

The Gods 101

Chapter 101 - Remnants of the Phoenix (1)

Lan Xueruo thoroughly inspected Yun Che's injuries; the results she'd discovered let her breathe out a long sigh of relief, but at the same time, she experienced a great shock. It was because Yun Che's injuries were much better than what she had imagined. His shoulder suffered such a severe wound, yet it had already stopped bleeding and showed no signs of it worsening. Instead, it was mending together with an extremely shocking speed that was visually discernible with the naked eye. There were countless other wounds on his body but they were all light injuries. His body was in a state of weakness, but it was also only weakness; there were no injuries to the essentials and the internal injuries were also very insignificant.

Even though he fell from such a high place, he still pushed her in the other direction with all his strength, which caused him to plummet even faster. To sustain injuries to such an extent was something completely unfathomable.

As she lifted Yun Che up from the ground, she carried him to a nearby soft grass turf and laid him down. This was the first time she had held a man's body; she held him very carefully, accompanied by uncontrollably disordered heartbeats. Then, she quietly guarded beside him, and waited for him to wake up once more.

This was a mountainous region; innumerable hills that weren't too tall, spread throughout the entire field of vision. Even though the area was gushing with greenery, it emitted a kind of extremely desolate air.

From far away, drawn-out roars of profound beasts could be frequently heard. This also caused Lan Xueruo to stand guard by Yun Che's side and not dare to be even half a step away from him to prevent any profound beasts from approaching and harming Yun Che. After more than one hour had passed, the corner of her brow suddenly flickered as she looked toward her right. In her vision, five people were currently walking here; three adults, and two children.

These three men appeared to be around thirty or forty years old and they appeared to be fiendish looking. They wore the same kind of light armor, the exposed muscles were dark and coarse; clearly they were people that frequently operated outside. The one who appeared to be the oldest had a large tall frame with a ferocious looking face while a huge broadaxe rested on his shoulders. In contrast, the youngest looking one had a skinny frame; his facial features resembled that of a monkey with a sharp angled mouth and he dragged a giant iron club that was over a meter long. The last one had a face resembling a horse and also carried a giant iron club. In terms of their profound cultivation, the highest was already at the Nascent Profound Realm's eighth level while the lowest was also already at the sixth level of Nascent Profound Realm.

However, the two children appeared to only be seven or eight years of age. One boy and one girl, who were dressed in rough cloth. What was eye catching, was a very shallow red mark present on their foreheads; its shape, was like a cluster of burning flames. Each of their arms were separately dragged by one person, who walked them forward step by step. Tear stains that hadn't dried up yet could clearly be seen on their faces.

As soon as Lan Xueruo saw them, they also saw Lan Xueruo. Almost unanimously, the three men stopped their feet at the same time; their eyes tightly locked onto Lan Xueruo and glinted like that of ferocious wolves.

“Quick... Look quick! That girl over there.... There was actually such a good looking girl! Ssss.. I’ve never seen a women this beautiful in my entire life.” The horse-faced man spoke while his drool uncontrollably flowed down in a continuous stream.

The sharp-mouthed man was even more so unabashed; both of his legs tightly clamped up together as his entire body trembled: “She’s virtually a hundred times prettier than the goddesses in this daddy’s dreams, my legs are even about to give in. If we capture her to be our captain’s bride, the captain would definitely go crazy with happiness and may even grant us a vice-captain position....”

“Are you f*cking stupid!” The broadaxe man smacked the sharp-mouthed man on the neck. He then heavily licked the corner of his own mouth as his eyes revealed an obscene glint: “If we brought this girl back, Captain would definitely engage in activity every night. What would there be left for us? Tsk tsk, to meet such a beautiful girl in this place, that’s simply a reward sent to us by the heavens.”

The sharp-mouthed man’s eyes suddenly shone and his two legs shivered even more intensely. He continuously nodded nonstop: “Right! Right! Big Bro is right! Then what are we waiting for!”

“However, while this beautiful girl only looks to be eighteen or nineteen, she actually has the cultivation of the Nascent Profound Realm rank eight.” The broadaxe man frowned a little.

“What? Nascent Profound Realm rank eight?” Both the sharp-mouthed man and horse-faced man were immensely shocked. “To have such a strong cultivation at such a young age, she might actually be some great family’s disciple, or may even be on the level of a genius. If we act, and the family behind her back by chance finds out....”

“Tsk! Look at how unpromising you are.” The broadaxe man glanced at him disdainfully. He then licked his lips, and laughed obscenely: “When have we, the Black Demon Mercenary Group ever not lived a day on the blade’s edge, and who have we ever been scared of? Don’t even mention that she might be a disciple from some big family; since she has met us, even if she’s the current emperor’s daughter, hehehehe, we’ll still engage without reserve! Tut tut, to be able to enjoy such an otherworldly beautiful woman that can’t even be imagined in one’s dreams, it’s worth it even if we die right after!”

The sharp-mouthed man and horse-faced man were both nodding like a chick pecking rice, and were excited to the extent that they almost forgot how to walk properly

Even though their voices were low, it was enough to be heard clearly by the two children they dragged along in their hands. Terrified and worried expressions revealed on their faces. The small boy held his breath, then suddenly loudly shouted out: “Big sister, quickly run! They’re bad people, they want to harm you... Ah!!”

Sent onto the ground with a kick from the horse-faced man the small boy let out a painful scream. The little girl hurriedly ran over to help him up and then started to cry whilst hugging him.

The little boy’s voice and the scene that came after was completely seen and heard by Lan Xueruo. She slightly frowned and stood up from the ground. But now the broadaxe man and sharp-mouthed man

had already approached and stood in front of her with faces that brimmed with indecent smiles. The sharp-mouthed man's eyes revealed an obscene light that couldn't be anymore obvious; rubbing of both his hand's fingers together, it was clear that he could not wait much longer. If not out of fear of the opponent's profound cultivation that was at the eighth level of Nascent Profound Realm, he would have already swan-dived over: "Little sister, why are you here by yourself? Are you lost? Want this big brother to take you away from here?"

Lan Xueruo had faced similar gazes and demeanors many times before. However, this was the first time someone had been so blatant about it; without making an effort to conceal it in the slightest. The reason was very obvious; it was because this was the wilderness. In addition, she was alone by herself. Deep disgust exhibited from between her eyebrows as she answered in an indifferent tone: "Release those two children, then scam!"

Even if the young boy had not screamed earlier, she still could tell with a glance, that those two children were forcefully kidnapped by them.

"Yoh!" The broadaxe man laughed, "Not only is this girl beautiful, she's pretty gutsy too! Us brothers here, can properly refresh ourselves this time, hehehehe...."

"Big Sister! Quickly, run! They're bad people, really strong bad people.... Run! Ah~~~"

The little boy shouted at Lan Xueruo once more, but was again slapped onto the ground by the horse-faced man who viciously spoke: "Damn little brat, behave yourself. If it weren't for the fact that you still have a little bit of value, this daddy would've ripped you into pieces long ago. If you dare to shout again, you better believe that this daddy will rip your mouth off first."

The boy and girl tightly hugged each other. Fear could be seen in their eyes as their entire body trembled from head to toe.

Rage surfaced on Lan Xueruo's face; just because of the fact that young boy had shouted and warned her without caring for the consequence, she was already unable to continue to just sit and watch them be taken away by these three wicked people. However, Yun Che was lying right beside her and if she fought with them, there was the possibility of getting him involved. She clenched her hands and furiously spoke: "I'll say it again, release those two children, then quickly scam!"

"Hehehehe!" Facing Lan Xueruo's reprimand, not only did the trio not falter in the slightest, they instead started to laugh out loud. The broadaxe man lewdly answered: "Does the beauty want us to scam? Of course we wish for that... But I don't know if beauty want us to scam with us here? Or scam with us on the grass, or maybe scam with us on the bed?"

The sharp-mouthed man and horse-faced man simultaneously laughed out loud. Lan Xueruo's brow sunk as her expression became covered in frosty austerity. She spoke in a low voice: "You're courting death!"

As her voice faded, she stroked her left hand with her right. A longsword that was as pale as white jade was suddenly grasped in her hand. Instantly, the broadaxe man trio's eyes instantly flared up: "Spatial ring! It's actually a spatial ring! This time we've really hit the jackpot. From its appearance, this sword shouldn't be a common weapon either."

Even the lowest grade of spatial rings had an expensive price tag; it definitely wasn't something an ordinary person could afford. Thick greed had now started to form within the trio's obscene gazes

At this time, Lan Xueruo took a step forward to thrust her sword toward the broadaxe man. The broadaxe man had a strength at the eighth level of Nascent Profound Realm, and was the biggest threat.

"Hahahaha! Let's see how we, the three brothers, properly discipline this little beauty!" Within the sound of arrogant laughter, the broadaxe man lifted his gigantic broadaxe and horizontally swept toward Lan Xueruo's jade sword. The sharp-mouthed man left to him also laughed obscenely as he simultaneously grabbed the iron club with both hands and fiercely swung outwards.

The axe and club collided with Lan Xueruo's jade sword one after another, breaking Lan Xueruo's sword posture and caused her wrist to feel a dull pain. She quickly retreated a step backwards. With a low shout, the long sword drew a slanted arc which simultaneously blocked the two's advancement.

"Seven Star Arranging Moon!"

After a thrust of her sword, a few dozen others unceasingly followed. The sword's form was ceaseless; in the midst of her dance-like movements, the jade white longsword shed waves and waves of brilliant white shadows. Her current profound strength was at the eighth level of the Nascent Profound Realm, which matched the broadaxe man. But when all's said and done, she was still quite young; it was impossible for her to match up to the broadaxe man in terms of battle experience and the thickness of profound energy was even more incomparable. Not even mentioning the additional seventh ranker of the Nascent Profound Realm, even when she only faced the broadaxe man alone, she would be on the struggling side... And not far away, there was still the horse-faced man at the sixth level of Nascent Profound Realm, who still lurked there as he restrained the two children.

After a dozen or so rounds, all of Lan Xueruo's attacks were knocked back, and the sword had almost left her hands a few times. The broadaxe man laughed and suddenly leaped high into the air as the gigantic axe cleaved downwards with a frightening power:

"Thousand Jun Destruction!"

Dong!!

Lan Xueruo's sword posture had almost been blown apart in an instant. Her entire body quivered as she consecutively retreated five steps back. Her right arm faintly trembled as the longsword almost slipped out of her hand once more.

"Hehehehe, Big bro is awesome." The sharp-mouthed man boot-lickingly flattered and then smiled obscenely: "Little beauty, you should just obediently embrace us. If we keep on fighting and accidentally damage your beautiful body, tut tut, that would simply be a waste."

Lan Xueruo's chest heaved up and down yet her expression was completely undisturbed. She extended her hand to grasp the gemstone beaded necklace she had always wore, and lightly pulled it off.

The moment the gemstone beaded necklace left her snow white nape, the aura of her profound energy instantly surged. Unexpectedly, her charming eyes gradually revealed a saintly golden color. As she slowly lifted the jade sword in her hands... A distinct layer of golden light enveloped the snow white body of the sword.

Chapter 102 – Remnants of the Phoenix (2)

In an instant, Lan Xueruo's composure underwent an enormous change. The smiles on the faces of the broadaxe man and the sharp-mouthed man vanished instantaneously when they suddenly felt a suffocating pressure from the unrivaled beauty in front of them.

"Boss, what... what's going on?" The sharp-mouthed man felt something wrong about the atmosphere. The words had barely left his lips when a blade of white-gold light flashed from the side of his eye. Lan Xueruo's sword lifted up once more and thrust straight for his chest.

A strike without any fanciful movements, yet its aura was clearly stronger than the previous one by several folds! The sharp-mouthed man was paralyzed momentarily due to the stifling strength of her aura but after that, he swung his iron club and hurriedly parried her attack. With a resounding clash, the sharp-mouthed man's iron club was sent flying as the jade sword that was encased in golden light ruthlessly stabbed into his body. Due to the intense power of her strike, the white jade longsword bent for a split second to then immediately straighten once more. Subsequently, an explosion erupted; its monstrous power had caused the sharp-mouthed man to fly into the air and roll a few dozen meters away.... Had she used the sword's edge instead of the sword's body, the sharp-mouthed man would have undoubtedly been sliced through his middle.

This scene caused the complexions on the broadaxe man and the horse-faced man to suddenly change color. Before they could utter a single sound, Lan Xueruo's beautiful silhouette was already rushing towards the broadaxe man; her sword slanted to thrust straight towards his shoulder.

The powerful blade's approach instantly paled the broadaxe man's complexion. With nowhere to escape to, he mustered all of his body's profound energy at once. As he tightly clutched the broad axe with both hands, he gave out a low roar and clashed against Lan Xueruo's longsword with a smash.

Bang!!!

Carrying an ear-piercing sound of colliding metal, the broad axe met the jade sword and caused the broadaxe man to sink to the ground. Under the suppression of such an enormous pressure, both his feet immediately sank into the mire beneath. Lan Xueruo's sword momentarily paused but afterwards, her sword exploded once more to then ruthlessly swept onto the broadaxe man's chest.

With a crash, the broadaxe man's body rolled a few dozen meters away like a rolling gourd, and the axe in his hand had also been flung away. After spinning many rounds in the air, it came to land at the feet of the horse-faced man, causing him to tremble in fright as he backed away in panic.

The broadaxe man who had been tossed a few dozens of meters away stood up again in a very awkward manner. His chest was in unbearable pain and he vaguely figured that a few of his bones were broken. Yet he knew that if the lady had not been merciful and "chopped" instead of "swept", both he and the sharp-mouthed man would have already been split in two. This also brought about the realization that the young lady was extremely soft-hearted and would definitely not be willing to kill anyone.

