

## Time 51

### Chapter 51 - 51 Space Tear

Refining the 'internal destruction pill' was harder than what Shun Long had originally estimated.

The whole refinement process took more than an hour to complete and in the end, Shun Long was lying on the floor, drenched in sweat while inside his cauldron was one crimson-red medicinal pill.

Shun Long didn't even meditate, he just gasped for breath for a while due to his overdrawn qi and spiritual strength.

The 'internal destruction pill' had to be consumed within an hour after it was concocted, so Shun Long didn't have much time to rest.

After sitting up and observing the pill in his hands, he noticed that there were faint white lines on its surface

"Thankfully I managed to refine a high-grade pill."

Even pills had their own ranks, from low-grade, to middle-grade and high-grade.

All the special 'Qi barrier-breaking' pills that Shun Long had refined and sold to the 'Treasure Pavilion' were between low and middle-grade. The reason for that was because Shun Long had only just started as an alchemist so his aim was to complete the refinement process.

However, this time was different.

The 'internal destruction pill' could only be consumed once, and the higher the grade of the pill, the better the results would be.

Without hesitation, Shun Long swallowed the pill as he started circulating the method of the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

As the pill dissolved inside Shun Long's mouth, the energy inside it followed the circulation method of the 'Monarch's Eternal body' as it flowed from Shun Long's meridians to every nook and cranny inside his body.

"AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH" Shun Long roared like a beast in pain.

Even if he wanted to stop the circulation of the body refinement at this point, he wouldn't be able to as the energy had already started to wash every part of his body bringing along unbearable pain with it.

Shun Long had grown much more resistant to pain after his soul had been forcefully enlarged by the 'golden book' in the past, however the pain he felt now wasn't much lower than that.

The 'internal destruction pill' had started with his blood as it slowly burned it, while with the help of the 'Monarch's Eternal body' that was circulating inside him, the healing properties of the pill were slowly replenishing the blood that he was burning, refining it again and again, making it even purer and stronger.

After his blood, all of his internal organs as well as his meridians followed, as they were all destroyed and then re-created, from his liver to his heart and, even his brain and eyes, they were all turned into a pool of blood before being reformed.

The only reason that Shun Long was still alive, was thanks to the 'Monarch's Eternal body' that was circulating inside his body reforming his destroyed organs.

After that, his bones followed, with his skin coming in last.

Everything inside and outside Shun Long's body had turned into blood, before being slowly reformed by the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

The pain and suffering that he was feeling throughout this process was enough to leave even the most resilient men wanting to die.

This whole process took nearly a month.

A month of constant destruction and creation.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Shun Long was a different man now, after consuming the 'internal destruction pill'.

After this one month, his body had been completely reformed.

His external appearance could have been considered handsome before refining his body but now, aside from becoming even more handsome, his body also naturally emitted a domineering aura.

He could feel that he was bursting with energy inside, as every part of him was more than 100 times stronger than before.

But the most miraculous thing was that he could now sense the space around his body if he willed it.

He raised his right hand in the air as he tried to touch the space around him. He could sense a matter that was like water and yet not water, something nonexistent and yet tangible at the same time. It was almost as if the space around him was hugging his body, while it didn't hinder his movements at all.

Shun Long tried cutting through space with his hand, and a small space tear appeared in front of him.

After deliberating for a while, his eyes focused as he slowly put his hand inside it.

His hand had disappeared in the space tear, as it appeared through another tear in space 2 meters away from his original position. Shun Long tried to move the fingers in his hand, and although the hand was 2 meters away from him, it still moved exactly as Shun Long willed it to.

As he retracted his hand from the space tear, the tear then closed.

"Does this mean that I can now move through space?"

Shun Long wanted to test some more of his theories when suddenly his 'sect identifying jade' started glowing.

The voice of an old man appeared from the jade as it said

"All new disciples that have entered the sect in the past year, are to gather in front of the city gates within one hour"

Shun Long's eyes brightened as he thought

"Could it be for the 'outer sect examination'?"

Calculating the time that Shun Long had spent in seclusion refining his body, it should be the time for the 'outer sect examination' to begin.

After gathering all his important belongings and putting them inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long walked towards the city gates.

## Chapter 52 - 52 Heading out

Although the city gates weren't that far from the inn he was staying, it still took Shun Long 20 minutes to arrive there.

On the way, he saw many disciples heading towards the same direction, all of them seeming perplexed on why the sect had summoned them.

By the time he arrived, there was already a huge crowd waiting in front of the gates.

After 40 minutes the crowd gathered had definitely numbered more than 50.000 disciples when 3 sect Elders in black robes appeared in front of everyone.

The Elder in the lead was white-haired, with a white beard and as the buzzing crowd quietened as they saw him, he started speaking

"My name is Lan Hong, and I am the Grand Elder of our 'floating cloud sect'. I am sure that many of you are curious as to why the sect suddenly summoned you all. I will explain everything only once, so pay close attention.

Every 3 years, our floating cloud sect tempers our newly accepted disciples in the Demonic Mountain Region to the west of our 'floating cloud city'. In the Demonic Mountain Region, you disciples will have to compete not just between yourselves, but you will also have to fight against the magical beasts that live there if you want to stay alive.

In your sect identifying jades, each of you will be given a special point, which is completely different from your sect points. You can directly rob this special point from others if you acquire their 'sect identifying jade'. Your aim in the Demonic Mountain Region will be to survive while gathering the special survival points that the other disciples here have.

The Demonic Mountain Region is a place where you can become stronger and find fortuitous opportunities, but you can also die there.

You can call the sect unfair or cruel if you want but nothing will change. You are all cultivators, and your aim should be to become stronger instead of staying locked up inside the sect. The sect too has no need for a bunch of weaklings in the qi condensation realm who are content with their lives inside the city." As the Grand Elder finished this sentence his voice had turned stern as he then continued

"However, this year's 'outer sect examination' will be different compared to the previous years. This time you will also have to compete against disciples from other sects inside the Demonic Mountain Region. Namely, it will be 3 sects at the same size as our 'floating cloud sect', the 'Flying Sword sect', the 'Roaring Wind Pavilion' as well as the 'Iron-hardened school'. Their disciples will also try to take your special survival points and you should also do the same.

