

## War God 181

Chapter 181 - Combined Attack!

Looking at Chu Yunxi's perverted face and sensing the lack of strength in her body, Liu Lan felt like the sky was falling.

When she thought about what was going to happen, being a person who knew the nature of people very well, she truly regretted her actions now.

If she could go back in time, she would've stayed in the Nine Devils Mountain Village to save herself for Long Chen, not have Chu Yunxi force himself onto her, with Jin Sheng'en watching.

When she had lost all hope, there was a strong gust of wind and a person unexpectedly stepped in.

When she saw him, she cried.

It was Long Chen, the one she was thinking of. When she saw him, she found hope amidst her despair.

Like a drowning victim grasping at a piece of straw, she used her remaining strength to push Chu Yunxi, who was lying on her chest!

"About time you get here." When they saw that it was Long Chen, Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en looked at each other and stood up in front of Liu Lan with a sneer.

Liu Lan's breathing was ragged, and she hurriedly wrapped herself in the clothes he had stripped off. Fortunately, she had worn tightly secured layers and Long Chen wasn't too late, so nothing had been exposed.

"Long Chen ..." Her eyes grew misty when she saw him. She suddenly realized that she was just a fragile girl ...

Long Chen was furious when he saw how pitiful Liu Lan looked. Although she wasn't his woman, she was a woman he'd fantasized about, so no one else was allowed to touch her, even if he didn't!

"Looks like you still aren't afraid after the beating you received earlier today, are you? Is that why you guys are here looking for death?!" Long Chen didn't notice anything suspicious about Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en. His fists were tightly clenched, his eyes dark.

Both of them endured a Sword Devil Finger from me this afternoon, so their blood vessels and internal organs must have been injured. But how did they recover so quickly? Did they consume some sort of medicine?

Long Chen frowned to himself.

"Looking for death?" Jin Sheng'en laughed loudly. "You are the one looking for death. We kidnapped this beautiful woman to lure you out here, but Brother Chu seems to have other plans."

Chu Yunxi's eyes were bloodshot as he glanced at Liu Lan's seductive figure and gulped, saying impatiently, "Since this is your woman, I shall put on a good show for you! You shall watch as she enjoys herself beneath me!"

He thought Long Chen would rage when he said such a disgusting line, but Long Chen remained very calm. He looked at Liu Lan, then at Chu Yunxi and scolded, "You idiot."

"What?" Chu Yunxi was angrier when he saw Long Chen's nonchalant attitude.

Never in Chu Yunxi's entire life had he hated someone as much as he hated Long Chen. The only thing that could cure the hatred in his heart was to torture him.

As for Jin Sheng'en, his hatred towards Long Chen wasn't as strong, but Long Chen had robbed him of the right to join the inner family, something he had been confident he would get. This had humiliated him, and how could Jin Sheng'en swallow this humiliation so easily?

"Brother Jin, he only defeated you because he took advantage of the terrain. Today, let's work together to catch this bastard! And teach him a lesson!"

Jin Sheng'en nodded, his hawk-like glare fixed on Long Chen. "Now!" he shouted, and both of them charged at Long Chen at the same time!

Both of them were extremely talented prodigies, and both could easily give Long Chen a difficult fight. Especially Jin Sheng'en, whom Long Chen had only defeated after a massive effort. In the face of such huge killing intent, Long Chen couldn't help but take a few steps back when both charged at the same time!

"Die!" Long Chen had no choice but to activate his Dragon Soul Transformation in the face of such threats. Red dragon scales quickly covered his entire body. He was covered in dense, uniform, red scales, each one the size of a baby's palm. Sharp, bony spines emerged on his spine, knees, and elbows, along with claws as sharp as blades!

The light-red mist in his dantian was transforming quickly, and soon, a blood-red Earthly Core appeared, spinning with flames and lightning on its surface!

"Your Beast Soul Transformation is nothing to us!" Chu Yunxi sneered and moved faster than Jin Sheng'en, arriving in front of Long Chen instantly. What seemed like a constant string of asteroids hit Long Chen!

"Destructive Mountain Kick!"

He kicked over and over, each fiercer than the last. This was paired with Jin Sheng'en's powerful Qi and advanced Black-tier Molten Gold Combat Body, causing Long Chen to be pushed back by the sheer force!

Chu Yunxi then charged from the left, shooting a howling tornado from his finger!

"Heavenly Illusory Finger! Illusory Divine Strike!"

Thousands of finger seals enveloped Long Chen. Paired with Jin Sheng'en's attack, they were in control of the fight.

Liu Lan watched this unfold, and panicked when she recalled what Chu Yunxi previously said. It looked like Long Chen was no match for them, and if he was defeated, maybe killed, the consequences would be unimaginable.

She paled once more.

Long Chen had taken an irreplaceable spot in her heart. If anything happened to him, she would never live it down!

“You think you can kill me with this? You guys underestimate me!”

There was an explosion, and Chu Yunxi was knocked away with a Burning Devil Fist seal. Long Chen shook Jin Sheng'en off and rushed forward with another punch!

“Burning Devil Sun Fist, Devil Sun Collision!”

Boom!

The powerful punch sent Chu Yunxi to the ground, throwing a huge plume of dust in the air!

If Jin Sheng'en hadn't attacked him again, all Long Chen would've had to do was rush forward and finish Chu Yunxi. That was the disadvantage of a group-attack—he could never focus on one person!

The brat is strong! It's possible that we won't be able to beat him even together. But with the object that person gave me, I'm confident we will prevail!

With this thought, and seeing that Liu Lan's beautiful body was almost his to play with, Chu Yunxi was filled with excitement. He exploded and charged at Long Chen once more!

“Long Chen, careful!” shouted Liu Lan in a panic when she saw Chu Yunxi attack once more.

It was a stormy night, yet she was sweating from fear. Beads of sweat covered her delicate features and pale skin, making her look suffocatingly beautiful and inviting. When Chu Yunxi realized he could soon do whatever he wanted to her, he turned mad.

Chu Yunxi quickly approached Long Chen, and with a cold glint in his eye, a gust of wind swirled on his finger. A howling wind blew, and the powerful gust charged at Long Chen when he pointed with his finger!

It was only wind and clouds, but there was infinite killing intent hidden within!

“Cataclysmic Wind Finger!”

This was the most powerful attack Chu Yunxi had used against Long Chen in their previous fight, and also his trump card. The world darkened as the powerful attack charged towards Long Chen. It was almost going to hit him!

“Dealing with two people is so troublesome!” Long Chen's brows were furrowed as he dodged using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, a skill he was effortlessly masterful in. Chu Yunxi launched the Cataclysmic Wind Finger several times, but Long Chen dodged most of them by the skin of his teeth!

*If this goes on, I will surely die!* Long Chen knew that he could delay no longer. He had to kill one of them if he wanted to win, or they would join forces to exhaust him!

“Blood Devouring Domain!”

The terrifying Blood Devouring Domain expanded, and the whole dilapidated temple was soon shrouded in red mist, creating a swirling domain. There was a red light membrane that formed the border of the domain, blocking the space from view!

“What is this?!” Chu Yunxi gasped when he sensed the changes in his surroundings.

Jin Sheng'en was more familiar with the Blood Devouring Domain, but he couldn't figure out what was going on last time it was used. When Long Chen used it again, he felt the strange increase in gravity once more!

“Brother Chu, kill him now, quick! We will die if we stay in this state for too long!” Jin Sheng'en let out a roar, having no time to worry about anything else, and unleashed his most powerful attack towards Long Chen!

The blood in his veins had begun to boil, as if it was breaking free from his control. Thanks to the peculiar, powerful gravity, any enemy of Long Chen would find it extremely difficult to move!

All weaker cultivators in his domain would immediately be killed by Blood Transmutation!

Long Chen still couldn't use Blood Transmutation in battle, but he could use the Blood Devouring Domain. It was like a disciple exceeding their master!

“Doesn't it feel good?” Long Chen laughed. When he saw the panic on Jin Sheng'en's face, he knew that he needed to use his Qi to suppress his blood!

“What is this strange force?” Chu Yunxi was shaken too. At this moment, his movements were severely restricted.

I might be no match for him when he uses this strange attack. But with that thing, you're definitely going to die, Long Chen!

Chapter 182 - Thunder Talisman!

Liu Lan was watching the strange, red space. She could feel a strange gravity acting on the blood in her body, and the source of that gravity was Long Chen.

However, the gravity was very weak, so Liu Lan only felt slightly uncomfortable.

But Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en were grimacing and forcing themselves to stay still.

*How did this brat Long Chen get such a strange technique? What the hell is this?* Liu Lan was in shock. She saw this red space when he defeated Jin Sheng'en, but couldn't see it clearly at the time.

*How can Long Chen hold so many secrets?* She stared at his magnificent scales in a daze, and her gaze unconsciously landed on Long Chen's eyes, which were filled with ice-cold killing intent.

She then suddenly saw something in the swirling, red mist. There were hints of a legendary presence appearing within.

*These images... I can't see them clearly, but why do they look like the legendary ancient dragons?* Her jaw dropped. She hadn't been paying much attention, but the harder she looked, the more they resembled dragons.

She then looked at Long Chen's scales and recalled that dragons were also covered in scales. She thought in surprise, *Unless ... Is there a link between Long Chen and the ancient dragons?*

The illusory dragon images in the red mist were what led to her making this connection.

She smiled bitterly. The legendary dragons had disappeared a long time ago, and they were legendary figures that only existed in ancient times. It had been hundreds of thousands of years since the Middle Ages, let alone the Ancient Ages. If it wasn't for the fact that dragons were such formidable presences, their legend would not have been preserved until the current age.

As Liu Lan's thoughts ran wild, Long Chen was fighting for his life against Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi!

There was still a nagging worry in Long Chen's heart—the black-clothed person. That was why he had to finish Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi as soon as possible!

After using the Blood Devouring Domain, Long Chen managed to suppress them!

“Brother Jin, kill him off! This brat is very strange!”

Chu Yunxi was already feeling the discomfort that came from the massive pressure. He forcefully suppressed the blood churning in his body and let out a roar. Another bout of Cataclysmic Wind Finger rushed at Long Chen!

“That move again?” Long Chen chuckled coldly. Although it was the same move, Chu Yunxi's advanced Black-tier martial technique was greatly weakened under the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain!

On the other side, Jin Sheng'en was unwilling to look weak. He sprung powerfully off the ground and shot at Long Chen like a cannonball!

Boom!

The whole dilapidated temple trembled from the powerful impact!

“Long Chen! How dare you rob me of my chance of joining the inner family! Die! Warring Glass Fist!”

Despite being surrounded by the Cataclysmic Wind Finger and Warring Glass Fist, Long Chen's expression did not change, though there was intense killing intent in his eyes!

*Using the Blood Devouring Domain decreased my Qi and weakened my physical body. I need to finish this quickly!* After realizing this, Long Chen understood that there was no technique that did not obey the rules of the universe. Although the Blood Devouring Domain was strangely powerful, it still worked within the laws of nature!

Even the Dragon Soul Transformation and Blood Transmutation obeyed the laws of nature, though the Dragon Soul Transformation could last much longer than the Blood Devouring Domain.

