingzhe, however, was still willing to help him out despite laughing at him. After all, this secret art was obtained by Li Luo, and it would not violate his own principles. He would naturally be willing to help his grandson out with something like this.

"I'll help you extract it as soon as possible. After all, it's time you prepare for the Dragon's Head competition. I have heard that the Banner Leaders from the other four lineages are all training really hard for it. Talents like Li Qingfeng and Lu Qingmei may be trying to break into the Heavenly Pearl Tier," Li Jingzhe told him.

Li Luo was surprised when he heard this. Li Qingfeng and the rest were already preparing to step into the Heavenly Pearl Tier? It seemed like the other competitors had not slowed down at all while he was improving.

"Seems like I can't relax any longer." Li Luo sighed dejectedly. Originally, there was already a gap in strength between talents like Li Qingfeng and him. Now he had finally caught up a little, yet they still had an edge over him. It seemed like the upcoming competition would be really challenging.

"Now that you have gotten the Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Body, you're already standing at the peak of the Fiend Body Tier. You can begin to think about condensing Fiend Dipper energy. Actually, I have a good idea to help you with it," Li Jingzhe said as a hint of a smile appeared on his usually stern face.

"What do you mean?" Li Luo asked curiously.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe's eyes turned back to the fire veil in his hand.

When he saw this, Li Luo went into a moment of silence before he laughed and asked, "There's no need for this, right? I'm merely at the Fiend Body Tier, not even close to Cousin Lingjing's level. I wouldn't be able to withstand that!"

Li Jingzhe replied, "You're right. If you were just an ordinary person, you'd not be able to endure this at your level. But you'll be able to do it since you have the Tri-Radiance Glass Body."

"Grandpa, let's do it next time," Li Luo said as he began to back away uneasily.

Li Jingzhe simply smiled as he watched Li Luo turn around to make his escape. In the next moment, the fire veil in his arm flashed and appeared right above Li Luo. All Li Luo could do was let out a cry before he was pulled in.

Taking a look into the fire veil, Li Jingzhe muttered to himself, "This is a benefit that others would die for, you brat! Yet you try to run away... Besides, suffering alongside that little girl isn't a bad thing. It will bring the two of you closer together, so why not?"

Chapter 0893: Clash of Sword Intent

Bang!

The crimson fire veil soared into the air and sucked a figure inside. Suddenly, a cry echoed out within the fire veil.

"Thunderpeal Avatar!

"Tri-Radiance Rings!"

Li Luo screamed in pain when he fell into the blazing flames. Lightning surfaced on his body immediately—he wasted no time in strengthening himself with the Thunderpeal Avatar.

Additionally, the Tri-Radiance Rings appeared on his body simultaneously. They circled continuously around his body and formed a strong protective layer.

However, all of his defenses were pretty much ineffective here.

As the crimson flames raged on, the Tri-Radiance Rings only stood sturdily for a moment before they started to melt. In the next moment, superficial burns began to form on his skin. Pain seared through his body, reaching the depths of his heart and spirit.

Moreover, an immensely sharp and grating sword energy could be felt within the flames. As the energy flowed across his burnt skin, it lacerated his flesh and blood, entering the depths of his body. The sheer pain was sufficient to cause anyone to tear up.

It was only at this moment that Li Luo truly could feel the pain that Li Lingjing was going through.

The Respected Elder was too cruel. He had just thrown him in without any hesitation!

As much as he wanted to cry, he knew that it was useless to do so. There was nothing more he could say. All he could do was summon up all of his resonant power and shield himself using up everything, hoping that his body could endure this smelting a little longer.

However, the flames continued raining down from the sky, burning his body before the remaining sword energy sliced into his flesh.

All that filled his mind was excruciating pain. Just a short moment after he had decided to grit his teeth and endure the trial... he gave up on trying to hold it in. Instead, he screamed out as loudly as he could, almost as if his life depended on it and it would reduce the pain.

This went on for a while before the crimson flames finally slowed down for a moment. It was the first time Li Luo could catch a bit of a breather.

At this moment, he heard a familiar voice speaking from not far away. "Cousin Li Luo, can you stay a bit further away from me? Your maddened screams are... distracting."

Li Luo, who was flopped over on the ground, was startled for a moment. He got up with some difficulty and then made his way over to where the voice had come from. After a while, he saw a little pit where a beautiful figure was sitting in the lotus position. It was none other than Li Lingjing.

Her face was pale and her snow-white skin was riddled with burns. She was using her resonant power to recuperate.

She looked up and saw Li Luo standing above. Jokingly, she asked, "Cousin Li Luo, have you been corrupted by the Others as well? Is that why you got thrown in here too?"

Li Luo smiled a little and replied confidently, "I volunteered to enter this place for my own cultivation out of my own free will."

Hearing this, Li Lingjing's beautiful eyes widened and she said with some admiration, "Cousin Li Luo, you are really strong. I can't bear this place. I just want to get out as soon as possible, but you actually chose to come in here."

When she said this, there was a hint of amusement hidden deep in her eyes. It was not clear if she really believed Li Luo or not.

Li Luo waved his hand and responded, "This little Dragon Fire Sword Energy means nothing to me. It's even weaker than I had expected. It's perfect for my training."

As soon as he finished that sentence, a dragon chant could be heard from the sky above. Then a crimson ball of flames fell down directly onto him like a meteor strike.

When the sudden ball of flames landed on him, Li Luo mentally prepared himself, gritting his teeth and enduring the intense pain. Surprisingly, he instead felt a chilly air pass by his body, which left him a little confused. Looking downwards, his face froze.

The flames did not attempt to burn his body at all. Instead, they had disintegrated his clothes, leaving him naked with just a pair of briefs.

At this moment, he was almost bereft of clothes, standing on the high ground above. It was an extremely eye-catching scene.

"Grandpa, stop messing around!" Li Luo shouted into the sky above as he hurriedly took out another set of clothes from his pocket sphere.

He then looked down at Li Lingjing, who seemed to have been left speechless for a moment, and said, "Cousin Lingjing, I assure you this has nothing to do with me."

Li Lingjing regained her normal self soon without showing any emotion. With a deadpan face, she commented, "Cousin Li Luo, your body is not bad."

Hearing this, Li Luo could not stand it any further and ran away.

Li Lingjing's petite body only relaxed a little after seeing him turn and escape. It was only then that she rubbed her slightly burning ears gingerly and said to herself, "His body really isn't bad."

After this embarrassing incident, Li Luo no longer dared to disturb Li Lingjing. They stayed apart from each other as they endured the merciless roasting of the crimson flames.

The pain that they had to go through was intense beyond belief. At many instances, Li Luo even thought that he had reached his own limits. His mind was beginning to turn hazy, but he resisted it with his willpower and endured—he would not give up.

After all, he could also hear Li Lingjing's muffled groans of pain in the distance. If even she could withstand this pain, there was no reason for him to lose out to her.

As time passed by, Li Luo could feel that his body was starting to turn numb. It was as if his whole body and flesh had been stripped of all feeling.

However, he could also sense another mysterious energy flowing within his body in this state.

He recognized it when he focused on it. A strand of boiling, hot sword intent... This was the Dragon Fire Sword Energy left behind in his body.

At this very moment, he was hit with inspiration and a thought flashed across his mind.

He activated the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation and submerged himself in the Cosmic Sword Intent immediately.

When he sank into the Cosmic Sword Intent, a strand of sword intent seemed to have been attracted by something. Doing this normally took so much effort, but it appeared almost effortlessly this time.

Li Luo was delighted. Was the Cosmic Sword Intent attracted to the similarly high-grade Dragon Fire Sword Energy left in his body?

This seemed highly plausible. After all, they were both like the kings of the forest. If one were to step into another's territory, the other would surely step out to defend it.

In that case, Li Luo had really benefited from this.

When the strand of Cosmic Sword Intent appeared, Li Luo hastily collected and condensed it into a complete Cosmic Sword Intent.

In just half an hour, he managed to achieve something that had taken him multiple days to do previously.

Li Luo was ecstatic. He disregarded everything else and focused entirely on collecting Cosmic Sword Intent.

Just like this, time flew by.

It was not until he felt an intense pain overcome his body that he stopped. At this moment, he understood that his body had reached its limit. If he continued with this any further, he would collapse completely.

There was nothing Li Luo could do apart from letting out a sigh. He opened up his eyes again, and his surroundings had changed once more. He realized that he was already back in the pavilion by the lake.

