

Time 851

Chapter 851 Realm of masters

"Eh? What's going on? Another person has stepped into the realm of masters?"

One of the Dao Kings who was sitting just a few meters away from Xingyi said loudly in a voice filled with surprise, as his gaze was instantly focused on Xingyi who was still sitting in front of the stone mural with her eyes closed.

At that moment, Xingyi's aura had started to change as well, giving off an elusive, sharp... and deadly sensation, similar to that of a sharp dagger's.

"Impossible! That girl is just a peak rank 4 Dao King! How can she enter the realm of masters with such a low cultivation base?"

A middle-aged man in blue robes who was emitting the aura of a late-stage Dao King suddenly exclaimed when he noticed Xingyi's cultivation base which was one of the weakest among the surrounding Dao Kings.

In fact, the number of middle-stage Dao Kings that were present in this place were less than a thousand and the rest were almost all late-stage or even peak stage Dao Kings.

"Realm of masters? Senior brother, are you saying that this girl has stepped into the same realm as senior brother Wu?"

Nodding his head, the blue-robed middle-aged man continued to stare at Xingyi's figure before he explained seriously

"Right. To step into the realm of masters, a person's skills with a certain weapon need to reach a level where their own body will eventually begin to emit an aura similar to the weapon they have mastered. There is no doubt that that girl has reached this realm as well... the realm of masters!"

Quite a few of the surrounding experts seemed to have been stunned as well, as their attention was fully placed on Xingyi's figure.

Although there were tens of thousands of Dao Kings present in this place, studying the stone mural, the number of Dao Kings who had stepped into the realm of masters among them was less than 100, and practically every single one of them was a late-stage or even a peak rank 9 Dao King!

Thus, one could imagine how surprising it was for a middle-stage Dao King like Xingyi to have stepped into the same realm as those monsters!

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An hour later, Xingyi finally opened her eyes that resembled 2 sharp green daggers, and after she stared at the stone mural in front of her for a few moments in silence, she completely retracted her aura, before she began to walk towards Liu Mei.

"Xingyi, congratulations." Liu Mei said with an earnest smile on her face as she looked at Xingyi.

However, Xingyi merely shook her head with a wry smile on her face before she said seriously

"Mei, I am too weak. My spiritual strength was almost completely depleted this time. The pressure from the stone mural is simply too strong..."

Once she finished speaking, Xingyi turned to look at Shun Long, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian, each of whom was still sitting on the same spot as before with their eyes closed, before Xingyi sat next to Liu Mei and closed her eyes with a calm look on her face.

Since there was nothing else to do, Xingyi could only begin cultivating as well and try to increase her strength as much as possible in the meantime.

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In the blink of an eye 4 more months quickly passed, while Shun Long, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian were still completely absorbed into the scenes on the stone mural.

It had already been 10 months since they had come here, and yet none of them had showed any signs of waking up in these past 10 months.

At the same time, during those past 10 months, their group of 3 had attracted the attention of quite a few of the surrounding Dao Kings, including some peak rank 9 Dao Kings who were present here.

After all, even most late-stage Dao Kings wouldn't last more than 7 or 8 months in front of the stone mural, and yet a peak rank 3 and a pair of peak rank 4 Dao Kings had lasted for nearly a year.

There was no way that something like that could possibly go unnoticed.

"How much longer are those bastards going to stay like that? Don't tell me that they are going to enter the realm of masters as well?!"

"Are you an idiot? Since they have lasted for so long it's practically guaranteed that they will! I would be more surprised if they failed!"

"That's not necessarily true. There have been plenty of people who stayed like that for more than half a year and yet they still failed to enter the realm of masters in the end.

What I am more curious about, is how these 3 can actually last for so long under the pressure of the stone mural!"

Finally, at the beginning of the 11th of the month, Jiang Chen was the first one to wake up, as his body trembled violently for a few moments before he suddenly opened his eyes.

A sharp, dangerous, and demonic aura that was filled with killing intent burst out from his body in the next moment, startling even a few of the late-stage Dao Kings around him.

At that moment, Jiang Chen seemed like a demonic saber that had just been unsheathed and was ready to draw blood.

"Fuck! Another person has stepped into that realm! What's going on?"

However, Jiang Chen didn't pay any attention to the discussions around him, as he turned his gaze towards Shun Long's direction barely a moment after he woke up.

Once he noticed that Bai Longtian had actually yet to wake up and was still comprehending the scenes in the stone mural, Jiang Chen narrowed his eyes, before he took a deep breath and retracted his aura back to his body, as he made his way towards Shun Long's direction.

Time continued to pass, and as the 11th month came to an end, Bai Longtian's figure suddenly trembled as well, before Bai Longtian also opened his eyes.

Chapter 852: Shun Long waking up

The moment that Bai Longtian opened his eyes, an extremely fierce and yet simultaneously serene aura burst out from his body, like a sword that had finally woken up from its long slumber.

At that moment, the aura around Bai Longtian was completely different from Jiang Chen's aura when he had woken up.

If Jiang Chen was similar to an unsheathed demonic saber that was craving blood, then Bai Longtian was more like a calm, righteous sword that wouldn't be moved even if it was faced with a hundred enemies.

"Are you serious? Which power did these kids come from? What the hell is going on?"

"It wasn't a coincidence? Hahaha, I have to tell senior sister Yu. I am sure that she will be interested in this matter!"

Once they sensed the aura coming from Bai Longtian's body, the surrounding Dao Kings could no longer stay quiet as they began to question the reality in front of them.

It was one thing if it was just 1 or even 2 people among Shun Long's group who had obtained enlightenment and had managed to step into the realm of masters, but for 3 of them to do so one after the other, this wasn't something that could be ignored any longer.

Additionally, Shun Long was the only one who had yet to wake up, and at this point, there were very few people who believed that he would fail to make it into the realm of masters as well.

"Senior brother, should we try to rope these kids in? Judging from the robes they are wearing it doesn't look like they belong to any large power or I would have already recognized them. Do you want to make a move?"

A young man in yellow robes who was emitting an aura at the peak of rank 8 in the Dao King realm and was standing just a few meters away from Liu Mei and the others said in a low voice as he asked the yellow-robed middle-aged man who was standing by his side.