“Now!”

The Cataclysmic Wind Finger and the Warring Glass Fist had arrived in front of Long Chen's eyes. That was when Qi erupted from his body!

Roar!

A dragon's roar shook the whole space. With the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body pushed to its limit, Long Chen's right hand shone with starlight. A split second later, Long Chen abandoned Jin Sheng'en and charged at Chu Yunxi with all he had!

*"Sword Devil Finger!"*

A shining ray of sword light burst for a second like fireworks, and a powerful force sent Chu Yunxi flying into a wall!

"Long Chen, die! Haha!" When he saw that Long Chen was ignoring him, Jin Sheng'en was overjoyed and charged at Long Chen's back with his Warring Glass Fist!

"No, you die!" With a cold snicker, Long Chen turned around, simultaneously wielding another bright ray of silver sword light! The sword Qi appeared only for a second, colliding with Jin Sheng'en's Warring Glass Fist!

Boom!

There was an explosion of Qi, and a plume of dust flew in all directions within the temple!

"What? You can use an advanced Black-tier martial technique twice in a row?" Jin Sheng'en's blood churned from the aftershock of the collision. If he hadn't used a technique to dodge the sword light, it would've killed him!

He didn't expect Long Chen to be able to launch another attack so quickly!

*"My target is you, Jin Sheng'en!"*

The moment he turned around, he had already prepared the *Sword Devil Finger* on his left hand, which shattered Jin Sheng'en's Warring Glass Fist and sent him flying back!

*"Not only have I mastered the Sword Devil Finger, I can even use it three times in a row!"*

There was an explosion!

After Long Chen used the second finger attack to blast Jin Sheng'en back, Jin Sheng'en had lost his defenses. There was a cold glint in Long Chen's eyes, and he shot out like an arrow. After unleashing the *Sword Devil Finger* from his left hand, another sharp ray of starlight appeared in his right hand!

*"This is the last time! Sword Devil Finger!"*

This ray of light was twice as powerful as the last two!

This was Long Chen's final move, the one that he had been saving his energy for. The whole temple was brightly lit with the sword light, leaving Jin Sheng'en, Chu Yunxi, and Liu Lan stunned!

"Die!" roared Long Chen!

“No!” Jin Sheng’en retreated. Shock, regret, fear, and madness were written on his face.

“My father is the Grand Elder of the Gold family, you cannot kill me!” When he said this, Jin Sheng’en was already starting to beg for mercy.

“You idiot.”

Long Chen maintained a mild expression, but his finger did not stop. He thrust a finger out, and the sword light stabbed into the frightened Jin Sheng’en’s chest, piercing right through his body!

“No ...”

The shout of his final struggle grew weaker and weaker, and his eyes were as wide as saucers. Finally, his voice disappeared when he died.

The body with a hole in the chest crashed to the ground!

Thud!

It sounded like a hammer striking Liu Lan’s and Chu Yunxi’s hearts. They were momentarily stunned, watching Long Chen, who was slowly turning around. There was a yielding softness in Liu Lan’s eyes, while Chu Yunxi’s face was first filled with panic, then hysteria!

“Tell me who is instructing you, and I will let you die with your body intact.” Long Chen’s expression was cold. Liu Lan watched him approach Chu Yunxi.

“Are you sure you can beat me?” Chu Yunxi suddenly smiled. “Long Chen, you’re too arrogant. You think I’m afraid of you just because you killed Jin Sheng’en?”

“Oh?” The brat looked like he had some trick up his sleeve, and this piqued Long Chen’s interest. “Show me whatever trump card you have, then.”

“You’re the one looking for death, so don’t blame me.” Chu Yunxi slowly reached into his Universe Pouch, his eyes darting at Jin Sheng’en’s body. “It looks like I underestimated you. I thought we wouldn’t have to rely on this to kill you, but we did end up needing to use it ...”

“What is it?” Long Chen put his guard up, taking a few steps back.

Based on Chu Yunxi’s confidence, he might have something powerful.

“Long Chen, I will celebrate the anniversary of your death on this day next year! I initially wanted you to watch as I enjoyed your woman, but now you’ll die a corpseless death, and you’re the only one to blame!”

Not saying another word, Chu Yunxi charged at Long Chen!

“Long Chen, be careful ...” Liu Lan was also terrified when she heard to their conversation.

“Die!” When Chu Yunxi shouted, an object appeared in his hand!

“What is that?” Long Chen noticed a dark-blue piece of paper in Chu Yunxi’s hand, and it was made of a special material. Then Chu Yunxi flung it!

“No! Hide! That’s a Thunder Talisman!”

When Chu Yunxi took out the talisman, Ling Xi warned Long Chen in a panic. Long Chen was startled and quickly used the Nine Heavens Dragon Step to back away as fast as he could!

When he retreated, the lightly floating Thunder Talisman suddenly erupted with countless bolts of blue lightning that shot at him like flinging rocks!

Long Chen felt hugely intimidated by the lightning-surrounded talisman!

“This is bad!” He sensed that the Thunder Talisman was strong enough to threaten his life!

“Haha! This Thunder Talisman is worth more than a million divine jades; do you really think you can survive it?” Chu Yunxi backed away and laughed like a maniac, sneering viciously.

Long Chen had forced the dark side of his soul to show.

“I cannot let a village hillbilly take my woman away and step on my head! I must take back everything that once belonged to me today!”

Long Chen had no time to worry about Chu Yunxi’s arrogance. While doing his best to dodge the lightning, he used all his Qi to protect himself. Despite escaping at a very high speed, the Thunder Talisman still caught up and exploded right next to him!

Boom!

Tens of thousands of bolts of lightning shot out at the same time, swallowing Long Chen whole!

“Long Chen!” Tears of despair flowed from Liu Lan’s eyes!

Chapter 183 - Mist Fairy

Liu Lan had watched the Thunder Talisman explode with her own eyes, but she couldn’t do anything about it.

When the talisman exploded, tens of thousands of lightning bolts congregated to form a lightning ball ten meters wide, and it enveloped Long Chen.

Consecutive explosions could be heard as the powerful lightning attacked him.

That amount of force would definitely break Long Chen into pieces. It would be impossible for him to survive!

And Long Chen’s tragic fate was all because of herself.

She wasn’t stupid. When Long Chen arrived, she knew that he was their main target, not her.



The objective of Chu Yunxi, Jin Sheng'en, and the mysterious, black-clothed person was to kill Long Chen. The black-clothed person was the one who had given Chu Yunxi the Thunder Talisman!

Long Chen had rushed here to save her because he cared about her, but he had died trying. Liu Lan's heart clenched in pain. "Long Chen, I'm sorry ..." She felt like her heart had been torn apart. If it wasn't for the metal chains completely trapping her, she would've jumped in with Long Chen.

Seeing Liu Lan despair made Chu Yunxi feel endless excitement. "You bitch! Let's see how you're going to fight back now that Long Chen is dead!" Chu Yunxi was instantly energized when he saw how pitiful she looked. He couldn't hold himself back now.

He sneered and then pounced on Liu Lan's body. When he touched her mature flesh, he turned into a wild beast, his breath quickening.

But Liu Lan was not afraid, even when he wrapped her in his arms. She gave a pitiful smile, thinking of rupturing her own Earthly Core to kill Chu Yunxi immediately. But that was when she realized that he had stopped moving.

Liu Lan froze, then she looked up to see Chu Yunxi's eyes wide from disbelief!

There was a black sword tip protruding from between his eyebrows, and it started retracting slowly.

Drops of warm blood dripped on Liu Lan's face like beautiful flowers blooming on her pretty skin.

Liu Lan knew that the sword had pierced through his head from the back. The attack had ended his life instantly.

Chu Yunxi didn't know who had killed him, even on his last breath.

Liu Lan really wanted to know too. She did her best to push Chu Yunxi's body away, but then she froze.

Standing in front of her was a teenage girl shrouded in mist.

This girl had dark, long, silky hair that fell on her shoulders, making her look gracefully beautiful. Her skin was translucent with a faint redness like delicate jade, and her large eyes twinkled like they could talk. Her small, red lips contrasted her fair face, with two dimples on her cheeks. When she smiled, the dimples appeared, making her as cute as a fairy from the heavens.

The sudden appearance of a girl whose beauty could make a kingdom fall, who was prettier than herself, left Liu Lan in a daze.

She'd met beautiful girls before, and she herself was an outstanding specimen too. But when she sensed the ethereal, elegant, and fairy-like aura, even she was humbled.

Out of her peripheral vision, she noticed that the girl was holding a black sword that looked like it was scrap metal, its blade still dripping with blood ...

Liu Lan suddenly had difficulty breathing.

The girl standing in front of her had undeniably killed Chu Yunxi and saved her.

Under normal circumstances, Liu Lan would've been very grateful. But the girl was unbelievably beautiful, and what confounded her was that although the girl in the mist was realistic, she sensed that she didn't have a physical body.

No body? Is she a ghost?

Recalling that she was in the Nine Devil Mountains, Liu Lan was a little frightened.

That was when the girl in the mist looked at her with her beautiful eyes. Liu Lan's chest tightened when she saw the coldness in her eyes.

She slowly raised the scrap metal sword up in front of Liu Lan and touched her chin, tipping her face up.

"What ... What are you doing?" Liu Lan was still injured and bound by chains, so she was defenseless.

To her shock, the girl opened her mouth to speak. Her voice was cold and melodious like an oriole's song, and though pleasing to the ears, the words frightened Liu Lan.

Eyes fixed on Liu Lan, she said slowly, "I'm warning you! From today onwards, do not pester Long Chen again, or I will chop you into pieces!"

Then she waved the Ling Xi Sword sternly!

Liu Lan squinted, thinking she was about to die. But when she felt the pressure on her body ease, she realized that the girl hadn't killed her but slashed her chains.

When she opened her eyes, she was shocked to see the girl turn into a cloud of mist that slowly entered the metal sword again. The sword then slowly shrank until it was the size of an ear stud.

*Did she just tell me not to pester Long Chen?* Liu Lan was initially terrified, but she very quickly drew another conclusion from her words. Long Chen wasn't dead!

She looked over, overjoyed. The site of the Thunder Talisman's explosion was a mess, and indeed, there was a person covered in soot sitting on the ground at the center. Although he was burnt black all over, it was clearly Long Chen!

"Long Chen! You didn't die!" Liu Lan was beside herself with joy when she sensed life force in Long Chen. She struggled to stand up, about to approach him when the ear-stud-sword flew with a whistle and blocked her way.

She hurriedly stopped and forced herself to calm down.

Staring at the tiny sword, she finally recalled that Long Chen always had an ear stud in his ear.

That was obviously this sword. And that beautiful girl in the mist had returned to this sword ...

This means that the girl has always been with Long Chen from the beginning, and we just never knew about her. Long Chen's mysteriousness must be because of this mysterious girl ...

When she recalled the threat, she felt exasperated.

To be honest, Long Chen indeed had an important place in her heart by now. But when she recalled the sourness and killing intent in the girl's tone, she knew that they were already a pair. That was why she didn't dare overthink it.

