

War God 161

Chapter 161 - Refining Flame Fist!

Both parties spared the pleasantries, and the inevitable fight broke out immediately. They were not idiotic enough to talk a bunch before fighting.

“Long Chen, be careful!”

She knew something was wrong when she saw both of them running towards her.

Long Chen is the weaker one. What they should've done was send one person to stop me while the other went and attacked Long Chen. If they are both attacking me ... That means they want to defeat me in one strike!

She was right. Two strategies could be employed here. Either distract her and attack Long Chen, or attack her together to bring her down.

Cutting through the pitch-black darkness, the two cultivators ran like the wind and disrupted the peace of the place. They were soon in front of Yin Mengyao and used the same technique.

“Refining Flame Fist!”

The technique was similar to Long Chen's Burning Devil Sun Fist, Blazing Flames. Both of them were equal in strength and had the same destructive power. Since both were at the mid Earthly Core Realm, the attack was impressive!

Yin Mengyao realized she had underestimated them. Those who had managed to obtain a spot to compete in the qualifiers were all geniuses.

She had to use her full strength to stop their attacks. But if she did so, she wouldn't be able to help Long Chen.

Yin Mengyao chose to attack. She had faith in Long Chen that he would be able to survive the attack.

Long Chen did technically defeat an Earthly Core Realm cultivator even though he was at the Human Core Realm, so he shouldn't get defeated that fast ...

“This woman is amazing!”

Yin Mengyao clashed with the two cultivators but did not show any sign of losing. Her barrage of frost palms made both of the Red family cultivators unable to approach her.

“Glacier Seal!”

Facing Yin Mengyao's intense attack, the duo from the Red family looked at each other and unleashed another strong burst of the Refining Flame Fist.

Their techniques clashed together and sent leaves flying away from the shockwave.

Several thick trees even snapped in half and fell down.

“Now!” one of the Red family youths shouted. The other ran towards Long Chen, dodging Yin Mengyao in the process.

“I’ve been had!”

Yin Mengyao panicked.

She was so fixated on defeating the two of them that she didn’t realize that they had been controlling the flow of the battle. They had gradually pulled her away from Long Chen, especially after she used Glacier Seal! She was sent tens of meters away by the impact.

Once they were far enough, the stronger of the Red family youths blocked Yin Mengyao from running back to Long Chen while the other ran away from her to attack Long Chen.

Mid Earthly Core Realm. Even though he’s not as strong as Chu Yunxi, he’s ten times stronger than Feng Wutian!

Long Chen felt pressured when the Red family youth ran towards him.

After learning that she had been tricked, she was angry and ran towards Long Chen without hesitation.

“You might be smart, but do you think you can stop me alone?”

“Without Mo Xiaolang, you are the first genius of the Silver family that could compete for the top three spots of the outer family. Even though I’m not as strong as you, I am confident that I can hold you long enough for my brother to kill that brat!”

Time was of the essence!

As long as they could hold Yin Mengyao back, they would win.

After learning that Yin Mengyao’s teammate was Long Chen, everyone had decided to target them. The Red family were the ones who had ascended the mountain just before Long Chen, so they knew their rough location.

“Long Chen, be careful!”

All Yin Mengyao could do for now was swat the annoying fly in front of her as fast as she could!

Long Chen looked at the youth who was running towards him and smiled.

You have the honor of being the first opponent I fight since I entered the Earthly Core Realm. Come, let me see if I can defeat you without using the Dragon Soul Transformation.

Even if he didn’t activate the Dragon Soul Transformation, his Qi quality was four times higher than regular Qi, which meant that he was roughly half a step into the mid Earthly Core Realm.

Plus, he had the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body.

It’s just that no one knew about it.

Long Chen suddenly moved and ran backwards when he saw the youth approaching him.

“You bastard! Don’t run!”

Seeing how spineless Long Chen was, the youth shouted in a panic. If he couldn’t catch up to Long Chen, his brother would be defeated by Yin Mengyao soon!

Thankfully, Long Chen was not running very fast. The youth ran as fast as he could and slowly caught up.

But even if he did, both of them would be out of Yin Mengyao's vision.

What is he doing? Why is he so cowardly?

Yin Mengyao was speechless. If Long Chen had stayed where she could see him, she could help him. Now that he had run away while she was being held up by the other guy, she would not be able to help Long Chen if the other person decided to kill him!

"Looks like your teammate is very cowardly."

The youth chuckled.

"You think you have the time to taunt me? How long do you think you can last against me?"

Yin Mengyao launched a flurry of attacks while dissing back.

The only thing she could do now was defeat the youth in front of her as fast as she could.

Long Chen, on the other hand, had successfully run away from Yin Mengyao's range of vision while kiting the other youth.

The reason why he didn't want Yin Mengyao to see him was because he was playful and wanted to make others think he was weak. Even though he was strong, he did not want to reveal it yet.

"Why did you stop running?"

The youth saw Long Chen smiling at him menacingly.

"What's your name?" Long Chen asked earnestly.

"Chen Xin."

Chen Xin felt like something was off after announcing his name. His brother was holding off Yin Mengyao with his life, so why was he answering Long Chen's question so leisurely?

Chen Xin was pissed.

"Die!"

He rushed at Long Chen without any warning!

"I'm just asking your name. Why are you so angry?"

Long Chen knew that the youth was short on time, so he was stalling. Long Chen used the Nine Heavens Dragon Step and increased his speed, causing the other youth to be unable to hit him.

What the? Even though he had used a Body Combat technique, he shouldn't be able to move this fast!

He was shocked, but he did not stop attacking.

"Shit! Stop avoiding it!"

Chen Xin was close to going crazy from rage.

“I’m clearly a man and yet you kept chasing me nonstop. I’m scared!”

Long Chen laughed and teased him.

Chen Xin somehow fell for that taunt.

“You dare spout lies! Die!

“Refining Flame Fist! Fortress Burning Flame!”

He used the intermediate Black-tier techniques masterfully.

I might not be able to win against him using the Burning Devil Sun Fist without transforming. Let’s try this instead.

It was time to be serious. On the other side, the angry Yin Mengyao had almost defeated the other youth.

Long Chen stopped and looked at Chen Xin’s attacks.

Let me show you the strength of an advanced Black-tier technique!

Seeing Long Chen finally stop running, Chen Xin sighed in relief.

I still have time to help my brother once I defeat Long Chen! Damn, he runs so fast.

Chen Xin increased the strength of his attacks and engulfed the area around them in flames.

Just then, a single twinkle of starlight appeared on Long Chen’s right index finger.

The light seemed weak, but Long Chen’s hand was already shaking from trying to control its power!

The Refining Flame Fist almost enveloped Long Chen when he gently waved his right hand. A single starlight shot towards Chen Xin, destroying the Refining Flame Fist at the same time!

“Sword Devil Finger!”

The air was torn apart and Chen Xin felt his vision go black before he felt intense pain in his arm. The attack had struck his arm, but the impact from it made him spit blood.

What was that technique?!

Chen Xin’s face was pale from the attack. His Refining Flame Fist had been completely obliterated and the light had sent him flying backwards, pinning him to a tree.

His entire arm was essentially gone at this point. He cried out in pain from the wound, but an elbow knocked him out in the next instant.

“One jade bracelet, just like that!”

Chapter 162 - Entering the Myriad Snake Lair!

Long Chen was not far from Yin Mengyao, so she panicked when she heard a man shouting in the distance.

It was fine if Long Chen had lost his jade bracelet but if he died or used his flare, her opportunity to join the inner family would be dashed.

The qualifiers were very important to her.

“You are forcing me to kill you!”

Yin Mengyao used her strongest technique.

At the same time, Long Chen placed Chen Xin’s body down and saw that the jade bracelet had indeed slipped out of his wrist. When he tried to collect it, the bracelet suddenly attached itself to his arm.

He now had two bracelets.

“If I were to get injured, I would lose both of them.”

Long Chen was happy after obtaining two bracelets.

His breakthrough to the Earthly Core Realm, the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body, and the advanced Black-tier Sword Devil Finger had all been factors in defeating Chen Xin without any difficulties even without the Dragon Soul Transformation.

With the additional jade bracelet, Long Chen was one step closer to his goal.

“I wonder if she beat the other guy yet. I better go and check, or she might die from stress.”

Long Chen chuckled and walked over in Yin Mengyao’s direction.

“Who would worry about you? You are so obnoxious!”

Ling Xi rolled her eyes and pouted.

“That said, the Sword Devil Finger is very useful. I defeated him even without using my Dragon Soul Transformation.”

“This is nothing. It’s just something I came up with when I was younger to play.”

Ling Xi boasted when she recalled her past.

“Nonsense. You kept saying how powerful you were and yet you still became my servant.”

“Bastard! Who says I’m your servant?!”

They were messing around while walking. Even though they were quite close, Long Chen walked faster to prevent Ling Xi from tormenting his ear.

Ling Xi shut up to prevent Yin Mengyao from discovering her presence, but she was still not done with him.

Long Chen finally found where they were. He saw the youth from the Red family finally fall to Yin Mengyao’s attack. He was blown back, and blood splattered everywhere when he crashed into a tree.

He was confused as to why Chen Xin would take so long against Long Chen.

He had also heard someone shouting in the distance and thought Chen Xin had dealt the finishing blow. He had relaxed a little, but was puzzled as to why Chen Xin had not rushed over to assist him.

The longer he waited, the more panicked he got.

Soon after, Yin Mengyao got angry and finally defeated him.

Her attack had left him covered in frost and his face pale. His jade bracelet fell from his wrist and was taken by Yin Mengyao.

Long Chen's team now had four bracelets. As long as they didn't lose any, they were sure to enter the second stage.

It sounded easy, but it was very difficult in reality. Every team's strengths were almost equal, so they could fight to the death and still not distinguish a clear victor.

There weren't that many teams that could dominate the others like Long Chen and Yin Mengyao's team.

After taking care of the youth, Yin Mengyao immediately ran over to where Long Chen was, but she saw him standing underneath a tree with a smile.

Even though his body was slightly dirty, there were no signs of combat or injuries on him. This was not what Yin Mengyao had expected.

Impossible, unless he was not the one who screamed just now?

Yin Mengyao finally showed a hint of emotion on her face.

Long Chen looked relaxed, as if he had not comprehended the horrors of Heaven's Path. This made her think he was not as simple as he seemed.

She shook her head and thought it was hilarious.

Chen Xin's strength is at the bottom of the barrel for the qualifiers. Since Long Chen could take care of him, that means that the rumor that he defeated an Earthly Core Realm cultivator at the Human Core Realm was not fake. He is indeed a genius.

