

War God 221

Chapter 221 - Thousand Meter Ancient Corpse

Long Chen swam to the Ling Xi Sword and called for her, but no reply came. He had a bad feeling all along, and now his worst fears seemed to be coming true.

Wait, Xiao Xi always falls asleep for a short period of time after she uses her powers. Maybe she's fine, Long Chen thought in an attempt to console himself. He was happy that he had managed to hold the Ling Xi Sword. When he jumped into the abyss, he thought he would never be able to find her again.

He was certain she would get better.

The water was far too cold at that depth for him to linger for too long, so he surfaced to catch his breath.

Once he was on the surface, he decided that his top priority was to confirm whether Ling Xi was alive or not before trying to figure a way out.

Soon after, he dove back down to the metal coffin and bent over to get a better grip on the Ling Xi Sword's hilt. That was when he noticed the giant crack the Ling Xi Sword had left behind.

What could be inside it? Long Chen released his grip for a moment and looked into the crack. He looked around until he saw something white. Suddenly, his eyes widened with shock.

What the fuck? He felt his scalp go numb.

The interior of the coffin was murky, but he could make out something white inside it. When he was trying to work out what it was, he saw dark-green light come out of two massive slits that quickly grew into two holes. Each hole was the size of a lake, and the green light illuminated the whole interior of the coffin, allowing Long Chen to see everything.

Fear gripped his heart at that moment, and he escaped. He barely remembered to grab the Ling Xi Sword at the last second.

Long Chen thought he knew what he had just seen, but he didn't know if he was right!

The two dark-green lights were eyes!

When the lights illuminated the coffin, Long Chen saw that there was a corpse within it!

No, it was not a corpse, because it had just awakened.

The corpse was two hundred meters wide and a thousand meters long, but rather than being the corpse of a monster or beast, it was a girl!

He wasn't able to get a good look at the face, he only vaguely remembered that it was a girl.

In his panic, he grabbed the hilt of the Ling Xi Sword just as the green light exploded within the coffin. A massive force surged out and launched Long Chen upwards, forcing the Ling Xi Sword out of the coffin too.

He had thought that it would take some time to remove the Ling Xi Sword, but it had been done in one go thanks to the force.

Long Chen was thrown outwards above the surface. He flew up thirty meters into the air, and he was sure his body would break if he landed on the water. To his surprise, he stopped in midair, as if someone was controlling him.

“What’s happening? Who are you?” Long Chen instinctively knew that the thousand-meter-tall girl in the coffin was a scary being. She was someone who could only be found in the places where Ling Xi or Long Qinglan came from, where cultivators with strength beyond Long Chen’s imagination reigned.

Such a strong cultivator couldn’t appear in the Cangyang Kingdom.

But Long Chen couldn’t figure out why was she so massive. Was she human?

She was stronger than the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, so much so that Long Chen didn’t even have thoughts of fighting back. Since he was suspended in the air, he thought the girl wouldn’t kill him. If she wanted to, she would’ve killed him with that explosion earlier.

She must’ve been sealed at the bottom of the pool of the Star Devil Prison by someone. She got out thanks to the Ling Xi Sword breaking the seal on the coffin! Long Chen felt slightly relaxed knowing that. Perhaps the girl was grateful for their help in unsealing the coffin.

Thanks to Long Qinglan and Ling Xi expanding his worldview, Long Chen could brace himself to face someone this strong. If not, he would’ve been crying and pissing from fear.

Long Chen looked down.

The pool of water was receding, as if a massive monster was drinking the water. The water level lowered at a very fast rate until the metallic coffin was exposed to the air.

Long Chen watched anxiously.

At the top of the coffin was the hole that the Ling Xi Sword had made. There was light coming from the hole, illuminating the dark space.

Suddenly, the crack started to widen, and soon, a hole around ten meters in diameter was formed. The perimeter of the hole was somehow melted off. Once the hole was formed, the light disappeared, plunging everything into darkness.

“Wait, that’s it?” Long Chen was hoping for something more.

While he was waiting, a hint of starlight came out of the hole before a humanoid shadow shot out of it and appeared in front of Long Chen. It was a girl roughly his size rather than a thousand meters tall. Still, he knew it was the very same corpse he had seen.

Long Chen didn’t know how to describe what he was seeing.

The girl seemed to be around Ling Xi’s age, but her eyes were a deep, dark green, just like the pool of water. Somehow, he felt like his soul was being sucked into those eyes. Her face was immaculate, beautiful enough to rival Ling Xi. Her eyes were cute yet cold, as if they could see through everything. Her nose was cute, and her lips were as red as cherries. She was a cold beauty.

This was the first time Long Chen had seen someone as beautiful as Ling Xi. But she was completely different. Ling Xi’s eyes were pure and untainted, but the girl’s eyes were cold and filled with killing intent just like a devil.

But Long Chen was more concerned that the devilish girl wasn't wearing anything.

She was stark naked before him. He realized that the white stuff he had seen in the coffin was her skin. And now he was seeing it all.

Her snow-white breasts, slender waist, thick thighs, and jade-like feet were exposed to him without anything in between.

If it had been any other situation, Long Chen would've stared at her lustfully. But it was different now. He needed to hold himself back, or he would die. The girl looked youthful, but she might've been thousands of years old. If Long Chen didn't control himself, the girl might get annoyed and kill him in one blow.

