

The Gods 1221

Chapter 1221 - The Terrifying Luo Changsheng

Luo Changsheng's words made Yun Che's brows crease.

Even though the small wounds on his body were all insignificant, they were still scars that covered his entire body. On the other hand, Luo Changsheng did not have a single scratch on his body. Due to the intense battle, Yun Che's arms were somewhat aching and numb, his breathing slightly chaotic. Yet Luo Changsheng was incomparably calm. Yun Che could not sense any disorder that would usually come from a fierce battle from Luo Changsheng's aura and breathing.

The most frightening part was that he had calmly said the words "warm up."

Yun Che could only wield the Heaven Smiting Sword under the "Rumbling Heaven" state and he was not able to sustain it for too long. How could he possibly use that sort of power for just a warm up? Every strike he executed previously contained his peak power, yet Luo Changsheng had actually been just "warming up" ... and he still hadn't even used his whole strength!

"As you wish."

Yun Che raised his left arm and released his profound handle that fused with the Golden Crow Divine Soul. As it transformed into a huge Golden Crow image overhead amidst a clear cry, a strong fiery aura instantly filled the sky.

"Very good." Luo Changsheng smiled. His gaze that carelessly swept along Yun Che's chest momentarily stopped.

Strange, he had obviously been hit by my lightning. Why did it only make such minor wounds? Why are there no vestiges of being struck by lightning?

Could it be that he was also proficient in the laws of lightning?

The activation of Profound Handle: God Manifestation would unquestionably take up a substantial toll on Yun Che, but he didn't stop there. The Heaven Smiting Sword fiercely ignited with flames right after and sought Luo Changsheng with the Golden Crow Manifest God also striking down like a meteor... At this time, a peculiar light suddenly flashed in Luo Changsheng's eyes.

"Haaah!!"

Following that impassioned shout, the strong profound energy on his body sharply increased yet again. This abrupt wave of outbursting energy, which was so strong that it seemed to have materialized, caused Yun Che's chest to feel stifled and forcibly hindered the momentum of his charge.

The sound of this energy explosion seemed to resound in the souls of everyone present, giving them a violent shock.

"Luo Changsheng's aura... Ah!?"

"The Luo Changsheng just now was that scary, yet... his power instantly increased by this much again!"

“He actually wasn’t even using his full power. This aura is the one that’s truly frightening! Is this Luo Changsheng’s true strength!? It has already thoroughly suppressed Yun Che!”

“How can the name ‘Young Master Changsheng’ be said in vain!? In the previous Eastern Region’s Four God Children, he was publicly acknowledged to be standing alone at the very top. Even though Yun Che is strong, he has yet to even enter Young Master Changsheng’s domain. Those delusional enough to wish to see Yun Che defeat Luo Changsheng are ignorant and living a dream.”

“Luo Changsheng actually... actually... what do we do now?” Huo Poyun’s face grew taut as he clenched his teeth.

Even those at the scene with the lowest profound strength could distinctly sense that this profound energy eruption from Luo Changsheng had steadily surpassed the pressure of Yun Che’s profound energy... and far surpassed him too.

“...We can only see if Yun Che is able to use his special ‘Manifest God’ to leave a mark.” Huo Rulie furrowed his brows. From Yun Che’s offense and appearance, he was able to tell that Yun Che had really went all out previously without holding back anything.

But Luo Changsheng...

He barely managed to go even with Luo Changsheng then. Could the Manifest God he released cross the steep disparity in profound strength?

Luo Changsheng spread his arms. The crackling of lightning and the howling of the storm had calmed greatly but atmosphere was then filled with a heavy pressure close to double it was before. He gazed at Yun Che, his face still as calm as water. “This is the limits of my ‘normal’ state. You are the only one in this Conferred God Battle qualified to make me release my profound strength to its limit. You can consider this my acknowledgement...”

Raising his Holy Lightning Sword, he spoke with a voice as gentle as a breeze, “Go ahead and try to defeat me with your full strength.”

Luo Changsheng’s stance and words clearly exhibited the strong looking down below him. This, however, was not him deliberately being arrogant but rather... to him, Yun Che was fundamentally not on the same level if he were to use his full strength.

Even if he was able to release an unusual “Manifest God”.

Hsss!

After his statement, the Holy Lightning Sword slashed out a purple arc. The wild lightning in the sky instantly exploded and the image of a deep purple wolf appeared in the air, instantly pouncing downward. It transformed into a vast lightning domain that enveloped Yun Che and his Golden Crow image.

“Watch out!” Huo Poyun subconsciously shouted. Although this lightning domain was formed casually, his first reaction was that Yun Che was fundamentally unable to receive it because Luo Changsheng’s profound aura after releasing his full strength was just too frightening.

Without a shift in expression, Yun Che actually charged straight at the lightning domain. The flames on his body which burned ever more intensely and the Golden Crow image made him resemble two differently sized suns as he entered the lightning region.

“Ah!?” The spectator stands broke out in a wave of startled cries upon seeing Yun Che dash into the lightning domain but in the next instant, their shouts immediately pitched severalfold.

Boom!!!!

Alongside the sound of an explosion, a scarlet gold flame vestige was drawn on the gigantic lightning domain. Beneath this flame mark, the vast lightning domain seemed like frail cloth as it was torn apart. Yun Che and the Golden Crow Manifest God then shot out. With a sword might roiling in raging flames, he slammed down from above Luo Changsheng.

The edges of Luo Changsheng’s brows slanted slightly. The purple radiance of the Holy Lightning Sword dissipated, replaced by a dense layer of yellow light. Sword and axe intersected and a gust of wind swept up the yellow. A different kind of forcefield was spread out and lightly met Yun Che.

An incomparably heavy pressure suddenly descended, immediately slowly down Yun Che’s pace. This pressure multiplied as Yun Che closed in on Luo Changsheng, gradually making him feel as though a huge mountain was pressing down. The might of his sword and flames were also being greatly suppressed with him, and the moment he reached a distance of almost thirty meters near Luo Changsheng, they had been completely obstructed. Regardless of whether it was his power or the power of his Golden Crow Manifest God, neither was able inch forward.

Both man and Manifest God had been blocked this easily by Luo Changsheng!

This scene heartlessly destroyed the barely existing hope within the hearts of Huo Rulie and the others.

When the combatants gazes clashed from a distance, Yun Che’s brows were rigidly tense and his arms faintly trembled while Luo Changsheng was still as calm as before. A meaningful smile graced Luo Changsheng’s face. “So you really are proficient in the laws of lightning.”

Yun Che, “...”

Not only was Luo Changsheng’s constitution heavens apart and his profound strength high to the point of being terrifying, even his mind was extremely astute.

Luo Changsheng waved his hand and the heavy defensive force field suddenly changed into a violent offensive one, jolting Yun Che and his Golden Crow Manifest God far into the distance. Luo Changsheng somersaulted and simultaneously waved both his sword and axe, creating a screeching gale on the Conferred God Stage. As though a god had descended, a fifty kilometer wide giant hawk raised an apocalyptic tempest... Instead of going for Yun Che, it dashed straight at the Golden Crow Manifest God.

The Golden Crow Manifest God only contained sixty percent of Yun Che’s power, so how could it bear an attack created with Luo Changsheng’s full power? As the giant hawk dove down, exceptionally terrifying wind blades sliced several hundred fine cuts onto the Conferred God Stage. The moment the Golden Crow image was struck, it lasted two breaths before its flames and apparition twisted into fiery sparks that covered the sky and completely faded in the next instant.

“Your Manifest God is indeed powerful but it also has a huge weakpoint.” Luo Changsheng’s aura locked into Yun Che as he slowly pointed it out, “It is too frail!”

Once his voice fell, he conjured a storm and instantly attacked Yun Che’s front.

Boom!!

The loud sound resembled heavenly thunder exploding in the sky as the power of the opposing parties ruthlessly collided once more. This time, however, Yun Che’s body severely shook. The veins and muscles in his arms ruptured at the same time as he was shot down.

In front of Luo Changsheng who was using his full power, Yun Che was at a completely disadvantage when it came to profound strength.

Yun Che’s body fell down but the moment he came into contact with the ground, he immediately sprang back up. The Heaven Smiting Sword quickly condensed a tremendous sword might yet again and struck over once more.

Bang!!

Facing Yun Che’s sudden counter attack, Luo Changsheng’s left hand swiped horizontally. With a dull grunt, he firmly blocked the Heaven Smiting Sword... and he had done so merely using the Divine Wind Battleaxe. He had completely blocked the Heaven Smiting Sword with just one hand!

When his right hand descended, a strike of yellow light mercilessly exploded on Yun Che’s chest.

Yun Che groaned. He spat out a bloody arrow and was fiercely smashed down faster than before... Luo Changsheng lightly chuckled. Just as he was about to execute a follow up attack, a sense of crisis that should not have appeared suddenly came from behind him.

Luo Changsheng felt a sense of forboding but he wasn’t able to react in time as a scarlet color flame violently exploded on his right arm.

“Ooooh!!”

Yun Che’s body heavily fell onto the ground, dragging the Heaven Smiting Sword several steps back before he stopped. His arms oozed with blood and his face went pale for a moment.

Luo Changsheng groaned painfully. The sleeve of his right arm had been completely disintegrated while his arm was imprinted with a long burn mark. What kind of scorching pain was inducted by the Golden Crow flames? Even if it was Luo Changsheng, an distorted expression would still appear on his face for several breaths.

The Golden Crow Manifest God he clearly annihilated earlier had now flown back to Yun Che’s side.

“It seems like my ‘Manifest God’ is different from the one you know about.”

In terms of the severity of injuries, Yun Che’s were far more serious than Luo Changsheng’s. However, he wiped the bloodstain at the corner of his mouth and revealed an odd smile.

Luo Changsheng's face slightly changed as amazement filled his eyes. He had clearly destroyed Yun Che's Manifest God and completely suppressed him right after so there was no way he had the chance to release the Manifest God again... yet it had suddenly appeared from behind him and burned him.

The only possibility was that... Could it be that he was able to release the Manifest God when suppressed?

Luo Changsheng's understanding of a Manifest God naturally came from the God Manifestation Art that only Divine Masters could execute. Not only did the God Manifestation Art require a ton of profound energy, its activation required a comparably long period of time to fuse one's profound energy and mind together. If it was destroyed, it would even bring about a degree of backlash to the user.

This was also the common census the entire God Realm had about the "God Manifestation Art".

But how could Yun Che's "Profound Handle: God Manifestation" be the "God Manifestation Art" they knew?

Although its power came from Yun Che, its activation was a fusion of one's mind and the profound handle. It had nothing to do with profound strength.

Luo Changsheng's eyes narrowed. This was his first injury he got in his battle against Yun Che.

The pain brought about by the burning of the Golden Crow flames had finally slightly evoked his rage.

"You have wounded me... well done." Luo Changsheng raised his head. Letting out a light breath, he praised, "Back when I held back too much against Jun Xilei and was thus injured, I thought that I wouldn't receive another one. As expected, you have not disappoint me."

Luo Changsheng's words were clearly extremely arrogant yet he was not being arrogant at all. This was because to him, it was an honest declaration, a fact that couldn't be even more simple and clear.

"However, there won't be a second one... if that was your entire strength!"

Chapter 1222 - Crimson Flame (1)

"It is quite rare to see Luo Changsheng this serious," Holy Eaves Realm King Luo Shangchen suddenly commented. "It seems like even though victory is within his grasp, he doesn't have the absurd notion of underestimating the enemy. Not bad."

"No," Luo Guxie shook her head. "It is because Yun Che made him feel a sense of crisis."

"A sense of crisis?" Luo Shangchen's brows twitched. "You mean...?"

Luo Guxie slowly explained, "Since he was young, Changsheng has never suffered a loss from his peers and he has always been the one to look down at others. Forget about looking down at him, there wasn't anyone who was even on par with him. His entire life has been like this and he has long since grown accustomed to it. But Yun Che... he is younger than Changsheng, and although his cultivation in the profound way is in the Divine Tribulation Realm, he was able to force Changsheng to such a state. He is the first person to make Changsheng feel a sense of crisis and the imbalance of possibly being inferior."

Luo Shangchen, "..."

“The reason why Changsheng purposely wanted Yun Che to release his Manifest God and immediately extinguished it right after was not because he wanted to dampen Yun Che’s spirit, but because he was urged by that sense of imbalance. When Yun Che released his Manifest God during his battle against Lu Lengchuan and revealed an astonishing might that directly turned the tide, Changsheng had an intense reaction... because it was a power that even he was unable to comprehend.”

“...” Luo Shangchen’s brows pursed as he muttered, “I see.”

“Changsheng might not be aware of it himself but even if he was aware of it, he would never admit it,” Luo Guxie continued. As Luo Changsheng’s master and aunt, it was clear that her understanding of Luo Changsheng surpassed his father’s. “In order to steady this negative feeling that he has never felt before, Changsheng would naturally want to completely suppress Yun Che and thoroughly defeat him.

“Once he has completely stomped on Yun Che, the negative feelings brought about by Yun Che will naturally disperse.”

Lose? Luo Changsheng never believed that he would lose, and would never allow himself to lose.

Yun Che did not respond to Luo Changsheng’s trying, calm words. He advanced forward, traversing three hundred meters in one step. All of his profound energy had been released and the channeling of the Golden Crow’s Record of the Burning World had reached its pinnacle. The might containing both sword and flame had perfectly fused on the Heaven Smiting Sword, its outbreak, which illuminated the sky with flames, seemed like it would burn through space.

Against this display of power, Luo Changsheng did not move. He was calm, as though he was watching some dazzling fireworks. The Holy Lightning Sword drew an arc in the air, slashing downward.

Yun Che’s attack was incomparably berserk yet Luo Changsheng’s attitude remained gentle and elegant, as though he was on an idle stroll. Following the Holy Lightning Sword’s downward slash, three thin sword beams appeared without a sound and instantly punctured space, marking it with three pale lines.

Sha!

A light sound instantly flashed past as Yun Che’s flaming sword blast was run through by the three thin white sword beams and torn apart, becoming a dispersed profound energy storm and flame fragments.

The spectators widened their eyes... They seemed to have seen space get completely split apart. The three sword beams had already faded but it took quite some while for the image of their pale light to disappear from the eyes of the audience.