Remember that you may die at any moment inside the Demonic Mountain Region be it from another cultivator or from a magic beast, so if you want to stay alive you have to be ruthless. Death lurks everywhere in the Demonic Mountain Region and you only have 2 options. Become ruthless or... die. Elder Zhu will give each of you your survival points."

As the Grand Elder, Lan Hong finished speaking, he pointed towards the bald Elder Zhu on the side.

After every disciple had a special survival point added to their 'sect identifying jade', Lan Hong took the lead as he headed outside of the city towards the west before shouting in a loud voice

"All disciples are to follow after me."

Most of the disciples were feeling downcasted as they followed behind Lan Hong.

"Why do we have to risk our lives all of a sudden for no reason?"

"I agree. Nobody informed us about this beforehand or I may not have joined the 'floating cloud sect'."

"The sect is so cruel. They didn't even ask for our permission before ordering us to participate."

Shun Long heard all the hushed whispers of the terrified disciples around him and he just chuckled. After his conversation with the voice in the darkness inside the 'Stone of Time', his mental state had already changed drastically from before. He was now going to grasp every single opportunity he could to become stronger. These 3 months inside the sect where he did nothing other than cultivating had already felt so stifling to him, so this chance to leave the sect was a good opportunity, albeit a dangerous one.

"This will be a great opportunity to test my 'Monarch's Eternal body' he thought as he kept following the group headed towards the Demonic Mountain Region.

Lan Hong knew what the disciples were feeling, yet he didn't pay much attention to them as he said

"Elder Lu will explain the rewards that the sect will give you, depending on your results."

This was the same Elder Lu that had brought Shun Long from the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' to the 'floating cloud sect', Elder Lu Cheng.

Following behind the Grand Elder, Lu Cheng didn't even turn around as he started speaking with his back facing the disciples.

"You will all be able to obtain different rewards from the sect depending on your results. Those of you that manage to keep just one survival point by the end of the exam, will be able to obtain 10 sect points, while those of you that collect 10 survival points will get 100 sect points.

The person ranked in the 100th position will get 1000 sect points, while for every position above that you will get an extra 100 sect points. Aside from that, there will be special rewards for the top10 and the top3 respectively.

The top 10 will all obtain weapons crafted by silver grade formation masters, while the top 3 will each obtain a spatial ring."

As Elder Lu finished speaking, all the disciples were shocked. The rewards this year were definitely much better than the previous years.

"Elder, what about the first place then?"

Chapter 53 - 53 The flying sword sect

"Elder, what about the first place then?"

In the 'floating cloud sect' where even the lodging wasn't free for those disciples, and they had to work hard in the sect mines every month just for 50 sect points, an opportunity to earn 1000 sect points at once was worth risking their lives over.

However, the prospect of a spatial ring was even more enticing than that.

Of course, these people knew how small their chances were to get into the top 3 of the sect examination.

In reality, only those disciples that were at the peak of rank 3 in earth grade had a chance to enter the top 3.

The disciple who had spoken just now was short with red hair. His name was Guan Hong and he was a peak rank 3 earth grade disciple.

"Ohh?!"

Lu Cheng stopped walking as he exclaimed in a surprised manner. He turned around to look at Guan Hong and after noticing that he was at the peak of rank 3 in earth grade, he nodded his head as he said

"The first place will additionally get 100 spirit stones from the sect but that's not all.

The person who gathers the most survival points out of every other disciple between the 4 sects, will also get a 'Blood Vermilion Fruit'."

Although most disciples were perplexed, Shun Long's eyes shone brightly when he heard of the 'Blood Vermilion Fruit'.

"If I can get my hands on it, my strength will definitely advance by leaps and bounds" he thought.

Lu Cheng saw that most disciples hadn't even heard of the 'Blood Vermilion Fruit' and he snorted as he explained

"The 'Blood Vermilion Fruit' can be directly consumed and allow a disciple at the peak of rank 3 in the earth grade to directly advance to the early rank 4.

To Shun Long though the 'Blood Vermilion Fruit' was even more attractive than that as he could refine it into a pill. After consuming it his strength would directly soar.

Everyone in the group was excited as they walked toward the Demonic Mountain Region. The weaker disciples all hoped to enter the top100 while the stronger disciples like Guan Hong who were at the peak of rank 3 in earth grade were all dreaming of taking first place.

Their group traveled for 7 days until they arrived at the Demonic Mountain Region.

Shun Long was shocked when he saw how vast the region was.

There were mountains and trees as far as the eye could see.

The 'floating cloud sect' was the second group to arrive. In front of them was another huge group that wasn't any smaller than their own.

Their disciples were all dressed in white robes and they were all carrying swords on their backs.

A pair of Elders approached the 'floating cloud sect's' group and the oldest one of them spoke

"Haha Lan Hong, I didn't expect that you would be the one to lead your fledglings all the way from the 'floating cloud city'." This person was the Grand Elder of the 'Flying sword sect', Hui Zhong.

"Hui Zhong, it seems that your 'Flying sword sect' also takes this sect examination quite seriously, otherwise, with how old you are you wouldn't have stepped a foot outside your sect."

"Are you any younger than me Lan Hong? Hahaha it's okay, I won't hold any grudges against you this time. Let me introduce someone to you. This is my grandson Hui Ming."

As soon as Hui Zhong finished speaking, a young man with sharp-defined features and a hooked nose appeared from the 'flying sword sect's' group. The man had a golden sword strapped on his back and anyone who looked at his pair of eyes would suddenly sense a feeling of danger coming from this person.