Long Chen dared not look for more than a single moment and quickly turned his head sideways.

He was thinking about Ling Xi. Even though the girl was as beautiful as Ling Xi, Long Chen dared not get attracted to her.

"Give me your clothes." A clear voice rang in his ears. It was soothing yet deadly, sending chills down his body.

He didn't take his own clothes off but rather took a new set from his Universe Pouch. Even when he threw the clothes to her, he dared not take a single peek in that direction.

Long Chen suddenly felt himself being lowered by a mysterious force. The force dissipated once he touched the metallic surface.

"You can turn around now."

He obeyed and saw that even though she was wearing a guy's clothing, her beauty was impossible to hide. Ling Xi's beauty was one that swayed the souls, but the girl's beauty was one that affected the physical flesh. Long Chen feared her, so he dared not think of anything.

She's an old monster! Long Chen kept telling himself that to maintain his sense of reverence in order to survive another day.

This was something he had learned the hard way. He needed to be polite to others so that he wouldn't get killed.

Therefore, he dared not say anything.

"Give me the sword." The girl looked at the Ling Xi Sword, the same one that had broken her seal.

"You want it?" Long Chen asked back.

Normally, Long Chen was indeed afraid of her, but his calmness made the girl slightly irritated. "I know there's a soul in there. She must be someone you care a lot about, but I won't harm her. I just want to see the sword."

Long Chen thought about it. *Someone this strong has no reason to lie.* He handed her the sword. When she touched it, a vibration burst forth from the Ling Xi Sword, causing the girl to fly backwards from the impact.

Long Chen was shocked.

Thankfully, the girl was not hurt.

The Ling Xi Sword is indeed extraordinary. To think it would send this mysterious girl flying.

“Indeed. I can’t touch it. The sword is very weird. To think it could pierce through the Demon Sealing Coffin but still doesn’t allow me to hold it.” The girl approached Long Chen and ignored him completely.

She then raised her head and looked at him. “I wanted to kill you, but I will let you go since you hold the sword. However, you need to help me.”

Chapter 222 - Soul Swallowing Gaze

Long Chen wasn’t in a hurry to ask her what she needed help with. There was something more urgent that he needed to know, so he asked, “Before doing anything, let me ask you a question. The sword spirit inside that you mentioned, is she alive?”

“Only a sliver of spirit aura is left. But she has a strong attachment in her heart, so she should be able to survive. As for when she’ll wake, I don’t know.” Perhaps because Long Chen’s arrival had resulted in her removing the seal, she didn’t seem too hostile towards him. At least she had answered his question.

Alright. At least she isn't dead ...

When he heard her answer, he finally felt some relief. The teenage girl noticed the relief in his eyes. She eyed him once more and asked, “Is she important to you?”

Long Chen smiled but didn’t answer. Instead, he asked, “Didn’t you want me to help you do something?”

There was a cold glint in her bright eyes when she gently said, “Not many people have dared refuse to answer a question I ask. But I was able to break the seal all because of you, so you have the right to do so.”

Long Chen could tell that this girl was once a devil-like character with unpredictable mood swings and that she would kill without hesitation. Despite the seal, the coldness in her aura was still present. More coldness radiated from her pale cheeks and sharp chin. In general, her attitude towards Long Chen was considered gentle by her standards.

Long Chen didn’t speak, waiting for her to continue. She was too powerful, and she was visually attractive. Just like a peak tall enough to touch the heavens, she evoked the desire to conquer, but everyone who laid eyes on her lacked the courage to climb.

“My soul is very weak right now, so I need souls. The souls of young girls. Virgins,” she said coldly, enunciating every word.

“You want me to kill people for you?” Long Chen shuddered. This sounded similar to the Blood Saints’ motives. One wanted fresh blood, the other wanted souls.

“You’re reluctant to do that. Is it because of your laughable sense of righteousness?” The girl suddenly giggled. Her icy face suddenly became much more beautiful when

she laughed. But her words sent chills through Long Chen. When she saw the disgust in his eyes, she compromised. "Whatever. No matter what, I owe you, so I should do it your way. One hundred young girls. You will take a hundredth of their souls from each of them. This won't affect them much. They'll only feel a slight headache, and will recover in a month."

Long Chen knew that despite the creepiness in her words, she was probably not as evil as he imagined. If she truly was evil, she would've killed him already, even though he had saved her.

"What should I do?" asked Long Chen.

"To be honest, you should feel honored. I will give you a technique that will give you the ability to read and consume souls. This ability will grow as you become stronger. If you become much stronger in the future, it'll definitely be very useful to you," she said flatly.

"Read and consume souls?" Long Chen could feel that she was not talking about a combat technique. It was probably a divine-type ability, similar to Blood Transmutation and the Blood Devouring Domain. And if she was willing to speak so highly of it, then it had to be an impressive technique.

"Why are you giving it to me? Isn't it more efficient for you to go consume the souls yourself?" he asked cautiously.

After the question, he felt an immense killing intent rushing at him, instantly crashing into his soul. Long Chen was startled, cold sweat sprouting from his back.

