

Time 141

Chapter 141 - 141 Passing the second trial

Looking at Liu Mei who was staring at him with bright eyes as she waited to hear his explanation, Shun Long turned his head to observe the fight of the 2 magic beasts at the mountain peak, as he said

"Actually, one of the ways to pass the second trial, is to band together and hunt for early rank 3 magic beasts, but the question is, how many early rank 3 magic beasts are inside this 'King's garden' in the first place?"

Seeing that Liu Mei seemed to have just come to another realization once again, Shun Long continued

"However, aside from teaming up, there is another way to pass this test. That is to ambush and kill a magic beast. This method however, is far more dangerous than the first one, since you need to have perfect grasp of what's happening around you before you actually attack the beast.

Normally, I may not have chosen to attack 2 strong middle stage rank 3 magic beasts, like the 'Ice Hawk' and the Demonic Spider. The current situation however is different.

The reason that these 2 beasts are enemies, lies with the 'Ice Hawk' after all.

Both the 'Demonic Spider', as well as the 'Ice Hawk', are magic beasts who 'cultivate' Yin qi inside them, and although their attribute isn't the same as one of them focuses on ice while the other one focuses more on poison, the yin qi inside the ice hawk isn't that much different than the yin qi of the Demonic Spider in the end.

Usually, since their strength is about the same, the 'Ice Hawk' wouldn't attack the 'Demonic Spider's' lair for no reason.

However, once a Demonic spider has given birth to its eggs, then, just before the eggs hatch, at the end of their incubation period, the yin qi inside them is at their purest and most dense form. The 'Ice Hawk' can sense the rich yin qi from far away, and will then start a life and death battle with the spider."

Liu Mei's mouth was agape after hearing Shun Long's explanation.

She finally understood that Shun Long didn't decide to attack these 2 magic beasts out of recklessness, but because he had prior knowledge about their characteristics and their nature.

Looking at the young man beside her who didn't seem to be any older than herself, Liu Mei felt an inexplicable attraction to the mysterious aura that he was emitting.

As time passed, more and more wounds had appeared on the 'Ice Hawk's' and the 'Demonic Spider's' body.

After flapping its wings, the 5m (16ft) large 'Ice Hawk' summoned a small hailstorm that pierced the black spider's body.

Green blood was flowing from its wounds but the spider didn't seem to feel any pain, as it opened its mouth and spat many small balls of purple liquid.

The liquid let out a sizzling sound as it touched the hawk's body, almost as if it was burning through its blue and white skin.

Finally, 3 hours later, the 'Ice Hawk' had fallen on the ground, while more than half of its body had been corroded by the spider's poison.

But the 'Demonic Spider' was also filled with terrible wounds.

More than half of its back had been pierced with ice shards, while 3 of its 8 legs had already been severed from its body.

Looking at the terribly injured spider, as well as the 'Ice Hawk' that had finally stopped breathing, Liu Mei couldn't help turning her gaze at Shun Long as she asked

"Should we attack now?"

Shun Long shook his head as he said

"Wait until the spider has confirmed that the hawk is dead. Once it has let down its guard, use your strongest move and aim at its back. You only need to attack once, and then quickly retreat. Even if you don't hit it, you can leave the rest to me."

Liu Mei nodded her head as her eyes stared at the black spider, who was unsteadily walking towards the dead 'Ice Hawk'.

Only after stabbing one of its feet on the hawk's head and confirming that it was dead, did it finally relax slightly.

At that moment, Liu Mei circulated her cultivation technique, before numerous shards of ice appeared in the air around her. More than 1000 ice shards instantly merged together, as they formed a huge ice pillar more than 20m(65ft) long.

Shun Long was amazed as he saw the huge ice pillar flying towards the Demonic Spider, as he also activated his 'Monarch's Domain' along with his golden eyes.

Although the spider was a middle rank 3 magic beast, its body had already weakened so much by its battle with the 'Ice Hawk', that the huge ice pillar would pose a lethal threat to it.

The moment that it sensed the gigantic ice pillar flying towards it, the 'Demonic Spider' hastily dodged to the side, when out of nowhere, one of its eyes suddenly exploded.

The pain from having its eye exploding, immediately sent the spider into a frenzy, as it thrashed around madly while it screeched in pain. And yet, thanks to its erratic movements, it still managed to luckily dodge Liu Mei's ice pillar.

Without missing a beat, Shun Long's body quickly slid under the spider that was still flailing around, and gathering the strength of his 'Monarch's Eternal body', he used his full strength as he punched repeatedly on the same spot.

Screeeeeeeech

A terrifying cry escaped the spider's mouth, as Shun Long's punches had finally pierced a hole through its body.

A few breaths of time later, the spider seemed to have finally lost its strength, as its body crashed on the ground.

When Shun Long and Liu Mei had both dug out the beast cores of the 'Demonic Spider' and the 'Ice Hawk', they suddenly felt their vision turning black at the same time.

Shun Long's surroundings instantly darkened, as a powerful spatial force surrounded his body.

Shun Long once again, felt the familiar sensation of spatial teleportation, when a deep voice sounded in his ears that said

"Congratulations for passing the second of the King's trials!"

Chapter 142 - 142 The final trial

"Congratulations for passing the second of the King's trials!

You are the 14th person in this century's batch, who has successfully managed to pass through the King's garden."

As this voice sounded in his ears, Shun Long's surroundings brightened, before he found himself inside a jade-white room.

This room was completely empty, without any decorations, except for what seemed to be a red meditative pillow that was placed on the floor, right in the center of the room.

A black door seemed to have materialized in front of Shun Long, seemingly out of thin air, as a black-haired, middle-aged man then appeared in front of him.

Although this man seemed to be smiling, the look in his eyes gave off a dangerous feeling, akin to that of a viper that was staring at a helpless lamb.

After sizing Shun Long up, the man had that same smile on his face as he said

"Very good, kid. I didn't expect you to actually have the guts, to scheme against the 'Demonic Spider'. That was really impressive.

Congratulations.

The reward for passing the second trial however, is not something tangible, but rather an opportunity that the King himself had personally set.

You can choose whether you want to stay in the Desolate east, or go to the Silver sword city of the Night star continent.

There are still 2 months of time until the King's realm closes, so you until then before you give me your answer.

You can also decide whether or not you want to challenge the last of the King's trials, but... I suggest that you don't.

Although you are not weak... for an earth grade cultivator at least, I can guarantee you that you have zero percent chance of passing the last trial."

The middle-aged man listed everything in one go, before he turned to look at Shun Long as he waited for his answer.

Shun Long in turn, had been thinking about the Night star continent ever since he had heard about it from Liu Mei.