Yin Mengyao snapped out of it after assessing what might've happened.

"You defeated Chen Xin?"

Yin Mengyao saw the two jade bracelets on Long Chen's arm.

Her tone was cold, but it was filled with admiration and approval.

"Of course. How could he be my equal?"

Long Chen laughed obnoxiously.

Hearing that Chen Xin had lost to Long Chen, the other youth from the Red family fell unconscious.

Before he passed out, he saw that Long Chen was completely unscathed. He had no choice but to accept it.

Even Yin Mengyao accepted the fact that Long Chen had defeated Chen Xin. With four jade bracelets, they could now enter the second stage.

They could resume their journey now.

“Shall we continue?”

Yin Mengyao was glad to see that Long Chen wasn't weak. This time, she asked for his suggestions too.

“Wait.”

Long Chen went back and picked up the unconscious Chen Xin. He then threw him towards the other youth and took out one of their flares.

He infused his Qi into it, then it shot into the air before exploding.

The bright colors filled the dark sky, and a roaring dragon appeared.

The dragon was made of sparks, and the sight was engraved in Long Chen's eyes. He saw the vision of the glorious dragon and the golden age in which they ruled everything. Just like the flare, their brilliance lasted only a short period before they disappeared.

“Let's go.”

Long Chen's heart started beating faster when he thought about the extinction of the dragons. His usual, cheerful demeanor was gone and was replaced with a silent seriousness instead.

Yin Mengyao turned around and looked at the youth.

They could've just left because the lives of the two youths from the Red family were not their responsibility. These were the qualifiers, where it was normal to lose your life.

Even though Long Chen had defeated them, he had also saved their lives.

There were numerous Poison Beasts and Poison Insects lurking around, so they could've died at any moment if they were left as they were.

It was clear that even though Long Chen was a powerful warrior, he was also kind. He was different from the others.

But why is he so serious now? What is he thinking about?

Yin Mengyao was curious. She intended to ask him numerous times, her long eyelashes fluttering from anticipation, but she resisted the urge.

Yin Mengyao was not the kind of person who would pry into someone else's private matters.

Both of them remained silent while climbing up Heaven's Path.

Yin Mengyao suddenly asked, “Long Chen, do you know about a place called the Myriad Snake Lair?”

Long Chen looked at her. Even though it was dark, he could see her eyes, as if they were stars in the night,

“No, I don't. What about it?”

Yin Mengyao hesitated and then said, "I was wrong to underestimate you, so I hope you will accept my apologies."

"Of course, I don't mind." Long Chen suddenly laughed.

"Hmm ..." Yin Mengyao nodded. "Fate has paired us together for this competition, but there is something I must do during the qualifiers. You can decide if you want to leave or not after listening to me."

"Go ahead." Long Chen stopped.

Yin Mengyao wasn't one to waste time, so she went straight to the main point. "There are three candidates from the Silver family, and I have a grudge against the other two. I didn't have the opportunity to deal with them before, so we promised that we would fight to the death at the Myriad Snake Lair here on Heaven's Path."

They had a grudge?

Long Chen was surprised to hear that they hated each other despite being from the same family. "You want me to help you defeat them?"

Yin Mengyao shook her head. "No, the grudge is too deep. It's better if I settle it myself. If you agree to it, you can follow me and stay on the sidelines. You are quite strong, so you should be able to reach the Mortal Caves yourself. If you don't, we can part ways here."

Long Chen thought about it and said nothing.

"Don't worry, I will do my best to survive so you can pass the first stage!"

Yin Mengyao was anxious. This matter was important to her, but she couldn't just do this on her own without considering Long Chen's thoughts. It was unfair for him to lose the chance to enter the inner family just because of her.

Long Chen smiled. "Let's go."

"What?"

"To the Myriad Snake Lair."

Chapter 163 - Abyssal Scorpion

Yin Mengyao was surprised that Long Chen would agree to her plan.

"Alright, I know how to get to the Myriad Snake Lair. We should be able to avoid most dangers as long as we are careful along the way."

With her guidance, Long Chen traversed the rocky path and headed towards the peak.

After half an hour, they arrived at the point where the clouds blanketed the ground. There was fog everywhere. They had been dealing with the cold throughout the climb, but now even their vision was affected by the thick fog, making it harder to find their way around.

The cracks of thunder and the flashes of lightning didn't stop.

"It looks like it will rain soon."

Yin Mengyao was worried.

“How much further to the Myriad Snake Lair?”

Long Chen pushed away one of the black leaves and frowned. The environment of Mortal Mountain was beyond harsh.

He dared not imagine how bad things would get if it rained.

His hand suddenly turned into a blur when he grabbed a snake on a leaf and killed it. The snake was roughly as thick as his thumb and it coiled around his body even after it was dead. Thankfully, the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body was strong enough to withstand it.

The snake was completely black with a red stripe on its dorsal surface that ran from the head to the tail. While it looked normal, its venom was potent.

Beasts like the snake were everywhere on Mortal Mountain.

Long Chen had seen many more Poison Beasts that were much worse than the snake. One of them was the Category Four Black-tier Abyssal Scorpion, which was the size of a horse. Its stinger was at least three meters long and was so sharp that it could probably pierce Long Chen’s tough body.

Yin Mengyao had dealt with many of them before, but it took a lot of effort from her too. The venom from its stinger was so potent that it could kill someone at the Earthly Core Realm.

They continued to walk until Ling Xi suddenly shook the stud. She could not talk when Yin Mengyao was so close to them.

Therefore, Long Chen purposely pulled some distance between himself and Yin Mengyao.

“What’s wrong?”

“There are people ahead, and several Abyssal Scorpions! I think they are from the Violet family, and they might be injured!”

The youths from the Violet family were naturally Gu Cheng and Liu Gui. Gu Cheng was the grandson of Gu Batian. Long Chen could not ignore them since Gu Batian had helped him a lot.

“Long Chen, what’s wrong?”

Yin Mengyao turned around when she saw Long Chen falling back.

At first, she didn’t really bother to talk with him, but his performance so far had earned her respect.

“There’s people in front, I have to go there.” Long Chen did not hesitate to run towards where Ling Xi told him to.

“Wait, I don’t think that’s necessary.” They had already obtained all the jade bracelets they needed, and the only reason they were heading to the Myriad Snake Lair was because of Yin Mengyao’s personal matter. There was no reason to go out of their way to meet another team.

“We already have four bracelets. It should be enough.” She had thought Long Chen wanted to get more bracelets.

He did not answer her. Gu Cheng was in danger, so he didn't bother explaining himself. He continued running.

"You!" Yin Mengyao got angry after seeing Long Chen completely ignore her suggestion.

But she sighed helplessly in the end. Long Chen was too adamant about finding the other team. "Fine, I will just take it that I'm returning the favor for you following me to the Myriad Snake Lair."

She could not let Long Chen go on his own, so she quickly followed him.

Both of them soon approached the Violet team, and Long Chen caught the scent of the scorpions from a distance away.

"Abyssal Scorpions! There are tens of them!"

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao saw what was happening. The scorpions covered the trees, roots, and even the ground itself! There were two people being surrounded by the scorpions.

"Gu Cheng! Liu Gui!"

The two of them found hope in their situation when they heard Long Chen's voice.

They knew that Yin Mengyao was with him, so they had a chance of surviving!

Even though they didn't know if Yin Mengyao would save them, they still had hope.

"Long Chen, please ask Yin Mengyao to save us!"

When Long Chen arrived at the scene, he saw that Gu Cheng was already laying on the ground. His skin was dark from being poisoned.

Liu Gui was doing his best to deter the scorpions, but he almost died a few times from trying to protect Gu Cheng at the same time.

"Gu Cheng got poisoned by the scorpions when he was trying to protect me! Quickly, save him!"

Liu Gui was so desperate that he didn't care what Long Chen did as long as they were saved.

There were several scorpion corpses laid around them.

Seeing that it was Gu Cheng's team and how they knew Long Chen, Yin Mengyao was no longer resentful of Long Chen's behavior.

But how were they injured?

Yin Mengyao was curious.

But Long Chen did not waste any time. He transformed and ran towards the Abyssal Scorpions.

His blood-red scales and bone spines made him look similar to a Poison Beast, just much more dangerous.

He had to transform because not only were the scorpions dangerous, but his body would become stronger with the protection of the scales. It would be harder for the scorpions to wound him.

“Long Chen, be careful!”

Gu Cheng and Liu Gui were grateful to see that Long Chen had rushed in to help them, but they were worried that he would be in danger as well. They knew how strong he was and were worried he would get poisoned.

Even though this was the first time they had seen Long Chen transform, they still underestimated his strength because he was only at the initial Earthly Core Realm.

The news of him being at the Earthly Core Realm had spread amongst the Grand Elders, which was how they knew about it.

They were worried about Long Chen, but what shocked them was that Long Chen tore through the scorpions like a wolf amongst sheep. He didn't even need Yin Mengyao's help!

“How is this possible?”

Gu Cheng and Liu Gui were very surprised.

“Primordial Dragon Seal!”

Long Chen used the Primordial Dragon Seal with just one hand. He had mastered it a long time ago, and the roaring dragon destroyed the scorpions one by one.

But the Abyssal Scorpions were tenacious. They saw how powerful Long Chen was and let out a unified shriek. In an instant, dozens of scorpions ran towards him at the same time.

All of them raised their three-meter-long stingers. The scorpions were poised to stab Long Chen at any time. Everyone felt their scalps tingle when they saw what was happening.

The Abyssal Scorpions can strike very fast! Even a regular Category Four Black-tier beast would fall to their attacks!

Thankfully, Poison Beasts were only found in the humid Nine Devil Mountains. If they could be found everywhere, humanity would be fucked.

No wonder Gu Cheng got poisoned! They are so tenacious!

Long Chen felt his scalp tingle after dodging numerous blows from the scorpions.

He felt like he was embarrassing himself, but Gu Cheng and Liu Gui were surprised. They had never thought that someone who was at the initial Earthly Core Realm like Long Chen could weave through the scorpions' attacks and even kill some of them in the process. They could never achieve what Long Chen was doing!

Liu Gui whispered to Gu Cheng while feeding him the antidote, “Senior Gu, didn't the Grand Elder say that Long Chen is only at the initial Earthly Core Realm? Why do I get the feeling he's even stronger than us?”

Gu Cheng shook his head in pain. “I don't know ... Thankfully, we have something to stop the poison with. With Long Chen and Yin Mengyao here, we should be fine. Protect me while I circulate my Qi. I need to expel the poison.”