Lan Hong's eyes shone brightly as he saw the young man who now stood next to Hui Zhong and he exclaimed in a loud voice full of bewilderment

"How is it possible?"

Hui Zhong smiled brightly as he said

"Did you notice already? It's precisely what you think! Ming'er's talent for the sword is even higher than my own. He has already touched upon sword qi while he is only at the peak of rank 2 in the earth grade. I am not afraid to say that even though his cultivation is low, he has the highest chance among everyone here to obtain the first place in this survival examination."

Lan Hong couldn't refute Hui Zhong's words as his 'floating cloud sect' didn't have anyone at the same level as Hui Ming.

Usually, sword cultivators would only be able to touch upon sword qi when they reach the late stages of the earth grade.

"Old man Hui Zhong I'm afraid that your grandson won't have that chance."

As a manly voice was heard from the distance, two big groups could be seen coming towards them.

Chapter 54 - 54 The black egg

Two big groups had appeared in the distance and each of them wasn't any smaller than the 'floating cloud sect's'. The people leading them were a beautiful woman with long black hair and a 2m(6.6ft) tall, robust middle-aged man with a bald shaved head.

Obviously the person who spoke just now was that middle-aged man.

"Sect master Da Chao. Do you think there is anyone in your 'Iron-hardened sect' that can defeat my grandson in the same level of cultivation? Why don't you bring that person out and have them compete with Hui Ming then?"

"Hehehehe, that's fine by me! Da Chong, just go and beat that kid up until his grandfather can't recognize him anymore."

As sect master Da Chao finished speaking, a tall and robust young man that largely resembled Da Chao walked from behind him. This young man was wearing brown robes and was almost as tall as Da Chao himself while his hands and feet were even bigger than his.

Just as the situation was taking a turn for the worse, the beautiful woman who had kept quiet so far said in a sweet voice

"I'm sure that everyone here is eagerly waiting for this year's examination to start. After all, what the sect examination tests isn't just brute physical strength, but a disciple's ability to plan ahead as well as their survival instincts. Since everyone has gathered then how about starting the sect examination now?"

The beautiful woman turned her look towards Grand Elder Lan Hong who in turn nodded and said "Since vice-pavilion master Li Huian and sect master Da Chao have also arrived, we should all start with the sect examination. If you insist on fighting now then your 'Flying sword sect' and your 'Iron-hardened sect' can just stay behind and wait for the results."

Both Da Chao and Hui Zhong snorted, but they knew that the important thing in hand, was to test their disciples this time, so everyone gathered their groups in front of the Demonic Mountain Region's entrance.

Lan Hong went in front of the 'floating cloud sect's' group and said

"You will all spend the next month inside the Demonic Mountain Region. When the time is up, your 'sect identifying jades' will light up as they will point your way towards my location. Until then do your best to gather as many survival points as possible and... try to stay alive too. That is all."

As Lan Hong finished speaking, so did the other 3 leaders of their respective groups, as the groups started heading inside the Demonic Mountain Region.

Shun Long was feeling excited but also nervous at the same time. After all, it was the first time that he would be participating in something like this. This was going to be a true survival test.

Shun Long started heading inside the Demonic Mountain Region along with the other disciples, but as if in tacit agreement, no one fought as they were entering inside.

"Everyone is probably waiting for someone else to start a fight, since the first person who starts fighting here would be preyed upon by the others in the end."

As he was heading deeper inside the Demonic Mountain Region, Shun Long saw that the number of disciples around him had started to lessen. Just as he was about to find a good spot on the trees around him, he felt a spiritual fluctuation from the black egg in his spiritual space.

Suddenly, all the qi around the area he was in, had started rushing towards his body... more precisely, towards the 'Stone of Time' where the black egg was in.

This wasn't just the qi that was in direct proximity around Shun Long, but the qi inside the earth as well as in the air around him, all of it was now towards him.

Shun Long started running deeper inside the Demonic Mountain Region, as the black egg absorbed more and more qi.

His speed had already reached such a terrifying level after entering the first level of the 'Monarch's Eternal body' that he was far faster than any peak rank 3 earth grade cultivator.

Suddenly as Shun Long was running deeper inside, a 3m(9ft) long snake jumped at him from the top of a tree. The beast could feel the rich qi around Shun Long and it madly wanted to absorb it all for itself.

Shun Long immediately recognized this magic beast.

"A rank2 'dark-venom snake'." Shun Long tried to dodge to the side, but the snake coiled itself around his waist with lightning speed. Just as the 'dark-venom snake' tried to plunge its fangs on Shun Long's chest, he instantly activated the 'Monarch's Hourglass' and gathered all of his strength and qi in his right hand as he chopped towards its weakest spot, the snake's neck.

Shun Long could feel his hands being bathed in a hot liquid, as the snake's head was severed and green blood dyed his arms and robes.

Although the 'dark-venom snake' was a rank 2 magical beast, it was only comparable to an early stage earth grade cultivator.

This was the first time that Shun Long had killed something, and yet, he couldn't stop running as beast roars could be heard from every direction.

He could already feel more and more magical beasts chasing him down from all sides. The disciples that were previously around him, had all run as far away as they could when they saw the horde of magical beasts that was now chasing Shun Long.

The most terrifying thing was, that there were even some peak rank 2 magical beasts. A peak rank 2 magical beast was at the very least as strong as a peak rank 9 earth grade cultivator, yet these beasts were now chasing Shun Long in a mad frenzy almost as if he was some kind of extraordinary delicacy.

Thankfully Shun Long's body had been enhanced after having consumed the 'internal destruction pill' and entered the first level of the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

Nevertheless, the beasts launched plenty of attacks, and Shun Long was eventually forced to use the 'Monarch's Domain'.

Although his cultivation had already advanced to the early rank 8, in the end he was just a qi condensation novice and he couldn't keep the Monarch's Domain active for more than 100 breaths of time.