However, the yellow-robed middle-aged man next to him simply stared at Liu Mei and the others seriously for a few moments, before he shook his head and said

"Don't bother. They are too weak to join us. Even the strongest among them is just an early rank 7 Dao King while the rest of them are just in the middle stages.

Even if they are somewhat talented, they will be nothing but dead weight to us here. Remember, our top-most priority is still the 'City of Immortals'. Once everyone else wakes up we will continue to explore this desert."

The yellow-robed young man nodded his head and didn't say anything else as he sat on the ground and closed his eyes.

Indeed, just like the middle-aged man had said, even though Bai Longtian and the others may be somewhat talented, in the end, they were still limited by their own cultivation bases.

Even if they had entered the realm of masters, it was still impossible for 2 peak rank 4 Dao Kings like Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian to face off against an average late-stage Dao King directly!

Regardless of how talented they were, this was an insurmountable difference caused by the gap in their cultivation bases that they couldn't possibly defy.

Even this yellow-robed young man knew, that he could effortlessly slaughter their entire group all by himself if he ignored Little Silver.

Although a peak rank 6 magic beast was quite a formidable force in a place where only Dao Kings could enter, the yellow-robed young man knew that in the 'City of Immortals' that was filled with countless monsters, it was actually nothing much in comparison.

Additionally, there were less than 9 years left until the 'City of Immortals' closed again.

Putting aside whether Bai Longtian and the others could even reach the late stages of the Dao King realm within these 9 years, it was actually uncertain if they would even be able to stay alive.

These weren't just the thoughts of the yellow-robed middle-aged man, but many of the surrounding powerful Dao Kings as well, who merely threw a few glances towards Shun Long and his group before they ignored them.

It would be one thing if Bai Longtian and the others had been late-stage Dao Kings who had also entered the realm of masters, but a group of middle-stage Dao Kings would rank near the bottom in terms of strength within the 'City of Immortals'.

At that moment, Bai Longtian took a deep breath and retracted his aura back into his body, before he turned his gaze towards Liu Mei and the others and said calmly

"It seems that brother Shun is the only one left. Unfortunately, I couldn't last any longer either. Although the scenes in that stone mural are truly profound, that pressure near the end was simply too powerful! Most likely, even a peak-stage Dao King will have trouble enduring that!"

Liu Mei nodded her head when she heard Bai Longtian's words, before she turned her gaze towards Shun Long who was still sitting there with his eyes closed.

During the last few months, Liu Mei had seen plenty of late-stage and even some peak-stage Dao kings who had been forced to give up and had failed to enter the realm of masters, but she had also seen more than a handful of people who had managed to step into that level as well.

There was no doubt that to enter the realm of masters, one didn't just need a powerful spiritual strength that rivaled that of a late-stage Dao King's... but also immense talent.

However, Liu Mei was certain that neither of those requirements would be enough to stop Shun Long. The only question was, how long it would take him to do so.

Time continued to pass, and soon, the 11th and the 12th months slowly came to an end. Like this, an entire year had gone by since Liu Mei and the others had arrived in this desert, but Shun Long had yet to open his eyes.

However, Liu Mei and the others weren't worried as they simply waited for him to wake up.

As the 12th month came to an end, Xingyi's cultivation had also reached the early rank 6 of the Dao King realm, while Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian had both stepped into the early rank 5 of the Dao King realm as well.

Of course, it wasn't surprising that Xingyi would surpass both Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian during this time.

After all, Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian had both spent nearly 5 more months comprehending the scenes in the stone mural, while Xingyi had spent that time cultivating and absorbing the pure qi in this place, so it was only natural for her cultivation to surpass theirs.

As for Liu Mei, she had already managed to become an early rank 7 Dao King after she finished absorbing the qi that she had obtained from killing Li Tian, and she had spent the past 9 months suppressing the negative emotions that had bubbled up inside her due to the 'Blood Absorption art'.

After 9 whole months, Liu Mei could feel that she had completely suppressed all those negative emotions, and that as long as she managed to obtain enough qi, she could even breakthrough all the way to the peak of the Dao King realm in one go.

Soon, the 13th and 14th months also went by but Shun Long had yet to wake up.

Finally, as the 15th month came to an end, Shun Long's body suddenly trembled before an extremely sharp and profound aura burst out from his body.

"Wh-What? What is this? What's going on?"

"What kind of aura is this? I- I can feel my soul trembling!"

The aura that came from Shun Long's body didn't just startle Liu Mei and the rest, but all of the nearby Dao Kings as well who now stared at him with expressions of shock and disbelief plastered on their faces.

Although most of the peak-stage Dao Kings had already left this place by now, there were still quite a few early and middle rank 9 Dao Kings around the stone mural, and each of them was stunned when they sensed this indescribable aura that seemed to have emerged out of nowhere.

At the same time, Bai Longtian's eyes widened momentarily, before he mumbled to himself in a low voice

"So brother Shun really reached that realm..."

Chapter 853: Sword aura

"That realm?" Liu Mei had a look of confusion on her face as she looked at Bai Longtian.

Although she could feel that the aura that was coming from Shun Long right now was quite different compared to Bai Longtian's, she still didn't understand what Bai Longtian meant with the words 'that realm'.

And yet, Bai Longtian simply nodded his head as he looked at Liu Mei before he said seriously

"Sister Liu can't sense this just yet because brother Shun has yet to fully release his aura, but anyone who has stepped into this so called 'realm of masters' will be able to sense it quite easily.

Brother Shun's sword skills have already surpassed the realm of masters and he has already stepped into the next realm!"

Jiang Chen and Xingyi both nodded their heads when they heard this, as they could also feel the indescribable aura coming from Shun Long's body that was no different from a terrifying sword that was about to be unsheathed.

At that moment, Bai Longtian continued to stare at Shun Long's figure before he said in a serious voice

"Brother Shun is probably the only person in the entire central region who can step into this realm with a cultivation of just a peak rank 3 Dao King.

No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't even get close to that level despite going all-out. In the end, I could feel that my soul was going to be crushed by the pressure from the stone mural if I continued, so I could only give up..."

Bai Longtian's look was extremely solemn as he said the last sentence, almost as if he could still feel the lingering pressure from the stone mural within his spiritual sea, as if it was still trying to crush his soul.