Somehow, he had survived the first Fire Veil Smelting.

Chapter 0894: Essence Obtained

As soon as Li Luo returned from the space of the fire veil, he heard Li Jingzhe's voice coming from in front of him. "You brat. You actually noticed that Dragon Fire Sword Energy can be used to attract Cosmic Sword Intent."

He raised his head and saw his grandfather looking at him with interest as he fished by the stone pavilion. Li Luo's face was full of delight when he heard his words. The appearance of the Cosmic Sword Intent was a pleasant surprise. In the short span of two hours, he had collected what would take him days to get under normal circumstances.

Previously, he had gathered a total of five strands of Cosmic Sword Intent. However, that had taken him a whole month of hard work. Now, he had managed to gather two strands in just two hours. This was truly a delightful surprise.

He would soon have enough Cosmic Sword Intent at this rate. By then, he would just need to obtain a Dragon Fang Essence. At that point, he could start cultivating the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation.

When he thought about using this Transcendent Duke Art, he could barely contain his excitement.

It would become his greatest killer move if he could master it.

At this point, someone else suddenly appeared beside him. It seemed like Li Lingjing had been kicked out of the fire veil as well.

Her skin was full of burn marks and she looked kind of pathetic. Her body was still surrounded by an aura of heat, just like a deep-fried prawn that was just fished out of a vat of boiling oil.

"Are you okay?" Li Luo asked out of concern.

She looked much worse off compared to him. This was probably because the Dragon Fire Sword Energy over at her end was fiercer.

Standing there shivering, her tiny body still had traces of the fire sword energy left. Excruciating pain lanced throughout her body as she resisted the pain with all her might. Although her face was pale, she looked at Li Luo and forced out a smile.

"I... I'm fine," she said.

Li Jingzhe took a look at her and commented, "The Other in your body has weakened a little. It seems like the Dragon Fire Sword Energy is effective after all. However, we will have to do this a few more times as the Soul Eater True Devil has been entangled with your spirit for far too long.

"We'll have to bathe you in Dragon Fire Sword Energy daily for the next month. Perhaps we can get rid of the Soul Eater True Devil completely after all."

Li Lingjing bit her teeth tightly and then replied, "Thank you, Lineage Chief. I will definitely endure this!"

Li Jingzhe nodded a little. He had seen her performance in the fire veil very clearly. Her determination and resilience had far exceeded that of any other talent in the Five Guardian Armies of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

In the next moment, he turned to Li Luo and said, "There's still a month left before the Dragon's Head competition. During this time, you can take out two hours daily to come here for cultivation. You have reached the peak of the Fiend Body Tier and your foundation is solid, so you can consider cultivating Fiend Dipper Energy now."

This time around, Li Luo agreed to it without any more hesitation. After all, cultivating with this method was far more beneficial than he had imagined. Not only could he refine Fiend Dipper Energy, he could gather Cosmic Sword Intent at a much faster rate here. This was undoubtedly the most efficient use of his time.

It did not matter how much pain his body would have to go through—the gains would make it all worth it.

Nonetheless, he understood just how rare and precious this opportunity was. One would not be able to seek help from a King for his own cultivation so easily.

As he watched the two of them in their current state, Li Jingzhe flicked his finger, and two balls of light flew towards Li Luo and Li Lingjing. Within each light was a jade bottle exuding an extremely cold air. In fact, the air around them seemed to freeze for a moment.

"My Dragon Fire Sword Energy is extremely domineering. After bathing in it, there will be sword energy leftover in your body. This will slowly become a form of fire poison. If this is allowed to accumulate over time, it will eventually go out of control during your cultivation in the future and instantly cause you to combust. These jade bottles contain Freezing Essence Liquid. When you return, cultivate and apply it to your skin. It can help to dissolve the remnant Dragon Fire Sword Energy in your bodies."

When Li Luo and Li Lingjing heard about the frightening aftereffects of the Dragon Fire Sword Energy, they felt chills go up their spines and they hurriedly accepted the jade bottles.

"Thank you, Lineage Chief! I will forever remember your great kindness in my heart," Li Lingjing stated politely.

Not only was he personally helping her get rid of the Soul Eater True Devil, he had even prepared the medicine for the treatment of the aftereffects. This was a treatment that not even a Duke could have received.

Li Jingzhe took another glance at her and replied, "Since my grandson says he will protect you, I'll definitely give him face."

With that, he had directed her gratitude towards Li Luo.

Li Lingjing understood this well, so she turned towards Li Luo and bowed down politely. "I don't know how to repay your great kindness, Cousin Li Luo. If there is anything you need in the future, I will definitely help you with it."

Li Luo smiled helplessly as he responded, "I'm just keeping to our promises. Besides, I can't wait to see another top talent emerge in the Dragon's Fang Lineage."

Hearing this, Li Lingjing's eyebrows relaxed a little and she revealed a bright, charming smile.

"Thanks for thinking so highly of me, Cousin Li Luo. I will work hard to meet your expectations."

At this point, Li Jingzhe waved his hands at them as he went back to his fishing.

Li Luo and Li Lingjing did not bother him any further. They bade farewell politely and left.

Li Rouyun and Li Feng had been waiting for them outside the pavilion. The two finally relaxed after seeing no major injuries on Li Lingjing's body. When they heard that Li Jingzhe had instructed Li Lingjing to return for the Dragon Fire Sword Energy smelting daily, they heaved even bigger sighs of relief.

It seemed like Li Lingjing would be completely cured soon with the personal help of the Lineage Chief.

At the same time, Li Rouyun expressed her gratitude to Li Luo once again. If not for him, it was unlikely that the Lineage Chief would have helped out with this matter personally. Most likely, the matter would just have been shelved quietly. However, if it attracted the attention of the enforcement department of the Dragon's Fang Lineage in the future, it would undoubtedly attract trouble.

Li Luo responded to it courteously and decided on the time they would meet up again tomorrow. After which, he left the place with his exhausted body.

For the following days, Li Luo would head over to the pavilion by the lake and undergo the Dragon Fire Sword Energy Veil smelting with Li Lingjing once he had completed his own cultivation and the Fiendish Cave expedition with the Green Nether Banner.

Although it was a literal hell and essentially horrible torture, the rewards from it kept Li Luo motivated.

The refining of Fiend Dipper Energy would require more time, but the amount of Cosmic Sword Intent he collected was growing steadily everyday. This was an evident benefit from the excruciating pain he had to endure.

In the short span of ten days, Li Luo had collected a total of fifty strands of Cosmic Sword Intent.

He felt that this would be enough for him to forge his first Dragon Fang Sword. Now, all that was left was for him to acquire a Dragon Fang Essence.

Sure enough, his patience paid off on the next day.

When he arrived at the stone pavilion by the lake, Li Jingzhe threw an item over to him casually. It was a cup that seemed to be made of bones and fangs. There were energy runes circulating its surface, which sealed up the mouth of the cup.

Li Luo had some guesses on what it could be. He looked into the inside of the cup excitedly and saw two drops of mysterious, golden liquid within. They were like two golden koi that were swimming around in a lively manner. Wave after wave of astonishing life force and mysterious energy exuded from the cup, and a draconic roar could vaguely be heard.

As Li Jingzhe looked at the excited Li Luo, he smiled lightly and said, "Your secret art is still quite effective. Out of the five dragon fangs, we extracted two drops of Dragon Fang Essence."

However, he did not mention that he had replaced some of the ingredients in the secret art with even higher grade materials in order to achieve these spectacular results, therefore extracting two drops of Dragon Fang Essence.

At this moment, Li Luo's face was full of excitement and joy. He held the cup tightly and his heartbeat accelerated.

He had finally obtained a Dragon Fang Essence. Now he could finally start cultivating the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation that he had been dying for.

Chapter 0895: Heavenly Temple Lotus

"If you're going to begin cultivating the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, I have a good place in mind," Li Jingzhe said to the excited Li Luo. At the same time, he had casually thrown Li Lingjing into the fire veil for her daily bath.

When he was done speaking, he did not wait for Li Luo's response. He simply walked onto the surface of the lake. Step after step, he strolled towards the center.

"Oh?"

Li Luo's eyes lit up as soon as he heard Li Jingzhe's words. The place his grandfather was talking about was sure to be very beneficial for his cultivation. Without wasting any more time, he followed Li Jingzhe in a hurry. Ripples spread out with each step that he took on the lake's surface. Shortly later, they arrived at the center.