Yun Che used Moon Splitting Cascade to flash away. The three white beams sliced past his sword blast and ran through his icy afterimage. Although he still held some shock in his heart, his body continued to move like flowing light and approached Luo Changsheng. A tremendous sword might was condensed once more, and was then sent blasting toward Luo Changsheng.

Boom!!

The Heaven Smiting Sword stopped a hundred meters from Luo Changsheng. Amidst the mingling cries of metal, a yellow barrier violently caved in after it appeared and suddenly exploded.

Both the flames and the Heaven Smiting Sword were ruthlessly forced back. Yun Che was flipped backwards, as though he had been struck by a giant mountain. Luo Changsheng finally moved. Both the sword and axe attacked together. Five sword beams conjured with the power of the storm swiftly shot out as the silhouette of a giant hawk flashed behind him, causing an incredibly heavy pressure to descend.

The five sword beams tightly locked onto Yun Che's aura, instantly drawing near. Unable to flip himself upright, Yun Che activated the Evil God Barrier at his quickest speed.

C-c-c-crack!!

The Evil God Barrier blocked three sword beams and finally shattered beneath the fourth. Surging with the power of the storm, the fifth sword beam mercilessly thrashed Yun Che's back like a whip.

Accompanied by a loud sound, the back of Yun Che's snowy robes disintegrated as blood splattered. However, before he had yet to counterattack, he was suddenly pressed down by an insurmountable suppression and rapidly fell.

Luo Changsheng flew over, his body rippling with a dense yellow profound light as a heavy force field firmly enveloped Yun Che.

Gravitational force field, one of the highest laws of earth attribute profound arts. The gravitational force field Luo Changcheng released was tyrannical to the max. This was especially so for Yun Che, who just happened to wield a heavy weapon, the speed of his sword was basically cut in half. Sensing Luo Changsheng's power closing in on him, Yun Che used all his profound strength to barely flip himself back.

The moment Luo Changsheng's power shot down, he barely managed to move the Heaven Smiting Sword into a horizontal position before him.

Bang!

Supported by the the yellow light, the Holy Lightning Sword's might became exceptionally heavy as it descended upon the Heaven Smiting Sword.

The first strike caused Yun Che's entire body to tremble severely. The aura in the space around him was completely pushed away by a terrifying wave of energy that had suddenly exploded.

Bang!!!

The second strike made the Yun Che's arm gush with blood. Blood dyed his white clothes as his internal organs violently churned.

BOOOM

The third strike completely blew away the Heaven Smiting Sword. As though he had been struck by a heavenly hammer, a boom sounded in his mind before he was ruthlessly sent flying.

Luo Changsheng wore a look of indifference. The profound energy on his body then quickly changed from yellow to green. The Divine Wind Battleaxe flew from his grasp, immediately conjuring a terrifying

storm that caused the world to change color. Several times faster than Yun Che, the windstorm chased him and heartlessly struck his back.

“Yun Che!” Mu Bingyun suddenly stood up, her face devoid of color.

BOOM

That brief sound of the windstorm resembled the eruption of a volcano as it swept through the entire Conferred God Stage, making it faintly tremble. A long streak of bloody mist trailed behind him as Yun Che was flung a dozen kilometers in another direction before heavily smashing onto the ground.

Having left his grasp, the Heaven Smiting Sword also fell quite a distance away.

“Sigh. It’s over.” Huo Rulie closed his eyes. The deadlock in the beginning had given him a sliver of hope but once Luo Changsheng truly used his full strength, Yun Che had been completely suppressed. Aside from when Luo Changsheng was burned, after being caught off guard by the Manifest God, Yun Che had not been able to come close to him at all.

“He is, after all, Luo Changsheng.” Yan Juehai also sighed. “Yun Che being able to make him use all his strength is already amazing enough. Entering the grand finals is also enough to leave his mark. No one is qualified to ask him for more.”

“Brother Yun... Is, is he alright?” Huo Poyun nervously asked. The battle was decided so the results no longer mattered, but... Luo Changsheng’s terrifying last strike had been blasted at Yun Che’s back!

The back was where the spine resided. He had previously been injured there by a sword beam and now he had been hit by such a terrifying attack after losing power... No one doubted that it was very likely for Yun Che’s spine to be broken.

No matter how strong a profound practitioner was, if their spine was broken, it meant that they were thoroughly paralyzed and were no longer able to fight in the future.

A legend was a legend after all, how could it possibly be defeated so easily? Even if Yun Che shook the Eastern Divine Region time and time again, he was still incapable of shaking the true number one of the Eastern Divine Region’s young generation.

Luo Changsheng stopped and gradually withdrew his profound energy. It was clear that he felt that it was no longer necessary to continue attacking. No one understood how strong of a power was within that last attack more than him.

What he felt when facing Yun Che was no different from what Luo Guxie had stated. He was the undefeated Young Master Changsheng. Since he was young, he had completely grown accustomed to winning, completely grown accustomed to looking down at others. However, when Yun Che revealed his outstanding talent, his heart began to stir, and it gradually intensified.

Even though Luo Changsheng was convinced that his power far exceeded Yun Che’s, it was impossible for him to display Yun Che’s battle prowess if he was back in the ninth level of the Divine Tribulation Realm, nor would he be able to wield the power of a Manifest God. At the same time, Yun Che had mastered profound arts of different attributes and also possessed multiple divine bloodlines and inheritances.

A sense of inferiority had uncontrollably bred at the bottom of his heart at that time. To him, who had always been the “number one God Child”, there was no doubt that this kind of feeling was very uncomfortable and unbearable.

However, Yun Che was now completely suppressed under his true power. Even though Yun Che had released his Manifest God, he was unable to put up a resistance and had easily been severely injured by him. At this point in time, it was impossible for him to turn the tide.

Yun Che’s heavy injuries formed a pool of blood. As Luo Changsheng looked down at him from above like a ruling regent, the discomfort which existed within him for several days instantly lightened, his gaze also became much calmer.

Everything seemed to have been decided. From the views of everyone present, the grand final had now ended. Before the Profound God Convention, Luo Changsheng was the publicly acknowledge champion. In the end, a mishap did not happen...

At this time, the bloody Yun Che was actually slowly standing up.

His back was badly mutilated and his arms were completely dyed red yet he stood perfectly straight. There was no sign of his spine being broken and when he turned around, his eyes that were filled with a gloomy sharpness did not tremble nor show fear.

“He’s... still able to stand up?” Many in the audience involuntarily cried out in surprise.

“What a shocking body! But even if his spine did not snap, both his internal and external injuries are severe. Though.... judging from his appearance... don’t tell me he wants to continue?”

Shock flitted past Luo Changsheng face as his brows twitched. He then smiled, “You can actually stand. It seems like your physique ought to have also undergone a special tempering.”

Yun Che, “...”

“I believe that you would not choose to surrender.” Luo Changsheng stretched out a hand. “Then let’s continue. Let me see how long you are able to last.”

Haah... haah... haah... haah...

Yun Che’s breathing was incredibly rough, the undulation of his chest was so intense that it nearly burst. He also slowly stretched out a hand. Just when everyone thought that he was going to summon the Heaven Smiting Sword to continue fighting, he recalled the Golden Crow Manifest God after a flicker of flames.

“Oh?” Luo Changsheng furrowed his brows, disappointment flashing in his eyes. “Don’t tell me that you’re going to surrender?”

The audience also revealed faces full of disappointment. Even though Yun Che had been crushed by Luo Changsheng’s full strength and there was no chance of him actually winning, as a profound practitioner standing at the peak, as one of the finalists in the grand finals everyone in the Eastern Divine Region was watching, even if he was bound to lose, he should at least fight to the last second. If not, wouldn’t he be looked at in contempt?

Yun Che did not speak and slowly closed his eyes.

Chapter 1223 - Crimson Flame (2)

“What does he want to do?”

Yun Che’s strange action drew the attention of the audience. At this time, Yun Che, who had suddenly closed his eyes, was now spreading his arms. Violent golden flames ignited above his right arm—it was the Golden Crow flame that he had been relying on the most.

A cluster of scarlet flames slowly burned into existence atop his left arm. This flame was not as luminous and fierce as the Golden Crow flame, it burned with extreme tranquility.

When this scarlet flame ignited, everyone sitting in the Flame God Realm seats were stunned all at once. This was especially true for members of the Phoenix Sect, a great majority of them stood up with a bang.

“Those are... Phoenix flames!?”

“That’s the Phoenix flame! That’s definitely the Phoenix flame!”

“What’s going on? How can Yun Che ignite the Phoenix flame? Th-this...”

Yan Juehai’s face stiffened for a long time. He subconsciously shifted his gaze toward Huo Rulie, only to find the same stunned expression there. Huo Rulie then suddenly turned to him. “Sect Master Yan, why would the Phoenix flame appear on Yun boy’s body? How did this happen?”

Yan Juehai heavily shook his head and then said in a low voice, “His Phoenix flame’s... aura is incredibly pure. That is only possible if he possessed the most primal Phoenix blood, and our Phoenix Sect has long lost that.”

“How many more secrets does he have!?”

Yan Juehai’s emotions were the exact same as what Huo Rulie had felt when Yun Che ignited the Golden Crow flames.

“Sect Master Yan, put the matter of where he obtained the Phoenix flames aside and admit that it came from you for now! Otherwise, it will bring the boy unnecessary trouble,” Huo Rulie softly reminded.

“I understand.” Yan Juehai nodded slightly. “Only, why does he want to forcibly reveal the Phoenix flames? The Golden Crow flames cannot deal with Luo Changsheng, so the Phoenix flames also... Wait!”

Yan Juehai’s expression suddenly shifted. “Ice Phoenix, Golden Crow, Phoenix... Wouldn’t this mean that Yun Che is the same as Luo Changsheng, and possesses three divine inheritances?”

“It’s not just that,” Huo Rulie said in a low voice. “The Vermillion Bird, Phoenix, and Golden Crow are three supreme divine flames that reject one another. Unless one erases the existence of the other divine blood, it is impossible for them to receive the acknowledgement of, and have affinity with, the other two blood inheritances. Everyone in our Flame God Realm knows this. Yet Yun Che... actually has the powers of the Phoenix and Golden Crow coexisting within him! This... is just... impossible...”

Huo Rulie’s last words caused his voice to shake uncontrollably.

“Three divine powers in one body.” Atop the eastern seating area, the gazes of the god emperors also changed. The Eternal Heaven God Emperor exclaimed, “There is actually someone else other than Luo Changsheng who is able to hold three divine powers.”

“But the powers of the Phoenix and Golden Crow are both fire based. Is there that much of a difference between cultivating one or ten? Igniting two divine flames would instead be a waste of both mental and profound strength,” the Moon God Emperor commented.

Dragon Monarch, “...”

The gold colored Golden Crow flame and the scarlet colored Phoenix flame were presently burning intensely above Yun Che. They spread at the same time, from his arms to his entire body, causing Yun Che’s body to quickly be covered in flames. The gold flames occupied half his body while the scarlet flames took over the other half, both flames especially distinct.

“Oh?” Luo Changsheng casually neared with shock in his eyes. “The Phoenix flame? So you are also someone who can simultaneously wield three divine inheritances. I thought that I was the only one in the Eastern Divine Region who could do that among our generation. This is quite a nice surprise.”

“However,” Luo Changsheng narrowed his eyes, “if I were to compare to the Golden Crow flames at full power and the Golden Crow flames mixed with Phoenix flames at half power each, I feel the former would seem to be more of a threat. Do you not think so?”

Yun Che’s sudden ignition of the Phoenix flame did indeed shock the audience. However, their shock was because Yun Che actually possessed three types of divine powers like Luo Changsheng. As for divine flames of the same level, forget about one, even ten different kinds of flames were fundamentally unable to affect the battle.

Yun Che remained silent, his eyes still closed. The two different kinds of divine flames that burned on his hands were now slowly touching.

The two flames were similar, they would either repel each other or mix together. To everyone in the Flame God Realm, the Phoenix flame and Golden Crow flame were mutually repulsive. Even being close to each other would make them devour their counterpart, let alone making contact. However, the moment the two flames within Yun Che’s hands touched, it was as if two different colored rivers silently blended, releasing a different kind of luminance.

It was neither the Golden Crow flame’s scarlet gold, nor was it the Phoenix flame’s scarlet, but an exceptionally enchantingly beautiful... crimson!

The moment this kind of bizarre fusion finished within his palms, it quickly spread. The Golden Crow and Phoenix flames on his body quickly mixed as Yun Che’s body lit up with a layer crimson no one had ever seen before.

The scene left the audience dazed while the eyeballs of those from the Flame God Realm, the two sect masters included, nearly popped out.

“W.. w-w-w-w-what is that!?” Huo Rulie’s jaw dropped to the ground after he shakily roared.

The pure auras of the Golden Crow and Phoenix disappeared without a trace as an aura no profound practitioner at the scene had ever felt, surged on the Conferred God Stage. It seemed to be the aura of the Phoenix, then the aura of the Golden Crow, then the fusion of both, yet incomprehensibly twisted.

“Th... this... what in th...” Yan Juehai blankly stared, unconsciously standing up. “How... can such a thing... happen...”

The flames were two out of the three supreme divine flames in the Primal Chaos, representative of the highest caliber of flame power. This meant that there were no other flames at an even higher level. Every legend and record solidified this proof.

Yet right now, they had actually witnessed the fusion of the Golden Crow and Phoenix flame within Yun Che’s palms. They merged to become a strange flame with a completely different color and aura. It was not just absurd. If they had not personally seen this, even if they were able to believe that the God Burying Inferno Prison could be extinguished with some urine, they would still not believe that this could happen.

Regarding the fire created by the strange fusion of the two different kinds of divine flame... As profound practitioners of the Flame God Realm who specialized in fire, they had never seen such a beautiful red flame, nor had they ever felt such a chaotic, warped flame aura.

The crimson fire on Yun Che was at times calm and at times explosive. It was unknown if this was the attribute of the fused flames or his inability to fully control it.

Yun Che stretched out a hand and the Heaven Smiting Sword flew back into his grasp. When his fingers lightly brushed across its blade, the crimson fire followed them until it completely covered the sword’s body.

Luo Changsheng’s brows slightly knitted. His spirit sense told him the flame aura was chaotic but its power was not as great as the Golden Crow flame from before. He chuckled. “Interesting. This flame is very pretty, but I wonder how powerful it is.”

Before he had yet to finish speaking, Yun Che had already flown up, sending out a crimson flame sword beam from the Heaven Smiting Sword.