An idea flashed through his mind. Promptly, he decided to kneel on the floor and loudly begged for forgiveness: "Miss, please spare our lives! The three of us had looked without seeing, we... We merely thought that you bore semblance to a goddess who had descended to earth, s-so we had intended to

approach and admire you. We definitely did not have any other intentions, so please overlook this and let us go.”

Lan Xueruo withdrew her jade sword with a face full of disgust. Unwilling to look at them any longer, she shouted angrily: “Leave at once! The farther you go, the better.”

“Yes, of course, we’ll leave immediately, right away.” The broadaxe man scrambled to his feet and glared at the two others who were still stupefied. The two followed his lead and also prepared to leave immediately.

“Release the children!” She abruptly knitted her brow and shouted when the horse-faced guy was just about to drag the two children away.

At that, the horse-faced man’s complexion suddenly fluctuated, but upon remembering that she had reduced the sharp-mouthed man and the broadaxe man to such sorry states within three moves, he had no choice but to grit his teeth and release the two children before slinking away afterwards.

Had Yun Che still been awake, he definitely would have told Lan Xueruo to kill all three of them. Deep within him, he knew that mercy did not often earn gratitude from the other party. Rather, it would only bring endless amount of unforeseen troubles. The trio had almost violated her previously, and were obviously tainted with a large amount of sin. To kill them was also helping the heavens mete out justice.

But in the end, Lan Xueruo was not Yun Che. She was innately kind and soft; had never killed anyone in her entire life and never had any thoughts of killing either. She didn’t even harbor any thoughts of crippling their limbs as punishment either.

In one breath, the three ran quite a distance. The horse-faced man grinded his teeth: “What horrible luck! The beauty was unsampled and we even had to release those two brats.”

“Nevermind that, we should already be thanking the heavens that we still escaped with our lives intact. That woman’s profound strength was at the True Profound Realm!” As he wiped the cold sweat from his forehead, the broadaxe man shuddered from the lingering fear. He just couldn’t understand it. Initially, he had obviously felt that the opponent was only in the eighth level of the Nascent Profound Realm, but the moment he had attacked, he suddenly felt an exponential increase in her profound strength. That level of profound strength, definitely did not pale in comparison to the True Profound Realm the three vice-captains had attained.

“Whaa? True... True Profound Realm?” Both the horse-faced man and the sharp-mouthed man simultaneously stupefied: “A little beauty of only a dozen or more years, how could she possibly have stepped into the True Profound Realm! Our captain is nearing fifty this year, and is only at the third level of the True Profound Realm!”

“Need you ask! That woman must have been a genius disciple of some super family! Those large families all have innumerable resources and sect profound skills; those below twenty that have been able to break into the True Profound Realm are too numerous to be counted! That was far too dangerous, we’re lucky the woman we’d met was mild-tempered. Had she been a bit feistier, the three of us would have been finished right here!”

“Captain should be returning today. We originally wanted to take credit for kidnapping two hostages, but who would’ve thought we’d almost lose our lives today. It looks like we can only let Captain personally take charge, let’s return quickly!”

.....

After chasing the three vile people away, Lan Xueruo heaved a small sigh of relief and reclasped the necklace around her neck. The profound energy that was released from our body immediately weakened. After two breaths, it had weakened back to the eighth level of the Nascent Profound Realm. In front of her, the two children who had just regained their freedom stared at her with wide eyes; their eyes glistened with unshed tears.

Lan Xueruo walked over and bent down: “Little boy, little girl, don’t be afraid, it’s alright now. Are you two from the mountains? Why were you captured by those three men?”

She had barely finished asking when the boy suddenly knelt before her and mournfully cried in his immature voice: “Big sister, I beg of you... Won’t you save my family? Those bad people have always been harming us. Big sister, you’re so powerful so you should definitely be able to send those bad people off with a beating.”

Seeing the little boy kneel, the little girl also followed suit and knelt down. Holding the boy’s arm, she added in a teary voice: “Big sister, please save us.... Uuu Uuu, please save us....”

Lan Xueruo was slightly shocked still for a moment before parting her hands to hold each of theirs with the intention of pulling them up from the ground: “Stand up, quickly... “

Even though he was only a little boy of seven to eight years, he possessed a stubbornness that belied his age. He stared tearfully at Lan Xueruo as he refused to stand: “Big sister, I beg you, please, you must save us. If you don’t save us, our entire clan will definitely be killed by those bad people. Only you can save us. In future... in future, we will definitely repay your favor.”

This little boy had previously shouted out to her twice in spite of the danger which proved that he had a kind soul. Now, he was kneeling in front of her with misty eyes filled with plea and slivers of hope... As if he had finally grabbed at the stalk of life-saving rice straw in the midst of his drowning.

Her heart immediately softened. Seeing that Yun Che was still lying quietly behind, she slightly hesitated before lightly smiling: “Little boy, little girl. Stand first, then take me to meet your clan, alright?”

The little boy’s eyes flashed with pleasant surprise. After wiping tears away from his face, he nodded vigorously.

Lan Xueruo carefully picked up Yun Che and followed the two children towards the direction of their home. On the way, she found out that the little boy was named Feng Zu’er and the little girl was Feng Xian’er; they were twins of different genders. The surname “Feng” surprised Lan Xueruo some, as she knew it was the surname of the Divine Phoenix Empire’s imperial family. But the two children told her that their entire clan’s surname was “Feng” and that they’d been living in this mountain of wilderness since they were born, without ever leaving or ever interacting with outsiders. There were many violent profound beasts in the area, but for some reason, these profound beasts never approached the place

where they resided. However, because of those concentrated number of scary profound beasts, they had never been able to leave. That was also the same reason why outsiders had never entered.

That held true only until a few days ago when the Black Demon Mercenary Group had found where they lived after barging in through some unknown method. The group had also realized that theirs was actually a very small clan of guardians and thus, forced them to hand over their treasures they guarded. This was the reason why Feng Zu'er and Feng Xian'er were captured; in order for them to demand those treasures as ransom within a day or risk having the children killed.

As they turned around a short hill, a small village appeared before their eyes. A few middle-aged adults dressed in rough clothing stood in the front of the village, wearing expressions of frustration and helplessness. A weeping married woman stood between them as she covered up her face.... and atop all their foreheads, was a flame-shaped imprint.

"Father.... Mother!"

In the midst of their cries, Feng Zu'er and Feng Xian'er threw themselves in the direction of the weeping woman. The woman suddenly lifted her head when she heard the voices of her children; she almost believed that she was dreaming as she stared in a daze and watched her children dash over. It was only until they had landed in her bosom, that she tightly embraced them while bawling in happy surprise.

"Zu'er, Xian'er, how did you...." The middle-aged man on the side was visibly shocked and then was at a loss of what to say in his delight.

"It's that pretty big sister who fought off those bad people and saved us." Feng Zu'er turned back and pointed at Lan Xueruo, "Not only is big sister pretty, she's also really strong. She only needed a short while to fight off all three of the bad people."

"Mn. Mn." Feng Xian'er nodded in agreement with a face full of adoration: "Also, big sister promised us that she'll help us fight off those bad people."

All eyes turned to Lan Xueruo. The middle-aged man took a step forward, bowed deeply towards Lan Xueruo, and sincerely stated: "Miss, thank you for saving my two children. I truly do not know how I ought to repay you... My name is Feng Baichuan and I am the current clan leader. This is my wife Feng Caiyun."

"It's no problem at all. I just happened to pass by and it required little effort." Lan Xueruo said politely. The man in front of her was thirty four years old; his appearance and the clothes he wore were humble and the space between his brows revealed a faint touch of elegance and calm. The flame imprint upon his forehead appeared to be especially clear.

But as the leader of the clan, his profound strength was only at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm. With respect to his age, this degree of profound strength was indeed too low. However, Lan Xueruo immediately noticed that everyone in front of her was at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm as well; it was incomparably uniform in this aspect.

"Thank you, truly, we are too grateful." Feng Caiyun bowed gracefully towards Lan Xueruo, too thankful for words.

“It is simply too wonderful that Zu’er and Xian’er managed to come back safely. However, those vicious thieves.... Sigh.” The bearded old man to the side heaved a sigh of relief to then take a lengthy sigh.

“Big sister is very strong, she can definitely drive all the vicious thieves away.” Feng Zu’er, who had personally seen Lan Xueruo’s “invincible prowess”, clenched his fist and spoke with complete confidence.

However, their worry could not be abated by his words alone. While they believed that her profound strength was truly amazing to have saved the two children from those three vicious thieves, she seemed like a young lady of just seventeen to eighteen years. Even if her profound strength was high, how high could it possibly be? The opponent was a notorious mercenary group that numbered around a hundred. Its captain and its three vice-captains were all in the True Profound Realm; it was hardly something that a young lady was capable of resisting.

Chapter 103 - Remnants of the Phoenix (3)

Feng Baichuan’s gaze switched Lan Xueruo’s rear and said: “This little brother, your complexion looks to be quite terrible and you’re even being carried by this young lady. You must have received heavy injuries right? I, myself have learned a bit of medicine, perhaps I may be of help somehow.”

“My name is Yun Che, I thank Clan Leader Feng for your good will.” Yun Che politely replied from Lan Xueruo’s back. His voice caused Lan Xueruo’s beautiful eyes to widen: “You’re.... you’re awake?”

“Yes, I woke up when senior sister put me on your back.” Yun Che said with a happy smile. Even if his complexion looked terrible, his voice was finally no longer that weak. During his freefall, he used the Sky Poison Pearl and rapidly fused the Skyroot Grass, Flower Nectar, Mountain River Plant along with thirty different types of medicinal material to swiftly concoct a Heaven Returning Pellet. Afterwards, he swallowed it. The amount and quality of the required medicinal material to refine this Heaven Returning Pellet was exceedingly harsh. Moreover, the refining environment, the furnace, and the refining method were all strict to the extreme. Even if it was a high level pellet refining master, the success rate of the refining wouldn’t exceed thirty percent. But with Xiao Sect Branch Sect’s enormous treasury and the Sky Poison Pearl, all of this was not an issue.

“Then why.... then why didn’t you say anything, and made me carry you this far.” Lan Xueruo flushed in anger.

“Because this is the first time in my life that I’ve been carried on a girl’s back. Not only was it very comfortable, the scent of Senior Sister’s body is very fragrant.” As he spoke to here, he originally wanted to lightly sniff the fragrance of Lan Xueruo’s body more, but his expression suddenly became sluggish as he blankly stared in place....

Was it really.... his first time being carried by a girl?

In this life, it was indeed...

But, during his life in the Azure Cloud Continent... That girl... Every time he returned to her by using the last bit of his strength and knocked on the bamboo door, he fainted in front of that bamboo door. When he awakened, he was lying on top of a soft and warm bed... Although he had been unconscious, it

seemed as if he was able to clearly feel her use her own delicate body to shoulder his bloodied body. Each of step she took was difficult and accompanying each step were specks of teardrops...

Time and time again; maybe even tens of times, or perhaps even hundreds of times. The number of times were simply uncountable and he also didn't bother to count it... The only thing he could remember was that even if he lived through two lives in two worlds, it was still impossible for it to make up for what he had owed her. Because heaven, no longer gave him that chance.

Suddenly, the Lan Xueruo he was tightly hugging slowly turned into the figure that only appeared in his dreams...

"You! If it weren't for the fact that you're injured, I would've tossed you aside!" Lan Xueruo said with a bit of indignance. Previously, when she had been carrying Yun Che, she was calm because she thought that Yun Che was unconscious. Now that he had awoken, that feeling of his body pressing against hers, and the indistinct male scent caused her ears to flush red as her heart pulsed even more erratically.

"Clan Leader Feng, can you help me find a place to settle down my friend?" Lan Xueruo asked Feng Baichuan while facing him.

"Of course, please follow me."

This small village was indeed a small village; there were a total of a dozen or so simple and crude houses. From Feng Baichuan, they learned that the whole clan was not more than two hundred people. In regards to the newly arrived Lan Xuero and Yun Che, the two outsiders, the people here were vigilant at first but afterwards, they revealed a good nature. Very quickly, Lan Xuero and Yun Che both realised a strange fact; every person they had met were all at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm. Other than the children who have not yet started to cultivate profound energy, all of them were like this, without a single exception. It seemed as if the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm was their limit. But, after the Nascent Profound Realm, every time one stepped into another level, it was accompanied by a bottleneck that increasingly becomes difficult to breakthrough. But from the Elementary Profound Realm to the Nascent Profound Realm, there was basically no bottleneck to speak of; so long as enough profound energy was accumulated, one would naturally step into the Nascent Profound Realm.

But the people here all stopped at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm; this truly puzzled Yun Che and Lan Xueruo.

"How could this place have the Phoenix's essence?"

Jasmine's sudden voice surprised Yun Che: "Phoenix? The primordial divine beast, the phoenix of legends?"

"Correct!" Jasmine's voice slightly revealed a sense of exhaustion; she previously transferred a part of her own profound energy to Yun Che. Although it was a very brief couple of seconds, it still caused a certain amount of damage to her soul and Yun Che's body: "Even though it's very faint, it is definitely without a doubt, the Phoenix's essence. How strange... Could it be that the phoenix had actually descended to this inferior plane before?"

This lowly plane... these words made Yun Che's heart stir, he suddenly made a terrifying guess as to Jasmine's identity.

"And the flame imprint on their foreheads, is also the mark that the phoenix bloodline bears! But this mark's color and the color that this princess knows, are completely different. Additionally, the mark of the phoenix bloodline is normally hidden; only when using the phoenix's power of fire would the mark forcibly appear, but the people here all bear the mark of the phoenix and it's as if they can't hide it. In short, this is too weird!"

