

Resonance 931

Chapter 0931: Secret

"Jiang Wanyu from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College."

Li Luo stared at this line with interest. He used to be from the Astral Sage College, and thus he was particularly interested in the ancient college participants.

Jiang Wanyu was from the Three Star Hall of the ancient college. Not only that, she was also at the two-pearl tier. This was much stronger than the Three Star Hall of the Astral Sage College, exceeding it by more than a whole tier. Clearly, the quality of the students in the ancient college was much higher and the foundation of the college was much stronger.

"Eighth-grade wind and fire dual resonances," Li Luo whispered to himself. This combination was surely stronger than a pseudo ninth-grade. With the power of dual resonances working together, it could even be considered a lower ninth-grade.

As such, Li Luo's eyes paused for a moment when he came across Jiang Wanyu's name. Shortly later, he continued reading down the list. There were many more noteworthy individuals, including Li Qingfeng.

Apart from the four Heavenly Emperor bloodlines and the Heavenly Origin Ancient College, there were also a few individuals of exceptional quality from the other powers. Although the foundation of these powers were weaker than that of the Heavenly Emperor powers, they were still a ways ahead compared to the Xia Kingdom. What was deemed as trash here would still be considered a king there. Just this point alone was enough to show how much of a difference there was when it came to the inner divine continent.

It was no wonder why people like Li Hongli would look down on those from the outer divine continent. With such a huge disparity seen here, it was not surprising that she viewed it as a barren wasteland.

Li Luo spent a considerable amount of time reading before he finally placed the scroll aside and sighed. "This is truly a list of the best amongst the best. What lies ahead will definitely be a grand event."

Li Jingzhe, who had lowered his head and was chopping away at bamboo shoots, casually responded, "These are just the extraordinary ones from your generation. I am afraid you and your peers don't even qualify to be the true protagonists of the Spiritual Resonance Cave."

Hearing this, Li Luo laughed and nodded in agreement. Indeed, even the top elites of their generation, such as Qin Yi, were only at the two-pearl tier. Elites from the previous generation would be entering the Spiritual Resonance Cave as well. Those individuals were generally above the five-pearl tier. In terms of battle strength, they held the upper hand.

"Seems like I'll have to stick close to Cousin Lingjing after we enter the Spiritual Resonance Cave," Li Luo joked.

Currently, Li Lingjing's battle strength was gradually being restored. Based on his estimates, she should be close to the elites from the Dragon's Fang Guardians.

"The Spiritual Resonance Cave is an absolutely precious opportunity. Treasures that can increase one's resonance grade are priceless. I believe the individual who created this secret realm was truly

extraordinary. At the very least... there are no Heavenly Emperors within the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent now that can replicate it," Li Jingzhe said.

"Even the Heavenly Emperors aren't able to? Just how unimaginable was the creator of the Spiritual Resonance Cave?" Li Luo asked in surprise.

Li Jingzhe pondered for a moment. "We've spent time investigating it over the years. However, the cave is guarded by a strange and mysterious ward. If a power stronger than it tries to infiltrate, it may cause the entire cave to self-destruct. This would irreversibly destroy the secret realm, bringing us more losses than gains. As such, we did not attempt to force our way through. However... we did discover something over the long years."

He paused for a moment and he turned to look at Li Luo. Slowly, he continued, "The Spiritual Resonance Cave is likely related to the strongest ancient sect in recorded history: the Sacred Void Resonance Sect."

Li Luo looked at him blankly when those four words reached his ears. His eyes lit up.

Sacred Void Resonance Sect?

That was where the Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art was from! In fact, he had another objective when he came to the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. He wanted to find the Greater Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art, which would determine his path forward once he entered the Duke Stage in the future. This connection to the Sacred Void Resonance Sect was unexpected.

"It seems like your parents have told you about the Sacred Void Resonance Sect," Li Jingzhe commented as he sensed the changes in Li Luo. However, he was not too surprised.

"My parents entered the ruins of the Sacred Void Resonance Sect, right?" Li Luo asked.

Li Jingzhe nodded before he continued, "When they first discovered the ruins, no one knew what it was. No one had imagined it to be ruins left behind by the Sacred Void Resonance Sect. They could be considered the first individuals to have entered the place.

"When the news spread later on, it caused a huge uproar within the continent. Even the other Heavenly Emperor powers set their eyes on it. After all, the Sacred Void Resonance Sect was really renowned."

"Where are the ruins now? Is it still open?" Li Luo asked nervously. If he wanted any clues about the Greater Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art, he would probably have to look for it there.

Li Jingzhe calmly explained, "Ancient ruins like that have their own set of rules and space. It's protected by a similarly extraordinary ward that even Kings are unable to force their way through. Your parents were lucky to find their way into it first. Afterwards, the ruins seem to have vanished from the world without a trace and have not resurfaced after so many years. However, I believe it'll appear again one day. This is something that all the Heavenly Emperor powers are lying in wait for. The day the ruins resurface, they will inevitably head in and explore. After all, the Sacred Void Resonance Sect was illustrious and had a prominent reputation. The treasures they left behind are sure to be tantalizing, even for Heavenly Emperor powers like us."

Hearing this, Li Luo felt a little disappointed. However, the feeling was coupled with relief. Disappointed because he could not tell when the ruins of the Sacred Void Resonance Sect would reappear. Relieved as

no one else had entered it thus far. In that case, the Greater Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art that he wanted would surely still be waiting for him.

There was no need to rush things through. After all, he was not a Duke yet, so getting his hands on the Greater Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art was not an urgent matter yet.

"Over the years, the various forces have focused on the Spiritual Resonance Cave partly because they wanted to probe for an opportunity to find the Sacred Void Resonance Sect. However, there hasn't been much progress," Li Jingzhe explained frankly. At this point, he finished slicing up the fresh bamboo shoots. After a quick wash with fresh spring water on the side, he continued, "Speaking of which, the Spiritual Resonance Cave contains many treasures that can increase your resonance grade. Amongst them, there is one that reigns supreme amongst the rest. If you have the chance, you should definitely do your best to obtain one."

Hearing this, Li Luo asked curiously, "Just what could be so amazing?"

"The Origin Enlightenment Fruit," Li Jingzhe replied.

Li Luo repeated the words to himself with a face full of confusion. He had never heard of it before.

"It's normal that you've never heard of it. Such a precious treasure is extremely rare even in the inner divine continent. You may only be able to find traces of it in the Nobles' Battlefield," Li Jingzhe said.

"What can it do?" Li Luo asked curiously.

Li Jingzhe thought about it for a moment before he responded, "Have you heard of the Resonance Origin?"

Li Luo frowned and said, "I have heard of it previously. It's something that only those in the Heavenly Resonance Tier get into contact with, right?"

Li Jingzhe nodded. "Comprehending one's Resonance Origin is akin to getting a deeper understanding of one's own resonance. Ordinarily speaking, this is something that only those who have reached the Heavenly Resonance Tier can achieve. This is an essential step before anyone can become a Duke. In other words, if you cannot comprehend your Resonance Origin, you'll never be able to forge your Duke Bergfrieds.

"This is the preliminary step to becoming a Duke!"

Li Luo felt taken aback for a moment. If he could not forge Duke Bergfrieds, he would naturally be unable to become a Duke. Who would have thought that comprehending one's Resonance Origin would be so important?

"Anyone who has comprehended their Resonance Origin will achieve an evolution in their resonant power. This is an extremely rare opportunity. After all, it will determine whether you can become a Duke in the future."

At this moment, Li Jingzhe looked at Li Luo with a serious expression and reminded him, "If you hear about one in the Spiritual Resonance Cave, remember to fight for this item."

Li Luo kept quiet but nodded in agreement.

This was an opportunity that he had to acquire by hook or by crook if he came across it.

Chapter 0932: Li Fuling

In the days leading up to the opening of the Spiritual Resonance Cave, Li Luo spent all his time and effort on the Fiendish Devil Cave expedition. After all, it was a wonderful training ground. Not only was the Green Nether Banner improving at the same time, he could also elevate their ranking in one of the best training spots available to the Twenty Banners. His goal was to strengthen himself rapidly before heading out to the Spiritual Resonance Cave. After all, his competitors would be as high as the Heavenly Resonance Tier. And there would surely be countless elites from the previous generation that had spent a much longer time in the Heavenly Pearl Tier than youngsters like himself and Li Qingfeng. Calling them challenging opponents would be an understatement.

Besides, the Respected Elder had shared with him how important the Spiritual Resonance Cave was. If he wanted to grab onto this opportunity, he would need to boost his combat capabilities considerably.

As such, Li Luo was determined to maximize his opportunities in the Fiendish Devil Cave before anything else.

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On the Fiendish Devil Peak of the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range.

Many banner members were gathered in circles in the field before the Fiendish Devil Cave, chatting amongst themselves. Their eyes were fixated on a screen on the wall of the mountain.

They stared at the top spot on the rankings.

In first place were two names.

Green Nether Banner. Gold Blood Banner.

It was not a common sight to see two banners tied, even in the past. More importantly, the banner members around the field knew that this stalemate would likely come to an end today.

Li Luo had led the Green Nether Banner into the Fiendish Devil Cave just an hour ago. Looking at his air of confidence, he was surely planning to conquer the sixty-third layer in one go.

If he succeeded, the Green Nether Banner would become the first one to clear layer sixty-three. They would then wrench the position of first from the Gold Light Banner and stand alone at the top!

As such, the banner members of the other three banners were not interested in their own Fiendish Devil Cave expeditions at this point in time. They waited anxiously for the result. After all, the Green Nether Banner belonged to the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Their lineage had been held down by the Gold Blood Banner all this while, so if they could emerge on top, it would signify a huge comeback for the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

Sitting in the stone pavilion on the side of the field, Li Jingtao and Deng Fengxian watched the screen without batting an eyelid.

"I heard that Li Qingfeng is leading his Gold Blood Banner to conquer layer sixty-three as well. He must be trying to stop the Green Nether Banner," Deng Fengxian commented.