As if sensing the 'Monarch's Domain', the black egg started vibrating even more intensely while its size was rapidly enlarging. After 49 breaths of time had passed since Shun Long had activated the Monarch's Domain, the egg that had reached 3m(10ft) in height by now, finally cracked from the top as a black being slowly emerged from it.

Chapter 55 - 55 The Black Dragon's past

As the black egg cracked, a 3m(10ft) tall creature could be seen emerging from it.

As the creature's eyes opened, an aura of absolute tyranny burst from it suppressing everything around Shun Long.



Every magic beast in a radius of 3 miles around him was now on its knees prostrating towards the source of this aura. Shun Long could finally catch his breath, as he hurriedly sent his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time'.

"WHAT?" His mind and thoughts couldn't believe that what he was seeing was real.

A black dragon.

Dragons really existed and one of them was inside the 'Stone of Time'.

The dragon was black from its head to its talons. The only exception was a pair of bright blue eyes that were as deep as the ocean and were glowing with a shining azure light. The dragon was rapidly inhaling from its nostrils, absorbing every single bit of qi that was remaining around it.

It suddenly spread its massive wings open and roared from inside the 'Stone of Time'. This roar carried itself towards Shun Long's spiritual space and then continued outside of his body.

As the beasts prostrating around Shun Long heard this roar, they all fainted on the spot. It didn't matter if they were rank 1 magic beasts or even peak rank 2, they had all fainted without exception.

The dragon then looked at the imaginary Shun Long that had appeared inside the 'Stone of Time's' space.

His bright blue eyes that exuded absolute tyranny a moment ago, had suddenly turned gentle as the dragon looked at Shun Long and lowered his head in front of him before calling out

"Master"

The black dragon didn't open his mouth to speak. Instead, his voice had directly sounded inside Shun Long's head.

Shun Long looked at the dragon perplexed and unknowingly, he had put his right hand on the huge head that was lowered in front of him.

He then opened his mouth to ask

"Are you the voice that was speaking to me from the darkness?"

"Mm" The dragon nodded his head.

"Then, am I your master because the 'Stone of Time' has merged with me?"

What is this stone? Since you called it the stone of time then you must definitely know about it."

The dragon shook his head at Shun Long's question as his answer shook Shun Long to his core.

"Master, you are not my master because you possess the 'Stone of Time'! You have been my master long before you obtained the 'Stone of Time'."

Shun Long didn't seem to understand what this black dragon tried to say. Wasn't he inside the 'Stone of Time'? How could the previous Shun Long, or the Rock from earth to have ever met with any dragons in the past?

The black dragon seemed to be able to see through Shun Long's puzzlement as he answered with a question of his own

"Master, why do you think that the 'Stone of Time' 'chose' you?"

"Right! Why did the 'Stone of Time' choose me?"

Shun Long seemed to be stumped as he couldn't find an answer to this question. Then he turned his bright eyes towards the Black Dragon as he asked

"Does that mean that you know the answer?"

"Of course. Master there is always a reason for everything that happens. Let me start from the beginning."

The dragon then sat down on the space inside the 'Stone of Time' and coiled his long head around Shun Long before starting to explain through another telepathic message.

"A long time ago, I was born in a place called the Sky-Mending world. The birth of any dragon no matter how weak or strong is enough to startle countless superpowers in the universe. Usually, when someone from our dragon race is born, there will always be some seniors from our race to protect us. However, my circumstances were different, and in the end, I had to flee the Sky-Mending world while still a newborn, as I ended up being chased by a huge group of people."

The dragon spoke with a hint of melancholy as well as grief in his voice as he continued

"Although many people want to enslave a dragon, there are even more who want to kill one. A dragon's body is a priceless treasure. The horns, the scales, the claws, everything, even the tongue of a dragon would be a priceless treasure that many superpowers would kill to obtain."

Then the dragon's eyes shone as he said in a proud voice with a big smile hanging on his face

"That was when I and master met each other for the first time."

Shun Long was speechless.

"Why is he so sure that I've met him before?"

And yet, he didn't interrupt the dragon who was explaining more about his past, as this story would probably include parts about the 'Stone of Time' as well as help Shun Long understand more about this dragon.

"Although we dragons are born with exceptionally strong bodies and are very intelligent from the start, I couldn't escape the pursuit of all those people. That was when I happened to run into master just outside the Heaven Trampling city. Back then, master saw my scarred body while I was still a newborn and took pity in me as he came to my aid.

Since master was already the lord of the Heaven Trampling city and the Heaven Trampling Legion followed master, aside from a few superpowers, not many would dare to antagonize you.

However, there were still 2 exceptionally strong people who were willing to offend master in order to get their hands on me in the end."

"They brought their armies in front of Heaven Trampling city and demanded master to hand me over."

That was when the Black Dragon smirked as he continued

"But how could it be possible that they didn't know about master's temper? Master was already a renowned powerhouse back then and would never succ.u.mb to threats or forceful behavior. Their

armies clashed in a cataclysmic battle with the Heaven Trampling Legion and in the end master personally killed both of their leaders."

## Chapter 56 - 56 Shun Long and the Black Dragon

Shun Long didn't ask anything as the black dragon continued explaining

"Although dragons will don't submit to humans, as a newborn with no one else to rely on, master became my only family. That was when I first decided to follow master.

Master helped me grow and after almost 1000 years of cultivation and the continuous consumption of mountains of pills and natural treasures, I had finally reached a level where I was just slightly weaker than master.

That was when master decided for us to go to the Dragon Realm and find out more about my origins. After all, it didn't make sense for a dragon to be born alone, outside of the Dragon Realm, and with no seniors to protect him."

Then the black dragon's eyes turned chilly as an aura of murder radiated from his body that made even the surrounding space to tremble

"However that was when we met HIM."

The black dragon then stopped speaking as his body was now trembling from rage, his eyes having turned hazy with a hint of blood. u.s.t as he remembered those scenes.