But the killing intent quickly disappeared. She was a little despondent, and she combed her white-jade-like fingers through her black hair, saying wistfully, "If I could do it myself, why would I be wasting my time here with you? If I use this skill, it'll attract their attention and I'll be sealed up again. Won't you miss me if that happens?"

When she spoke the last sentence, a strange light flickered in her ink-green eyes, and Long Chen fell deeply into her gaze. He instantly felt like he was in a daze, even losing his ability to think. All he could think about was how the girl before him was the most attractive thing at the moment. She wasn't wearing a shred of clothing and was in a seductive pose, as if making herself fully available to him. He felt a fatal attraction to her delicate, white-jade-like, feminine body.

He lost control of his body and reached out to touch her. That was when everything disappeared, and the girl stared coldly at him. "Did you see that? That's the Soul Swallowing Gaze you need to learn."

Long Chen's chest tightened.

When he woke up, he thought the girl had used a seductive technique, but it was actually an eye technique.

It felt like all she had done was use her eyes to trap his eyes, even extending her influence on all of his senses, enveloping his soul.

“Soul Swallowing Gaze?”

“Mhm. Many people want to learn this but don’t get the chance. I don’t like to owe anyone anything, so if you learn this trick, you shall forget you ever saved me. If you aren’t careful with your words and make me unhappy, I’ll kill you,” she said, an ink-green light twinkling in her eyes teasingly.

She was giving him a good gift, so obviously, he would take it. He nodded and said, “In that case, you may give it to me.”

“I’ll give you the Soul Swallowing Gaze, then I’ll need to cultivate to recover my strength. You sit here to cultivate too. Once I succeed, I’ll get you out of this damn place,” she said coldly.

“How long do you need to cultivate?” There were many things Long Chen had to do.

“It could range from one or two days to one or two months.” The girl walked up to him, until the gap between them was less than half a meter. He looked down and saw a startling patch of snow-white skin on her chest, and he could smell a sweet fragrance. A fire ignited within him.

“Do I look good?” A low, demonic voice rang in his ears, and he felt numb.

“Good enough to bring down kingdoms and city walls,” he said instinctively.

“A satisfactory answer.” Then Long Chen felt a sting in his head, like a needle had pierced through him. It was so painful that his entire body twitched and he almost passed out.

Thankfully, the suffering only lasted for a few moments before it disappeared fully. When he snapped back to reality, drenched in cold sweat, he realized that there was additional information in his brain. It was the cultivation method of the Soul Swallowing Gaze.

“If you still haven’t mastered it when I wake up, I will dig your eyes out,” she said, staring into his eyes.

Judging from the fact that she was a thousand-meter-long corpse and how she had been sealed in the gigantic coffin beneath his feet, he knew that the girl was an extremely powerful master. She might even be an ancient witch, probably the senior of his seniors. It was only appropriate for him to be demure and respectful towards his seniors, so he nodded.

“Right, what is your name?” the girl asked mildly, sitting on the old coffin.

“Long Chen. What about you?” he asked after gathering his courage.

“Li Xuanji.”

Long Chen was deeply shaken when he truly started to cultivate the Soul Swallowing Gaze. From this, he deduced that Li Xuanji was definitely not as heartless and vicious as she made herself out to be. He'd obtained the Soul Swallowing Gaze in exchange for breaking the seal to save her. And it was an extremely worthwhile trade.

His special abilities were all from the Inherited Blood Essence, so his Dragon Soul Transformation, Blood Transmutation, and its extension, the Blood Devouring Domain, were all formidable presences. Towards the end of his cultivation of the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he felt like it might be on their level.

The technique was layered, and he had only touched upon its first layer. Li Xuanji had told him to aim for the second layer before she finished her cultivation. Once the first layer was complete, the secret technique of the second layer would appear in his mind, and so on until he fully mastered the technique.

Long Chen's other techniques, like Blood Transmutation, didn't require cultivation. His other combat techniques, while they were powerful to him, were menial to someone like Li Xuanji. That was why the Soul Swallowing Gaze was Long Chen's first secret technique of a higher cultivation difficulty. Completing the second layer before she finished her cultivation would not be simple.

However, there was a deeper concern in his mind.

He worried about the people he cared most about. Ling Xi was in a deep sleep, but Dongfang Xuanxiao and Mo Xiaolang should have been able to escape after Ling Xi used Heaven Bearing Sword Prison on the Patriarch. Yin Mengyao hadn't participated in Xiaolang's rescue, but she was also in danger. The one Long Chen was most concerned about was Yang Lingqing. He and Dongfang Xuanxiao had forced Beitang Ming to cancel the wedding, but Dongfang Xuanxiao was on the run and Long Chen was dead to them. So why wouldn't Beitang Mo make a move now?

Long Chen knew that panicking now was meaningless. All he could do now was attain the second layer of the Soul Swallowing Gaze before Li Xuanji finished cultivating.

The first layer was called Seduction. It was the move that Li Xuanji had used on Long Chen. In battle, it could make the opponent momentarily lose focus. It seemed like a simple move, but if used well, it could turn the tides of a battle. Once cultivated to mastery, if Long Chen would be able to use Seduction to control a weaker individual's thoughts and actions.

Of course, Li Xuanji had used sex to seduce him before. There were many ways to seduce a person, and Long Chen wouldn't use this type of seduction against a manly man.