During the couple of months he spent at the bottom of the God Burying Inferno Prison, after Yun Che finished cultivating the World Ode of the Phoenix, he suddenly recalled the ice flame. Since he was able to defy the natural elemental laws using the Evil God’s power to fuse the mutually repulsive attributes of ice and flame, then what would happen if he tried to fuse the Phoenix flame and Golden Crow flame together?

Once this thought flashed in his mind, he had immediately tried it out.

The moment the dazzling light of the first crimson flame was emitted, the still existing Phoenix soul immediately issued a trembling shocked cry.

Since the Golden Crown flame and the Phoenix flame were both flames, their fusion was much less defiant to the natural laws than the “heaven defying” ice flame. Thus, their fusion was many times faster. Although he had yet to completely comprehend it, he could still manage to accomplish it in a few breaths if he concentrated.

As for the might of the crimson fire formed through the fusion of the two divine flames... the depths of its power were unknown.

If ordinary profound practitioners had undergone the heavy injuries Yun Che suffered, their profound energy would have been in turmoil long ago. They would've become lethargic and wouldn't even be able to bring out sixty percent of their strength. Yun Che's imposingness, on the other hand, was the same as before, having not weakened due to his injuries.

Facing the Yun Che who had ignited this strange flame, Luo Changsheng released his profound energy again, but he did not move at all. Following the shine of yellow colored profound light on his body, the gravitation field which had ruthlessly suppressed Yun Che previously came down once more.

The next instant, however, caused Luo Changsheng's expression to slightly shift.

Beneath the gravitational force, Yun Che's speed did not decrease in the slightest, nor did his might get suppressed. The crimson fire burned with tranquility. No matter where it went, it burned the gravitational force field Luo Changsheng pressed down, layer after layer. That tremendous power was immediately run through as a crimson sword beam was blasted directly at Luo Changsheng's chest.

Boom!!

The huge power connected, and the Divine Wind Battleaxe firmly blocked the Heaven Smiting Sword's power. In terms of profound strength, Yun Che was far inferior to Luo Changsheng. His body violently shook and all the blood in his body fiercely churned. However, the follow up attack that Luo Changsheng should've made to blast Yun Che away did not come. Luo Changsheng's pupils enlarged, a tightness that never appeared before suddenly surfacing on his face.

The crimson flame's light burned within his eyes. Sword and axe collided and the moment the crimson flame came before him, he suddenly felt like both his face and body had been branded by a million soldering irons. The immense pain which lasted just an instant almost made him scream out loud. At the same time, he suddenly felt that a strange abnormality had appeared on the Divine Wind Battleaxe... it too was shrilling in extreme pain.

Luo Changsheng swiftly withdrew his power and retreated backwards, lightning quick. Only then did that terrifying burning pain disappear. He lowered his head, eyes abruptly contracting.

The incomparably heavy Divine Wind Battleaxe was still faintly trembling. It possessed an extremely high level intelligence, but it had never felt this pained and frightened before. Luo Changsheng's gaze fell at the spot he had previously blocked the Heaven Smiting Sword's attack... A considerably wide and shallow mark was shockingly engraved there, and even faintly radiated crimson.

"Wh...at!? Though they were separated by quite a distance, how could that compare to a Divine Master's eyesight? Glazed Light Realm King Luo Shangchen had immediately seen the impression on the Divine Wind Battleaxe, astonishment surfacing in his eyes.

When Luo Changsheng was still in disbelief, Yun Che's attack came yet again like a storm. The moment that streak of crimson firelight neared, Luo Changsheng no longer dared to receive it. A windstorm swept him up as he retreated far into the distance. The Divine Wind Battleaxe and the Holy Lightning Sword then blasted downward at the same time. Three thick, meter long sword beams slashed toward

Yun Che, bringing along a terrible storm. Wherever it went, it plowed three deep, unsurprising grooves on the Conferred God Stage below.

In the past, Yun Che was unable to receive Luo Changsheng's full powered attack head on. But he directly confronted it this time, not dodging nor defending. The Heaven Smiting Sword welcomed the three wind sword beams with a ruthless blast of its own, smashing out a gigantic crimson sword domain.

Chi chi chi chiii——

When the three wind sword beams sliced into the crimson sword domain, instead of ripping apart the sword domain and piercing through it like Luo Changsheng had expected, the three wind sword beams rapidly melted amidst an incredibly frightening burning sound. They had only traveled halfway through the domain before all the profound light and power behind them completely melted into nothingness

“!!!!” Luo Changsheng's sunken brows nearly knocked against each other.

Yet it was at this moment that Yun Che's speed exploded, rapidly closing the distance between him and Luo Changsheng. Gigantic phoenix wings unfurled behind him, their silhouette emitting an extremely resonancing phoenix cry.

“”Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!!”

Yun Che's entire body transformed into a streak of crimson light, traversing space in but an instant, unreservedly releasing an ultimate blast of sword might and flame might at Luo Changsheng.

BOOM——

Firelight exploded as the energy explosion shook the heavens. Yun Che spat out a mouthful of blood and was sent flying far away. Luo Changsheng did not retreat, but the exploding crimson flame directly burned through the defensive barrier he was the most proud of, gunning straight for his chest.

“AHHHH!!!”

A scream of immense pain suddenly sounded on the Conferred God Stage.

Even though this scream was forcibly stifled right after by Luo Changsheng, he was unable to suppress his body's reaction—his incomparably handsome face, which had always been as elegant as jade, was currently twisted, almost all of his facial features were completely bunched up together. His hands violently trembled as his fingers neared his chest. Shockingly imprinted there were three connecting charred bloody indentations.

He was not an ordinary person, he was Luo Changsheng who was head of the Eastern Divine Region's Four God Children. It was simply unimaginable what kind of pain would make him involuntarily scream out in front of the gazes of the public.

“Changsheng!” Luo Guxie shouted in shock and instantly paled.

Being burned by the Phoenix flame and Golden Crow flame was already painful, let alone the crimson flame created by their fusion. Not only was its power warped, the scorching pain accompanying it also reached a different kind of warped domain. Luo Changsheng was in so much pain that even his soul was convulsing. At this moment, he heard Yun Che's cold taunting voice.

“Didn’t you say that I wouldn’t give you a second wound on your body?” Yun Che chuckled. “The next time you try to talk big, remember to clearly check out who the person in front of you is. Otherwise, when you get slapped in the face... it’ll hurt a lot!”

Chapter 1224 - Crimson Annihilation

Luo Changsheng suddenly looked up when he heard Yun Che’s words. A rare, savage gleam passed through his eyes.

No one had ever dared—or qualified—to ridicule Luo Changsheng, but when he looked down on Yun Che like a judge who controlled everything, Yun Che was inadvertently triggered as a result. Yun Che knew that Luo Changsheng was arrogant and disdainful toward everyone, but that didn’t mean that the likes of him would swallow such a slight without retaliation.

That was why he didn’t hesitate to beat down on Luo Changsheng after catching him off guard.

The unexpected twist in what should’ve been a landslide victory caught everyone off guard, and the light from crimson flames that surrounded Yun Che’s body pricked their wide open eyes, especially those who were from Flame God Realm. Huo Rulie and Yan Juehai turned their necks stiffly and stared at one another. They were completely stunned and speechless for a very long time.

Before this, Yun Che had been completely suppressed by Luo Changsheng despite releasing the Golden Crow flames to the max and striking with the Heaven Smiting Sword. Forget hurting Luo Changsheng, he couldn’t even get close to his opponent.

However, this strange crimson flame had easily extinguished Luo Changsheng’s power and penetrated his defenses. However, Yun Che’s profound strength was still the same as before.

Both the Phoenix flame and Golden Crow flame sat at the highest level of divine flames. However, this crimson flame was far stronger than the Golden Crow flame despite being powered by the same level of profound energy!

Did this mean that the crimson flame... sat at a higher level than even the Golden Crow flame and Phoenix flame!?

Impossible! That is absolutely impossible!

Both Huo Rulie and Yan Juehai shouted so in their heads. It was because the Vermillion Bird flame, Phoenix flame and Golden Crow flame were the three ultimate divine flames of the Era of Gods. They were already the strongest when True Gods still roamed the world, so how could a mere human possibly ignite a flame that exceeded even them!?

But if that was the case, then what on earth was going on here? Could someone please enlighten them already!?

The words “complete confusion” couldn’t even begin to describe their feelings right now.

Although pain was still evident on Luo Changsheng’s face, he had already lowered his arm slowly as his defensive forcefield repaired itself. While staring at Yun Che, he spoke in a very low tone, “Very good, it would be boring if you went down as easily as I expected... But you’re naive if you think you can beat me with just this!”

Yun Che didn't bother wasting his breath with Luo Changsheng. A fiery beam roughly several hundred meters long enveloped the Heaven Smiting Sword, and what should've been Golden Annihilation turned into "Crimson Annihilation" as he swung down mercilessly at Luo Changsheng.

As a man who was so powerful that he felt lonesome, yet so proud he couldn't stomach any weakness within himself, withdrawal was a concept that he thought was beneath him. Before the crimson flames were summoned, Luo Changsheng had chosen to block Yun Che's strikes head on, or even cancel them out leisurely with a single arm.

But when Crimson Annihilation came rushing down on him, his facial features tightened as his body reacted before his mind. He dashed a hundred meters away from the stormy power the instant it appeared.

Those who hadn't been burned by the crimson flame before would never understand the kind of pain he was in earlier.

It was a pain that could turn even the proudest and firmest person into a bird, startled by the mere twang of a bow.

In the distance, Luo Changsheng turned stiff for an instant. He almost couldn't believe that his first reaction toward Yun Che's attack was to run away.

It was a normal, if not entirely logical, choice of action had he been any other profound practitioner, but... he was Luo Changsheng. How could he run away—in fear!—when his opponent was just a peer whose profound strength, background and reputation was below him in every way!?

Yun Che seized Luo Changsheng's temporary lapse of attention to move closer and extend the crimson blade to two hundred fifty meters long. Then, he swung it horizontally toward Luo Changsheng. A thick, seemingly permanent, crimson trail seemed to follow wherever the blade went, and it looked powerful enough to cut even the void.

The earlier experience had actually left a trauma in Luo Changsheng. His body instinctively shivered, and every hair on his body was standing on its end. But there was no way he was running away a second time after this! Growling, Luo Changsheng erupted the profound light surrounding him into a turbulent wind domain, crossed the Holy Lightning Sword and Divine Wind Battleaxe before himself, and charged toward the crimson sword.

If Yun Che wasn't using the crimson flame, the power behind his slash would've been largely diminished by the wind domain and become completely harmless to Luo Changsheng. But not only did the crimson sword cut through the wind domain, that could've ground a ten thousand meter tall mountain into dust, but it did it with such ease that there was barely any resistance at all.

Both the sword and the battleaxe glowed brightly with yellow light. It was obvious that Luo Changsheng was in full defense mode.

There was a loud bang, and both the crimson flame and storm exploded at the same time. The crimson blade was knocked far away, but it hadn't broken upon impact. Yun Che immediately threw another horizontal sweep at Luo Changsheng.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom boom boom boom boom boom boom...

Yun Che's expression was ruthless, and his gaze demonic. He was suppressing Luo Changsheng, and he noticed that the crimson flames had left a lingering impression in his opponent's mind. There was no way he was going to give the enemy any chance to breathe at all.

Yun Che poured every bit of profound energy he had into maintaining Crimson Annihilation as he slashed again and again at Luo Changsheng like a storm. Every time he clashed directly against Luo Changsheng, a miniature red explosion would appear and linger around for an indefinite amount of time, forcing his opponent to dodge far into the distance. For a time, Luo Changsheng couldn't find any opportunity to mount a counter attack at all.

Yun Che had attacked Luo Changsheng dozens of times in just a few breaths' time. In the end, Luo Changsheng let out an angry roar and caused a loud bang that deafened the ears. The crimson blade was finally shattered into a shower of sparks.

Yun Che shook violently as he was thrown backwards.

At this point, Luo Changsheng's gentle demeanor was completely gone. The young man rarely got angry, but right now he felt like his heart could explode from sheer fury. Now that that fearsome crimson blade was finally shattered, Luo Changsheng let out a low growl and was just about to retaliate fiercely against Yun Che when an unnatural reverberation suddenly coursed through his arms.

What shook wasn't his body but the Holy Lightning Sword and Divine Wind Battleaxe.

Luo Changsheng subconsciously lifted the weapons for an inspection, and his pupils abruptly shrunk as if he was pricked by a needle.

The Holy Lightning Sword's blade was chipped in at least a dozen or so places. The largest chip of them all was at least half a finger wide. Faint crimson light could be seen swimming around the chips as the lightning stored inside the Holy Lightning Sword visibly leaked out of the gaps, accompanied by a despairingly painful and frightful ringing.

The Divine Wind Battleaxe was also dented in a dozen or so different places. The longest mark on the blade was at least half an inch deep. As a result, the battleaxe looked visibly crumpled, and it was leaking storm power and ringing sorrowfully as well.

"How... is this... possible...?" Stunned, Luo Changsheng just couldn't believe his eyes.

As the son of the Holy Eaves Realm King and the strongest cultivator out of the Four God Children of the Eastern Divine Region, how was it possible for him to wield ordinary weapons? His Holy Lightning Sword and Divine Wind Battleaxe, Lu Lengchuan's Sky Splitter Spear, Jun Xilei's Misty Light Sword and Shui Yangyue's Jade Rivulet Sword were profound weapons of the highest grade at the Divine Spirit Realm and below. Not only did they contain divine power, but they couldn't be destroyed by another power of the same level.

However, it was a fact that the Holy Lightning Sword and Divine Wind Battleaxe were damaged by the crimson blade. In fact, it was clear that they were damaged every time they clashed against it.

Naturally, his brief loss of attention meant that he had missed his best chance to retaliate against Yun Che. By the time he recovered, Yun Che had already steadied himself and was dashing towards Luo Changsheng yet again. Although the crimson sword beam hadn't reappeared, the Heaven Smiting Sword was burning brighter than before.

Luo Changsheng frowned and gritted his teeth. He was just about to meet Yun Che again when Luo Guxie's voice suddenly appeared beside his ears:

"Changsheng, Yun Che's flame is extraordinarily powerful, but its aura is very unstable. It obviously cannot be maintained for a long time, so all you need to do is to avoid direct confrontation and outlast him. You don't have to face it directly. Once he runs out of power, you can trample on him however you wish."