"If the strongest sect in the Desolate east is only a branch from the actual 'Golden Buddha temple', then going to the Night star continent might really be the best choice for me to advance faster. I still need to expand my field of vision and learn more about the outside world after all."

With these thoughts in mind, Shun Long looked at the middle-aged man in front of him before he asked

"Senior, can you tell me anything else about the Night star continent?"

The middle-aged man looked at Shun Long in amusement, as he shook his head and replied

"In the world of cultivation, knowledge is never given away for free. The King has decreed, that only the person who passes through the final trial, can ask the overseers any questions. All I can tell you is, the Night star continent is a heaven-sent opportunity if your aim is to become stronger and leave the Desolate east."

Shun Long nodded his head as he clearly understood this fact. Knowledge was indeed priceless in the cultivation world, and one such example, was precisely the knowledge that he had received from the golden book.

Looking at the middle-aged man in front of him, Shun Long then asked

"In that case senior, can you tell me how do I enter the third trial?"

The middle-aged man smiled when he heard this, before his hand pointed at a golden door on the right side of the room as he said

"If you wish to challenge the final trial, all you have to do is step through that door and you will understand."

Shun Long turned his head to look at the golden door that had just appeared at the side of the wall, and noticed a white-colored 'SEAL' character on top of it.

The black-haired man's eyes were also staring at the seal character as he said

"It seems that someone is already challenging the final trial, so you will have to wait for your turn. Remember, you can only challenge the third trial only once every day.

...As for whether you live or die, that will be up to you."

Without another word, the black-haired man waved his hand, as he then entered inside the black door behind him and disappeared from the room.

After the middle-aged man disappeared, Shun Long turned his head to look at the golden door with the white 'seal' character on it, before he sat on the red cushion at the center of the room.

After sending his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time' and noticing that little Black was sleeping, he started feeding the spirit stones to the 'Heaven swallowing vine', before starting another cultivation session.

After breaking through to the 'early rank 7' in earth grade, Shun Long noticed that his refining speed had increased dramatically.

Looking at the 55 balls of qi above him inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long began absorbing the qi from the 'Heaven swallowing vine', as he started condensing the 56th ball of qi.

A day later, there were already 58 balls of qi hovering above his head, as he had now reached the middle rank 7 in earth grade.

Opening his eyes, Shun Long then noticed that the 'seal' character had disappeared from the golden door.

Standing up from the red cushion, he first stretched his body a few times before he walked towards the golden door.

After taking a deep breath and activating his golden eyes, Shun Long pushed the door open with his right hand as he entered inside.

Surprisingly, after entering the golden door, Shun Long found himself inside a majestic hall.

Rows of golden knight armor seemed to be greeting the guests that were entering the hall for the first time, while luxurious chandeliers made from silver and emerald jade decorated the ceiling.

Shun Long's eyes traveled at the end of the hall, where he saw a golden throne, adorned with countless rare jades.

A handsome, golden-haired young man in his late twenties, could be seen sitting on the throne, and while his deep green eyes were staring at Shun Long, a single word came from his mouth

"Welcome!"

Chapter 143 - 143 Dao King

"Welcome!"

The golden-haired young man said, as he slowly stood up from the throne.

Although this man was dressed in plain white robes that were in sharp contrast with the rest of the luxurious hall around him, his plain robes didn't make him feel out of place. Instead, they seemed to have accentuated his presence even more, giving off the feeling of a king who didn't care about material wealth.

Shun Long was stunned after seeing the golden-haired man's face.

His face was the same as the statue in front of the King's palace.

All of a sudden, the sleeping little Black opened his eyes inside the 'Stone of Time', as he said in a warning tone

"Master, be careful! This is a soul incantation!"

"A soul incantation?"

Shun Long had never heard of this term before, as little Black started explaining

"A soul incantation is created, when an expert at the late-stages of the Nascent soul or above, splits a small part of their soul and injects it into another body.

However, the body that houses the split soul, has to be specially created from a formation master who has reached at least the gold grade, while every single detail of it, must be identical to the original body's."

Staring at the white-robed young man in front of Shun Long, little Black then continued

"Master, after seeing this soul incantation, one thing is now clear.

If the person in front of master is actually the Dao King who created this realm, then he certainly hasn't reached the end of his lifespan yet... otherwise, his incantation would have also died along with his original soul.

He is either still alive somewhere, or his original body was killed, but his soul incantation remains intact in here."

The golden-haired young man's eyes were staring at Shun Long with an impassive look, as he then said in a resounding voice

"Welcome, to the third, and final trial of my palace.

I, Cui Guoliang, officially welcome you to my world!"

The golden-haired man's voice resonated throughout the entire hall, making Shun Long's ears buzz in the process.

Waving his sleeve, Cui Guoliang immediately unleashed his aura at the pinnacle of rank 3 in Heaven grade, as he continued

"The test for the last trial is simple.

I will limit my strength to the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade.

All you have to do... is simply defeat me.

Of course, weapons above the silver grade or special talismans are not allowed.

Prepare yourself!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the white-robed Cui Guoliang spread open his left palm, as a small ball of water appeared in his hand.

The water ball quickly enlarged, while its shape also started to change.

Half a breath later, a 2m(6.6ft) long crystal-blue, lifelike water python, had appeared around the golden-haired young man.

Waving his hand, Cui Guoliang immediately sent the water python flying towards Shun Long's head.

Shun Long's golden eyes flashed with a faint blue light, as he immediately activated his 'Monarch's Domain'.

The python however, was barely slowed down after entering the 'Monarch's Domain', as it quickly arrived in front of Shun Long.

Opening its giant mouth, the python showed his lifelike water teeth, that were aiming to devour Shun Long's head.

Shun Long had no time to dodge the python's attack, as he gathered his strength in his right hand, before it collided with the python's face.

BOOM

The impact of the collision had surprisingly sent Shun Long flying backwards, until he crashed on the wall behind him.

The python was actually much stronger than Shun Long had estimated.

Although its power wasn't enough to match a middle rank 3 magic beast, it was still strong enough to dominate most early rank 3 beasts.

Although Shun Long was sent flying from the impact, the python seemed to be barely affected from it, as its slightly deformed face quickly returned back to its original shape.

Staring at Shun Long with emotionless eyes, Cui Guoliang immediately ordered the python to attack him again, before he conjured another ball of water on his left palm.

The second ball of water quickly enlarged itself, and half a breath of time later, another water python had coiled itself around the golden-haired man.

This python however, didn't attack Shun Long, as it continued to hover in the air around Cui Guoliang instead.