In reality, it wasn't just Bai Longtian who had been forced to stop due to the pressure that was coming from the stone mural, but every other Dao King who had stepped into the realm of masters as well.

Even with a spiritual strength that was at the peak of the Dao King realm, it was impossible to surpass the 'realm of masters'.

In fact, it was already a wonder how Jiang Chen, Bai Longtian, and Xingyi had stepped into the realm of masters in the first place, when their cultivation bases weren't even in the late-stages of the Dao King realm.

As for exceeding that realm, that was merely a dream that even many Dao Emperors had yet to realize.

After all, both spiritual strength and an immense talent were needed to even reach the 'realm of masters' with a weapon in the first place, so surpassing it was bound to be even more difficult.

An hour quickly passed in silence while Shun Long's aura continued to become stronger at an extremely rapid rate, making every single middle-stage Dao King present to shiver.

Finally, as the first hour came to an end, Shun Long's eyes suddenly opened before a terrifying aura burst out from his body.

"This... this is sword aura!"

"Sword aura?! Senior brother, are you serious?"

"A mere rank 3 Dao King has managed to comprehend sword aura? Is this a joke? What the hell is going on?"

The surrounding Dao Kings immediately exploded in discussions when they sensed the indescribable aura that was coming from Shun Long's body which made even their hearts palpitate.

"Senior, what exactly is sword aura? Why is everyone here so serious about this?"

A young woman with a cultivation at the early rank 5 of the Dao King realm suddenly asked the old woman by her side.

However, the old woman didn't pay much attention to her as her eyes were still glued on Shun Long's figure in the distance. It was only after an entire minute had passed that the old woman finally shook her head and said in a trembling voice

"Sword aura... that is a level that even our sect master who is a peak rank 4 Dao Emperor has yet to reach in the ways of the sword!"

This is the first time that I'm seeing it myself, but from what I know, sword aura is the manifestation of sword qi and will only appear when a person's skills with the sword have already surpassed the 'realm of masters'! This thing doesn't just require terrifying talent but an extremely powerful soul as well! Forget about early-stage Dao Kings, I have never even heard of a peak-stage Dao King who has reached this realm throughout the entire central region!"

As she said this, the old woman continued to stare at Shun Long with a look of disbelief on her face.

Even a middle rank 7 Dao King like her didn't have any confidence in fighting someone who had comprehended sword aura, even if that person was just an early rank 3 Dao King!

A moment after Shun Long opened his eyes, the aura around his body instantly disappeared, as if it had never existed in the first place.

With a smile on his face, Shun Long then turned around to look at Liu Mei and the others and asked seriously

"What is everyone looking at?"

Xingyi and the others were all dumbfounded when they heard Shun Long's question.

It was one thing if they were around normal cultivators, but in a place like this that was filled with countless geniuses, where was everyone supposed to look when someone had comprehended sword aura right in front of them?

Bai Longtian was the first one to speak, as he first took a deep breath and calmed down his emotions before he asked eagerly

"Brother Shun, you... did you really surpass the 'realm of masters'?"

At the same time that Bai Longtian asked this question, within the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Little Black opened his bright azure eyes and said with a smile

"Master, congratulations. To comprehend sword aura in less than 2 years, this is an extremely rare feat even in the Immortal Dimension!"

Shun Long was momentarily taken when he heard this, as he then asked Little Black

"Sword aura? Is that what Longtian meant when he asked if I have surpassed the 'realm of masters'?"

Nodding his head, Little Black then explained

"Right! Apparently, the people in this mortal world refer to the level of sword qi as 'the realm of masters'. Since master has already surpassed that level and has already comprehended sword aura it is no wonder that they are all surprised."

A look of realization appeared on Shun Long's face when he heard this, but just as he was about to answer, his eyes suddenly narrowed as the aura of a peak rank 9 Dao King enveloped him in an instant.

In the next moment, Shun Long saw an old man in bright red robes materializing in front of him, seemingly out of thin air.

The old man stared at Shun Long with his deep yellow eyes that resembled a snake's, before he said in a cold voice

"Brat, explain yourself! How did you comprehend the sword intent behind this stone mural?"

Chapter 854: Refusing to answer?

The moment that the red-robed old man's aura surrounded Shun Long, Little Silver's deep yellow eyes that resembled a snake's suddenly sprung open, before the overbearing aura of a peak rank 6 magic beast burst out from its body, immediately descending upon the red-robed old man.

Before any of the surrounding experts around had any time to react, Little Silver shot to its feet, appearing right in front of Shun Long in a single instant, while its cold gaze that was filled with endless killing intent bore down on the red-robed old man who was standing in front of it.

The red-robed old man's eyes narrowed when he sensed Little Silver's aura that was able to easily rival his own, but Liu Mei and the others didn't hesitate in the slightest, as their auras immediately exploded outwards as well.

Sensing the aura of an early rank 7 Dao King coming from Liu Mei's body, the red-robed old man snorted mockingly before he turned his full attention towards Little Silver as he prepared himself for battle.

As for Xingyi who had broken through to the middle rank 6 of the Dao King realm in these last 3 months, and Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian who had broken through to the middle rank 5 of the Dao King realm respectively, the old man didn't even glance at them, as if they didn't even exist in the first place.

With an extremely cold look on his face, Jiang Chen took a step forward and approached the red-robed old man before he asked coldly

"Old fart, who the hell are you? You think you can come here and act arrogantly in front of us just because you are a peak rank 9 Dao King?"

A look of unconcealed killing intent flashed through the red-robed old man's eyes when he heard Jiang Chen's disrespectful tone, but he still took a deep breath to suppress his killing intent for a few moments, before he turned his gaze towards Shun Long and said calmly

"Brat, even if you have a peak rank 6 magic beast, don't think that you are invincible in this place. This is the 'City of Immortals', not the backyard of your little sect. There are plenty of experts here who can easily squash this panther of yours!

I will only ask you one more time, so think carefully before you answer. How did you comprehend the remaining sword intent behind this stone mural when even a peak Dao King like me can't comprehend it?"

Looks of realization appeared in the surrounding Dao Kings' eyes when they heard the red-robed old man's words, before they too turned their gazes towards Shun Long and his group.