With a smile, Li Jingtao replied, "It looks like the other banners are not entering the cave either. They're all planning to watch the show."

Deng Fengxian nodded in confirmation. Li Qingfeng was clearly unhappy that Li Luo had become the Dragon's Head. He would surely try his best to keep the top spot in the Fiendish Devil Cave to himself and prevent an overwhelming defeat in all aspects by Li Luo.

"Layer sixty-three is not an easy one. There is a huge number of Fiendish Devils running around. On top of that, the strength of the Fiendish Devil Leader is close to that of a third-grade Duke. Although it's not a real third-grade Duke, it's still way stronger than the previous Fiendish Devil Leader," Deng Fengxian said.

"I think Banner Leader Li Luo may be acting a little too hastily. He can always wait until the Spiritual Resonance Cave is over before he attempts layer sixty-three. That would make it a lot easier."

Hearing this, Li Jingtao nodded in agreement. "That is the conservative way. However, Third Brother wanted to clear layer sixty-three before the Spiritual Resonance Cave not because he wanted to bring down Li Qingfeng. I think what he truly wants is the rewards from that layer."

Deng Fengxian was stunned to hear this. "The Pill of Enlightenment?" he asked.

The reward for clearing layer sixty-three was an extremely rare pill known as the Pill of Enlightenment. If used during one's cultivation of resonance arts, it would allow one to have an easier time understanding and comprehending a particular art.

"Third Brother must be making his preparations for the Spiritual Resonance Cave," Li Jingtao said.

Deng Fengxian nodded. This had to be the reason. After all, he understood that the Spiritual Resonance Cave would draw in numerous talents across the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. Although Li Luo had become the Dragon's Head, it would not give him much of an edge in front of all the other elites.

"Oh, right, where is Banner Leader Li Fengyi?" He turned around and scanned the surroundings. There was no trace of Li Fengyi at all.

"She went to receive the visitors from the Dragon's Fang Guardians," Li Jingtao told him.

"Oh? The people from Dragon's Fang Guardians are coming today?" Deng Fengxian asked in surprise.

Li Jingtao nodded and continued, "The one coming today should be the previous head of the Dragon's Fang Lineage's four banners, Cousin Li Fuling."

Deng Fengxian rubbed his chin a little as he asked, "If I recall correctly, that senior used to be the Banner Leader of the Crimson Cloud Banner, right? She was renowned, and the Crimson Cloud Banner shone resplendently under her leadership."

Li Jingtao smiled and said, "Fengyi is personally acquainted with her as well, thus she's gone to accompany her."

Deng Fengxian's eyes lit up at this moment. "If I remember correctly, Li Fuling has another odd hobby, right?"

Li Jingtao smiled helplessly when he heard this. He nodded in confirmation and replied. "Yeah, she's another one of those Taixuan fanatics..."

Cousin Li Fuling might have been generations apart from Third Uncle Li Taixuan, but she always praised the invincible Li Taixuan. This was mainly due to her mother's admiration for him.

Her mother had inculcated within her since she was young that Li Taixuan was invincible, especially in his generation! Few were as formidable as he was.

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As Li Jingtao and Deng Fengxian were chatting, Li Fengyi noticed a flying boat cruising through the clouds on an elevated platform in a corner of the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range. A smile appeared on her charming face.

"Fengyi."

A clear and crisp peal of laughter rang out across the flying board. Following this, a figure jumped down and landed on the elevated platform.

She was youthful and tall with long, slender legs, dressed in a dark-red battlesuit that tightly wrapped around her curves. Coupled with her snow-white skin, she was extremely charming to the eye.

Her long hair was neatly tied up in a scorpion-tail braid that reached down to her rear.

Li Fengyi's eyes lit up immediately as soon as she saw her, and she smiled. "Cousin Fuling, it's been a long time since we last met. I bet you have gotten a lot more admirers in the Dragon's Fang Guardians."

Hearing this, the lady known as Li Fuling revealed an enchanting smirk and took two steps forward. She pulled Li Fengyi's arms and complained, "Stop teasing me. The Dragon's Fang Guardians are so busy and dangerous, it's not at all like the Twenty Banners. I won't have time to think about all that. Besides, how could anyone in the Dragon's Fang Guardians catch my attention? Even the four major leaders barely warrant a second look."

Li Fengyi laughed and replied. "Yes, yes, you're right. If you're looking for someone that looks like Third Uncle, you'll never find anyone in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, let alone the Dragon's Fang Guardians."

Li Fuling was not shy about it at all. She responded frankly, "That's true. The magnificent air of Main Hall Master Li Taixuan is so exceptional that no one else since the start of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li has come close to it."

Hearing this, Li Fengyi couldn't help but laugh out loud. She could almost imagine the expressions on the faces of the men who had tried to win her cousin's heart but got rejected by her and then told that they were not as good as Li Taixuan.

"Cousin Fuling, our Third Uncle may be exceptional, but our generation has a pretty good guy too. Have you heard about him?" Li Fengyi said.

Li Fuling was not too surprised by her question. "I have. You're referring to the son of Main Hall Master Li Taixuan. His name is Li Luo, right? Apparently, he defeated the replica of Li Taixuan during the Battle of the Dragon's Head. The news spread like wildfire even amongst the Dragon's Fang Guardians."

Li Fengyi was a little surprised upon hearing this. It did not seem like Li Fuling was particularly interested in the news. In fact, she seemed to be a little opposed to it.

With a slight smile, Li Fuling continued, "Although he has the blood of Main Hall Master Li Taixuan flowing within him, there is only one true Li Taixuan in my eyes. He's far from being comparable. Additionally, he's still a Fiend Finisher, right? Although it's admirable that he could win against someone above his level, Main Hall Master Li Taixuan was already leagues above him when he was at this age. So don't you dare say he's like Li Taixuan."

Hearing this, Li Fengyi was at a loss for words for a moment. This fanatic was only crazy about Li Taixuan. Even with his background, Li Luo was nothing in her eyes. Strangely, she even seemed to have something against him because of it.

The human heart was truly complicated.

Li Fengyi did not know how to react, but she did not speak any further. She turned around and led the way forward.

"You've returned to the Dragon's Fang Lineage just in time for a grand show."

"What show?" Li Fuling asked.

With both her hands behind her back, Li Fengyi smiled so wide that her eyes nearly closed, and she replied proudly, "You'll get to see how the Dragon's Fang Lineage will regain the top spot on the Fiendish Devil Cave rankings after countless years!"

Chapter 0933: Layer Sixty-three

In layer sixty-three of the Fiendish Devil Cave.

It was a boundless, grassy plain. At this moment, the plain was being devastated by a tempest as frightening amounts of energy blasted in every direction, destroying the ground beneath.

The collision of energy caused large booms to reverberate throughout the skies.

When one looked more closely, they could see over a thousand individuals channeling and fusing all of the resonant power within their bodies together, directing it towards a youth in the air.

Li Luo was radiating terrifying amounts of energy.

His gaze was focused on a large, fiendish aura that swept past the area before him. There were countless Fiendish Devils all around, and they were rushing towards him.

"They're coming again?" Li Luo mumbled to himself. He had already experienced almost ten waves of their relentless onslaught. Layer sixty-three was extremely difficult, and every inch of progress required him to fight bitterly.

"The third and fourth divisions will rest. The other three divisions, activate your Draconic Breath Fiend Arts and maintain Harmony. We will resist the next wave." Li Luo's voice was transmitted to the ears of all the Green Nether Banner members. Immediately after, the third and fourth divisions sat down cross-legged and closed their eyes to rest, quickly restoring their stamina and energy.

The rest continued to maintain the state of Harmony.

However, the fact remained that without two divisions supporting it, the amount of energy Li Luo obtained from Harmony had reduced. The bright side was that the Fiendish Devils were only threatening due to their numbers and would not pose a significant threat.

Their key purpose was to attrite the Green Nether Banner members' resonant power and to delay their approach towards the Fiendish Devil Leader.

Li Luo remained calm as he formed a hand seal with a single hand. Worldly natural energy was roused and condensed into sky-blanketing thunderclouds before a rainstorm poured down. It was like a curtain of water that blurred the skies and the ground.

Every drop of rain seemed to contain electricity, and it was a fantastical sight from afar.

Pseudo Duke Art: Thunderstorm.

There was no need to utilize exceptionally strong moves like Duke Arts or the Nine Revolutions Art to deal with the fodder. The consumption of resonant power was significant, and with the assistance of Harmony, he possessed the power of a true Duke. Thus, a Pseudo Duke Art was sufficient as it could already demonstrate considerable might.

The thunderstorm continued to boom, and the hordes of Fiendish Devils began to scramble chaotically in their attempt to close the distance. The thunderstorm did not possess exceptional killing strength, but once struck, their bodies would turn numb. Due to their simple minds, they would then lose control of their bodies and tumble.

Immediately after, Li Luo raised a finger, and a beam of energy shot forth and landed on the ground. The earth rumbled and then a titanic tree arose, its lush branches and leaves covering the skies.

The branches began to transform at breakneck speed, taking the form of an emerald dragon-ent.

As Li Luo glanced at his ferocious construct, a hint of admiration could be seen within his gaze. This was merely a Pseudo Duke Art, but with the assistance of Harmony, its strength far surpassed the Water Dragon Fang Sword he could utilize countless times.

This was the advantage brought about by increased strength.

Dukes merely had to wave their hands to display strength that would dwarf Duke Arts used by those at the Resonant General Stage.

"I wonder... just when will I finally be able to obtain such strength?" This thought flashed through Li Luo's heart with a hint of anticipation.

After which, he observed the dragon ent savagely rushing forth, directly smashing into the hordes of Fiendish Devils and causing the plains to crack with every step.

Countless Fiendish Devils were extinguished, but even more continued to pour outwards without pause, directly clashing with the dragon ent. As time passed by, it looked as though they were even becoming one from afar, branches intertwined with fiends.

Li Luo then waved his hand, and the thunderstorm that covered the sky was suddenly sucked into the dragon ent. Immediately after, it paused momentarily before its bright, emerald exterior transformed into one which was inky green.