Luo Guxie herself was frowning deep and worriedly after she was done.

Strictly speaking, what Luo Guxie did—sending a sound transmission—was dangerously close to breaching the rules of the Conferred God Battle. The reason she did something she never thought she would do was because Luo Changsheng had never looked this terrible until today.

Luo Changsheng, "..."

Boom!!

Yun Che swung his sword and caused an explosion of flames, but Luo Changsheng had already escaped far, far away from the point of impact. Running on Extreme Mirage Lightning, Yun Che locked onto Luo Changsheng, closed in and tried to envelop the latter in fire yet again.

Luo Changsheng growled and activated a couple of yellow barriers before him. While the barriers were holding, he escaped into the distance yet again.

Luo Changsheng was faster than Yun Che. Amplified by the power of the storm, he moved so quickly that it was impossible to catch him with one's eyes. His movements proved so elusive that it was almost illusory, but Yun Che kept chasing and attacking him like torrential rain. Still, Luo Changsheng's full switch to defense allowed him to avoid the center of impact every time, while protecting himself perfectly from the shockwaves.

For a time, the wind whistled, and the fire exploded on the God Conferred Stage. Luo Changsheng was actually the one who was being chased around by Yun Che right now. Although his great speed and defense meant that Yun Che couldn't harm him at all, it seriously did not create a good impression.

Yun Che seemed to grow impatient after failing to take down Luo Changsheng despite many attempts. He paused for a brief instant, and the crimson flame around him suddenly turned as volatile as the Golden Crow flame. Then, he attacked Luo Changsheng again with even fiercer fire waves.

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

Every time there was an explosion, a bigger ball of crimson flame was left behind. Moreover, they showed no signs of dying out even after a few breaths' time had passed. Very soon, Yun Che's seemingly

insanity fueled attacks left dozens of crimson fireballs on the God Conferred Stage. They looked as beautiful as reddish stars in space.

“Oh no!” Huo Rulie frowned, “Luo Changsheng may look sorry right now, but he’s obviously waiting for the moment Yun Che runs out of that crimson flame... That strange flame of Yun Che’s is incredibly unstable, and it is clear that he isn’t able to control it fully. There’s no way he can keep this up for long, or he would’ve used this from the very start.”

“If this situation continues, if this strange flame dies out before Luo Changsheng is defeated, Yun Che won’t have any chance of victory whatsoever.”

Huo Rulie waited, but didn’t hear a reply from Yan Juehai for a long time. When he turned to look at the sect master, he suddenly discovered that Yan Juehai was staring blankly to the front while muttering unclearly, “This... could this be... is...”

Huo Rulie, “???”

Boom!!

Another fireball appeared after the Heaven Smiting Sword was swung, but suddenly Yun Che ceased attacking Luo Changsheng. Instead, he stood still in the air as a strange, crimson gleam passed through his eyes.

All around him, thirty six red fireballs could be seen floating in the air. Since Yun Che had stopped attacking, Luo Changsheng had naturally ceased running away as well. However, he showed no signs of relaxing because a sudden, strong sense of crisis had suddenly gripped his heart and soul.

At the same time, Luo Guxie’s urgent voice rang out, “Defend now, Changsheng!!”

Bang bang bang bang bang bang bang bang...

In an instant, the fireballs slowly exploded... no, bloomed before everyone’s fully widened eyes and transformed into thirty-six demonically beautiful fire lotuses.

Chapter 1225 - World Illuminator Red Lotus

Thirty-six crimson lotuses slowly bloomed before everyone’s eyes. At first, the lotuses only had one layer; a total of nine petals burning as bright as flames. But over time more and more layers of petals added themselves around the lotuses—two layers, three layers, five layers—the lotuses were so suffocatingly beautiful that someone might’ve thought that they had suddenly fallen into a dream.

The instant the thirty-six crimson lotuses bloomed, Luo Changsheng suddenly roared as a thick yellow profound light burst from his body. It was the strongest defensive barrier he could create, and he went on to make a second barrier, a third barrier... a tenth... a twentieth...

He poured every ounce of strength he possessed into defense. He didn’t save anything for anything else.

While Luo Changsheng stacked barriers like he had gone crazy, the thirty-six crimson lotuses were blooming at an extraordinary rate as well. Every time a new layer of petals was added to the lotuses, they would become twice as big as before. The spectators watched dumbfoundedly as the fiery lotuses grew to several thousand meters each.

When the petals of every lotus came into contact with one another, their fiery auras connected, and a pillar of crimson flame suddenly gushed into the air. The impossibly clear, giant figure of a burning phoenix manifested into existence—it was almost as if the real Phoenix Spirit had descended into the world—and it spread its wings, arched its head and let out a long cry. Every feather on its body was burning with the hottest flames of the Phoenix.

The lotuses actually melted into one another and soundlessly transformed into one giant lotus that was at least several hundred kilometers wide.

Yan Juehai's entire body shook when he saw the beautiful lotus. A hoarse shout escaped his lips, "That's the World Illuminator Red Lotus!"

Yan Juehai's involuntary roar caused everyone around him to widen their eyes even further.

The blooming red lotus looked beautiful enough to intoxicate a person. It bloomed soundlessly before everyone's stunned faces and enveloped the entire Conferred God Stage. Its enchanting light gently dyed the surrounding space and sky crimson.

But as gentle it might seem, the giant lotus was a mighty power of the Phoenix that was capable of annihilating seas and burning skies into nothingness!

"What... what... what is that?"

"Is that the legendary... strongest fire lotus of the Phoenix!?" a middle realm king uttered in disbelief.

Yun Che and Luo Changsheng's figure could no longer be seen on the Conferred God Stage. Everything had been enveloped, no, buried by the silhouette of the gigantic fire lotus. The unimaginably terrifying heat and power caused many souls to shiver all over, even though there was a powerful barrier standing between it and them. They just couldn't imagine what kind of burning hell existed for the fighters who were right beneath that lotus.

"Sect master, is that really... World Illuminator Red Lotus?" a Phoenix Sect disciple stuttered.

"..." But Yan Juehai was staring at the scene blankly. He didn't react to the question at all.

"Sect Master Yan, it's been a long time since World Illuminator Red Lotus last appeared to the Phoenix Sect, right?"

"..." Yan Juehai was breathing heavily. The question finally pulled him back down to earth, but he was still staring at the fire lotus as if he couldn't bear to look away for even an instant, "It has been ninety thousand years to be exact. Ninety thousand years ago, there was an ancestor in the sect who managed to cultivate World Illuminator Red Lotus. I never thought I'd live to see it bloom once more. Ninety thousand years..."

Huo Rulie looked greatly moved by his words. He could understand Yan Juehai's feelings completely, because it was probably the same as what he had felt when he saw Huo Poyun successfully unleashing Nine Suns Heaven's Fury for the first time.

World Illuminator Red Lotus was the strongest flame of the World Ode of the Phoenix. It was an ultimate divine flame on the same level as the Golden Crow's Record of the Burning World's Nine Suns Heaven's Fury.

Unlike Nine Suns Heaven's Fury, it bloomed quietly and prettily when it appeared. But that didn't stop it from burning its enemy to dust without a sound!

Nearly everyone sitting at the Holy Eaves Realm had gotten up to their feet. Even Luo Changsheng and Luo Guxie were keeping Luo Changsheng firmly centered in their spirit perception, a taut expression etched on their faces.

One by one, the barriers Luo Changsheng created were devoured by the fire lotus. Every inch of his body was dyed crimson by the fire lotus' crimson light. Although he was still surrounded by many barriers, he screamed painfully as if he was sinking into the depths of hell.

In the east side seats, the Brahma Heaven God Emperor's sent his spirit perception through World Illuminator Red Lotus and onto Luo Changsheng. A moment later, he looked away before snorting quietly and disdainfully, "If Luo Guxie hadn't warned Luo Changsheng with a sound transmission, he wouldn't have poured everything he had into defending himself at first notice, and that half a breath's delay might've decided the battle. To think that she would do this in the grand final of the Conferred God Battle."

"Her actions don't seem to match her title as the Eastern Divine Region's number one."

As the public number one profound practitioner of the Eastern Divine Region, Luo Guxie's realm was of course very high. No one—not even Honorable Qu Hui—should've been able to detect the sound transmission she created. However, that didn't include the likes of the Brahma Heaven God Emperor.

Beside him, Qianye Ying'er said indifferently, "If Luo Changsheng was just her nephew or her disciple then yes, she wouldn't have done what she did. On the other hand, it's only natural for someone in her 'position' to lose her cool in a 'situation' like this, no matter how powerful she is."

"Oh?" Brahma Heaven God Emperor shot a sideways glance at her. "I don't understand what you mean."

"Earlier today, Uncle Gu had told me something very interesting all of a sudden." Qianye Ying'er said in a leisurely tone, the corner of her lips tugged into a playful smile. "He told me that Luo Changsheng's life aura, in a certain 'way', is quite similar to Luo Guxie's."

"...What are you trying to say?" Brahma Heaven God Emperor's eyebrows shot up suddenly.

"Oh, it's nothing. It's just a thought in my mind." But Qianye Ying'er didn't reveal the truth, "Auras have never been a reliable thing anyway. I just thought that it was interesting, that's all."

"..." The Brahma Heaven God Emperor didn't prod further. He moved his gaze away from her while looking thoughtful.

Although the fire lotus on the Conferred God Stage looked gigantic, it was actually a shrunken version of the real "World Illuminator Red Lotus". Yun Che's energy was drained away the instant the fire lotus was unleashed in full, causing him to fall straight toward the ground and the crimson flames around him to die away.

However, he didn't relax for an instant after the attack was unleashed. He had immediately looked in Luo Changsheng's general direction.

Luo Changsheng truly is the strongest God Child of the Eastern Divine Region... He immediately constructed his defenses the second I raised the red lotus formation. What an incredible spirit perception and battle instinct... in that case...

Naturally, Yun Che couldn't unleash the complete version of World Illuminator Red Lotus, just like he couldn't summon nine actual suns when he executed Nine Suns Heaven's Fury. He just didn't have enough profound energy to manage such a feat.

Therefore, the World Illuminator Red Lotus couldn't destroy Luo Changsheng once and for all even though it was incredibly powerful, not to mention that the latter had gone all out from the start... Although the fire lotus managed to crumble most of Luo Changsheng's defenses, one last barrier stood in the way between Luo Changsheng and the withdrawing flames.

Yun Che gritted his teeth and lifted his profound energy to its limits again just as it was done circulating. He forcefully reignited the dying flames and pounced toward Luo Changsheng.

"Falling Moon Sinking Star!!"

Luo Changsheng had to spend every ounce of strength he possessed to withstand World Illuminator Red Lotus. Before he could even draw one full breath into his lungs, Yun Che had already reached him and sent him flying with his sword. Both the Holy Lightning Sword and the Divine Wind Battleaxe were smacked out of his hands and sent flying in different directions.

There was a loud bang as Yun Che landed heavily on the ground. His arms were screaming, his body was weak, and he was unable to pursue Luo Changsheng further despite the successful strike.

Luo Changsheng rolled in the air and bounced a dozen of times off the ground before he finally came to a stop. He looked like a heavy rock that had been flung into the distance by a hurricane.

Although he ultimately managed to withstand the might of the World Illuminator Red Lotus, his current condition could only be described as appalling. His white clothes were black and tattered, more than half of his long black hair was burned away, and nearly half his body was completely covered in black marks and scorched holes.

The pain inflicted by the crimson flames was so terrible that nearly every muscle in his body was twitching violently.

Although he managed to keep the Phoenix's flames from reaching him, he wasn't able to isolate its terrible heat completely.

Clang! The Holy Thunder Sword landed behind him.

Bang!!

The heavy Divine Wind Battleaxe crashed right in front of Luo Changsheng before bouncing into the air. Suddenly, it split into three pieces before it fell one final time on the ground.

The painful ring coming from the battleaxe weakened swiftly until it could no longer be heard. Then, the storm contained inside the weapon spilled outward like water from a burst dam...

The Divine Wind Battleaxe was destroyed by Yun Che's sword strike after it was repeatedly burned by the crimson flames!

The spectator stands were completely silent except for the incessant sounds of drawing breath.

The Divine Wind Battleaxe... had crumbled!

The famous, highly intelligent, and powerful storm battleaxe that had accompanied Luo Changsheng for a very long time had actually crumbled under the might of Yun Che's sword!

Luo Changsheng's eyes turned blank. He seemed incapable of accepting or believing the reality that had just happened right before him. However, his absent mindedness didn't last for a very long time. Slowly, he pushed himself to his feet with both arms.

He made a grabbing motion, and the Divine Wind Battleaxe's shattered remains flew back into his hand. He put it away without sparing it another glance. The Holy Thunder Sword flew back into his hands as well, but instead of using it he put it away just as he did with the battleaxe.

Staring at Luo Changsheng and sensing his presence, Yun Che's expression was gloomy as shock rolled inside his heart.

Luo Changsheng was burned badly by his full powered World Illuminator Red Lotus, and he was hit hard by Yun Che's sword after nearly all of his defenses had crumbled... However, the wounds on Luo Changsheng's body weren't nearly as terrible as Yun Che predicted they should be.

Yun Che was shocked, but he didn't know that Luo Changsheng and those who were familiar were Luo Changsheng were ten times more shocked than he was, if not more.

Many people in the upper star realms were aware that the reason Luo Changsheng was so powerful, that he was "a realm of his own" even among the God Children, was mainly because both his body and soul had been tempered by the "Divine Water of Absolute Beginning".

Even for Luo Guxie, the process of obtaining the Divine Water of Absolute Beginning was a very, very dangerous one. Every drop of the water could be considered a top tier treasure in the Primal Chaos Dimension. However, Luo Guxie hadn't used the water on herself after all the trouble she went through to get it. Instead, she had gifted it to Luo Changsheng and even tempered both his body and soul personally. As a result, his body and soul were as tough as a city protected by a wall of metal and a moat of boiling water.

However, Yun Che still managed to hurt him to this extent with his sword and flames.

Luo Guxie's chest went up and down rapidly. The light in her eyes was normally soft and indifferent, but today it was shaking slightly with emotion. She had raised Luo Changsheng singlehandedly since he was a child, and she had never seen him this injured or humiliated until today.