Even though they wanted to figure out why Long Chen was so strong, expelling the poison was more important, or Gu Cheng would be crippled if he was poisoned for too long.

“Alright.”

Liu Gui looked at Long Chen nervously.

These bastards! Fuck, since you guys are filled with Yin energy, I will show you something that will burn you all!

“Burning Devil Sun Fist, Blazing Flames!”

Long Chen launched the fiery fist, and the Abyssal Scorpions shrieked in pain. The remaining ones tried to avoid it. The scorpions that touched the flames were instantly incinerated.

His fire-attribute martial technique is so strong!

Yin Mengyao squinted. She wanted to help Long Chen, but after witnessing that technique, she decided to sit back. Her teammate could clean up everything by himself.

The Blazing Flames were much stronger now that Long Chen was at the Earthly Core Realm. Even though it was an intermediate Black-tier technique, even Yin Mengyao’s Glacier Seal could not compete with it!

Is Long Chen actually the dark horse in this competition?

Yin Mengyao pondered while staring at him.

Long Chen finally burned the last Abyssal Scorpion with Blazing Flames.

He then approached Liu Gui and Gu Cheng, the latter of whom were in disbelief. All of the Abyssal Scorpions had been eradicated.

Liu Gui snapped out of it after some time. “Long Chen, you should go first. Chu Yunxi and the three people from the Gold family have teamed up. They are trying to take all of the bracelets from everyone, and they have almost succeeded!”

Chapter 164 - Myriad Snake Lair

“They can do that?”

Long Chen was not in a good mood. Both Jin Sheng’en and Chu Yunxi were already strong, and now they had to deal with the other two geniuses from the Gold family at the same time. No one could survive their onslaught!

“I saw it with my own eyes. If we hadn’t escaped in time, we might’ve lost our bracelets to them. But our luck went down the drain when we accidentally entered the nest of the Abyssal Scorpions. Wait, Long Chen, they are looking for you!”

Liu Gui carefully dragged Gu Cheng to a safe place before the latter tried expelling the poison from his body.

“They are probably trying to kill me.”

Long Chen smiled coldly.

Yin Mengyao approached them and stood beside Long Chen. She now had a deeper understanding of Long Chen’s strength after seeing him kill all of the Abyssal Scorpions in such a short time.

“Are they breaking the rules?” Long Chen questioned.

Yin Mengyao frowned. “I don’t think so. There are no rules about banding together to defeat the others. They’ve exploited a loophole. Any team that encounters them will be defeated.”

The four of them were too strong together, and no one could win against them.

“Thankfully, Mortal Devil Mountain is huge, so it won’t be easy to run into them.”

Long Chen saw that both Gu Cheng and Liu Gui still had their bracelets. Thanks to the medicine, Gu Cheng slowly recovered. An hour had passed by the time he was ready to get back on his feet. Yin Mengyao was visibly in a hurry.

“Since you are healed, I need to follow her to complete her mission. Will you be fine?” Long Chen asked.

Yin Mengyao needed to go to the Myriad Snake Lair, so they had to take a detour. Gu Cheng and Liu Gui, however, needed to reach the top as soon as possible.

With their current condition, they no longer had the strength to fight other teams. All they could do was protect their bracelets and hope for a chance to succeed in the end.

Gu Cheng stood up. “Since you have something to do, you should go first. Liu Gui and I will rush to the top of the mountain.”

They soon went their own ways. Gu Cheng and Liu Gui finally had the chance to talk about Long Chen once they were far enough.

“Senior Gu, what is Long Chen’s true identity? He just killed dozens of Abyssal Scorpions with ease.”

“I saw that too. If I’m right, his strength should put him in the top five, even higher than me.”

Gu Cheng looked at where Long Chen ran off to and sighed.

“That strong?” Liu Gui was surprised.

“Yeah. He must be from a prestigious background if he became this strong just two months after he joined the outer family.”

“Hmm ... I noticed that he’s quite close with Yin Mengyao. What do you think they are doing?”

“I don’t know.”

“I’m curious. What kind of grudge do you have against them even though you are both from the same family?”

Yin Mengyao was not someone who would fight with others without reason.

Yin Mengyao sighed when she heard his question.

“The guy is called Li Feng and the girl is called Wang Dan. I can’t say what grudge I have with them.”

Is it a secret?

Long Chen was curious, but he knew better than to ask again. Since Yin Mengyao didn’t want to explain it, he didn’t ask her again.

Halfway up Heaven’s Path, their visions were severely impeded by the heavy fog. Their movements were somewhat slowed too.

“There are more venomous snakes here ...”

Long Chen killed the venomous snakes that pounced on them with ease.

“Then we are close to the Myriad Snake Lair. It’s where the snake-type Poison Beasts reside. It’s a famous location on Mortal Devil Mountain. We can expect to fight a lot of snakes, but they are not the scary part,” Yin Mengyao explained seriously.

“Then what’s the scary part?”

“There are several Category Five Black-tier Yin Snake Demons in the Myriad Snake Lair. Their venom is even more potent than the Abyssal Scorpions’. It will be difficult to deal with them if they all attack at the same time.”

“If it’s so dangerous, why are we meeting there?” Long Chen was perplexed.

“Because it’s the only place we know on Mortal Devil Mountain. Where else can we go? We are only meeting there. We will go to another place to fight later.”

Long Chen understood why and shut up.

“Li Feng and Wang Dan are at the initial Earthly Core Realm, and they just broke through not too long ago. Their combined strength would be equal to the youths from the Red family. I alone am enough, so you can just watch from the side.”

Yin Mengyao was feeling somewhat guilty for bringing Long Chen here.

Long Chen nodded. Now was not the time to argue with her. He could always step in if she was losing.

It was hard enough for Long Chen to make friends nowadays, so he might as well help her.

“We are almost there.”

There was a pungent scent in the air, and they saw numerous snakes around them. They walked further and crossed through the thick leaves before they arrived at a clearing. There was a massive cave at the end of the clearing, its opening looking eerily similar to a gaping jaw.

Numerous venomous snakes entered and exited the cave, forming a river of snakes.

“Someone’s here,” Ling Xi whispered to Long Chen.

Long Chen indeed saw two youths sitting together at the edge of the clearing. They stood up when they saw Yin Mengyao and Long Chen arrive together, and the boy said, "Yin Mengyao! I thought you would never come."

"You ungrateful bastard. How could I not come?" Yin Mengyao scoffed at him.

Long Chen observed them and saw that they were quite disheveled, as if they had fought a lot of beasts just to arrive here. On the other hand, Yin Mengyao and Long Chen looked as if they were fine.

Why are they both looking fine? I can understand Yin Mengyao, but why is Long Chen looking so spirited?

"You are uninjured even though you had to take care of the baggage. Seems like your luck is good." Wang Dan pointed at her. "Don't tell me you love him and want to protect that useless bastard?"

Long Chen was speechless.

Hmph! I will give you a good spanking if I get my hands on you!

Long Chen silently cursed.

"You are courting death!" Yin Mengyao was furious after hearing that.

"Ha! You got angry! I'm so scared. I feel so sorry for Mo Xiaolang. To think you would find someone else so soon after Mo Xiaolang got imprisoned."

"Shut up!" Yin Mengyao was so infuriated that her body started trembling. "I told you he's like a brother to me!"

"Brother? That's bullshit."

Long Chen wanted to smack Wang Dan's face.

Mo Xiaolang?

Long Chen then recalled that Mo Xiaolang was a member of the Silver family, and he seemed to be very close to Yin Mengyao. He was happy that he could learn more about Mo Xiaolang through Yin Mengyao.

Long Chen had been worried about his safety ever since he heard that Mo Xiaolang was imprisoned.

Yin Mengyao and Wang Dan bickered and fought in front of the Myriad Snake Lair.

Wang Dan smiled when she saw Yin Mengyao use her technique, as if her plan had succeeded. She then ganged up on Yin Mengyao with Li Feng.

Why are they forcing Yin Mengyao to fight in front of the Myriad Snake Lair?

Long Chen wasn't sure why, but he observed closely to prevent Yin Mengyao from getting bitten or defeated.

She was still his teammate. If she died, he could never enter the inner family.

Yin Mengyao seems to be fighting harder compared to when she was dealing with the two youths from the Red family. Seems like she's going all out.

“Glacier Seal!”

“Whirlwind Claw!”

Even against their combined attacks, Yin Mengyao continued attacking fiercely. She showed no signs of losing.

It didn't take long for Li Feng and Wang Dan to realize that they were fighting a losing battle. They held on and continued to launch intermediate Black-tier martial techniques.

Li Feng was utilizing an intermediate Black-tier Body Combat Technique that made him as swift as the wind, so none of Yin Mengyao's attacks were hitting him.

But Yin Mengyao was smart too. Since she couldn't hit Li Feng, she focused on attacking Wang Dan, who was weaker. Even though she was good at speeches, her martial skills were lacking and she was being pressured by Yin Mengyao.

Wang Dan had been pushed towards the entrance of the Myriad Snake Lair, and she called out in distress, “Bitch! Hurry up and die! Senior Feng, help me!”

Li Feng was panicking too. Now was not the time to show off his skills, so he quickly stood in between Yin Mengyao and Wang Dan. He did his best to attack Yin Mengyao.

“Whirlwind Wheel!”

“Frost Palm Seal!”

Li Feng got pushed back and crashed into Wang Dan. Just then, Yin Mengyao smiled.

“You already know that I've learned an advanced Black-tier Martial technique and yet you decided to fight me here. Both of you will die today!”

“Advanced Black-tier martial technique?”

Long Chen was taken aback. His strongest attack was also an advanced Black-tier martial technique, the Sword Devil Finger. He was surprised that Yin Mengyao had one. She was one of the geniuses of the outer family, so it was natural she had one too.

Seems like I can't stop cultivating, or people will catch up to me. If I can do it, they can too.

Li Feng and Wang Dan paled when they heard that she had an advanced Black-tier martial technique.

“You managed to learn it?”

Li Feng's face was sullen. He looked at Wang Dan and gave a signal. They would use their strongest techniques to face off against Yin Mengyao's advanced Black-tier technique.

I wonder what her advanced Black-tier martial technique is ...?

Chapter 165 - Churning Sea Seal

With Yin Mengyao's strength, Long Chen knew she would not lose to them, so he just stood back and relaxed.

He had intended to help her, but it seemed she would not need it.

Especially since she was going to use an advanced Black-tier martial technique.

At the same time, their battle was reaching its peak. Both Li Feng and Wang Dan were wary of Yin Mengyao's massive attack.

"Junior Dan, we should be fine if we combine our attacks to deal with her advanced Black-tier technique."