The heavy droplets of water had combined with the lightning to form a coat of liquid that changed the appearance of the dragon ent.

Bang!

The inky, jade dragon-ent exploded forth with even more terrifying strength, each swipe capable of harvesting the lives of the Fiendish Devils like wheat.

The speed of the slaughter caused the banner members like Zhao Yanzhi and such to sigh in amazement. Li Luo's application of the Pseudo Duke Art was too exquisite. Even if it were used to mow the grass, no one would feel that their leader was being wasteful! More importantly, it also conserved their limited pool of energy.

By the looks of things, the Fiendish Devils would not be able to hold on for much longer.

They had already struggled through over ten waves of enemies. Perhaps it was almost time to face off against the Fiendish Devil Leader?

Bang!

The dragon ent was in the middle of clearing the last patch of Fiendish Devils, and there was a sudden change at this point. A seemingly ordinary Fiendish Devil opened its jaws and spat something.

Ptui!

A faint light pierced through the air with unimaginable speed, and in a breath's worth of time, it appeared right before Li Luo, rushing straight towards his head.

Within the light was a sharp, black spike that let out a shrill scream, causing one to fall into a daze.

"A Heavenly Fiend Soulthorn? Boss! Be careful! That's the Fiendish Devil leader!" The sudden development caused the banner members to have a change in expression, and they hurriedly shouted out to their boss in warning. However, before their voices could reach him, the black ray of light struck Li Luo's head.

But right at this moment, a mark that resembled a dragon surfaced. Nine shining scales that were radiating immense light could be seen within it, and the roar of a dragon could be heard.

When the dragon mark was activated, Li Luo's body suddenly swelled up and dragon scales grew on his skin. His hand seemed to have transformed into the sharp claws of a dragon, and it gave off a sharp, keen light.

Li Luo seemed to have transformed into a half dragon, half human creature!

Ding!

A crisp sound rang out when the black thorn collided with the dragon mark and failed to penetrate it, directly clattering off and shattering into motes of dull light.

That said, Li Luo's mind was still ringing. He was forced back several dozen steps before he could finally stabilize himself.

His expression turned icy as he stared into the distance. The ordinary-looking Fiendish Devil that had originally launched the attack suddenly expanded massively, turning into something hundreds of feet tall.

It had countless heads and arms, each and every one with a vicious expression. When it exhaled, black air spewed out through its fangs. A frightening pressure descended upon the earth with its appearance.

This was layer sixty-three's Fiendish Devil Leader.

It was a cunning creature, having hid amongst the hordes of ordinary Fiendish Devils. In the end, it had planned to take advantage of Li Luo's defenselessness to end him with a singular strike.

With the aid of the Heavenly Fiend Southorn, piercing Li Luo's head would definitely have left him grievously injured, forcing him to retreat.

It was fortunate that Li Luo had cultivated the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body. During the moment of crisis, his body was able to react instinctively and protect him, allowing the attack to harmlessly bounce off him.

"Boss!" The banner members cried out in happiness.

"No worries." Li Luo waved his hand and then commanded solemnly, "Rest time is over, everyone. We will bring out our full strength and achieve the complete state of Harmony. The Fiendish Devil Leader lies before us! This is the final obstacle we have to clear to achieve the top rank on the leaderboards!"

"Yes, Boss!" The eight thousand members exhorted with heightened morale and blazing gazes. Achieving the top rank was the goal all these youths had. It had been many years since Li Taixuan had led the Green Nether Banner to the top of the leaderboard. Li Luo, holding the same role, was now about to regain the same honor and glory. Feeling the majestic amounts of energy that were surging up endlessly, he closely watched the flying Fiendish Devil Leader as he mumbled to himself, "Whether I can successfully cultivate the Wood Dragon Fang Sword depends on you, my little fiend..."

Chapter 0934: Reprimanding Words

"Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner!"

Riding along the waves of the Underworld River, the majestic and lively dragon flew into the air with its dazzling scales. Enormous energy waves swept across the battlefield, right into the face of the Fiendish Devil Leader that was as strong as a third-grade Duke.

Bang!

A berserk storm of energy erupted, and the ground beneath splintered in all directions.

It was an extremely devastating force that could even shatter the skies and the earth.

Dragging its feet across the ground, the Fiendish Devil Leader was sent flying back, one of its arms crushed from the impact. Thick, black smoke could be seen oozing out from its injury.

However, the Fiendish Devil Leader was exceptionally durable. Despite receiving a full blow from Li Luo's Greater Completion Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner, it was still standing strong.

Roar!

The Fiendish Devil Leader screamed angrily, then a terrifying, fiendish aura surged into the sky, causing the clouds to tremble under its pressure.

"Nine Revolutions Art, Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment!"

Li Luo kept his guard up and continued his offense without a break. Huge amounts of energy surged up and morphed into the shape of a humongous heavenly dragon. The Heavenly Dragon spanned endlessly, filling up the vast sky and enveloping the area with its dragonfear, counteracting the fiendish aura released from the Fiendish Devil Leader.

Like a mountain unable to move from its spot, the Fiendish Devil Leader felt its feet sink deep into the ground under the domineering Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment.

Its speed, strength, and even fiendish energy were all subdued.

"Nine Revolutions Art, Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath!"

Without further hesitation, Li Luo used the Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath. The manifestation of the Heavenly Dragon opened its maw, and a raging, lightning dragonbreath arced out. At the next moment, it landed straight on the Fiendish Devil Leader like a meteor strike. His Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath was boosted by the Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment. In other words, its killing potential had been enhanced.

Li Luo had used the Fiendish Devil Cave to familiarize himself with the Nine Revolutions Art. Over the course of the past few weeks, he had discovered another characteristic of the Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment—it had the ability to strengthen the power of his other Nine Revolutions Art.

With this, he could really see why the Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment was one of the rarest amongst the eighteen Nine Revolutions Arts. Flying through the sky, the raging, lightning dragonbreath blasted directly towards the Fiendish Devil Leader. However, the fiend did not sit there and await its end. It opened its mouth, and immense fiendish energy flowed out, condensing into a huge, black sword. With a slash of this sword, a blade light made of fiendish energy that was tens of thousands of feet long soared into the air.

The blade strike clashed with the dragonbreath directly. Upon contact, a terrifying energy wave swept across the battlefield. The clouds above were smashed into pieces and bottomless chasms opened up across the battleground.

This terrifying energy storm went on for a few moments before it gradually died down.

Li Luo floated in the air as he looked solemnly at the aftermath. At this point, he had already exhausted half of the energy available from Harmony. However, the Fiendish Devil Leader was not defeated. It still had some life left, demonstrating its tenaciousness. This was truly harder than he had thought.

It would be a bitter fight to the end.

"Everyone, do you still have the strength to continue?" Li Luo asked in a deep voice.

The faces of his eight thousand banner members were already starting to turn pale. Nonetheless, they responded to him with their actions. In the blink of an eye, their expressions turned determined and they channeled all their strength into the Draconic Breath Fiend Art. Without holding back, they poured in all their might into Harmony for Li Luo.

Li Luo could sense a huge burst energy surging within him once again. This was the last straw for the Green Nether Banner.

Between them and the Fiendish Devil Leader, a final showdown was due to see who would emerge victorious.

Li Luo's eyes turned sharp as he summoned up the overwhelming energy into a plantain fan surrounded with lightning.

He grabbed it tightly and swung it with all his might.

At the next moment, the wind howled, thunder echoed, and lightning filled the sky. This would be his final attack.

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In the square in front of the Fiendish Devil Cave, the other three banners from the Dragon's Fang Lineage were watching closely without batting an eyelid. Their gazes were fixed on the screen on the stone wall.

At the same time, Li Fengyi and Li Fuling had arrived in the stone pavilion in the square.

Noticing their arrival, the banner members looked over curiously, and some whispers could be heard. They could tell from the uniform that Li Fuling was from the Dragon's Fang Guardians.

The Heavenly Dragon's Five Guardian Armies. That was the highest point the young members of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages could reach. It was where the best of the best among the Twenty Banners gathered. This was the dream and goal that all of them were ultimately working towards.

However, the requirements to enter the Five Guardian Armies were extremely strict. One had to be at least a Heavenly Dipper General to be eligible. As such, there was only a handful who could enter despite the tens of thousands of youths in the Twenty Banners.

When they noticed Li Fuling's arrival, Li Jingtao and Deng Fengxian stood up and greeted her politely. According to the rules of the Twenty Banners, they should treat her as their senior respectfully.

Seeing this, Li Fuling simply smiled and turned her gaze towards the screen. Her eyes seemed to come alive when she noticed that the Green Nether Banner was tied in first place, together with the Gold Blood Banner.

As the previous leader for the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, she was very familiar with how things worked in the Fiendish Devil Cave. Similarly, she understood how challenging it truly was to reach the top spot.

At the very least, this was something she had not achieved during her time.

"Banner Leader Li Luo seems pretty capable," Li Fuling said.

"However, he's still far from Li Taixuan's level. At the very least, there was no one who tied for first place when he was the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner back," she followed up swiftly.

Hearing this, Li Fengyi defended Li Luo and replied, "Cousin Fuling, this is not an apt comparison at all. Li Luo has not been with Green Nether Banner for even a year, yet he's already changed so many things. He has been living in the outer divine continent until recently, which delayed his cultivation. If he had spent his childhood in the Dragon's Fang Lineage like Third Uncle, he'd definitely be an even greater force to be reckoned with!"

"That may be true. Sadly... these are just hypothetical scenarios. There are too many such things in the world," Li Fuling responded with a light smile.

"When Li Luo clears layer sixty-three, the Green Nether Banner will be the only one at the top," Li Fengyi retorted.

"Let's wait and see, then," Li Fuling said as she took a seat on the side.

Watching the two girls bicker, Li Jingtao simply smiled without saying anything. He also focused upon the screen with a lackadaisical gaze as he awaited the results patiently.

Deng Fengxian was also standing at the edge of the stone pavilion, watching carefully, when he noticed a figure walking towards him.