Luo Changsheng breathed heavily as he stared confusedly at Yun Che. A few breaths later, Yun Che suddenly noticed that a calmness had passed through Luo Changsheng's eyes. Although his facial muscles were still twitching in pain, his pupils were scarily calm.

"Yun Che..." he started slowly and hoarsely, "I must admit that I thought that I hadn't underestimated you at all... but I was wrong. Very, very wrong."

He raised his right arm, and a bolt of sinister-looking lightning suddenly flashed above his palm.

“You are the first person to ever hurt me to this extent.”

Ssss... another bolt of lightning flashed above Luo Changsheng’s palm.

“You are also the first person... to push me this far!”

Luo Changsheng’s eyebrows abruptly came together, “Is Changsheng planning to...”

“Don’t stop him!” Luo Guxie suddenly spoke up and cut off Luo Shangchen’s attempt to stop Luo Changsheng, “He must win this fight! He must return the pain he suffered hundreds and thousands of times back to his enemy!”

Chapter 1226 - Heart Burning Lightning, Dragon Compassion Blade

“Luo Changsheng... what does he want to do?” Huo Rulie shouted with a nervous face.

“To actually block the World Illuminator Red Lotus...” Yan Juehai had yet to fully recover from the soul impact he had received earlier. His Phoenix bloodline’s strongest flame had actually been firmly blocked by Luo Changsheng, so he was naturally beyond uncomfortable.

“It is, after all, the divine body tempered by the Divine Water of Absolute Beginning. Otherwise, I’m afraid he would’ve long been burned to ash,” Huo Rulie answered in a low voice. Just as he finished speaking, his brows suddenly grew taut as he recalled a certain forbidden profound art from the Holy Eaves Realm. He said with a start, “Don’t tell me he wants to...”

Zzzt! Zzzt! Ssssss...

Purple lightning incessantly crackled at the center of Luo Changsheng’s palms, densely crowding together. In the end, it formed to become a violently twisting ball of lightning.

Luo Changsheng lifted his palm. However, the lightning in his hands was not thrown at Yun Che, but ruthlessly smashed at his own chest.

Crack!!!

Yun Che, “!!?”

The purple light on Luo Changsheng’s chest exploded, then, bright purple lines of light suddenly appeared. With the position of his heart as the center, they rapidly spread to every corner of his body, to his limbs, fingers, neck, face... until finally, even the remnants of his hair had completely stood up, changing from a charred black to a crystalline bright purple.

During this process, Luo Changsheng’s profound energy, which had weakened considerably, suddenly increased, recovering to his peak state in the blink of an eye... Then, he broke through his limits and his profound energy continued to grow. His aura inflated, and heavily pressed outward. The suppressed Yun Che quickly retreated, his face immediately glum.

“So it really is... the Heart... Burning Lightning,” Mu Bingyun muttered, her icy eyes filled with worry.

“Heart Burning Lightning, Holy Eaves Realm’s forbidden profound art that forcibly breaks through one’s limits... Isn’t it said that you need to be in at least the Divine King Realm to successfully learn it?” Mu Tanzhi said in shock.

“That is for normal people.” Mu Huanzhi sighed heavily. “If Luo Changsheng’s physique is truly like the rumors say, that it had been tempered by the Divine Water of Absolute beginning, being able to use Heart Burning Lightning is not out of the question. Sigh, it looks like we’re truly done for.”

“Oh wow, a forbidden technique that shortens one’s lifespan.” God Emperor Shitian narrowed his eyes. “The best God Child of the Eastern Region, whose fame is even widespread in the Southern Divine Region, was actually forced to a point where he doesn’t hesitate to shorten his lifespan. Marvelous, marvelous, hahahaha.”

God Emperor Shitian’s hearty laughter hardly concealed his ridicule.

Luo Changsheng’s body glowed with countless streaks of bright purple patterns, even his profound energy was a faint purple. Furthermore, its movements were much more berserk than before, like the tossing of lava from purgatory.

With purple patterns all over his body, Luo Changsheng’s profound energy increased by almost fifty percent. He slowly lifted his head, eyes flashing with two streaks of deep purple lightning. Even the pain from the crimson flame’s burns seemed to have disappeared with the change to his body and profound energy.

Yun Che’s heart sunk... This was a profound strength amplification, and it was a full fifty percent profound strength amplification.

To the profound practitioners of the God Realm, profound arts that raised one’s profound strength in a short amount of time were hard to come by and were also high class profound arts that were the hardest to cultivate. Moreover, due to the forcible breakthrough of profound strength limits, the burden on the body and vitality would also exceed one’s limits. As a result, it would generally be accompanied by a serious side effect.

However, since a sharp increase in profound strength was usually able to turn situations around, so much so that the user could escape from a life threatening danger, the side effects could be completely endured and it was still something profound practitioners yearned for.

Profound arts able to increase profound strength by thirty percent were extremely rare, so the ones able to increase profound strength by fifty percent were even more rare. Luo Changsheng’s Heart Burning Lightning was precisely one that was able to increase one’s profound strength by fifty percent... and could last a considerably long time too.

With regards to increasing profound energy, the Evil God Arts was definitely the ancestor of these profound arts’ ancestors.

This was because the amplification brought about by the Evil God Arts could not be called amplification, but an incomparably terrifying berserking! It allowed Yun Che, with profound strength at the ninth level of the Divine Tribulation Realm, to withstand someone at the tenth level of the Divine Spirit Realm, so it

was no longer a simple several fold increase. If this fact were to be known by others, even Divine Masters standing at the summit of the God Realm would wet themselves in shock.

Furthermore, even if Yun Che were to say that, it was doubtful that anyone would believe him.

If it was Yun Che in his normal state who did not receive the profound strength amplification from the Evil God Arts, he wouldn't even be able to beat Luo Changsheng's pinky finger.

Although a fifty percent increase in profound strength was extremely trashy in front of the Evil God Arts, it appearing on Luo Changsheng's body was undoubtedly a frightening nightmare to the current Yun Che.

However, this nightmare had yet to end.

Zzzng!!

Luo Changsheng made a grabbing motion at the air and a dull white light suddenly flashed, instantly obstructing Yun Che's vision.

At the same time, an incomparable heavy might was suddenly released alongside a dense fiendish aura. Beneath the outbreak of this frightening aura, Yun Che seemed to have been smashed in the chest by a huge hammer and was instantly forced to retreat a few kilometers away. On the spectator stands, the hearts of an uncountable number of profound practitioners suddenly throbbed, robbed of breath for a long time.

Even the hearts of the spectators watching from star tablets felt intense palpitations.

When the white light flashed, it seemed as though Luo Changsheng had removed an ancient seal and released a terrible devil god.

That's... Yun Che was shocked. When he looked at Luo Changsheng again, he saw an additional, oddly shaped, huge white blade in the grasp of the purple line covered hand.

The blade was around three meters long, roughly the same length of his Heaven Smiting Sword. Its entire body was a strange pale white, and it was unknown how this material had been forged. The blade was without an edge and its back had six skulls lined up in a row. They weren't human skulls, but... dragon skulls!

Every one of the six dragon skulls was sinister looking, a simple glance would cause souls to tremble. The position of the dragon eyes faintly flashed with white light and they seemed to retain their consciousness.

"That's... the Dragon Compassion Blade!!"

Yun Che heard several startled cries coming from the spectator stands.

"So he really brought it out," The Glazed Light Realm King said in a low voice tinged with a sigh. "Heart Burning Lightning with the Dragon Compassion Blade. If the current Luo Changsheng wants to win against Yun Che, it would require no effort... it's just that the win will be a bit unsightly."

“What... is that blade?” Huo Poyun asked in shock. He was a long distance away from Luo Changsheng and there was even a barrier between them, yet he felt an extremely frightening aura from that huge white blade. When his gaze swept across the dragon skulls on its body, his soul felt like it was being ruthlessly pressed down on by something, that was falling down an endless abyss.

“The Dragon Compassion Blade.” Huo Rulie closed his eyes. He heavily exhaled, his voice then became powerless. “It appears that the rumors were true.”

“Dragon Compassion... Blade?” Huo Poyun was in a daze. He had never heard this name, nor had he ever felt such a terrible aura from a profound weapon.

“Rumors say that in order to find the Divine Water of Absolute Beginning for Luo Changsheng, Luo Guxie entered the God Realm of Absolute Beginning three times, and finally succeeded on her third try. Although she was unable to find it during her first two tries, on her second try, she obtained this primordial demon blade. The blade does not have an engraved name so she named it Dragon Compassion.”

“It has been said that the name Dragon Compassion refers to the six ancient evil dragon souls sealed on the blade’s body,” Yan Juehai continued Huo Rulie’s explanation, “and the blade’s body is most likely made out of the spines of these six dragons.”

“Primordial... demon blade?” Huo Poyun’s heart suddenly tightened.

The God Realm of Absolute Beginning was the core of the Primal Chaos. It was the most primitive secret realm and while it contained the greatest dangers, a vast amount of ancient treasures lay within it. As for profound weapons found in a place like the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, even the lowest grade, would definitely shake the entire God Realm.

Because it was the God Realm of Absolute Beginning!

“Even though this demon blade’s power could not reach the level it was at in the Ancient Era due to the changes in the Primal Chaos, I’m afraid even a sliver of its remaining sword might is beyond terrifying. Especially since... it has been rumored that the six sealed dragon souls all contain a wisp of remaining consciousness that has yet to die out. From the looks of it, that rumor seems to be true.” Yan Juehai’s brows rigidly locked together. That evil aura, which frightened the soul, proved that the souls in this blade still remained.

“However, judging from its aura, even though Luo Changsheng has used Heart Burning Lightning to raise his profound strength, he will still have to pay a price to wield it.” Yan Juehai shook his head. “In the end... Holy Eaves Realm’s Luo Changsheng still has a master like Luo Guxie. Yun Che winning against him is... sigh.”

“No,” Huo Rulie opened his eyes, his gaze ablaze. “Being able to force Luo Changsheng to this point, Yun Che has already won.”

“Yes! Master is right, Brother Yun has already won! It’s not just me and Master, I bet the majority of the people here also believe that he is much more amazing than Luo Changsheng!” Both of Huo Poyun’s hands tightened into fists when he firmly stated this.

Since he was able to feel such a scary evil dragon spiritual pressure from such a distance, how could Yun Che, who was facing Luo Changsheng not sense it? Yun Che's expression sank. Blue veins appeared from his forehead as all the bones in his body faintly sounded.

As the Dragon Compassion Blade was slowly lifted, a bladestorm lightly unfurled, yet it instantly created a tremendous vacuum region. Luo Changsheng slowly raised his head, his eyes suffused with purple light had completely returned to their calm and indifferent state... He had recovered his former state, which believed that he had victory in his grasp, which judged he was in control of everything and could hold everything in contempt.

'Yun Che, you truly are extraordinary. I cannot help but give you a word of praise. You are the strongest rival I have ever met since I was born. The injuries on my body and the pain I bore amount to more than I have ever suffered in this lifetime.'

He said this slowly, without the slightest fury in his voice.

Yun Che, "..."

"Activating Heart Burning Lightning allows me to break through my limits and it will also shorten my lifespan. As for the Dragon Compassion Blade, I have yet to completely master it, so forcibly using it will quickly consume my vitality. Being able to force me to use Heart Burning Lightning and the Dragon Compassion Blade, Yun Che, you are the first!"

"Although you are destined to lose, losing under the Heart Burning Lightning and the Dragon Compassion Blade..."

"You want to say that I'll lose gloriously, right?" Yun Che's entire body was stretched taut. His gaze was ice cold as a slight sneer appeared at the edge of his lips. "It appears that you have completely forgotten what I had reminded you of previously. It's best to not boast too soon, otherwise... when you get slapped in the face, it'll hurt more than before!"

"Heh," Luo Changsheng lightly chuckled. Even though he looked calm on the surface, an acute fury violently stirred in his heart. Unprecedented pain, unprecedented heavy injuries... naturally brought about an unprecedented rage.

Even if his temperament could be diluted a hundred times, it was impossible for him to maintain his former tranquility.

He could easily pulverize Yun Che using Heart Burning Lightning, yet he still brought out the Dragon Compassion Blade, making it clear that his hatred had reached its limits. He wanted to thoroughly crush Yun Che... with the fastest speed, with the strongest power, with the most overwhelming state!

He wanted Yun Che's defeat to be ten times, a hundred times, a thousand times more wretched than what he had suffered earlier, not giving him the slightest hope of being able to put up a fight!

Chapter 1227 - Burning the Phoenix Blood

"Heh, well said! Now, show me how long you can hold out against the Dragon Compassion Blade!"

The Heart Burning Lightning consumed his life, and the Dragon Compassion Blade consumed his vitality. Naturally, Luo Changsheng wasn't going to waste either of them more than was necessary. A faint laugh later, he burst into movement and rapidly approached Yun Che.

The Dragon Compassion Blade was extraordinarily heavy, and its strength was at a higher level. Luo Changsheng was barely able to wield it even using both hands. When he swung the weapon downward, a tremendous power, accompanied by a despairing dragon roar which felt like it could shatter the world, instantly pressed down on Yun Che.

The might of the attack shocked everyone present. It was because it was an all out attack!

Luo Changsheng was already wielding the Heart Burning Lightning and the Dragon Compassion Blade, but he still went all out against a weakened Yun Che. If Yun Che was hit by the attack, he would definitely be grievously wounded or even killed outright.

Luo Changsheng had a gentlemanly appearance, and he had given off the impression of a mild-tempered and well-mannered young man in the Profound God Convention thus far. He never wounded an opponent on purpose, even when Jun Xilei had used everything to leave a couple of wounds on his body. In fact, he even went over and concerned himself with her state after the battle.

But this time, everyone could see the anger, hatred and ruthlessness that was behind the attack.

"Dodge it!" Huo Rulie lost control of himself and shouted loudly. Every hair on his head was standing on end, and sparks were flying everywhere.

At this point, the crimson flames surrounding Yun Che had weakened so much that they were borderline extinguished. But instead of running away from Luo Changsheng's merciless attack, Yun Che circulated every bit of profound energy he had left and took a step forward. A series of loud pops came from every bone in his body, and the blue veins of his arms looked so swollen that it was as if they would burst open at any moment.

There was a dull bang as profound energy exploded from his body, and Yun Che charged straight at Luo Changsheng while holding the powerful Heaven Smiting Sword.

"W... what?" Every profound practitioner's eyes widened in that instant.