Yin Mengyao's eyes grew cold and a chilly aura emanated from her body. Even the snakes surrounding them ran away in fear. The intense power came out in pulses like massive waves.

A huge surge of Qi covered Yin Mengyao and circled around her.

Yin Mengyao swiftly made a seal, and the Qi turned into blue water. It swirled around her and above as if it was a massive sea dragon.

"Senior Feng, let's go!"

"Alright! True Devil's Path!"

"Moonlight Slash!"

They combined their strongest intermediate Black-tier martial techniques and launched them towards Yin Mengyao.

Even amongst intermediate Black-tier martial techniques, theirs were considered some of the strongest. They were almost on par with Long Chen's Devil Sun Collision.

Yin Mengyao launched her attack at the same time.

"Tear the heavens and rend the earth! Churning Sea Seal!"

The skies turned even darker from her technique! The name of the technique was indeed accurate. A massive wave of blue Qi crashed into the opposing techniques!

Hidden within the waves of Qi was a massive, blue hand seal that contained the power of destruction. Both Li Feng's True Devil Path and Wang Dan's Moonlight Slash were obliterated by its power.

"Evade it!"

They knew Yin Mengyao was strong, but they had underestimated her.

They managed to dodge the main attack, but the shockwave from the impact still injured them and sent them flying.

Li Feng used his agility and managed to escape with lesser injuries, but Wang Dan was different. Her face was pale after she got hit by the impact.

Li Feng managed to catch her in midair and took her to safety. One wrong move and both of them would've plunged into the depths of the Myriad Snake Cave.

Long Chen sighed in relief when Yin Mengyao's victory looked certain. He was afraid that there might be unforeseen circumstances.

Yin Mengyao was overjoyed when she injured Wang Dan with the Churning Sea Seal.

Both of them had done something unforgivable to her. Her hatred for them was not something others could comprehend!

Now that Wang Dan had lost her ability to fight and Li Feng was tired, Yin Mengyao rushed in to deal the finishing blow.

They were fighting to the death here, and Yin Mengyao was more than happy to send them off. She had no hesitation in killing them.

Seeing Yin Mengyao coming over to them, the heavily injured Wang Dan quickly shouted, "Senior Feng, she's coming! We have to go with the final plan! Do it now!"

They didn't want to use it because they couldn't predict how it would end up, but now they had no choice but to play their final card since they would die if they didn't.

Even though they knew how strong Yin Mengyao's advanced Black-tier martial technique was, they ended up being blown away after experiencing it themselves. They couldn't stop it even with their strongest techniques.

"Fine, we have to bet on it! If we don't kill her, we can't live in peace!"

Li Feng smiled cruelly at Yin Mengyao, who was rapidly approaching them.

He slowly moved his hand towards his Universe Pouch. When Yin Mengyao was just ten meters away, he swiftly took out something and threw it towards her!

"What is that?"

The thing flew so fast that even Long Chen did not see it clearly.

Yin Mengyao saw the thing flying towards her.

Hidden weapon?

Yin Mengyao's gaze grew serious as she swiftly raised her palm and cut the thing in half.

"An egg?"

Both Long Chen and Yin Mengyao were confused. To think it was a black egg. Yin Mengyao had cut it in half, causing the yolk and egg white to fly everywhere, staining the ground and her clothes.

She had no time to remove the dirty thing from her outfit.

"What are you guys scheming?"

Yin Mengyao ran again, but at the same time, thousands of hissing sounds came from within the Myriad Snake Lair. The entire cave started to shake.

"What's happening?"

Even Long Chen was surprised by the sudden change in the Myriad Snake Lair.

All of this happened after Li Feng had thrown the egg at Yin Mengyao.

Wait, was that a snake egg?

Long Chen put two and two together, and his face paled.

Oh, shit! Yin Mengyao destroyed a snake egg, and the venomous snakes in the Myriad Snake Lair must've smelled it. The only snakes that could cause this much of a disruption are the Yin Snake Demons!

Those were Category Five Black-tier Poisonous Beasts that could rival a cultivator at the mid Earthly Core Realm! Their venom was extremely deadly!

Yin Mengyao is now covered in the scent of the broken egg. The Yin Snake Demons will be able to tell that she broke it and will attack her! Li Feng and Wang Dan must've snuck into the Myriad Snake Lair and stolen an egg. They wanted to use the egg as their trump card if they couldn't defeat Yin Mengyao!

Li Feng immediately picked up Wang Dan and ran after he threw the egg. Yin Mengyao wanted to chase after them, but the entire area started to shake. A burst of black gas gushed out from the cave. The pungent scent almost caused Long Chen to vomit even from afar.

“You guys are despicable!”

Yin Mengyao knew she had fallen into their trap!

But the black gas was aimed at her. She could only dodge it at this point.

A massive, black snake slithered out of the cave, shattering rocks everywhere with its violent exit. All Long Chen could see were its red eyes that shone like lanterns in the darkness of the mountain.

The hissing didn't stop, and Long Chen felt his scalp go numb. There was more than one Yin Snake Demon. More and more of them poured out of the cave!

Not only were they strong, they were also smart. They didn't attack Yin Mengyao blindly, but instead surrounded her to cut off her escape route!

A total of six Yin Snake Demons surrounded her, their red eyes glaring at Yin Mengyao while their tongues slithered in and out. All of them were out for blood.

The Yin Snake Demons were thicker than a water pail, and all of them were tens of meters long. Their skin was riddled with holes and warts while being surrounded by a black mist, making them look very deadly.

Yin Mengyao was horrified when she learned that she was surrounded by them.

Any ordinary person would be horrified of snakes, much less Poison Beasts. Every single one of them was as strong as Yin Mengyao, and they had potent venom as well. Her chances of survival were slim after being surrounded!

Yin Mengyao could very well die today, and her corpse would never be found. Li Feng and Wang Dan's plan was downright despicable.

Her hatred towards them grew even more.

After the Yin Snake Demons surrounded her, all of them started hissing and coiling on the ground. They could strike at any time. Their tongues flicked in and out while their eyes were filled with killing intent.

“Yin Mengyao, be careful!” Long Chen knew they were about to strike.

He would not only lose the chance to enter the inner family if she died, but Mo Xiaolang would also lose a close friend. He needed to save her!

Long Chen did not hesitate to transform! After transforming, his blood-red scales and bone spikes were as equally jarring as the Yin Snake Demons!

This was the second time she saw him transforming, but she didn't have the luxury to see if he looked good in this form or not.

“Churning Sea Seal!”

This was the best time to attack. When she was surrounded, she immediately used her strongest attack against the Yin Snake Demons.

She immediately targeted the one closest to her at the back!

Chapter 166 – Critical Moment!

The situation had risen to a crescendo!

Yin Mengyao released the Churning Sea Seal once more, and it crashed towards the nearest Yin Snake Demon behind her like a roaring wave just as it charged at her!

Boom!

There was a loud explosion. The Yin Snake Demon was just about to pounce on Yin Mengyao but was hit instead, and it let out a hissing screech!

Its thick body burst open from the impact. Blood and flesh flew in all directions, with black venom mixed in!

But the Yin Snake Demon was not dead yet. It had dodged just in the nick of time, so there was only a large crater in its neck. It crashed into the ground and rolled around manically, snapping the surrounding trees in half!

Crash!

A gigantic, black boulder was shattered by the injured Yin Snake Demon!

When the other Yin Snake Demons saw how brutally injured their friend was, they grew even more furious and let out angry hisses. The gigantic snakes slithered across the ground and then shot towards Yin Mengyao like poison arrows!

Yin Mengyao's most powerful attack, the Churning Sea Seal, had only injured one Yin Snake Demon. When she saw that the other poison beasts had begun to attack, grief and despair filled her eyes.

At this moment, all she could do was use up the last of her Qi and pounce at the nearest Yin Snake Demon, trying to clear a path for herself with a desperate attack!

But Long Chen would never let such a beautiful girl die in front of him like this.

“Churning Sea Seal!”

In the face of her attack, the Yin Snake Demon she was facing spat a mouthful of thick black gas. It was poisonous gas, and Yin Mengyao felt her head spin after just one whiff of it!

“Hold your breath!” Long Chen warned. Yin Mengyao suddenly remembered that she had a partner.

Is he here to save me? When she had this thought, Yin Mengyao was already engaged in an intense battle with a Yin Snake Demon using her most powerful attacks.

Boom!

Consecutive explosions sounded. The shockwaves blasted Yin Mengyao out into the air!

She hadn't managed to clear a path for herself like she imagined she would. Instead, the Yin Snake Demon's attacks blasted her back towards the others!

But the Yin Snake Demon that withstood her attack suffered too. It sustained injuries even more severe than the previous one. Bright, red blood covered its head, and its eyes were sunken. It looked like it had been blinded by Yin Mengyao!

But Yin Mengyao wasn't safe yet. In fact, she was in even more danger!

Behind her, the remaining Yin Snake Demons snapped their terrifying mouths at her!

When her last move failed, Yin Mengyao had lost all hope.

“Long Chen ...”

Yin Mengyao felt helpless when she thought of him. She'd burdened him, and he would be disqualified from the event.

A revolting stench attacked her first. Yin Mengyao closed her eyes and gave up!

That was when a powerful force charged behind her!

Boom, boom, boom!

All she heard were consecutive explosions, along with the cries from the Yin Snake Demons!

Yin Mengyao finally snapped out of her daze and realized that she had just been saved. She quickly looked back and froze when she saw the red silhouette.

“Long Chen, is that really you?”

“Who else could it be? Is there anyone in the world as handsome as me?”

Long Chen punched as hard as he could with the strength provided by the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body. His fist landed on one of the Yin Snake Demons, and the sharp spines on his hand poked a huge hole in its body!

This punch was also packed with the power of the Burning Devil Sun Collision to achieve this effect!

Yin Mengyao wasn't revolted by his answer. All she felt was infinite gratitude.

She was greatly aware of the Yin Snake Demons' strength, yet Long Chen had risked his life to save her. Although she didn't speak of it, she would remember this act of kindness very well!

He seems to be quite strong! To her surprise, Long Chen looked cool when he attacked the Yin Snake Demon again and again. Although it was difficult to kill the rest of them, at least he had no problems defending himself, even forcing one of them back!

How is he so strong even though he's only at the initial Earthly Core Realm? Long Chen is definitely in the top ten in the qualifiers, perhaps even the top five!

Long Chen could fight the Yin Snake Demon off so easily mostly due to his Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body. He had a huge advantage in melee combat. However, they were all Black-tier beasts, so he could only severely injure them at most.