"Who are you talking about?" Seeing that the black dragon wasn't speaking anymore, Shun Long couldn't hold in his curiosity and decided to ask

As the black dragon heard Shun Long's voice, his hazy and bloodshot eyes became clear again as he answered

"The person who called himself my father. One of the nine emperors of the Dragon Realm, Long Tianyu.

As soon as we met him, he tried to kill me without any hesitation or reason, and he and master then ended up fighting for 7 full days and nights.

Since no winner could be determined in the end, Long Tianyu and master stopped fighting. However, before he left Long Tianyu looked at master and spat out .

Master then replied without any hesitation .

After that you brought me away as we left the Dragon Realm.

Since then, I followed behind master as we traveled the world and explored many different ruins until one day we entered a place called 'The ruins of the universe'. In there, we nearly died before master found the 'Stone of Time'."

"Are you sure that the person back then had something to do with me? Also what exactly is the 'Stone of Time' ?"

The Black Dragon resolutely nodded his head at Shun Long's question before saying

"Master you will understand everything as soon as I finish explaining things."

Shun Long nodded and let the Dragon continue speaking

"The 'Stone of Time' is one of the supreme treasures of the universe. Nobody knows exactly what it is, but it is said that inside it lies the secret to become a God..."

Shun Long couldn't resist asking

"Do gods really exist then?"

The Black Dragon shook his head as he said

"I don't know master, however it was said that inside the 'Stone of Time' lies the secret for a person to ascend to Godhood. There are other rumors as well, claiming that the 'Stone of Time' is the key to enter another world.

Nobody knows if they are true or not, but one thing is for sure: the 'Stone of Time' is truly a mysterious and supreme treasure.

There are always numerous people exploring the 'Ruins of the Universe' at all times, and people happened to see that master obtained a peerless treasure before we could leave the ruins.

In their greed, many powerhouses banded together to attack master and in the end our only choice was to flee.

As the 'Stone of Time' merged with master and became a part of your soul, the situation back then had reached a point where almost one tenth of all the powerhouses in the universe were chasing us.

However, as master's soul was fusing with the 'Stone of Time', your strength was also rapidly increasing. And yet, in the end, an old monster that was in seclusion, heard about master finding a priceless treasure and joined in on the chase. Although master could probably fight him off one on one, we couldn't win against so many enemies.

As we were cornered then, master took a huge gamble.

Activating the 'Stone of Time', master placed me inside this space, before you also sealed part of your memories inside the stone. These memories then became a golden book. A third of master's soul had also been sealed inside that.

After master sealed me and the golden book inside the 'Stone of Time', master also split the remaining two-thirds of your soul in 2 parts. After that, master, detonated his body as well as his remaining cultivation, while sending the 3 parts of your soul in different directions. "

The black Dragon's eyes were now glistening with tears as he remembered that scene.

There was a huge explosion as the enemies around them had turned to dust.

Shun Long's eyes widened as he connected the rest of the dots.

If what the black Dragon had said was all true, then nothing in his life what happened randomly.

He died on earth, almost at the same time as the other part of his soul died in the 'Mortal world'. The 2 parts of his soul merged, and the third and last one, that was inside the 'Stone of Time' also found him and merged with him.

Shun Long couldn't believe what the Black Dragon was saying, and yet deep inside he knew that it was most likely the truth. After all, why else would the 'Stone of Time' merge with him out of nowhere? But the most important reason that made Shun Long completely trust the black dragon... was that he could sense that the dragon was connected to him.

Shun Long took a deep breath as he asked

"Assuming that everything you said so far is the truth, why did you ask me if I wanted power the first time you met me? Why did you ask me what my goal was? And... why can I sense your emotions?"

Chapter 57 - 57 Unbelievable strength

The black dragon answered proudly

"Master have you felt your personality slightly changing lately? That's because all 3 parts of your soul have once again become one.

Although back then, you split your soul into 3 parts and reincarnated, your desires were all hidden deep inside you even after your soul fused back together. In other words, you hadn't yet woken up. That was the only way I could stimulate your soul's desires and help you wake up.

As for the reason why master can sense my emotions, as I am soul-bound to master, we can both exchange messages with our minds. However, master isn't strong enough yet and you have to wait until you reach at least the Spirit realm before using your soul to directly transmit telepathic messages."

"Spirit realm? Is that the realm above the Heaven grade?"

"Mm" the black dragon nodded

"Also what do you mean by soul-bound?"

"It means that my soul is bound to yours, master. In order for my body to enter the 'Stone of Time', my soul had to be connected to master's, or the 'Stone of Time' would have rejected me otherwise and I would have died back then.

Master, you are my only family and I will make sure to protect you. It's just..."

The dragon seemed trouble by something and Shun Long could obviously feel it.

"Just?"

"It's just that I had to restart my cultivation from the start so I am extremely weak right now."

Shun Long was a bit disappointed when he heard that the black dragon was weak. Since he just started cultivating he couldn't be any stronger than himself right? Probably around the middle or the late stages of qi condensation?!

However, he wasn't dejected at all.

Instead, Shun Long had a mysterious feeling of intimacy towards this dragon and he could also sense the familial affection that the dragon felt for him.

Shun Long then smiled as he petted the dragon's head and asked

"Right, what should I call you?"

"Master you have always called me little Black" the dragon answered enthusiastically.

"Fine then, I'll continue calling you that."

Shun Long nodded before falling deep in thoughts

"Little Black should be telling the truth, both based on the feeling I got from his soul when he was speaking earlier, as well as the fact that everything makes sense now that I know the story behind my past.

Although I'm not really interested in becoming a god right now, I will still need to visit those 'Ruins of the Universe' in the future if I want to find out more about the origins of the 'Stone of Time'. Since it has merged with my soul and it doesn't seem to have its own consciousness, I doubt it's anything harmful, but I still have to investigate.

I also need to become stronger to keep both myself and my parents safe.