"Senior Lu Ze." Deng Fengxian recognized the person immediately and nodded in his direction.

This individual was the previous generation's Banner Leader of the Gold Light Banner.

"Wasn't the Gold Light Banner led by you, Junior Fengxian, the top amongst the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage? How did you get overtaken by someone who cut in halfway?" Lu Ze asked with a light smile.

"Previously, the Main Hall Master was full of praise for you. He said that your generation's Gold Light Banner was much stronger than my generation's. However, it seems like your performance is failing to meet his expectations."

Facing his sharp words, Deng Fengxian kept his calm face as he replied, "You think too highly of me, Senior Lu Ze. If even Li Qingfeng is unable to stop Li Luo, how would I be able to do so?"

Lu Ze laughed and said, "However, you did not do anything to stop Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner from advancing even when you were in the lead previously. You could have done it. Although it may not have changed anything in the end, it would at least have slowed him down and bought some time. By not doing anything... you've allowed Li Luo to rise up and enter the Green Nether Hall. For example, the new Hall Master of the Green Nether Hall was chosen as an exception because the Lineage Chief was very pleased with Li Luo's spectacular performance, right? If there's a change in the situation around the Green Nether Hall, it'll inevitably affect us in the Gold Light Hall. After all, you must remember that some of our rights in the Gold Light Hall were taken from the Green Nether Hall."

Hearing these words, Deng Fengxian pondered carefully. He then stared at him and asked, "Whose words are these?"

With Lu Ze's present status, he was in no position to comment on the affairs regarding the Gold Light Hall. If he dared to say this, then Deng Fengxian could not help but wonder... were they words from the heart or was he acting as a mouthpiece for the elders of the Gold Light Hall?

"Perhaps they came from Zhao Xuanming, the Hall Master, himself?"

"Does that mean that he is unhappy about things and is starting to reprimand me?"

However, Lu Ze simply gave a slight smile and said, "Junior Fengxian, neither of us are part of the direct bloodline. We should do things that'll increase the reputation of Gold Light Hall and therefore benefit ourselves. As such, please do not follow Li Luo and his orders blindly at the Spiritual Resonance Cave. Don't be used by him... In fact, if you have the chance, do something sneaky to obstruct him so his journey won't be as smooth. Of course, don't do it too blatantly. After all, he's still the most beloved grandchild of the Respected Elder."

Deng Fengxian listened but did not comment further.

Lu Ze gave him a light pat on his shoulder before he ended off in a low voice. "Remember this: you are where you are today only because of the Gold Light Hall."

Finishing what he had to say, he turned around and left the stone pavilion.

For the next few moments, Deng Fengxian simply stood on his original spot in silence. He looked up at the screen with eyes filled with uncertainty.

Chapter 0935: The Top Ranked Green Nether Banner

The clock slowly ticked down as the members of the other three banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage waited eagerly.

The Green Nether Banner had not exited from the Fiendish Devil Cave yet.

Whispers were starting to circulate around the square, and some members shook their heads and lowered their expectations. It seemed like the Green Nether Banner would be halted by layer sixty-three after all.

In the stone pavilion, Li Fuling looked up onto the screen and said, "It's about time for the Fiendish Devil Cave to close."

The Fiendish Devil Cave was only open for a limited time. However, it was a pretty long period, so very few banners would run into the problem of exceeding the time limit.

Unfortunately, this seemed to be the case for the Green Nether Banner today. Their time was running out as they were faced with their most challenging battle yet.

"It's still too much for them. Layer sixty-three is extremely challenging. It took me a long time to conquer it back when I led the Green Nether Banner. Does Banner Leader Li Luo think he can do this in one shot?" a young man in the stone pavilion commented. He was none other than the previous generation's Green Nether Banner Leader, Li Xuan.

At this point, the previous generation's Gold Light Banner Leader, Lu Ze, smiled and said, "He's the Dragon's Head of this generation. How can you compare yourself to him? With someone as talented and outstanding as him here, who'll even remember the previous Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner?"

Although he had spoken with a light-hearted smile, they were heavy words to digest. Li Xuan's face turned red with anger.

"The Green Nether Hall's situation is special. Their performance has been lacking for years because they have no Hall Master, unlike the other halls. This has undoubtedly affected them in all aspects. It's not really due to Li Xuan," Li Fuling said slowly at this point as she took a look at the two of them.

After hearing her words, Li Xuan finally calmed down a little.

At the same time, Li Fengyi threw a sharp gaze over to Lu Ze. The guy was really nasty. He was clearly trying to sow discord between Li Xuan and Li Luo here.

However, she could not be bothered with him at the moment. She turned back towards the screen on the stone wall and frowned a little. It was nearly time for the Fiendish Devil Cave to close already.

If Li Luo could not lead the Green Nether Banner to clear layer sixty-three by then, the chance would be gone.

Of course, he could wait for the next cave opening, but that would only be after the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

Li Fengyi knew that Li Luo was eyeing the Pill of Enlightenment, the reward for conquering layer sixty-three. He wanted to use the pill to prepare for the Spiritual Resonance Cave. As such, it would be pointless for him to clear it afterwards.

However, Li Fengyi was not sure if Li Luo could really make it in time or not.

As she stared worriedly at the screen, the clock continued to tick by.

Dozens of minutes passed by like this.

All of a sudden, shouts erupted from the square. Many of the gazes fell onto the rank one row on the screen. At this moment, the words "Gold Blood Banner" gradually turned dim.

This meant that the Gold Blood Banner had retreated from the Fiendish Devil Cave.

However, they had not conquered layer sixty-three. They were unable to defeat the Fiendish Devil Leader before time ran out. They had been forced to retreat.

"The Gold Blood Banner has failed to conquer layer sixty-three!"

There were many stunned faces among the banner members. Although the reputation of the Gold Blood Banner and Li Qingfeng had fallen a little recently, he was still the top guy in the Twenty Banners. No one had belittled his capability. If even he had failed to conquer layer sixty-three, one could only imagine just how challenging this layer truly was.

If Li Qingfeng and the Gold Blood Banner couldn't pull through, how long could Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner endure?

There was not much time left. Even if they could endure the tough fight, they would still be kicked out of the Fiendish Devil Cave as soon as time ran out. In other words, the end result would be the same as the Gold Blood Banner's.

As such, all the gazes were back onto the dimly lit screen.

Many of them had already formed their conclusions.

Li Fengyi placed both hands together tightly as her heart pounded heavily in anticipation.

For a moment, everyone had stopped their chatter in the stone pavilion. Even Li Fuling, who had been comparing Li Luo with Li Taixuan, had stopped and was watching in anticipation.

The banner members around the square had also quieted down. The place was dead silent, as if no one existed.

The clock continued to tick slowly.

Just as the screen turned dim and some people let out sighs of disappointment, a sudden burst of light shone out from the front of the Fiendish Devil Cave.

In the next moment, people started emerging.

They were the eight thousand members of the Green Nether Banner.

However, they all sat down in the lotus position as soon as they came out. Their faces were pale, and they closed their eyes to recover their resonant power. Traces of blood could be seen on many of the members, as if they had just been through a really challenging battle.

Finally, the Green Nether Banner had returned.

Everyone was staring at them curiously. Was this because... time had run out for them too?

Just as some of them were pondering about it, thunderous cheers broke out from a corner in the crowd.

"Look at that! The ranking board is changing!"

The cheers spread like a torrent of waves and countless gazes fell back onto the ranking board of the Fiendish Devil Cave. They were surprised to see what was happening. Gradually, the Green Nether

Banner that was in first place alongside the Gold Blood Banner disappeared. Following this, it reappeared back above the Gold Blood Banner.

Rank 1: Green Nether Banner!

The Gold Blood Banner had fallen from first place to second place!

Everyone in the square was dumbfounded as they stared at the name in first place.

This meant that... the Green Nether Banner had conquered layer sixty-three?!

They had done something that even the Gold Blood Banner couldn't?

In other words, they were now the indisputable number one banner among the Twenty Banners?

Screams of surprise exploded one after another across the square. They turned towards the pale and exhausted Green Nether Banner and eyed them with envy.

Who would have expected that in just half a year's time, the Green Nether Banner would not only rise from the bottom of the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, but also become the rank one banner among the Twenty Banners? This was truly the peak of glory for them.

What an amazing evolution!

Everyone watched with admiration. They knew that the Green Nether Banner was well aware of the reason behind their uprise. The only difference was their new Banner Leader, Li Luo.

The Green Nether Banner had evolved under his leadership.

Under numerous gazes, a young figure emerged from the Green Nether Banner's area. It was none other than Li Luo.

His face was also a little pale. During the tough fight with the Fiendish Devil Leader, he had utilized everything he could to finally emerge victorious with his domineering ace, the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation. It was a really close shave.

Had he been even a little slower, he would have failed due to time running out.

Fortunately, he had come out with a stunning victory. They had conquered layer sixty-three. With that, the Green Nether Banner would be at the top in the Fiendish Devil Cave's leaderboard. Of course, the Pill of Enlightenment that he had been looking forward to had been secured as well.

At this moment, Li Luo heaved a sigh of exhaustion. The Green Nether Banner would have to take a few days off to recover after this long and challenging fight. Rising in the leaderboard was pure torture. Slowly, he raised his head up. The crowd separated into two as a line of people rushed forward to him. In the front were Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao, but a stranger was following them.

However, Li Luo could tell who they were from the signature black and red colors on their battlesuit.

Li Luo's face changed a little as soon as he noticed this.

"Why are the Dragon's Fang Guardians here?"

Chapter 0936: Li Wuyuan

"Congratulations, Third Brother! It has been countless years since the Dragon's Fang Lineage has attained the top rank in the Fiendish Devil Cave!" Li Jingtao cheered. There was undisguised happiness in his tone as Li Luo's achievement had bolstered the Dragon's Fang Lineage's reputation.

The Battle of the Dragon's Head was a demonstration of Li Luo's personal strength. The Fiendish Devil Cave, on the other hand, was a test of his ability to lead his banner in battle. The ranking directly proved that the Green Nether Banner was now the strongest amongst the twenty.