"Let's go!"

It was meaningless to continue fighting the Yin Snake Demons. Therefore, after he had just forced a few of them back, he grabbed Yin Mengyao and ran towards the Mortal Caves without another word!

He held her tender hand in his.

But Long Chen's mind did not stray. She might have a relationship with Mo Xiaolang, and he wouldn't touch a brother's woman. Plus, Ling Xi was right there with him.

They both sprinted off, but the Yin Snake Demons who were not injured gave chase. Tens of thousands of venomous snakes poured out of the cave like a flooding river, also chasing after the duo. It was a magnificent sight!

Every tree trunk, root, and leaf was covered by the swarm of snakes!

The red swarm of snakes glinted coldly in the night.

However, Long Chen did not panic. They were both slightly faster than the Yin Snake Demons. After about four hours, they finally shook them off!

Long Chen collapsed on the ground, breathing heavily.

He hadn't been this tired in a long time.

At this point, he let go of Yin Mengyao's hand. After holding her arm for almost four hours, his hand was numb too. The Yin Snake Demons were too terrifying, so he'd been solely focused on running.

"Long Chen, I think I'm poisoned."

Yin Mengyao was leaning against a tree trunk with her head lowered.

After running for so long, her long hair had come untied. She looked very disheveled at the moment, but her cold beauty still shone through.

Long Chen's expression changed. He quickly lifted her head and discovered that her face was ghostly pale, her gaze was unfocused, and her red lips had turned black. They were so black that they looked like they were going to bleed!

She raised her left arm, and he pulled up her sleeve to find a black mark on her fair hand. That was the point where the snake venom had entered.

“How did this happen?” Long Chen’s brows were knitted.

“I don’t know either. This is the arm I used for the Churning Sea Seal. Maybe a Yin Snake Demon’s venom splashed on me when I injured it ...

“I’ve heard that some beasts can spray their venom into the air ...”

Yin Mengyao had only fought the snakes for a short while, but she had ended up poisoned. However, Long Chen seemed fine even though he had attacked all the surrounding snakes while rescuing her.

But after what she said, Long Chen recalled that he himself had stinging pain in some parts of his body while fighting the Yin Snake Demons, though the pain had disappeared quickly, so he hadn’t thought much of it.

Unless ... Am I poisoned too?

If that were the case, they would be in huge trouble. Long Chen gasped and was about to check his own body when Ling Xi said, “Don’t worry. Although you were also poisoned, you’re fine.”

“Why?”

Ling Xi was more knowledgeable in this matter. Long Chen heaved a sigh of relief when he heard her say that.

“I’m guessing that the dragon blood flowing in your veins neutralized the venom. That measly venom has completely disappeared.”

“What about Yin Mengyao?”

“Due to overexertion and running too fast, her blood flow sped up and caused the venom to spread. Under normal circumstances, the venom wouldn’t have resulted in her current state.”

Long Chen was about to search for a solution, but she had already taken out some spiritual medicine from her Universe Pouch. The effects of the venom were worsening, so she had to save herself quickly.

“Snake venom is stronger than the venom from the Abyssal Scorpions. The medicine she is using to treat herself won’t work,” said Ling Xi helplessly with worry in her eyes.

“What?!” Long Chen panicked.

“Long Chen, the snake venom is too intense. I can barely suppress it using my Qi and spiritual medicine, but I don’t think I can hold on much longer.”

Yin Mengyao was the most familiar with her own body.

Her beautiful eyes were shaky as she looked up, took a deep breath, and said with great sorrow, “I can’t believe I was the one who burdened you. I’m sorry, Long Chen ...”

“What nonsense is that? It’s not like I have no way to save you.”

Long Chen comforted her and was about to ask Ling Xi if there was a way to solve the problem when Ling Xi’s expression suddenly changed and she exclaimed, “Long Chen, run! Jin Sheng’en, Chu Yunxi, and the others are here!”

His expression changed too when he heard her, and he wanted to run off carrying Yin Mengyao, but they were too quick. Within a few breaths’ time, they emerged from forest before him!

When Jin Sheng’en saw Long Chen from afar, he let out a bout of manic laughter.

“Yin Mengyao, Long Chen, it really is you two! I was just curious about who would agitate so many venomous snakes like that. So it was you guys! The heavens are helping us!”

“Long Chen!” There was madness in Chu Yunxi’s eyes. “There is no one here to save you this time! I *will* kill you today!”

As they spoke, Jin Sheng’en, Chu Yunxi, and the two other Gold family prodigies shot out instantaneously toward Long Chen like arrows!

They all looked at each other and then divided into two teams with two in front and two behind Long Chen. Long Chen and Yin Mengyao were surrounded.

“Let’s see where you’ll run to this time!” Now that Long Chen was right in the palm of his hand, the tsunami of hatred in Chu Yunxi’s heart turned him mad.

“Brother Chu, torture him to your heart’s content! I’ll hold Yin Mengyao back for you. Put on a good show for us, will you?”

“What?! Has Yin Mengyao been poisoned?!”

Everyone else followed Jin Sheng’en’s gaze. Indeed, Yin Mengyao was ashen, and her lips were black.

She was obviously poisoned.

Chu Yunxi relaxed completely.

“Long Chen, die ...”

Chapter 167 - I Want To Save You

One’s true colors were always exposed in times of trouble.

When Jin Sheng’en and the others showed up, Long Chen didn’t run off and leave Yin Mengyao behind. At this point, he had already saved her from the venomous snakes, and she was extremely grateful for his act of kindness.

In the beginning, she bore a little contempt for Long Chen, but now he was her rock.

Even in this critically dangerous moment, she looked at Long Chen, only to see that he was calm without a hint of fear on his face.

Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi were both top five in the qualifiers, especially Jin Sheng'en, who was known as the number one prodigy of the outer families. He was nearly strong enough to match someone at the late Earthly Core Realm!

"You guys want to kill me?" Long Chen smiled nonchalantly.

"You're so close to death, and yet you still dare to talk to me like that? Do you think you will be given a chance to use the signal flare with us here?" threatened Chu Yunxi viciously, biting his lip.

Long Chen grinned with one hand already on Yin Mengyao's shoulder.

"Xiao Xi, when needed, give me a bit of assistance. But remember never to use more than half of your soul power," whispered Long Chen as he glared at them coldly.

He clearly understood the situation he was in. If he wasn't completely focused, he would likely die here.

"Alright, I understand," Ling Xi replied anxiously.

On the other side, Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi locked eyes and prepared to attack.

"You took my woman, then you dared to insult the Grand Elder in public! Long Chen, I think that's a crime punishable by death ..." Chu Yunxi licked his lips and strode forward, closing in on Long Chen.

"Haha ..." Long Chen tipped his head back and laughed loudly. "Could you stop being so funny? You should rely on your own abilities to win a woman over! Since when was Liu Lan yours? She's mine now! Eh, I forgot to tell you—the taste of her was just so memorable to me ..." As he spoke, there was a reminiscing look in his eyes as he stuck out his tongue and licked his lips in a circle.

"What did you say?! You two have already ...?!"

When Chu Yunxi heard Long Chen, he exploded in rage.

It was obvious from Long Chen's words that his relationship with Liu Lan had progressed to that level. When he pictured the woman he thought about night and day lying beneath Long Chen's crotch, his breathing quickened and his eyes gradually turned blood-red!

"Long Chen, you must die!"

He suddenly charged at Long Chen like a violent tornado!

"Billowing Cloud Finger!"

The formidable attack, the twisting wind, and the clouds reminded Long Chen of the incident at Liu Lan's quarters at the Turquoise Willow Residence.

He had been severely injured by Chu Yunxi's Billowing Cloud Finger that day!

Despite Long Chen's attempts to explain, Chu Yunxi didn't believe him and stubbornly insisted on killing him. It was the same this time—he was determined to kill Long Chen!

Would I, Long Chen, ever let the same thing happen twice?

With that thought, the corner of his lips curled into a cold smirk.

This brat really has a one-track mind. It's so easy to provoke him!

Long Chen was relaxed in the face of an opponent like this, who was all brawn but no brains.

Although Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en were extremely powerful, they were no match for Long Chen in a battle of wits.

When Chu Yunxi activated his Billowing Cloud Finger, Long Chen started moving.

With a cold glint in his eyes, he grabbed Yin Mengyao by the waist. There was no time to worry about what was appropriate at a time like this.

This pretty girl is so soft, and she smells so good!

A perverted thought floated through his mind even at this critical moment.

Then he forced himself to think. *Mo Xiaolang is only fourteen. He might not even know what a woman is. Yin Mengyao is probably just his friend, so she doesn't count as a good friend's woman. Therefore, he wouldn't mind ...*

But the moment he thought of Ling Xi, he was privately startled, and his expression turned from perverted to saintly.

At this point, Chu Yunxi's Billowing Cloud Finger was fast approaching.

Although it wasn't an advanced Black-tier combat technique, it was still an excellent intermediate Black-tier. Other than Yin Mengyao's Churning Sea Seal, this was the most powerful attack he had witnessed at the qualifiers!

Nine Heavens Dragon Step!

To Chu Yunxi's shock, Long Chen did not face his attack directly. Instead, he used a Body Combat Technique to turn and escape with Yin Mengyao in his arms!

"Are you still trying to run?"

Chu Yunxi chuckled darkly, and his movements quickened. The Billowing Cloud Finger attack chased after Long Chen, howling as it flew forward!

However, he didn't notice that the two other Gold family teenagers were standing where Long Chen was running towards!

The two of them were startled when they saw him running towards themselves and wanted to step aside to let Chu Yunxi and Long Chen duel, but Jin Sheng'en yelled, "Stop them!"

This meant that they couldn't avoid it anymore.

To them, stopping a newbie who had just entered the Earthly Core Realm was a simple task.

Long Chen was currently in his dragon form.

Chu Yunxi's violent, howling Billowing Cloud Finger was very close. When it looked like it was about to hit him, Long Chen's speed skyrocketed and he appeared in front of the two teenagers in the blink of an eye!

A ray of cold starlight appeared on the tip of his finger.

Long Chen then did something that shocked everyone present. All he did was raise one shining fingertip, but it was enough to neutralize the two Gold prodigies' combined attack. Then he quickly slipped over to the side of one of them and slapped him so hard that he flew towards Chu Yunxi!

"What?!"

Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi gasped!

Long Chen's speed initially aligned with their assumption of what an initial Earthly Core Realm cultivator should've been capable of, but the subsequent acceleration exceeded even the mid Earthly Core Realm!

The two prodigies initially thought to casually use an elementary Black-tier combat technique to force him back, since they thought he was only an initial Earthly Core Realm cultivator.