Right! This red-robed old man was also someone who had stepped into the 'realm of masters' after he had studied one of the sword scenes in this stone mural for more than 10 months, but even someone like him was unable to comprehend sword aura.

It would be weird if the old man let a peak rank 3 Dao King like Shun Long go without getting an answer from him.

In fact, the red-robed old man knew clearer than most other people present here how massive the gap between the 'realm of masters' and the level of sword aura truly was. Forget about a peak rank 9 Dao King like himself, the old man guessed that even a newly-advanced Dao Emperor would be unable to endure the pressure from this stone mural and breakthrough past the level of the 'realm of masters'.

And yet, Shun Long merely shook his head in response to the old man's question, before he stepped forward and said coldly

"There are plenty of experts who can easily squash my panther you say? That's true... Too bad that you are not one of those 'experts'!

However, since you want an answer so badly, then let me answer your question. It's because your spiritual strength is simply insufficient. You want to obtain sword aura huh? Come back after you reach the standard of a middle-stage Dao Emperor. Perhaps you will have a chance by then."

"Hahahahaha! The standard of a middle-stage Dao Emperor? You little bastard, are you really messing with me? Do you really think that I won't dare to attack you because of that panther of yours?" The old man roared angrily while the aura around his body seemed to be on the verge of exploding.

If it wasn't because of Little Silver's presence, the old man would have never wasted so many words with someone like Shun Long trying to convince him to give him an answer and would have already soul-searched him for the answer instead.

And yet, in the red-robed old man's eyes, Shun Long simply gave him an answer that was no different from mockery.

The standard of a middle-stage Dao Emperor in terms of spiritual strength when he was still a peak rank 9 Dao King? That was obviously impossible!

Even finding an immortal-grade cultivation technique was easier than that.

Waving his hand, the old man then took out a blood-red sword from his spatial ring and held it in front of him with both hands, before he said coldly

"Since you refuse to give me the answer I want, don't blame me for being impolite. Little bastard, you have brought this upon yourself!"

"ROOOOAAARRRR"

Sensing that the red-robed old man was about to attack, Little Silver no longer held back either, as it suddenly opened its mouth let out a powerful roar that reverberated in the ears of every single expert present, before its massive figure abruptly disappeared, appearing right by the red-robed old man's side.

The old man who was about to attack was startled by the black panther's speed that was several times higher than his own, as it ended up catching him off-guard.

Seeing the massive claw that was descending upon him, causing even the surrounding space itself to ripple in the process, the red-robed old man immediately switched his stance, as he held his blood-red sword horizontally in front of his chest.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

The moment that Little Silver's claw met the blood-red sword, a loud explosion that could be heard for tens of miles shook the underground chamber where the stone mural was located, raising a massive cloud of dust that completely obscured Little Silver's and the red-robed old man's figures.

Chapter 855: Killing a peak rank 9 Dao King

ROOOOOOOOOAAAARRRR!

The cloud of dust that had just been raised was almost immediately dispersed by Little Silver's angry roar that shook the entire underground chamber, revealing to the surrounding Dao Kings the scene that it was hiding underneath it.

Little Silver's left paw that was dripping with blood had been blocked by the red-robed old man's sword, cutting open a wound that had been just a hair's breadth away from reaching its bone.

It was obvious that if the sword had managed to cut through just a little bit deeper, Little Silver's paw would have probably been severed from its body.

And yet, the surrounding Dao Kings didn't feel too much pity for the black panther, as they could all see that red-robed old man's situation was even worse than Little Silver's.

After he was forced to take on the full brunt of the black panther's attack, the red-robed old man had ended up vomiting a mouthful of blood in the process, while his right foot had also caved into the ground and was barely able to stand.

The surrounding Dao Kings could guess, that most likely, the internal injuries that the red-robed old man had received were many times worse than his external ones.

Despite its injury, Little Silver continued to stare at the red-robed old man who was now kneeling on one knee in front of it, with its bright yellow eyes that were still oozing with killing intent, before the black panther raised its left paw in the air for the second time.

The old man's expression immediately changed when he saw this scene, as he shouted loudly in a terrified voice

"STOP! BACK OFF!"

The red-robed old man could tell that he didn't have enough energy to defend against a second attack right now. He had barely managed to gather his qi and repel the black panther's first attack, and he could tell that a second one would almost certainly end up taking his life.

However, Little Silver didn't seem to be moved by the old man's pleas, as its left paw descended from the sky for the second time, heading straight towards the old man's head.

"FUCK OFF!"

The red-robed old man shouted loudly once he realized that there was no chance for him to escape, and after gritting his teeth, a determined look appeared on his face as he raised his sword for the second time and stabbed it straight towards the black panther's neck.

If he was going to die, he was planning to take the black panther down with him.

However, just as his red sword was about to pierce through the panther's neck, a mixed look of unwillingness and disbelief suddenly covered the old man's face as he witnessed the scene that followed.

The panther's silver wings seemed to have come together practically at the same time, forming a small shield that ended up blocking the red-robed old man's sword.

Although the red sword had managed to pierce through Little Silver's wings and had even managed to draw out some of its blood, it had ended up losing all of its remaining momentum as well and was unable to pierce through the black panther's neck any longer.

"NOOOOOOOO-"

The red-robed old man's scream was suddenly cut short the moment that Little Silver's massive black claw landed on his body, causing a mass of blood and organs to splatter on the ground in front of it.

The red-robed old man didn't even have a chance to send his soul out of his body before he was squashed to death in an instant, stunning the surrounding experts who were watching this scene.

And yet, Shun Long merely threw a glance at the old man's corpse, or at least what remained of it, before he retrieved the old man's blood-red sword and his spatial ring before he arrived in front of Little Silver.

Stretching out his right hand, Shun Long then patted the black panther's head who nuzzled it back in an affectionate manner, looking more like a household pet than a powerful rank 6 magic beast that had just slaughtered a peak rank 9 Dao King.

"Am I dreaming? Old Fu actually died? He really died fighting against a peak rank 6 magic beast?"

"Haha, serves that arrogant old bastard well! He really thought he was unrivaled in the 'City of Immortals' just because he was a peak-stage Dao King? What a joke!

How many geniuses have gathered in this place by now?