Long Chen was still alive, and that was already amazing news to her. “Thank you for saving my life, miss.” Liu Lan stabilized her emotions and returned to her previous state of an ice-cold beauty. She saw that Long Chen was healing himself, so she took a few steps back.

*Who is the girl in the sword? I’ve never heard of anyone existing in this state. With her by his side, Long Chen’s future is immeasurable,* Liu Lan thought wistfully.

But this isn’t any of my business. I’m ten years older than he is; we were never in the same league anyway.

Ling Xi’s threat paired with her resilient personality made Liu Lan toss away her teenage girl thoughts.

But when she thought about the teenage boy who had risked his life to save her, she was a little unwilling to let him go ...

Liu Lan took out spiritual medicine from her Universe Pouch and started to treat herself too.

The matter of the day had come to an end. Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng’en were dead, and Liu Lan didn’t know how to deal with them. She could only wait for Long Chen to recover.

Long Chen had survived the Thunder Talisman mainly due to two reasons: first, the dragon scales post-Dragon Soul Transformation offered heavy duty protection; second, his body had been battered and toughened up during the absorption of the Blazing Thunder Crystals. On top of that, the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body had strong defenses against lightning attacks.

These were the main reasons why Long Chen was fortunate enough to survive.

He had mostly sustained surface-level injuries, but he wasn’t able to attack Chu Yunxi right after the explosion. If Chu Yunxi had been able to hold his urges just a little longer and attacked Long Chen, there was a high chance that Long Chen would’ve died.

However, Chu Yunxi was highly emotional and only wanted to hurt Liu Lan, therefore forgetting all reason. That was why Ling Xi could kill him the moment she appeared.

The moral of the story was: if one was impatient, they would not accomplish big things ...

Long Chen was using Recovery to heal the surface-level injuries.

Recovery was an intermediate Black-tier combat technique. When used for a certain period of time, its effects would be equivalent to an intermediate Black-tier spiritual medicine. Paired with the resilient quality of his body and its strong recovery abilities, most of his injuries healed in about an hour.

He returned to his human form and straightened his clothes, so he no longer looked like he had fought a battle.

When Ling Xi saw that he had successfully recovered, she happily returned to his ear. “You’re so naughty! You scared me!” Ling Xi knitted her brows and pouted, traumatized by the incident.

“I didn’t expect him to have that stupid thing either. But thank goodness I survived.”

When he saw that Liu Lan was sitting cross-legged and unscathed, he heaved a sigh of relief and snickered, saying, “Xiao Xi, your acting just now was quite realistic.”

He was referring to how Ling Xi had threatened Liu Lan—she was stern and cold. “Who said I was acting? I’ve always been this fierce!” Her face reddened instantly when she realized that her sneaky threat had been noticed.

Long Chen looked at the corpses and placed them together. After searching them, he found two Universe Pouches. He put them in his pocket without a hint of guilt. “More loot for me,” said Long Chen.

“I see you’re getting more evil by the day.” Ling Xi giggled. She admittedly liked doing things like that, being a mischievous girl since young.

After putting the Universe Pouches away, he looked at the two bodies. “You two were the ones who forced me to do this. I would be dead if I hadn’t killed you. That is why you cannot blame me for your deaths.”

Long Chen then used his Blazing Thunder power to create a small flame and held it over their bodies. After a short time, the bodies of Long Chen’s most powerful enemies were slowly engulfed in flames.

Liu Lan slowly opened her eyes. When she saw the flames shooting up at the sky, and the calm-looking teenager standing in the firelight, she realized she was swooning ...

Chapter 184 - Plan Foiled!

Long Chen and Liu Lan stared at each other amidst the roaring flames.

When they first met, Liu Lan was his Administrator and was much stronger than him, while Long Chen was just someone who had just joined the Lingwu family. At the time, she teased him many times and he couldn’t do anything about it.

But now Long Chen was almost as strong as her and his position in the Lingwu family was much higher than hers. Liu Lan felt her breath rapidly increasing when she saw Long Chen’s bright eyes in the flickering flames.

*I guess this is what they mean when they say nothing in this world is permanent.* Liu Lan shook her head and smiled bitterly.

She had matured a bit more after tonight’s events and Ling Xi’s warning.

“If you’ve recovered, you should go back now.” This wasn’t a good place to linger in for too long. And Long Chen wasn’t in the mood to tease Liu Lan, not with Ling Xi staring at him.

“Okay.” Liu Lan nodded obediently.

While walking back from the broken temple to the base, Long Chen kept thinking about the identity of the man in black.

“Who do you think the man in black that helped Jin Sheng’en and Chu Yunxi was?”

Liu Lan smiled bitterly and shook her head. “He came so suddenly. He didn’t look strong, but I was not his match.”

They soon arrived back at the village, but they didn’t know that someone was waiting for them.

Long Chen could sense that the atmosphere at the village was different. As soon as it came into view, he noticed that the Gold family and the Chu family were waiting for them at the entrance, and Liu Yuan was with them.

“Brother has returned!” Chu Yunyao excitedly shouted, and everyone looked out from the entrance.

The skies were dark and it was raining, so both of them ran quickly in.

Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan were smiling as they had thought that Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng’en had returned, but their smiles soon froze.

“It’s Long Chen and Liu Lan!” Chu Tianxiong was shocked!

They had been searching for the missing Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng’en in the village and the vicinity ever since they went missing. They also knew that Long Chen and Liu Lan were missing as well.

But they had no choice but to wait here.

Chu Tianxiong and everyone had mistaken Long Chen and Liu Lan for Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng’en due to the bad visibility, but they were shocked when they saw who it was.

Everyone stared at them gloomily, but Long Chen was not afraid. Dongfang Xuanxiao was guarding this place, so no one would dare to touch him.

Liu Yuan sighed in relief when he saw that Long Chen and Liu Lan had returned. “Long Chen, Lan’er, come here, quick!”

As he spoke, he glanced cautiously at Chu Tianxiong.

The four of them had gone missing at the same time, and everyone had guessed that they had gone out to fight. Liu Yuan was also thinking that that was the case, so he was worried too.

“Stop!” Chu Tianxiong shouted and blocked Long Chen. The old man was so angry that he almost spat out black blood.

Everyone had a bad feeling upon seeing how agitated Chu Tianxiong was.

“Aren’t you the Grand Elder of the Turquoise family? Why are you calling for me?” Long Chen answered calmly.

“What did you all do out there?”

Long Chen laughed. “You old geezer, has your brain gone rusty? We are interested in each other, and we left dead in the night ... Naturally, we went to a place to get to know each other better! Do you think we were so bored that we would go out to hunt wild boars?”

Long Chen had announced something so taboo without reservation, even calling Chu Tianxiong an old geezer. Everyone’s faces darkened, finding it difficult to accept.

When they saw Liu Lan’s face redden without even refuting his words, everyone privately called him shameless.

But Chu Tianxiong did not buy it. Long Chen was shocked to see Chu Tianxiong staring at him with hatred. *Maybe he figured out I killed Chu Yunxi?*

Long Chen thought about it and came to a conclusion.

The Universe Pouch!

Chu Yunxi's Universe Pouch was in his clothes!

Long Chen knew that the rune in a Universe Pouch could be personalized. Two cultivators might have similar Qi, but every single person had something inherently unique about their Qi that differed from everyone else. Mo Xiaolang had given Long Chen his personal Universe Pouch in the past because it could act as an endorsement within the Lingwu family!

Seeing how Chu Tianxiong was acting, Long Chen was sure that Chu Yunxi's Universe Pouch was something Chu Tianxiong had given him!

Chu Tianxiong smiled coldly. "Getting to know each other better? Then I'll ask you, Long Chen, what's going on with that Universe Pouch in your pocket? That's the Universe Pouch I gave Yunxi! Why would it be with you?!"

Everyone was shocked to hear this.

If Chu Yunxi's Universe Pouch was with Long Chen, that meant it was likely that Long Chen had killed both Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en!

Long Chen had forgotten about the Universe Pouch!

Damn. Looks like I messed up. But this is something I would've had to face sooner or later anyway. It was reasonable to make mistakes from time to time.

But he managed to react in time and shamelessly answered, "The Universe Pouch? I picked it up."

Since he had been discovered, all he needed to do was deny it. He wanted to see if Chu Tianxiong would do anything even with Dongfang Xuanxiao present. Would Chu Tianxiong ever dare to hurt someone from the inner family?

Long Chen was very clear about the power dynamics of the outer and inner families. He had already observed that even Chu Tianxiong was very polite to Dongfang Xuanxiao. That meant that the Grand Elder's rank was below everyone in the inner family!

And the Eastern Azure Dragon family was waiting to see who would be joining them. If Long Chen were killed by Chu Tianxiong, that would be a slight against the Eastern Azure Dragon family, and they would never allow such a disgrace to exist. Chu Tianxiong could do nothing here!

"Picked it up?" Both Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan had a good idea of what had happened.

Jin Luan's eyes were cold from anger. The overwhelming pressure covered Long Chen, and his icy words penetrated everyone's hearts.

"Long Chen, you've killed Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi! Is that true?!"

No one knew how to react.

Chu Yunxi's and Jin Sheng'en's families were in despair.

Every single one of them was crying, especially Chu Fengqing and Chu Yunyao. If it wasn't for Chu Tianxiong, they would've already attacked Long Chen!

"Aren't you afraid of being struck by lightning when you make such accusations?"[1] Even under the intense pressure, Long Chen remained calm. "I won't spout bullshit with you. I picked it up, and I don't know where they went. This doesn't concern me."

After he spoke, he pulled Liu Lan into his arms and gave her a peck on the cheek. "My darling Lan'er and I were busy having fun, so why would we concern ourselves with what Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en are doing? But don't worry, I'm guessing they are interested in each other and probably ran off to have their own fun too, haha! Those two are always shooting each other intense looks, so I've always thought that something was off. The night is dark and the breeze is strong tonight; maybe they've finally gotten together?"

"Shut up!" Both the Chu family and the Gold family wanted to kill Long Chen now!

"Everyone, it's a beautiful night tonight, and I still have many more rounds to go with Lan'er. You guys wouldn't ruin our fun, right? Please move aside and let Master Long walk through."

Since he had decided to be haughty, he was going to push it all the way. That was Long Chen's style.

Both the Chu family and the Gold family's eyes were red. They were willing to risk their entire families just to kill Long Chen!

Especially Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan. They knew Dongfang Xuanxiao's temper better than anyone. If they killed Long Chen now, every single member of their families would be wiped out!

Also, they weren't a match for Dongfang Xuanxiao even if they worked together. This was their biggest worry.

But Long Chen was relaxed. Liu Lan was blushing furiously at his words. She wanted to hide herself in a hole!

She had previously tricked Long Chen and made him face a similar situation. Long Chen wanted to punish her tonight, but he had saved her instead. So now he was punishing her by returning the favor.

Liu Yuan, however, did not know how to react. His face was contorted in conflict.

Any father would probably react the same.

Chu Tianxiong suppressed his killing intent and tried to speak as calmly as possible. "Long Chen, let me ask you this one last time. Where are Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en?"

Long Chen squinted. "I said I don't know."

"You have the guts to kill them, but not to admit it?" Jin Luan came up from beside him to surround Long Chen.