What they didn't expect was for him to suddenly accelerate so much. And the starlight in his hand seemed powerful enough to destroy the world! It instantly neutralized their combined attack, and he even slapped one of them so effortlessly!

"How is Long Chen so strong?"

Jin Sheng'en was extremely puzzled. When Long Chen was at the late Human Core Realm, he couldn't even take one hit from Chu Yunxi. Even though he had reached the Earthly Core Realm, there was still a huge gap between them. But Long Chen's performance was astonishing!

He must have used a special trick! I mustn't let him escape!

When Long Chen's speed suddenly increased, many thoughts flew through Jin Sheng'en's head. Jin Sheng'en ran as fast as he could, circling around Chu Yunxi, and gave chase.

Initially, Chu Yunxi's Billowing Cloud Finger was meant to kill Long Chen. But when the other teenager was slapped over to him, he was put directly in the Billowing Cloud Finger's trajectory!

If he was hit, he would die!

Fortunately, Chu Yunxi had great control over the technique. He quickly diverted it at the critical moment, so it hit a tall, strong tree!

Boom!

The blast left a large hole. The trunk could no longer support the crown, so it crashed into the ground.

At the same time, Chu Yunxi was blasted backwards by the shockwave!

In just this short moment, Long Chen had fled far away with Yin Mengyao in his arms!

How is Jin Sheng'en so fast?!

When Long Chen turned around, he gasped slightly because his current speed had exceeded that of the average mid Earthly Core Realm cultivator, but Jin Sheng'en was catching up!

It makes sense. I think we're both at the same level. But I'm carrying Yin Mengyao, so I'm slightly slower!

Jin Sheng'en was the only one who caught up, while the rest were left far behind.

"Long Chen, don't even think about escaping! Once I catch up, you will die!"

Long Chen turned and smirked. "The problem is, Jin Sheng'en, can trash like you even catch up? Xiao Xi, now!"

He was well aware that Jin Sheng'en was going to catch up soon, so Long Chen had no choice but to get help from Ling Xi.

"Take this, you naughty boy!"

Under Long Chen's command, the Ling Xi Sword on his ear suddenly expanded. A frowning Ling Xi emerged, shrouded in thick mist, and she waved her finger like a sword. Sword Qi rained down instantly! "Revolving Dream Immortal Sword Technique—Dancing Blade Shower!"

Countless tiny sword silhouettes shot out of the mist instantly like rain from the sky, whistling as they charged towards Jin Sheng'en!

The all-encompassing rain of sword silhouettes made Jin Sheng'en's eyes widen and halted him in his tracks! "What is this?"

The silhouettes falling from the sky did not look strong, but he would turn into a porcupine if he rushed into them!

"You bastard! Long Chen, you're so dead!"

When faced with such an obstacle, he roared in anger. All he could do was use a Body Combat Technique combined with an attack to deal with Ling Xi's attack, while Ling Xi had long slipped back into the Ling Xi Sword and escaped with Long Chen.

The furious roars far behind only made him smirk. "Jin Sheng'en, Chu Yunxi! Let me tell you this: this isn't because I'm afraid of you! I just want to defeat you in public, at the Mortal Caves! Now that will be a sight to see!"

Long Chen's hearty laughter rang in their ears.

"Mortal Caves?"

Letting Long Chen escape initially infuriated them, but they felt better when they thought about how they could kill him at the Mortal Caves.

"I'll let you live a little longer, then. The Mortal Caves round will have participants divided into four people per team. Jin Sheng'en and I will enter one each, so no matter which team you end up in, death will be inevitable!" Chu Yunxi yelled viciously as he stared in the direction Long Chen had sped off to.

They'd finally shaken off the Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi. Long Chen ran a little longer, checked Yin Mengyao's symptoms, and then searched for a spot to put her down.

At this point, she was even paler and her lips were pure black. The medicine she had consumed had not been effective.

When she saw beads of sweat on his forehead, she pursed her lips, touched.

"Long Chen, you can still make it. If you carry me to the Mortal Caves before I can't hold on any longer, you could still qualify for the second round."

"No, I want to save you," said Long Chen decisively.

Chapter 168 - You're So Funny

"Save?"

Yin Mengyao was puzzled. Even the spiritual herbs she had brought with her were not enough to neutralize the snake venom, so what solution could Long Chen have?

"Don't bother, Long Chen. I don't think regular spiritual medicines will work for the pain that comes from the Yin Snake Demon's venom. And if it wasn't for my Qi suppressing it, the venom would've spread across my entire body by now."

Long Chen didn't reply. He walked to the side and asked Ling Xi, "You mentioned that my blood is dragon blood. Can it neutralize the snake venom?"

Within the Ling Xi Sword, Ling Xi nodded hard and said adorably, "Mhm! That's right."

"If I ask her to drink my blood, will it cure her?"

"Huh?" Ling Xi thought for a moment, then she replied doubtfully, "It's possible that it'll work."

"Then it's decided. We must try anyway."

Knowing that there was a chance his teammate could recover, Long Chen felt less anxious. To be honest, after shaking off Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi with great difficulty, the major crisis of the day had passed. The only problem to solve now was Yin Mengyao's poisoning.

Yin Mengyao saw Long Chen acting mysteriously and asked, while struggling through her pain, "Do you have an idea?"

Long Chen pulled up his sleeve and said, "What do you think of drinking two mouthfuls of my blood?"

Yin Mengyao was floored at the fact that he could joke at a moment like this. However, they had formed a great friendship by now, so she wasn't angry. "You're so funny." Despite her paleness, she still smiled.

"I'm being serious." Taking out a sharp dagger from his Universe Pouch, Long Chen slashed it across the muscle on his arm without a word. A three-centimeter-long wound formed, and bright, red blood flowed out.

“Long Chen, have you gone mad?”

Yin Mengyao was in utter shock.

Long Chen nudged her head to bring her mouth to his wound, saying mildly, “Hurry, don’t waste it. This is the best service you’re going to get; even my Ling Xi doesn’t get to enjoy this.”

Yin Mengyao did not have any strength left in her body to fight back, so she was held down by Long Chen, her mouth touching his blood.

“Trust me, I won’t disappoint you.”

Yin Mengyao was initially a little repulsed by the act of drinking another person’s blood, but after hearing the concern in his mild tone, she opened her mouth and stuck out her pretty tongue, licking his arm gently.

Damn.

This scene made Long Chen’s heartbeat quicken. Thank goodness she was only licking his arm. If it were another body part, he would’ve had a breakdown.

After sucking a few mouthfuls of his blood, Yin Mengyao moved away and peered at him in embarrassment. There were bloodstains on the corner of her mouth, which she hurriedly rubbed off.

This was the strangest thing she’d done in her life. If it wasn’t for the fact that he’d saved her life before this, she wouldn’t have cooperated so easily.

“Long Chen, that should be enough, right? Shouldn’t you be stopping your blood flow?” She eyed his wound with concern.

A beautiful girl really is always beautiful. She’s still so pretty even after being poisoned, thought Long Chen as he retracted his arm. He secretly used the Recovery technique to heal the small cut, then he asked solemnly, “How are you feeling now?”

Yin Mengyao had been focused on his wound and wondering why he’d propose such a strange thing, so she’d forgotten about her current situation.

When he asked, she checked herself and was shocked to realize that the blood she had swallowed had turned into a red mist and was now spreading within her body. *What is this?* Yin Meng gasped. She was about to use her Qi to push the red mist away when she realized that it was neutralizing the venom.

How is this possible? How could his blood be so magical? Yin Mengyao couldn’t think of an explanation. Since she couldn’t figure it out, she could only accept his kindness for the moment and guide the red mist through her body so it could neutralize all the venom.

When he saw that Yin Mengyao was focused on healing, he walked away to a spot nearby.

“Hey, did you do that only because she’s pretty ...” Ling Xi lamented sourly.

“Eh? Did someone knock over a jar of vinegar? It smells so sour in here ...” Long Chen joked shamelessly. [1]

“*You!* I’m not jealous! I just think you only help pretty girls for no reason. Hmph!”

“Who said that?” Long Chen put on a righteous face. “I helped her because Mo Xiaolang gave me the Constellation Body, which helped me greatly. I think Yin Mengyao and him were close, and I need to repay him for this kindness. Don’t you agree, Ma’am?”

Ling Xi was only half-convinced.

After a while, color slowly returned to Yin Mengyao’s face, though her cold beauty remained. The coldness to her beauty was something that couldn’t be found on Ling Xi, at least not for now.

Who knows, maybe when Ling Xi truly grows up, she might become an earth-shaking, kingdom-crumbling beauty...

“How is this possible? Am I really healed?” When her eyes sprung open, she looked at him in puzzlement. Her eyes were filled with disbelief.

Long Chen had turned into an extremely mysterious figure to her.

“Why can your blood neutralize venom?” asked Yin Mengyao in pleasant surprise, standing up.

“This is my secret. Don’t ask me, and don’t tell anyone else, or you’ll be in trouble,” Long Chen said smugly.

“Alright ...” Yin Mengyao nodded. Of course, she wouldn’t tell anyone. She now owed him a lot. “I have recovered, so what’s next?” she asked.

“The Mortal Caves, naturally.”

A long time had passed since they entered Mortal Devil Mountain. It was difficult to tell whether it was night or day in the Nine Devil Mountains; they estimated that it was evening or maybe even night, but the sky hadn’t changed at all.

“The dark clouds are hanging even lower, and the thunder is getting louder. At least it didn’t rain today, or it would’ve been very inconvenient. Let’s head to the peak of Mortal Devil Mountain now. It’s almost time anyway.”

Before they entered the mountain, the person who made decisions for their team was Yin Mengyao. But after going through what they did, the roles were reversed.

They trekked upwards for about forty-five minutes. Long Chen was about to ask her about Mo Xiaolang when Ling Xi said something that made him smirk.

“I think the couple from the Silver family is over there.” Ling Xi was naturally referring to Li Feng and Wang Tong.

“It’s a small world.” Long Chen smiled, and then he turned to Yin Mengyao. “Are you interested in beating up two people with me?”

“Who?” Yin Mengyao didn’t realize who he was talking about.

“Follow me,” he said mysteriously, walking ahead. He sped up as if giving chase.

“What a strange guy.” Yin Mengyao was left a little speechless, but she went after him.

Soon, she spotted two people in front. They were Li Feng and Wang Tong.

Although Wang Tong was severely injured, it wasn't as severe as snake venom poisoning. Therefore, she mostly recovered after taking some spiritual medicine.