At this point, Li Jingzhe waved his sleeve, and the water in the lake started rising high up into the air. It turned into bubbles that enshrouded both Li Luo and him. Afterwards, the bubbles fell back into the lake and dove down.

As they traversed the depths, Li Luo noticed mysterious lights dancing around the deep waters of the lake. It was like a naturally formed ward, waves of strong resonant power pulsing from its core.

This was clearly a secret spot that Li Jingzhe used for his daily cultivation.

The dive did not take long. After about two minutes, Li Luo could see a bright glow coming from the bottom of the lake. It created an enchanting sensation that seemed to penetrate one's entire being.

When they approached the glow, Li Luo finally realized what it was.

It was a dark, golden lotus seat.

The seat was tens of feet wide with a cushion in the middle. The glow was coming from it, piercing right through anyone who approached it.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe flicked his finger, and a ray of light shot towards the lotus seat. The protective layer of light around it began to crack slightly, then the two of them slipped through the crack.

"This is my cultivation ground, known as the Heavenly Temple Lotus. It's an extremely rare cultivation treasure. I went into an ancient ruin a long time ago and managed to obtain it within. I had to fight with my life against quite a number of Kings for it. Luckily, I won and obtained this prized possession. This has proven to be extremely beneficial even for King Stage cultivation, and many of the other four Lineage Chiefs were extremely envious when they learned of it," Li Jingzhe explained with a laugh.

Hearing this, Li Luo was secretly surprised. Kings were already close to the top of the food chain in this world. Anyone who reached that stage would be famous and influential with endless wealth. If this was a treasure that even they would covet, then it was the cream of the crop even amongst treasured artifacts.

"This is a really magical treasure, especially if you sit in the heart of the lotus. If you can ignite one of the lotus buds, you will enter a very special mental state of enlightenment. I call it the Heart of the Enlightened Lake. In this state, one's perceptive abilities are greatly enhanced and many of the problems and roadblocks one faces during cultivation are easily resolved. If you were merely cultivating an ordinary Duke Art, I may not have brought you here. After all, it would be quite a waste."

At this point, Li Jingzhe paused and took a glance at Li Luo. He seemed to smile as he continued, "But if it's the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, it'll be worth it."

Li Luo almost drooled when he heard all of this. As expected of a prized artifact that even Kings would fight over—the treasure before him could actually help people cultivate the best Duke Arts.

Some high-grade Duke Arts were extremely difficult to cultivate. Even though Li Luo was very confident in his ability to comprehend resonance arts in general, he had already encountered quite a number of roadblocks that he could not figure out during the time that he was studying the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation. If the Heavenly Temple Lotus could aid him in resolving these issues, it would definitely increase his chance of successfully cultivating this Duke Art.

"Take a seat." Li Jingzhe pointed to the set.

Li Luo did not hold back. He quickly stepped forward and sat cross-legged over there. Instantly, he could sense a cool breeze enter his body from the lotus seat. His mental state immediately became calm like still water, and all kinds of distractions were erased without a trace.

He fell in love with this state straight away. After all, such a calm and composed state of mind would not happen even once a month in his ordinary, daily cultivation.

"Oh, right. Grandpa, do you have any updates regarding the thing that I asked you about earlier?" Li Luo asked with a flattering smile. He did not commence with his cultivation immediately.

"You mean those so-called Pseudo Duke Arts?" Li Jingzhe replied with great interest.

Li Luo nodded. The so-called Pseudo Duke Arts were like weaker and incomplete versions of true Duke Arts. However, they did possess some power and were still stronger than most high-grade dragon-general resonance arts.

Many who were not ready to cultivate Duke Arts yet would turn towards Pseudo Duke Arts as a stopgap. For example, the Demon Ape's Will that was used by Sun Dasheng during the Holy Grail Meet was, strictly speaking, just a Pseudo Duke Art.

"You're planning to fully utilize the edge you have with your multiple resonances. After cultivating Pseudo Duke Arts for their ease, you will take advantage of their synergy with each other and raise your battle capabilities. Is that right, you brat?" Li Jingzhe asked, seeing through Li Luo's plan at a glance. After all, he possessed vast experience, so this was no surprise.

"Grandpa, you are brilliant." Li Luo replied with a thumbs up.

In fact, this was not an uncommon idea. Back when Li Luo was at the Resonant Master Stage, he had learned multiple low-grade resonance arts and achieved synergistic benefits by combining them, letting him achieve a power that was not any weaker than a high-grade resonance art. Now, he was doing the same thing but with Pseudo Duke Arts instead of low-grade resonance arts.

"That's a good train of thought. If you use your multiple resonances to cultivate Pseudo Duke Arts, you can achieve the power of certain Communion-grade Duke Arts if utilized well. Furthermore, it will put less strain on your resonant power compared to a real Duke Art." Li Jingzhe nodded slightly and approved of his grandson's idea.

"With your multiple resonances, the path that you'll take will definitely differ from that of ninth-grade resonance talents. They will be aiming to be the best in one area, while you'll be aiming to improve through multiple paths."

As for an actual Duke Art, it was still extremely challenging for Li Luo to cultivate one, even Communion-grade ones. It would take up a huge amount of his energy and time to do so, and it was already a miracle that he had succeeded with any of them. Simply speaking, he lacked the strength to comprehend even more of them in a short span of time. Moreover, he did not have enough resonant power in him to fully utilize each Duke Art even if he was successful.

As such, Li Luo was thinking of using Pseudo Duke Arts as a replacement. It was indeed not a bad idea.

After giving it some thought, Li Jingzhe waved his sleeve again. Tiny rays of light shot out and hovered in front of them.

There were dozens of them, and each one contained a slightly different colored scroll.

"Strictly speaking, Pseudo Duke Arts are not considered Duke Arts. Thus, it's not against the rules for me to help you search for them." Li Jingzhe laughed lightly.

"You can take these Pseudo Duke Arts to study. I know you're thinking of using the precious chance to cultivate as many Pseudo Duke Arts as you can. Heh. You surely don't waste any of your resources."

Clearly, Li Luo was thinking of taking full advantage of the Heart of the Enlightened Lake state to help him cultivate these arts—asking for the arts now was not a coincidence. While he was cultivating the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, he could also cultivate a few Pseudo Duke Arts to improve himself and better prepare for the upcoming Dragon's Head competition.

With that, Li Luo gladly accepted the numerous scrolls. The Respected Elder was truly the Lineage Chief. Although these Pseudo Duke Art were worth less than a real Duke Art, they were still extremely valuable items. Few people could just take out dozens of them instantly like him.

"Thank you, Grandpa." Li Luo truly meant it.

While Li Jingzhe was known as a man of principle, he could also be said to be kind of stubborn. At times, he could be pretty harsh even with juniors like Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi. However, he would always try his best to fulfill any requests that Li Luo made. For example, no one in the whole Dragon's Fang Lineage would have the luxury to enjoy the Heavenly Temple Lotus except for Li Luo and himself.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe waved his hands again, and a ray of resonant power shot out from his fingers. This time, it went straight into the bottom of the lotus seat.

A spot of light rushed out from the bottom roughly five feet in front of Li Luo. After a while, it transformed into a lotus bud that was about ten feet in length.

The bud seemed to be made of jade stone. Mysterious light circulated around it, and a faint fragrance filled the air.

Li Jingzhe spat and a spark of flame flew out, landing directly on the lotus bud. It immediately began to ignite, and a curl of green smoke containing many strands of golden light started rising up. The smoke then proceeded to surround Li Luo like it was a living organism.

In the same moment, he could sense that his mind was clear of all distractions and his thoughts started flowing more smoothly and quickly. Similarly, the outside world seemed to have slowed down for him.

In an instant, he seemed to have figured out many things, and inspiration was rushing out of his heart just like bubbles in boiling water.

Clearly, this was the so-called Heart of the Enlightened Lake state.

"The ignition of the lotus bud will last half a month. In this time, you can sit here quietly and work hard," Li Jingzhe explained.

Li Luo took a deep breath of the fragrant air and his mind cleared up right away. He nodded towards Li Jingzhe before he waved his hand and took out a Pseudo Duke Art scroll. Channeling his resonant power into it, the huge amount of information entered his mind like a tsunami.

He was planning to study a few Pseudo Duke Arts first. Once he got used to this state, he would begin cultivating his Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation for real.