Feng Baichuan brought Lan Xuero and Yun Che to a clean hut: "You two, please rest easy here. We are just a small clan hidden. Everything we have cannot compare with the outside world, so we can only inconvenience you."

Lan Xuero carefully put Yun Che on top of the bed. Secretly letting out a sigh of relief in her heart, she turned around to say: "Clan Leader Feng is too courteous. We are already extremely grateful to have a place like this."

"Are you guys Phoenix Ruins' guardian clan?"

Yun Che suddenly asked at this time.

Feng Baichuan, who was calm and dignified up until now, froze; his pupils distinctly contracted slightly. His expression rapidly fluctuated as he thought about how he could deny or avoid the question. But after a few breaths of time, his expression calmed down and a seemingly self-deprecating laugh arose: "The guardian clan? We aren't worthy of that title. We are simply keeping away from the world while carrying this sin and curse. We are just a humble clan who have to atone for their sins, generation after generation. Although I don't know where you learned that we have a relationship with the Phoenix, but it looks like... You came here in order to obtain the so-called 'treasure' that we're guarding, right?"

"Phoenix? The divine beast that the Divine Phoenix Empire worships?" As the flabbergasted Lan Xuero looked at Yun Che and Feng Baichuan, her brain momentarily stopped working.

"No, you misunderstood." Yun Che took a breath. He wanted to sit up but his entire body was so weak that even the slightest of movements would cause a stabbing pain. He could only give up, and lay there as he answered: "The reason I was able to find out that you are possibly the clan that guards the phoenix's remains, is because of the mark on your foreheads. I came into contact with a lot of rumors regarding the phoenix bloodline; aside from the color being slightly different, the shape of the mark on your foreheads and the shape of the mark that I know of, is exactly the same. My senior sister and I coming here, is due to an unintentional fall from a high altitude. I even sustained heavy injuries from my fall, so there is absolutely no other intention."

The injuries on Yun Che's body wholeheartedly convinced Feng Baichuan. After all, no one would be crazy enough to come after their 'treasure' with such heavy injuries. Yun Che's words baffled him for a while, and then he once more mockingly laughed at himself: "The Phoenix imprint... Different color... Yes, different color. The originally respected imprint that symbolized its power and bloodline has turned into a cursed mark of sorrow; our ancestors made a horrible mistake, but what kind of sin have we, the younger generation commit!?"

Feng Baichuan's words revealed a strong sense of sorrow; it seems as if Yun Che's words thoroughly stabbed at his heart's sore spot.

A cursed mark? Yun Che's heart pounded. The blood mark, how could it turn into a cursed mark? Wait wait, maybe the reason their profound cultivation was limited to the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm, was because of this "cursed mark" Feng Baichuan spoke of?

"I believe that you are not bad people because I can't sense any maliciousness from your body and you have also saved my two children. However I should repay you, is something I ought to do. Only..." Feng Baichuan took a lengthy sigh: "Our clan is currently facing a disaster; if you are to continue to stay here, the disaster could involve you so you should recuperate here. It would be best if you could finish healing and leave before those treacherous people come back here again. Because the next time those villains come, perhaps... It'll be the disaster of disasters."

When he was being carried on the road here, he learned what had happened previously from Lan Xueruo and two children's conversation. Puzzled, he asked: "Clan Leader Feng, I have one thing that I don't understand. Your clan ought to have been here for many years right? So many years have peacefully passed by, but why has a mercenary group suddenly fixed their attention on you?"

Feng Baichuan looked out the window and calmly answered: "What you had just said is correct. Our clan has already existed for many many years and was even prosperous for a period of time. But after incurring heaven's wrath, we rapidly declined and had no choice but to live in isolation in order to survive. At present, because of this lowly appearance, we aren't even comparable to a small broken down village. However, we were left undisturbed these past years because this area is known as the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range. Every type of profound beast is rampant; the least violent are Nascent Profound Beasts, and the scariest are the Earth Profound Beasts. And it is even rumored that there are three terrifying Sky Profound Beasts dwelling within this mountain range. This is the profound beasts' paradise. They reject humans who step foot into this place; they would group together to attack if humans entered the area. At the same time, the deeper you go, the higher the level of profound beasts get."

"As for this place, it is the entire Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range's center. A few humans may operate around this Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range's border in order to obtain profound beast cores but aside from those who are exceptionally strong, there was essentially none with the courage and capability to arrive in this region. That and the exceptionally strong who had such an ability would not come to such a trivial place."

"But it seems as if there are no profound beasts that live near here?" Yun Che frowned, immediately after he finished speaking when he suddenly realized: "Could it possibly be because... of the Phoenix's essence?"

"Right." Feng Baichuan nodded: "To tell you the truth, the Phoenix Ruins we have been guarding for generations is behind this area and contains the remaining essence of the phoenix that it left behind. Although the essence is weak, it has never scattered. In this world, which profound beast could possibly withstand the prestigious pressure of a Primordial Divine Beast? Who would dare approach?"

"So it was like this."

Yun Che slowly nodded and the expression on his face slightly fluctuated. This place actually had a Phoenix Ruin. Not only that, the essence of the Phoenix had never dispersed. The best explanation was that this was the place where the Phoenix Ruin resided, and it was something the Phoenix had left behind!

Something that a Primordial Divine Beast left behind!

The blood in Yun Che's entire body started to boil as he only thought about this... One could imagine how large of a sensation would occur if word of a Phoenix Ruin being here were to spread.

"Since this is the case, then how did those vicious people who wished to seize the thing you're guarding enter?" Questioned Yun Che. It was absolutely impossible for a normal mercenary group to have the strength to face spirit profound beasts; and even more so earth realm profound beasts. Forget about a hundred people, even if the scale was ten times larger, encountering an earth realm profound beast would definite result in a complete wipe-out.

Considering this Thousand Beast Mountain Range's density of beasts walking on a road without encountering any spirit profound beasts or earth realm profound beasts was even more impossible.

"I don't know." Feng Baichuan shook his head: "I want to know more than anyone else how they managed to enter this area. Perhaps, this is the fate we deserve."

Could it be that they were borrowing the power of profound beasts that could fly extremely high? Yun Che muttered to himself, but he immediately rejected this conjecture. This Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range had an innumerable amount of profound beasts. It was inevitable that there include a large number of flying profound beasts amongst them so even if they used normal flying profound beasts, it was still impossible to enter. This could only be done by profound beasts at the level of the Fierce Storm Hawk and the Giant Snow Eagle, who were able to fly thousands or even ten thousands of meters high. But due to the horrifying difficulty in controlling them, the amount of people who had the ability to handle them were simply too few. Even Xiao Sect's Outer Sect, New Moon City's strongest sect, only had one, so how could this ordinary mercenary group possess any.

Chapter 104 - The Impending Crisis

"Let me take a look at your injuries, I should be able to deal with them as long as they're not too strange." While sighing, Feng Baichuan walked to the front of the bed.

However, Yun Che shook his head: "No need, I have my own ways of dealing with these minor injuries. There's no need for you to worry. You're currently facing a great catastrophe, so there must be a lot of things for you to do as clan leader. You don't have to mind us."

Feng Baichuan nodded and did not insist: "Okay then, you guys stay here and have a good rest. If you need anything, just give me a call... I hope those vicious men would come a bit later."

Feng Baichuan opened the door and walked out with a worried expression. Yun Che placed his hand on his chin and fell into deep thought.

"Are your injuries really okay? You did fall from such a great height previously, after all." Lan Xueruo asked worriedly.

Yun Che shook his head gently and smiled: "I remembered telling Senior Sister that I'm a genius doctor. To a genius doctor, these kind of small injuries are nothing."

To others, the injuries on his body would definitely be considered heavy but in his eyes, it could only be counted as light injuries.

"Genius doctor? Even if you are a genius doctor, does it mean you can just throw your life away like this!" Lan Xueruo's eyes reddened as she thought about how Yun Che had saved her with his life, two consecutive times: "Had you really died, I would never be at peace for the rest of my life."

"Haha," Yun Che laughed: "Yuanba was right, Senior Sister is really too kind. I was the one who had been a burden to Senior Sister in the first place so I should be the one to blame myself, but now Senior Sister is blaming herself instead."

Lan Xueruo's gaze wavered. Biting her lower lip, she said softly: "Junior Brother Yun, in future, please do not do what you did just now again, okay? Actually, there are many protective devices on my body so I won't be hurt that easily. If something similar were to happen again, you cannot protect me without regard for your own life. It is enough if you just protect yourself."

"I can't do it." Yun Che shook his head obstinately.

"Why can't you do that? Do you not treasure your life?" Lan Xueruo's heart skipped a beat.

"No! I do treasure my life a lot. No matter the situation, I would still not allow myself to die. It's just that... Just that..." Not letting Lan Xueruo see the sorrow deep within his gaze, Yun Che closed his eyes: "I once let down a girl who had treated me best... In the end, because of me, she died in my embrace... Perhaps I won't be able to forget that pain even after ten lifetimes. From that day on, I swore to never let any girl that treated me well to suffer any harm... Never!"

"...That girl, she shouldn't be be your current wife, right?" Lan Xueruo look at Yun Che, her gaze revealed a complexity that even she did not understand herself.

"Of course not. But the way she treats me is still considered to be nice, so how I treated her should also be considered nice." Thinking of Xia Qingyue, Yun Che smiled gently. Even though the few days they had shared the same bed were short, the memories were still wonderful. However, they would probably never meet again in future, yet the identity as his "wife" was firmly imprinted deep within his heart because she was the first wife in two lifetimes; despite them only being husband and wife in name.

"Junior Brother Yun, you are only sixteen years old! Not only are you married at such a young age, you also have a maiden who sacrificed her life for you... perhaps there are still other maidens who have been harmed by you. I have seen many men who are fickle in love and passionate, but it is still my first time seeing a man who is as young as you." Lan Xueruo said while laughing. With regards to the identity of Yun Che's "wife", she was well aware. That was because she had sent someone to New Moon City to investigate Yun Che's entire background. The fact of his wife Xia Qingyue being a disciple of Frozen Cloud Asgard, was well known by everyone in Floating Cloud City. This also let the Xia Family she was a part of, to indistinctively become a giant figure in Floating Cloud City that no one dared to provoke. After all, within the four major sects, Frozen Cloud Asgard had the least disciples but they were well known to protect their own."

Yun Che smiled, but declined to comment as he asked in reply: "Then does Senior Sister have someone she likes?"

"Me? Of course not. As if Senior Sister is like you, womanizing everywhere at such a young age." Lan Xueruo pursed her lips and laughed.

"Phew, how lucky that you don't have one, else I would have died from sadness." Yun Che heaved a small sigh of relief, and even his expression loosened up quite a bit.

"... You little brat! I didn't wrong you when I said you were fickle about love." Lan Xueruo stuck up her nose to give a face of rebuke. After that, she raised her attractive face as her expression wore a slightly wishful longing: "The one I, your Senior Sister wants to marry in the future will certainly be the unrivaled hero that is able to conquer the world. A fickle-minded brat like you is not my cup of tea at all. Besides, you're already married."

Yun Che: "..."

"Have a good rest. Little Snow is too tired from the previous flight. It has exhausted all its strength and may have to go into slumber for quite some time. We can leave as soon as it awakens. As for the people here, I have already promised the two little fellows that I will help them within the limits of my power."

After speaking with Yun Che for awhile, she could clearly feel that he was straining himself and thus, she didn't continue to disturb him. After walking out, she gently closed the door.

"Interested in the thing they're guarding?" Jasmine suddenly asked once Lan Xueruo had left.

"Of course!" Yun Che replied with his eyes closed: "Since the essence of the phoenix is here, there's a great possibility that it is something that the phoenix had left behind! The Phoenix, a primordial divine beast! Even if it's a feather, it will also be of the divine profound grade! Now that outsiders have found out about this place, even if they don't obtain what they're protecting, there is still a high possibility that they would spread news about this place. When that time comes, who knows whose hands it would land into."

"Hmph! How can a mere mortal dabble in something that belongs to a primordial divine beast." Jasmine coldly snorted in disdain and then spoke no longer, as if she was giving a kind warning to Yun Che.

In the midst of silence, Yun Che checked the injuries on his body before immersing his consciousness into the Sky Poison Pearl to find a dozen or more herbs. After fusing them for awhile, he obtained a lump of pitch-black gelatinous substance. He evenly rubbed it on top of his left shoulder before closing his eyes and falling fast asleep.

When Yun Che woke up again, it was already the afternoon of the second day. He was woken by the chaotic noises that came from outside.

"... If you're smart, then quickly undo the seal at the back mountain! You are the guardian family here, you would surely have a way to undo it! Don't make us force you to do it!" Came a boorish and violent voice which carried an extremely vicious and threatening menace.

“That seal has always been there and we honestly have no idea what it is! Much less the way to undo it! We are but a small clan that lives here in seclusion. If we did indeed have some sort of treasure, why would our clan be reduced to such a pitiful state.” That was Feng Baichuan’s voice.

“HAHAHAHA! Do you think we’re three year olds? Who would believe your lies! Today, our captain and vice-captain have both came personally. If you continue to play dumb, see if we’ll wipe out your entire clan!”

.....

These voices... Could they be...

Yun Che instantly sat up from his bed. Although his left shoulder was still hurting and not as flexible when he moved it, it was much better compared to yesterday. Most of the small injuries on his body were almost half-healed and his body was no longer as weak as it was yesterday; at least he had no problem walking normally now. Just as he wanted to get down the bed, the room’s door was pushed open and Lan Xueruo hurriedly rushed in. Seeing that Yun Che was already awake, she anxiously said: “Not good, Junior Brother Yun, the Black Demon Mercenaries Group actually came today. They’ve brought more than one hundred men and completely barricaded the village entrance.”

“Why are they so fast?” Yun Che frowned.