Fighting against the first water python, Shun Long seemed to have already found himself in a tough spot.

Although he knew exactly when and where the python was going to attack him from, the difference in their speed was too great.

Even when Shun Long managed to dodge the first attack, he was unable to dodge the one that followed right after, as he was sent crashing on the walls of the hall again and again.

Although his 'Monarch's Eternal body' was sturdy, numerous wounds had already appeared on his body.

Looking at the white-robed Cui Guoliang who was leisurely looking at him from the distance, Shun Long felt extremely frustrated.

"The power of the Dao is much stronger than I had originally estimated. Although Fu Peizhi had already comprehended a fragment of the Dao of Wind, in front of this man's Dao of Water he would have died from a single attack."

"Master, this is only natural. Although this is probably just a fragment of the Dao of Water that this man has comprehended, in the end, you are still fighting against a Dao King who has suppressed his power."

Seeing that Shun Long was still hanging on against the first python, Cui Guoliang turned his head to look at the newly created python that was hovering in the air around him.

The second python immediately followed the first, as they relentlessly attacked Shun Long.

Half an incense stick of time later, the 2 water pythons dispersed themselves, as Shun Long's badly damaged body appeared on the ground.

Cui Guoliang was about to return to his throne, when his eyes twitched, as he saw Shun Long's half-destroyed body slowly standing up.

Chapter 144 - 144 Comprehending the Dao

"Interesting."

Cui Guoliang's voice sounded as he slowly walked back to his throne.

With his back still turned at Shun Long he said

"Among the 6 of you that are participating in the third trial, you are probably the weakest.

The strongest is that brat with the red armor, along with the little bald monk. The little poison brat as well the beggar kid are next, followed by the monkey man and then you.

Nevertheless, I have to admit that you are only weak because you haven't entered the third stage in body refinement yet. Otherwise, you would probably be as strong as that poison brat.

You can go back and rest. Remember, you are only allowed to come here once per day."

As he finished speaking, Cui Guoliang waved his sleeve, before he sat back on his throne.

Shun Long then cupped his hands, before he entered inside the golden door, and returned to the jade-white room.

After returning back to the room, Shun Long sat on the red cushion, and took out a few 'Profound earth fruits' from the 'Stone of Time' to replenish the energy of his 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

The wounds that he had suffered weren't just deep, but they were also too many to count. After all, the power of Cui Guoliang's water pythons, was far above that of average early rank 3 magic beasts.

After eating the 'Profound earth fruits', Shun Long noticed that the wounds on his body had started to heal at a speed visible to the n.a.k.e.d eye, and half an hour later, there were only a few scars left.

An hour after that, even the scars were completely gone, as Shun Long finally opened his eyes.

After taking a look at the now 'sealed' golden door in front of him, he mumbled to himself

"What does it mean to comprehend a Dao? Cui Guoliang has comprehended the Dao of Water and can summon powerful water pythons, while Fu Peizhi seemed to have comprehended the Dao of Wind and could amplify his daggers flying speed, or even manipulate in the air. Then, what about the Dao of Time and the Dao of Space? Is the Dao of Time just used to freeze my enemies like the 'Monarch's Domain'?"

Just as Shun Long was pondering over the meaning of the Dao of Time, inside the final trial, in front of the throne, Cui Guoliang was leisurely watching a young man in blue robes fighting against his water pythons.

If Shun Long was here, he would probably recognize this man as the arrogant sixth prince of the Snowcloud country.

A crimson battle armor was protecting Yang Gongsun's upper body, as he was fighting against more than 50 water pythons.

The pythons constantly attacked Yang Gongsun, but his red armor seemed to be sturdy enough to receive their attacks without fail.

It seemed that the entrapment of the 50 pythons however, was impossible to escape. as Yang Gongsun was slowly pushed towards the end of the hall.

The moment that his back touched the wall, an endless barrage of attacks followed from the water pythons, as his crimson battle armor started to dim.

An incense stick of time later, his red armor had completely disappeared, as the blue-robed prince's body was filled with numerous wounds.

The moment that the water pythons disappeared, Yang Gongsun's condition wasn't any better than Shun Long's when he had left the hall.

The blue-robed prince stared at Cui Guoliang with eyes filled with determination, before he finally lost consciousness.

Cui Guoliang laughed after seeing Yang Gongsun falling unconscious, as he then grabbed his body and unceremoniously threw it inside the golden door.

Half an hour passed by, when a golden-robed, bald young man entered inside the throne room.

Anyone in the Desolate east could guess from his sect robes and his shaved head, that this young man was a member of the 'Golden Buddha temple'.

The moment that he saw Cui Guoliang, the young monk bowed his head, as he clasped his hands and said

"Greetings benefactor Cui.

I hope that you can teach this young monk once again today."

Cui Guoliang laughed as he heard this and said

"Little bald monk, not bad, not bad.

Out of everyone else participating in this trial, you are the only one who pays his respects every time you see me."

The young monk bowed his head once again, before he took a defensive stance, as he then stared at Cui Guoliang expectantly.

Cui Guoliang smiled lightly, as he raised his left hand and once again created a water python.

The moment that the python appeared, he rushed at the young monk at lightning speed.

The monk's hands however, shone with a golden light, as he sent a palm strike at the python.

The palm strike instantly connected with the python's head, as it tore it in half.

After getting hit by this golden palm, the python immediately collapsed, as it turned into a ball of water that crashed on the floor.

Cui Guoliang was stunned when he saw this, when a big smile covered his face as he said

"Little bald monk, well done. It seems, that your Dao of the Buddha has advanced another step forward.

However... it's far too early for you to celebrate."

Waving his hand, Cui Guoliang created more than 100 water pythons, who immediately drowned the young monk in their attacks.

This time, the monk had turned on the defensive as he endured the pythons' violent assault, but he barely managed to last for a few minutes, before he was sent flying on the wall of the hall.

Looking at the still smiling Cui Guoliang, the young monk stood up from the ground, and cupping his hands, he said

"Thank you, benefactor Cui. This monk hopes to learn from you again tomorrow."

After giving another bow, the golden-robed young monk then entered the door and disappeared from the hall.

As the rest of the contestants were fighting in the final trial one after the other, Shun Long had spent the next few days meditating in his room.

Finally 7 days later, he opened his eyes, and looking at his right hand that was glowing with a faint blue light, he couldn't help but mumble to himself

"Is this the Dao of Time?"

Chapter 145 - 145 The Dao of Time

"Is this the Dao of Time?"

Looking at the bright glow in his right hand, Shun Long had fallen into deep contemplation.

The look in Little Black's eyes however, was unable to hide his shock and excitement.