Forget about Dao Kings like him who have comprehended a common Dao, even a peak-stage Dao King who has comprehended a rare Dao would have trouble fighting a peak rank 6 magic beast like that panther all by themselves!"

Nodding their heads, many of the surrounding Dao Kings agreed with this sentiment, as they could all tell that the black panther in front of them was no pushover.

In fact, even among most other peak rank 6 magic beasts in the central region, it would definitely rank among the stronger ones based on the strength and speed it had just showed.

Even if Shun Long was just a peak rank 3 Dao King, just with Little Silver's strength alone, he would still be able to walk around the 'City of Immortals' practically unhindered, unless he was unlucky enough to stumble on one of those unrivaled monsters that 'ruled' the City of Immortals.

And yet, Shun Long didn't pay any attention to the discussions of the Dao Kings around him as he first stored the red-robed old man's spatial ring inside the 'Stone of Time', before he turned his gaze towards Liu Mei and the others and said calmly

"Let's go. Since we are done here, let's have a look at the second trial."

Understanding that there was no reason for them to keep staying in this place, Liu Mei and the others all got on Little Silver's back, before Little Silver spread its bright silver wings and flew out of the underground chamber like a bolt of silver lightning, leaving behind tens of thousands of Dao Kings who were still staring at its vanishing figure.

Chapter 856: The second trial

A few moments later, Little Silver's figure had already emerged from the underground chamber where the stone mural was located, as it continued to fly towards the east of the desert at full speed.

Half an hour later, once they were a good distance away from the stone mural's location, Shun Long patted Little Silver's head gently and had it land on an empty, inconspicuous area that was surrounded by a few enormous rocks right in the middle of the desert.

Jumping off from Little Silver's back, Shun Long stood in front of the black panther before he turned his attention towards Little Silver's left paw that was still dripping with blood.

"No wonder that old man could injure you so seriously. With a peak 1-star weapon, even the most common of peak rank 9 Dao Kings can be strong enough to pose a threat to a peak rank 6 magic beast if they are willing to risk their lives." Shun Long mumbled to himself in a serious manner while his gaze was still focused on Little Silver's paw in front of him.

In the entire central region, it was common knowledge that one would need at least a group of 6 or 7 peak rank 9 Dao Kings if they wanted to have a chance at subduing a peak rank 6 magic beast.

However, a peak rank 9 Dao King with a peak 1-star weapon like that red-robed old man was in a different class of his own.

Shun Long guessed that most likely, that old man could take on a group of 3 or 4 peak-stage Dao Kings all by himself and even come out alive.

With a deep look in his eyes, Shun Long then circulated the 27 balls of qi inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', before his eyes immediately turned golden.

Stretching out his right hand, Shun Long then placed it on Little Silver's left paw that looked like it was about to fall off at any moment, before he mumbled to himself in a low, almost inaudible voice

"Time Reversal."

As soon as the words left his mouth, a bright blue and golden light immediately covered Shun Long's entire body, before it quickly expanded and moved towards Little Silver as well.

At that moment, Shun Long could feel that more than 20 percent of his qi had been sapped in an instant, while even more of it was being drained from his qi balls with every passing moment in order to sustain the 'Time Reversal'.

At the same time, Liu Mei and the others could all see that Little Silver's left paw was being healed at a speed visible to the naked eye, while even its bright silver wings that had been stained with blood after taking on the red-robed old man's final attack had also healed in nearly an instant.

A few moments later, the blue and golden light around Shun Long's body finally started to fade before it completely disappeared. At the same time, the mangled wound on Little Silver's leg had also vanished, as its left paw was back in the condition it had been before its fight with the red-robed old man.

"ROOAAARRR"

Little Silver let out a roar that was filled with excitement and gratitude as it looked at Shun Long, before it began to nudge its head against his hand in an affectionate manner.

"Brother Long, are you alright?" Xingyi asked in a worried voice as she stared at Shun Long as well.

Even though Shun Long had only used 'Time Reversal' for a few moments, Xingyi and the others all knew how taxing it was for him to use that skill.

To use it on a peak rank 6 magic beast like Little Silver, even if his qi balls hadn't been emptied out, it was certain that Shun Long must have used more than one-third of his qi for this.

"Brother Shun, do you want to rest for a while? We don't need to head to the second trial right away. We should still have around 8 years until the 'City of Immortals' closes."

However, Shun Long merely shook his head as he looked at Bai Longtian and the others, before he said seriously

"Don't worry, Little Silver's wounds weren't too serious so I didn't need to use too much of my qi.

With how concentrated the qi here is, I will have recovered before we even reach the location of the second trial."

As he finished speaking, Shun Long sat on Little Silver's back for the second time, before the black panther spread its bright silver wings and continued to fly towards the east of the desert at full speed.

Of course, the reason why Shun Long hadn't chosen to heal Little Silver back in the stone mural and had waited until they arrived in an isolated place, was simply because he didn't want to expose his Dao of Time in front of too many people just yet.

Even though there were plenty of experts in the Holy sect's territory who must have heard about him after the 'Martial Roll of Honor tournament' had taken place in the outer court of the Holy sect, the Holy sect was nothing but a first-rate power in the Northern part of the central region.

Besides, the number of people who knew that Shun Long had already become a Dao King were only limited to the experts of the Holy sect like the Grand Elder and the inner court Elders, as well as the Northern Sovereign and the people under her.

Although Shun Long understood that it was only a matter of time before this happened in the 'City of Immortals', a place where the strongest Dao Kings from every place throughout the central region had gathered, Shun Long knew that his strongest asset right now was that there were very few people who knew anything about him.

The moment he revealed his Dao of Time, Shun Long knew that it was bound to attract endless attention in this place, including attention from the strongest of Dao Kings in this place.

In front of those peak Dao Kings who had comprehended unique and perhaps even supreme Daos, even Little Silver wouldn't be able to last too long.

Time continued to pass and in the blink of an eye, an entire month had gone by as Little Silver continued to fly above the scorching desert in the 'City of Immortals'.

Finally, at the beginning of the second month, a massive oasis that spanned for hundreds of miles appeared in the distance ahead, attracting Shun Long's and the others' attention.

Staring at this oasis whose end couldn't be seen no matter how hard one looked, the same thought appeared in Liu Mei's and the others' minds at the same time, causing serious looks to cover their faces

"The location of the second trial, the Illusion oasis."