Long Chen wanted to answer him when Dongfang Tianyu appeared again. He had seen Long Chen from afar and smiled, but he managed to suppress his smile up close.

“Grand Elder Chu and Grand Elder Jin, what is going on? Why are you gathered here?” Dongfang Tianyu asked.

When Chu Tianxiong saw Dongfang Tianyu, his eyes brightened and he said reverently, “Young Master Tianyu, Yunxi and Sheng’en, as well as Long Chen and Liu Lan, went missing together this evening. However, when these two returned, they had Yunxi’s Universe Pouch with them! I dare conclude that Long Chen killed Yunxi and Sheng’en. They are evil-hearted; they killed and robbed Yunxi and Sheng’en!”

Dongfang Tianyu’s face was grim when he looked at Long Chen. “Did you kill them?”

“No,” Long Chen answered mildly.

“You’ve only just joined the inner family, yet you’ve already become so arrogant, thinking you’re above the law?” Dongfang Tianyu demanded coldly. “Long Chen, although you are decently talented, you have a terrible attitude. How dare you kill the innocent just because you are an inner family member! And they are the family members of the two Grand Elders too! Your behavior is disgraceful, and you are not fit to be an inner family member! That is why I hereby sentence you to death!”

Chapter 185 - Spank

Although neither Chu Tianxiong nor Jin Luan had the authority to punish Long Chen, Dongfang Tianyu certainly did. He was a member of the inner family after all.

Long Chen had merely entered the inner family through the outer family, while Dongfang Tianyu was born in the inner family. The latter was someone with the Eastern Azure Dragon family’s blood within him.

“What did you say?” Long Chen squinted angrily.

He thought about a lot of things when he saw Dongfang Tianyu acting like this.

“Enough nonsense! Grand Elders, you will follow my order and execute Long Chen!” Dongfang Tianyu did not give Long Chen a chance to speak.

Liu Lan and Liu Yuan were shocked to see that Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan had the support of Dongfang Tianyu. The two Grand Elders were ecstatic to be able to kill Long Chen!

This was an amazing chance! If they missed it, they might not be able to kill him again.

Long Chen was young, but he was a big threat to both of them.

“Die, Long Chen!” Chu Tianxiong moved first and ran towards Long Chen. His strength as a Heavenly Core Realm cultivator was overwhelming, causing the very skies to change from his attack. Even though he was using the Billowing Cloud Finger, the power behind it was much stronger than Chu Yunxi’s. Even Liu Yuan and Liu Lan would be affected by it!

Chu Tianxiong wanted to kill all three of them so nothing would ever happen to him in the future!



Long Chen had not expected Dongfang Tianyu to come out of nowhere and make that sort of statement. Chu Tianxiong was about to kill all three of them, plunging Liu Yuan and Liu Lan into despair.

Liu Yuan stood in front of Long Chen. As an initial Heavenly Core Realm cultivator himself, he intended to use his strongest attack to block Chu Tianxiong's attack, and he hoped that he would be able to attract Dongfang Xuanxiao's attention in the process!

But there was no need for him to do so.

When everyone thought Long Chen was as good as dead, a figure suddenly appeared in front of Liu Yuan. They easily caught Chu Tianxiong's Billowing Cloud Finger with just his bare hand.

Long Chen smiled. The village was not very large, so Dongfang Xuanxiao had long detected the drama unfolding at the entrance.

When Dongfang Xuanxiao appeared, everyone nervously wondered what would happen next. Since he had saved Long Chen, Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan had lost their chance to finish the teenager off.

Everyone remained silent, unsure of what to do.

Chu Tianxiong suddenly remembered that he was afraid of Dongfang Xuanxiao.

*He used his palm to block my Billowing Cloud Finger ...* Even though he had heard that Dongfang Xuanxiao was strong, he thought that there wouldn't be a big gap in power, considering he was at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, but the difference was indeed massive.

"Greetings, Lord Xuanxiao!"

"Greetings, Lord Xuanxiao!"

Jin Luan was very afraid and dared not utter any words after seeing Dongfang Xuanxiao block Chu Tianxiong's attack with utmost ease.

Dongfang Xuanxiao's gaze was cold when he looked at the anxious Dongfang Tianyu. "Tianyu, who gave you permission to kill my people?"

Dongfang Tianyu took a few steps back. "Fourth Uncle, he has just joined the inner family, yet he has killed innocent people! He killed the grandsons of the Grand Elders. Doesn't he deserve to be punished?"

"Hmph! You have such a pretty way with words. I won't punish you now, but I will relay this to your father. He will decide your punishment."

He then ignored Dongfang Tianyu and asked Long Chen, "What happened?"

Knowing he had Dongfang Xuanxiao's support, Long Chen was not afraid and told the truth, including the black figure.

Dongfang Xuanxiao frowned when he heard the story, while both Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan's faces paled. If it was true, that meant that Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en's deaths were justified.

They had tried to kill someone from the inner family but were killed instead. To the Lingwu family, this was a crime that would affect even their family members. If Dongfang Xuanxiao got angry now, it was possible that he would kill both Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong!

“Do you still want to kill Long Chen?” Dongfang Xuanxiao asked plainly.

Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan lowered their heads. Even though they were still angry at Long Chen, they dared not say otherwise. “We do not!”

They had to accept that Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en had been killed by Long Chen.

As for their family members, all of them were sad and angry when they heard that the two youths had died, but there was nothing they could do.

Long Chen was not someone they could bully. From today onwards, he was a member of the inner family. Even the Grand Elders could not kill him.

Liu Yuan and Liu Lan knew that Long Chen was now out of their control. He was far above them.

“You are dismissed. We will head back to Lingwu City tomorrow whether it rains or not!”

Following Dongfang Xuanxiao's order, everyone dispersed. Before Dongfang Tianyu left, he glared at Long Chen. His eyes were filled with murderous intent.

“You go back too,” Dongfang Xuanxiao told Long Chen.

“Alright.” Long Chen dared not say more and nodded.

“I know that Tianyu has a Thunder Talisman,” Dongfang Xuanxiao suddenly said.

Long Chen was shocked. That meant that Dongfang Tianyu was the man in black! But he was even more shocked that Dongfang Xuanxiao would tell him this.

Technically, Dongfang Xuanxiao should've favored his nephew more, but to think he favored Long Chen instead!

Dongfang Tianyu was the one who had suggested that they stay one more night at the base. He might've hated Long Chen due to Chu Yunxi's influence.

And he coincidentally saw Liu Lan exiting the base, so he thought of the plan to help Chu Yunxi find justice.

“I know he's the person in black.” Long Chen nodded.

“What do you think about joining the inner family?”

“There is competition everywhere, including the inner family. My rule is to never offend someone if they don't offend me. But if someone does, I will return it a hundred fold.” Long Chen did not need to hold back in front of Dongfang Xuanxiao.

“I like you. Your behavior is the same as mine, pride that yields to no one.” Dongfang Xuanxiao revealed a rare smile. It was clear that he was very satisfied with Long Chen.

“Go back for now. There are many things to do once you enter the inner family.”

Long Chen nodded and said goodbye.

The qualifiers finally ended. The results: Long Chen and Yin Mengyao came out victorious while Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi died in the mountains, their corpses forever scattered to the wind.

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“That bastard Dongfang Tianyu tried to kill me!” Long Chen huffed.

“That’s because you are too boastful. Haha, that’s what you get for offending someone!” Ling Xi appeared from the sword and landed on the tea table. Her body was small, but her face was exquisite. Whoever looked at her would be stunned by her beauty.

“I’m not that boastful, but Ling Xi, how much power do you have left from the Soul Grass?” Long Chen asked worryingly.

Ling Xi had to reveal herself once more to kill Chu Yunxi.

And she hadn’t merely used a simple attack, but an entire martial technique. She wouldn’t have been able to kill Chu Yunxi otherwise.

“I still have half of it left. Don’t worry, I won’t die.” Ling Xi was afraid he would be worried, so she feigned that she was fine.

Thinking about how she could die at any time, she was bitter in her heart. She was envious of Liu Lan sometimes for being able to display the charms of a woman while she was only a sword spirit. She could die at any time and needed a lot of money to survive.

“Half? Looks like I have to find you something else once we enter the inner family,” Long Chen stated.

“Long Chen, won’t you feel burdened because of me? Am I being annoying?” Ling Xi’s voice trembled.

She was happy that Long Chen kept prioritizing her, but she was also sad.

“Don’t be stupid.” Long Chen tapped his finger on her head. “I’m investing in you. I’m feeding you spiritual herbs so you can save me from danger. Why would I not be happy?”

“Ouch!” Ling Xi covered her head and glared at Long Chen with her big eyes. “I knew it! You are just using me for profit!”

Long Chen laughed.

Long Chen then took out the Universe Pouches he had taken from Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en.

“I’m sure they were richer than Li Feng and Wang Dan. Xiao Xi, do you think their money will be enough to sustain a money-burning machine like you?”

Ling Xi was indeed someone who needed a lot of money. Ever since Long Chen had left Baiyang Town, all of his money had been spent on purchasing spiritual herbs for her.

“You are the money-burning machine! You spent a hundred thousand divine jades on the Demonic Blood Essence and the Blazing Thunder Crystals! The combined cost of my spiritual herbs don’t even come close to it!” Ling Xi remembered the cost of each spiritual herb clearly. She had been doing so in case Long Chen used it as an excuse against her so she could counterattack!

“Fine, fine.” Long Chen could never win against her, so he checked the Universe Pouches.

“In total, they had a total of two million divine jades! With the four hundred thousand that I got earlier, we now have more than two and a half million divine jades! Ling Xi, we’re rich!”

Long Chen’s eyes were glimmering.

“Two and a half million?” Ling Xi counted with her fingers, but she didn’t know how much it was. “How much delicious food can you get for me?”

“Not only that, they have numerous spiritual herbs and martial techniques, but they don’t have a lot of advanced Black-tier techniques ... Wait, what is this?”

Long Chen took out a martial technique book that he liked. It was the method to cultivate the Mountain Shattering Kick technique.

“Oh, I do need a technique that uses the legs. I can learn it tonight ...”

Long Chen managed to almost master the technique. It was really by the time he was done; even Ling Xi was asleep. She needed to sleep to heal herself.

*It’s late at night. Now’s the perfect time to do something evil!* Long Chen’s eyes shone with excitement. After checking that Ling Xi was indeed asleep, he carefully made his way to Liu Lan’s room. At the same time, Liu Lan was looking out her window.

The door to her room suddenly opened, leaving her shocked. “Who’s there?”

But when she saw it was Long Chen, her heart started beating rapidly. She recalled that was going to take a step further and didn’t know what to do,

“Long Chen, what do you want?!” Liu Lan’s chest heaved.

“Revenge!” Long Chen laughed obscenely. He pushed her onto the bed while she was stunned and raised her butt up high.

Slap, slap, slap, slap, slap!

As soon as he pushed her down, the sound of skin slapping skin echoed in her room.

Long Chen spanked her almost fifty times, stopping only when his palm was red.