With his experience, how could the dragon not understand, that Shun Long had already touched upon the Dao of Time?!

"It only took master, as a mere rank 7 earth grade cultivator, a week to start comprehending the Dao? This..."

Even with Shun Long's extraordinary affinity with the element of Space, he still hadn't managed to touch upon the Space Dao, despite having already reached the pinnacle of the second stage in the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

And yet, comprehension in the Dao of Time seemed to have come extremely naturally.

As the black dragon was absorbed in his thoughts, Shun Long released his 'Monarch's Domain' as the invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from his body.

At the same time, looking at the blue glow in his hand, his golden eyes shone as if he had just come to a realization

"That's right. If my 'Monarch's Domain' can be used to halt, or slow down the flow of time inside it, then why can't it also amplify it?"

The blue glow around his hand then expanded in the air, as it merged with the invisible figure of the hourglass around him.

Shun Long could feel an imperceptible change happening in the 'Monarch's Domain', while his control over it had suddenly increased.

With a simple thought, the flow of time around Shun Long then started to change.

The time inside the 'Monarch's Domain', was now flowing twice as fast, compared to the outside world.

"This is not yet my limit..."

After injecting even more of his qi in the 'Monarch's Domain', the flow of time around him was now 6 times faster than normal, when Shun Long finally realized a problem.

Sitting cross-legged on the red cushion, his eyes fell on the blue glow in his hand as he said

"Using the 'Monarch's Domain' this way, would not only cause it to lose its original properties, but it would also amplify the speed of anyone else who enters inside it as well."

More than an hour passed while Shun Long was pondering over this problem, when his eyes suddenly lit up, as another thought came on his mind

"What if...?"

Activating the 'Monarch's Domain' once again, Shun Long didn't change anything in it this time.

Instead, the bright blue glow in his hand changed.

At the same time as Shun Long was still experimenting with his 'Monarch's Domain' and the Dao of Time, inside the third trial, Liu Changpun was fighting with more than 20 water pythons.

The pythons seemed to have surrounded him, as they attacked relentlessly from all fronts.

Countless ice shards floated around Liu Changpun, forming a huge ice-shield that covered him from the attacks of the pythons.

Cui Guoliang looked at him, as he clapped his hands and said

"Come on little beggar kid. If you don't even try to attack the pythons, then how do you expect to beat them?"

Crack

Crack!

Under the unceasing attacks of the pythons, Liu Changpun's ice shield barely managed to last for a few minutes, before it finally broke into pieces.

Liu Changpun fell back, as he waved his hands, creating a huge ice wall in a desperate attempt to stall the pythons, as he tried to open up the distance between them.

Cui Guoliang however just smiled, as the pythons crashed on the wall head-on, destroying it in an instant as their attacks then continued on Liu Changpun's body.

Less than 10 breaths of time later, Liu Changpun's body was covered in injuries, while he even lacked the strength to stand up on his own.

From the corner of his eyes, he saw Cui Guoliang looking at him, before he shouted

"Master! Please accept me as your disciple!"

Cui Guoliang slowly walked up to Liu Changpun's body, and looking at him he said

"Little beggar kid, you are not fit to become my disciple. How many times are you still going to ask?"

You should know that I am not looking for a disciple to begin with...

I know what you really want, but if you think that you can get your hands, on the dragon lord's medallion by begging, then you must really be an idiot."

Liu Changpun's face immediately turned red when he heard this, but he actually didn't refute any of Cui Guoliang's words. Instead, he shouted loudly once again

"Senior! Just give me a chance."

Finally, the look in Cui Guoliang's face changed, as his left foot angrily kicked Liu Changpun's body, sending him flying to the golden door behind him.

Then, without another word, he returned back to his throne, as he stared at the golden door with eyes full of anger.

Back in his room, Shun Long noticed that the 'seal' character had just disappeared from the golden door, but he didn't pay any attention to it, as he started walking around the room.

At first glance, there was nothing odd about his movement, aside from a blue layer of light that was coming from his body.

However, barely 5 minutes later, Shun Long's breathing had turned uneven as he sat back on the red cushion, and started recovering his qi.

3 hours later he stood up, as he slowly walked towards the golden door.

Once again, the scene in his eyes changed, as he found himself inside the throne room, with the same golden-haired young man sitting on the throne.

Cui Guoliang's eyes lit up, as he saw Shun Long entering the hall.

Annoyed from Liu Changpun's earlier behavior, he decided to punish Shun Long a bit and vent his residual anger.

Waving his hand, 5 water pythons appeared in front of him, as they instantly flew towards Shun Long.

Shun Long was shocked to see 5 pythons this time instead of 2, but with a slight smile on his face, he activated his golden eyes as well as the 'Monarch's Domain'.

This time, a faint blue light was also coming from Shun Long's body, as he watched the 5 pythons that were flying at him.

Cui Guoliang waited expectantly for the pythons to hit Shun Long's body, but the moment that they arrived in front of him, Shun Long suddenly vanished.

Cui Guoliang immediately stood up from his throne, as he stared at the scene in front of him with wide-open eyes.

Chapter 146 - 146 Dao of Light?

Cui Guoliang immediately stood up from his throne, as he stared at the scene in front of him with wide-open eyes.

The 5 pythons hadn't even touched Shun Long's body.

He had actually moved so fast, that he had left behind an afterimage at the place he was standing on.

The golden-haired young man, looked at Shun Long with an incredulous look in his eyes, before his body started trembling with excitement as he asked

"Kid, what was that move just now? Was that a martial skill?

No... it didn't feel like a martial skill! I actually felt the power of the Dao coming from you.

But... you are just a brat at the peak of the second stage in body refinement, how could you possibly have started comprehending a high-level Dao?!

In addition, there are very few Daos that can actually give you such an enhancement in speed.

Hmm... the Dao of Wind can also enhance your speed but not at this level.

It's also obvious that you have not comprehended the Dao of Thunder...

Don't tell me...! Kid... you actually managed to get enlightened in the Dao of Light??

Judging by the faint light coming off from your body, this old man must be right huh? HAHAHA!"

Cui Guoliang laughed excitedly, as he could barely contain his elation. He looked so certain about the conclusion that he had arrived in, that he didn't even need to hear Shun Long's answer.

Shun Long instead, looked at the excited Cui Guoliang in front of him, as he answered with a sly smile on his face

"Senior, you overpraise me. I have only just started my Dao comprehension after all."

Of course, Shun Long would never admit that he had comprehended the Dao of Time instead of the Dao of Light, as he clearly understood how many follow-up questions that could bring him.

In a sense, he considered himself very lucky that Cui Guoliang had come to the wrong conclusion by himself, so all he had to do was play along with him.