If it's possible, I should also try to help little Black to find out more about himself in the future. It isn't logical for his father to try to kill him as soon as he stepped foot in that place called the Dragon Realm.

Right now however, I'm too weak that I can't even leave the 'floating cloud sect'.

For now, I should focus on the 'outer sect examination'."

As Shun Long sorted his thoughts he said

"Little Black, for now it's better for you to recuperate and become stronger. The outside is dangerous and even I don't have absolute certainty of staying safe."

The black Dragon, little Black looked at Shun Long in a weird manner as he said

"Master... the outside is perfectly safe. As far as I can sense at least, there is nothing within 30 miles from your current location that can even match up to me, let alone posing a threat."

Shun Long hesitated a bit before asking

"Little Black.. what is your current strength right now?"

Little Black thought seriously for a while before answering

"Right now I'm extremely weak, much weaker than when I was born the first time, as the qi I could absorb back then couldn't be compared to the thin qi in this place. If I have to put it in magical beast standards, then I'm just a rank 3 magical beast."

Shun Long sucked in a deep breath as he heard this, but the shock wasn't over yet

"Despite my low cultivation though, I should be able to easily fight against a Spirit realm cultivator who is in the middle stages."

Shun Long was left speechless now. Not only could little Black send his spiritual strength and scan 30miles around his body, but he was also a powerhouse who could fight against middle stage Spirit realm cultivators. Shun Long suppressed his shock as he then asked

"Can you sense any secluded place anywhere near my current location?"

Little Black nodded his head as he answered

"About 7 miles towards the east, there is a small lake with a rank 3 'double-headed fish' hiding inside. There is no magic beast or human anywhere near the lake."

Shun Long then followed little Black's directions and quickly reached the small lake.

"Little Black, take care of the 'double-headed fish' then. Also, use your spiritual strength to keep watch around the lake. If anyone comes close, whether a human or magic beast, let me know."

"Understood master." Little Black responded as he flew out from Shun Long's body and directly headed towards the lake.

Little Black stretched his pitch-black wings as the majestic form of a dragon could be seen diving inside the lake, sending a huge current of water up in the sky. The dragon looked just as agile in the water as he looked in the air.

The 'double-headed fish' watched in horror as little Black approached it, and yet in front of a dragon, it couldn't move at all.

The battle had no suspense as little Black used his sharp talons to instantly tear the fish in half. A shiny blue core fell out from the beast's body as little Black grabbed it with its talons and delivered it to Shun Long.

Shun Long looked at the rank 3 beast's core in his hand excitedly, as he put it inside his spiritual space.

Then he took a deep breath as he thought

"I didn't have the time earlier, but now it's finally time to test the first stage of the Monarch's Eternal body"

Chapter 58 - 58 Monarch Eternal body's fearsome strength

With little Black keeping watch, Shun Long had nothing to worry about as he stood in front of the lake and decided to test the 'Monarch's Eternal body's' might.

He had already found out earlier that his speed was simply incomparable to the past. He was outrunning even rank 2 magical beasts at this point. However, what other change had occurred aside from his speed and his external appearance?

Shun Long clenched his right fist tightly as he punched in front of him and an air current traveled through the lake, creating a disturbance in the water's surface.

Little Black's eyes shone as he saw this and he thought inwardly

"Master seems to be at the peak of the first stage in body refinement and yet his punch can rival a full-out blow of an early second stage body cultivator."

After throwing that punch, Shun Long stood still and closed his eyes as he stood in front of the lake.

Without opening them, he raised his left hand as he threw a downward chop in the air and the space in the area was suddenly torn. This chop was much stronger than the one he had used back in his room in the 'floating cloud city'.

The tear in space was so large that a human could easily fit inside it, but one tenth of Shun Long's physical energy was sapped to create this.

Having experienced this once already, Shun Long didn't put his hand inside the void this time. Instead he took a step forward as he walked inside the space tear.

There was a ripple in the space above the lake, and 10 meters away from Shun Long's original location, Shun Long's body appeared above the lake.

Having miscalculated this time, Shun Long fell inside the lake, his body now drenched in water. And yet there was a big smile hanging on his face as he had just figured things out.

Little Black's shock was evident as he flew in the air around Shun Long, who was now swimming towards the shore of the lake

"Master, how can you tear space open when you haven't even reached the Spirit realm?"

Shun Long was still smiling as he swam over to the shore.

He lied down on the grass next to the lake as he looked at little Black and said

"This is thanks to the 'Stone of Time's body refining technique, the 'Monarch's Eternal body'."

Shun Long didn't hide anything from little Black as he continued

"This was the second time that I tried to tear space open. The first time, the tear in space was very small and as my hand passed through it, it had appeared just 2 meters away from me. However, this time the tear I created was at the size of a human and the distance I traveled was 5 times larger than before. This time I could also clearly feel my energy being drained as I was tearing the void open.

The larger the tear in space I create and the bigger the distance it covers, the more energy I have to use it seems."

Little Black's astonishment was evident from his expression as he still hadn't recovered. His jaw was slightly trembling as he said

"Master, your affinity with the element of space must be at a very high level for you to be able to tear space open and only have to use such a small amount of energy for it. Usually peak rank 3 Spirit realm experts can tear space open just 100 meters away from their original location, but they have to use almost all their qi to do this, while master can create a tear in space 10 meters away just by using some of your physical energy. This is simply impossible to believe."

And yet Shun Long knew that 10 meters wasn't his limit yet. After taking a deep breath, he clenched his fist tightly as he used his full strength to punch the air in front of him. A gust of wind followed after Shun Long's hand, as the space in front of him was once again torn apart.

The size of the space tear was the same as the last time, however little Black could feel a qualitative difference this time around. More than half of Shun Long's strength had been consumed with this move.

His body then instantly disappeared, as it appeared again on a patch of grass 45 meters away from his original location.