Liu Lan initially assumed that he wanted to do naughty things with her and was flustered, but to think he would do something even crueler than that. He had spanked her butt so many times that it was bright red! Liu Lan dared not fight back and covered her face in the blanket. She cried and moaned during the spanking session. She had never thought Long Chen would be so evil. She was sure that she would not be able to get out of bed tomorrow, and the others would definitely assume that they had intense sex all night!

Liu Lan lay down on the bed limply when she thought about how despicable Long Chen was.

“Sob ...”

But it didn't end there.

The noises continued, and the scene was definitely similar.

“I can't believe how psychotic you are! I've just joined the Lingwu family, yet I almost lost my life numerous times because of you. But I suppose it's thanks to you that I got to where I am today. I've defeated Chu Yunxi and entered the inner family, so I'm here to honor my bet. But ... I had spank you fifty times as punishment! Goodbye!”

He then threw Liu Lan back onto her bed and ran away.

*Fuck, if Ling Xi wasn't around, I would've slept with her!* Long Chen sighed regrettably.

He remembered the sensation of his palm on her butt and felt his heart beating fast too.

Chapter 186 - Stepfather

Category Five Black-tier beast, Savage Wind Peng.

A Savage Wing Peng was twice as large as a Divine Gale Peng and much tamer. It was also faster, requiring only half a day to reach Lingwu City from the Nine Devil Mountains.

All the Grand Elders and even Dongfang Xuanxiao used the Savage Wind Peng as transportation.

Tens of Savage Wind Peng were flying high in the sky, casting large shadows on the ground. The people walking down below thought that the sun was being blocked, but when they looked up, all they saw were the massive birds.

Only those with a higher status had the privilege to ride Savage Wing Pengs.

Long Chen was currently sitting on the back of the Savage Wind Peng at the forefront.

Accompanying him were Dongfang Xuanxiao and Yin Mengyao. As for Dongfang Tianyu, he was currently riding the same one as Chu Yunyao.

Liu Yuan and Liu Lan were riding the one that Gu Batian was on.

Now that Long Chen had entered the inner family, he would be supporting Liu Yuan and Liu Lan so at the very least he wouldn't get chased out.

No one had expected such massive events to take place when they first left for the Nine Devil Mountains.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was currently sitting silently at the front, while Long Chen and Yin Mengyao were talking at the back.

“Long Chen, did you know that once we conclude the ceremony to join the inner family, we have to refer to Dongfang Xuanxiao as ‘stepfather?’” Yin Mengyao suddenly asked.

“What?” Long Chen was shocked. No one had told him about this.

Long Chen was uncomfortable with calling someone his stepfather because he already had a father in his heart, Long Qinglan.

“You really didn’t know?” Yin Mengyao was surprised too.

“Is that a rule?” Long Chen was confused. Dongfang Xuanxiao had indeed treated him well, and if it was the rule, then he would indeed have to follow it when he joined the inner family.

“It is the rule. But there are benefits too.” Yin Mengyao was more than happy to accept it. Her parents had died when she was young, so she was excited to have someone this strong as her stepfather.

“Those that enter the inner family through the qualifiers must first be added to the family register of the Lingwu family. There are no disciples and masters in the inner family, only fathers and sons or fathers and daughters. Since we are joining the inner family, we are naturally being accepted as the stepson and stepdaughter of Dongfang Xuanxiao. You must never reject it. This will allow us to obtain protection from Dongfang Xuanxiao like a real father. We will also be able to obtain a lot of resources.”

Long Chen understood now. With Dongfang Xuanxiao as his stepfather, he would be under his protection.

“I am more than happy to be his stepson if he’s that strong.” Long Chen was fine with it. He had seen how strong Dongfang Xuanxiao was.

“You really don’t know how lucky you are. Almost everyone from the outer family wants to become Dongfang Xuanxiao’s stepchildren.”

“Why?”

“You’ve seen his temperament, right? He’s cold to outsiders but kind to the people close to him. Didn’t you see how he saved you even after you killed Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng’en?”

Long Chen was indeed satisfied with Dongfang Xuanxiao’s character. But for some reason, no matter how brave he was, he would still be suppressed by Dongfang Xuanxiao.

“More importantly, he doesn’t have a wife and children. Now that we’ve become his stepchildren, our positions will be very high!”

“He’s not married?” Long Chen couldn't believe it. Even though Dongfang Xuanxiao looked young, he was actually in his forties. Not being married at his age meant that his romantic life was tumultuous in the past!

Just as Yin Mengyao had said, since Dongfang Xuanxiao didn't have children of his own, his stepchildren would be able to monopolize all his love. Their position and ranking would be the same as the other inner family youths!

“Does that mean we can do anything we want?” Long Chen’s eyes were glimmering.

“Lord Xuanxiao’s generation should be second only to the Patriarch and some of the Elders. There are four people in his generation, with the codenames Wind, Rain, Cloud, and Mist. I’ve heard that Lord Xuanxiao has not been given any responsibilities, but he is the strongest among all of them. If the Patriarch and the Elders are not at the scene, then the four of them are the strongest fighters.”

“The strongest ...” Long Chen was receptive to the idea of becoming Dongfang Xuanxiao’s stepson. It was not like he was recognizing someone else as his true father, plus he admired Dongfang Xuanxiao’s strength and character. Long Chen felt like his luck had finally turned for the better with Dongfang Xuanxiao taking care of him.

“Long Chen, do you remember the Star Devil Prison?” Yin Mengyao suddenly asked.

“Of course, once we settle down in the inner family, let’s tell him about it.”

Yin Mengyao was grateful that Long Chen still remembered it.

“Oh, and we are siblings now,” she suddenly said.

“Erm ...” Since Dongfang Xuanxiao was going to be their stepfather, that meant they would become step-siblings.

Yin Mengyao raised her fist and threatened Long Chen when she saw him in a daze. “You don’t want to be my brother?”

“I do, of course I do. Please accept my apologies.”

“I also have a younger brother. So he would be your younger brother too.” Yin Mengyao suddenly smiled.

“You mean Mo Xiaolang, that monster?” Long Chen asked.

“He’s not the only monster, you are one too. Both of you are monsters. But I’m happy to have both of you in my life.”

Yin Mengyao smiled at the skies.

“We just need Mo Xiaolang to be with us too.”

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Long Chen was going to enter the inner city of Lingwu City for the first time.

After bidding Liu Yuan, Liu Lan, and Gu Batian goodbye, he followed Dongfang Xuanxiao into the inner city.

It was not an extravagant place, but the architecture was timeless. Each brick and tile was laid in such a way that they were beautiful but not gaudy.

There weren't a lot of people in the inner city, but it was not a small place. Besides the few buildings, there were a lot of trees, flowers, hills, and forests. It was a breathtaking place to be in.

Long Chen felt much better after he took a deep breath of the fresh air. It felt especially good after spending so much time in the Nine Devil Mountains.

He and Yin Mengyao followed Dongfang Xuanxiao, and they soon arrived at the residence of the Eastern Azure Dragon family. It was not glamorous, but it was exquisite. Each of the boards used to build the place came from ancient wood that released a weak yet fragrant scent.

The inner city was very quiet. Even though the residence was massive, there were only a hundred or so people living there. Long Chen had walked for a long time but hadn't run into anyone.

"We in the Lingwu family favor our own survival skills, so we do not have servants and guards. You have to do everything yourself. If you want to eat delicious food, you have to either ask someone to bring it here or go out on your own," Dongfang Xuanxiao explained to them.

It was because of this particular rule that the entire place was quiet and peaceful, a perfect environment for cultivation.

"I will first take you to my place before meeting the person responsible for the daily activities of the Eastern Azure Dragon family, my brother Dongfang Xuanfeng. I will then take you to the ancestral mausoleum."

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao soon arrived at a courtyard. There was a small stream and a lot of plants here.

"From here onwards, this is where you will live. It's up to you how to decorate or live here. Prepare yourselves. I will be back in an hour."

"Yes." Yin Mengyao dared not say much and nodded in front of Dongfang Xuanxiao.

Dongfang Xuanxiao looked at Long Chen before he left.

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao smiled at each other. "How do you feel about living with me from now on?"

"Stop it. I'm your sister. Don't you dare get any funny ideas." Yin Mengyao chuckled.

"Call me 'sister' from now on, and as a reward, I will clean your room and the courtyard."

Long Chen would never turn down such a good deal.



“Man, people with sisters have it good.”

They stayed in their room for a moment before unpacking. An hour soon passed, and Dongfang Xuanxiao returned.

“I live just five hundred meters away from here at the Xuanxiao Pavilion. You can come find me if you need anything.” Even though Dongfang Xuanxiao was a man of few words, he was good with details.

He liked Yin Mengyao for being calm, strong, and kind. As for Long Chen, he was even more surprised by his talent and character.

Although he did not say it out loud, Dongfang Xuanxiao was more than happy to have children their age.

He then took them to the next place.

Yin Mengyao was not very vocal and neither was Dongfang Xuanxiao. Long Chen was the only talkative one out of the trio, but he dared not say anything to Dongfang Xuanxiao.

Hence, their travel was silent.

“There is still competition amongst the members of the family. Tianyu is my elder brother’s son, so you need to be careful,” Dongfang Xuanxiao suddenly warned Long Chen when they were almost at their destination.

Long Chen had seen a lot of it and was already expecting competition where people would do everything in their power to strike at their competitors.

But since Dongfang Xuanxiao had taken the initiative to mention, it meant that he now considered them his own children. It was clear that he was on Long Chen’s side.

They reached their destination and saw a plaque at the top of the building. It read: Xuanfeng Pavillion.

“Enter.” Dongfang Xuanxiao told them.

#### Chapter 187 - Mysterious Dragon Jade Pendant’s Reaction

Once the qualifiers were over, the news about Long Chen and Yin Mengyao entering the inner family quickly spread all over.

Everyone at the Turquoise Sun Hall felt like their faces had been slapped.

Information regarding Long Chen and Yin Mengyao’s performance had been given out to everyone to read, including Dongfang Xuanfeng.

The current generation had four strong cultivators: Wind, Rain, Cloud, and Mist. All of them were at the late Heavenly Core Realm. There are several others at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, but only six of them were present today. The others were busy with work.

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao followed Dongfang Xuanxiao into the Xuanfeng Pavilion. Soon, they arrived at a hall where they saw a lot of people, all of whom were sitting. At the center of the people were four seats. There were already three people sitting on them.

One of them looked similar to Dongfang Xuanxiao, but he was clearly older. The middle-aged man had white strands of hair sprinkled among his black hair, but his face was kind and all smiles.

Long Chen guessed that he was Dongfang Xuanfeng, the one in charge of managing the family.

Behind Dongfang Xuanfeng was his son, Dongfang Tianyu.

To the left of Dongfang Xuanfeng was a middle-aged woman. She was already old, but her beauty still remained. She looked like she was in her thirties.

But unlike Dongfang Xuanfeng, her gaze was cruel and it was clear that she was strict.

She had to be Dongfang Xuanyu.

To the right of Dongfang Xuanfeng was a skinny man. He wasn't as formal as the other two, but his smile was radiant and he didn't look as old as them. That was probably Dongfang Xuanyun.

Today, all four of them were present for the ceremony.

There are others present as well, though they are not as famous nor as strong as the main four.