Cui Guoliang shook his head as he stared at Shun Long with shining eyes and said

"Brat, you don't know how rare the Dao of Light actually is.

Even in the Night star continent, only some incredible geniuses can comprehend this Dao. For a brat of the Desolate east to have such good fortune, even this old man envies you."

As he finished speaking, Cui Guoliang waved his hand, as he created more than 20 water pythons in an instant.

Shun Long's eyes bulged when he saw this, but Cui Guoliang smiled as he said

"Even if you have comprehended a rare Dao like the Dao of Light, your cultivation base is still insufficient to win against me."

The 20 water pythons quickly surrounded Shun Long, as they attacked him one by one.

Shun Long however, wasn't going to stick in the same passive position as he did the last time.

After taking one step forward, he immediately disappeared from where he stood, as he avoided all the water pythons and rushed, at the golden-haired young man in front of the throne.

Shun Long's speed was extremely fast, as he quickly covered half of the distance between himself and Cui Guoliang.

Cui Guoliang then raised his right hand, as he created a whip made of water.

Crack

Crack

Crack

The sounds of the water whip cracking through the air resounded in the throne room as Cui Guoliang attacked Shun Long again and again.

Shun Long's golden eyes however, flashed repeatedly, as he easily avoided the water whip's attacks.

A few breaths of time later, he had already closed the distance, and clenching his right fist, he sent a full-powered punch towards Cui Guoliang's chest.

A water python appeared from Cui Guoliang's body, as it met Shun Long's punch head-on.

Shun Long smirked as he saw the python, meeting his full-powered punch with its face as he continued forward without stopping

"If it was me from a week ago, I would probably be unable to defeat this python. But now, with my new 'Monarch's Domain', it's impossible to lose again."

BOOM

The result of the clash was completely different than the first time.

Amplified by his speed, Shun Long's fist immediately pierced through the water python's head, as it completely destroyed it before colliding with Cui Guoliang's body.

The golden-haired Dao King, stumbled back a few steps, before he stared at Shun Long in shock.

It only took him a moment to understand how Shun Long had managed to defeat the water python so easily.

Amplified by his 'Dao of Light', it was natural for Shun Long's punch to be this strong.

Although he was hit by Shun Long's punch, Cui Guoliang shrugged as he stared at the young man in front of him and said

"Hahaha! I told you kid... you are still too weak. Do you think that you are the only one who cultivates in both qi, and body refinement?"

Shun Long noticed that the place that he had punched in Cui Guoliang's chest, had turned in a bright grey color.

Cui Guoliang smirked as he said

"Of course, aside from the Dao of Water, I have also comprehended the Dao of Metal. Unless you manage to breakthrough to the third stage in body refining, you won't be able to have a chance against me."

It was obvious that Cui Guoliang was thinking, that Shun Long had started comprehending the Dao thanks to his peak second stage body refinement level. After all, whether it was breaking through from the earth grade to the Heaven grade, or from the second stage of body refinement to the third, every cultivator needed to comprehend at least one Dao that they would use for their breakthrough.

But since Shun Long was planning to use the Dao of Time, as his basis for his breakthrough in qi cultivation, he couldn't use it to breakthrough to the third stage of body refinement.

After a brief moment of silence, the golden-haired young man stared thoughtfully at Shun Long as he then continued

"If you manage to breakthrough to the third stage of body refinement and pass the final trial...?I can tell you that, not only will you get the dragon lord's medallion, but all of my secret arts, martial skills and secret techniques, will be yours to browse.

Now go.

The next time we fight, it will be a real fight. I will not hold back at all."

Shun Long didn't understand what the dragon lord's medallion was, but he still nodded his head as he cupped his hands and entered the golden door.

He clearly understood that since he hadn't managed to break Cui Guoliang's defenses with his full-powered punch, then it was impossible to win this time. Unless of course, he used a lethal move... but even then, thanks to Cui Guoliang's high perception, even that wasn't certain to defeat him.

After all, this was still a Dao King who had suppressed his cultivation.

Looking at Shun Long who was leaving the hall, Cui Guoliang's eyes were fixed on his back, as he then mumbled inaudibly

"I will be waiting for you kid... don't let me down..."

Shun Long was completely oblivious to Cui Guoliang's mutterings, as he returned back to the jade-white room, and sat cross-legged on top of the red cushion as he thought to himself

"It looks like, having 2 different 'Monarch's Domains' active at the same time, is really hard."

Chapter 147 - 147 Fighting Cui Guoliang

"It looks like, having 2 different 'Monarch's Domains' active at the same time is really hard."

Indeed, since Shun Long couldn't change the flow of time in the 'Monarch's Domain' without having it lose its original effects, he had used the Dao of Time to create a second 'Monarch's Domain', using the original as a guideline.

The second domain was actually much smaller than the first, as it barely encompassed his body, which was where that blue glow was coming from when the domain was active around him.

Thanks to the second domain that was created by the Dao of Time, Shun Long's speed was more than 5 times faster than normal. However, the qi inside his qi balls was also being used at an alarming rate when both of his 'Monarch's Domains' were active at the same time.

Thinking back to his fight with Cui Guoliang, Shun Long understood, that the difference between their qi cultivation, as well as their Dao comprehension, was too big.

After all, even if he had restrained himself to the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade, Cui Guoliang was still a Dao King, while Shun Long was just a rank 7 earth grade cultivator.

With these thoughts in mind, Shun Long sent his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time', and after feeding the 'Heaven swallowing vine' with spirit stones, he looked at the black dragon who seemed to be eating the 'Nine-eyed giant worm's' body, as he asked

"Little Black, do you know anything about the dragon lord's medallion?"

Little Black thought seriously for a moment, but in the end he shook his head and replied

"Master, if this was regarding the Dragon king's medallion of the Dragon dimension, then that would be a different story, but I have never heard anything regarding a dragon lord."

Shun Long nodded his head at little Black's words, and as the black dragon started gorging himself in the giant worm's body, Shun Long also started to absorb the energy of the 'Heaven swallowing vine'.

Cui Guoliang's words had really managed to spark his interest, as Shun Long clearly understood, that the one thing he lacked the most right now, was martial skills or other similar techniques.

Time passed by quickly when Shun Long was in seclusion, and while the black dragon seemed to have fallen into slumber, Shun Long's cultivation was rising at an incredible rate.

Peak of rank 7 in earth grade, early rank 8... middle rank 8... peak of rank 8...

A month later, Shun Long's cultivation had stabilized at the early rank 9 in earth grade, while his body was actually brimming with energy.