Chapter 857: Illusion oasis

Staring at the enormous oasis in front of him that didn't seem to have an end, the information that Shun Long had obtained from the memory jades of the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' quickly began to appear in his mind

"The second known trial in the 'City of Immortals', the Illusion oasis. It is located at the far east of the 'Ten-thousand miles desert' and is an extremely dangerous trial that can kill even peak-stage Dao Kings.

Cultivators should be prepared. Upon entering the oasis, the trial will immediately begin!

Our 'White tiger chamber of commerce' has also verified that magic beasts aren't allowed to step foot into the Illusion oasis. Cultivators with contracted magic beasts will be separated from their beasts at the entrance of the oasis.

Cultivators traveling in groups will also be separated from their groups upon entering the oasis.

A cultivation base at the peak of rank 6 in the Dao King realm is the bare minimum to survive past the first stage of this trial."

Shun Long was momentarily surprised when he realized that the information that the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' had for the 'Illusion oasis' was much more detailed compared to the information they had about the stone mural where he had comprehended his sword aura from.

Additionally, even though it wasn't mentioned what kind of trial it was going to be or what kind of dangers one would have to face after entering the oasis, the information itself was still quite valuable.

"Brother Shun, it seems that we aren't the only ones here."

As Little Silver continued to fly towards the oasis in the distance, Bai Longtian and the others soon began to notice the large numbers of rank 6 magic beasts that were gathered around the oasis, looking like a massive army comprised of countless different types of magic beasts.

Even the 'smallest' of those magic beasts was more than 4 meters (13ft) tall, while the largest ones exceeded 300 meters (980ft) in height, causing even Little Silver to look like an ant in comparison.

With just a glance, Liu Mei and the others could see that there were at least 6000 early rank 6 magic beasts gathered in this place, while the middle rank 6 magic beasts numbered more than a thousand.

The closer they approached to the oasis, the more powerful the magic beasts around them seemed to become.

At the same time, near the entrance of the oasis itself, Shun Long could see quite a few peak rank 6 magic beasts that were lying in wait, some of them emitting auras that easily rivaled and even exceeded that of Little Silver's, looking like they were at the cusp of advancing and becoming rank 7 magic beasts as well.

It seemed that the more powerful magic beasts were right in front of the entrance of the 'Illusion oasis' while the weaker ones were spread around them, not daring to approach too close to those peak rank 6 beasts.

Whether it was the early rank 6, the middle rank 6, or even the peak rank 6 magic beasts present, every single one of them could sense Little Silver's sudden arrival, causing them to turn their eyes over.

And yet, Little Silver ignored the threatening roars of those magic beasts around it, as it continued to fly towards the oasis' entrance.

From a distance away, the 'Illusion oasis' looked like an enormous lake that was surrounded by a lush green forest, but as Little Silver approached closer to it, Shun Long finally began to notice an indistinct layer of white fog that was also surrounding the forest, giving off an extremely mysterious sensation that he had never felt before.

A few moments later, as soon as Little Silver arrived within 500 meters from the oasis' entrance, its figure suddenly turned stiff before it let out a painful roar.

"ROOOOOOAAAAAARRR!!"

500 meters.

Whether it was the early rank 6 or the peak rank 6 magic beasts present, none of them could get any closer to the oasis than this.

Any magic beast that tried to approach any closer than this would immediately feel a terrifying pain assailing them, powerful enough to easily tear their souls apart.

Since Shun Long had already formed a spiritual bond with Little Silver, he could clearly sense the black panther's emotions, including the pain that it was feeling right now.

Patting Little Silver's head, Shun Long didn't have the black panther return inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' and allowed it to stay here instead, before he began to make his way towards the entrance of the oasis along with Jiang Chen and the rest.

"I wonder... just how many people are inside this trial right now?" Bai Longtian asked curiously as their group continued to make their way towards the oasis.

Liu Mei, Jiang Chen, and Xingyi were also curious about this matter, as they stared at the thousands of magic beasts around them without speaking.

More than 7000 magic beasts were present in this place, and every single one of them was a magic beast that was still waiting for their master to return.

This was a truly stunning number!

With 7000 magic beasts present, it meant that there must have been at least 7000 Dao Kings inside this trial right now.

But of course, Jiang Chen and the others all understood, that it was impossible for every single Dao King to own a magic beast.

In fact, those Dao Kings who possessed their own magic beasts were extremely rare.

If there were so many magic beasts present, it was impossible to imagine how many people were inside the oasis right now.

Even Shun Long couldn't possibly estimate the sheer number of Dao Kings that had entered this place.

However, there was one thing that he was certain of.

For so many Dao Kings to have gathered in this place, the rewards from this trial would definitely exceed the rewards from the 'Demon-fanged city' by countless times!

Closing his eyes, Shun Long first spread out his soul sense around his body without holding back, before he took a step forward and entered the forest.

Chapter 858: Rewards of the Illusion oasis?

The moment that he stepped past the entrance of the forest and entered inside, Shun Long could see the white fog around him that had started to thicken and become much denser than before, as it quickly began to obscure his surroundings.

Even with his soul sense that he had spread to his limits before entering the forest, Shun Long was still unable to sense even a single blade of grass around him while his own vision barely extended beyond his own fingers.

"Eh? Even my soul sense can't penetrate this white fog...?" Shun Long mumbled to himself in a surprised tone, as his footsteps instantly came to a halt moments after entering the forest.

Although the memory jades of the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' had mentioned that groups would be split upon entering the 'Illusion oasis' and everyone would have to fend for themselves and clear the trials alone, they didn't mention anything about this white fog.

Of course, whether the people of the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' had intentionally concealed this information or not was unknown, but Shun Long could also sense one more thing after entering the 'Illusion oasis'.

This white fog around him wasn't just suppressing his vision and his soul sense, but it was slowly trying to invade his spiritual sea as well.

Even though its effects weren't too obvious, most early-stage Dao Kings would be unable to sense it and guard their spiritual seas until it was too late.

And yet, Shun Long merely smiled and closed his eyes for a moment, before his spiritual strength inside his spiritual sea started to surge wildly like a wild beast that had just been provoked.