More importantly, it was also a setback for the Dragon's Blood Lineage. One could imagine that they wouldn't be so domineering in the coming days.

Li Fengyi was also beaming from ear to ear, a hint of pride clear on her face. She moved forward and patted Li Luo's shoulder before proudly turning around and facing Li Fuling. "Cousin Fuling, as you can see, both the Dragon's Head and the top rank in the Fiendish Devil Cave belong to the Dragon's Fang Lineage now. What do you think?"

Li Fuling quickly sized Li Luo up, and her gaze lingered upon his face for a few moments. She could see the resemblance between him and Li Taixuan as the latter's image was something her mother often showed her.

She understood that when her mother was young, she spent time tempering herself in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. However, she found herself in a precarious situation and was fortunate enough to have been saved by Li Taixuan. His immense might coupled with his exceptional looks and demeanor were a deadly combination towards any lady, smiting their tender heart. It was from that point onwards that Li Taixuan's figure was firmly engraved into her heart. It was only that her mother never dared to reveal such feelings as Li Taixuan shone brightly like the glorious sun, and the women who similarly adored him were as plentiful as carps trying to cross the dragon gate.

Afterwards, the elders of their family arranged for her mother to marry someone she did not like. The two were forced to live together for several years, but they were simply unable to get along and ended up separating. Li Fuling then accompanied her mother and was gradually influenced to regard Li Taixuan as an unparalleled individual.

She was naturally exposed to Li Taixuan's exploits when she grew older and entered the Twenty Banners and then the Dragon's Fang Guardians. As a result, her sense of idolatry rose to the peak.

Thus, her heart felt complicated when she encountered Li Taixuan's son, Li Luo.

In a sense, she felt a unique sense of closeness towards him, having to thank his father for her existence, and at the same time similarly rejected him. How could someone possibly be comparable with Li Taixuan? Even his progeny was no exception. With a heart full of thoughts, Li Fuling smiled dryly. "Banner Leader Li Luo, you are truly talented. Being able to wrestle away the top position amongst the Twenty Banners is a commendable feat."

She did not belittle his achievements, as she had spent time in the Twenty Banners too. It was the gathering place of all of the talented sprouts in the Dragon's Fang Domain, and demeaning them would also include herself within the insult.

Li Fengyi followed up relentlessly. "So how do you think he compares to Third Uncle?"

Li Fuling harrumphed as she glared at her. "Hall Master Li Taixuan is peerless and without equal. After he left, no one in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent has been able to reach his level. There are numerous Dragon's Heads... but only one Li Taixuan!"

After which, she swept her gaze over Li Luo meaningfully.

Li Luo, on the other hand, was a little confused. That last line seemed to be targeted at him. However, why was she so fanatical about his old man?

When they lived in House Luolan, Li Luo and him would constantly jostle for third place, but outside? If he reaaaaally had to... he would defer to his father for the sake of face. Thus, he revealed a friendly smile. "I have to thank you for the praise on behalf of my father."

Faced with this response, Li Fuling could only snort coldly, unsure of how to reply.

Li Fengyi, however, was clearly trying to hold back her laughter, feeling her stomach cramp up. She then introduced the group to Li Luo. "Now that you're out, I would like to introduce the rest. This is Cousin Li Fuling, she was a Banner Leader in the previous generation and has now entered the Dragon's Fang Guardians. She will be participating in the Spiritual Resonance Cave."

At the same time, she also introduced the remaining individuals from the guardians as all of them possessed some sort of achievement in the past.

Li Luo then turned towards the other two. The previous generation's Gold Light Banner Leader, Lu Ze, and Green Nether Banner Leader, Li Xuan.

Lu Ze returned a wry smile, whereas Li Xuan had a complicated gaze as he cupped his hands together. "The Hall Master previously led the Green Nether Banner to achieve incomparable glory. Today, Banner Leader Li Luo, you helped restore its lost radiance. This is definitely an interesting story to be told in future."

Li Luo grinned and replied, "Still, it is the previous generations of Banner Leaders that have maintained the reputation of the Green Nether Banner till today. They allowed the Green Nether Banner and the hall to maintain a strand of hope. No amount of effort would have gotten me this far if it wasn't for the foundation set by you and the rest."

Li Luo understood how Li Xuan felt. Li Xuan's accomplishments were mediocre at best when compared to his, but Li Luo had demonstrated a little humility so as not to aggravate the other party.

Li Xuan felt a little ashamed. "Banner Leader, you are overflowing with talent, so I'm sure you will truly shine when you enter the Dragon's Fang Guardians. Perhaps you might be able to gain a few points in the Green Nether Banner's favor."

Li Luo shook his head. "The Dragon's Fang Guardians are filled with the most exceptional of geniuses. How can I do so? There are no tigers on the mountain today, and that's why a monkey like me can reign supreme."

Li Fengyi pouted upon hearing this. "Hey, you hypocrite. If you're a monkey, what are we?"

This left Li Luo feeling a little helpless. He was just being modest! It couldn't be that the Dragon's Fang Guardians was full of dummies that he could dominate as soon as he arrived... right?

Li Fuling then glared at Li Luo and suddenly asked, "Banner Leader Li Luo, Fengyi has told me that you seem quite close to Li Lingjing. Is she in the Dragon's Fang Lineage right now?"

Hearing this question, Li Luo felt a little surprised. "Are you acquainted with Cousin Lingjing?"

"Of course I know her. We were of the same generation, and she had quite the reputation. I always hoped that she would return to the four banners so I could take her on, but alas..." Li Fuling replied.

Li Luo nodded slightly. "Cousin Lingjing has been very fortunate. Her strength has been restored and she will also participate in the Spiritual Resonance Cave."

"That is something I look forward to." A hint of eagerness could be seen in Fuling's gaze.

Li Fengyi was smirking at the side as she said, "Today is a day of celebration for the Dragon's Fang Lineage. I'll take the lead and treat everyone to eat and drink their fill!"

These words cause everyone to smile.

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Whilst the Dragon's Fang Lineage was submerged in a celebratory atmosphere, the mood had turned chilly on the Dragon's Blood Lineage's end. The entire field was silent, with no one daring to speak.

Li Qingfeng raised his head and gloomily stared at the Fiendish Devil Cave rankings.

Behind him, Li Hongli and the other two Banner Leaders were similarly despondent.

They had lost their top position at the Fiendish Devil Cave, which was a great setback. This was their last saving grace, and without it, the Dragon's Blood Lineage was now firmly suppressed by the Green Nether Banner in every aspect.

"With how depressed you look, I thought the Fiendish Devil Cave had turned into a place of mourning." Untimely laughter echoed outwards amidst the gloomy atmosphere, breaking the silence. Several aggravated members turned their heads to see just who dared to act so presumptuously.

Their gazes fell upon a group of individuals who were walking into the field.

They possessed an uncommon presence and exuded a strong sense of suppression. What was most striking was their blood-red battlesuits, causing some banner members to blurt out uncontrollably, "Dragon's Blood Guardians?" Their gazes then focused upon the person in the lead. It was a slender youth with a heroic demeanor. His eyebrows were thin like sharp blades and he gave off an incisive aura.

Li Qingfeng and Li Hongli turned to face the source of the commotion, and when they recognized the youth in the front, they were taken aback.

Li Hongli's eyes immediately lit up and her cheerful voice rang out.

"Cousin Wuyuan?" When she shouted out his name, the atmosphere in the field seemed to have boiled over as their memories were jolted.

Li Wuyuan. This was the previous generation's Gold Blood Banner Leader. He was also the previous generation's Dragon's Head!

Chapter 0937: Targeted

Excitement bubbled over and noise overtook the air in the Dragon's Blood Lineage. The four Banner Leaders similarly had idolizing and passionate looks in their eyes when they recognized the youth.

Li Wuyuan, the previous generation's Dragon's Head!

When the Dragon's Blood Lineage's four banners were wallowing in the depths of despair, Li Wuyuan's presence had elevated everyone's morale.

"It's been a while. You have become even more stunning, Cousin Hongli. I'm sure you will have countless suitors when you join the Dragon's Blood Guardians." Li Wuyuan flashed a smile towards Li Hongli.

This was met with a coquettish smile.

Li Wuyuan then turned towards the silent Li Qingfeng. "Cousin Qingfeng, it looks like you've thrown away all of the prestige the Gold Blood Banner has accumulated over the years." His words were calm and sharp.

Li Qingfeng remained silent, unsure of how to respond.

"News of you losing the Battle of the Dragon's Head has already spread into the Dragon's Blood Guardians. Numerous companions of mine have levied quite a bit of criticism towards you. Additionally, the Dragon's Blood Lineage is the leader of the five, and we have to ensure that we suppress the rest in all aspects. Only then can we maintain our position as the Mountain Ruling Lineage," Li Wuyuan continued.

These words were heavy, as the elites amongst the Dragon's Blood Guardians would eventually ascend to become the elders of the Dragon's Blood Lineage at some point. Li Qingfeng's poor performance today would also affect his future.

Li Qingfeng gave a bitter look. "I apologize. I was simply useless, tarnishing the reputation the Dragon's Blood Lineage has spent years building up."

He could not refute Wuyuan's words as the loss in the Battle of the Dragon's Head and the recent change in the Fiendish Devil Cave rankings demonstrated to him that Li Luo was now on the rise.

It was a fact. He could not suppress Li Luo.

Li Hongli hurriedly came to Li Qingfeng's defense. "Cousin Wuyuan, you can't blame Elder Brother Qingfeng... It's all Li Luo's fault. The reason he lost the position of Dragon's Head was due to Elder Brother Qingfeng mistakenly choosing to utilize the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art. Otherwise, he could have flattened that irritating fellow without a doubt!"

"Cousin Hongli, no matter the reason, the fact remains that Li Luo is now the Dragon's Head of the Twenty Banners. This is a fact that is set in stone," Li Wuyuan continued.