Above his head, there were 75 balls of qi, some of which seemed much brighter than the rest.

While Shun Long was in seclusion, Liu Changpun and the rest of the contestants were constantly fighting with Cui Guoliang.

Although Cui Guoliang had high hopes for Shun Long, in reality, during their fight a month ago, he hadn't even released a third of his true strength against him.

Although he hoped that a genius who had comprehended an extraordinary Dao would be able to pass his trial, he also understood that the young monk from the 'Golden Buddha temple', as well as the sixth prince from the Snowcloud country, weren't really inferior to Shun Long.

Especially the young monk, Mao Ye, whose comprehension in the Dao of the Buddha, seemed to be growing day by day after 'sparring' with Cui Guoliang.

Half a month more passed like this, as Shun Long's cultivation took another step forward, reaching the middle of rank 9 in earth grade.

However, at the same time, his spirit stones had been sorely depleted, as he had less than 30.000 of them left by now.

If he hadn't received the 'kind donation' of 70.000 spirit stones, from Su Honggui and his junior brothers, Shun Long would have long since ran out of them by now.

As for the 'Blood Vermilion fruits' that he had gotten from the first trial, he was planning to refine them into pills before he attempted his breakthrough to Heaven grade.

Finally, a week before the 'Vermilion realm' was about to close, Shun Long opened his eyes as he stared at the 'sealed' golden door in front of him.

A few hours later, the character 'seal' disappeared from the door, as he then stood up and walked inside it.

In front of the throne, Cui Guoliang seemed to be fiddling with a brown small badge in his hands, but his eyes immediately lit up as he saw Shun Long entering the hall.

With an excited voice he said

"Kid, it's about time you showed yourself!"

However, disbelief quickly colored his face, as he then asked with an incredulous look in his eyes

"Brat... you... have already broken through to the middle of rank 9 in earth grade?"

Since Shun Long wasn't hiding his cultivation, it was child's play for Cui Guoliang to ascertain his level.

Without waiting for an answer, the golden-haired Dao King immediately waved his hands, as more than 50 water pythons appeared around him.

Looking at Shun Long who was staring at him speechlessly, he then said without any shame

"Brat, don't look at me like that. This King has already warned you, that, the next time we met, there would be no holding back. Whoever strikes first is always the winner!"

The moment that he finished his words, the water pythons charged at Shun Long like a flock of hungry beasts.

Activating his golden eyes, as well as the 2 'Monarch's Domains', a blue light appeared around Shun Long's body, as he walked around the attacking pythons looking like he was taking a stroll in his own garden.

This time, the pythons' speed had noticeably dropped as they entered the 'Monarch's Domain', and in merely a few breaths of time, Shun Long had already left them far behind him.

Cui Guoliang in turn, had already expected the scene in front of him, as he smiled, while his body turned into a shiny metal hue.

Looking at the golden-haired young man in front of him, Shun Long didn't hold back in the slightest, as he gathered all of his strength in his right hand and sent a full-powered blow at Cui Guoliang's chest.

Cui Guoliang didn't shy away from this challenge, as his own fist met with Shun Long's.

BOOOOM

A powerful collision resounded throughout the hall and a burst of blood spurted in the air, as both Shun Long and Cui Guoliang were sent flying backwards.

Chapter 148 - 148 Facing death

Both Shun Long and Cui Guoliang were sent flying backwards from the impact of their collision.

Shun Long felt a sharp pain in his hand, as blood had already covered his entire fist.

This was the first time that Shun Long had bled after fighting someone, ever since he had started his body cultivation.

Turning his head to look at Cui Guoliang, he saw him staring at his own fist in disbelief.

A crack had appeared on his metal-like fist, as his blood was slowly dripping on the floor of the hall.

Looking at Shun Long, Cui Guoliang smiled, as he actually took the initiative to attack this time.

The crack in his left hand had quickly reformed itself, while a large halberd made of water had appeared in his hands.

Raising the 2m(6.6ft) long halberd in the air, the golden-haired Dao King swung it down aiming at Shun Long's head.

Shun Long's golden eyes flashed, as he clearly saw the trajectory of the halberd, and stepped to the side, easily dodging the attack.

Cui Guoliang smirked as he saw this, while the bright-blue halberd's attack met with the floor.

BOOOM

It was almost as if a powerful earthquake had just shaken the entire hall, as Shun Long's feet lost their contact with the ground.

Cui Guoliang's eyes flashed as he immediately swept the halberd sideways, towards the airborne Shun Long.

Seeing that he couldn't avoid the halberd, Shun Long crossed both of his arms in an X-shape in front of his chest as he attempted to block Cui Guoliang's strike.

The moment that the ice-blue halberd connected with his arms, Shun Long felt an overpowering force that sent him flying backwards, as his back finally crashed on the wall behind him.

Shun Long felt pain coursing all over his body, while even the ribs on his left side were actually fractured.

Withstanding the pain, he slowly stood up as he once again faced the golden-haired young man opposite to him.

Cui Guoliang was stunned when he saw Shun Long standing up.

He was certain, that his last strike was powerful enough, to even kill some peak rank 3 Heaven grade cultivators.

And yet Shun Long could somehow still stand up after taking a hit by his halberd head-on.

Laughing, he then said

"Brat! Not bad! You can actually still stand after taking a direct hit from my water halberd. Let's see how many more hits you can take then.

Holding his halberd with his right hand, Cui Guoliang kicked the ground as he rushed at Shun Long.

Shun Long's golden eyes once again lit up, as he immediately understood what Cui Guoliang wanted to do.

Once again, swinging his halberd down the same way as before, Cui Guoliang seemed as if he was going to hit the ground next to Shun Long once again.

Shun Long quickly dodged to the side, making the golden-haired Dao King smirk, as he mumbled to himself

"Really a newbie"

Just as the halberd was about to hit the ground, Cui Guoliang changed its trajectory, as he sent a strike towards Shun Long's right ribs.

However, Shun Long smiled as he took advantage of the moment that the halberd changed its trajectory, to immediately move behind Cui Guoliang.

Clenching his right hand, Shun Long sent a powerful punch at Cui Guoliang's ribs.

Cui Guoliang's eyes widened as he saw this, but since he didn't have enough time to dodge, he could only cover his left ribs with the Dao of Metal as he took Shun Long's blow directly.

Crackk!!

The moment that Shun Long's fist connected with his ribs, cracking sounds resounded throughout the hall, as a contorted expression appeared on the golden-haired Dao King's face.

The force from Shun Long's punch had sent him flying sideways, as his body tumbled on the ground for a few dozen meters until it came to a stop.