Seeing how his grandson had started training, Li Jingzhe did not bother him any further. He simply said to himself, "Little brat, it takes a hundred years for a bud to grow here. There's not much left now. How much you can get out of it is up to you."

Without a doubt, the other Kings would surely rage at him for wasting such a precious resource on a Fiend Body cultivator like Li Luo if they ever found out. However, Li Jingzhe did not mind it at all.

As he stared at the young man in front of him, the majestic figure of Li Taixuan seemed to have intertwined with Li Luo's in his eyes. The usually serious and stern look on his face seemed to have grown a little gentler.

"Don't you worry, my third brat... Since you chose to send this kid back to us, I will make sure no one will ever touch him no matter what. History... will not repeat itself," Li Jingzhe murmured to himself. He then sighed in his heart before gradually making his way out of the lake.

Chapter 0896: Heart of the Enlightened Lake

Li Luo began cultivating right after Li Jingzhe left.

He did not work on the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation in the first five days. Instead, he concentrated on cultivating the dozens of Pseudo Duke Arts to start off.

The rate at which he mastered them had far exceeded his expectations.

With the Heart of the Enlightened Lake, everything just seemed to fall into place when Li Luo tried to cultivate them. All the difficulties and challenges that always surfaced during cultivation seemed to be readily resolved as soon as he focused on them. Of course, this was partially due to the fact that Pseudo Duke Arts were simply not as complex. There was a clear distinction between the two. If what he had been trying to cultivate was a Duke Art, it wouldn't have happened so quickly and smoothly.

Moreover, the Pseudo Duke Arts from Li Jingzhe had been carefully chosen. Their resonance affinities were a good match with him, making the process of learning them naturally easier.

The Heart of the Enlightened Lake was simply too domineering. With it, even a cultivator with average comprehension abilities would become a god. And Li Luo wasn't just average—he possessed immense talent when it came to learning resonance arts, perhaps to the point of being unrivaled. With the two combined, the results were mind-boggling.

This was why Li Luo had taken merely five days to accomplish what would normally have taken a year.

After which, he had basically attained a preliminary understanding of all of the Pseudo Duke Arts. At this point, he no longer attempted to push himself to reach a greater state of completion, instead calming himself down and focusing on the most important task at hand.

The Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation!

This would be the hardest Duke Art he had ever attempted to cultivate. An Embryonic Transcendent Duke Art was something that was rarely seen even in the unfathomable and massive inner divine continents.

If it became public knowledge that Li Luo was learning it, it would undoubtedly cause endless amounts of Dukes to stare at it red-eyed and full of envy. Although the training requirements were harsh, it would still possess an unstoppable allure for them. If one were to successfully cultivate it, they would easily be able to stand tall and proud above their peers.

Additionally, if one day they were able to take a step forward and turn it into an actual Transcendent Duke Art, they would become known as a revered Transcendent Duke, one who had the ability to fight against Kings! Li Luo's mental state gradually attained a sense of calm and regained a sense of clarity. At the same time, obscure and ancient information poured into his mind, showing him how the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation was cultivated.

The Cosmic Sword Intent he had attained was merely the first step. The second was of even greater importance—he had to condense the embryonic forms of the Dragon Fang Swords.

Only when the sword formation was established with the Dragon Fang Swords in place would this art be considered complete.

As a result, there were several difficulties. Each step was like ascending to the skies, a daunting prospect.

However, Li Luo was long prepared. And he had the assistance of the Heart of the Enlightened Lake, so he was not discouraged. With a thought, the strands of Cosmic Sword Intent came to life, and he attempted to use his mental state to control them. Countless strands of sword intent radiated in every direction, all whilst moving in complicated and random trajectories, giving them an elusive quality.

Condensing a sword formation was no easy task. The first strand of sword intent was only kept in place for a few minutes before he made a mistake, directly causing it to collapse and become useless.

However, failure did not deter Li Luo. He took control of the second strand of sword intent and continued with his task.

Although he had a good number of strands of sword intent stocked up, even he could barely withstand the extravagant rate of consumption.

Thus, Li Luo retracted his mental state and reentered a state of extreme concentration. He blocked out all of his senses and only focused upon the complicated sword formation within his mind, doing his best to advance and condense it.

Time passed by quietly.

And five days flew by.

After uncountable numbers of failures, an extremely basic form of the complex sword formation began to be slowly perfected. The presence of the sword formation caused one to hear a pristine and clear resonating of the swords. The moment the sword energy was activated, it emanated terrifying fluctuations that even caused Li Luo to feel a sense of fear.

"It looks like I'm about ninety percent of the way there..." Li Luo solemnly observed the complicated sword formation. With the tireless efforts spent over the last five days, he had almost completed the next step. He had felt a little dismayed at his constant failures over the past few days as the difficulty of this Duke Art had far surpassed anything he had ever expected. Without the assistance of the Heart of the Enlightened Lake, he might not even have reached this stage after half a year of painstaking cultivation!

The condensation of the sword array also required one to fuse different sorts of resonant power together. Regardless, Li Luo already understood from the name of the art that this was required. However, it was only during the cultivation process that he finally realized that this art would simply be impossible to execute if not for that!

Thus, it was definitely the hardest Duke Art that Li Luo had attempted to cultivate to date.

"No wonder Grandpa wanted to bring me here. I suppose he already expected all this." Li Luo sighed. Now he fully understood why Embryonic Transcendent Duke Arts were so well renowned—some of it had to do with how terrifyingly difficult the cultivation process was.

After which, three strands of Cosmic Sword Intent appeared with a thought from him, entering the formation and beginning the final step.

This was both an important and difficult step. The sword intent had to be distributed throughout the formation like tentacles, and it had to connect through to the various nodes that had already been constructed prior.

At this critical juncture, Li Luo's heart remained unfazed and steadfast. With the assistance of the Heart of the Enlightened Lake, his mental state was pristine and clear when the countless strands of sword intent flew within the formation like stars shooting through the sky. There was a hint of order within it despite the chaotic movements.

One strand of sword intent after another took their place within the formation as it was gradually perfected.

In the end, no mishaps or surprises arose at this crucial step.

Everything was under Li Luo's cool control, completing the formation seamlessly.

It was at this point that the complex sword formation began to resonate, erupting with a hum that seemed to contain the very essence of a sword. The strands of sword intent continuously vibrated and radiated frightening amounts of sword energy. However, all of it remained contained within the sword formation, without a single bit dissipating.

Li Luo could also feel the formation's terrifying power, and he realized that any energy sent into it would be immediately destroyed by the domineering sword intent.

He was dazed when he imagined the possibilities that this entailed. If any external energy tried to enter his body in the future and could not be easily resolved, he would simply route it into the sword formation and utilize its sheer power to demolish it! Even though he had yet to add in the Dragon Fang Swords, this would already serve as a form of protection for him.

"Embryonic Transcendent Duke Arts are truly amazing." Li Luo sighed in his heart.

The Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner was no slouch when it came to Duke Arts. If it was brought to completion, it would be a Destiny-grade Duke Art. This was something that even Heavenly Emperor powers would consider to be at the top. Yet when compared to the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, there was quite a gap between the two.

"Phew."

Li Luo opened his eyes and glanced towards the burning lotus bud. There was barely half of it left, and it continued to emanate a green smoke that contained traces of gold light. The smoke curled around his body and penetrated his nostrils.

It also possessed restorative properties that targeted one's mental state. Li Luo's mind was fatigued by the process of condensing the sword formation, and yet all of it was quickly washed away with the miraculous smoke.

"I've got about five days remaining." Li Luo sucked in a deep breath. He had to make full use of the Heart of the Enlightened Lake and refine the first Dragon Fang Sword.

Now that he came to it, he had to decide what element he would use.

He very quickly came to an answer. He would have to pick the resonance he had the strongest affinity to. That way, it would improve his chances of success.

With a wry smile, he closed his eyes once again.

Next up, the Water Dragon Fang Sword. This was the first acquired resonance he had obtained, and he was most proficient at it.

Chapter 0897: Water Dragon Fang Sword

After setting up the challenging sword formation earlier, the forging of the Water Dragon Fang Sword had gone much smoother than Li Luo had expected.

He had saved up fifty strands of Cosmic Sword Intent for this. However, the sword formation had used up half of them. The remaining half was used for the forging of the Water Dragon Fang Sword.