The remnant energy of the white fog had barely managed to enter Shun Long's spiritual sea before it was crushed to nothingness by the overwhelming power of his spiritual strength.

After remaining in that spot for a few more moments, Shun Long opened his eyes and began to make his way deeper towards the 'Illusion oasis' shortly afterwards.

...

"It seems that this trial is just testing one's spiritual strength. If that's the case, this trial will be even easier for master than the last one." Inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Little Black

murmured in a low voice as he continued to watch Shun Long who was calmly making his way deeper towards the 'Illusion oasis'.

The power of the white fog was becoming even more intense the deeper inside the forest he was heading, and yet Shun Long seemed to be completely unaffected by it.

By now, most early-stage Dao Kings would be struggling to take even a single step forward while even some middle-stage Dao Kings would have some trouble continuing forward, and yet Shun Long continued to walk at a steady pace as if the white fog around him didn't even exist.

After walking forward for half an hour, Shun Long's eyes widened in surprise while his footsteps involuntarily came to a halt as well, as the white fog in front of him suddenly started to churn and coalesce together, slowly taking the form of a large magic beast that was more than 15 meters (49ft) tall.

Moments later, a large leopard that was made entirely from white fog stood in front of Shun Long, staring at him with its pair of intelligent eyes that made it look like a real, living magic beast.

This leopard was even emitting an aura at the middle of rank 6, and was probably strong enough to threaten most middle rank 6 Dao Kings without too much trouble!

Whether it was its appearance or the aura that was coming from its body, the white leopard in front of Shun Long didn't seem to be any different from an actual middle rank 6 magic beast!

"Roaaaaaarr!"

The leopard let out a loud roar the moment its eyes met with Shun Long's, before its figure turned into a blur as it shot towards Shun Long without any hesitation.

With a calm look on his face Shun Long circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass', causing his eyes to immediately turn golden, before he waved his right hand, taking out the black sword from the 'Stone of Time'.

The moment the black sword appeared in his hands, Shun Long's entire aura seemed to have changed, startling even the leopard that was heading towards him.

Sensing the profound aura around Shun Long that made him seem like a sharp sword that was going to cut down anything that dared to stand in front of him, the leopard's figure trembled for a moment, before it opened its mouth and aimed directly for Shun Long's neck.

And yet, Shun Long's lips merely curved upwards as he stared at the white leopard that was just a few meters away from him, before he said in a calm voice

"Monarch's Domain!"

The invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from Shun Long's body, forcibly slowing down the flow of time around the leopard and causing its speed to plummet.

At the same time, a strand of sword qi materialized from the tip of the black sword, heading directly for the leopard's massive neck.

The white leopard didn't even have enough time to react before the strand of sword qi cut through its neck without any resistance, severing its head from the rest of its body and causing its figure to collapse on the ground!

The moment that the leopard's figure collapsed, its body turned back into white fog, but surprisingly, the fog didn't disperse, but it actually started to gather together at the same spot.

Moments later, the white fog turned into a single, translucent drop of water that floated in front of Shun Long, causing his eyes to widen in incredulousness and disbelief.

"This is... a drop of 'Immortal water'?" Shun Long mumbled to himself in disbelief as he stretched out his hand and grabbed the translucent drop of water in front of him, allowing it to float in his palm.

Chapter 859: Drop of 'Immortal water'

Staring at the translucent drop of water in front of him, Shun Long was momentarily taken aback, as a myriad of thoughts began to course through his mind.

Although most people may not be aware of what this drop of water actually was, Shun Long could immediately recognize it with a single glance, which was why he was so surprised.

At the same time, within the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', a look of doubt had also appeared on Little Black's face as his bright azure eyes stared intently at the drop of water that was floating in front of Shun Long, and after a few moments of silence, the black dragon finally muttered in a voice filled with disbelief

"How is this possible? There is actually 'Immortal water' in this place?"

Shun Long nodded his head as he was just as surprised as Little Black.

After all, 'Immortal water' was a type of natural type of treasure that could only be found in the 'Immortal Dimension' and couldn't possibly appear in a place like the central region of the cultivation world.

Shun Long knew that this drop of 'Immortal water', could not only be used as an ingredient for alchemy, but it could also be consumed directly by body refinement cultivators to increase their strength even further.

In fact, to magic beasts and body refinement cultivators who lived in the 'Immortal Dimension', 'Immortal water' was one of the most sought-after type of treasures that they used to increase their strength.

Even this single drop of 'Immortal water' in front of Shun Long was enough to allow an average body refinement cultivator who was at the peak of the fifth stage to immediately breakthrough upon consuming it and reach the early sixth stage instantly!

However, Shun Long also knew that consuming 'Immortal water' this way was a huge waste of such a treasure.

After all, 'Immortal water' was meant to be consumed in large quantities to obtain even better results.

A single drop of 'Immortal water' by itself had quite negligible effects and wasn't worth too much to experts at the Dao Emperor realm and above, but if one consumed it in large quantities, that would be an entirely different story.

Waving his right hand, Shun Long then took out an empty pill bottle from the 'Stone of Time' and stored the drop of 'Immortal water' inside it, before he turned his gaze deeper towards the 'Illusion oasis'.

The moment that the white leopard's figure collapsed and turned into white fog, Shun Long could see the rest of the white fog around him that had started to thin out considerably, almost as if it was consciously opening up a path for him.

At the same time, inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Little Black stared at the drop of 'Immortal water' that was floating calmly inside the alchemy bottle, before the black dragon said in a voice filled with excitement

"Master, I don't know who created this place but since there was a drop of 'Immortal water' here, there must be even more of it deeper inside. This place is a treasure trove for master!"

Nodding his head, Shun Long agreed with Little Black, as he began to follow the path that had been opened by the white fog without any hesitation.

Indeed, just like Little Black had said, Shun Long also guessed that this place was most likely going to be a treasure trove for him, causing a smile to appear on his face.

After all, if there was a single drop of 'Immortal water' to be obtained so early in this trial, it was very likely that one would be able to obtain even more of it if they headed even deeper inside.

Even if there were no more drops of 'Immortal water', the treasures deeper inside this place should be at least at a similar, if not an even higher level than this drop of 'Immortal water'.