Cui Guoliang grimaced in pain as he struggled to stand up, before he allowed his halberd to fall on the ground, as it then turned into a small puddle of water.

The look on Cui Guoliang's face had now turned completely serious, as he faced Shun Long with a grim look in his eyes.

Suddenly, his feet started moving erratically, as his body left behind many afterimages.

Shun Long swiftly tilted his head to the side, as Cui Guoliang's fist grazed his cheek.

Seeing that his sneak attack had failed, the golden-haired young man was about to retreat when Shun Long sent a sweeping kick at his feet.

A small shield of water blocked Shun Long's kick, when Cui Guoliang once again vanished.

Shun Long's golden eyes scanned the area around him, as countless water droplets appeared in front of him.

Slowly, they converged together, creating a gigantic water python, more than 10m(33ft) tall and 50m(160ft) long.

At the heart of the python, Cui Guoliang was staring at Shun Long with a solemn look on his face.

This was the strongest move he could use while his qi cultivation was restricted at the peak of rank 3 in the Heaven grade.

The python opened his gigantic jaws as he quickly moved to bite Shun Long's waist.

Shun Long however, didn't retreat, but instead, he dove head-on inside the python's mouth, completely avoiding the terrifying bite.

Shun Long had thought that once he had entered inside, he would be able to get to Cui Guoliang without any hindrance, however, once he was actually inside the python's mouth, he understood how wrong he was.

The water that the python was created from, was Cui Guoliang's Dao of Water.

The pressure inside the python was so intense, that Shun Long could feel the water around him trying to crush him to death.

Cui Guoliang's eyes were glued on Shun Long's body, as he used his qi to make the water pressure even stronger.

Shun Long could feel, the water around him churning, as his body had finally started to break down. Blood had started flowing from the previous wound in his hand, while his already fractured ribs on his left side actually broke, as one question flashed through his mind

"Am I going to die here?"

His rapidly beating heart then started to slow down, as more and more wounds appeared on his body.

Crack

Crack

His bones had started to crack under the immense water pressure, as death approached closer and closer, while the look in his eyes had started to turn somewhat lethargic, looking as if they were about to close at any moment.

The expression in Cui Guoliang's face however, was extremely serious, without any intention to hold back or stop.

Just as Shun Long felt his thoughts getting muddled, he abruptly widened his eyes as he shouted inwardly

"NO! I will not die here! I can still stop this.

stop...

...

Stop..

...

I SAID STOP!"

Chapter 149 - 149 Cui Guoliang's request

"I SAID STOP!"

Shun Long's golden eyes, were now emitting a bright blue light from their corners, while the angry water inside the 'Monarch's Domain', had suddenly turned into a docile child.

Cui Guoliang's eyes almost popped out of their sockets, since he couldn't believe what he had just felt.

A powerful Dao fluctuation was coming from Shun Long's body, as the water around him was being suppressed by an even stronger power than his own Dao of Water.

Cui Guoliang stared at the scene in front of him in disbelief, as he then mumbled

"Is this Dao suppression? But... I have never heard of the Dao of Light being able to suppress my Dao of Water like this... Could it actually be... that this kid has comprehended another Dao as well?"

Of course, this didn't mean that Shun Long's comprehension in the Dao of Time was at the same level as Cui Guoliang's Dao of Water, but rather... since Cui Guoliang had suppressed his cultivation, his insights to the Dao of Water are currently equivalent to his own, when he was still at the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade.

Cui Guoliang's breathing had started getting rugged, while at the same time, countless thoughts were running through Shun Long's mind, as he seemed to have entered a state of sudden enlightenment

"Time...

Is it really just an untouchable, ethereal feeling?

No, I can feel that it is more than that...

Time exists everywhere, so how can one not be affected by time?"

Shun Long felt as if he had suddenly come a step closer to the Dao of Time, as he then opened his eyes.

Gui Cuoliang's fervent eyes stared at Shun Long as if he was looking at a treasure, while his body quickly floated towards the mouth of the python.

Clenching his metal-colored fists he shouted

"COME KID! SHOW ME YOUR TRUE STRENGTH!"

Shun Long saw the golden-haired man in front of him gathering his strength in his 2 arms, as he sent a violent flurry of punches at him.

Shun Long's body didn't have the same agility inside the water as he had in the land, but as his gaze landed on Cui Guoliang, Shun Long felt a sudden headache, as more than half of his remaining qi was sapped in an instant.

At the same time, unknowingly to Cui Guoliang, his own movements had turned extremely slow.

Seeing that the white-robed man in front of him had suddenly slowed down, Shun Long gathered the power of his 'Monarch's Eternal body' in his right hand, and amplified by the speed of the second 'Monarch's Domain', he sent a full-powered blow at Cui Guoliang's left ribs.

BOOM

The sound of Shun Long's punch hitting Cui Guoliang's body exploded in the throne room, as the golden-haired Dao King was immediately sent flying through the air like a cannonball.

His body crashed on the ground but didn't stop at all, as he left a long chasm on the luxurious floor of the throne room for a few hundred meters.

As the dust started to settle down, Cui Guoliang's tattered robes and injured body came into view.

Staring at Shun Long, the last scene replayed through the golden-haired young man's eyes again, as he simply mumbled

"So fast..."

His lips then curved upwards into a smile, as he said

"Congratulations kid. You win."

As Cui Guoliang's words sounded in Shun Long's ears, the water python dispersed on the floor, while Shun Long secretly heaved a sigh of relief at the same time.

He only had less than 10 percent of his qi left after the fight, and aside from the space tears, he had used every other move he had. Surprisingly, his golden eyes had sapped more than half of his qi in an instant, at the final moment that Cui Guoliang was slowed down.

Cui Guoliang slowly stood up, and despite his tattered robes and injured body, his eyes were shining brightly as he started laughing like a madman

"HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

FINALLY! I CAN SEE HOPE!"

Walking up to Shun Long, the Dao King then patted his shoulders as he continued with a huge smile on his face

"Kid, you have no idea how long I have been waiting for this."

Then, with a wave of his hand, Cui Guoliang produced a small table along with 2 chairs and a big jar of wine, as he gestured for Shun Long to sit.

Shun Long didn't understand why Cui Guoliang was so excited, if this was really just a trial to 'help the disciples of the Desolate east' like the overseer had said, but in the end, he still sat down on the chair as he faced the white-robed man in front of him.

Cui Guoliang looked at Shun Long who was sitting opposite to him, and taking a deep breath he said

"First of all, let me introduce myself.

I am Cui Guoliang, an Elder of the Cui clan in the Night star continent.

Since you have passed the final trial of my palace, I will of course give you everything that I have promised, and even more."