Despite the assistance from the Heart of the Enlightened Lake, he still met with multiple failures in his forging attempts. Fortunately, he was able to remain composed and learned from his failures. Right before his Cosmic Sword Intent was exhausted, he finally completed forming the structure of the Water Dragon Fang Sword.

He focused inwards at this point, and he could see a long, blue sword quietly standing there. There were ripples of water circulating around it, with the hilt of the sword looking like the maw of the dragon, covered in blue dragon scales.

The body of the sword was not completely straight. Instead, it curved slightly, glinting with extremely sharp, blue light flowing around the edge of the blade.

This was the Water Dragon Fang Sword that Li Luo had forged using dozens of strands of Cosmic Sword Intent.

Once he added a drop of Dragon Fang Essence into it, it would be finally complete.

Li Luo did not hesitate any longer. With a thought, a drop of dark golden liquid appeared in midair and dripped directly onto the body of the blade.

Roar!

All of a sudden, multiple threads of golden light extended from the dark-golden liquid, and draconic roars echoed in the air. In the next moment, the golden light threads sank into the blue body of the blade, and a series of winding and entrenched draconic runes emerged.

It was like the Water Dragon Fang Sword had been awakened and given life. Then a terrifying sword aura erupted into the air, and the three resonant palaces within Li Luo shook violently.

He was shocked by the terrifying pressure coming from the Water Dragon Fang Sword. He immediately moved it with his mind, and it landed in a corner of the sword formation.

When the Water Dragon Fang Sword was in place, an endlessly large amount of sheer power surged from it. The sword intent arose like crashing waves, and its aura was continuously sharpened.

Seeing this, Li Luo was finally relieved.

With the sword in the formation, he had finally cultivated the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation.

Although he only had one sword in the formation currently, and it was barely representative of the new art's true strength, Li Luo could already sense that it already had more offensive power than the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner.

With this sword, he would rule against all others in the same cultivation level.

With this ace up his sleeve, he felt that he would no longer need to be so afraid of Qin Yi the next time they met.

The only pity was that all of his Cosmic Sword Intent had been used up. Furthermore, the Heart of the Enlightened Lake's time was nearly up. He had no chance to use the second drop of Dragon Fang Essence to forge his second Dragon Fang Sword. Nonetheless, there was no need to rush. With the sword formation done, he had already conquered the most challenging part. In the future, he would just need to gradually build up his foundation, and the true might of this Embryonic Transcendent Duke Art would be revealed with time.

At this point, Li Luo slowly opened his eyes with a calm face as he sat on the lotus seat. Beneath his eyes was an unconcealable expression of joy.

It was a truly rewarding period of cultivation. Not only had he cultivated the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, the so-called Embryonic Transcendent Duke Art, he had also mastered a few Pseudo Duke Arts. This greatly expanded his arsenal for his future battles, and he believed that with appropriate application, the Pseudo Duke Arts would not lose out to a Duke Art.

As such, he had gotten a lot more confident for the upcoming Dragon's Head competition.

While Li Luo watched the lotus bud burn up, he felt a sense of reluctance to leave. All the external distractions had started to return as soon as he left the state of the Heart of the Enlightened Lake.

The feeling of having an extremely clear mind at all times had disappeared.

"What an incredible treasure," Li Luo commented with a sigh. The Heavenly Temple Lotus was one of the most amazing treasures that he had seen so far. Even an ordinary cultivator could become a genius instantly with the Heart of the Enlightened Lake state.

Li Luo could tell that without this treasure, he probably would not have mastered the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation even after half a year of cultivation. Although he was confident in his own aptitude in resonance arts, the time required would probably be ten times or more. Unfortunately, time was the one thing that Li Luo could not afford to waste.

As such, the Heavenly Temple Lotus was truly formidable even though it did not hold any offensive strength. With such a remarkable aid to cultivation, it was no wonder why all the Kings were fighting over it.

"What's this? You're interested in stealing my treasure now?" Laughter came from a distance just as Li Luo was pondering over it. When he looked up, ripples appeared in the void, and Li Jingzhe appeared before him.

"Haha, I was just thinking that my grandfather is exceptionally discerning, being able to obtain such a treasure." Li Luo gave an embarrassed smile in return. Li Jingzhe stared at Li Luo. He could see that his grandchild had managed to create a form of sword energy within his body. It flowed ceaselessly like a perpetual wave, domineering and powerful.

"Looks like you've cultivated it successfully. I assume the first one created was the Water Dragon Fang Sword?" Li Jingzhe said.

Li Luo nodded and then stretched out his hand. In the next moment, a blue sword materialized. When the sword energy around it pierced through the air, the air split apart with a sonic boom.

"Not bad," Li Jingzhe commented with a tinge of satisfaction on his aged face. "You're the first one that has successfully cultivated it since our ancestor created that Duke Art."

This was because there were too many stringent requirements to this resonance art. It needed someone who had multiple resonances for it to truly shine. As such, even if one had a pure ninth-grade resonance, it was still incompatible. If they were to force themselves to cultivate it, it would only end up being their loss.

Even if one was a gifted, dual resonance cultivator, they might not be totally compatible with this art either. It only possessed affinity with a rare seedling like Li Luo, who had triple resonances with primary and secondary affinities.

"I'll be sure not to disgrace this secret art created by our ancestor," Li Luo said solemnly.

Li Jingzhe nodded and replied, "There are only a few more days before the Dragon's Head competition. If you can get the Dragon's Head, we should be able to obtain the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus as well. However, even if you fail to do so, I'll still think of other ways to get it." He had spoken with a light tone, trying not to add any pressure onto Li Luo.

Li Luo was touched to hear this. He knew that if the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus fell into the hands of other lineages, especially the Dragon's Blood Lineage, Li Jingzhe would have to pay a really heavy price to get it back.

The love of a grandfather was truly infinite and all-encompassing.

Li Luo sighed. For the first time, he felt like his dad was not so useless after all. He had suffered in the past so that he, the son, could savor the sweet fruits of his work. "Don't worry, Grandpa. I'll not let the other Lineage Chiefs get the chance to rip you off for it." Li Luo felt that he needed to work harder after Li Jingzhe had treated him so kindly.

Li Jingzhe nodded in response as he said, "Now that you've finished your cultivation, let's prepare to help with Ox Biaobiao's recuperation tomorrow. I have already prepared everything."

Hearing this, Li Luo's face turned serious as he asked, "Uncle Biao's injury was due to my parents. Now that they aren't around, I'll thank you first on their behalf."

Li Jingzhe smiled warmly as he replied, "It's fine, we're family after all. I will treat Ox Biaobiao like how they would have treated him. Besides, it's time for the four banners to elect a head now that the Dragon's Head competition is coming up. Jingtao is mild-natured and does not like to compete with

others. Fengyi's strength and standing are still lacking by a bit. Originally, Deng Fengxian would have been the best candidate. However, it's hard to say now that you're here."

At this moment, Li Jingzhe stared at Li Luo and continued, "Ultimately, the four banners will need a leader when discussing matters with others in public."

Li Luo remained quiet after hearing this. It was true that the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage had not been able to elect a head yet. Meanwhile, the other four lineages had already done so. For example, Li Qingfeng was the head for the four banners of the Dragon's Blood Lineage, so everyone else would listen to his orders.

But in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, Li Fengyi had always argued and stood against Deng Fengxian. Given her special background, she must have given him a lot of headaches over it too.

This had gone on for a while before Li Luo appeared.

In other words, Li Jingzhe was telling him to become the head of the four banners. This would raise his standing in the Dragon's Fang Lineage and prepare him to enter the Green Nether Hall in the future.

Li Luo had no objections to this. Besides, Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao would surely be supportive of him in the four banners currently. The only question left was Deng Fengxian. Without a doubt, he was an extremely capable talent as well. Although he had cooperated with Li Luo during the trip to the Dark Domain, mere words would not be enough to convince him.

In that case...

Li Luo looked at the blue sword intent coming out from his fingertips.

He would need to solve these internal problems before the competition for the Dragon's Head.

Chapter 0898: Two Choices

On the next day, the fully recovered Li Luo headed back up onto Dragon's Fang Mountain.

That was where he met up with Ox Biaobiao. There was a hint of anxiety beneath the middle-aged man's usually fierce and stern face. Although he rarely mentioned his injury, it had been a source of worry for him for many years.

This was especially true after he had returned to the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. His rivals had all progressed tremendously during this period of time. On the other hand, he had weakened. Without a doubt, he was filled with complex feelings.