“Clan Leader Feng and the rest were also caught unprepared, but now the entire clan is taking precaution.” Lan Xueruo’s expression was filled with anxiety.

At that moment, another wave of loud roar came from outside: “Is the little beauty from yesterday here! No treasure? That’s fine too! Just hand out that little beauty first! Let us uncles enjoy ourselves first, and perhaps we’ll even forget about the treasure, hahahaha.”

A wave of laughter was heard from a distance. Yun Che’s eyebrows locked in a frown... He suddenly understood why this “Black Demon” mercenary group had come over to attack so quickly... It was obvious that they too, were uncertain if this place had any so-called treasure here. From the profound strength of the people here, anyone with who was sane would deduce that even if there was any sort of treasure, it wouldn’t be that good anyway. But yesterday Lan Xueruo had fought three people from this mercenary group and Lan Xueruo’s beauty was so great that it shocked them into thinking that she was a celestial being. The reason why they rushed here was not for some kind of treasure but rather Lan Xueruo! They were afraid that she would’ve left if they had come a bit later.

“This group of wicked people!” Lan Xueruo nibbled her lips as her face flushed with anger: “Junior Brother Yun, you’re still injured so you should stay here and rest. Do not go out no matter what. I’ll go teach them a lesson.”

If Lan Xueruo had immediately killed those three people yesterday, it wouldn’t have resulted in such a impatient attack. But Yun Che was unable to blame Lan Xueruo; after all, she was still a girl and her heart was originally soft. He pulled Lan Xueruo back and asked with concentrated eyebrows: “What are the cultivation levels of the people in this mercenary group?”

“There appears to be a requirement to enter; every one of them are all above the Elementary Profound Realm! The one with the lowest profound strength is at the first level of the Nascent Profound Realm.

There are more than eighty between the first and fifth level, and more than thirty of them are above the fifth level of Nascent Profound Realm. Also, four more... who should be their captain and vice-captain, should have reached the True Profound Realm.” Lan Xueruo replied as she creased her eyebrows. With such a line-up, it was basically impossible for Feng Baichuan and the others who were only at the tenth level of Elementary Profound to hold them back.

“True Profound Realm...” Yun Che sucked in a slight breath as the hand that held onto Lan Xueruo tightened: “No! You cannot go! You heard what they had yelled earlier; the motive for their visit is most likely for you. Let’s not talk about over a hundred people of the Nascent Profound Realm, just those True Profound Realm captains alone, are not people we could handle.”

“They have already barricaded the village’s exit so we won’t be able to escape even if we wanted to. Furthermore... perhaps I can still deal with them with enough effort.” As Lan Xueruo said that, she stretched out her hands and removed the pearl necklace on her neck. Soon after, her profound energy quickly rose under Yun Che’s surprised gaze: “The pearls on this necklace are known as the ‘Profound Locking Pearl’. When worn, it is able to suppress the wearer’s profound strength by five ranks. My true profound strength cultivation is at the third level of True Profound Realm. They won’t be able to hurt me that easily.”

The change in Lan Xueruo’s profound energy astonished Yun Che. Eighteen years old, at the third level of True Profound Realm... This was a completely different and astonishing realm from Xiao Luo Cheng who had been the number one genius of New Moon City! He asked in amazement: “Senior Sister, why did you...”

“I chose to do it because I didn’t want to attract too much attention. Anyways, you stay here and I’ll think of an idea to bring you out of here.”

Even though Lan Xueruo had finished and was about to leave, she was pulled back again by Yun Che: “Even if Senior Sister has the strength of the True Profound Realm, the opponent has four people in the True Profound Realm! While I cannot say it for sure, their average level could also be higher than yours... If there isn’t a way to get out of this, I will go out with you.”

Chapter 105 – Black Demon

The narrow valley path sandwiched between the walls of two mountains became the only gateway to this little village that was aloof from worldly affairs; yet at this moment, this one and only gateway was firmly obstructed by a group of people emanating a wild wolf-like aura. Each and every one of them sent a fierce and bantering look at the crowd that was overwhelmed with fear in front of them.

“I have already said many times, we are nothing but a normal little village. There is no so-called treasure, much less the person you are looking for.” Feng Baichuan clenched his fist tightly as he tried to not let his anger erupt. Any single wicked person in front of them would be superior to anyone from their tribe; this was a group of villains that was simply impossible for them to oppose.

“A normal little village? Hahahaha, would a normal little village be located in the heart of this Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range? Would it be guarding such a strange seal? In my eyes, you guys are clearly a wilting guardian family!”

Following a wave of crazed laughter, a fierce-looking middle-aged man wearing a black cap walked out from the Black Demon Mercenary Group. The three men following behind him all had malicious smiles on their faces and gave out a profound aura strong enough to make Feng Baichuan pale. He looked askance at Feng Baichuan and sneered: "This daddy is the head here, Captain Black Demon of the Black Demon Mercenary Group. We don't have the slightest interest in massacring the rubbish, so I shall give you one last chance. All you need to do is hand over the treasure and the beauty, and I will swear on my title as Captain that we will leave without touching a single person here. However, if you still fail to appreciate my kindness," Black Demon swung the Wolf Fanged Mace in his hand and laughed maliciously: "We don't mind killing another hundred more people."

Low cries of dismay resounded. Everyone who was behind Feng Baichuan had faces full of anger and fear; some small children cowered in their mothers' embrace while trembling and cried out loud out of fear. Some of the elderlies were trembling out of anger as they continuously raged: "You villainous thieves... will definitely receive retribution."

Feng Baichuan answered through firmly clenched teeth: "When I say there's nothing, there really is nothing! Even we, don't even know what that seal is! Even if you killed us all, it would still be impossible for us to know."

"Oh ho! You're pretty tight lipped. It seems that you won't be honest without some bloodshed. No problem, we have plenty of time to slowly play around with you." Black Demon laughed maliciously and then gave a glance to a middle-aged man who carried an axe behind him: "Blacky, go and educate them for me! Kill or cripple them as you please."

"Roger! Captain!" The one called "Blacky" carried a big chopper and walked out, swung his big blade around to show off, and licked the corner of his lips while giving off a contemptuous look, as if looking at a bunch of ants: "Those that don't know any better, let grandfather here come and educate you."

After finished speaking, his blade came swinging straight for Feng Baichuan.

"Don't think that you can hurt our Clan Leader!!"

The three elders behind Feng Baichuan rushed out at the same time and faced Blacky. The three elders were all at the tenth level of Elementary Profound Realm, so even if Feng Baichuan was included, there was no way they were a match for Blacky who was in the sixth level of the Nascent Profound Realm. Blacky's first strike directly cut open the first elder's profound energy defence with its overbearing blade aura, leaving a long bloody gash on his left chest.

"Mountain Splitting Blade!"

Blacky gave a cold laugh and then the power of his blade became more and more vicious. He was not born in a sect; thus he naturally did not have any profound arts. However, even though his profound skills were of the lowest grade, given the level of his superior profound strength, even if he didn't use profound skills, he would still be able to easily crush Feng Baichuan and others. The activation of his profound skill was like the autumn gale that cleanly swept away fallen leaves. Wherever his blade landed, a wound was left on every one of the elders. He followed with a sudden kick that landed heavily on Feng Baichuan's lower abdomen, sending him thirty feet away while a large amount of fresh blood spurted from his mouth.

“Clan Leader!!”

“Father!”

While crying, Feng Zu'er and Feng Xian'er rushed out from Feng Caiyun's embrace, threw themselves beside Feng Baichuan, and pulled at his body. The three elders all fell to the ground. Blood flowed from their wounds as their faces filled with despair.

“Hehe, these two brats must be your son and daughter?” Blacky dragged his blade and walked step by step towards Feng Baichuan to then sinisterly say: “Let me see if you'll still be so tight-lipped after I carve your daughter's eyes out!”

In the midst of Feng Baichuan's shrunken pupils, he suddenly stretched out and grabbed at a terrorized Feng Xian'er.

“Stop!!”

An angry and delicate shout came from the side, and at the same time, a snow-white glow came flying like a meteor. Blacky's reaction was fast as well; he retracted his hand and panickedly retreated as a jade-like snow-white longsword accurately stabbed at the position he was standing earlier. Cold sweat erupted from his entire body. Following the exchange, a snow-white figure landed and pulled out the jade sword from the ground to point it at Blacky along with a cold gaze filled with fury.

The sound of gasping and gulping was immediately heard from the Black Demon Mercenary Group the instant Lan Xueruo appeared. They all stared at Lan Xueruo as if in a daze as every one of their eyes bulged straight out; their expression became sluggish, and a large amount of saliva unconsciously flowed out.

“Ca... Captain! That's her! That's her!” The broadaxe man from yesterday excited exclaimed to Black Demon: “I didn't lie to you right? Isn't she like a fairy!”

Black Demon's pair of eyes were already wide open from staring, and even both of his hands started trembling. He resolutely swallowed a mouth of saliva and hissed: “Beautiful! Truly beautiful! Damn, there actually exists such a beautiful woman in this world! The women this daddy had played with before are simply unsightly, compared to her!”

“We must get this woman! If I could sleep with this kind of woman for a night, my life would be complete.”

“Hehe, since she has already come out, isn't she already yours.” The broadaxe man flattered: “However, even though she might look young, her profound strength has indeed reached the True Profound Realm. If Group Leader wants to take her, some effort should be needed to do so.”

“This daddy and Black Tiger, Black Devil, Black Wolf, who are all in the True Profound Realm, in addition to a hundred more brothers still can't deal with a little beauty? Hahahaha.” Black Demon rubbed his hands and laughed without inhibitions. In those passionate eyes, it was as if Lan Xueruo was already one of his belongings.

“Blacky, fall back. I'll personally deal with this lil' beauty myself.”

Blacky obediently fell back. The people of the Black Demon Mercenary Group were all leering at Lan Xueruo, but they could only swallow their own saliva. They could only fantasize, because only Black Demon would get to enjoy such a woman.

“Hey pretty, what’s your name? How old are you this year?” Black Demon lecherously asked while carrying his Wolf Fanged Mace and revealing a mouth of disgusting huge yellow teeth.

The profound strength aura emitted from Black Demon’s body made Lan Xueruo tighten her eyebrows... Third level of the True Profound Realm, he was on the same level as her. She took a silent breath; her expression remained indifferent as she coldly shouted: “You guys are a mercenary group. You merely do jobs after taking commissions from people, you are not a bandit group! The more you commit injustices, the more likely you are bound to suffer from the wrath of Heaven! This is not a place that you should occupy. Leave immediately!”

Her celestial aura and grandeur faintly assaulted Black Demon’s senses, and caused his bones to become limp when seeing her at a close distance. He once again firmly swallowed his drool and laughed lewdly: “Leave here? With pleasure, with pleasure. Since little beauty has opened her mouth, this matter can be easily settled. If little beauty agrees to follow me back and be my lady, I, Black Demon, will promise to leave immediately and never to come back to this place in my lifetime. Little beauty, what do you say?”

“Such insolence!” Lan Xueruo angrily roared, then immediately realized that those two words were not fitting. With additional anger on top of rage, she knew that it would be useless to say anything to these group of villains, and directly stabbed at Black Demon... The only thing she could think of that could resolve the current crisis was to defeat this Black Demon, seize him, and then coerce the Black Demon Mercenary Group into retreating.

Black Demon did not expect Lan Xueruo to suddenly attack and panickedly raised his Wolf Fanged Mace to block, and was momentarily flustered by a few of Lan Xueruo’s consecutive sword strikes.

A gold glint enveloped Lan Xueruo’s sword. The reflection of the sword was gorgeous and swift as it dazzled Black Demon. Only two *rip rip* sounds could be heard when the light armor on his body immediately split in two, and even his protective profound energy was cut open as a chunk of flesh suddenly flew out.

The mercenaries of the Black Demon Mercenary Group were all stumped. This girl that looked only seventeen to eighteen, actually injured their Group Leader Black Demon the instant she attacked... Black Demon was someone with the profound strength at the third level of the True Profound Realm!

Black Demon’s anger also erupted when receiving the sword strike that was neither heavy nor light. He let out a loud roar and swung his Wolf Fanged Mace; Three lines of snake-shaped electric sparks appeared strangely on the mace, and a feeling of dangerous power was released with a “Bzzzzt” sound.

Electric attribute profound skill? Lan Xueruo was faintly alarmed in her heart. A group leader of a normal mercenary group, actually had an electric attribute profound skill.

“Mad Snake Thunder Dance!”

The huge lightning-covered Wolf Fanged Mace drew a gigantic circular arc around Lan Xueruo. Unable to avoid the strike, Lan Xueruo's sword magnificently glowed with a golden light and actually faced the attack head-on with the sword's body.

Ding!!

Sparks went flying in all directions; Lan Xueruo's jade sword instantly warped by a huge margin, and impact of the humongous power caused Lan Xueruo to flip backwards. However, the moment her feet touched the ground, she again bursted forward towards Black Demon. A golden light flashed across her beautiful eyes as she muttered a soft chant that only she herself could hear...

"Mon... arch... Sword..."

Since subduing Black Demon was the only hope to resolve the crisis, Lan Xueruo no longer had any reason to hold back. She thrusted straight at Black Demon with her strongest profound skill.

The instant the sword thrusted, Yun Che's gaze suddenly went into turmoil... Because the sword style that Lan Xueruo was currently using was a kind of sword style he had never seen before. It was clearly just an ordinary sword thrust, yet the sword's approach was not only violent and overbearing, but also carried a sense of unconcealed pride; as if it was an arrogant monarch who looked down on the world, unrivaled and unstoppable in its path.