Next, he had to cultivate the second layer, called Soul Snatching. If he could master its initial stage, he would be able to use it on non-cultivators or people with little cultivation. He could then take pieces of their souls to nourish his own. The soul was tied to energy, comprehension, reaction speed, and more.

Quieting his mind, he began cultivating. It was a good technique, and if he could master it, it would be an amazing trump card.

Also, it had many layers. Who knew what amazing tricks awaited him if he cultivated it to the end?

Chapter 223 - Ascending To Heavenly Core Realm

Seduction.

Long Chen had a hard time grasping it. After studying it for two days, he realized it needed mastery of one's Qi. The information that had been passed to him had taught him that there were countless meridians in the eyeball, which were extremely tiny and more complicated than the rest of the meridians in the body. If he could control the flow of Qi perfectly through these meridians, he would be able to unleash unfathomable power.

This was the core concept of an eye technique.

The Soul Swallowing Gaze was undeniably a top-tier technique, so it required mastery of Qi on a level beyond the average eye technique. Long Chen could understand its texts, but he needed to cultivate it over and over again. Five days passed, and he had made more than a hundred mistakes. Every time he did something wrong, he was met with fatal pain, and his eyes even bled a few times. Thankfully, he had Recovery, which could heal such small and delicate wounds. Plus, he carried responsibilities on his shoulders, so he gritted his teeth and continued to cultivate.

On the sixth day, he completed Seduction for the first time. His progress was smooth after that, and he quickly learned how to use the late stage. However, his eyes had bled more than two hundred times in the process, and he endured the grueling pain each time.

When Long Chen opened his eyes, an ink-green light was flowing in them. An ancient and complex image appeared in his pupils, though without close inspection, it was hard to tell what it was. But he knew that it was the ancient form of the "confusion" character. Although it was a long-lost, ancient character that Long Chen didn't recognize, he learned it from the information he had received in his brain.

Soul Snatching.

Soul Snatching, which formed the second layer, wasn't as difficult as he envisioned. It was perhaps because he had experience cultivating the first layer, and he had made huge progress in his ability to control his Qi through minute spaces. Soul Snatching required the ability to generate a huge force with his Qi.

Long Chen took seven days to complete the cultivation of Soul Snatching. He had spent twelve days cultivating the Soul Swallowing Gaze so far, but Li Xuanji was not awake yet.

He couldn't cultivate any deeper, and Li Xuanji had said that he could only reach the second layer at his current cultivation level. If he cultivated the third layer, he would suffer greatly. However, he needed to spend more effort deepening his cultivation of Seduction and Soul Snatching.

After gaining a deeper understanding, the ancient character for "snatch" appeared in his pupils when he used Soul Snatching.

Although Yang Lingqing's safety was still on his mind, he had matured greatly after the Star Devil Prison incident and knew that no matter how worried he was, he had to stabilize his emotions. Li Xuanji was greatly concerned about recovering her strength, so he would definitely be killed if he disturbed her. Therefore, once he finished cultivating the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he turned to cultivating the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

The techniques he had to learn were Split Yellow River, Shattered Skies, and Starsweep Dragon, but he could only use one of them.

Therefore, he took out the Azure Dragon Halberd and started practicing Shattered Skies and Starsweep Dragon. Shattered Skies was a continuation of Split Yellow River, and using both consecutively would unleash an even stronger power. However, those were the Azure Dragon Halberd's foundation techniques, while Starsweep Dragon was just the simplest technique in the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

Time slipped by. Long Chen's trump card was slowly strengthening. During this time, he truly felt what it meant to be alone, because the cultivating Li Xuanji was like a rock, losing all signs of life. Ling Xi was still in her unconscious state, and he didn't know how to wake her up.

The sense of emptiness in his heart was filled with fervent cultivation.

He cultivated like a madman without regard to night and day. Afraid that he might disturb Li Xuanji, he ran to a spot on the coffin that was farther away from her. There was only darkness around him, and other than the expanse of soil, he could only see five stars in the sky.

Long Chen cultivated vigorously, dragging deep gutters in the soil with his halberd, which led to net-like cracks.

In the blink of an eye, twenty-seven days had passed since Li Xuanji started cultivating. On this day, he successfully mastered Starsweep Dragon. No one in the history of Yuanling County had ever, as a mid Earthly Core Realm cultivator, jumped six levels ahead to cultivate an Earth-tier technique.

"Beitang Mo! If I get back and notice that you touched even one hair on Xiao Qing'er's head, I'll use the Azure Dragon Halberd to chop you to pieces!" Long Chen roared.

"Xiao Qing'er? Is she a girl you like?" a cold voice said from behind him. He turned around and saw Li Xuanji. She had finally ended her cultivation, which also meant that they could finally leave.

She initially thought he liked the strange sword spirit, but now that he had mentioned another name, she was disgusted.

"She's my younger cousin." He put the Azure Dragon Halberd away and said, "I have successfully cultivated the first two levels. As long as we leave this place, I'll help you collect the souls. However, I have a request. I'd like to confirm my cousin's safety before leaving. She's up there, not far away. It won't cause any delays."

When she heard that she was his cousin, Li Xuanji's expression relaxed. She wasn't in that much of a hurry, so she said, "Alright. Seeing as you care for her, I'll allow it."