Shun Long then looked at little Black and pondered seriously for a while

"If I used little Black's strength, no one in the 'floating cloud sect' would probably be a match against him but... little Black is a dragon after all and right now he is extremely weak. If his existence is exposed it's unknown what problems it may bring. If anyone above the middle stages of the Spirit realm happens to hear about a black dragon... I doubt that they will let the opportunity go like that. In the end, I shouldn't allow little Black to reveal his existence unless absolutely necessary."

With these thoughts in mind, Shun Long explained to little Black the situation they were in, as well as everything about the 'floating cloud sect' and the Demonic Mountain Region as well as the 'outer



sect examination'. Little Black returned to the space inside the 'Stone of Time' but his spiritual strength was scanning everything around Shun Long.

Shun Long also stored the rank 3 'double-headed fish's' body inside the 'Stone of Time' as he asked little Black if there were any people or beasts around them.

"Master, in direct proximity of 2 miles around us, there is no human or magic beast. However, there are approximately 400 humans and more than 500 magic beasts in the surrounding 30 miles. From these magic beasts, more than a third of them have already reached rank 2. I also sense a group of humans in a secluded area around 14 miles away from our current location, fighting with a middle stage rank 2 'earth bear'. Apparently, the bear is protecting a 'Profound earth fruit' inside its cave."

Chapter 59 - 59 Gathering in the dark

"Quickly, lead me there!" Shun Long said in a slightly anxious tone.

Now that little Black was inside the 'Stone of Time's' space, Shun Long could directly use his spiritual strength to communicate with him.

The reason that he was so anxious wasn't to save those disciples or the 'earth bear' but instead to obtain the 'Profound earth fruit'.

There were 3 different ways for Shun Long to advance his 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

The first way was to consume the flesh of higher rank magic beasts. The flesh rank 2 magic beasts or the rank 3 'double-headed fish' inside the 'Stone of Time' was one such example.

The second way was to directly consume rare herbs or fruits like the 'Profound earth fruit' or the 'Blood Vermilion fruit'. Although a big part of the fruit's medicinal efficacy would be wasted this way, it was still more than 100 times faster compared to slowly strengthening the body by eating magical beast's flesh.

However, there was an even better and faster way to advance. That would be by first refining the fruits into pills and then consuming them. Although it would be possible for a rank 3 bronze grade alchemist to refine something like the 'Profound earth fruit' into a pill, the same would be absolutely impossible if we swapped the 'Profound earth fruit' with a 'Blood Vermilion fruit'.

Although both fruits were rank 3 medicinal ingredients, the 'Profound earth fruit' needed at least an alchemist at the rank 3 bronze grade to be refined into a pill, while the 'Blood Vermilion fruit' needed at least a rank 1 silver grade alchemist to successfully refine it into a pill.

And so the third way was the most uncommon of them all.

Following little Black's directions, Shun Long soon arrived at the place where the battle was taking place.

There were 5 disciples banded as a group, all of them fighting the 'earth bear'. Of those disciples, 2 of them wore the 'floating cloud sect's' robes while the other 3 were dressed in brown robes, indicating that they were disciples of the 'Iron-hardened sect'.

"It's him" Shun Long thought while he was sitting at the top of a tree watching the fight.

One of the 2 disciples that were dressed in yellow robes, was short and had red hair. He had left an impression on Shun Long when he had asked Elder Lu earlier about the first place reward. This person was Guan Hong, the peak rank 3 earth grade expert. The other disciple of the 'floating cloud

sect' was at the middle stage of rank 1 in the earth grade, while from the 3 disciples of the 'Iron-hardened sect' two of them were at the middle rank 3 while the only woman in the group was at the early rank 1 in the earth grade.

Shun Long wasn't going to let these people take the 'Profound earth fruit' now that he knew about it, but the problem was how to take it. Everyone, including the 'earth bear' and the 5 people in their group, were paying attention to the 'Profound earth fruit' even while they were fighting.

Shun Long could use his teleportation ability to take the fruit and then leave, but he didn't want to expose himself just yet. All of a sudden little Black's voice was heard in Shun Long's head

"Master, don't be anxious to make a move yet."

"Did you discover something?" Shun Long asked

"Mm. There is a rank 2 'iron-winged eagle' 300 meters away from our location and it has set its sights here"

"Of course it has. The 'iron-winged eagle' is a natural enemy of the 'earth bear'. Now that someone has come to find trouble with it, how could it let this chance go?"

"Aside from the 'iron-winged eagle' there are also 2 little girls who are approaching, around 1 mile away from our east. They will surely stumble upon this fight and I doubt that they will let the 'Profound earth fruit' go like that. One of them is at the peak of rank 3 in earth grade while the other one is in the middle rank 3."

If the fight kept going for much longer, the number of people who would find out about the existence of the 'Profound earth fruit' would increase over and over.

Meanwhile, in the fight happening in front of the cave, the two middle rank 3 disciples of the 'Iron-hardened sect', as well as Guan Hong, were fighting the 'earth bear' head-on, while the girl from the 'Iron-hardened sect' and the other disciple from the 'floating cloud sect' were providing support from the distance.

The 'earth bear' was very tough as both its offense and defense were balanced. Everytime that Guan Hong's group attacked it, it defended back with its sharp claws, and every attack that the bear sent, would prove life-threatening if their group didn't dodge in time.

"Shi Qiang, Shi Shan, if you keep holding back, more and more people will gather after they notice our fight, and taking the 'Profound earth fruit' then will be much more difficult then." Guan Hong shouted at the two 'Iron-hardened sect' disciples that were fighting with him."

These 2 were a pair of brothers, called Shi Qiang and Shi Shan. Although they weren't the strongest in the 'Iron-hardened sect', when the 2 of them were fighting together, they were even slightly stronger than Guan Hong.

The elder brother of the two, Shi Qiang who was using a long saber snorted as he responded

"Are you trying to say that you have been going all-out by now Guan Hong? If you want us brothers to use our strength for you to take the 'Profound earth fruit' for yourself you must think that we really are naive. After all, even if we brothers used our full-strength, we still wouldn't be able to kill this 'earth bear' just by ourselves, or else why would we fight together with you then?"