Since "Mad Snake Thunder Dance" had a huge and formidable power, Black Demon never expected that Lan Xueruo would actually be able to block his "Mad Snake Thunder Dance" and counterattack so fast. He raised his Wolf Fanged Mace and blocked his front, but the moment the sword tip touched the Wolf Fanged Mace, Black Demon's expression suddenly changed greatly; because from the club's body, there came an astonishing strength that he could not defend against. Accompanying a "ding" sound, his body was fiercely blown backwards, and the Wolf Fanged Mace in his hands was also unexpectedly blown out of his grip as it flew far far away. Yet, the momentum of Lan Xueruo's sword did not weaken in the slightest; the sword's tip thrusted straight toward Black Demon's left shoulder, broke through his protective profound energy as if cutting tofu, and exited from the backside of his shoulder... Directly piercing a clear hole through his shoulder.

Chapter 106 - 《World Ode of the Phoenix - Fragments》 (1)

Black Demon howled painfully as a big cloud of bloody mist erupted from his shoulder. He incited the ferocity in his nature and with a big bellow of rage, unexpectedly grabbed the blade of Lan Xueruo's jade sword and swung out ferociously... Since Lan Xueruo's "Monarch Sword" had just exhausted its power and Black Demon's strength was astonishingly great, the sword had actually been forcibly taken away forcibly by Black Demon and caught her off guard.

Crap! Seeing how Lan Xueruo had injured Black Demon with a thrust, Yun Che's heart immediately thumped. If she had kept on sparring with him, they could've stalled for a little while longer; but stabbing him through the shoulder would undoubtedly rouse his ferocious nature. One could imagine the following consequences.

Black Demon grabbed Lan Xueruo's sword and fell back panickedly. His face had already turned malevolent, and a wild roar came from his mouth: "GO AND... CATCH THAT BITCH FOR ME! As for the rest, KILL THEM ALL!!"

As Yun Che expected, the furious Black Demon had commanded his men to directly attack. Momentarily, the Black Demon Mercenary Group that had been waiting for quite a while grabbed their weapons and rushed up while roaring. The three vice-captains started attacking Lan Xueruo as well.

If they were to rush up here, who knows how many here would be killed or injured. Yun Che did not dare to hesitate; he walked quickly to Lan Xueruo's side while grabbing onto a Sky Tremor Bomb, and threw it with all his strength.

BOOM!!!!

As the Sky Tremor Bomb landed, it released a huge boom, as if thunder had descended to earth. The explosion blasted away the dozen or more Black Demon mercenaries who had rushed at the front-most lines, and they laid on the floor whilst wimping in pain. Six of them had both of their legs blown away; three of them had the flesh of their entire body turned into paste; while the rest suffered from different degrees of damage.

The Black Demon Mercenary Group that had just begun to rush in, paused momentarily. All of their expressions became lifeless as they stared at the big hole that had been blasted open. Even Black Demon, who was applying medicine on his wound, had his eyes wide open. The three vice-captains also retreated a step back with faces filled with horror.

"What... what was that... What just happened?"

Yun Che stood in front of Lan Xueruo with the second Sky Tremor Bomb in his right and a Poison Fire Rod in his left. His gaze swept coldly over the Black Demon mercenaries who were rooted by fear before coldly laughing: "Whoever wants to die, come take a step forward and try!"

Lan Xueruo took a look at the item on Yun Che's and cried out silently: "Sky Tremor Bomb? How do you have the Xiao Sect's Sky Tremor Bomb?"

"I took them from the treasury of the branch sect." Yun Che replied softly while holding onto Lan Xueruo. They fell back step-by-step until they reached Feng Baichuan's side.

The Sky Tremor Bomb just now had brought about a huge deterrence, causing these Black Demon mercenaries to momentarily not dare to push forward.

"Clan Leader Feng, do you know of any places where we can temporarily hide in?" Yun Che raised the hand that held the Sky Tremor Bomb while staring fiercely at the Black Demon Mercenary Group in front as he lowered his voice to ask Feng Baichuan. He had a total of six Sky Tremor Bombs: three had been used when dealing with Xiao Zaichi, one had just been used, and currently, only two were left on his body. The most he could do was cause a temporary deterrence.

Yun Che's words caused Feng Baichuan's expression to turn rigid for a moment, but he remained silent.

Yun Che lowered his voice and asked: "These people said you guys have a seal in the back mountain, is it true? You guys surely have a way to open the seal, and allow your clansmen to retreat inside before reactivating the seal again. At the very least, it will temporarily keep everyone safe."

"Out of the question!" What surprised Yun Che was that Feng Baichuan did not deny it, but instead rejected: "That place is the sacred ground the phoenix left behind, and also where the divine spirit of the

phoenix lies. If every clansman were to go there, we would offend the divine spirit of the phoenix, and the sins that our clan committed will never be forgiven.”

Yun Che gritted his teeth and said: “These people all carry an extremely heavy scent of bloodlust and killing intent. This means that they have killed quite a number of people. I reckon that claiming to be a mercenary group is just a cover and they are actually a bandit group who kill people for their property. If they were really determined to kill us, they would not have a shred of mercy when killing your clansmen! Your clansmen are almost all dead, why do you still care about offending or not offending!?”

Yun Che’s words caused Feng Baichuan’s expression to violently fluctuate. After taking a glance at Feng Zu’er and Feng Xian’er who were huddled tightly around his body, he gritted his teeth and quietly instructed the elders by his side: “Inform every one of our clansmen to retreat to the rear mountains!”

“Clan Leader, could it be that you’re...”

“Go quickly! Protecting our lives is more important, do not worry about anything else for now!” Feng Baichuan sternly commanded with firm determination.

The people who had received the command started to retreat in the direction of the rear mountain. Yun Che and Lan Xueruo continued to stand there, holding up the Sky Tremor Bomb, which was like a reaper’s death scythe, and deterred the Black Demon Mercenary Group from taking a step forward.

“What exactly is that?” Black Demon pressed down on his shoulder while asking with his face twitching.

“I have heard that Xiao Sect’s artifact department had created a formidable artifact. All you have to do is throw it and it will result in a terrifying energy blast. It seems he just threw that kind of item!”

“What? Xiao Sect? Did you say Xiao Sect?” Black Demon’s body suddenly shivered and he nearly fell on his bottom in alarm. He suddenly recalled that this beauty in front of him appeared to be only seventeen to eighteen years old, yet had the strength of the third level of the True Profound Realm. Aside from the four major sects, who else could groom such a monster?

The more he thought about it, the more he realized its possibility. All of a sudden, Black Demon started to sweat profusely. Had he known that they belonged to the Xiao Sect, he would not have dared to provoke them even if he had the courage of ten thousand. However, he had already provoked them...

Black Demon gritted his teeth... In that case, everyone besides the woman must be killed! If anyone escaped... To the Xiao Sect, eradicating his little mercenary group would be as simple as crushing a small ant.

“They’re trying to escape!”

Vice-Captain Black Wolf reported. Taking advantage of the time when they were afraid to move forward, Feng Baichuan brought his clansmen and retreated hurriedly, rushing straight for the rear mountains.

“F*ck them, they want to run? The rear mountains are surrounded by cliffs! Even if they were to grow wings, they can forget about flying away! After them!” Black Demon commanded.

“But... but...” Black Wolf took a look at the Sky Tremor Bomb in Yun Che’s hand and did not dare to make the slightest of movements.

“An item with that sort of frightening power must be extremely precious! They shouldn’t have too many on them, maybe the one he’s holding is the last one! Split into two groups and go right away!”

The Black Demon Mercenary Group immediately dispersed; splitting into two groups from the left and right, they roared as they chased toward the direction of the rear mountains. Yun Che’s expression turned solemn. He then swung his arm and threw the Sky Tremor Bomb to the right before quickly taking out the last Sky Tremor Bomb and throwing it to the left with all his strength.

BOOM!!

BOOM!!

The two loud explosions blasted the people from the Black Demon Mercenary Group into a complete mess. Blood-curdling screeches sounded again and again as the explosions filled the entire valley entrance up with sand clouds. The Black Demon Mercenary Group stopped their pursuit once again; some even fell on their bottom trying to fall back and did not dare to move forward anymore. Treasuring one’s life is human instinct, and in the face of such a life-threatening menace, most of the Black Demon Mercenary Group were unwilling dash forward at the risk of their life.

“Senior Sister, we must hurry!!” After using the last Sky Tremor Bomb, Yun Che took advantage of the sand cloud to veil their movement. Yun Che pulled Lan Xueruo’s hand and quickly ran in the direction Feng Baichuan went towards.

There was no trace of Yun Che and the others once the sand cloud subsided. The destroyed village had no signs of life, and only some of the scattered people that were running in the direction of the rear mountain could be seen far away. Black Demon cursed before bellowing: “What are you guys standing there for! Go and chase them down! Except for the woman, kill all without exception!!”

Yun Che’s injuries had not fully healed and his body was rather weak. However, with Lan Xueruo’s assistance, they were able to quickly catch up to Feng Baichuan. A total of two hundred and twelve clansmen all followed closely behind him; not a single clansman was left behind, be it the elderlies or the children.

Murderous shouts came from behind and seemed to get closer and closer, with the possibility of catching up anytime.

After stepping into the rear mountain region, they were faced with cliffs so tall their summits could not be seen. A huge sigil measuring several meters was embedded in the mountain wall in front of them. A beautiful red color emerged from the entire sigil, glowing bright and dark at times, as a pattern of numerous scarlet flames that fiercely burned, lay at the center of the sigil.

“Is this the seal the Black Demon Mercenary Group mentioned earlier?” Yun Che raised his head as he curiously looked at the strange red sigil.

“That’s right. This is a sigil which seals the ruins the phoenix left behind. Only those with the bloodline of the phoenix can open it using fresh blood.” Feng Baichuan replied.

“Clan Leader, are we really going in? Our ancestors said before that only one person could enter at a time. If so many people were to enter together, we might offend the divine spirit of the phoenix.” A elder asked with a solemn face.

“There’s no other choice.” Feng Baichuan quickly went in front of the sigil, bit his finger, and dripped his blood on the sigil.

Immediately, the faintly-glowing sigil suddenly glowed bright red before vanishing on the spot to reveal a mysterious entrance.

“Quick! Go in quickly!” Feng Baichuan, who had lifted the sigil, ordered hurriedly.

The clansmen of the phoenix clan swarmed in like fish. This sacred ground that they had not dared to rashly step in before, had become their only life-saving escape route. Among them, many would have chosen death than do something that would offend the divine spirit of the phoenix. However, they could not ignore their family and children.

The Black Demon Mercenary Group caught up right when everyone entered the cave.. Feng Baichuan ran into the cave quickly, and with a simple hand gesture the red sigil reappeared to completely cover up the cave’s entrance.

“F*ck! They really did know how to lift this seal!” Black Demon clenched his fist and growled fiercely: “Since they kept denying previously, this means that some treasure really is hidden behind this seal!”

“Captain, what do we do now?”

“What do we do? We’re obviously going to wait here!” Black Demon laughed coldly: “They think we won’t be able to capture them once they escape inside? Heh, there’s definitely no food inside the cave, much less water. I don’t believe they would choose to die from starvation and dehydration than to come out. I’d like to see how many days they’ll last!”

Chapter 107 - 《World Ode of the Phoenix - Fragment》 (2)

Yun Che was shocked to find that the interior was actually a flat stone chamber after going through the seal formation. The stone chamber was unnaturally spacious and measured at least a hundred meters long and wide. Not to mention just two hundred people, it could easily fit even ten times of that. Both sides of the stone chamber had very long stone stairs and it seemed as if there was another floor above. There was a long walkway to the front of the stone chamber which was approximately a few dozen meters in length. At the end of the hall, there was a gently rotating red-colored seal formation that was identical to the seal outside.

The seal entrance could cut off sight, but it wasn’t soundproof. The howls of the Black Demon Mercenaries outside continuously floated in.

“Blow up this formation!” This was Black Demon’s voice.

Following which, a series of light crashing sounds were carried in from outside, and a sound like the squealing of a dying pig suddenly rang out. “AH! FIRE! My hand’s on fire. AHHHHHH~~~~”

“Get back! All of you, get back! Damn it! With such a strange seal formation, some sort of heavenly treasure must be hidden within! All of you, take shifts and keep watch here! I refuse to believe that they won’t ever come out!”

Even though they had reached a safe sanctuary, the shadow of fear still loomed upon everyone in the Phoenix clan and chatter that came from outside threw them into even greater despair. Yun Che

furrowed his eyebrows, and said to Lan Xueruo after a long while of contemplating, "Senior Sister, how much longer until your Giant Snow Eagle awakens."

Lan Xueruo shook her head, worrying: "I have no idea either. What Little Snow has exhausted this time is not merely strength, but also its vitality. She might need a long while before she will wake; maybe a week, maybe a month... or perhaps even longer."

"If it wakes up, how many people can it carry in one go?"

"Ten people should not be a problem." Lan Xueruo spoke.

"Ten people...." Looking at the crowd of over two hundred people in the stone chamber, his eyebrows furrowed closer and closer together. Were the Giant Snow Eagle to awaken, he could easily escape with Lan Xueruo without any problems. But he believed, with Lan Xueruo's temperament and disposition, she would definitely not leave these people to fend for themselves... Even though she was not responsible in the slightest, for their survival.

"In the end, we had hide out here. Hopefully, we won't offend the phoenix's divine spirit." Feng Baichuan stood at the entrance of the hole with face filled with gloom and frustration, as well as grief and helplessness.

"At least your lives are temporarily saved. The phoenixes are divine spirits, they can't possibly fault you for something like this." Yun Che said as he walked to Feng Baichuan's side.