The moment Long Chen and Yin Mengyao entered the Xuanfeng Pavilion, everyone started staring at them, especially at Long Chen.

All of them knew about Long Chen's performance and how he had killed both Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en.

"Brother, and the two talented youths, please sit down." Dongfang Xuanfeng smiled warmly.

Doing as they were told, Long Chen and Yin Mengyao sat down, and Dongfang Xuanxiao sat beside them instead of taking his seat above.

"Long Chen, Mengyao, introduce yourselves to them," Dongfang Xuanxiao said.

It was the rule. Long Chen and Yin Mengyao introduced themselves and said some words of courtesy.

Dongfang Xuanfeng smiled and introduced them to their step uncles and step aunts. Long Chen memorized all of their names.

Dongfang Xuanyu stared at Long Chen plainly. "You must be Long Chen. To think you managed to defeat the strongest young genius of the outer family. Not bad."

Yin Mengyao was too plain and rule-abiding, so they all ignored her. Instead, they were more interested in Long Chen joining the Eastern Azure Dragon family. Even Dongfang Xuanyun was looking at Long Chen with admiration.

"It's not that I'm strong, it's just that Jin Sheng'en was falsely given the title of the strongest. Those of us from the outer family must look like jokers to the people of the inner family." None of them knew if Long Chen was being humble or happy.

All of them were also fascinated by the fact that Long Chen remained calm even though he was talking with the strongest cultivators. Dongfang Xuanyu's mouth twitched. "Brother, according to

the rules, I should be training them now that they are members of the inner family. But I'm not so sure about their strength, so how about a demonstration?"

Long Chen realized that Dongfang Xuanyu was somehow targeting him. He suddenly saw Dongfang Tianyu smiling with delight behind Dongfang Xuanfeng.

It seems that the woman adores Dongfang Tianyu ...

Dongfang Tianyu did not miss a beat after Dongfang Xuanyu stopped talking. "Since Second Aunt wants to check their strength, let me spar with junior Long Chen. It will be helpful for his cultivation."

Dongfang Xuanyu nodded. "Tianyu is at the late Earthly Core Realm, so he should be able to help him improve."

Everyone then eagerly waited for them to start. They wanted to see how the rumored genius would fight.

Long Chen looked at Dongfang Xuanxiao. As he expected, Dongfang Xuanxiao raised his head. "Long Chen and Yin Mengyao's cultivation will be supervised by me. You don't have to worry about it."

"Brother, are you trying to break the rules?" Dongfang Xuanyu's voice turned cold.

Seeing that they were about to fight, Dongfang Xuanfeng immediately stopped both of them. "No need to fight here. Sister, you are in the wrong too. They have just joined and haven't even had the chance to settle down yet. How could you ask them to fight? Now that everyone is here, we should head to the ancestral mausoleum. We need to let them pray to our ancestors first.

"Let's go."

Under Dongfang Xuanxiao's guidance, Long Chen and Yin Mengyao followed everyone towards the ancestral mausoleum.

Long Chen suddenly felt pressured by his surroundings.

Ignoring the old monsters, there are four cultivators at the late Heavenly Core Realm and tens of cultivators at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. All of them could kill me easily. The Lingwu family is indeed strong and the competition is fierce. I thought I would be able to act however I wanted, but I suppose I need to keep a low profile to not offend anyone. Dongfang Xuanyu is already not fond of me.

Yin Mengyao asked him, "Long Chen, why aren't the rest of the youths of the Eastern Azure Dragon family here? Dongfang Tianyu is the only one. I haven't seen Dongfang Tianchen, Dongfang Tianxing, or Dongfang Tianxuan yet."

Long Chen had never heard of those names before.

"Are they strong?" Long Chen estimated that the youths of the Dongfang family would be roughly as strong as Beitang Mo, so although Dongfang Tianyu could be considered a genius in the outer family, he was most likely one of the weaker ones here.

“They are indeed strong. Dongfang Tianxing and Dongfang Tianxuan are at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, while Dongfang Tianchen is the strongest youth in the Eastern Azure Dragon family. He’s young, but he is already at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. One more step and he will become as as strong as Dongfang Xuanxiao and the Grand Elders.”

Long Chen was shocked at what he heard.

Mid Heavenly Core Realm?

Long Chen and Dongfang Tianchen both had the character “Chen” in their names, but the gap between them was huge.

Being merely at the initial Earthly Core Realm, Long Chen felt very small and insignificant. Although he could walk with pride in the outer family, he was at the very bottom in the inner family.

But instead of feeling defeated, he was motivated.

I’ve come this far from Baiyang Town. I will be able to surpass them as long as I work hard. Dongfang Tianchen might be strong, but Mo Xiaolang is even more of a monster. As his brother, I cannot be weak.

Dongfang Xuanxiao heard their conversation and explained, “The other youths are training, and Tianchen and the rest are away with my father for their own training. They will return after some time.”

Long Chen sighed. He was thankful that those monsters weren’t present, or he would’ve felt even more pressured.

He was already under a lot of pressure without them here.

“Dongfang Tianchen is Lord Xuanfeng’s eldest son and Dongfang Tianyu’s brother,” Yin Mengyao said to Long Chen, her concern obvious.

“I see.” Long Chen was shocked and told himself to never show off to them while he was still weak. He didn’t mind acting meek if it meant he could become stronger.

“Don’t worry and work hard. I will set a goal for you. You will be facing a big trial soon, and as long as you pass, everything will be possible,” Dongfang Xuanxiao assured them.

“Trial?” Long Chen and Yin Mengyao were surprised.

“We’ve arrived at the ancestral mausoleum.”

They raised their heads and saw a majestic mountain, then they noticed that a building was embedded inside it. The building was made of dark gold and exuded an air of authority.

“What’s happening?” Long Chen suddenly felt a reaction from the Dragon Jade Pendant when they got close to the ancestral mausoleum.

The Dragon Jade Pendant had not reacted to anything in a long time.

*Maybe there's something good in there,* Long Chen secretly noted.

Long Chen only realized how massive the mausoleum was when they got close. Dongfang Xuanfeng pressed a button, and the gates opened.

Creak ...

The gates were huge and the sound of metallic screeching was intense.

The interior was brightly lit.

Long Chen saw that there was a plaque at the top of the door. It depicted an Azure Dragon flying through the skies with its claws outstretched. It was a magnificent decoration.

Is this the mausoleum of the Eastern Azure Dragon family?

Chapter 188 - Azure Dragon Halberd tournament

There's indeed something attracting me to the depths of the mausoleum.

Long Chen was sure once he walked inside.

The corridor was long and was roughly five meters tall and wide and was illuminated by lanterns hanging on the wall. The walls were made from iron-like bricks.

After walking past the fiftieth lantern, Long Chen came out in an open space.

It was a massive, barren, underground room. There was nothing in it except for a few items here and there, but the atmosphere was serious and formal.

Long Chen was not attracted to the memorial tablets, but what was beyond them. There was another dark, golden door behind them.

*The Dragon Jade Pendant is reacting to something behind the door,* Long Chen noted.

There were many engravings of flying dragons within the mausoleum. All of them were very realistic and beautiful.

This was the ancestral mausoleum of the Eastern Azure Dragon family.

Everyone then started approaching the memorial tablets. Long Chen then realized that the walls had thousands of little doors. At the top of each door was an engraving of a small dragon.

"Don't stare too much. Behind those doors are where the ancestors were laid to rest."  
Dongfang Xuanxiao's voice startled Long Chen and forced him to look forward.

In front of them were numerous memorial tablets. Some were large, while others were small. A massive tablet around two meters tall was in the middle of them all.

*That must be the memorial tablet of the Eastern Azure Dragon family's ancestor,* Long Chen deduced.

Behind the stone tablet was a door, and beyond that door was what the Dragon Jade Pendant was reacting to.

Dongfang Xuanfeng and the others approached the memorial tablets of their ancestors silently and solemnly.

Everyone bowed to their ancestors once before informing Long Chen and Yin Mengyao, “After you pray to the ancestors, you will become members of the Eastern Azure Dragon family, as well as the children of Dongfang Xuanxiao. Now do the three kowtows and nine bows.”

*I hope my father doesn't crawl out of the grave. He might kill me if he finds I recognized others as my ancestors.* Long Chen and Yin Mengyao obediently did what they were told.

“Place the incense.”

Dongfang Xuanfeng took out a bunch of incense from his Universe Pouch. There were hundreds of memorial tablets, so Long Chen and Yin Mengyao took quite a bit of time to place an incense stick on each of the incense burners.

Long Chen was cursing in his heart when he was done, but he didn't show it.

“Kneel,” Dongfang Xuanfeng said.

Long Chen hesitated before he kneeled. *Being strong is the only way to do what I want, so I can't do anything stupid now. Plus, Dongfang Xuanxiao is a good person.*

Dongfang Xuanxiao suddenly held both of them to prevent them from kneeling. “No need to do that. As the saying goes, men have gold beneath their knees[1]. We don't have to do this part. Long Chen, Yin Mengyao, do you know what to call me from now on?”

Long Chen was even more satisfied to be with Dongfang Xuanxiao. He was not bound by tradition and rules, a trait Long Chen admired.

Dongfang Xuanfeng merely scolded his brother under his breath before choosing to say nothing. “Nonsense.” He knew he could do nothing with how stubborn his brother was.

Even though the four of them referred to each other as brothers and sisters, they were merely cousins.

Dongfang Xuanxiao's parents had passed away early on. While Dongfang Xuanfeng and Dongfang Xuanyu were the children of the current patriarch.

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao knew what to say. “Stepfather.”

Long Chen was a prideful man, but he knew when to admire others. The stronger the opponent, the more in awe he would be. But it was not from fear, he was just being humble and careful so he wouldn't die.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was happy in his heart, but he did not display it on his face. He merely smiled plainly.

“From this moment onwards, you are official members of the Eastern Azure Dragon family. There won't be any difference between you and me, but more importantly, you are my stepson and stepdaughter.”

Long Chen nodded.

“Alright, now that we’ve prayed to the ancestors, we should leave and stop disturbing their rest.” Dongfang Xuanfeng laughed. From the way he spoke and acted, it didn’t seem like he rejected Long Chen and Yin Mengyao, but Dongfang Xuanyu was not in a good mood, especially after Dongfang Xuanxiao skipped the part where Long Chen and Yin Mengyao should kneel.

“One more thing.” Dongfang Xuanxiao turned around and looked at Dongfang Xuanfeng. “Brother, about the decision of who will obtain the Azure Dragon Halberd ... If I remember correctly, the results should be out soon. Since they are my children and are already at the Earthly Core Realm, they’re qualified to participate in the Azure Dragon Halberd tournament, right?”

Before Dongfang Xuanfeng could answer, Dongfang Xuanyu interjected, “Are you joking? They’re from the outer family and they just joined us. Don’t even think about it.”

Her words immediately caused the atmosphere to tense up. Dongfang Xuanxiao gave her a cold look. “They’ve prayed to the ancestors, so they are my children now. What do you mean by ‘outer family?’”

He then started glaring at her, and even Dongfang Xuanyu started to waver. She was afraid of him.