At the same time, this trial seemed to be testing a person's spiritual strength, which was Shun Long's current strongest trait.

It would be one thing if this place tested a person's cultivation base or even their combat strength, but spiritual strength was the one thing that Shun Long was certain that no other Dao King could possibly compare with him, even with his current cultivation base.

In fact, even most early-stage Dao Emperors would find themselves completely helpless if they were to compare spiritual strengths with Shun Long.

A few moments later, Shun Long arrived at the end of the path in front of him, before he noticed the white fog around him that had started to become even more condensed than before.

Once again, the white fog surrounding him had completely blocked his vision, before it started to invade his spiritual sea for the second time. And yet, Shun Long simply ignored it as he began to make his way deeper towards the depths of the 'Illusion oasis' shortly afterwards.

With every passing step he took, the pressure from the white fog seemed to be increasing even further, and yet Shun Long was barely affected by it as he kept walking forward with steady steps.

In fact, Shun Long could barely sense any pressure from the white fog itself and was simply walking slowly in case he encountered another beast like the white leopard.

Finally, after walking for a little more than an hour, Shun Long's footsteps suddenly came to a halt before his golden eyes lit up with a bright blue and golden light!

At the same time, the white fog around him had started to churn and coalesce together, slowly taking the form of a familiar-looking magic beast that was more than 15 meters (49ft) tall.

Staring at the figure of the white leopard in front of him that was made entirely from white fog, Shun Long's lips curved upwards forming a bright smile, before his aura at the peak of rank 3 in the Dao King realm suddenly exploded outwards!

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Chapter 860: Collecting 'Immortal water'

Shun Long could sense that this leopard in front of him was actually no different from the previous white leopard he had killed since it was also emitting the aura of a middle rank 6 magic beast.

Waving his right hand, Shun Long then took out the black sword from the 'Stone of Time' and held it tightly with both hands, before he swung it downwards without any hesitation.

A thread of sword qi suddenly emerged from the edge of the black sword in the next moment before it headed straight for the white leopard's neck.

"ROOOOAARRRRR!"

The white leopard's figure that had just been condensed let out a threatening growl as soon as it sensed the terrifying thread of sword qi that was about to strike its neck, before it turned around and stared at Shun Long with its intelligent-looking eyes that seemed to be hiding hints of malice inside them.

Although the white leopard could sense that Shun Long was just a peak rank 3 Dao King and he should be nothing more than an ant against a middle rank 6 magic beast like itself, it could also sense clearly that this thread of sword qi wasn't something that it could ignore since it was capable of taking its life.

Kicking the ground with its 2 front legs, the white leopard's figure turned into a blur as it easily dodged the thread of sword qi that was heading for its neck, before it shot towards Shun Long like a white arrow that had just been released.

In fact, the white leopard was so fast, that most early-stage Dao Kings wouldn't even be able to follow it with their eyes and would have to rely on their soul sense if they wanted to stand a chance against it. Only middle or late-stage Dao Kings would be able to track it down with their own eyes and be able to react in time.

However, in this place where soul sense was completely restricted, the white leopard was an apex predator that could easily hunt down almost any prey.

Other than some extremely powerful late-stage Dao Kings or some peak sixth-stage body refinement cultivators, no one else would dare to take it lightly.

And yet, Shun Long didn't seem to be startled by the white leopard's speed, as his golden eyes stared calmly at the leopard's figure that had already crossed more than half the distance between them, while staring at him with its light-yellow eyes that were filled with cruelty and killing intent.

"Master... it seems that this 'Illusion oasis' is actually one enormous formation."

Inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' Little Black said after a few moments of silence, without paying the slightest bit of attention to the white leopard that had already arrived in front of Shun Long and was about to strike his chest with its massive claws.

Staring at the white leopard in front of him, Shun Long had a calm look in his eyes as he abruptly vanished from the spot he was standing on, appearing right behind the leopard, before he mumbled to himself in a low voice that quietly reverberated throughout the fog-filled forest

"Monarch's Domain."

The invisible figure of an hourglass instantly expanded from his body, forcibly slowing down the flow of time around Shun Long.

Clutching the black sword with both hands, Shun Long swung it downwards at full strength as he chopped it straight towards the white leopard's unprotected neck.

The white leopard that had just missed its attack was about to turn around the moment it sensed Shun Long appearing behind it, but before it had enough time to react, a terrifying slash of black-colored sword qi effortlessly severed its head from the rest of its body, causing its figure to abruptly turn stiff before it collapsed on the ground with a 'thud'.

Moments later, Shun Long saw the white leopard's collapsed body that had started to turn back into white fog, before it quickly began to gather together, slowly turning into a single, translucent drop of water.

"ROOOOAAAARRRRRR!"

"ROOOOOOAAARRRRRR!"

And yet, before Shun Long had enough time to collect this drop of 'Immortal water' in front of him 2 furious roars that were filled with killing intent suddenly sounded from his left and right respectively, as the auras of 2 middle rank 6 magic beasts assaulted him practically at the same time.

Hearing the 2 familiar-sounding roars that were almost identical to the white leopard's that he had just killed, Shun Long gave up on collecting the drop of 'Immortal water' that was floating in front of him and turned around to face the source of these roars.

Staring at the 2 white leopards that had just appeared and didn't look any different from the first one, Shun Long narrowed his eyes for a moment, before his body disappeared on the spot, as he used 'blink' once again to appear right in front of the first of the 2 leopards.

Less than a minute later, silence had once again filled the eerie, fog-filled forest, as Shun Long stared at the 3 drops of 'Immortal water' that he had just collected and placed them inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', before he began to make his way deeper inside the forest.

The deeper into the forest he headed, the more powerful the pressure around him seemed to become, and the more white leopards seemed to be appearing.

And yet, these white leopards that could threaten even those rank 5 and rank 6 Dao Kings couldn't even last against a single slash of sword qi, before their bodies turned into drops of 'Immortal water' that Shun Long happily collected and stored inside the 'Stone of Time'.

As for the ever-growing pressure, Shun Long decided to completely ignore it as he made his way even deeper inside the 'Illusion oasis'.

Finally, a little more than half a day later, after hunting more than 200 white leopards, Shun Long's eyes suddenly lit up as he stared at the scene in front of him with a stunned look on his face.