"I hope this is so." Feng Baichuan heaved another sigh, "For all these years, our clan had always known our place and kept to ourselves. With all caution, we've never dared to do anything that might anger the phoenix's spirit, as we've been simply too afraid to. Who would've thought that we'd still end up doing so today.... And even so, this can only be our temporary haven; you've heard the voices of those villains as well. They are obviously going to keep constant watch at the entrance of the cave. There is neither food nor a water source here; we won't be able to keep at this for long. This is especially true for the children and the elderly.... Sigh."

"If it's food and water, I actually have some here. For two hundred people, if used sparingly, it should be able to sustain you for two weeks or so." Yun Che said.

"You?" Feng Baichuan looked towards Yun Che, an expression of disbelief on his face. Yun Che clearly appeared neat and tidy and had nothing on him, how could he possibly have enough food and water to sustain two hundred people for more than ten days?

Yun Che didn't bother to waste time explaining; with a touch of his left hand, he placed six cyan-colored spatial rings into Feng Baichuan's hands. These spatial rings were also taken from Xiao Sect's treasury as well. They were filled with water and all sorts of food. Evidently, the treasury had not only been regarded by the Xiao Branch Sect as a storage area for valuable items, but also as a shelter in case of emergencies. The security measures in front of the treasury were immensely difficult to breach. Therefore, if an accident were to occur, they could escape to the treasury as the food and water specially stored there would be enough to last them for a while, enough to tide them over the disaster.

After inspecting the spatial rings for a while, his face revealed an expression of happiness and surprise. At this time, Yun Che's voice came from beside him, "Clan leader Feng, there are some issues I don't

quite understand. Your clan is one of the Phoenix's bloodline, and the Phoenix is a primordial divine beast. Those of the phoenix's bloodline are far more noble and powerful than those of mortal blood, but why have you been unable to break through even the Elementary Profound Realm? I remember you mentioning a 'curse' once, could it be that this is related to that curse?"

Feng Baichuan was shocked, and didn't speak for a long while.

"I have been too presumptuous. This should be your clan's secret, I shouldn't probe too far." Yun Che said immediately upon seeing Feng Baichuan fall into silence.

"No!" Feng Baichuan shook his head, and laughed self-deprecatingly, "What sort of clan secret does this count as? It is only the punishment and retribution we have to suffer."

"Punishment? Retribution?" Yun Che was surprised.

Feng Baichuan closed his eyes lightly, and spoke as his expression turned somber, "The phoenix is a primordial divine beast. It had descended upon the Profound Sky Continent long ago before in order to leave its fire in the Profound Sky Continent, and has hence left many trial grounds. Those who went through the trial could inherit its bloodline, and this bloodline was something that could be inherited by their future generations. Hence, the clan of the Phoenix was born. According to the recounting of our ancestors, the phoenix had left two trial grounds in the Profound Sky Continent. One of them was at the far away Divine Phoenix Empire, and the other was right here. The only difference was that the one in the Divine Phoenix Empire was known by all, and has formed the incomparably powerful 'Divine Phoenix Sect', whereas this ground in the Blue Wind Empire had gone unnoticed by all and was unintentionally discovered by our ancestors. No one would have thought that this desolate and dangerous Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, actually had a ruin left by a primordial divine beast of the primordial era."

"So what you're saying is that this is only one of those trial grounds, and isn't any sort of treasure, contrary to the beliefs of those villainous thieves outside?" Yun Che tapped his chin.

"That's right." Feng Baichuan nodded: "Our ancestors had passed the trial here back then. At that time, the 'Divine Phoenix Sect' in the Divine Phoenix Empire had already become Divine Phoenix Empire's protector sect, and their influence reached the heavens. Even the empire's name was changed to 'Divine Phoenix'. The trial ground there had also become the Divine Phoenix Sect's restricted area of the highest level, where only the disciples of the highest grade were granted entry. Even more so, their phoenix bloodline has become their greatest pride and honor. If they were to catch wind of the fact that the phoenix bloodline had appeared in another place, what we'd be courting might be ruin and destruction instead of brotherly bonding."

Yun Che secretly nodded, concurring with him. The Divine Phoenix Empire had originally been named the Grand Asura Kingdom. However, after the Divine Phoenix Sect rose to power and provided support for the new imperial family, even the name of the empire had been changed to Divine Phoenix Empire. Therefore, the phoenix bloodline had become the sole symbolism of the Divine Phoenix Empire's glory. If they had really found out about the existence of another phoenix bloodline, they would definitely take any measures necessary to get rid of it.

"After passing the trial, our ancestors began to pass on the phoenix bloodline, generation after generation. By the time it had reached the twelfth generation, they had already flourished into a Sect of

great prowess, but had never openly titled themselves as a clan of the Phoenix and they had continually hidden the mark of the Phoenix on their foreheads in front of others. However, in that generation, one of the ancestors fought with someone using the power of the phoenix and monstrous flames accidentally spread to a small town, scorching all thirty-two thousand innocent lives within.

Yun Che: “...

“A monstrous crime of this extent incited the fury of the phoenix’s spirit at the trial ground, and a cruel punishment has befallen us. Everyone in the clan of that generation were marked with the curse’s seal in their phoenix bloodline, which suppressed the profound energy of everyone within the clan to the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm, never to make any progress in their lifetime. Furthermore, the phoenix’s mark turned a dark red and could no longer be concealed. It was as if this seal was a symbol to constantly remind the clansmen of the grievous crime they had committed.”

“Our ancestors had many powerful enemies. Having had their strength suppressed to such an insignificant state, they had no choice but to recede into seclusion... To their horror, they discovered afterwards that the curse was actually forcefully passed down through generations. Their children all had the Phoenix’s dark red marks on their foreheads once they were born. Similarly, throughout their entire life, their profound strength could never break through the Elementary Realm. The ancestors thought of countless of ways to resolve the curse, but it was after all, something that the Divine Phoenix Spirit had left; how could it be something that man could interfere with? To date, a thousand years have passed, but the curse still remains in our bloodline and has not gone away yet. Our clan could only hide away within Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range and watch out for our own, praying daily to atone for our ancestors and beseech forgiveness from the Divine Phoenix Spirit.”

“Until today, our clan has deteriorated to how we are currently; even a small group of mercenaries can corner us to such a point of despair, heh.....” Feng Baichuan let out a bitter, dismayed laugh. Within his solemn tone, there tinged too much unwillingness and helpless frustration.

This was originally a clan secret that could not be revealed to outsiders, but being forced to such a miserable state today, the so-called bloodlines and the so-called clan secrets had already become a complete joke. Perhaps what these clansmen longed for most was to not have been born with the phoenix bloodline, but instead be born an ordinary person. He also suddenly understood why Feng Baichuan had not immediately brought the clan to this ruin left by the Phoenix even in the face of such enormous danger. Indeed, they were afraid. Their clan had spent a thousand years and a few dozen generations to make amends, wishing so much for forgiveness from the Phoenix’s spirit that they did so even when dreaming; how would they dare to do anything that might even be the least bit disrespectful to the Divine Phoenix Spirit?

He turned around, stared at the red seal matrix on the pathway, and said: “Clan leader Feng, by any chance, are the trial grounds left by the Phoenix behind that seal formation?”

“That’s right.” Feng Baichuan nodded, “These two seals are what our ancestors have left us. Only those with the Phoenix bloodline are able to unseal it, as its purpose is to prevent outsiders from entering.”

In that split second, Yun Che made his decision, saying: “Then, could you open this seal for me?”

“Are you thinking of....?” Feng Baichuan glanced to his side.

“That’s right!” Yun Che nodded: “I’d like to see what sort of trial could have been left behind by a primordial divine beast like the Phoenix. Since I have a chance now, I’d naturally wish to try it.”

Feng Baichuan did not turn him down immediately, but asked instead, “Little brother, what is your level of current Profound strength?”

“First level of the Nascent Profound Realm.” Yun Che replied honestly.

“Definitely not!!” Disappointment slipped into Feng Baichuan’s expression and he adamantly refused: “It’s not that I’m unwilling to let you in. It’s just that.... back then, when the ancestors were going through the training of the Phoenix, their profound strength had already been at the Spirit Profound Realm, and they also possessed fire attribute profound skills. Even so, they had only managed to obtain the Phoenix’s blood and Divine Phoenix Pellet after enduring the extremely harsh trial. There were also some ancestors who had gone through training and obtained the Divine Phoenix Pellet later, but none of these ancestors had a profound cultivation lower than the Spirit Profound Realm.”

“After the bloodline’s curse fell upon us, nobody had ever passed the trial again. Nobody could even pass through the first stage of the trial. After all, with only the strength of the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm, how could we withstand the trial of the Phoenix’s flames? And all these years, some clansmen who wanted to forcefully pass the trial have even died inside, never to come back again. With your strength at the first level of the Nascent Profound Realm, there’s absolutely no chance whatsoever of making it through the training, and your life might even be in danger.”

Chapter 108 - 《World Ode of the Phoenix · Fragments》 (3)

“No, allow me to attempt it.”

Yun Che didn’t cower when faced against Feng Baichuan’s words. He spoke with a serious tone: “I know very well of my own strength. But I indeed, do have the qualifications to attempt this trial.”

Yun Che lifted his palm and spread his fingers apart. The profound energy flowed, and a huge ball of orange colored flames suddenly flared from his entire palm. This ball of flame greatly shocked Feng Baichuan, and he asked in astonishment: “You actually possess fire attribute profound arts?”

“That’s right. Moreover, it is a very high ranked fire attribute profound art.” Yun Che nodded. However, his greatest trump card for challenging the Phoenix’s trial, was his overpowered constitution that was invulnerable to any sort of fire. Naturally, it was impossible for him to say such a thing; even if he said so, Feng Baichuan definitely would not have believed him anyway: “Since it’s the Phoenix’s trial, then it must be mainly a trail of fire. I possess thorough knowledge of fire attributed profound arts, and have a certain extent of resistance toward fire profound energies. Perhaps, it is even possible for me to easily pass the trial.”

Feng Baichuan still shook his head, and said: “The Phoenix trial is indeed mainly based on the energy of fire, but you are underestimating it too much. How could an ordinary person’s fire energy rival that of the divine phoenix beast’s holy flames. Ten years ago, I had also attempted the Phoenix trial before. However, just by taking a few steps in the trial grounds at the start of the trial, the agony from the lava’s heat was already enough to make me wish that I was dead. I chose to give up after just a few breaths of time. Even if you have fire attribute profound arts and possess knowledge, control, and resistance of the fire profound energy to a certain extent, phoenix flames are still far more terrifying than what you can

imagine. The first ancestor who passed the Phoenix trial also possessed fire attribute profound arts, and had barely passed it with a cultivation of the Spirit Profound Realm. As for the ancestors who passed after, it was because they already possessed the phoenix bloodline in their body and had very strong resistance in it; furthermore, none had strength below the Spirit Profound Realm. With your current profound strength, it is fundamentally impossible.”

Yun Che calmly spoke: “Since Clan Leader Feng had also attempted the Phoenix trial before, then you clearly understand that if one feels he cannot endure in the trial’s process, one could choose to forfeit. Then, unless it is meaningless persistence, there are absolutely no dangers to one’s life if one chooses to back out when unable to endure. All of those clansmen who died within the trial, probably wanted to forcefully pass through and hence, stayed in there forever. But I won’t do the same; I cherish my own life very much, and will immediately forfeit once I feel that it’s impossible. Like this, there aren’t any dangers to be considered. Since there are no dangers, no matter success or failure, there shouldn’t be any harm in attempting, yes?”

Yun Che glanced at the outside and continued: “If by any chance I succeed, I can at least somewhat increase my profound strength and bring a little more hope in dealing with the villainous thieves outside.”

Feng Baichuan knitted his brows, and lowly sighed: “You are a youngster after all, it is impossible to not be curious after hearing about the trial that a divine phoenix beast had left. When you spoke with me earlier, you had at least glanced three times over at that seal formation. Since you really want to attempt that trial this much... Then so be it, I’ll open the trial’s gate for you. But before that, it would be best for you to treat your injuries first. Also, during the trial, you absolutely have to forfeit right away the moment you feel that it’s too unbearable... Otherwise, even though the illusory realm is illusory, the flames are truly the phoenix’s flames; you will really die if you try to forcefully endure it.”

“Okay!” Yun Che joyfully nodded.

With Yun Che’s medical skills and the entire treasury’s medicinal materials together, the injuries on his body were simply not a problem. The next day, the wound on his shoulder already had fully mended and there was no pain when making large movements either; only a bowl-sized scar was left. If he wished for it, this scar could also completely disappear within half a month.

A day had passed and the Black Demon Mercenary Group’s members who as expected, kept guard outside continuously clamored about. The emotions of the phoenix clansmen had finally calmed down; however, it could only be temporary. While holding onto the food and water Feng Baichuan distributed to them, they didn’t dare to think about tomorrow in the midst of their worrying.

And now, Feng Baichuan had already brought Yun Che and Lan Xueruo before the trial ground’s seal formation as they stood there.

“Junior Brother Yun, you really wish to attempt it no matter what? Even though it’s a trial, great danger could still be hidden inside. You only have a strength of the Nascent Profound Realm’s first rank, if... if...” Lan Xueruo pulled Yun Che’s arm and kept on persuading him.

“Relax, Senior Sister also knows that I have fire attribute profound arts, I won’t easily be troubled inside a trial of fire.” Yun Che said while comforted.

“But...” Lan Xueruo wanted to say more, but seeing Yun Che’s gaze which was as tranquil as water, she knew that no matter how much she persuaded, he still wouldn’t change his mind. She could only faintly sigh: “Then you’ll have to be careful no matter what.”

“Are you ready?” Feng Baichuan questioned as he stood in front of the seal formation.

“I’ll have to bother Clan Leader Feng to open the seal for me.” Yun Che nodded.

Feng Baichuan slowly nodded, and reminded again: “If you feel that you can no longer endure, you must come out right away. Please do not try to be brave.”