Li Hongli lightly pouted before a look of dejection appeared on her face. She knew that her previous words were just excuses. Although Li Luo had not exchanged blows with Li Qingfeng, the fact that he had managed to triumph over Li Taixuan's replica demonstrated that he possessed true power that was not in any way inferior.

Thus, even if the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art had not been used, Qingfeng might not have beaten Li Luo.

This was a fact that greatly unsettled Li Hongli, leaving her dissatisfied. Perhaps it was more appropriate to say that she refused to accept that a country bumpkin could construct such a trail of miracles in the short span of less than a year.

Li Luo's radiance would soon eclipse their inability.

Her father's generation had been heavily oppressed by Li Taixuan, who had left behind legends that overwhelmed everyone else. Could it be that Li Luo would once again do the same to his generation? And this time, the ones who would suffer would be them!

Li Wuyuan calmly said, "However, there is no need to be overly depressed. The Dragon's Blood Lineage's strength has been built over many generations. Even the exceptional Li Taixuan was unable to change things. He left and has never returned. Since he was unable to do so, how could Li Luo be any different? Cousin Qingfeng, you might have lost once, but there is no need to lose your drive. Li Luo might be talented, but the foundation of the Dragon's Blood Lineage is even greater, and being the Mountain Ruling Lineage is not just for show."

He then turned to look at Li Qingfeng and continued leisurely, "Take advantage of the opportunity that is the Spiritual Resonance Cave. Even if you cannot surpass him, the Dragon's Blood Lineage still has us..."

At this point, Li Hongli stuttered in surprise, "Cousin Wuyuan, have you made your decision?"

Li Wuyuan casually replied, "Before I left the Dragon's Blood Guardians, my fellow seniors reminded me that if the opportunity arises, I have to let Li Luo know just who the leader of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages is."

His gaze seemed indifferent, but a sharp and tyrannical aura spread from his body.

The years where Li Taixuan rose to prominence caused the Dragon's Fang Lineage to rise in prestige. When he entered the Dragon's Fang Guardians, his momentum was overwhelming, and even the previous Dragon's Heads in the Dragon's Blood Guardians were alarmed by his meteoric rise. In an attempt to make him halt in his tracks, many battles broke out. Li Taixuan was suppressed at the start, but as time passed, even the most senior members of the Dragon's Blood Guardians were forced to retreat before him. As a result, that generation's Dragon's Fang Guardians were simply peerless and possessed unstoppable momentum.

The Dragon's Blood Guardians then conducted a review of their actions and felt that if they had paid more attention to the threat posed by Li Taixuan and suppressed him during his early periods of growth, he would not have developed the invincible, sweeping momentum that caused all to cower before him.

In the end, Li Taixuan, the invincible battle god, had used them as a whetstone, sharpening himself to unprecedented levels.

Learning from their mistakes in the past, the Dragon's Blood Guardians had decided that if the opportunity arose, they would do everything they could to suppress Li Luo. Coupled with how he had languished in the outer divine continent for many years, his rapid improvement would be diminished and he might not explode forth with the same frightening potential as his father. This way, the threat would be resolved.

"Cousin Wuyuan, if you were to take action, wouldn't the Dragon's Fang Guardians act to block you?" Li Hongli asked.

He smirked and replied, "The previous generation of the Dragon's Fang Lineage has been crushed by me countless times. Just who can stop me? In any case, I won't be too overbearing. I simply want him to be more reserved. Youths competing in battle is very normal. Would he tattletale on me to the Lineage Chief because of that? He would become the laughing stock of the five lineages." He waved his hand at this juncture. "Enough, let's stop talking about him."

Li Wuyuan took two steps forward and lightly grasped Li Qingfeng's shoulder with a smile. "There is no need to be too disheartened by this. This is just a temporary setback, and with the absolute foundation built up by the Dragon's Blood Lineage, Li Luo is merely a mantis trying to stop a cart. Let's go. I don't get many opportunities to come back here. Let us indulge in a meal at the Grand Dragon Inn. The days in the Dragon's Blood Guardians are bitter and full of danger. It's difficult to find even a moment to relax."

Li Qingfeng smiled bitterly as he was dragged along. He reached out to his friends and led the entire group out of Fiendish Devil Peak.

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Li Luo, on the other hand, was in the dark about the Dragon's Blood Guardians' plot to keep him hammered down. If he knew, he would only smile in response. Yes, it was true that youths would often clash to exchange pointers. If he had to... well, there was Little Three to rely on... Li Luo returned to his living quarters after having dinner with the rest.

He sat atop his bed, but instead of resting, he stretched out his hand.

The pocket sphere on his wrist glowed and a stream of light flew out. A single dark-green pill appeared before him.

The spirit pill emanated a mysterious fragrance that caused one's mind to attain a sense of emptiness with just a whiff.

This was the reward he had obtained from conquering layer sixty-three.

The Pill of Enlightenment.

Chapter 0938: Embryonic Sword Shadow

The reason the Pill of Enlightenment was so important to Li Luo was because it would allow him to cultivate the second Dragon Fang Sword of the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation: the Wood Dragon Fang Sword!

Out of the three primary resonances he possessed, he still had to make Dragon Fang Swords for the wood and dragon resonances.

"After cultivating the Wood Dragon Fang Sword, the dragon resonance will be the last one left."

He couldn't help but let out a small sigh. His waterlight resonance was a lower eighth-grade, while his woodearth resonance had been tempered by countless spirit liquids and purifying lights and had reached the upper seventh-grade. Alas, his Thunder Dragon resonance was lagging behind, being at the lower seventh-grade.

If Li Luo wanted to use the other resonances to form a Dragon Fang Sword, they would have to reach a higher grade. The other resonances were ultimately supplementary and could cause his resonant power to reach a higher level of purity and strength, but they were ultimately not as strong as his primary resonance, the waterlight resonance.

Based on his understanding, if the other resonances were lower than the eighth-grade, the rate of success would be quite low.

Thus, Li Luo's goal was to have his woodearth resonance and Thunder Dragon resonances to reach the eighth-grade at the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

If he could accomplish this, all three resonances would be at a similar level. In that case, the amount of resonance power at his disposal would surpass that of a middle ninth-grade resonance.

Ninth-grade resonances were the only ones that were divided into three sub grades. It was just that most people could not discern the difference. Meeting someone with a ninth-grade resonance was rare enough, and whether it was a lower ninth, a middle ninth, or an upper ninth-grade, it was inconsequential—these individuals were simply on a different level altogether.

In the eyes of others, a rich man was simply a rich man. They were not concerned with exactly how rich they were. That being said, Li Luo had yet to meet anyone with a middle ninth-grade resonance despite being in the inner divine continent, a place full of talented elites.

The best he had seen was Qin Yi's lower ninth-grade water resonance. Additionally, after dealing with the Soul Eater True Devil's parasitism, there was also Li Lingjing with the Abyssal Serpent resonance.

"Thinking of Jiang Qing'e, is her light resonance a middle ninth-grade?" After recomposing himself from the random thoughts, Li Luo turned his attention to the Pill of Enlightenment. The difficulty of condensing another Dragon Fang Sword was immense, and he had only succeeded with a single Water Dragon Fang Sword so far. And it was all thanks to the aid of Li Jingzhe's Heavenly Temple Lotus and the burning of a lotus seed. Such mystical treasures were prized even by Kings, and he could not thicken his face to ask for yet another opportunity to use it.

As a result, his backup plan was to rely on this spirit pill. Although its effects couldn't compare with the Heavenly Temple Lotus, it would still be helpful.

Additionally, he didn't expect to succeed in creating the Wood Dragon Fang Sword on his first try. His current aim was to first create an outline for it with the Cosmic Sword Intent before gradually giving it form. Eventually, he would succeed when he garnered enough experience.

This made him feel reassured, as he knew that every step he took would contribute to his eventual success. He directly popped the Pill of Enlightenment into his mouth, and a cooling waft of energy circulated throughout his body. Li Luo could feel his mind becoming increasingly clear, and he could distinctly sense the resonant power moving inside him.

He closed his eyes tightly and immersed his mental state into his body.

Li Luo could sense a mysterious and massive sword formation within him.

The formation radiated majestic amounts of sword intent that was wickedly sharp, to the point that its presence was simply terrifying. Even resonant power would be obliterated if the sword intent swept past it.

In the corner of the sword formation was the lone, blue Dragon Fang Sword that lurked idly. Similarly, it exuded boundless amounts of sword intent, and its surface was covered in ripples that elevated its razor-sharp edge to another level.

Li Luo quietly admired the hypnotic Water Dragon Fang Sword before he immersed himself in the Cosmic Sword Intent.

He had spent the past month obtaining strands of sword intent with no rest.

His success rate had gone up after successfully creating the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation.

With a thought, strands of Cosmic Sword Intent condensed before him, and he began to fuse them in the embryonic form of the Wood Dragon Fang Sword.

An hour later...

Li Luo gazed at the dissipating strands of Cosmic Sword Intent. The space before him became empty and he fell silent.

Despite his bitter efforts, twenty strands of Cosmic Sword Intent had been used up just like that.

"Is it really that hard?" Li Luo mumbled to himself. When he first refined the Water Dragon Fang Sword, his success rate was not as low as this. He had even thought that the supposedly difficult-to-cultivate Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation wasn't as hard as people had made it out to be. Still, he felt like something was wrong this time no matter how he looked at it.

"Could it truly have been the effect of the Heavenly Temple Lotus?" Li Luo mused over it for a moment. That was the key difference between then and now. The whole process felt like a simple and carefree affair when he was utilizing the Heavenly Temple Lotus. However, now that he had borrowed the aid of

the Pill of Enlightenment to cultivate the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, the difference between the two aids was stark.

It was as different as the skies and the earth.

Li Luo could only smile bitterly. It was no wonder the Heavenly Temple Lotus was a treasure that even Kings desired. How could a mere Pill of Enlightenment compare?

And the Embryonic Transcendent Duke Art in his possession truly lived up to its name. Learning it was no easy feat.

However, he didn't have much of an option but to take things slow.