She waved her hand, and a powerful force rushed towards him, as if going to envelop him. Startled, he readied to fight back but realized that it was gentle. When it entered his body, he realized that the energy was extremely pure, and its gentle fluidity resembled the medicinal power that entered him when he ate the Ascension Fruit.

Li Xuanji's voice rang faintly in his ear. "Refine this power and turn it into your own Qi."

He hurriedly started refining it, turning the non-elemental power into his own Dragon Soul Qi. The power she had provided was stable and plentiful, so his Qi grew quickly. Half a day later, he found himself at the late Earthly Core Realm, the same level as Dongfang Tianyu!

But he continued to grow stronger!

Li Xuanji continued to send power into his body, and he felt like he was about to explode. All he could do was refine it continuously. Time flowed, and in the blink of an eye, one day and one night had passed. The power in his body surged until it reached a boundary. *Boom!* His Earthly Core shattered and surged angrily along with the blood-red Qi inside him.

The Qi aggregated and finally condensed into a Heavenly Core, which was the size of a little finger. While absorbing the Qi of heaven and earth, he continuously compressed his core. As he progressed from the Human Core to the Heavenly Core Realm, it had shrunk several times. However, the Qi it contained, and its explosive energy, were more than a hundred times greater than when he was at the Human Core Realm.

“Have I really reached the Heavenly Core Realm?” Long Chen momentarily couldn’t comprehend that this was reality. In the inner family, the Heavenly Core Realm was considered the level of an ultimate prodigy, only two levels away from Mo Xiaolang. He was already on Dongfang Tianxuan’s level. Out of all the youths in the Lingwu family, only Mo Xiaolang and four others were ahead of him.

Most importantly, he had completely mastered the Azure Dragon Halberd and learned the Earth-tier Starsweep Dragon, as well as the Nine Dragon Flashes and Recovery. With the Inherited Blood Essence’s Dragon Soul Transformation and the Blood Devouring Domain, as well as Li Xuanji’s Soul Swallowing Gaze, his overall strength had soared to a lofty level.

Just taking Dongfang Tianchen into consideration, he’s at the mid Heavenly Core Realm and his Qi is similar to mine when I use the Dragon Soul Transformation. Although he has practiced the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, he’s definitely not as strong as me with the Azure Dragon Halberd!

He grew emotional. If he could defeat Dongfang Tianchen, that meant he could kill Beitang Mo if Beitang Mo pushed him too hard.

“Lingqing, wait for me.” Determination filled his eyes. At the same time, he was grateful towards Li Xuanji. The Ling Xi Sword had broken the ancient coffin, but that was just a coincidence. Not only had Li Xuanji not killed him, she had given him the Soul Swallowing Gaze and let him level up twice.

Entering the Heavenly Core Realm meant that he had truly become one of the ultimate prodigies of Yuanling County, even approaching the masters of the older generation, like the late Heavenly Core Realm Dongfang Xuanyu, who was one of the less talented ones.

“Let’s go.” Li Xuanji’s power wrapped him, and he ascended in a straight line, his clothes flapping loudly.

The fact that Li Xuanji could fly was no longer an astonishing thing to him. She was already a magical and mysterious person, so flying him out of the Star Devil Prison didn’t seem like a difficult task for her.

Now that he was fully conscious, he realized that he had fallen very deep, basically like falling from the sky to the ground. Now he was flying from the ground back to the sky.

She flew extremely quickly, but it still took them half a day to finally arrive at the Transit Hall. Standing at the Transit Hall, he turned to look at the infinite abyss. He thought about how he had survived under such circumstances, even though he found it hard to believe.

“Next, I’ll go see Lingqing …” Long Chen didn’t know what was next, but he was now most worried about Yang Lingqing. However, he had a sneaky thought. As long as Li Xuanji was with him, no one in the Cangyang Kingdom could kill him. Not even the four Patriarchs.

That was the reason why Long Chen wanted to see Yang Lingqing before collecting the souls.

After focusing himself, he left via the black hole. When he arrived at the Heavenly Martial Realm, he first saw the armored guards, though there were only three of them. The missing guard was the Beitang guard who wore the Black Tortoise armor.

“Long Chen!” Yang Honghai and the others were so shocked that they yelled when they saw him appear abruptly.

Long Chen was dead—that was a fact. He had fallen into the Star Devil Prison, and no one was naive enough to think he would return alive.

Yet he was here, alive.

And not only had he become stronger, there was also a fierce-looking girl behind him.

Chapter 224 - Chaos At Black Tortoise Pavilion

“How are you alive?” Yan Honghai was in utter disbelief. His eyes were wide with shock as he stared at Long Chen. Even the beautiful girl next to him was ignored.

Although the other two guards didn’t speak, they were also filled with questions. It was a huge shock to them that Long Chen had appeared before them. “How am I alive? That’s not important. What’s important is that I am alive now!” Long Chen grinned, then he looked at Yan Honghai and asked, “Brother Yan, I need to ask you something.”

“Me?” Yan Honghai jumped in surprise, looked at the other two, and then said hesitantly, “Young Master Long Chen, do you know? The Lingwu family has sent out wanted notices across the entire Yuanling County for Lord Xuanxiao. You’re his stepson, and you were involved in that incident. So ... So I need to capture you ...”