As he finished speaking, he bit open his finger, and dripped a drop of blood onto the seal formation. Instantaneously, a red light flashed through the seal formation, then vanished while spinning quickly. In front of them, a dark red colored bizarre entrance appeared. As if it was a terrifying bottomless abyss, it was pitch black inside the entrance and no signs of existence could be seen.

“Since the ancestor discovered this trial ground, no one other than clansmen had ever entered before; you are seriously the first one. This trial ground can only be opened once a month, and no matter success or failure, one cannot enter for a second time in their entire life. Think about whether you want to enter or not again.”

Yun Che nodded, threw Lan Xueruo a comforting look, and then stepped into the trial ground’s entrance without hesitation.

The moment he stepped inside the entrance, the scene before him suddenly distorted. Right after, he felt the sky and ground spin, as if his body was sent flying by a storm. He unconsciously closed his eyes. Only after a long time, did that weightless feeling finally disappear slowly. When he opened his eyes, he only saw a pitch black darkness.

Where... is this?

Why is there only darkness? There’s nothing here at all... The phoenix’s test, weren’t seas of fire or lava supposed to appear?

Right as questions emerged inside his mind, two lines of narrow golden light suddenly appeared in the pitch black darkness before him. Immediately after, the two narrow lines of golden luminance slowly opened like a pair of slightly narrowed eyes... No! That exactly was a pair of eyes! A pair of incomparably gigantic golden eyes that was embedded inside the pitch black space.

The eyes of the Phoenix!!

“Greetings, human. Welcome to the trial grounds. You are the first challenger without the phoenix bloodline in these past thousand years.”

A dignified voice resounded within his mind; from the timbre of the voice, it was clearly a female voice. Yun Che looked at this pair of golden eyes, and probed: “You are... the spirit of the phoenix?”

“That is correct. I am an immortal soul left here by the phoenix, yet I am also an existence independent of the phoenix. I preserve this trial ground and receive all challengers. Spirit of the Phoenix, is the most fitting title for me.”

“Why would the phoenix leave a trial ground here?” Yun Che offhandedly spoke out the question inside his heart.

Yun Che had asked offhandedly, and never expected the Spirit of the Phoenix to answer him. What was out of his expectations, was that the Spirit of the Phoenix actually very generously, answered him: “Long ago, the three major fire attribute divine beasts: the Phoenix, Golden Crow, and the Vermilion Bird fought for the Flame Progenitor position in the Divine Realm. The fierce battle lasted thirty-six days, and ended in the defeat and injury of all three. The Phoenix fell down to this Profound Sky Continent after being gravely wounded, and completely recovered after thirteen years in the Profound Sky Continent. In these thirteen years, the phoenix deeply felt that even though the Profound Sky Continent’s humans were weak in strength, their hearts and nature were pure; thus it left two trial grounds in order to leave some opportunities for the humans of this continent.”

“So that’s how it was.”

“However, the phoenix had left this message: If the humans of the Profound Sky Continent uses this Phoenix power to harm the world, all of their strength will be taken away and their bloodline would be given punishment! What was very unfortunate, was that a person of one of the bloodlines committed a grave sin while using the phoenix’s power; the power of the phoenix had been permanently stripped and their bloodline was cursed. After that, no one else had passed this trial. As the first person without the phoenix bloodline in these thousand years, I hope that you can break this thousand years of silence... Then, are you ready?”

“Yes, I can start anytime.” Yun Che took in a long breath, his entire face held a calm expression. In terms of his profound strength only, entering this kind of trial could be considered as presumptuous. However, he obtained a body that was immune to any kind of fire after swallowing the Fire Seed of the Evil God. Relying on this kind of heaven opposing cheat, it wasn’t as if he didn’t have any confidence at all faced against this fire divine beast’s trial.

“Very good, the trial has three stages in total, respectively: First stage: Purgatory Flame Demon; second stage: Arrows of the Phoenix; third stage: Corruption of the Heart’s Flame. If you wish to forfeit during the trial, you may shout out at anytime and I’ll immediately let you leave the trial grounds. You may die if you forcibly endure the trial.... I wish you success.”

Just as the Spirit of the Phoenix’s voice faded, the pair of golden eyes slowly disappeared inside the world of pitch black darkness.

Yet the world before Yun Che’s eyes spun once again. Moments later, the darkness entirely disappeared, and the world around him impressively transformed into a field of deep red.

The scene before his eyes stunned him for a long time.

The ground under his feet appeared to be a deep red color; as if it was paved by terrifying red-hot steel. The ground was uneven; disorderly boulders were scattered around and mountains of varying heights were layered one after another. Even the mountain’s surface was crimson, as if it could spew out flames which could reach the heavens at any time. Looking upwards, the sky was also a field of deep red.

Stalks of ember were distributed across every direction on the fire-red colored ground. Some of the embers were only a few inches tall, while some had even shot up for over ten meters in height. On both

sides, pools after pools of red-colored lava bubbled like boiling water... Drawing out an incomparably terrifying scene of a lava purgatory.

Unquestionably, the wind here was scorching hot as the air's temperature reached a terrifying height. It was no wonder that Feng Baichuan declared forfeit after only enduring for several breaths of time. Just with the temperature here alone, let alone an profound practitioner of the Elementary Profound Realm, even if a profound practitioner of the True Profound Realm exhausted all his strength, he would only be able to barely endure.

But the temperature here to Yun Che could only be described with one word:

Comfortable!

Comfortable to the extent that it was the same as leisurely soaking inside warm water.

Chapter 109 - 《World Ode of the Phoenix · Fragments》 (4)

Yun Che felt like he had stepped into the purgatory. Unbeknownst to him, the sounds of churning magma next to him were actually the ferocious growls of the Purgatory Demon.

Purgatory Demon?

The Phoenix's spirit had mentioned previously that the first stage was the Purgatory Flame Demon, yet only volcanoes and magma existed and there wasn't even the slightest hint of life within his line of sight.

Yun Che trudged slowly ahead. Only within the flames of hell could Yun Che truly understand exactly how amazing his ability to withstand fire was. Others could barely hold out in this environment with their profound strength, but he simply didn't feel any sort of discomfort. Unaffected by the high temperature or the flames, it wouldn't be unfair in the slightest to say that this was a power which could rebel against the heavens.

It was at his tenth step when he suddenly stopped in his tracks and looked left towards a deep pool of lava. The red lava emanated a shockingly high temperature. The lava churned violently, rose higher and higher, and grew fiercer by the moment.... Suddenly, the pool overflowed and a large chunk of lava savagely broke loose with a deafening sound. A gigantic body covered in flames rose high from the lava and landed in front of Yun Che with an ear-shattering boom.

This was a flame giant whose entire body was on fire. It was a whole thirty-three meters tall, had a body that was burning entirely in red-hot flames, and had two ferocious eyes on either side of its head. Atop its head, there were also two horns of fire that were ten metres long and a golden mark that seemed to shine from the middle of these horns.

Yun Che quickly stepped back and looked up at the unreasonably tall flame giant.... Was this the Purgatory Flame Demon that the Phoenix spoke of?

"Jasmine? What level is this big fellow?" Yun Che asked quickly.

"It's a high-level True Profound fire beast. In this sort of blazing environment, not only can it replenish its vitality and profound strength swiftly, the fire power it unleashes is also comparable to that of the Spirit Profound Realm!" Jasmine's voice carried a tone of warning.

Originally, as a low ranker in the Nascent Profound Realm, Yun Che could not contend against a True Profound Realm that had strength comparable to the Spirit Profound Realm. However, if it was purely a fire beast, then this might not necessarily be the case!

The Purgatory Flame Demon gave a loud roar as its eyes locked onto Yun Che. Beneath its eyes was a gigantic mouth which hurled out a dozen super-sized fireballs as it screeched and flew towards him.

Yun Che stood where he was; unmoving, allowing the fireballs to land on him.

Poof, poof, poof, poof...

The fireballs exploded successively as they came into contact with Yun Che's body. The flames' force was violently released, but after it touched Yun Che's body, they became like stones that sank to the bottom of the sea, and burned out without a sound without causing the slightest bit of harm to Yun Che. Within the explosive flashes of fire, Yun Che rushed towards the Purgatory Flame Demon, and appeared in front of it within a split second.... However, facing the Purgatory Flame Demon which was around a hundred feet, his body seemed far too miniscule and he could barely be considered to have reached the bottom of its foot. With a low growl, he activated "Evil Soul" and ruthlessly smashed condensed profound energy above its calf.

BAM!!

This heavy strike was similar to hitting a heavy ancient bronze bell, and the recoil caused great pain to the bones of Yun Che's hands. However, the calf that had just been struck by the Purgatory Flame Demon was barely affected and only the flame there was snuffed out momentarily to then reignite a moment later.

What a tough body... Yun Che secretly gasped. After all, this Purgatory Flame Demon was a high-level True Profound Beast. Even with Evil Soul activated, his strongest all-out attack was fundamentally unable cause it much harm. If this was to continue, even if the Purgatory Flame Demon's attacks might have no effect on him, his attacks wouldn't cause it any harm either.

Since the palm couldn't injure it, then...

Yun Che stroked his left hand and took out Xiao Sect Branch Sect's most precious treasure, the unrivaled Earth Profound Artifact, the Tiger Soul Sword. Concentrating his profound energy, he stabbed ruthlessly at the Purgatory Flame Demon.

While he did not truly comprehend the concept of an Earth Profound Artifact, he knew that the level above an Earth Profound Artifact was a Sky Profound Artifact and throughout Blue Wind Empire, the number of Sky Profound Artifacts totalled to no more than ten. One could only imagine how precious and rare an Earth Profound Artifact, which was only one tier lower than a Sky Profound Artifact, must be. With this Earth Profound Artifact in hand, even if one didn't apply any profound energy, even if the person wielding it was only a normal person, it could directly split open the defense of a Spirit Profound Realm practitioner.

Riiip~~~

In the split second the Tiger Soul Sword slashed onto the body of the Purgatory Flame Demon, Yun Che heard a tiger's vague growl. A vast area of flames where the Purgatory Flame Demon had been struck

were instantaneously extinguished for a moment to reveal its pitch black body. A large chunk of flesh had also been directly chopped by the Tiger Soul Sword; mixed with the flames, it flew far into the distance.

“ROAARRRRR!!!”

The pain that the Purgatory Flame Demon had eaten violently enraged its temper and it took a step towards Yun Che. Meanwhile, a sky full of flames rained densely with a wave of its claws, blanketing the area within a hundred-foot radius. Originally, a True Profound Beast shouldn't have the capability of such a large area-of-effect fire attack, but the Purgatory Flame Demon's firepower had been multiplied many times due to the fiery environment.

To Yun Che, this rain of fire was of no consequence. But the heavy step that the Purgatory Flame Demon took was something Yun Che could not easily endure. As a result, he was sent flying and landed a hundred feet away. However, the Purgatory Flame Demon's lack of agility was fully displayed to Yun Che. Without waiting for his body to stabilize, he rushed back towards the rain of fire and meteorites. He increased his speed to the maximum, continually left afterimages with Star God's Broken Shadow. Real and false shadows interlaced, causing confusion at the Purgatory Flame Demon's feet as Yun Che landed hit after hit on its calf.

The Purgatory Flame Demon became increasingly violent after being injured again and again. It released its flames in a frenzy and the persistent force of the flames turned the surrounding area into an ocean of fire. Every step Yun Che took into a meter tall blaze was as if he was treading on level ground without the slightest trace of injury. The Purgatory Flame Demon had a large bulky frame so it moved slowly and every time it attacked with its limbs, Yun Che dodged with ease. Every time he turned illusory, he would slash at the Purgatory Flame Demon's calf to carve off a large chunk of flesh.

RIIIIIP!!

With another ruthless blow, the sword pierced deep into the sole of the Purgatory Flame Demon's foot. The Purgatory Flame Demon let out an enraged, ear-splitting roar as the flames above its right fist suddenly surged before smashing at the ground.

A dangerous atmosphere came from above and Yun Che looked upwards. Immediately after, he backed away ten paces with Star God's Broken Shadow without any further thought.

BOOM!!

The Purgatory Flame Demon's blazing descended and triggered a series of gigantic explosions. The noise was not inferior to the explosion of the Sky Tremor Bombs. Although Yun Che evaded it, he was still hit by the impact of the aftermath. The suffocating pressure made him take several steps backwards, and he stepped into the pool of lava behind him.

The edge of the pool of lava was very shallow and barely reached Yun Che's calves. He did not rush up again, but held the Tiger Soul Sword and stood in the lava as he knitted his brow; he suddenly realized that despite slashing more than thirty wounds on the Purgatory Flame Demon's body with his sword, they had completely vanished.

“This princess had already told you that it possessed extremely powerful recuperative abilities in this blazing environment. Not only are its flames unquenchable, even its normal injuries will heal within a short period of time. At most, it needs five to six breaths’ time to recover from the injuries you’ve caused. Even if you continue to proceed in this way for a hundred years, it is still fundamentally impossible to cause it any substantial harm.”

Jasmine spoke coldly, but after she finished speaking, she paused for quite a while and then suddenly shouted: “I’ve got it! Attack the gold mark on its head. That’s the location of its weak point.”

“Gold mark?” Yun Che lifted his head and saw the blinding golden dot between the middle of its horns.

“Its profound aura is the weakest at that area so that should be its weak point. Try attacking it there.”

Yun Che tilted his head, but still stood in place for a long time without doing anything. It was because this Purgatory Flame Demon was thirty-three meters tall. With his current profound strength, even under the effect of Evil Soul, the highest he could leap was only twenty to twenty five meters; he was definitely unable to touch its forehead.

“It seems that I have no other choice but to take a chance and give it a try!”