As he finished speaking, Cui Guoliang waved his hand, as the floor around them was filled with countless different scrolls.

Some of the scrolls were golden while others seemed old and on the verge of destruction, but in the end, Shun Long counted more than 200 scrolls around him.

Gui Cuoliang looked at the young man in front of him who was staring at the scrolls on the floor and continued

"These, are almost all of the cultivation techniques, martial skills, and secret techniques, that I have accumulated in the past 10.000 years.

As promised, these can all become yours, but.... I also need you to help me with something."

When Shun Long heard Cui Guoliang's last sentence, he immediately understood that his previous conjecture was correct, as he thought

"Certainly, there is no such thing as a free meal. Everything requires a corresponding price to pay."

However, knowing that he needed martial skills above everything else right now, Shun Long turned to look at the man in front of him as he said

"Senior, please speak."

Cui Guoliang shook his head, as he opened the big jar of wine in front of him, and taking out 2 big jade-green bowls from his spatial ring, he personally filled them up.

When the wine touched the green bowls, its aromatic fragrance slowly diffused in the air around them.

Cui Guoliang was the first who took a sip from his wine, as Shun Long followed right after him.

As the crimson-red wine's taste spread in his mouth, Shun Long understood that this wasn't an ordinary wine.

If he were to compare this wine with the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion's', that would be like comparing sea water with a 200 year old nectar.

Although the taste wasn't as good as his own wine, the medicinal essence in this wine was actually superior to his own.

After he emptied his own bowl, Cui Guoliang looked at Shun Long as he then continued with a solemn tone

"I need you to go to the 'Dragon Lord villa' of the Night star continent."

Chapter 150 - 150 The scheme behind the Vermilion realm

"I need you to go to the 'Dragon Lord villa' of the Night star continent! I will give you the Dragon Lord's medallion, as well as anything else you need. So.... what do you think kid?"

Shun Long had a look of confusion on his face, as he looked at the expectant Cui Guoliang who was staring at him and asked

"Senior, can you tell me more about this 'Dragon Lord's villa'?"

Cui Guoliang was stunned for a second, before he nodded his head and said

"Right! I almost forgot that you must be a native of the Desolate east! Let me explain everything first before you give me your answer.

It was approximately 15.000 years ago, when I sent my soul incantation from the Night star continent, all the way to the Desolate east, and created this secret realm, in hopes of finding a genius that had the potential to enter the Dao King realm."

Cui Guoliang had a solemn look on his face, as he stared at Shun Long and continued

"Entering the Dao King realm however, is more difficult than you can imagine.

30.000 years ago, I almost died during my breakthrough. I can still feel the shivers as I remember the pain I went through, only to barely survive in the end.

So I decided, to set 3 main trials to test the young people of the Desolate east. After all, if someone can't even defeat my soul incantation, then, how can I believe that they will have any chance to become a Dao King in the future?

However, even managing to defeat my soul incantation, doesn't necessarily mean that you will become a Dao King... it just shows that you have more potential than the rest.

After all, there are countless geniuses in the Night star continent who could pass this final trial that I have set, while in the Desolate east, you are actually the only one after so many years."

Cui Guoliang sighed with disappointment, but at the same time with a hint of relief

"In that case senior, wouldn't it make more sense for you, to create this secret realm in the Night star continent instead of the Desolate east?"

Cui Guoliang nodded his head at Shun Long's words as he said

"Of course, do you think I would come to this backward place if I had a choice? The Night star continent is more than 40 times larger than your Desolate east after all, while the geniuses there, are even more than the stars in the sky.

Finding people who have the same level of talent as you, and probably even higher wouldn't have been impossible within a thousand years. And yet, more than 15.000 years have passed here, but alas..."

After taking a deep breath, the look in Cui Guoliang's eyes suddenly turned serious as he then said

"There is a reason for everything, and it all started the day that I sent my soul incantation here. Since I need your help, there is no point in hiding things from you.

15.000 years ago, the day that I sent my soul incantation in the Desolate east, both my original body along with my wife, entered inside the 'Dragon Lord's villa'. Although it is called a villa, it is actually an extremely dangerous place, filled with both danger and fortune.

However, even Dao King realm experts can't resist the allure of the treasures inside. Since I knew that we would be heading into danger, I decided to create this secret realm beforehand.

The reason of course, wasn't to help the poor people of Desolate east, but to help myself and my wife, in case we ended up trapped and unable to escape on our own. And in the end, that seemed to be case."

As Shun Long heard Cui Guoliang's explanation, the pieces of the puzzle had started to naturally fall into place.

"So, Cui Guoliang created this secret realm, to find someone who could help him and his wife, who are trapped inside the 'Dragon Lord's villa'. Since he didn't ask someone else, like the overseers who are at the middle stages of the Nascent soul, means that he needs someone with strength close to the Dao King realm, if not an actual Dao King. However, this still doesn't answer why he has created this 'Vermilion realm' in the Desolate east instead of the Night star continent."

Cui Guoliang seemed to have understood what Shun Long was thinking, and continued with the final part of his explanation

"As for why I didn't create this secret realm in the Night star continent but chose the Desolate east instead, it's because of one simple reason... your Desolate east simply has no Dao Kings."

In the Night star continent, there is more than 90 percent chance, that any genius strong enough to pass the last trial, would be connected to a Dao King in one way or another. Can you guess what would happen to me in that case?"

Shun Long immediately understood what Cui Guoliang was hinting at.

Indeed, if a Dao King with malicious intentions were to find out, that Cui Guoliang was trapped and probably without any means to resist, in the cultivation world that would mean almost certain death.

Cui Guoliang nodded his head, seeing that Shun Long had understood, and taking out a small bronze medallion from his spatial ring he continued

"However, although I originally intended to keep everything regarding my secret realm hidden from the Night star continent, I had forgotten that certain powers had already created branches of their own sects in the Desolate east.

Thus, to cover the real reason behind my realm's existence, I intentionally spread the rumor in these top sects, that I am looking to take on as a personal disciple, anyone who manages to pass the final trial, while this small medallion, will also be given as a reward.

After all, even Dao Kings cannot enter the 'Dragon Lord's villa' without a 'Dragon Lord's medallion'.

Of course, there are many more medallions aside from the one that I have, but each one of them is closely guarded by other Dao Kings, or at the very least by peak Nascent Soul cultivators."

This was the first time that Cui Guoliang had spoken so much to anyone, in the last 15.000 years. Looking expectantly at the young man in front of him, he took a deep breath before he finally decided to ask the question, that he had been keeping at the tip of his tongue all this time

"So, kid, will you help me?"