Yun Che was planning to fight that Dragon Compassion Blade head on? Was he trying to throw his life away!?

Forget that his profound energy had become much weaker than before, there was almost no way he could defend himself against the Dragon Compassion Blade directly, even if he was at full strength.

But his goal here was to win, not to preserve his own life. He could never win if he kept running away.

I'm just one step away... and no one is going to stop me!!

The scarlet figure of a phoenix suddenly appeared in both of Yun Che's pupils. A dull boom erupted from inside his body.

All ten drops of divine phoenix blood burned up in an instant, and the dying flames around his body suddenly grew lively once more. The divine might of a phoenix pressed down from above as the sky became dyed in red.

Boom———

The blade and the sword clashed against one another, and the resulting impact caused every young profound practitioner in the spectator stands to cover their ears in pain. The Conferred God Stage beneath the two combatants abruptly crumbled into dust as a shockwave as powerful as a tsunami surged downwards, hit the barrier at the bottom of the stage, and bounced back up once more.

The light reflecting off the Phoenix flames that rose into the air dyed everyone's faces red. Just as Luo Changsheng's face and eyes were stiff with shock, everyone on the spectator stands were also filled with disbelief.

They were stunned because Yun Che had absorbed the Dragon Compassion Blade's attack head on!

"He... burned the divine phoenix blood!" Yan Juehai exclaimed.

When a divine blood was burned, it would unleash all of its divine power before falling into slumber. It would take at least a month before it could return to normal. Yun Che had obviously committed himself to an all or nothing choice.

Noticing immediately where Yun Che's sudden burst of strength had come from, Luo Changsheng's eyes turned soft bit by bit, "Well done... unfortunately for you... you've already spent your last chance!"

"Hah!"

Luo Changsheng let out a low roar, and the blue veins in his arms swelled visibly before everyone's eyes. Great power exploded from the Dragon Compassion Blade once more, and he swung the weapon straight at Yun Che.

Yun Che shook violently as a mountain-toppling power hit him through the Heaven Smiting Sword. He was thrown back a couple thousand meters like a fiery meteor crashing down from the sky.

Together, the Heart Burning Lightning and the Dragon Compassion Blade were a terrifying power. Yun Che was unable to resist it even after burning his divine Phoenix blood in desperation. Although Yun Che was sent flying toward the ground, Luo Changsheng's anger and hatred hadn't been vented in the slightest. The profound practitioner raised his blade yet again, causing the eyes of the six dragon skulls to glow with a deathly pale light.

"Roar——"

Six painful and resentful roars shook the air at the same time, and Luo Changsheng swung the blade in Yun Che's direction. Six pale white dragons covered in deadly gale instantly lunged downwards like six tornados.

Booom!!!!

The six pale dragons struck Yun Che almost immediately after he hit the ground. There was a loud boom, and a hole several hundred meters wide appeared on the Conferred God Stage.

This was no ordinary stone! This stage was the Conferred God Stage, where the Conferred God Battles took place!

In the entire history of the Conferred God Battle, the Conferred God Stage had never been as damaged as it was today.

There was no doubt that the power of the strike had completely exceeded the generation it belonged to, and all other powers that ever appeared on the Conferred God Stage.

“Ah... This...”

“What terrifying power... is Yun Che... still alive?”

“Oh no!” Lu Lengchuan’s hands clenched into fists, his facial muscles taut and tense. That one attack was more than enough to make his soul tremble with fear. He was certain that he would have one foot in his grave if the attack had landed on him, even if the Glowing Dragon’s Sacred Barrier was fully activated.

Yun Che was injured in many places to begin with, and since he was in a state of powerlessness after Luo Changsheng had sent him flying, he wasn’t able to defend himself at all... Luo Changsheng had absolutely just tried to murder Yun Che to vent the hatred and resentment in his heart.

“Yun... Che...” Mu Bingyun stared at the stage blankly with wane pupils.

“Hmm?” Luo Changsheng was staring at the site of impact when his eyebrows suddenly pressed together.

Profound light was fading swiftly from the cracked ground of the Conferred God Stage, revealing the scarlet flame of the Phoenix. Yun Che could be seen kneeling on one knee and holding himself straight with the Heaven Smiting Sword inside the hole. Although his entire body was drenched his blood, his gaze remained as fierce as ever.

This scene shocked many realm kings.

“How in the world did he survive that?”

Luo Changsheng’s eyes darkened after the initial shock had passed. He abruptly flew down and swung the wailing Dragon Compassion Blade straight at Yun Che.

Yun Che lifted his head as quick as lightning, meeting the charge with a burning Heaven Smiting Sword.

Bang!!

The Dragon Compassion Blade and Heaven Smiting Sword clashed fiercely once more, and this time a jet of blood escaped Yun Che’s lips as both his legs and half his waist were slammed into the ground of the Conferred God Stage. Luo Changsheng’s strength was like a mountain that held up the very heavens, ruthlessly pressing down on him and forcing back the Heaven Smiting Sword inch by inch.

A bit of pleasure finally surged into Luo Changsheng’s heart after he saw how terrible Yun Che looked, but because he wasn’t willing to discard his elegance and bearing as Young Master Changsheng outright,

he said in a very quiet voice, "There are six primordial evil dragon souls sealed inside the Dragon Compassion Blade... what do you possibly have that can stop it!?"

The power that fueled Yun Che after he had burned the divine phoenix blood was running out. The abyss would swallow him the instant it died out completely. But rather than despairing at his situation, Yun Che met Luo Changsheng's taunt and savage eyes with a ridiculing smile of his own. He whispered, "Six evil dragon souls... aren't all that impressive!!"

Growling, an azure light suddenly flashed through Yun Che's pupils.

"Dragon... Soul... Domain!!"

An azure dragon appeared behind Yun Che, and further up into the air a pair of azure eyes that looked as deep as the sky suddenly opened like the stars. Then, a draconic roar louder than heavenly thunder and mightier than heavenly might resounded.

ROAR!!!!

The draconic roar was like a hammer to the brain. Everyone's mind turned blank as paper, and for some reason they felt like they could see a huge dragon of an indescribable presence descending from the sky above their heads. Its presence was such that they felt like a speck of dust in a very wide world, their bodies and souls shaking in terrible fear. All they wanted to do was to kneel on the ground and kowtow to prove their allegiance.

"A dragon's soul!?" The surprised roar came from God Emperor Shitian.

"How did Yun Che come by a dragon soul?" the Brahma Heaven God Emperor's face was etched with a frown of rare surprise too.

"It's no ordinary dragon soul either, it must be from one of an incredibly high level," Qianye Ying'er muttered. She turned her gaze slightly, and she abruptly noticed that the shock on the Dragon Monarch's face actually exceeded even the God Emperors'.

A tiny frown appeared on her face... Strange. Considering how powerful the Dragon Monarch is, he should've noticed the dragon soul in Yun Che's body from the beginning. So why does he look so shocked?

That absolutely unnatural shiver on his face... it was almost as if someone had just given him a huge fright.

The Dragon Compassion Blade let out a shivering wail, and the evil dragon's power, that was suppressing Yun Che so dominantly earlier, suddenly scattered like frightened locusts. Even the spiritual pressure surrounding the blade had vanished in the blink of an eye.

The only thing that was left was a shivering reverberation.

Luo Changsheng's eyes were bulging, and his face etched in fear. His profound energy was dissipated as quickly as tide water.

Bang!!

Yun Che gave the Heaven Smiting Sword a push, and he easily threw the Dragon Compassion Blade and Luo Changsheng into the air. He jumped out of the hole in the Conferred God Stage, growled, then concentrated all of the Phoenix's divine power inside the Heaven Smiting Sword and swung fiercely at Luo Changsheng.

Boom!!

The sword struck Luo Changsheng's body in a fiery explosion, causing his ribs to shatter and blood to spurt out of his waist. He was sent flying like a spinning top as he let out a terrible scream.

Yun Che chased after him rapidly while the Heaven Smiting Sword burned with the vestiges of the divine Phoenix flame. He whaled a storm of attacks onto the petrified Luo Changsheng.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Every swing contained Yun Che's full strength, and every hit sounded as loud as thunder. The sound of spurting blood and shattering bones resounded throughout the Conferred God Stage until Yun Che had swung a dozen or so times and turned him into a bleeding, burning figure.

"Hah!!!"

Showing no mercy whatsoever, Yun Che struck Luo Changsheng one last time on the heart.

The fountain of blood reached nearly ten meters into the air, and Luo Changsheng crashed heavily against the ground like a fallen, broken star. He continued to skid across the ground and leave a blood trail at least several hundred meters long before he finally came to a stop.

Finally, the phoenix flames surrounding Yun Che died away, and the ten drops of divine Phoenix blood slowed to a complete standstill. His aura fell sharply, for the next month at the minimum, he wouldn't be able to burn any Phoenix flames whatsoever.

"This should be the end... right."

Yun Che's breathing was heavy, and his entire body was numb. He was falling to the ground because he was almost incapable of lifting the Heaven Smiting Sword any longer.

"Gah... Ssss... Guh..."

An incredibly painful groan rang out from the front, and Yun Che's pupils shrank as the bloodied Luo Changsheng slowly, but surely, climbed to his feet.

The lightning pattern on Luo Changsheng's body was still flashing. More than half his profound energy was lost, and what remained was incredibly unstable. But it was still a terrifying profound aura.

The moment he looked up, the savage, ferocious glint of a despairing beast was reflected in Yun Che's eyes.

Chapter 1228 - A Flash of Hades

Right now, Luo Changsheng looked so terrible he looked like he had just crawled out of purgatory. He was bleeding all over his body, his chest was badly mutilated, and his handsome face had swollen to

twice its normal size. Blood and rotten flesh looked like they were mashed together to form a paste, and the only part left that made Luo Changsheng recognizable was his dark and hateful eyes.

Had Luo Changsheng been anyone else, they would've died three times over after being slashed by the Heaven Smiting Sword more than ten times while their profound energy was falling apart. Right now Luo Changsheng looked worse than a man who was tortured until he died, but he still managed to stand up in the end. Although his aura was chaotic and had become half as strong as before, it still created great pressure on Yun Che.

Yun Che's heart tightened. For the first time in this battle, he was stunned by Luo Changsheng's tenacity.

I slashed him fifteen times with the all the phoenix power I possess. Every hit was brutal and accompanied by the sound of shattering bones... so why is he able to stand up after that? And his profound energy is still so strong!

He didn't know that Luo Shangchen and Luo Guxie, two experts who were regarded as superiors throughout the star realms of the Eastern Divine Region, were at least ten times more shocked than he was.

"Dragon soul... How did Yun Che come by a dragon soul? Where did he get it?" Luo Changsheng muttered to himself in shock.

A dragon was a creature of the highest level in the Primal Chaos, and the same went for its soul. A dragon's soul could be destroyed or sealed away by force, but never seized!

It couldn't be inherited either.

In other words, a living being could obtain a dragon's soul only if the dragon itself had gifted it to them willingly! Moreover, it also couldn't be passed on to the next generation like a bloodline, much less transferred or forcefully seized by another party.

That was why many people possessed the bloodline of dragons in the Eastern Divine Region—Lu Lengchuan was one such example—but very few actually possessed a dragon soul.

Luo Shangchen was a powerful expert. He easily noticed that Yun Che's dragon soul was no ordinary dragon soul either. But... why would a dragon with a such a powerful soul grant its very source to a human junior?

"Changsheng's soul is stronger than even a Divine King's soul after it was tempered by the Divine Water of Absolute Beginning. There's no way his soul should've lost this easily!" Luo Guxie's voice was obviously shaking due to Luo Changsheng's current appearance, "Not even if it was a dragon's soul!"

"That's definitely no ordinary True Dragon soul." Luo Changchen frowned before a possibility entered his mind, "Yun Che's claim that he hails from a lower realm... may very well be false! Such a powerful dragon soul can only come from a Divine Master dragon at minimum! In fact, Yun Che himself may actually hail from the Western Divine Region, and he's somehow related to the Dragon God Race, or he wouldn't have had such a powerful body and soul."

"..." Luo Guxie's chest heaved rapidly as her aura occasionally turned cold or chaotic, "How dare he hurt my Changsheng... that little brute!"

Perhaps no one, not even those who had been “Fairy Guxie’s” acquaintance for over ten thousand years, had seen her this out of sorts before today.

Luo Shangchen shot a glance at her and looked like he wanted to say something.

“This dragon soul is quite powerful. It may be the gift of a master dragon.” the Eternal Heaven God Emperor turned to look at Dragon Monarch, “Do you recognize who the soul belongs to, Dragon Monarch?”

Dragon Monarch didn’t nod or shake his head. He answered indifferently, “Yun Che is just a human, but his talent is rare to say the least. It is not surprising that a master dragon of our realm may have decided to break the norm and grant him their soul.”

“Mn.” the Eternal Heaven God Emperor nodded slightly. Dragon Monarch obviously wanted to sidestep this question, so he wasn’t going to prod him further.

The Dragon Monarch didn’t look away from Yun Che even once throughout this series of events. Although the emotions in his eyes had become calm once more, in reality they were still seething deep within his pupils, heart, and soul.

Since a long time ago, he had already noticed that Yun Che possessed both a dragon’s bloodline and soul. He was the Dragon Monarch, the king of all creations and the lord of all dragons after all. He had even arrived at the conclusion that the bloodline and soul Yun Che possessed were of incredibly high level. Although he had never said a word about it, he paid close attention to Yun Che long ago.

It was because he could easily deduce the type and level of Yun Che’s dragon soul the moment he used it.

However, when Yun Che finally unleashed his Dragon Soul Domain in battle, he, the realm king of Dragon God Realm, the indisputable champion who was feared and respected throughout the entire Primal Chaos actually felt fear, shock and even... humility, in that one instant. It was an emotion he had never felt for the past three hundred and fifty thousand years of his existence until now.

Even now, the azure eyes that had opened above Yun Che’s head had left a clear, lingering imprint inside his soul.

He was looking at Yun Che in an entirely new light... he was no longer looking at Yun Che like he was just another human junior.

“Yun... Che!!”

Luo Changsheng’s voice had become completely distorted. At this point, he was so filled with anger, hatred, and mania that he couldn’t even retain full sanity—or at least, he no longer cared for the handsome image he had cultivated for himself one bit—his glowing, purple eyes said that he wanted nothing more than to cut Yun Che into mince meat, grind his bone to dust, and scatter it to the wind.