Yun Che clenched his teeth, and walked to the Purgatory Flame Demon’s front with slow steps. After contending with it for a long time, another sense of danger came from above his head. The Purgatory Flame Demon had already raised its right fist, and fiercely smashed toward Yun Che’s position.

This was the moment that Yun Che had been waiting for. With one Star God’s Broken Shadow, he moved to a distance of approximately ten paces back in an instant, and dodged the center of the Purgatory Flame Demon’s blazing fist assault. Immediately after, he took a deep breath just a moment before the fist landed and jumped with all his might, directly reaching a height of more than twenty meters.

BOOM!!

There was a loud crash below. Even in midair, he could still feel the shocking wave of energy from beneath his feet. As the Purgatory Flame Demon smashed its fist onto the ground, its body bent down and its forehead dropped to a height of around eighteen meters high... Which was diagonally beneath Yun Che.

While in mid-air, unless one had reached the Sky Profound Realm and could use their profound energy to become airborne, it was impossible to find leverage for one’s self in mid-air.. Let alone move in mid-air, even the direction one would fall was difficult to control. However, this was not the case for Yun Che. His body swayed, and activated the Star God’s Broken Shadow to suddenly shift around seven meters sideways in midair; precisely moving directly above the Purgatory Flame Demon’s head. His body fell straight down as he also tightly clutched the Tiger Soul Sword in his hands.....

“Falling... Moon.... Sinking.... Star... HAAH!!”

The Tiger Soul Sword suddenly released an intense light as an incomparably loud and clear tiger’s growl resounded throughout this purgatory. Amidst the tiger’s roar and Yun Che’s battle cry, the Tiger Soul Sword pointed precisely at the spot of light on the Purgatory Flame Demon’s forehead while carrying the power of Falling Moon Sinking Star and pierced in as if slicing tofu.... The meter long sword’s body

completely plunged in and even the hilt followed in right after under the extremely berserking power of the strike.

Yun Che fell onto the ground and quickly shut his Evil Soul Profound Gate as he gasped for breath. Yet the Purgatory Flame Demon's body was already frozen in place. A moment later, it suddenly let out an incomparably anguished roar of despair. Its gigantic frame slowly fell forward and crashed onto the floor with an explosively loud sound.

The flames on its body extinguished quickly, until all that was left were a few small embers that revealed its large black body. Soon after, even its body began to disintegrate and everything dissipated as if made of vapor. On the red floor, only the Tiger Soul Sword that had killed it in one strike was left.

"Suc.... Success!" Yun Che picked up the Tiger Soul Sword and heaved a long sigh.

And at this time, the scenery before him suddenly distorted. In the midst of the distortion, it spun in a blur, and when everything had finally stabilized, the red land, volcanoes and pools of lava.... All of it disappeared. What replaced it was an expanse of nothingness, a wilderness so flat that there wasn't any uneven land to be seen.

"Second stage of the trial: Arrows of the Phoenix."

Chapter 110 - 《World Ode of the Phoenix · Fragments》 (5)

The trials of the phoenix were indeed frightful. This first trial, had Yun Che not been invulnerable to fire, would have caused him to die to the Purgatory Flame Demon's flames who knows how many times. For this second trial, one could tell without thinking that it would undoubtedly be much more terrifying than the first.

The boundless, barren plain without a single blade of grass, along with the scorching wind, brought with them a desolation and loneliness that made people sullen. At this time, a sudden extremely loud and clear cry of a phoenix came from the sky. Following this, the originally dark sky abruptly became a blazing red, as if it was burned red from heavenly fire.

Yun Che looked up, and was surprised to see the scarlet-colored sky covered with innumerable amounts of red dots. Following this, the phoenix cry resounded again and the smear of red dots aimed at his location and suddenly started to swiftly fall like meteors. In front of his eyes, these dots drew increasingly closer and became increasingly larger. Finally, the silhouette of a phoenix clearly appeared within Yun Che's line of sight.

It was a body covered in scarlet fire, a small-sized phoenix about six-foot long. The speed of its descent was extremely fast, as if it was a swift and sharp arrow in flight.

Poof!!

The blazing phoenix violently crashed into Yun Che's body. It instantly exploded, creating a huge fireball and covered the sky with a rain of fire. If it had been someone else, they would have already failed the second trial, because these terrifying phoenix flames would have been enough to immediately scorch a person of the Spirit Profound Realm to a gravely injured state. These flames didn't hold any destructive force against Yun Che; however, that powerful impact force and explosive force directly smashed Yun Che onto the ground causing the blood in his entire body to churn.

Screee~~~

The phoenix cry resounded again and another phoenix silhouette bolted down like a flaming arrow. This time, Yun Che did not dare to forcefully receive it and quickly dodged. The phoenix shadow pounded into the earth and the flames exploded, causing the ground to crack into a long rift. Yun Che had not yet regained his balance when a phoenix cry yet again, resounded from above. But this time there were consecutive phoenix cries. Three consecutive phoenix silhouettes swiftly plunged from three different directions, aiming straight for Yun Che.

Yun Che's body flipped, dodging the first phoenix shadow, then used all his power to jump back and dodged the second.

“Star God's Broken Shadow!”

Suspended in midair, Yun Che tilted his body in a flash and also narrowly avoided the third phoenix shadow.

Boom, boom, boom!!

Three phoenix silhouettes exploded in succession, whirling up flames that were ten meters high. However, even clearer phoenix cries followed. Yun Che lifted his head and saw that this time, there were actually seven phoenix silhouettes falling towards him at the same time.

Dammit! This is not how it's supposed to be played! Yun Che's brow twisted as he secretly cursed in his heart.

.....

After Yun Che entered the entrance of the trials, the originally seal formation reappeared once more but Lan Xueruo had not left yet and instead stood in place. She had heard from Feng Baichuan about the frightful trials. According to Feng Baichuan, with Yun Che's power, even with a fire attribute profound art it would still be impossible to stay inside for more than ten breaths of time.

But ten breaths passed, twenty breaths passed, thirty breaths passed... half an hour passed... Yun Che still had not come out.

It was impossible for Lan Xueruo stay calm. The expression on her face became more and more anxious. After waiting for a quarter of an hour, she could no longer remain calm. Towards Feng Baichuan, she pressingly asked: “Feng clan leader, why has he not come out yet? Didn't you say it would be at most ten breaths before he came out?”

Feng Baichuan's heart had long since become uneasy. Listening to Lan Xueruo, he could only comfort her: “Perhaps the trials are varied for each person, so its difficult to say the exact amount of time it will take..... Rest assured, little brother Yun Che is not the kind of person who does not know his limits. If it reaches the point where he cannot endure any longer, he will immediately come out.”

Lan Xueruo did not reply. She suppressed the anxious feelings within her heart and continued to wait.

.....

Scree~~

Scree~~

Scree~~

Scree~~~~~

Numerous phoenix cries chaotically overlapped; the sharp cries seemed almost like they would tear the sky open. From the initial cry, to a group of three, to a group of seven, to a group of fifteen..... At the moment, the entire sky was filled with phoenix cries and phoenix silhouettes, just like a meteor shower that was horrifying beyond compare.

Yun Che used the Star God's Broken Shadow to swiftly move through the meteor shower, and maneuvered about. His Star God's Broken Shadow was currently only at the first stage but even though the Profound Movement Skill that came from Jasmine was at the lowest level, it still contained an extremely shocking power and allowed him move around like an illusion among the phoenix arrow formation while leaving behind countless afterimages that didn't even have enough time to dissipate.

However, these phoenix silhouettes eventually became far too concentrated; it was impossible for him to avoid every single one of them. After a dozen or so waves, he had already been hit seven or eight times. The power of the phoenix silhouette impact was simply incomparable to the flames it carried. However, to Yun Che, who was only at the Nascent Profound Realm, it was a major threat. Every time he was hit by a phoenix silhouette, his protective profound aura would weaken slightly. Coupled with the frequent usage of Star God's Broken Shadow, the consumption of his energy was immense.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom.....

Wave after wave of phoenix shadows exploded next to him. The originally flat ground had become riddled with holes and pits. It was impossible to find a single area still intact within sight.

Once again, if he was not invulnerable to fire, he would have long ago, died several hundreds of times already.

The Fire Seed of the Evil God was undoubtedly a huge cheat for him within this phoenix trial.

Boom!!!

In the last wave, several hundreds of phoenix silhouettes descended from the sky. Their bodies emitted the radiance of blazing fire, illuminating the sky in red. The instant they fell, the vast earth erupted with fire, and the churning ground was burned into pitch-black charred earth. At the same moment, Yun Che was struck with seven phoenix silhouettes. His entire body's protective profound aura completely shattered in an instant. Fortunately, the impact ended there. Besides a wave of pain in his chest, he did not receive many injuries.

"Phew..... Did it finally end?" Standing amongst the flames that still burned, Yun Che raised his head and looked towards the sky as he let out a long sigh of relief. The phoenix cries had completely stopped, and there were finally no signs of the phoenix silhouettes in the sky above. At this moment, he started to admire the ancestor Feng Baichuan had mentioned. With the body of a common human and the cultivation of the Spirit Profound Realm, he was actually able to pass that incomparably terrifying phoenix formation he had just experienced earlier; he was definitely a shockingly talented super-genius.

The flames nearby gradually burned out and the second trial had also finally ended. Rather than say that Yun Che passed, it would be better to say that he used his special physique to forcefully endure through it. At this moment, the scene in front of his eyes started to distort to become more and more obscure. Yun Che was just about to start observing the scenery of the third trial when he realized that everything in front of his eyes had already become pitch-black.

Following this, a pair of golden eyes opened within the pitch-black world. The phoenix spirit's voice resounded within his mind.

"That surprised me; you actually possess a special physique that is unafraid of flames. If I am not mistaken, the primordial Evil God's aura resides inside your body."

"That is correct." Yun Che nodded. In regards to the phoenix spirit being able to discern the Evil God's aura, within the depths of his heart, he was not surprised. After all, the phoenix and the Evil God were both part of the primordial god race.

"The Evil God does not align with any of the elements, for he is actually the nemesis of all the elements. But no one can compare to the Evil God in terms of familiarity and capability in wielding the elements. If you somehow manage to completely inherit the Evil God's powers, then not only fire, even water, wind, thunder, earth, domain, dimension, spirit... would all be subdued by you, and would never be able to bring you harm."

Yun Che: "....."

"You passed the previous two stages not because you had sufficient strength, but because of your special physique. Although this is cheating, passing is passing; I have no right to deny that. However, this third trial: Corruption of the Heart's Flame, is a trial of the heart that's unrelated to flames. The advantages of your body are thus nullified, and this third trial is also the hardest trial to pass. In these countless years, the amount of challengers who have passed the first two trials amount to three hundred twenty-nine. But the ones who passed the third trial.. only amount to seven people."

"Seven?" Yun Che was immediately stunned.

Although he passed the first two trials quite easily with his cheating condition, he had clearly witnessed the frightfulness of the two trials at the same time. Those who were able to pass the two trials while being in the Spirit Profound Realm were undoubtedly all unmatched geniuses. As for those in the True Profound Realm, there wasn't even the possibility of passing.

And it was precisely within these extraordinary geniuses, that only two out of a hundred of them were capable of passing the third trial!?

This third trial, how frightful could it be?

"However, you don't need to be too nervous. The third trial is a trial of the heart. It does not involve fighting, but instead involves the choices within your heart. If you are firm enough towards the pursuit for power, then even if you possess weak profound power, there is a chance you can easily pass. On the other hand, if you do not possess enough determination, then passing your life in the mundane world can also be an option. After all, power is not everything in life."

"You, are you prepared?"

Trial of the heart?

As a man of two lives, after experiencing the boundary of life and death so many times, what he should be least afraid of was a test for the heart, right?

“Trial of the heart”; these few words caused Yun Che’s heart to become tranquil. Even when facing the extremely low passing rate the phoenix spirit had mentioned, he was not as nervous as when he was facing the first and second trials. Without any hesitation, Yun Che immediately nodded: “Let’s start.”

“As you wish... I wish you success.”

The phoenix spirit’s eyes disappeared and the pitch-black world started to distort once more. Yun Che felt as if his body had been swept up by a storm and started to float within the distorting space. He closed his eyes and muttered in his heart: “Let me see what this trial of the heart exactly is. The only thing that could truly break my mental state.... Should not exist anymore.

Within the darkness, he could feel his consciousness start to gradually blur. This caused him to suddenly open his eyes alertly, but the heaviness in his mind was irresistible. His vision and awareness became more and more blurred until his mind stilled completely.

When he regained consciousness, slight pains transmitted from various parts of his body. His body was also extremely weak, as if recovering from severe injuries. The tip of his nose overflowed with a faint smell of blood... That was the scent of his own blood.

What is going on? Why is my body so weak? It’s like I just received serious wounds... Also, this feeling, this scent... Why does it seem so familiar?

He opened his eyes slowly. Within his gradually clearing sight, he realized where he was. It was a very simple bamboo cabin that contained a few simple tables. One small table was also made of bamboo and its surface was covered with all kinds of medicine bottles and gauzes. Another conjoined table was stocked with all kinds of healing instruments, as well as piles of white cloth stained with fresh blood.

A strong scent of medicine and blood permeated throughout the entire room. Only the thin blanket covering his body gave off a light and warm fragrance. Looking through the simple bamboo window, he saw a string on which a row of men’s clothes hung... These clothes were covered with layers of patches. Although they had gone through meticulous cleaning, due to the heavy blood stains, they still retained a faint trace of blood after they dried.

The moment his consciousness cleared completely, as if struck by lightning, Yun Che abruptly sat up on the bed. His gaze blankly stared at the scene in front of him. His heart was like a small boat in the midst of a storm; wildly swaying....

This place is..... This place is.....