He was torn. Dongfang Xuanxiao had treated him well all these years, yet Dongfang Xuanxiao and Long Chen had ended up in their current situation because he had informed the Patriarch that they had entered the prison. Of course, if Yan Honghai hadn’t done it, someone else would surely have reported to the Azure Dragon Patriarch. But he still felt guilty about it.

Yet there was his duty. And he had to act now. “Brother Yan, you don’t have to do anything. We’ll do it.” The other two guards locked eyes, then they approached Long Chen. They were both mid-Heavenly Core Realm masters, and the past Long Chen would never have been able to defeat them.

“You think you can touch me?” Long Chen smiled without a hint of fear. From their words, he had learned a piece of information, which was the fact that Dongfang Xuanxiao wasn’t dead. That was enough.

Long Chen was about to move when the beautiful Li Xuanji grew impatient. She waved casually, and the three guards turned pale. Then they were thrown back with blood spraying out of their mouths.

She shrugged. “Let’s not waste any more time. Ask what you need to ask.”

Long Chen knew that they were pressed for time, so he had to ignore the severity of Yan Honghai’s injury and question him. Meeting Yan Honghai’s shocked gaze, he asked, “Brother Yan, do you know anything about my cousin, Yang Lingqing? I’ll only ask once. Look. If you don’t answer me, she can kill you easily.”

Yan Honghai couldn’t understand at all how the beautiful teenage girl could injure him so severely with just a simple wave of her hand. But he was smart, so once Long Chen asked him the question, he replied immediately, “Beitang Mo wants to marry Yang Lingqing today! You’ll know when you reach the Northern Black Tortoise family!”

Marry?

Heh, he must be looking for death.

Today was a big day for the Northern Black Tortoise family, one that was hard to come by. Of course, this was also a huge event for the whole Lingwu family. That was because the most outstanding son of the Northern Black Tortoise head, Beitang Mo, was about to marry his own stepsister, Yang Lingqing.

Of course, after the wedding, she would no longer be his stepsister but his wife.

Yang Lingqing had the Dark Yin Body. After receiving the right cultivation methods, she had reached the late Human Core Realm. One day in the future, she would surpass Beitang Mo and become the Northern Black Tortoise’s trump card. That was why Beitang Ming was willing to trap her in the Northern Black Tortoise family no matter the cost. This was something that the other three inner families had agreed on. Unfortunately, Dongfang Xuanxiao had messed up their plans and caused a delay. But now he was labeled as a traitor and was on the run from the Lingwu family, so it was a good time. Beitang Ming worked through the night to set an auspicious date for the wedding, which was this day. The Northern Black Tortoise family had been preparing for this grand ceremony for a month now.

The wedding was extremely lavish. Not only had the Northern Black Tortoise invited the important figures of the other three inner families, the nine Grand Elders of the outer families and other factions from Yuanling City also had representatives present.

The Northern Black Tortoise compound was decorated with lanterns and streamers with all types of people present. It was a bustling day, and various kitchen staff, odd-jobbers, and handmaidens wove through the crowd, busy with their tasks. The usually quiet Lingwu family compound was suddenly crowded, and it took everyone some time to adjust.

Shouts, laughter, sounds of assent, and ass-kissing rang across the place. The wedding prayer to the ancestors had not begun yet, but the largest pavilion of the Northern Black Tortoise family, the Black Tortoise Pavilion, was already filled with guests.

These guests came from all over the county. Many knew each other but had not met in years, so they were busy catching up. Red lanterns were hung everywhere, along with beautiful, red paper-cutouts, which could be seen everywhere. Above the main entrance of the pavilion was a “囍” character carved from fire crystals so every guest who arrived would see the flaming symbol and praise it in awe. [1]

All the important figures had already gathered in the Black Tortoise Pavilion. All nine Grand Elders of the outer families were sitting together. On the other side, the three important figures of the Eastern Azure Dragon family, Dongfang Xuanfeng, Xuanyu, and Xuanyun, were present. The head of the Vermilion Bird and White Tiger families were also there, sitting to the left of Dongfang Xuanfeng.

The auspicious hour was soon approaching. The families of the bride and groom were already sitting at the head of the room. On the left was Beitang Ming, wearing a very festive, red robe. He was smiling and greeting the guests as they arrived, joking and chatting away happily, exactly like how the head of a huge clan should act. On the other hand, Yang Yuntian's end of the room looked much more depressing. The clothes he wore signified that he was from a small town, and his forced smile and awkward, fearful gaze proved that he was weak and helpless.

The guests present simultaneously praised how youthful Beitang Ming was, while also gossiping about Yang Yuntian. “I heard the girl Beitang Ming found has a Dark Yin Body. But the girl's father is just too embarrassing.”

“I think you're just jealous. The man has a great daughter, and his status will skyrocket from today onwards now that he's connected to the Northern Black Tortoise. You can only dream of having an honor like this.”

“Nonsense! Although my daughter doesn't have the Dark Yin Body, she's decent-looking. If Young Master Beitang Mo had chosen my daughter, at least the bride's father wouldn't look as tragic as this and embarrass the family here ...”

“Old Zhao, be careful with your words. Keep your voice down when you're saying things like that.”

“Oh, oh. Right, right.”

Yang Yuntian could faintly hear conversations like these.