He took a step forward, blood spraying freely out of his wounds. With both hands, he slowly raised the blood drenched Dragon Compassion Blade and enveloped Yun Che inside a pressure that was unstable, yet still powerful enough to be fatal to him.

Yun Che had to use nearly all of his strength just to raise the Heaven Smiting Sword in front of him. His arms were shaking uncontrollably against his will in the process.

Luo Changsheng might've underestimated Yun Che, but Yun Che had underestimated Luo Changsheng as well.

It wasn't Luo Changsheng's strength that he had underestimated. It was his unnaturally powerful body.

He had struck Luo Changsheng tens of times until his body was tattered, and his bones were shattered in more than a dozen of places. And yet, Luo Changsheng was still able to summon such tremendous power... His body was practically as tough as his own!

The only reason his body was this tough was because he had the Dragon God's bloodline, marrow, and he cultivated Great Way of the Buddha... just how on earth did Luo Changsheng cultivate his body!?

Luo Changsheng was a true profound practitioner at the tenth level of the Divine Spirit Realm, so his well of profound energy was countless times greater than Yun Che's. Because Yun Che failed to incapacitate Luo Changsheng completely, this gigantic disadvantage of his was starting to rear its ugly head. Although Yun Che's wounds were much lighter than Luo Changsheng's, his profound energy was nothing compared to the latter's right now.

"... Die!!"

Luo Changsheng let out a hoarse, strange-sounding cry as a gigantic tornado circled around the Dragon Compassion Blade, looking like he would crush Yun Che into mince meat right now.

Yun Che immediately escaped the point of impact with Moon Splitting Cascade, but he had used up so much energy that he couldn't even deal with the shockwave. He was thrown far, far away as tens of wounds burst open across his chest. His internal organs especially were rolling around and falling apart en masse.

Luckily for him, Luo Changsheng's wounds were too severe. The attack caused Luo Changsheng's own injuries inside and outside to worsen at once as five to six mouthfuls of blood forced their way out of his throat. His body wobbled, and he nearly fell to the ground. It was at this moment Yun Che jumped into the air and attacked Luo Changsheng again. Glaring golden light suddenly burst out of his body, and he burned like a sun that would turn everything into nothingness.

"That's... the Golden Crow blood!" Huo Rulie exclaimed involuntarily.

Yun Che had chosen to burn the nine Golden Crow blood drops after the Phoenix blood.

The sky was covered in flames as the Heaven Smiting Sword charged with the Golden Crow's divine power was swung down from above. At this point Luo Changsheng couldn't move his body as he wished and couldn't dodge out of the way, so instead he roared and summoned yet another storm powerful enough to distort even space.

Boom!!

The resulting golden explosion was as glaring as a falling sun, and for a while countless profound practitioners lost their eyesight. Beneath the fire, the Dragon Compassion Blade and the Heaven Smiting

Sword pushed against one another as two equally dark eyes also stared fiercely at each other through the gap.

Booom...

Yun Che abruptly pushed forward, and blood abruptly spilled out of the corner of Luo Changsheng's lips. Shuddering, Luo Changsheng's right knee slammed fiercely against the floor and shattered upon impact.

Luo Changsheng's eyes looked so dark and fierce that it was scary. His arms were shaking violently under pressure, his broken muscles were bulging to their limits, and his joints were creaking non-stop.

"Aaaaaah... AAAHHH!!!"

Luo Changsheng let out an animalistic roar as purple patterns abruptly flashed across his body, knocking Yun Che into the air with a sudden, tremendous burst of strength. Luo Changsheng stumbled after he got back on his feet, but rather than steadying himself, he chose to pounce at Yun Che like a crazed animal.

Just the same, with total disregard to his own injuries Yun Che flipped around in midair and charged straight toward Luo Changsheng. The Heaven Smiting Sword burning with golden flames and pale white blade covered by a storm clashed again so deafeningly that the blue sky itself threatened to split in half.

It was as if a profound thunder storm had suddenly visited the Conferred God Stage.

Both Yun Che and Luo Changsheng's aura were far weaker than before, but the ferocity and violence of the battle had escalated all the way to the other end of the spectrum. Fire burned away the wind, the wind tore away the fire; the sword shattered the blade, the blade devoured the sword. The two blood drenched combatants attacked one another in the sky of the Conferred God Stage madly while roaring at each other like wild animals.

Not a single sound could be heard from the spectator stands, and all eyes were opened to their widest. Luo Changsheng's body was horrifically mutilated, and Yun Che's was burning his divine blood just to keep fighting... they all believed that this fight would be entertaining beyond compare, but none of them had predicted the depths of desperation it had descended to.

"Brother Yun... do your best!" Huo Poyun's hands were so tightly clenched that his joints turned pale white.

"Yun Che... you have to win... you have to win!" Every Snow Song Realm and Flame God Realm disciple was shouting madly in their hearts too.

Yun Che's enemy was Luo Changsheng, and the latter was forced to use the Heart Burning Lightning and Dragon Compassion Blade. Even if Yun Che lost this battle, his name would still spread throughout the entire Eastern Divine Region. But at this point, who could fail to notice Yun Che's indescribable thirst for victory?

That was why they threw the words "glorious defeat" to the back of their mind. Instead, they shouted with all their mind hoping that Yun Che would win.

"Yun Che... you must hang on!" Huo Rulie's body was completely tense, and he didn't even notice that his fingernails were digging deeply into his palm. He knew very well that the only reason Yun Che was

still in the fight was because he had burned all of the Golden Crow divine blood. The second the burst of divine power ran out, defeat was all but certain.

Right now, Yun Che's only hope was that Luo Changsheng would suffer a wound so deep that he crumbled under pressure before the Golden Crow divine blood ran out.

Most people didn't realize that the diminishing Golden Crow divine blood wasn't Yun Che's only crisis, however.

He had been using Rumbling Heaven all this time, and the burden it placed on his body was only ever increasing. Right now, he was on the verge of breaking apart.

Yun Che's arms were bloodied and tattered, but he could barely feel any pain at all, and he had no idea how many veins he had broken as a result. Every time he swung his sword, he was losing more and more feeling in his arms...

No... if this continues... I won't be able to win...

Yun Che's eyes suddenly widened with suicidal determination and ruthlessness.

One step... I'm just one step away... no one... no one is allowed to stop me!

Hold on... my body...

You must hold on!!

The wind blew gently outside the Conferred God Stage. Hidden inside a puff of distant cloud, a pair of scarlet eyes stared quietly at the bloody battle happening on the Conferred God Stage. Suddenly, a needling pain suddenly jolted in her heart and soul, and a terrible premonition caused her entire body to tremble. She let out a fearful shout, "NO!!"

"HAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!"

At the same time, Yun Che suddenly shouted on top of his lungs.

BOOM

An impossibly dull rumble started inside Yun Che's profound veins, and his Evil God profound vein suddenly grew several times larger than normal. His remaining profound energy suddenly turned chaotic as if they were dragged into the wildest of hurricanes.

Having activated Evil Soul, Burning Heart, Purgatory, and Rumbling Heaven yet still failing to defeat Luo Changsheng with all he had, Yun Che finally decided to activate the fifth Evil God Gate.

It was as if a Devil God was roused from its long slumber.

Hades, the fifth Evil God Gate had awakened!!

Chapter 1229 - Brink of Death

Jasmine had once mentioned that the Evil God's fifth gate "Hades" was the final realm left behind by the memory imprinted within the Evil God's Indestructible Blood. This realm was also the very limit humanity could bear.

As for the unknown sixth and seventh realms, they were definitely not something humans could touch. Even the peak realm humans who were able to attain—the Divine Master Realm—were unable to handle it.

Yun Che forcibly opening “Hades” was completely staking his own life... even if it was just a split second activation.

He did not know what consequences he would face after forcibly opening “Hades”; perhaps he would die on the spot, or perhaps instantly become crippled. However, he had no other choice after being forced to such a state by Luo Changsheng.

Boom———

The instant “Hades” opened, a strong, bloody light fiercely exploded from Yun Che’s body and an energy wave which was beyond terrifying broke out. Beneath this energy wave, the windstorm on Luo Changsheng’s body and the power he had just gathered were instantly blown away. As though he had been struck by a heavy hammer, he was sent flying amidst a scream.

This sudden change of events left the audience pale with horror and even the various Realm Kings present had startled expressions... This was because what accompanied the bloody light was a berserk aura so undeniably terrifying that it left them disbelieving.

The flesh of Yun Che’s arms protruded as numerous cracks of scarlet burst open on his body. In the instant “Hades” was activated, an explosion occurred within his body and the depths of his soul. He felt his body, internal organs, and even his soul get instantly split open by the assault of the frenzied increase in power. The world in his consciousness had also become an endless blood red. He was unable to sense pain, unable to sense Luo Changsheng... or the existence of any other lifeform.

Only the last vestige of his willpower remained, prompting a frontward sword blast full of a desperation similar to a Devil God awakening.

Boom———

A bloody sword beam blasted out from the Heaven Smiting Sword, instantly piercing through space. Colliding with the barrier atop the edges of the Conferred God Stage, it left a five hundred meter mark in the space above the Conferred God Stage.

Wherever the bloody sword beam went, an intense distortion appeared in space before it collapsed in layers.

This was space within the God Realm yet under this sword strike, it crumbled like tissue... This was also the first time Yun Che had truly destroyed space upon his arrival in the God Realm. Unfortunately, he was currently unable to personally witness a sight he yearned for previously.

Although this had happened, the moment Yun Che activated “Hades”, his consciousness had also instantly crumbled. The strike he fought for using his life at stake had completely missed its mark.

Only a blood colored residual wave lightly brushed Luo Changsheng’s body.

“Uwaaaaah!!”

A cry filled with endless pain, which seemed to have come from an abyss of despair, resounded above the Conferred God Stage. The moment the bloody residual wave touched Luo Changsheng's body, it was as if he had become a bag of blood that had suddenly exploded. Blood splattered and filled the sky as he was sent flying upwards...

Clang!

The Heaven Smiting Sword fell from Yun Che's grasp, heavily dropping onto the ground.

Yun Che's body briefly froze in the air, before the bloody light that came out from his body for a short instant, completely disappeared with all his profound energy. Only his eyes were still filled with an abnormal bloody color... though they lacked both spirit and focus.

Then, as if he had become an empty shell of a puppet, he fell straight down from the sky, smashing onto the ground.

Can't... can't... lose consciousness...

Else... it'll be judged as loss...

I'm... still alive... I still... feel pain... Can't... lose consciousness... Must... wake up...

The spectator stands were deathly silent. Everyone watching this battle at this time were unable to believe their eyes and spirit senses.

"W-what... was that... just now?"

"I... I don't know..."

"Yun Che actually... then suddenly... sss... That scary power from before... Luo Changsheng... can't be dead, right?"

"Look at Yun Che... that just now was so scary, but it's obvious that its price was extremely terrible... Good lord! What in the world happened just now? Sect Master, you too... have no idea?"

"What kind of a monster is Yun Che!?"

The Snow Song Realm, the Flame God Realm, the Holy Eaves Realm... all had deathly white faces and clenched hearts. They stared, dumbstruck, speechless and breathless.

Honorable Qu Hui's brows continuously twitched. However, he absolutely had not forgotten his duty as his aura still locked onto Yun Che and Luo Changsheng like it had from the very start. When Yun Che fell, just as he was about to go confirm whether or not Yun Che had lost consciousness, he discovered that Yun Che's body was faintly trembling within his pool of blood. Yun Che's fingers incessantly struggled to bend and the tight clutching of his wrists at the ground afterwards made it clear that he was desperately trying to feel the existence of the world, desperately trying to remain conscious.

Honorable Qu Hui, "..."

A whizzing sound suddenly came from up above. Luo Changsheng who had been blasted a few kilometers high finally began his descent. Followed by a vast expanse of thick bloody rain, he heavily smashed onto the Conferred God Stage.

Clang!!

The Dragon Compassion Blade also fell from the sky, coincidentally falling beside his hand.

“Chang... sheng...”

Luo Guxie swayed, a morbid paleness appearing on her face. Those two syllables shuddered so fiercely that they were nearly inaudible.

Luo Changsheng originally sustained heavy injuries but now they were indescribably tragic. His entire body was completely broken, resembling a corpse that had been hacked by a thousand blades, and fished up from a pool of blood after being thrown in there.

If this appearance were to be on an ordinary profound practitioner, they would've died long ago. However, Honorable Qu Hui was able to see Luo Changsheng's body faintly twitching, and even weakly moan.

He did not die, and even retained his consciousness.

The smell of blood quickly spread throughout the Conferred God Stage as the spectator stands became ever more silent. All eyes firmly fixed on the two blood colored human figures, which laid on the ground, not daring to blink.

The two bodies did their best to twitch, neither willing to go still. Their remaining willpower told them that the first person to lose consciousness would lose.

Yun Che's palm made a slight grabbing gesture... he sensed Luo Changsheng's aura.

Luo Changsheng... shouldn't... why is he still alive... why... His life force is still strong to the point that even I, in my current state, can sense it...

Did... that strike from before... not hit him...

The power erupted from Yun Che's forcefully activating “Hades” far surpassed both their levels. Since Luo Changsheng was already heavy injured, if he were to get hit by the attack from before, he would absolutely get blasted into smithereens even if he had a divine body tempered by the Divine Water of Absolute Beginning.

In the hard fought battle between him and Luo Changsheng thus far, if he were to kill Luo Changsheng after invoking a life threatening move under desperate straits, it wouldn't be considered an act of “malice” and would have a ninety percent chance of not being deemed a violation of the rules... Luo Changsheng's death would mean there was no need to have another match, and that he would immediately seize the title of champion.

As for the consequences of killing Luo Changsheng... compared to his “promise” with Jasmine, it was completely insignificant.

Fate, however, was cruel. The one strike he had used his life in exchange for had missed due to the collapse of his consciousness.

“Uh... rghh... ghh...”

A painful dry groan, which seemed to have come from a despairing beast at the end of its life, sounded as the twitching of Luo Changsheng's body intensified, then suddenly stopped.

Right when Honorable Qu Hui believed that he had finally lost consciousness, he discovered that Luo Changsheng's hand moved, then... slowly he lifted his head. Luo Changsheng's eyes, which were pasted with blood, slowly opened bit by bit.

His bloody arm also slowly raised, stretching toward the nearby Dragon Compassion Blade. After a bout of groping around, his quaking hand grasped onto the blade's handle.