Li Luo calmed himself down before continuing to direct the remaining strands of Cosmic Sword Intent to fuse into the shape of a Dragon Fang Sword.

In the following few days, he spent all of his time and effort attempting to craft the embryonic form of the Wood Dragon Fang Sword. Although his progress was slow, the Wood Dragon Fang Sword's rate of success was increasing with each strand of Cosmic Sword Intent that dissipated.

On the fifth day, all of the Cosmic Sword Intent that Li Luo had collected finally ran out. The Wood Dragon Fang Sword, on the other hand, had not been completed.

The faint silhouette of a green sword had manifested inside the Dragon Fang Sword formation, but it was extremely illusory, almost as though it didn't exist.

This was the Wood Dragon Fang Sword. The only thing was that the embryonic form had not been completed, so it could be considered an Embryonic Sword Shadow at best.

This was the result of Li Luo's painstaking efforts.

"I guess an Embryonic Sword Shadow is better than nothing, huh?" Li Luo consoled himself. He then shifted his focus to the outside world. He vaulted off his bed and stretched before walking towards the window to admire the sky.

"Tomorrow is the day." A look of anticipation surfaced in his eyes. The renowned Spiritual Resonance Cave was about to open, and all of the youths in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent were about to gather. Every opening attracted countless top talents to compete for prestige and to be the best. Amongst them, the best would reign supreme and would also likely enter the Emyrean Chronicle, their name resounding throughout the continent.

To be fair, Li Luo was not very interested in such achievements. He was a pragmatic individual. After all, if he didn't become a Duke soon, all the honors in the world would just be another line on his eulogy.

He possessed shocking talent... and an even more shocking lifespan.

"Whether or not my triple resonances can all enter the eighth-grade will depend on this."

Chapter 0939: Set Out!

The next day, Li Luo dropped by Li Rouyun's lodgings to pick up Li Lingjing before heading off to the gathering point.

"Li Luo, I'll hand Lingjing over to you. The Spiritual Resonance Cave is full of dangers lurking in every corner, so you have to take care of her properly," Li Rouyun reminded him with a smile on her face as she looked at the gorgeous, young duo.

Frankly speaking, Li Luo was an outstanding individual in all aspects. As an elder, she felt that Li Lingjing was quite a good fit for him. The only problem was that Li Rouyun already knew that Li Luo was engaged, and Jiang Qing'e was simply too dazzling, enough to cause others to marvel that the outer divine continent was able to give birth to such a breathtaking phoenix. Li Rouyun felt that with Jiang Qing'e as a fiancée, even the Fairy of Water Qin Yi, who had captivated countless youths, was unable to maintain Li Luo's gaze for long.

Li Luo smiled bitterly. "Aunt Yun, I think you've gotten it backwards. I have to hang on the hem of Cousin Lingjing's sleeves and hope that she protects me instead!"

The ones entering the Spiritual Resonance Cave were all the cream of the crop. A two-pearl was weak, and only those at Li Lingjing's stage, six-pearls, could be considered to be peak predators there.

Li Lingjing stretched out her plain, white, slender, jade hands and lightly patted Li Luo's shoulder, her eyes curving into crescent moons as she smiled. "Cousin Li Luo, you can relax. If anyone has any untoward intentions towards you, I won't let that pass."

Li Luo grinned as he replied while clasping his hands together respectfully, "I'll have to thank you in advance, Cousin Lingjing."

"How polite." Li Lingjing smiled slightly. It could be seen that she was greatly anticipating the Spiritual Resonance Cave too. It had been many years since she had recused herself due to her injury, and it was the first time she would clash against the elites of her generation once again.

Li Luo did not speak further, and with Li Rouyun's farewell, he brought Li Lingjing towards the designated gathering point.

When the two arrived, they saw that Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and the rest had already arrived. They similarly waved their hands at him excitedly.

Li Fuling was standing by Li Fengyi, momentarily glancing at Li Luo before turning her attention to the slender figure who was half a step behind him. She fell into a daze when she recognized that familiar face.

A moment later, she snapped back to attention, focusing upon Li Lingjing. She casually greeted, "Li Lingjing. It's been a while."

Li Xuan and Lu Ze, who were off to the side, also curiously turned towards her. She was someone they had heard of. Many years ago, her name was one that all of the youths of the Dragon's Fang Domain were familiar with. When she underwent the trials for the Twenty Banners, people had speculated that she was in the running for the Dragon's Head. However, after the Twenty Banners' selection results were announced, she had vanished off the list. It was only later that they found out that she had been corrupted by an Other and that it had harmed her foundation. This unfortunate turn of events had elicited much sympathy from the crowd.

Yet she was standing in front of them today. In fact, it seemed as though she had recovered from the setback all those years ago.

Faced with Li Fuling's gaze, Li Lingjing's beautiful face beamed. "Li Fuling, it seems like you remember me?"

Li Fuling replied in a low voice, "How could I not? Do you remember what you promised me? You said we'd compete properly within the Twenty Banners, but you never came."

The leaders of the Dragon's Fang Lineage's youths, Li Lingjing and Li Fuling, had met a few years ago and had even exchanged blows. Neither of them could attain victory over the other, so they agreed to settle things after they had entered the Twenty Banners.

Li Lingjing calmly replied, "Is that so? I'm incredibly apologetic." However, her cool tone held no such remorse. Perhaps honoring this agreement was something laughable and completely meaningless when compared to what she had gone through all these years.

Her acrimonious reply caused Li Fuling to frown. The previously indomitable and haughty lady from the Eastern Region was nowhere to be seen. She had changed.

Li Lingjing, on the other hand, seemed uninterested in continuing to speak, only silently standing by Li Luo.

The atmosphere had turned awkward. Luckily, the void shimmered at this point in time, and a procession of figures trailed out of the air.

The one leading the group was none other than Li Jingzhe. The ones behind him were the Dragon's Fang Lineage's elders and upper echelons like Li Jinpan and Li Qingpeng.

"Greetings, Lineage Chief!" The entire crowd hurriedly saluted.

Li Jingzhe waved his hand as he swept his gaze across the crowd. "You will enter the Spiritual Resonance Cave shortly. It is full of priceless opportunities, and I hope you will be able to take full advantage of it. The Spiritual Resonance Cave has also attracted all of the exceptional talents in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, so competition will be fierce, far surpassing the Battle of the Dragon's Head. Thus, you will all have to remain cautious."

The group hurriedly nodded in compliance when faced with Li Jingzhe's warnings.

With that, he ceased speaking and merely waved his sleeve, causing streams of light to surge out and halt before the group.

Li Luo gazed at the gold light orb that had stopped before him. He reached out and grasped it, and the golden light transformed into a golden talisman engraved with mystical runes.

"This is a Gold Resonant Talisman?" Li Luo's mind trembled as he recalled Li Jingzhe's previous words. If one wanted to enter the Spiritual Resonance Cave, they would need the aid of these Resonant Talismans. They came in three grades, with gold being the highest, granting exclusive access to certain core districts.

"According to the rules, only those in the top five ranks of the Battle of the Dragon's Head are qualified to receive Gold Resonant Talismans. However, as Li Luo has managed to obtain the Dragon's Head, all four Banner Leaders are also entitled to receive them as well."

Li Fengyi was glowing with happiness as she looked at the gold light orb before her, and she flashed Li Luo a smile. "Little Brother, it seems we're basking in your radiance."

Neither she nor Deng Fengxian had entered the top five ranks. Thus, she had only been given a Gold Resonant Talisman as a result of Li Luo's exceptional performance.

Deng Fengxian similarly received the Gold Resonant Talisman, tightly clutching it in his hand as he nodded at Li Luo.

Li Luo grinned and waved his hand, demonstrating that it was fine. He swept his gaze over the others and realized that Li Fuling, Lu Ze, and Li Xuan had also been handed Gold Resonant Talismans. However, the remaining members of the Dragon's Fang Guardians had received Silver Resonant Talismans instead.

Li Lingjing, due to her unique circumstances, also received a Gold Resonant Talisman.

"The Gold Resonant Talismans you hold in your hands are like fragrant pieces of barbecue in the Spiritual Resonance Cave. Just because I distributed such a considerable number of them does not mean that they are cheap or easy to come by. The reason we possess so many is because the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is mighty. For other factions, countless talents will have to undergo grueling and bitter battles just for a shot at obtaining a single Gold Resonant Talisman. Others might go to war just to obtain a few more of these Gold Resonant Talismans."

"You must also remember that there are many rogue cultivators who have been lucky enough to obtain a single Bronze or Silver Resonant Talisman. Once they enter the Spiritual Resonance Cave, they will lust for your Gold Resonant Talismans as well. Rogue cultivators are ruthless and decisive, and being distinguished members of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li will not be enough to protect you if they set their sights upon you. In essence, it all boils down to this: if you desire opportunities, you will have to rely on your own strength. Otherwise, they will be seized from you," Li Jingzhe coolly explained.

These words caused the group to turn solemn, and they carefully put their Resonant Talismans away.

Li Jingzhe did not speak further as he observed their actions.

At this point, Li Jinpan and Li Qingpeng stepped forward. Simultaneously, a colossal, dragon-shaped flying ship pierced through the clouds and descended upon the mountain peak.

"It's time to go. Second Brother and I will lead the group and guide you to the Spiritual Resonance Cave," Li Qingpeng chortled.

The group nodded, and energy-infused Dragon Wings appeared behind them. With a flap, they shot into the clouds and landed atop the dragon-shaped ship.

Li Qingpeng and Li Jinpan beckoned farewell to Li Jingzhe before taking off into the air.

The ship boomed as it shot through the clouds, quickly receding into the distance.

Li Jingzhe remained atop the mountain peak, hands clasped behind his back as he watched the flying ship vanish over the horizon.

He was in a daze for a moment, seemingly lost in his thoughts before he smiled slightly.

"Taixuan, it seems that your son is destined to follow in your footsteps. His name will soon reverberate throughout the continent."

...

At the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing.

In a crimson palace atop a mountain.