“In-law, ignore those shallow-minded morons. With Lingqing marrying my son, I guarantee that the Yang family shall become a large clan of the region. The Yang name shall be famous in the future.”

Yang Yuntian nodded in agreement, thanking him hurriedly. This should have been the greatest news, yet there was a hint of worry in his eyes. Yang Lingqing had told him about Long Chen. He

knew Lingqing wasn't a willing participant in this wedding, and knew that the largest hope of the family, Long Chen, had died a corpseless death.

After hearing this news, the entire Yang family broke down in grief. Even the Yang Patriarch could not hold himself together, much less the rest. Yang Lingqing cried all day and only recovered after a month. But Beitang Mo and the others noticed that she spoke very little since then, and the iciness in her eyes sometimes even frightened Beitang Mo.

The Yang family was the bride's family, yet only Yang Yuntian had come as a representative. This showed the dissatisfaction of the Yangs, and a dark cloud of sorrow hung over the whole family.

The master of ceremonies standing at the entrance bellowed, "The auspicious hour has arrived! Time for the ancestral prayers!"

When he spoke, the bride and groom came in through the side entrance. Beitang Mo was dressed handsomely on this day. His red clothing was embroidered with a golden dragon, which symbolized masculinity. His black combat boots added a hint of arrogance and killing intent to the sophisticated elegance of his outfit.

A man like him, along with the golden halo of his family name, was destined to make countless teenage girls swoon.

Yang Lingqing's face was hidden under the red veil that blocked her increasingly beautiful features from sight. However, the curves that showed beneath her clothes proved that she was an attractive woman.

Yet the trembling of her body showed.

"Qing'er, you're nervous, aren't you? Don't be scared, I'm here. Every girl will face a moment like this in their lives. After marriage, you will mature and become a true woman," whispered Beitang Mo with a smile, leaning close to her ear.

Her body trembled slightly, but she didn't speak.

"Let me give you some good news. My father got me a Dragon Fruit, which contains a powerful fire energy that can make me strong for a short while and not get hurt by your Dark Yin Body. That's why tonight, we can finally consummate our marriage ..."

Beitang Ming chuckled softly.

Yang Lingqing squinted and tears flowed from her eyes. *He is dead. No one can protect me anymore. That is why I must remain strong.* She subtly gripped the ends of her clothes.

The auspicious hour had begun, so it was time for the ceremony. After three bows, they would become official husband and wife. Yang Lingqing held traditional values tightly, so she would accept her fate after the ceremony.

She didn't like this place, and she didn't like the person next to her. Yet when fate flexed its muscles, no one could withstand it.

Watching Yang Lingqing and Beitang Mo standing in front of him, Beitang Ming stroked his long beard and smiled happily. Yang Yuntian forced a smile, though it only made him look creepy.

This smile triggered a wave of laughter.

Beneath her veil, Yang Lingqing knew that they were laughing at her father. She didn't feel humiliated, only rage. She gripped the bottom of her red clothes, her fingers turning purple from gripping too tightly.

Father, I will make them pay what they owe you. And avenge my cousin ...

The fire of hatred slowly ignited in her heart, burning with rage.

Everyone was ready, so the master of ceremonies smiled and bellowed in his shrill voice.

“The first bow to the heavens and earth!”

Beitang Mo and Yang Lingqing turned to face the main entrance.

The crowd watched them smilingly.

That was when a loud boom pulverized the gigantic “囍” symbol above the door, its crumbs clattering across the ground. The smiling master of ceremonies was blasted backwards, and a person walked into the Black Tortoise Pavilion, attracting everyone's attention!

Chapter 225 - Fighting Beitang Mo

This was a celebratory day for the Northern Black Tortoise family, so many outsiders were walking around the outside of the Black Tortoise Pavilion. That was why no one was suspicious when a teenager quietly made his way to the entrance. Everyone jumped in shock when the symbol made of fire crystals above the entrance was pulverized to dust. All eyes turned to the source of the commotion.

Someone was here to cause trouble. Even the three inner families, aside from the Northern Black Tortoise family, frowned. Causing trouble at the wedding of the number one prodigy of the Northern Black Tortoise was the equivalent of slapping the whole Lingwu family across the face!

“Who are you?! You must be looking for death!” *Whoosh!* Beitang Ming shot out of his seat, and his hawk-like gaze swept towards the newcomer. When he saw the teenager's face, shock filled his eyes for a moment.

His son, Beitang Mo, hadn't heard the Azure Dragon Patriarch's personal recount of Long Chen's ending, so he wasn't as shocked. However, Dongfang Xuanfeng and the rest, who knew that Long Chen could never survive, were filled with disbelief when they saw him.

Beitang Ming cried, “Long Chen, how are you still alive?”

The mention of his name woke everyone from their shock!

When Long Chen took the Azure Dragon Halberd into the Star Devil Prison, the Eastern Azure Dragon family was very worried. When the Qi seed within Long Chen's body lost its effect or he died, the halberd should have returned to the ancestral mausoleum automatically.

But one month had passed, yet the halberd had not returned.