“It's them?” Yin Mengyao's somewhat calm emotions turned into hatred. The move they had pulled outside the Myriad Snake Lair was too vile, and it had added to the initial enmity between them.

Although there was a saying that all tricks were valid on the battlefield, it was terrible that they would shamelessly pull such a lowly move. If Long Chen hadn't been there, she would've died outside the Myriad Snake Lair.

Sensing a gust of wind behind them, Wang Tong and Li Feng both quickly turned around. When they saw that it was Long Chen and Yin Mengyao, they gasped. “Yin Mengyao! You didn't die!”

“How could I die before you two?” Yin Mengyao said coldly as she approached with Long Chen.

“The Yin Snake Demons were there ... Were you guys *that* lucky ...” Li Feng and Wang Tong squinted, privately comparing their strength.

Although Yin Mengyao escaped, she looks pale right now. She must've sustained severe injuries that couldn't be healed in time. Brother Feng and I can still fight, especially Brother Feng. He's in prime condition now, so he might be able to defeat her!

With that thought, they were no longer afraid.

Long Chen, on the other hand, had already been forgotten because they had heard that he was the weakest participant in the qualifiers.

“Enough of that nonsense. Since we've met again, I won't let you live as long as I'm alive.” Although Yin Mengyao was a girl, she had a determined and passionate personality.

Looks like there's a strong enmity between them. Could it be because of Mo Xiaolang? Long Chen speculated privately.

Yin Mengyao had just healed from the snake venom poisoning, so it was not a good time for her to use her strength. Long Chen gently pushed her behind him and said, “I'll deal with these two brats for you. I guarantee you'll be satisfied.”

When Li Feng and Wang Tong heard him, they froze. Wang Tong then said mockingly, “You must be swooning over her beauty, thinking you can win her over by helping her fight, aren't you? You don't know your place. I suggest you get the hell out of here. If you're still here after we kill this bitch, don't blame us for killing you too.”

“The ignorant are fated to die.” Li Feng sneered coldly.

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao’s faces didn’t change, even after being mocked.

Yin Mengyao pulled him aside. “Long Chen, thank you for this, but I must deal with this matter personally. I’m doing this for a person who is very important to me.”

“You’re talking about Mo Xiaolang, right?” Long Chen suddenly asked.

“Huh?!” Yin Mengyao and the other two were stunned.

“You know Mo Xiaolang?” Yin Mengyao was in disbelief.

“Don’t mind that. All I can say is, I can take your place in this fight. We’ll talk about the rest later after I deal with these two brats.”

The graciousness in his tone made Li Feng and Wang Tong burst into laughter.

“Alright, brat. I don’t care how you got to know the name ‘Mo Xiaolang,’ but since you’ve mentioned this in front of us, we will be taking your life,” said Li Feng with an evil grin.

Long Chen grinned. “You fool. I’ll be taking your girl instead.”

1. ‘To eat vinegar’ is a common saying in Mandarin Chinese when a person is jealous of something their romantic interest did. For example, when a girl feels jealous when sees her boyfriend being kind to someone else, he can ask her, “What? Did you eat vinegar?” <- hope it makes sense in English ?

Chapter 169 - Earth-Tier Divine Weapons!

Yin Mengyao had only just healed from the poisoning, so she really needed time to recover. That was why after learning that Long Chen also knew Mo Xiaolang, she finally nodded. “Be careful,” she said, then she stepped back.

When Li Feng saw that Yin Mengyao was actually allowing Long Chen to fight in her place, he was frustrated. He too pushed Wang Tong behind him and said, “Alright, then let’s fight, man to man! Xiao Tong, just watch me.”

“Yes, Brother Feng! In my eyes, you’ll always be the best!” said Wang Tong demurely, although she turned and glared coldly at Long Chen.

“Since you’re volunteering to take her place, don’t blame us for killing you. It looks like you two have beaten a team since both of you have two jade bracelets. Once we defeat you two, we’ll have six bracelets in total. What a great deal!”

“Dream on.” Long Chen had activated the Dragon Soul Transformation, so his body and aura had strengthened. A violent and bloody aura radiated from him.

Upon closer inspection, there were even lightning and flames on his scales. Ever since he achieved the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body, Long Chen’s power had surged to an unfathomable level.

He had already merged with fifty Blazing Thunder Crystals after all.

“Is that a Beast Warrior’s Beast Soul Transformation? It doesn’t look like much to me.”

The distance between Li Feng and Long Chen was only ten meters now.

“All it takes is one move to determine the winner,” Long Chen said mildly.

Li Feng was a little puzzled by Long Chen’s confidence. He laughed and said, “Do you know how powerful my strongest attack is?”

“Didn’t it get beaten by Yin Mengyao’s attack though?” Long Chen mused.

“*You!* Good! Good! It looks like you truly have a death wish! So, I shall grant you that wish!”

“Enough with the nonsense! Let’s go!”

Long Chen was too lazy to banter with a person who was no match for himself. He leapt powerfully towards Li Feng, turning into a red silhouette. Li Feng was shocked at his speed.

“How’s he so fast?! But he still cannot escape death!”

He clenched both fists, and his powerful Qi turned into ten Qi blades that orbited his hands.

“Die! Ten True Strikes!”

The ten blades suddenly merged together, then Li Feng released ten punches, whose power merged into one. This was not a simple addition equation, because the resulting force was almost twenty times more powerful than one normal punch from him!

Long Chen smiled faintly. He gave a small cry and punched! “Burning Devil Sun Fist, Devil Sun Collision!”

Long Chen himself turned into a gigantic, black sun. The tsunami-like aura and burning energy seemed to make the air and tree branches around him burn.

He’s that powerful? Wang Tong’s brows were knitted as she watched from the side. “It probably just looks cool but isn’t actually powerful,” she said in an attempt to comfort herself.

However, she had lost some of her confidence after seeing his attack. *Seeing as he was awarded the right to participate in the qualifiers despite being at the Human Core Realm, he indeed isn’t as simple as he looks.*

When that thought flashed in her mind, Long Chen and Li Feng had already collided!

Victory was determined in one moment.

The Ten True Strikes shattered like glass when they met Long Chen’s Burning Sun Devil Fist. The remaining momentum from the Burning Sun Devil Fist quickly arrived in front of Li Feng.

“What?” Li Feng was in disbelief. His blood was churning from the vibrations, and he would die if he was hit by the shockwaves!

Although he was in disbelief, Li Feng used the intermediate Black-tier Body Combat Technique he had mastered to quickly dodge it.

The Body Combat Technique must have been decent, because only a small portion of the Burning Sun Devil Fist struck him. However, that was enough to severely injure him. Blood sprayed out of his mouth, and he was sent flying towards Wang Tong!

“Brother Feng!” Wang Tong let out a chilling shriek and reached out to catch Li Feng, falling backwards from the force. When she stabilized herself, she saw that Li Feng was barely breathing.

She completely surrendered before Long Chen, though she couldn’t figure out how someone at the initial Earthly Core Realm could be strong enough to defeat Li Feng.

She was torn due to Li Feng’s tragic state, but in the end, determination flashed in her eyes. Without another word, she tossed Li Feng in Long Chen’s direction and then ran off.

“Yin Mengyao, Li Feng was the one who came up with the idea to betray Mo Xiaolang! It had nothing to do with me! You can kill him if you want!” said Wang Tong nervously as she ran.

Yin Mengyao’s expression changed, and she exclaimed, “Long Chen!”

He didn’t expect her to leave her man behind like this and run off on her own, even offering to trade Li Feng’s life for her own. Long Chen was disgusted by such a selfish person. *This girl is evil!* Unlike my darling Xiao Xi, Long Chen thought happily. He left Li Feng behind and shot towards Wang Tong like a blood arrow!

With his speed, she was no match for him. The panting Wang Tong realized that Long Chen was already next to her, smiling, in just a few breaths’ time. “Don’t kill me!” Wang Tong was as pale as a sheet.

Long Chen punched her abdomen without another word, and she curled up in pain. He then lifted her by her neck and tossed her towards Yin Mengyao along with Li Feng.

Long Chen looked up to ask, “What do you think? To kill or not to kill?”

His nonchalant question sounded like a question from the devil himself. Both Li Feng and Wang Tong shivered in fear, staring at him, unable to speak.

Although he had a grin on his face, they found him more terrifying than Yin Mengyao.

Yin Mengyao was torn. On the one hand, she had come to Mortal Devil Mountain to avenge Mo Xiaolang. On the other hand, with her personality, she found it difficult to kill two people just like that.

“Are they the ones who placed Mo Xiaolang in his current predicament?” asked Long Chen.

Yin Mengyao nodded.

“Then there’s no need to hesitate.” Long Chen looked friendly, but he was much more vicious than Yin Mengyao. These two had committed evil crimes and were not good

people. If Yin Mengyao didn't have Long Chen with her, she would've been a lump of snake poop by now.

Long Chen spoke fast, but he also acted fast. Before the three of them reacted, he slammed both fists on Li Feng and Wang Tong's heads. The strength of his punches immediately killed the defenseless duo.

Their bodies slumped onto the ground, and he reached out to retrieve their jade bracelets, at the same time putting their Universe Pouches in his own Universe Pouch. His face did not even turn red when he committed these acts.

"This is yours," said Long Chen, hooking one of the jade bracelets on her arm.

"You ..." She stared at him, then at the bodies, not knowing what to say. She didn't hate Long Chen for this, but if it had been up to her, she wouldn't have been able to do it.

But Long Chen's decisiveness and viciousness left her deeply shaken.

She stared at him in a daze, suddenly feeling that he was a terrifying person.

Miracles kept happening since they entered Mortal Devil Mountain. He was powerful, even as powerful as Yin Mengyao, yet he kept it hidden and only attacked during critical moments, going straight for the kill.

People with such capabilities and mindsets were always top-tier figures and tended to be extremely terrifying.

"Anyone who shows mercy to people who are a threat to themselves will eventually die by their hands." Long Chen gave a brief explanation, then he turned to leave.

Without turning around, he said, "Let's go. We've delayed our journey again. They're all at the Mortal Caves waiting for us."

Yin Mengyao took a deep breath, glanced at Li Feng and Wang Tong one last time, and then followed him.

"Long Chen, how did you get to know Mo Xiaolang?" Yin Mengyao blurted anxiously while they traveled.

Long Chen told her about Mo Xiaolang in Baiyang Town.

"It looks like you were brought together by fate," said Yin Mengyao wistfully when she heard his explanation.

"What about you guys? What's your relationship?"