"Uncle Biao, you'll be able to regain your strength after today. The renowned Ox Biaobiao from the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent will be back!" Li Luo said with a laugh.

Hearing this, Ox Biaobiao replied with a bitter smile. "How could I have such a reputation?"

In the past, he could win against first-grade or second-grade Dukes back in the Xia Kingdom. However, the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent was different. Filled with all kinds of talents, he might be able to hold his ground once he regained his original strength, but he was nowhere near being almighty.

"There's no need to be humble, Uncle Biao. I can see the makings of a potential King," Li Luo replied seriously.

"Let's hope your kind words come true, then." Ox Biaobiao could not help but laugh in response. In the next moment, he noticed Li Jingzhe walking towards them from afar. The space twisted momentarily, then he appeared right in front of them in a few steps.

"Let's go," Li Jingzhe said. He did not say more before he walked down another mountain path.

The two of them followed behind him closely.

A few minutes later, the three of them entered a grand hall constructed next to the mountain. Inside the hall was a huge cauldron furnace that was about a hundred meters long. It was engraved with multiple mysterious patterns. The worldly natural energy around it was stimulated and poured into it endlessly.

As Li Jingzhe stared at the cauldron, he stood with his hands behind his back and asked, "Ox Biaobiao, I have two methods to repair your Duke Bergfrieds. Which one will you choose?"

Ox Biaobiao looked back at him strangely and asked, "What's the difference between these two methods?"

With a slight smile, Li Jingzhe replied, "The first method is to rebuild your foundation normally. This is a relatively safe method and the chance of success is approximately ninety percent. However, you have not cultivated in recent years, so you'll likely be weaker by one to two grades after all is said and done."

Ox Biaobiao's expression did not change at all after hearing this. Clearly, this was within his expectations as well. He used to be a sixth-grade Duke, so falling by one or two grades would make him a fourth-grade or fifth-grade. This was an acceptable result for him. After all, it was much better than having his Duke Bergfrieds destroyed and his actual strength being below that of a first-grade Duke. This seemed like a minor cost.

"In that case, what is the second method, Lineage Chief?" Ox Biaobiao asked. He did not make his decision immediately. Given Li Jingzhe's status, offering a second choice meant that there was something really special in store.

At this point, Li Jingzhe slowly explained, "The second method is an extremely dangerous one. The chance of success is under fifty percent. We'll go for a complete destruction and reconstruction of your Duke Bergfrieds. I will not repair your Duke Bergfrieds at all. Instead, I will completely destroy them and then reconstruct them using a secret art. If it's successful, you'll not only regain your original full strength but also have a chance to break through as a seventh-grade Duke."

Ox Biaobiao was moved by this immediately. The second choice was truly mind-boggling. Not only would he not experience a drop in power, but he could even experience a breakthrough?

At the same moment, Li Luo asked, "Grandpa, what if the second method fails?"

Li Jingzhe calmly responded, "What else could possibly be the result? His original Duke Bergfrieds would be gone, so he would lose his foundation and fall out of the Duke Stage if we're unable to reconstruct them. And it would probably be impossible to break through ever again."

Li Luo gasped when he heard this. This seemed a little too cruel. It was like making an all-in bet with one's own future.

Although the fruits of success were really tempting, the failure... was truly terrifying. This was simply a gamble.

And it was such a high stake that Li Luo did not even comment any further. He simply looked at Ox Biaobiao.

At this moment, Ox Biaobiao's face had turned solemn. This was the first time that signs of hesitation had appeared on his face. It was inevitable. After all, the trade-off was too great.

The first choice was safe. He could likely get his Duke Bergfrieds repaired, although there would be a decline in his power. However, he would still be a Duke. He also understood that his injuries were really dire, resulting in his cultivation remaining stagnant for years. It would be extremely challenging for him to become a sixth-grade Duke again, even if the operation was successful, and progressing further would essentially be impossible.

On the other hand, the second choice was extremely risky. The price to pay for failure was extremely large. However, if it was successful, his foundation would not only be restored, but he would even have a chance to make up for all the years that he had lost.

Although it was just a sixth-grade Duke moving to the seventh-grade, he understood that many Dukes could be stuck in a grade for what seemed like forever. An extremely large amount of cultivation resources was required in order for a Duke to move up just one grade.

Ox Biaobiao understood that Li Jingzhe had given him these two choices for him to decide his future. Would he want to play it safe here or would he want to take a gamble for a chance to pursue even greater heights in the future? For a moment, the grand hall fell into extreme silence. Li Luo and Li Jingzhe did not speak any further. There was only Ox Biaobiao's heavy breathing.

However, the silence was short-lived. Ox Biaobiao took a deep breath and he answered Li Jingzhe politely, "Lineage Chief, I would like to proceed with the second choice."

Li Luo's breathing nearly stopped at this point. His heart was trembling, but he was not too surprised. Based on his understanding of Ox Biaobiao, he was an aggressive person and not the type who would live a life of mediocrity. If he had no hope to improve in the future, that life would be worse than death for someone like Ox Biaobiao.

As such, he would definitely take the gamble rather than live on as just a fourth-grade Duke for his remaining life.

"Uncle Biao..." Li Luo sighed. As expected from a friend of his parents, it was clear that Ox Biaobiao had exceptional mental fortitude.

On the other hand, Li Jingzhe simply smiled as he looked at Ox Biaobiao with some admiration in his eyes. "You are a courageous man. Not everyone would dare to go for such a gamble when faced with these two choices."

"Thank you, Lineage Chief... However, the second method... isn't so simple, right?" Ox Biaobiao asked.

Ultimately, Ox Biaobiao was someone who had seen a lot in this world too. He had already learned of the first method previously. However, he had never heard of the second method that Li Jingzhe had just shared. Not only was it risky, the difficulty of the second method was surely many times greater than the first method. In other words, it was out of kindness that Li Jingzhe had offered him this second choice.

"The second method would require a King's personal assistance. Moreover, it requires multiple secret treasures. There aren't many powers in this Heavenly Origin Divine Continent that can do this," Li Jingzhe told him honestly. He did not hide any details as it was best for the both of them to know the price that would have to be paid for this choice.

Furthermore, he knew that Li Luo wanted Ox Biaobiao to stay in the Green Nether Hall. With such a great debt of gratitude from him, Ox Biaobiao would surely stay around even after his injuries had fully recovered.

Ox Biaobiao nodded before he put his hands together to thank Li Jingzhe politely again.

"Let's get started, then."

Li Jingzhe did not waste any more time with words. He pointed towards the huge cauldron furnace, saying, "You just need to get inside, I'll handle the rest."

Ox Biaobiao nodded in response. He gave Li Luo a smile before he turned around and flew straight into the cauldron furnace through a tiny opening. He sat down in the lotus position in the center of it.

Seeing this, Li Jingzhe opened his mouth slightly, and a dark-golden spark flew out. It soared directly into the cauldron, then it expanded and transformed into a raging fire storm, burning the cauldron ferociously. At the same time, he waved his sleeve, and hundreds of light rays flew out from the pocket sphere on his wrist. They hovered in mid-air and glowed brightly with a majestic aura.

With just one look, Li Luo could tell that these light rays were all extraordinarily rare materials. He knew in his heart that Li Jingzhe had spared no expense to help Ox Biaobiao repair his foundation.

"This will take quite a while. There is no need for you to hang around here and wait, you may go and do whatever you need to," Li Jingzhe said to Li Luo.

"Alright. Thank you, Grandpa," Li Luo said with a nod.

After taking another glance at the cauldron furnace, he turned around and left.

Now that Ox Biaobiao's matter had been settled, it was time for him to make a trip down to the four banners. The head of the Dragon's Fang Lineage's four banners had to be decided before the Dragon's Head competition.

Chapter 0899: Head of the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Four Banners

After leaving the grand hall, Li Luo headed straight for Fiendish Devil Peak.

When he arrived, he saw that the four banners were already congregating around the field before the Fiendish Devil Cave, and things were bustling with activity.

The aura around the four banners was starkly different from half a year ago.

In the past, the Gold Light Banner possessed the most vigorous morale. Its members were also proud and had undamped spirits that were unrivaled by the rest. The Green Nether Banner, on the other hand, was the least impressive; they would disperse into the crowd during gatherings, much like a pile of loose sand.

However, the Green Nether Banner was now the most enthusiastic one of the lot with a vigor that far surpassed the rest.