On a balcony in the main hall stood a beautiful and ethereal figure with beauty reminiscent of a fairy. She stood tall and graceful, her delicate features akin to jade, causing the surroundings to look dull in comparison. Her beautiful eyes were clear as a pristine lake, exuding endless charm. This was none other than the Fairy of Water, Qin Yi.

Footsteps resounded from behind her. She turned, lightly tilting her head as she respectfully greeted the person who had walked in. "Mother."

The one who had arrived was the Fire Lotus Hall Master, Qin Lian.

Qin Lian approached her daughter and softly said, "Li Luo will naturally participate in the Spiritual Resonance Cave."

Qin Yi's gaze trembled slightly as she replied, "I heard that he has secured the position of Dragon's Head."

These words elicited a cold expression from Qin Lian. "The youths of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li are utter trash. Li Luo wasted countless years in the outer divine continent, and yet he has managed to suppress his entire generation in a single year. It seems like each generation is declining and getting weaker. I doubt they'll be able to last for long."

Qin Yi refrained from responding, understanding that any praise for Li Luo was intolerable to her mother.

Qin Lian then turned and stared at Qin Yi's beautiful face. "If you happen to encounter Li Luo in the Spiritual Resonance Cave, I have a task for you."

"What task?" Qin Yi's eyes narrowed, an icy glint flashing within her gaze.

"Bring back a piece of his flesh."

Chapter 0940: Talents of All Kinds

At the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, in front of a particular hall.

Several youths with exceptional auras and dignified demeanor had gathered.

In front of them was a particular figure of note. He was skinny but gave off a wild and berserk temperament.

Donned in black robes, he was clutching a dark-red, heavy spear engraved with numerous creatures. As energy surged through it, two violet-eye marks could be seen on the shaft of the spear.

This was Zhao Shenjiang, the number one youth amongst the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

Behind him was a youth shrouded in gloominess, staring at his own hand with his head lowered. His gaze was oozing with bloodlust.

This was a familiar face. It was Li Luo's good friend Zhao Jingyu, whom he had met at the Dark Domain.

The two had clashed in the Dark Domain, and he had lost an arm in the battle. However, some miraculous medicines had been utilized to regrow the lost limb.

Nevertheless, this newly grown arm was not the same as before. When Zhao Jingyu clashed against the youths of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao in a martial contest, his performance had significantly declined.

This was the reason why Zhao Jingyu loathed Li Luo and wished to kill him.

Zhao Shenjiang noticed the brooding Zhao Jingyu, who was filled with murderous intent, and he glanced at him briefly. "I hear that Li Luo has attained the position of Dragon's Head. If you were to confront him as you are now, I'm afraid you might not hold an advantage."

"How infuriating!" Zhao Jingyu's expression contorted with anger before he turned towards Zhao Shenjiang and pleaded, "Elder Brother! You must avenge me!"

Although he and Zhao Shenjiang were not related by blood, they had grown up together, fostering an unbreakable bond.

Zhao Shenjiang smirked cruelly, similarly showcasing his killing intent. "If the opportunity presents itself in the Spiritual Resonance Cave, I'll hack off both his arms as a gift for you."

His peers shivered upon catching sight of that smile. Zhao Shenjiang was the brightest star amongst their Twenty Divisions, and he was known for being heavy-handed and savage in nature. He did not know how to hold back, and numerous individuals had been grievously injured by him throughout the years.

He was notorious for being cruel, battle-addicted, and ruthless.

No one wanted to provoke this fiend.

The bright side was that his sights were now fixed upon Li Luo. The two bloodlines held grievances that ran deep, so if Zhao Shenjiang beat Li Luo to death, it would merely be a demonstration of their faction's superiority!

This statement caused a genuine smile to surface on Zhao Jingyu's face. He would ensure that Li Luo's life would become a living nightmare!

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Heavenly Origin Ancient College

Similar to the Astral Sage College, the centerpiece of the school was a Tree of Resonant Power that covered the sky.

The only thing was that this Tree of Resonant Power was far superior in terms of quality when compared to the one in the Astral Sage College.

The lush canopy of the Tree of Resonant Power spanned tens of thousands of meters, and the worldly natural energy around it took the form of countless energy clouds that floated over the leaves. It was a sight to behold.

At this point in time, a group of youths was preparing to depart, surrounded by fellow students seeing them off.

Most of the gazes were focused upon a particular individual. It was a lithe girl who was wrapped in a light-red dress. Her cheeks resembled the autumn moon, her neck was slender and fair, her curvaceous figure accentuated by a small waist.

She was indeed remarkable when it came to looks.

However, her expression was a little cold. She seemed uninterested in the idolizing gazes directed at her.

This was Jiang Wanyu, a student of the Heavenly Origin Ancient College's Three Star Hall. Although she had just entered the Three Star Hall, she was already a two-pearl. What was interesting was that she had an aloof temperament despite possessing dual resonances of wind and fire. She was fierce and brutal in battle, which was a stark contrast to her personality.

It was this duality that garnered her numerous admirers in the college.

"Senior Jiang! Do your best! Beat those geniuses from the other powers and demonstrate to the people of the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent that our college is the best!"

"Junior Jiang, the Spiritual Resonance Cave will be a chaotic mess. You must take care of yourself..."

Amidst all this, Jiang Wanyu remained emotionless, only lowering her head and inspecting the contents of her pocket sphere. She was checking if there was anything important she might have overlooked, effectively filtering out the voices from the outside world.

"Junior Jiang." At this point, a voice rang out and a figure approached.

Jiang Wanyu raised her head and looked at the incoming youth. Though he was skinny and had no defining features, he radiated a sense of warmth and dignity.

Jiang Wanyu lightly nodded and responded, "Senior Zong Sha."

The youth who had approached was Zong Sha. He was a student of the Four Star Hall and was the strongest individual entering the Spiritual Resonance Cave from the college's side. In a way, he was also the leader of the squad.

His reputation within the college was pretty good, known for being friendly and avoiding unnecessary conflicts.

"There are several peers you have to be wary of when we enter the Spiritual Resonance Cave. The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li's Zhao Shenjiang, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing's Qin Yi, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhu's Zhu Dayu, and before I forget, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li's Li Luo. It is rumored that he came from an outer divine continent a year ago, and although he is at the lowest cultivation level on the list, you should not underestimate him if you happen to cross paths. A genius who has slaughtered his way out of the outer divine continent naturally has unique methods at his disposal." Zong Sha's tone was warm as he patiently offered his advice.

Jiang Wanyu's eyes fluttered for a moment. "I will naturally not provoke them without reason. However, if we have to fight over opportunities, conflicts cannot be avoided. When push comes to shove, if you can hold down the stronger Heavenly Pearl Tier cultivators, Senior Zong Sha, that will be enough."

Zong Sha gave a bitter smile, but he nodded in agreement. After all, this was his responsibility.

"Once your preparations are complete, we will head off," he replied.

After which, the squad from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College started to move out amidst the enthusiastic farewell of the crowd.

...

Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, Golden Dragon Bank Headquarters

Within a glittering and shining massive palace, the sounds of countless individuals could be heard.

Although the Golden Dragon Bank's belief was that harmony resulted in wealth, no faction truly regarded them as a pure business. They possessed unparalleled financial wealth, and they required substantial power to guard their riches. Otherwise, they would just be a fat sheep waiting to be slaughtered.

Thus, the Golden Dragon Bank invested significant effort in developing their own talented youths. They would similarly dispatch their best to the Spiritual Resonance Cave as a form of tempering.

In a secluded corner of the golden palace was a group of individuals. The most eye-catching of them all was a female dressed in white robes. She had extraordinary looks and a body that put others to shame.

Her name was Bai Lingyan, and she was the daughter of one of the vice presidents of the Golden Dragon Bank headquarters on the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. This was a position of considerable influence, making her a pivotal figure amongst the youths within the headquarters. She was sought after by many and was treated like a princess.

Bai Lingyan was in the middle of chatting with her companions, but her gaze seemed to contain a hint of displeasure as she glared at a seat in the middle of the golden hall.

The source of her displeasure was the fact that the Golden Dragon Bank had unexpectedly added newcomers to the squad that would be heading to the Spiritual Resonance Cave. Specifically, there was a mysterious girl who had caught her attention.

The girl was simply too brilliant. Although she was wearing a veil, her eyebrows hinted at the enchanting face hidden beneath, one capable of toppling nations. Her skin was so luminous that even the golden palace's radiance seemed dim in comparison, resembling the purest snow. Her slender legs were

adorned with snow-white stockings, outlining their contours and instilling a sense of raw beauty to anyone who saw it.

Just looking at this girl caused Bai Lingyan to unconsciously clench her teeth. She was once the heart of the squad, but other youths with status comparable to hers had converged around the newcomer.

"Elder Brother Zhao Ying, who exactly is she? How could they suddenly jam this stranger into our squad? Has the Golden Dragon Bank fallen to the point that any rabble can randomly join us?" Bai Lingyan glanced at the guy beside her.

The one known as Zhao Ying was temporarily speechless. His own father held a senior management position at the Golden Dragon Bank. Additionally, his father was in charge of choosing the individuals who could participate within the Spiritual Resonance Cave. Thus, he would naturally know something about this.

"Lingyan, don't trouble her. She was not randomly thrust into our team," the youth advised.

"Huh?" Bai Lingyan coldly smiled.

The youth softly replied, "She comes from the Mountain."

These words were puzzling to an outsider. However, Bai Lingyan had grown up in the Golden Dragon Bank and could be considered an insider. Thus, her expression changed as she knew what the Mountain represented.

The term "the Mountain" was referring to the Golden Dragon Mountain.

That was where the true core of the Golden Dragon Bank sat.

That single line caused Bai Lingyan's expression to turn gloomy.

"Her surname is Lu."

Bai Lingyan clenched her teeth and withdrew her piercing gaze from the mysterious girl.

Only one clan in the Golden Dragon Mountain had the surname Lu. If the newcomer was truly surnamed Lu, then her status was an entire level higher than those in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent's Golden Dragon Bank headquarters. The difference between them was akin to the gap between a royal princess from the capital and one from a remote land.