Dongfang Xuanfeng immediately stepped in to stop them. “Sister, please mind your words. You are in the wrong here. All youths at the Earthly Core Realm qualify for the tournament. Long Chen and Yin Mengyao will naturally be able to participate in it.”

After getting his answer, Dongfang Xuanxiao led Long Chen and Yin Mengyao out of the place.

“Let’s go.” Dongfang Xuanfeng didn’t even bat an eye before preparing to leave the place.

“Brother,” Dongfang Xuanyu whispered to him, “how could you approve of this?”

“They are from the outer family. Do you think they have the strength to touch the Azure Dragon Halberd? Do you think Tianyu is weak? Whether I approve or not, the result will not change.” Dongfang Xuanfeng’s expression became gloomy.

“No, I don’t think any of that.” Dongfang Xuanyu fell silent when she considered Long Chen’s chances.

“Sister, did Tianyu complain about something to you?” Dongfang Xuanfeng asked plainly.

He knew about everything that had taken place in the Nine Devil Mountains.

“Yeah.”

“Don’t give him too much love, or he will end up spoiled. A flower in a greenhouse could never defeat the wolves of the mountains.”

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When the newly formed family returned to their home, Xuanxiao did not enter immediately. He asked Long Chen and Yin Mengyao to sit with him in the courtyard. Yin Mengyao poured a cup of tea for all of them as if she was the daughter of the family.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was relishing in the feeling of finally having children on his own.

“Stepfather, what’s on your mind?” Yin Mengyao brushed her hair in the beautiful courtyard.

Dongfang Xuanxiao snapped back and smiled sheepishly. “Nothing. I was thinking that if I had married in my twenties, my children would probably be the same age as you.”

“Then doesn’t that mean it’s fine not to get married? Your two children here are even better.” Long Chen laughed to lighten up the atmosphere.

He was initially very awkward around Dongfang Xuanxiao, but he had become much more comfortable after spending some time together.

“You sure boast a lot.” Yin Mengyao rolled her eyes.

The atmosphere was great. Even though the three of them weren’t related by blood, none of them were thinking about hurting each other. Yin Mengyao and Long Chen had even fought side by side mere days ago!

Dongfang Xuanxiao smiled at Long Chen’s crude comment. He had been keeping tabs on Long Chen for a long time, ever since he defeated Feng Wutian, so he had some understanding of his new stepson.

“Long Chen, you’ve just entered the inner family. Have you heard about the Azure Dragon Halberd?” Dongfang Xuanxiao wanted to explain the main reason he had gathered them here.

“I’ve heard of it. It’s one of the five Earth-tier Divine Weapons of the Lingwu family,” Long Chen said.

He was more than happy to qualify for the tournament. There were indeed a lot of benefits to joining the inner family. To think he would be able to get into contact with the Azure Dragon Halberd so soon!

Xuanxiao nodded. “The Azure Dragon Halberd contains a martial technique called the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. It’s an advanced Black-tier martial technique, but there is also an Earth-tier martial technique hidden within it. If you master it, you are guaranteed to have a bright future. But there are two main obstacles you must overcome if you want to get your hands on the weapon.”

“Two obstacles?” Long Chen was interested.

He was very excited when he learned about the Azure Dragon Combat Technique and the Earth-tier martial technique.

If he could obtain it, he wouldn’t need to be afraid of Dongfang Tianyu and Dongfang Tianchen.



“The first is to obtain the right to even touch the Azure Dragon Halberd. Only one person can have it, and there are numerous youths aged fourteen to fifteen who are at the mid Earthly Core Realm. They might be young, but they are not weak. Long Chen, your biggest threat would be Tianyu.”

Mid Earthly Core Realm at fourteen or fifteen years old? What kind of monsters are they?

Jin Sheng'en was considered a genius for being at the mid Earthly Core Realm at his age. To think youths more talented than him were abundant in the inner family.

“I know he's at the late Earthly Core Realm, and I assume his martial techniques are better than mine.” Long Chen had to admit that he was not Dongfang Tianyu's match.

Dongfang Tianyu had been raised in the inner family, so he had access to far more resources than Long Chen.

He had already demonstrated this as well as his strength when he changed into the man with black robes to kill Long Chen through Jin Sheng'en and Chu Yunxi.

“Not only that, Tianyu is favored by my sister. I know that she has given him a lot of things, such as the Thunder Talisman. He also has an advanced Black-tier Divine Weapon. His martial techniques, Body Combat techniques, and Body Tempering techniques are all at the advanced Black-tier too.”

Dongfang Xuanxiao had explained everything nonchalantly, but Long Chen was stunned.

*Mother fucker.* Long Chen cursed inside him.

Chapter 189 - Nine Dragon Flashes

Long Chen realized that the outer family was living in poverty compared to the inner family.

For example, Dongfang Tianyu had the best martial techniques, Body Combat techniques, and Body Tempering techniques. More importantly, on top of the Thunder Talisman, he also had an extremely powerful advanced Black-tier Divine Weapon. How could Long Chen possibly defeat him?

“Tianyu has been at the late Earthly Core Realm for a year and a half. I estimate that he will enter the Heavenly Core Realm in another two months.”

“Will I even stand a chance against him at that point?” Long Chen was speechless. Tianyu was far superior to him in all aspects. He would lose even if he used the Blood Devouring Domain.

“What's the second obstacle?” Yin Mengyao asked.

“If you can overcome the first one and receive permission to touch the Azure Dragon Halberd, the second obstacle will be to obtain the weapon's approval. You will only be able to learn its techniques if it deems you worthy. But that won't be easy. If I recall

correctly, three people in Tianyu's generation have touched the Azure Dragon Halberd, but only Tianchen was approved by it.”

Dongfang Tianchen again?

“Is it that difficult?” Long Chen was surprised.

He had heard that Mo Xiaolang had passed the third stage and made his Divine Weapon recognize him as its owner, so Long Chen assumed it would be easy.

Dongfang Xuanxiao looked at him plainly. “Are you feeling afraid? Long Chen, that’s not how you face things.”

“If you don't want me to be afraid, you should give me something to make my time easier,” Long Chen said with a chuckle. This was his true motive.

Yin Mengyao laughed when Long Chen finally revealed his true nature. Even Dongfang Xuanxiao shook his head. “You were so obedient before this. I didn’t think you would show your true self so soon.”

Long Chen wasn’t embarrassed at all.

“You two have to call me ‘stepfather,’ so how could I not help you? Here, this is a welcome gift.” Dongfang Xuanxiao pulled two martial technique books out of his Universe Pouch. He gave the first one to Yin Mengyao. “Yin Mengyao, you already have the advanced Black-tier marital technique Churning Sea Seal. It’s a good offensive move, but your Body Tempering technique is lacking. This is an advanced Black-tier Body Tempering technique, the Flowing Water Body. It will allow your body to be as fluid yet as resilient as water, making it so that any opponent you face will have a hard time landing an attack on you. While it won’t increase your offensive capabilities, it’s an excellent defensive Body Tempering technique. You need to master it before the tournament.”

The Flowing Water Body was a technique more suitable for girls. It was clear Dongfang Xuanxiao had put a lot of thought into nurturing his stepson and stepdaughter.

“Thank you, Stepfather!” Yin Mengyao loved it and hurriedly read through it.

She had always wanted an advanced Black-tier Body Tempering technique!

Dongfang Xuanxiao then looked at Long Chen. “You already have the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body, and it suits you. It's a straightforward and strong technique, so you don’t need the Flowing Water Body. But I do have something else for you.”

Long Chen took the book and read the words on the cover: Nine Dragon Flashes.

“Nine Dragon Flashes, an advanced Black-tier Body Combat technique. It’s the best one in my possession. The Nine Heavens Dragon Step is only an elementary Black-tier. Even though you are good at using it, its quality is low, so you might end up having a hard time dealing with an opponent with a stronger technique.”

Long Chen knew how strong it was the instant he saw the name of the technique.

“Nine Dragon Flashes ... As its name implies, this Body Combat technique allows you to quickly shift your location in combat. Blink, and the enemy will lose track of you. If you combine it with your martial technique, you will be able to launch devastating strikes. If you could do nine flashes in a row, that means that you’ve mastered it.”

“This is amazing.” Long Chen looked at the technique, barely able to contain his excitement. It was the technique that Dongfang Xuanxiao himself was using, so Long Chen knew it was amazing!

Dongfang Xuanxiao had given each of them something valuable without any reservations, and he had even given consideration to what they were lacking. Long Chen was more than happy to call him stepfather.

“Stepfather, how many flashes can you do?” Long Chen asked hesitantly.

“Nine, of course.” Dongfang Xuanxiao smiled. “There’s no need to be discouraged, and don’t compare yourself to others. If you can use four flashes before the tournament, you will be considered a genius.”

Looks like I have to work hard.

“Get to work and start practicing. I will leave now.” Dongfang Xuanxiao stood up. Long Chen and Yin Mengyao put the books away before she gave him a signal.

“Stepfather, wait.” Long Chen called for him.

“Hm?” Dongfang Xuanxiao was curious to see why Long Chen was so serious.

Long Chen took another look at Yin Mengyao and said, “I’ve heard that there is a place called the Star Devil Prison in the Heavenly Martial Realm, and that disciples from the inner family are allowed to go there to cultivate. May I ask if we can cultivate there before the tournament?”

When Dongfang Xuanxiao heard the Star Devil Prison being brought up, his eyes shook a little and bitterness arose in them, but he quickly hid those feelings away. “You know the purpose of the Star Devil Prison?”

“Yes.” Yin Mengyao nodded. “I’ve heard of it before.”

Dongfang Xuanxiao thought about it. “There are places in there with increased gravity. It could assist those who have advanced too fast in consolidating their Qi. It does have its benefits, and I think it will be another month or so before the tournament ...”

Staring at the nervous Long Chen and Yin Mengyao, Dongfang Xuanxiao told them, “Mengyao, you’ve trained for four to five years in the outer family, and your cultivation level has increased steadily. The benefits of the Star Devil Prison would be minor, so I would recommend that you cultivate here.”

Yin Mengyao was nervous because she had been rejected.

“As for Long Chen, I’ve seen your information before. You were only at the Eighth Draconic Stage when you joined the outer family two months ago. You have advanced too fast, so the increased gravitational force would indeed help you consolidate your Qi. It would also be the ideal place to cultivate the Nine Dragon Flashes. Therefore, it’s a good idea to let you go there.”

Dongfang Xuanxiao’s final decision was to let Long Chen go, while Yin Mengyao would stay behind.

Long Chen and Yin Mengyao were surprised by his decision. Yin Mengyao wanted to appeal, but Long Chen held her back. “I will go alone, then. When can we go?” he asked.

“There are a few things I must do over the next few days. I will take you there once I’m done. You can just stay here for now.”

Long Chen nodded.

Yin Mengyao understood what Long Chen wanted to say to her: *let me be the one to investigate first.*

“Is there anything else?” Dongfang Xuanxiao asked.

“Yes.” Mo Xiaolang wasn’t the only person Long Chen was worried about—he needed to take care of Ling Xi as well.

The power of the Soul Grass had diminished by half, and Long Chen did not want Ling Xi to die if they found themselves in another dangerous situation.