There was a rare warmth in her eyes when she thought about him. She reminisced, "I entered the Lingwu family at the same time as Xiaolang. He was only ten at the time, but his talent was nonhuman. We spent four years together there. As for relationships, I guess we're something like siblings. He was young, so I've always treated him like a younger brother."

“That’s good,” Long Chen responded with a smile. Since that was the case, he no longer felt guilty about carrying Yin Mengyao for so long while they were on the run.

“What?” Yin Mengyao asked, looking at him in confusion.

“Nothing. Oh, tell me about why Xiaolang was sent to the Star Devil Prison. Also, what was up with Li Feng and Wang Tong?”

Her face darkened when she recalled what happened to Mo Xiaolang. After a pause, she slowly explained, “Xiaolang is a prodigy so talented no one could touch him. He reached the mid Heavenly Core Realm at just fourteen years old. Even the inner families don’t have a prodigy like him. So when a prodigy like that pops up in the outer family, what do you think happens to them?”

“If the inner family can’t use him, then he must be killed.”

Long Chen saw through the situation clearly. The inner family controlled the Lingwu family. If Mo Xiaolang couldn’t be used by the Lingwu family, then they wouldn’t let a prodigy of his caliber exist.

“You’re right. Long Chen, do you know about the Five Secret Divine Weapons?”

“Five Divine Weapons, like the Azure Dragon Halberd and the others? I’ve heard of them.”

He’d heard about the Five Divine Weapons from Ma Tianyang of the Gold family. At the time, he wasn’t paying much attention, but they piqued his interest now that Yin Mengyao had mentioned them.

“The Five Divine Weapons are important treasures of the Lingwu family. They are the Azure Dragon Halberd, the Vermillion Bird Fan, the White Tiger Blade, the Black Tortoise Axe, and the Heavenly Wolf Dagger. Do you know what tier they are in?”

When he heard her question, he gasped and asked, “You mean they’re beyond the Black-tier?”

Yin Mengyao nodded. “That’s right. The Five Divine Weapons are Earth-tier weapons. They are infinitely more powerful than Black-tiers.”

Chapter 170 - Arriving At The Mortal Caves

“An Earth-tier Divine Weapon?” Long Chen exhaled when he heard that. Above the Black-tier was the Earth-tier. To think that there were Earth-tier Divine Weapons in Yuanling County.

“Since there are experts beyond the Divine Core Realm here, it’s reasonable for them to have Earth-tier Divine Weapons. Each of the Five Divine Weapons are extremely powerful and contain their own unique techniques. These martial techniques enable the user to defeat opponents stronger than themselves. I’ve heard that each of the Divine Weapons contains a single Earth-tier martial technique.”

Long Chen knew that Divine Weapons usually contained martial techniques to complement them. He had experienced first-hand how even the Recovery Fruit contained the Life Combat technique Recovery.

“But it’s usually very difficult to obtain Divine Weapons, and even more so to obtain the martial techniques hidden within them. The most difficult criteria to achieve is to obtain the approval of the Divine Weapon itself, but Mo Xiaolang actually managed to do it!”

“And then?” Long Chen thought the problem would become clear on the next step. The Heavenly Wolf Dagger belonged to the Lingwu family, and yet Mo Xiaolang wanted to take it as his own. How could the Lingwu family allow that?

Yin Mengyao sighed. “After Mo Xiaolang was recognized by the Heavenly Wolf Dagger, the four patriarchs of the inner family tried to recruit him. While he agreed to stay in the Lingwu family on the surface, I know that he’s from the Cangyang Royal Capital. He has a deep grudge with someone there, and he was sure to leave this place one day to exact revenge with the Heavenly Wolf Dagger.”

Long Chen thought about it. “So you mean to say that the rumor about Mo Xiaolang getting imprisoned in the Star Devil Prison because he killed someone from the inner family was fake?”

“Yes!” Yin Mengyao nodded. “It’s all just an excuse to put him in the Star Devil Prison. They imprisoned him because they knew that Mo Xiaolang wanted to leave the Lingwu family. Xiaolang’s talent was too overwhelming, so they didn’t want to kill him. Also, he is actually quite smart. They believed him when he agreed to stay in the Lingwu family. Unfortunately, he was betrayed by the people he trusted. Myself, Xiaolang, Li Feng, and Wang Dan were close friends before. But none of us anticipated that Wang Dan would sell Mo Xiaolang out just for a pill that could make him advance to the mid Earthly Core Realm. If it wasn’t for him, Mo Xiaolang would’ve already left the Lingwu family rather than being imprisoned.”

Long Chen finally understood what had happened and why Yin Mengyao hated the couple. People who betrayed their friends for their own benefits were unforgivable!

Long Chen, however, was still too weak. He could never make it to the Star Devil Prison to rescue Mo Xiaolang.

Yin Mengyao suddenly asked when she saw Long Chen sighing, “Do you know why I want to enter the inner family?”

“Why?”

“Because the disciples of the inner family can train in the Star Devil Prison. As long as I make it into the inner family, I will be allowed to enter the Star Devil Prison and rescue Mo Xiaolang.”

She had only divulged her plans to Long Chen after knowing that he would not betray her.

“Rescue?” Long Chen saw a glimmer of hope. “That’s not a bad idea, but isn’t the Star Devil Prison where they keep prisoners? Why can we train there?”

“Looks like you don’t understand the place well.” Yin Mengyao crossed over a thick root and continued walking. “The Star Devil Prison is not a prison, but a place for cultivation.”

“Huh? It’s not a prison?” Long Chen was confused.

“Even though I haven’t been to it before, there are rumors about it. Apparently, there are numerous locations in the Star Devil Prison where the gravity is immensely strong. You can imprison someone by keeping them in an area where the gravity is so strong that they cannot escape. But if the gravity is just right, one can cultivate there instead.”

Gravity? Long Chen knew that his movements would be slowed down if gravity was increased, the same way he would be encumbered if he were wearing weights. It was indeed a good method to train his physical strength.

“The gravity of the Star Devil Prison is beneficial to train both your body and Qi. Increased gravity makes it much more difficult to circulate your Qi. If you train there for a long time, you can increase the strength of your Qi, especially for cultivators who advanced up the realms too fast and didn’t have the time to train their basics.”

Long Chen was considered such a person.

The Ling Xi Sword moved slightly too. Even though Ling Xi said nothing, Long Chen understood what she was hinting at. He would benefit if he went to the Star Devil Prison.

“Join the inner family, go to the Star Devil Prison, rescue Mo Xiaolang. These are my goals. Long Chen, you wouldn’t leak this information, right?” Yin Mengyao probed him.

“Those are my goals too.” Long Chen smiled.

“Really?” Yin Mengyao was surprised. “If that’s the case, then let’s make a promise here. As long as one of us enters the inner family, they will go to the Star Devil Prison and rescue Mo Xiaolang.”

“Of course.” Long Chen wanted to see what had happened to Mo Xiaolang too.

Mo Xiaolang was part of the reason why he had come to the Lingwu family in the first place.

The further up Mortal Devil Mountain they climbed, the heavier the eerie atmosphere became. The temperature had plummeted to a frightening degree, yet the water had not frozen over. It was very weird that the mountain was so high and yet it did not snow at the top.

“This chill ... It’s an eerie chill compared to a regular cold day.”

The air was already thin due to their altitude. Long Chen had climbed from the base of the mountain up to the top. When they crossed the layer of dark clouds, he felt the thunder and lightning going off just beside them.

Yin Mengyao raised her head and said excitedly, "We've arrived."

After crossing the dense forest, they saw nothing but barren black earth in front of them. They had finished climbing up Heaven's Path!

Both of them continued to travel up the barren landscape. Soon, they spotted the base of the Lingwu family.

While Long Chen was emerging from Heaven's Path, he saw Chu Yunxi and the rest appearing from another side of the forest.

They locked eyes and sparks flew.

The nine Grand Elders were sitting in a large courtyard at the base. The rest of their family members were standing beside them, while Lord Xuanxiao was standing in the middle with his eyes closed.

On the other side of the courtyard stood twelve youths.

Most of the youths from the nine outer families had arrived quite a while ago. The exceptions were the elites of the Gold, Silver, and Turquoise families. They had either finished climbing Heaven's Path, or surrendered by using their flares.

But everyone was confused by what they saw. Of the twelve youths, only the two from the Violet family still held on to their jade bracelets. The others had lost theirs.

The Grand Elders demanded an explanation from them and learned that Jin Sheng'en's team had taken all the bracelets except for the ones from the Red family.

The Grand Elders glared at Jin Luan, the Grand Elder of the Gold family, and Chu Tianxiong.

"Not bad! Looks like the youths from your family are incorrigible! Lord Xuanxiao, they've utilized a loophole in the rules and made the qualifiers an unfair contest!"

"What are you insinuating? This is something the youths decided, it doesn't concern us. Plus, this just means that the youths of the Indigo family are incompetent!"

Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong chuckled and happily argued with them without any restraints.

"No need to bicker. There's still the Mortal Caves."

Dongfang Xuanxiao's authoritative voice rang out.

The Grand Elders shut their mouths. They would never defy someone from the inner family.

Xuanxiao was right. What the inner family wanted was the two strongest people. A truly strong individual would not be easily defeated even if they were up against four people. Jin Sheng'en was indeed strong, but he still had to go through the Mortal Caves.

Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong were naturally the happiest. The three youths from the Gold family would naturally be able to enter the second stage, and Chu Yunxi would benefit from it too.

There were eight people who had yet to appear.

The other two youths from the Silver family were roughly equal in strength to the rest of the participants. If their luck was good, they would be able to hold on to their bracelets. If not, they would just show up without them like the rest.

As for Long Chen and Yin Mengyao, they were at a disadvantage. Yin Mengyao would have to fight against four people if they met up with Jin Sheng'en. How could they hold on to their bracelets?

The lady from the Silver family was worried. "It seems that Yao'er's luck isn't too good. I think her jade bracelet is gone after having to team up with someone like Long Chen."

The Grand Elder of the Silver family was worried too. "Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong are despicable bastards!"

Liu Lan and Liu Yuan were standing behind Chu Tianxiong. They were worried too because Long Chen had yet to appear.

"Father, Chu Yunxi hates Long Chen more than anything. He might've killed Long Chen in Heaven's Path without even letting him use the flare ..."

Liu Yuan smiled bitterly. "I don't know what happened either. We can only hope for a miracle ..."

As they were waiting, two teams emerged from different sides of the forest.

"Long Chen!" Both Liu Lan and Liu Yuan sighed in relief when they saw that he had not died.

"He survived! Looks like everything is fine." Liu Yuan was happy.

Liu Lan, however, was staring at the boy's confident smile.

It was as if everything was within his expectations.