"Ahhh!" Huo Poyun shouted in terror.

It was just that no matter how much effort Luo Changsheng made, the Dragon Compassion Blade moved nary an inch. It was already a miracle that he was still alive in his current state, so how could he possibly wield the Dragon Compassion Blade?

His hands finally left the Dragon Compassion Blade. With his eyes oozing blood and completely blurry vision, he was still able to lock onto Yun Che's position. Then, his hand slowly pushed himself up, bit by bit... It was comparably slow and difficult, yet he managed to stand up.

"Ah... Aaah..." The hearts of the disciples from the Song Song and Flame God Realms seemed to have been tightly bound by steel wires as their throats emitted sounds of alarm.

Luo Changsheng advanced forward, swaying and sprinkling blood with every step as he closed in on Yun Che. He was obviously weak to the point of near death yet the baleful aura on his body was heavy to the point that it made even Honorable Qu Hui feel deep apprehension.

Then, right at this moment, Yun Che, who had been lying in a pool of blood also used his hands to support himself up, swaying as he stood up.

The moment he sensed Luo Changsheng's life force and sensed that he had stood up, his willpower propelled his body to stand up... He never expected that he would be able to stand, yet he had to.

The Dragon God Marrow he had sole possession of allowed his bones to be extremely tough. Otherwise, they would've completely shattered from the power brought about by "Hades" which he was unable to bear. If that were to happen, even if his willpower was a hundred times more tenacious, he wouldn't have been able to stand up.

Perhaps it was a final instant of lucidity before death, the outbreak of his cornered willpower, or the recovery brought about by the continued existence of the Great Way of the Buddha, he stood up... Furthermore, he actually felt as though he still had a weak sliver of power remaining.

The two combatants were drenched in blood, their bodies utterly tattered, resembling two ghouls that had crawled out from a pool of blood. This kind of scene and that faintly discernible scary fiendish aura caused many to deeply feel ice cold palpitations.

The two figures faced each other for a brief moment in silence. Then, in the next instant, they pounced at the same time.

Bang!

Bang!

The fists of both combatants simultaneously struck their opponent's face. However, the power contained within them was not even on par with someone who had just entered the Divine Origin Realm... No, it wasn't even on par with a profound practitioner in the mortal way. Even if it were to be taken in ten million times, this kind of power would normally not harm a single hair on either one's head.

But at this time, both of them bled from all seven orifices and stumbled.

Only to then immediately yell out strangely and pounce over again. They struck again, desperately squeezing out all the power from their bodies and willpower.

Bang... Bang... Bang...

Both the sound and power of fists hitting the body were weak to the point of being laughable, resembling an infant's scuffle in the eyes of these profound practitioners in the divine way. However, not a single profound practitioner in the entire Eastern Divine Region could laugh out loud. Their eyes trembled and their souls shuddered.

Covered in blood from head to toe with similar statuses, if one were to only use their eyesight to look upon this scene, it was fundamentally impossible to differentiate between the two combatants. The injuries on their bodies were scary to the point that it frightened experts in the profound way with a single glance. Following their wild battering, large areas of bloody imprints spread atop the Conferred God Stage, causing many to doubt whether or not the blood in the punching duo's bodies would run out.

However, Yun Che and Luo Changsheng disregarded all that.

These two people, who were obviously treading on the brink of death, completely disregarded their lives. All they sought was to use their all to push their opponent into the abyss of death first.

Yun Che's thirst for victory and Luo Changsheng's abnormal attachment to staying undefeated gave birth to two savage beasts that tore at each other even though they were near death with blurry consciousnesses.

Chapter 1230 - Hard Won

"Ughhhhhhhhh..."

"Sssaaaahhhhhhhhh!!"

Neither of their shouts sounded human anymore. They were like mindless beasts trying to tear the other party apart.

At this point, both Yun Che and Luo Changsheng were close to falling unconscious. However, one final trace of belief kept them both going, urging them both to lock onto the each other's position and punch out with all of their remaining strength and willpower.

A large patch of the Conferred God Stage was dyed an alarming red. The combatants were even running out of blood to bleed.

Earlier, their engagement had been loud and terrifying, but now they were so weak that they looked like dying men with one foot in the grave. It was hard enough to imagine that such weakened bodies could get back on their feet by their own power, much less fight one another... Every time a fist was thrown out, one of them would wobble unsteadily on their feet. But both of them refused to go down as they punched one another again and again...

Every time, the crowd was sure that one of them would go down, but they would pounce at the other and defy expectations again.

Bang! Bang! Bang...

The passage of time was dreadfully slow. The world turned as quiet as a ghost world. The only sound that could be heard was the snarls of two dying evil spirits doing their utmost to tear each other apart.

"They'll die... they'll definitely die if they keep this up..."

"Why isn't Honorable Qu Hui doing anything about this? Yun Che and Luo Changsheng had gone insane. If this keeps up, if their wounds keep worsening... The Eastern Divine Region may lose two of its best geniuses at once... Just stop them already!"

"No... win or lose, the outcome of the fight has to be decided here... it's impossible to stop now."

Bang! Bang! Bang! Pff...

The pungent stench of blood spread silently to the surroundings. The two men were like dying candlelight that could wink out at any moment, and yet neither of them had actually gone down despite trading over a hundred punches and more.

Falling unconscious was one of the ways the body recuperated and protected itself from further harm. Therefore, hanging onto one's consciousness and continuing to fight was only going to worsen their terrible injuries further.

Both men were truly fighting with their lives on the line.

He had come to God Realm all for the sake of meeting Jasmine. To this end, he was willing to abandon everything, pour in everything he had, risk countless life and death situations, and even expose his trump cards and secrets knowing that it might come back to bite him in the future... now, he was just one step away from achieving his dream. There was no way he would allow himself to fall here after everything!

He was Young Master Changsheng, son of the leader of the Eastern Divine Region, the Holy Eaves Realm King, disciple and nephew of the number one profound practitioner in the Eastern Divine Region! He himself was the strongest God Child of the Eastern Divine Region. Not only was he the most noble and talented genius among his peers, he has led his entire life being the better of others since the moment he was born... defeat was a word that'd never exist for him!

As the passage of time continued, a new change slowly dawned upon the battle.

Yun Che possessed the power of the Rage God, and his ability to recover, no matter what state he was in, was finally starting to display its advantages.

Bang!!

The two men's fists struck each other's faces again. Yun Che leaned backwards from the impact, but Luo Changsheng groaned and stumbled a couple of steps backwards. Finally, his knees hit the ground loudly.

An unfocused but fierce light passed through Yun Che's pupils, and he somehow found enough strength in himself to jump into the air and punch Luo Changsheng's heart area with a bloodied fist covered in a sliver of profound energy.

It was at this moment Luo Changsheng abruptly looked up and raised his right arm with incredible speed. A cold, purple light flew straight towards Yun Che.

"Ah!!" Everyone from the Snow Song Realm screamed involuntarily at once.

It was none other than the Holy Lightning Sword!

Yun Che could feel a sharp thing flying straight towards him, but his consciousness was blurry, and he was in full charge. It was simply impossible for him to change his momentum in the state he was in, so he collapsed on the Holy Lightning Sword almost like he was welcoming it.

Although Luo Changsheng was no longer able to summon the final dredges of lightning contained inside the Holy Lightning Sword, the weapon was very light and incredibly sharp. Even a child could cut through refined steel with it.

Rip!!

A loud tearing noise cut through the air. Luo Changsheng was sent flying by his punch, but he himself was stabbed by the Holy Lightning Sword head on... However, Yun Che had the body of a dragon, so the Holy Lightning Sword ultimately failed to penetrate him. Instead, it slid along his chest and left a long wound that was nearly thirty centimeters long.

"Urgh!"

Yun Che groaned, lost control of his balance and collapsed heavily on the floor. In that instant, an unnatural aura suddenly exploded from Luo Changsheng's body as the young man growled, jumped nearly three meters into the air, gathered a weak swirl of profound energy around his left hand, and punched straight at Yun Che's head.

Bang!!

Yun Che's body twisted with unnatural speed and the attack Luo Changsheng spent nearly all of his willpower to gather merely struck the floor of the Conferred God Stage. Blood splattered everywhere, and four out of five of his fingers shattered in unison from the impact.

Yun Che instantly retaliated with a counterattack of his own, slamming a blade of cold light straight into Luo Changsheng's throat.

"Guah... ah..."

Luo Changsheng collapsed on the ground horizontally while clutching his throat and hissing in indescribable pain. A short, icy blade that looked like butterfly wings had penetrated deep into his larynx.

“Sound... Butterfly... Blade...” Mu Bingyun murmured unconsciously.

Yun Che didn't waste even a moment to breathe. He instantly rolled onto his feet. Right fist flowing with an unexpected amount of vigor, fiendish strength, and an ounce of profound energy that had just been generated inside his body, he fiercely punched Luo Changsheng in the head.

BANG

Luo Changsheng's already blurry consciousness shuddered intensely before exploding into countless pale white cracks...

Yun Che himself was knocked far away by the rebound before he collapsed heavily on the ground. His arms shook as he pushed the ground with his palms with everything he had, but he just couldn't find even a hint of strength in him any longer. The only thing that was left was a will that refused to dissipate no matter how close it was to the brink.

The two dying beasts had truly, finally gone down. For a long time, neither of them managed to get back on their feet.

“Guu... uu... uu...”

Thick, bloody fluid was pouring from Luo Changsheng's eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. His murky pupils shone with dim light. His chest rose and fell erratically like it was seizing as he slowly, stiffly raised his arm into the air... the dark light in his pupils trembled more and more as he struggled with all his might...

In the end though, he failed to lift his arm completely. As the light in his pupils came to a sudden standstill, the arm he used all of his remaining willpower to raise collapsed heavily to the ground.

Luo Changsheng's aura completely submerged into stillness. Even then, his eyes were wide open in reluctance and despair.

But Yun Che was still gripping the ground tightly with both arms. The light in his blood-drenched eyes still refused to fade.

Honorable Qu Hui felt like a ten thousand pound steel plate had just been removed from his chest as he raised his arm and declared loudly, “Luo Changsheng has fallen unconscious. The first match of the grand final goes to Yun Che!!”

“Since Luo Changsheng is defeated, his score is now equal to Yun Che's. The grand final will be fought once more three days from now!”

In the past, a loud cheer or incessant commotion would erupt from the spectator stands after Honorable Qu Hui had announced the results. This time though, everyone remained silent and shell-shocked until the deafening scream of a woman cut through the air.

“Changsheng!!”

Luo Guxie let out a trembling scream as she descended from above. Her emotions—and subsequently her profound energy—were obviously out of control, and her scream deafened and made a large number of profound practitioners so uncomfortable that they nearly spat blood.

“Yun Che!” Mu Bingyun herself was flying into the Conferred God Stage at the same time.

Honorable Qu Hui had judged many Conferred God Battles in the past, but never had he seen such a desperate, bloody fight until today. He never thought that he would feel suffocated from watching a fight between two juniors.

As the people of the Holy Eaves Realm and Snow Song Realm charged towards the stage while throwing all caution to the wind, Honorable Qu Hui sighed on the inside before withdrawing the barrier that isolated the Conferred God Stage.

“Changsheng!!”

The instant Luo Guxie landed next to Luo Changsheng, she pulled out the Sound Butterfly Blade stuck in his throat and threw it far, far away. Then, she enveloped his body in gentle profound light with incredible care... right now, everyone could see that the number one profound practitioner of the Eastern Divine Region was shaking all over. There were even barely restrained tears welling in her eyes.

Before the gentle white light could envelop Luo Changsheng entirely, Luo Guxie levitated his body into the air and flew alongside it towards the distant horizon with great speed. She didn't speak a word with anyone throughout the process. Luo Shangchen quickly followed behind her.

“Yun Che!”

“Senior Brother Yun...”

“Seal up his wounds, quickly!”

“No, don't. His wounds are... too serious...”

Mu Bingyun held up Yun Che and leaned his head against her soft breasts, uncaring for the scarlet blood that was rapidly drenching her snow white clothes. Her trembling hand glowed blue as she held it above Yun Che's chest, but she just couldn't dare to touch him no matter how she tried to.

Yun Che's wounds were scary beyond words. There wasn't a single part inside or outside his body that was unhurt. A different Divine Tribulation profound practitioner would've died a long, long time ago.

“Senior Brother Yun... Senior Brother Yun's going to be fine... right?” A Snow Song Realm disciple carefully walked past the duo. Their heart clenched, and their eyes welled up in tears when they saw Yun Che's terrible, blood drenched appearance.

Mu Huanzhi and Mu Tanzhi had also knelt down beside Yun Che, but just like Mu Bingyun, they dared not take things into their own hands and suppress his wounds. In his current state, if they made even a single mistake when they inject profound energy into his body...

“Have... I... won...”

It was at this moment Yun Che parted his lips and uttered the weak, nearly indiscernible question.

His consciousness had been so blurry that he didn't even hear Honorable Qu Hui's loud declaration clearly.

"Yes, you won. You beat Luo Changsheng," Mu Bingyun bowed her head closer and whispered gently into his ears.

An indescribably satisfied smile flitted across Yun Che's lips, "That's... great..."

"Don't... worry... I... won't... die... Just..."

"So... tired..."

His voice was as weak as a mosquito's buzz. Finally, Mu Bingyun lowered her palm slowly and enveloped him in a blue light of utmost gentleness, "If you're tired, you should go to sleep."

She spoke softly as if she was soothing a baby who was refusing to sleep. Finally, Yun Che's eyes slowly closed under her gentle whisper.

"..." Mu Bingyun looked up into the sky with blurry vision.

Heavenly Slaughter Star God, I don't know what you did to him, or how big of a favor he owed you that he's willing to risk his life to this extent. I don't care how important you are or what's keeping you from him... but please, please fulfill his wish and meet him even just once... if only for everything he has done for you...

She was the first one to know why Yun Che had come to the God Realm. She knew everything Yun Che did since the day of his arrival. Everyone thought that the reason he fought Luo Changsheng with his life was to become the champion and seize victory, but only she knew that he hadn't come this far for the first place of the Conferred God Battle, the reputation, the rewards, and definitely not for Luo Changsheng...

He had done all this just to meet one person.

Outside the Conferred God Stage, in the distant sky, a delicate red figure flew far into the distance.

And left behind a few poignant tears in the clouds.