The members were now brimming with confidence and their morale was flourishing. Even their voices carried excitement and energy.

This was only natural. They had obtained an exceptional Banner Leader and elevated their declining position into one that was firmly entrenched within the top few ranks in the short span of half a year.

In a way, they were still the same as before—there had been no huge changes among the people within the banner. The key difference was just the new Banner Leader.

They had even managed to surpass the Gold Light Banner in terms of layers conquered in the Fiendish Devil Cave, landing them in the top five. This transformation was all because of Li Luo.

He had catalyzed a qualitative change within them, and his prestige and status within the banner was at a peak. No one would doubt his words—everyone would obey him without question.

The Gold Light Banner nearby glanced at the raucous Green Nether Banner with complicated expressions. Although they were dissatisfied at their relative decline, they had to reluctantly accept the surprising results brought about by Li Luo.

Most importantly, Li Luo was only at the Fiend Palace Tier when he first joined. However, he had now reached completion in the Glass Fiend Body Tier, and the gap between him and the rest of the strongest Banner Leaders had shrunk significantly.

Additionally, no one, including the likes of Li Qingfeng, Lu Qingmei, and Deng Fengxian, knew exactly how large the gap was now.

However, the answer to this question would finally be known today.

They had all received the news that the gathering of the four banners today would lead to a new leader amongst them. This was all in preparation for the Battle of the Dragon's Head.

This was a very normal occurrence. The four banners of each lineage required an overall representative that would help maintain the harmony amongst the troops, or to unite their hearts against a common foe.

In the past, the Gold Light Banner felt that Deng Fengxian was naturally suited for the task. Although Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao held special positions by virtue of their fathers, Deng Fengxian was on top when it came to both influence and strength.

That was, of course, before the black horse Li Luo had appeared. His presence threw everything into flux.

Even the members of the Gold Light Banner would not dare to declare that Deng Fengxian would be the best representative without seeing the results of a battle between them.

This caused the members to feel complicated. Six months ago, they would never have believed that an individual raised in an outer divine continent would work his way up to challenge Deng Fengxian. As the thoughts of the countless banner members continued to churn, Li Luo arrived. At the same time, a commotion burst out from within the middle of the field as numerous gazes shot towards him.

"Banner Leader!" The members of the Green Nether Banner immediately saluted him with booming voices that caused the nearby wildlife to fly away in fear.

Li Luo grinned and waved his hand, indicating for them to be at ease as he walked towards the field. He was the last to arrive, and the other Banner Leaders were already in the stone pavilion shrouded in greenery.

At the front of the Green Nether Banner stood Zhao Yanzhi, whose beautiful gaze was affixed upon Li Luo. A sweet smile surfaced on her face. "It looks like we are going to be treated to a great show today."

Li Shi replied, "Li Jingtao actually has the strength to contest for the position of leader. He is so adept at defense that even Deng Fengxian's Gilded Armor Spirit Blade is unable to triumph over him. Alas, his personality is genial and he dislikes conflict. He would take the initiative to surrender if he could. Li Fengyi, on the other hand, is simply too weak compared to Deng Fengxian. In the end, it's all up to the Boss."

"Can the Boss beat Deng Fengxian? This fight does not allow him to tap upon Harmony and we cannot assist him. Additionally, I understand that Deng Fengxian has been cultivating fervently for months and has become significantly stronger. With his personality, he would not hold back in this battle," Mu Bi asked worriedly.

Zhao Yanzhi smiled. "No matter what the white-dressed gilded-armor fellow tries to do, he will be left ragged and tattered if he dares to clash against our Banner Leader."

Mu Bi sighed helplessly. He was simply trying to be logical, yet he was met with an irrational response. They might as well not have spoken. Still, what else could he do? The beauty would simply have her way.

Li Shi grinned. "Most people feel that the only reason the Boss has had so much success is because of Harmony. However, I feel that the truth is the opposite. The state of Harmony has covered up how truly frightening he is. Perhaps during the Battle of the Dragon's Head, the other lineages will truly experience the kind of amazing talent the Boss possesses for themselves, despite coming from an outer divine continent."

Mu Bi scratched his head. Wait... this seemed like even more exaggerated bragging than before!

Meanwhile, Li Luo had made his way to the stone pavilion. He greeted the trio with a smile. "My apologies, I'm late."

His eyes swept over Li Jingtao, Li Fengyi, and then paused briefly on Deng Fengxian. They had not met for half a month, and his strength seemed to have soared. The resonant power around him had become even more dense.

"Banner Leader Deng Fengxian, you have improved yet again," Li Luo stated.

Deng Fengxian coolly replied, "One cannot simply languish in their current position. Otherwise, I would very quickly be overtaken by you, Banner Leader Li Luo."

Li Luo smiled and had a quick chat with the other three before turning to the topic on everyone's minds. "I think you all understand why I've gathered you all today. The Battle of the Dragon's Head is at hand and the four banners of our Dragon's Fang Lineage have to select an overall representative. Otherwise, the other four lineages will only gossip that we are leaderless. I wonder, do the three of you have any opinions on this?"

Li Jingtao simply yawned and beamed at him. "Nope."

"We will naturally have to battle. The winner will be the leader. How else can we convince the masses?" Deng Fengxian calmly replied.

BANG!

Li Fengyi slammed her palm against the table as she glared at Deng Fengxian with an icy smile. "What you say is right. Only after a battle can we decide things fairly. How about this? You'll challenge Li Jingtao first. Then I'll take you on for a second round. Li Luo will finally challenge you at the end. If you can emerge victorious, you will be the one to represent the Dragon's Fang Lineage!"

The corners of Deng Fengxian's lips twitched a little upon hearing those words.

Why not just get the three of them to team up against him? What was this crap about three battles!?

Deng Fengxian couldn't help but to blurt out, "Banner Leader Li Fengyi, that doesn't seem very reasonable."

"Huh? Are you saying that I'm unreasonable? That I'm illogical?" Li Fengyi glared dangerously at Deng Fengxian, and the sound of her teeth gritting could be heard. Li Luo facepalmed. If she wasn't his Second Sister... he'd actually be inclined to agree with him.

Deng Fengxian did not reply as he was uninterested in bickering with her. He simply could not win in a battle of tongues. He turned towards Li Luo and Li Jingtao, the former in deep thought whilst the other was laughing foolishly.

He felt a little helpless and almost wanted to curse in frustration. "So, do you want to battle or not?"

"Hehe, anything works for me." Li Jingtao smiled.

Seeing that Deng Fengxian was about to leave in anger, Li Luo gave a wry smile. "Let's follow the rules. Otherwise, others may not be convinced."

"Ah, you guys can go ahead. I didn't sleep very well yesterday and I feel a little weak today..." Li Jingtao scratched his head whilst ruffling his hair, a shameless and self-mocking expression on his face.

His answer was not out of anyone's expectations. Deng Fengxian's gaze turned sharp and a hint of fervor could be seen within his eyes as he turned towards Li Luo. "Banner Leader Li Luo, I suppose you won't let me take this position so easily, would you?"

Li Luo faced his piercing gaze with his own wry smirk.

"I suppose I'll have to experience Banner Leader Deng Fengxian's Gilded Armor Spirit Blade for myself today."

Chapter 0900: Pseudo Duke Art

The banner members gathered around the field before the Fiendish Devil Cave as Li Luo and Deng Fengxian prepared for the showdown. The place was bustling with cheers and chatter, mainly coming from the Green Nether Banner and the Gold Light Banner cheering for their respective Banner Leaders.

They understood that today's battle would ultimately decide who would be the real head of the Dragon's Fang Lineage's four banners.

The winner would be able to command the four banners under certain special circumstances, and the other three Banner Leaders would have to obey.

At this point, the members of the other two banners were mainly present to watch the fight. Their eyes were filled with mixed emotions as they sighed and looked at Li Luo. Just half a year ago, they would have laughed out loud if anyone had told them that the Third Young Master who had just returned from the outer divine continent would be contesting for the position of leading the Dragon's Fang Lineage's four banners.

Li Luo was merely at the Fiend Palace Tier back then. He was barely on par with the elite banner members, let alone a Banner Leader.

However, none of them had expected the Third Young Master to experience such amazing growth in the past six months. Although he was only at the Fiend Palace Tier, he had not only earned the Banner Leader position in the Green Nether Banner, he had also obtained the Golden Dragon Pillar during the Dragon Pool's battle. It was a real surprise for everyone. Now, he was about to compete with Deng Fengxian, the presumed leader all this while, to be the head of the four banners.