The spear-wielding Shi Shan nodded his head and Guan Hong just snorted but he knew that everything Shi Qiang said was the truth.

His eyes had turned determined as he looked at the 2 brothers and said

"Distract the 'earth bear' for 10 breaths of time. I need this much time to activate my martial skill. When I use it, you better not hold back either because that will be our only chance to kill this beast, or else forget about the 'Profound earth fruit'."

As Guan Hong finished speaking, he took out a dagger from his robe and started infusing his qi in it.

Meanwhile, a pair of girls dressed in blue robes had also arrived at the scene, their eyes fully focused on the 'Profound earth fruit'.

Chapter 60 - 60 Snatching the profound earth fruit

Everyone, including Shun Long were startled that Guan Hong knew a martial skill.

There were plenty yellow grade cultivation techniques spread around in the 'Mortal world' and the 'cultivation world' as well. However, yellow grade martial skills were much rarer than yellow grade cultivation techniques.

Martial skills were different from cultivation techniques to begin with. Although one needed a cultivation technique to train in and become stronger, martial skills were a cultivator's hidden card as well.

Of course, cultivation techniques at the black grade and above weren't freely circulated in the world, but instead were all kept as a tight secret inside every sect. The value of these cultivation techniques was at least on par with black grade martial skills if not higher. After all, the grade of a cultivation technique would indicate how fast a disciple would progress while a martial skill was a way for the disciple to protect themselves.

The 2 girls that had just arrived on the scene started discussing

"Senior sister look! That guy over there also knows a martial skill!" The shorter one of the 2 girls who had her hair in two small buns said as she pointed towards Guan Hong.

The 'senior sister' however, only glanced at Guan Hong once, before turning her sights on the 'Profound earth fruit' as she said

"It's only an early yellow grade martial skill. He requires so much time to prepare for it that if he was fighting the 'earth bear' one on one, he would already be dead by now."

The senior sister who was also dressed in blue robes had a beautiful face and short black hair as well as a slender body. Her b.o.o.b.s were average in size but her butt was definitely a handful. If one compared her with Liu Mei who Shun Long had met in the 'Alchemist's Guild', her appearance may be slightly lacking, however, she was still a beauty that was on par with Lan Jinjing.

As Shun Long watched the two brothers, Shi Qiang and Shi Shan alternate between themselves trying to draw the 'earth bear's' attention, Guan Hong had already finished charging up his martial skill.

As he had infused a lot of his qi inside his dagger he shouted

"Flying Slash!"

As he slashed with his dagger in the air, the qi he had infused became a blade that flew towards the 'earth bear'. The bear had already split its attention between fighting Shi Qiang and Shi Shan, as well as defending itself from the occasional attacks from the other 2 members of this 5 man group, while also paying attention to its 'Profound earth fruit' at the same time.

As Guan Hong's attack approached it, it didn't have any time to dodge and tried to defend with its claws, but that was when the pair brothers showed their teamwork as they both attacked the bear toward its eyes and heart simultaneously.

The bear could only defend against the brothers' joint attack, as Guan Hong's slash hit it straight at its neck leaving behind a huge cut that had nearly reached the bear's bones. Blood was sent high up in the air as the bear roared in pain. However thanks to its thick hide, it had survived the hit although it was now heavily injured.

Just when everyone thought that their fight was almost done, a huge screech sounded in the air, as a 2 meter(6ft) eagle, with sharp, grey-colored feathers appeared from the sky as it directly chased the 'earth bear'. The injured 'earth bear' instantly turned to flee as it saw the eagle, completely disregarding everything else at this point.

The eagle chased the bear relentlessly around the forest.

As everyone's attention turned to the 'iron-winged eagle' who was chasing the 'earth bear', Shun Long who was waiting for this chance, instantly opened a space tear as he appeared next to the 'Profound earth fruit'. It only took a moment for him to appear inside the cave, snatch the fruit and then open another spatial tear to leave the cave from the other side.

However, just as he was about to leave, the 'senior sister' from the 'Roaring wind pavilion' had then screamed

"The 'Profound earth fruit'!!!"

Everyone's attention immediately turned to the cave, as they saw Shun Long who had his back turned on them, disappear inside the spatial tear.

Although they saw his yellow robes which betrayed that he was a disciple of the 'floating cloud sect', they couldn't see anything else, as he had suddenly vanished into thin air.

"NOOOOOOOO MY 'PROFOUND EARTH FRUIT'!!" Both the 'senior sister' and Guan Hong shouted at the same time.

Guan Hong's group had suffered the biggest loss this time as they had been the ones who had first discovered the fruit and injured the 'earth bear' as well, only for someone else to play the fisherman and steal their spoils from underneath their nose.

Guan Hong's eyes were spitting fire as he looked at the blue-robed 'senior sister' who had just claimed that the 'Profound earth fruit' belonged to her.

Since the person who stole it had disappeared into nothing, Guan Hong's group had nowhere to vent their anger to. Now, as if they had suddenly found an outlet for their pent up emotions, their group of 5 eyed the pair of female disciples from the 'Raging wind pavilion'.

"WHO ARE YOU?" Guan Hong and the Shi brothers asked threateningly as they surrounded the 2 girls.

The 'senior sister' ignored them as she turned to leave however Guan Hong blocked her path as he said

"No matter who you are, if you want to leave, you will also leave behind your survival points!"

Anger clouded the 'senior sister's' eyes as her peak rank 3 aura exploded as she attacked Guan Hong and a fierce battle of two versus five started.

Meanwhile, Shun Long who had just appeared 30 meters away from the other side of the cave could now hear the fight that had broken out.

Directly leaving the scene, Shun Long sent his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time' to inspect the 'Profound earth fruit' before heading towards the deeper parts of the Demonic Mountain Region.