“Where can I obtain spiritual herbs in the inner family?”

“Spiritual herbs?” Everyone had their own secrets, so Dongfang Xuanxiao did not inquire as to why Long Chen wanted spiritual herbs. “The resources of the family are handled by my third brother, Dongfang Xuanyun. You can find him at the Xuanyun Pavilion. It’s not only his home, but also where the resources of our family are concentrated. If you need anything, you can just go there to apply for it. As long as it’s not excessive, he will probably approve your request.”

“Immediate approval?” The Eastern Azure Dragon family was amazing! He wouldn’t need to pay or use contribution points. The welfare of the inner family was so much better.

“My relationship with my third brother is not bad. As long as what you need is not too scarce, he will be able to give it to you,” Dongfang Xuanxiao said.

After giving them directions to the Xuanyun Pavilion, Dongfang Xuanxiao left.

Long Chen now understood that there were four pavilions.

Xuanfeng Pavilion was where Dongfang Xuanfeng lived. Since he handled all of the matters relating to the family, the meeting hall for the family and the reception hall were constructed at his place.

Xuanyu Pavilion was where Dongfang Xuanyu lived. It was where she trained the youths of the family, so the martial hall and the training halls were constructed at her home.

Xuanyun Pavilion was where Dongfang Xuanyun lived. It was also dubbed the Treasure Pavilion because that was where all of the resources of the family were kept.

As for the Xuanxiao Pavilion, there was nothing here because he didn't have any responsibilities.

"Long Chen, will you be okay going to the Star Devil Prison yourself?" Yin Mengyao asked after Dongfang Xuanxiao left.

"I don't think we can help Mo Xiaolang as we are right now. I will first investigate the area and see where he has been locked up. Only then we can save him. You can't do anything if you go now, so I will just check it out first."

Long Chen was right, so Yin Mengyao nodded. She then went ahead and started her cultivation.

*My first trial as a member of the inner family is to touch the Azure Dragon Halberd?* Long Chen never thought he would be given the chance so soon.

I'm in a dangerous position even with Xuanxiao protecting me. If Dongfang Tianyu has no qualms with fighting me in public, there is no doubt that he is willing to strike me from the shadows. If I fail the Azure Dragon Halberd Tournament, it will be hard for me to survive here. And I need to become much stronger to rescue Mo Xiaolang. There's also Yang Lingqing. I wonder how she's doing in the Northern Black Tortoise family. I will need the strength to help her if someone bullies her! I must fight! I have entered the inner family, there's no turning back now!

Chapter 190 - Sky Soul Fruit

Long Chen was cultivating his newly acquired advanced Black-tier Body Combat technique, Nine Dragon Flashes, in his home.

*No wonder Dongfang Xuanxiao uses it. It's amazing.* He was engrossed with the book as he studied it.

*If I do this, can I do the first flash?* Long Chen picked up the book and waltzed around the room.

He immersed himself in the technique, and his legs suddenly moved on their own before his vision abruptly shifted.

Long Chen had cultivated the Sword Devil Finger in no time at all, so he didn't know his limit when it came to learning new techniques.

The main culprit behind this was the mysterious Dragon Jade Pendant. Due to its presence within his sea of consciousness, Long Chen felt that his comprehension skills had been forcibly increased to the maximum.

His overwhelming comprehension skills allowed him to master martial techniques considerably faster than others.

“I’ve only been studying it for a day and a night; it seems the Nine Dragon Flashes is not that hard ...” Long Chen placed the book in his Universe Pouch and smiled.

If the other cultivators who were trying to learn the same technique heard what he had said, they would probably collapse from shock and vomit blood. Most people had to wait until they were at the Heavenly Core Realm to start cultivating advanced Black-tier techniques, yet Long Chen had said that the Nine Dragon Flashes wasn’t hard.

He did indeed find it easy.

*It’s time to go get the spiritual herbs for Ling Xi.* Long Chen exited his room.

It was actually the first thing he wanted to do, but the Nine Dragon Flashes was too interesting to him. This is why he had waited a full day before heading out. But since Ling Xi still had half of the Soul Grass’ power left, it wasn’t all that urgent.

Long Chen made his way over to the Xuanyun Pavilion.

The buildings of the Eastern Azure Dragon family were quite a distance apart from each other, but the four pavilions were very conspicuous, each one sitting in a corner of the garden. It took him half an hour to arrive at his destination.

The Xuanyun Pavilion was similar to the Xuanfeng Pavilion, but while the latter was serious and solemn, the former was enshrouded in a mist of fragrance and Qi, as if it was a pavilion for the gods.

Just as Long Chen was about to enter, several kids walked out. They were roughly thirteen or fourteen years old. When they saw Long Chen, they started whispering amongst themselves.

“Who is he? Why is he in the inner family?”

The youths of the inner family were snobbish and hostile to strangers like Long Chen.

“He should be the stepson that Fourth Uncle just brought back. I’ve heard that his name is Long Chen. He’s already sixteen, but he’s only at the initial Earthly Core Realm,” one of the youths said plainly.

“He’s that weak? Let’s play a trick on him.”

“Never mind that. Brother Tianyu is still waiting for us.”

Long Chen ignored their whispering. To him, they were just a bunch of brats.

But some of those brats were already at the mid Earthly Core Realm, so he also thought that they were a bit too talented.

There weren’t a lot of places or people in the Xuanyun Pavilion, and a lot of the rooms and corridors were sealed off. Long Chen walked through the whole building before finding that only one of the doors was open. He entered and found himself in a barren room containing nothing but a chair, and there was a skinny man sitting on it.

“Long Chen?” The skinny man sensed that someone was there and opened his eyes slightly. He immediately recognized Long Chen.

“Greetings, Third Uncle.” It was indeed Xuanxiao’s third brother, Dongfang Xuanyun. Just as Xuanxiao had said, Dongfang Xuanyun was on good terms with him, so he stood up when Long Chen entered. “Do you need something from the Xuanyun Pavilion?”

“I need to find spiritual herbs that nourish the Divine Soul. Do you have anything like that?” Since Xuanyun had gone straight for business, Long Chen did not start any small talk.

“Of course.” Dongfang Xuanyun didn’t know why Long Chen needed spiritual herbs, but he didn’t ask. He took a small, golden book from the table at the back and gave it to Long Chen.

“These are the spiritual herbs that we have in stock. Just tell me what you need and I can approve it for you if it’s something basic.”

Long Chen had only joined the inner family a day ago, so there weren’t a lot of people he could trust. Dongfang Xuanxiao was the only one so far, but Xuanyun seemed promising. As for Dongfang Xuanyun, Long Chen felt revolted when he thought about her.

Long Chen took the book. He saw there were roughly twenty different kinds of spiritual herbs in stock. Even their effects and price were listed.

“Dream Lingzhi Mushroom, Soul Nourishing Fruit ... There’s even Soul Grass. There are many more others ...” Long Chen was shocked.

The inner family was not as lively or busy as the outer family, and the Xuanyun Pavilion was not as lavishly decorated as the Treasure Pavilion of the outer family. But the Xuanyun Pavilion easily had ten times more items than the Treasure Pavilion of the outer family.

“Third Uncle, can I have two Soul Grasses?” It was his first time asking for resources, so Long Chen didn’t dare to be too greedy.

“Two Soul Grasses?” Dongfang Xuanyun thought about it and nodded. “Sure, but you need to register first. As you know, if everyone could simply walk in and take whatever they wanted, the pavilion would be empty in no time. Everyone has to register so that we can prevent this.”

“Then when can I come back here to get more resources?” Even though the resources were free, Long Chen knew that there were limits to how much people could take. It was natural that the Xuanyun Pavilion didn’t allow everyone to constantly take resources.

Dongfang Xuanyun patted Long Chen’s shoulder and said happily, “Hehe, don’t worry about that. You’re already calling me ‘Third Uncle’ even though you just joined the Eastern Azure Dragon family. Consider the Soul Grasses my gift to you. These are coming out of my own pocket.”

“Thank you, Third Uncle.” Long Chen smiled plainly. Dongfang Xuanyun seemed like a good person, so it made sense that he got along well with Xuanxiao.

“Wait here, I’ll go grab it for you.” Dongfang Xuanyun walked out.

Long Chen got bored of waiting, so he decided to take a closer look at the golden book.

“The list is sorted according to price, with the most expensive item at the bottom. I wonder what the last herb is called?” He flipped through the pages until he saw the herb listed on the final page, the Sky Soul Fruit.

“Sky Soul Fruit? An advanced Black-tier spiritual herb. Its effect is very close to an Earth-tier spiritual herb, and the Lingwu family only has ... one?”

The Sky Soul Fruit was sure to be terrifying. When Long Chen looked at its market price, he almost collapsed from shock.

“A single fruit costs ten million divine jades?!” He was stupefied. He had only ended up with two and a half million divine jades after killing Jin Sheng’en and Chu Yunxi, but the fruit was worth ten million!

“Ten million. How long would it take me to get that much?” Even though Long Chen was the embodiment of confidence, he felt powerless when he saw the price.

“Long Chen!” Ling Xi suddenly shouted.

“What’s wrong?”

She had been asleep the whole time, but hearing Long Chen mention the fruit had jolted her awake. In fact, she seemed very eager.

“I need the Sky Soul Fruit. It’s very important ...” Ling Xi widened her eyes pitifully.

“How important?” Long Chen's expression was bitter. Apparently, his Universe Pouch would bleed this time ...

“I can live for five years if I eat it.”

“Five years?!” Long Chen was surprised. Even though he was living a dangerous life where he could die at any time, at least Ling Xi would still be able to survive without him for a period of time if she had the fruit.

Long Chen made his decision.

Just then, Dongfang Xuanyun returned with two Soul Grasses in hand. “Go home and continue cultivating. The tournament will probably take place in a month. I can’t wait to see your performance.”

Long Chen smiled and then passed the book to him. “Third Uncle, I have a question.”

“Yes?” Dongfang Xuanyun looked at Long Chen with uncertainty.

“What is the price that I need to pay if I want the Sky Soul Fruit?”



Ling Xi was worried because Long Chen had not said anything after she told him she wanted the fruit. She was worried that he would not get it for her, but he had inquired about it instantly. She bit her lip, and tears of gratitude flowed from her eyes.

“The Sky Soul Fruit?” Dongfang Xuanyun gave Long Chen an uneasy look. “I don’t know why you need it, but it’s very expensive ...”

“What do I need to do?” Long Chen asked again, his eyes resolute.

Seeing how adamant Long Chen was, Dongfang Xuanyun knew that the Sky Soul Fruit was very important to him, so he just cut to the chase. “I need the approval of several elders before I can give it to you. But if my calculations are correct, you won’t be able to take any resources from the family for an entire year.”

Unable to obtain any resources for a year in exchange for adding five years to Ling Xi’s life? Long Chen knew it was worth it, so he did not hesitate at all.

“Third Uncle, I want it. Can you help me register and then send it out for approval?”

Ling Xi instantly started shedding tears in the sword.

He’s treating me so well, but will it be worth it for him?

She couldn’t answer her own question.

All she knew was that even if she recovered her body, she would never be able to stay with Long Chen.