The insane speed of his progress had totally changed everyone's views of him. They would no longer belittle this guy who had wasted so much time in the remote outer divine continent since birth. Clearly, his talent was exceptional.

He had lived up to the expectation of being the son of the Third Master.

Back in the field, Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao had gone off to the side to spectate the match.

"Deng Fengxian has recently bought significant amounts of spirit materials in order to refine his Fiend Dipper Energy. He has nearly used up all his allocated resources for this year. I believe he has accumulated at least nine hundred feet of Fiend Dipper Energy by now," Li Fengyi said with a little frown as she turned her eyes towards Deng Fengxian. She could feel an extremely sharp energy faintly emanating from his body.

Nine hundred feet of Fiend Dipper Energy was considered top-class within the Fiend Finisher Tier. Among the Twenty Banners, only people like Li Qingfeng and Lu Qingmei had obtained this level of cultivation.

Under normal circumstances, such an amount of Fiend Dipper Energy would be enough to enter the Heavenly Pearl Stage already.

Hearing her remarks, Li Jingtao replied with a smile, "Although Third Brother is slightly lacking in terms of cultivation, he has always ascended each stage steadily. The Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Tier was something that not even Li Qingfeng could acquire."

"Although the Tri-Radiance Glass Fiend Tier is strong, there is still a huge gap in their cultivation levels. Third Brother may not have enough power to fend off the Gilded Armor Spirit Blade," Li Fengyi responded with some worry. After all, Deng Fengxian was not your common fellow either. Li Fengyi had always been defeated by him in their numerous clashes in the past. No matter how unwilling she was, she had to admit that he was indeed a strong fighter.

Without a prestigious background like them, he had fought his way up one step at a time in the Gold Light Banner. And his achievements had been nothing short of spectacular.

If not for the sudden appearance of a dark horse like Li Luo, the position of the leader of the four banners would inevitably belong to him.

"Didn't I tell you to challenge him to start? At the very least, your turtle shell art would be able to fend off his Gilded Armor Spirit Blade," Li Fengyi lamented.

Hearing this, Li Jingtao simply shook his head. He responded with a laugh, "I am afraid Third Brother does not want to obtain the position using such methods. He won't be able to win the people's hearts with such an act."

"All you stupid guys care about is face," Li Fengyi replied with a pout. However, she did not continue with this topic any longer. As the two of them were chatting, two enormous blasts of resonant power surged up in the field like a wild storm. An explosive ringing sound erupted in the air.

In the next moment, golden resonant power circulated around Deng Fengxian. A giant beast with dragon claws appeared faintly behind him, and everyone's attention was drawn to its unusually bright, golden horn.

This was the upper eighth-grade Golden Horned Dragon Beast resonance.

It belonged to the family of dragon resonances. Initially, Deng Fengxian's resonance was only a lower eighth-grade. However, all these years of cultivation and the use of spirit liquids and purifying lights had paid off. It had finally transformed into an upper eighth-grade now.

This perfectly matched his Gilded Armor Spirit Blade, making it an incredibly terrifying skill.

Wave after wave of immensely strong resonant power pulsed out of Deng Fengxian's body. All the spectators could sense the extremely huge pressure coming from him.

"Banner Leader Li Luo, I would probably not be your match if we were at the same tier. Therefore, please do not blame me for taking advantage of my higher cultivation level," Deng Fengxian calmly said. Since he was at a higher tier, his resonant power was naturally stronger. This was like a hard limit on how strong one's resonant power could grow.

"Being at a higher tier is testament to your own ability," Li Luo replied with a smile.

Although Li Luo was still at the Fiend Body Tier, he had three resonant palaces that could complement each other. Furthermore, he had the power of dual resonances with him. With this, his current resonant power could be said to rival even that of a Fiend Finisher. Therefore, there was no need to worry too much about the immense resonant power coming from Deng Fengxian.

Deng Fengxian nodded slightly in response as he continued staring at Li Luo. He raised his palms, and bright, golden resonant power started consolidating. In the next moment, it took the shape of a small, golden knife.

There was an unparalleled sharpness surrounding the knife, and the space around it started to show signs of getting sliced.

All the spectators froze as soon as they saw this. They knew that Deng Fengxian had no plans to drag this battle out. He had decided to use his strongest skill right off the bat.

Duke Art, Gilded Armor Spirit Blade.

When he saw the blade materialize, Li Luo's eyes turned serious too. If he was not careful around it, he might very well have a hole torn through his body.

Obviously, he was not going to give his opponent such a chance.

In the next moment, the resonant power within Li Luo's body started to move really quickly. He formed his hand seals rapidly, and his water resonance and lightning resonance power surged outwards.

BOOM!

The worldly natural energy around him started to shudder violently. Dark clouds with traces of lightning appeared above them moments later, then rain started falling down. There seemed to be a faint spark of lightning hidden within each drop of rain.

Pseudo Duke Art, Thunderstorm. This was one of the resonance arts that Li Luo had mastered thanks to the Heart of the Enlightened Lake state.

In an instant, the thunder clouds covered up the whole field. When the curious banner members reached out their hands, they could sense a piercing and numbing sensation as soon as they touched the drops of rain.

"Is this a Duke Art? But it seemed kind of weak, no?"

"This is a special art that has the effects of slowing down your opponents and controlling the battlefield. It's a smart move by Banner Leader Li Luo. We all know how fast and deadly Banner Leader Deng Fengxian's Gilded Armor Spirit Blade is. With this thunderstorm, he will be able to slow down the blade and weaken its offense slightly."

Deng Fengxian wasted no time. The golden resonant power around him began moving and transformed into a light sphere before expanding across the thunderstorm too.

"Is this some kind of Pseudo Duke Art?" he whispered to himself as his eyes lit up.

If Li Luo expected his Gilded Armor Spirit Blade to be stopped so easily, he was truly underestimating him.

He was sure that Li Luo had other plans hidden up his sleeve.

However, it did not matter.

Deng Fengxian raised his palm up, and the Gilded Armor Spirit Blade materialized completely. With a calm and composed look, he flicked his finger outwards.

Weng!

A ringing sound echoed in the air. In the next moment, everyone could see a flash of golden light tearing through the curtain of rain. The countless raindrops filled with lightning exploded into nothingness as the terrifyingly sharp, golden light zipped across.

For a moment, it seemed like the heavens and earth had been torn apart by the golden light.

Its speed was unbelievably fast.

Li Luo formed another hand seal with a single hand, and lightning flashed around his body. In the next moment, his body launched backwards with the roaring of thunder.

Pseudo Duke Art, Thunder Flash.

This was a resonance art that combined the power of a lightning resonance and a light resonance. It allowed him to move much faster than when he used the Thunderbolt Art.

Once again, the spectators were amazed when they saw his quick reaction. Even Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao were surprised to see this.

"Little Brother, I've never seen you use this skill before," Li Fengyi shouted with some doubts.

Although a Pseudo Duke Art was not a Duke Art, it was still much harder to cultivate than a Dragon-general resonance art. As such, it was really strange to see Li Luo using two new ones just like this.

Li Jingtao laughed and said, "I heard from Father that Third Brother spent a month training with the Respected Elder. This should be the result of his hard work.

"However, only someone like him, a triple resonance cultivator who has attained the third realm of the dual resonance power, could have mastered all of these arts. Others would be better off concentrating on cultivating one Duke Art rather than learning these arts that are all over the place."

Hearing this, Li Fengyi nodded in agreement. Such messy methods were really only suitable for someone like Li Luo. However, there was water, lightning, and light resonance power in the two Pseudo Duke Arts that he had just used. This seemed kind of different from his triple resonances. Was this due to the help of some special item?

As the two of them were chatting about it, Li Luo retreated rapidly and increased his distance from the blade. His face remained calm and composed under the thunderstorm.

In the same moment, his hands started moving as he prepared to use another Pseudo Duke Art.

A vibrant, green light flew out of Li Luo's hands and landed on the ground. In the next moment, the ground quaked violently, and a giant tree started growing out from that spot. Numerous thick and strong branches entwined with each other.

After a few moments, an emerald-dragon emerged. It let out a low roar as its immense resonant power filled the air. With a smack of its claw, it tore through the void and slammed down on the Gilded Armor Spirit Blade heavily. Pseudo Duke Art, Emerald Dragon Ent.