It was impossible for Long Chen to survive the fall from the Star Devil Prison, so the Azure Dragon Patriarch concluded that the outcome was due to the special property of the Star Devil Prison. Losing the Azure Dragon Halberd was a huge blow to the Eastern Azure Dragon family. The Azure Dragon Patriarch had been panicking over hunting down Dongfang Xuanxiao as well as worrying about the Azure Dragon Halberd's location. As for Dongfang Xuanfeng and Dongfang Xuanyu, when they heard that the Azure Dragon Halberd was lost, they cried for several days.

To them, Long Chen's sudden appearance was extremely shocking, but also the greatest news. Long Chen wasn't dead, which meant that the Azure Dragon Halberd was still present. This was no doubt good news.

The joy from this news made them forget to wonder why Long Chen hadn't died and why the Azure Dragon Halberd hadn't returned to the ancient mausoleum even though the Qi seed in Long Chen had long disappeared.

When they heard his name, everyone who had heard of him was shocked by his actions. They started to point and gossip about him.

Two people present were in a daze.

They were Yang Yuntian and Yang Lingqing.

They had been told that Long Chen was dead. Yet Beitang Mo had yelled out his name, and Yang Yuntian had seen him with his own eyes. He was alive and well, and seemed to be even stronger than before. Why had everyone said that he was dead?

Yang Lingqing teared up instantly. She didn't care if it could be a trick. When she lifted her red veil, she saw the person walking in with his chest out and shoulders back. Wasn't that Long Chen?

When she saw that it was him, warmth filled her heart. Under his gaze, her heart, which was like a dried and barren land, instantly turned into a lush, green oasis. An invisible willpower surged within her.

Strength. This was something that Long Chen had taught her countless times, and also a quality that every girl had to possess. Only strength would allow a person to live a good life with dignity.

"... Is that really you? Big Brother ..." She choked and hurriedly wiped her red eyes.

Long Chen saw her tears.

Just as he expected, the girl could not deal with all of her problems on her own. The Northern Black Tortoise family had been using the Yang family to threaten her, adding on to her stress.

Rage and killing intent grew slowly in his chest.

"Long Chen, you're not dead?" Beitang Mo, who was standing next to Yang Lingqing, glared at him coldly. He didn't know what had gone wrong with the Azure Dragon Patriarch's declaration, but Long Chen wasn't dead and that was the truth. Now he had to accept this truth. He would investigate later! "Here to cause trouble again?"

Long Chen was obviously here to cause trouble. Last time, Beitang Mo's long-time fantasy had been interrupted due to his interference. Although he had gotten a chance to slap Long Chen once, it didn't seem to have any effect. The brat was, to his surprise, still lively as ever. Now Dongfang

Xuanxiao was the equivalent of a rat in the streets, so Long Chen had no one to back him. So, how dare he come wreak havoc here?!

When Beitang Mo saw that Yang Lingqing had broken tradition and lifted her red veil prematurely, embarrassing the Northern Black Tortoise family, killing intent burned in his chest. Without a word, he strode heavily towards Long Chen!

Long Chen's eyes were fixed on him. "Beitang Mo! I've said this before. If you want to forcefully marry my cousin, you'll do it over my dead body! The Northern Black Tortoise is a prominent clan. I can't believe you would dare to do something so shameless! You are forcing this marriage by holding the Yang family hostage—what a shameless tactic!" Long Chen smirked as he slowly approached Beitang Mo.

Those words were like a huge slap to the entire Northern Black Tortoise family's face. Everyone's faces turned green. Beitang Ming and Beitang Mo's faces were so dark, they almost bled!

Few outsiders knew that Yang Lingqing had been forced into this marriage. However, they saw how Yang Lingqing had lifted her veil to reveal a teary face, plus her cousin had just stormed the wedding. Everyone knew what this clearly meant.

Indeed, the Northern Black Tortoise family looked bad in this scenario. The crowd was privately snickering at this, wanting to see how they would end this entertaining show.

Before he made a move, Beitang Ming gave Dongfang Xuanfeng a look. "Nonsense! You spout nonsense! Brother Xuanfeng, tell me! How should I deal with this rebellious child?"

"Long Cheng is the rebellious stepson of that traitor. He is no longer a member of the Eastern Azure Dragon family! He is spouting nonsense and telling lies; he should be executed! Brother Beitang, do what you need to and protect Lingwu's dignity!"

Dongfang Xuanfeng bellowed immediately.

Now that he had obtained Dongfang Xuanfeng's permission, Beitang Mo smirked coldly. Long Chen was less than twenty meters away from him. This meant that he was close enough to kill.

The show was going to end soon, and the audience felt like it was too short.

Two of the nine Grand Elders shot malicious glares when they saw that Long Chen had survived. However, he was as good as dead now, so they sighed in relief. Despite not killing him personally, his death could be considered a form of closure after what had happened to Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en.

The Grand Elders in question were Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan.

"I didn't expect this at all. This brat was only at the initial Earthly Core Realm at the time. It's been less than two months, and he's already grown to this level after joining the inner family." Chu Tianxiong was a little surprised.

"It doesn't matter how talented he is, he is going to die here and now. Beitang Mo is at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. With the Northern Black Tortoise family's wealth, a fight between him and I would probably end in a draw, so he can kill Long Chen in

one strike! I don't know where that brat gets his courage from. How dare he cause trouble here," said Jin Luan coldly.

In truth, Yang Lingqing was thinking the same. Her heart was filled with joy and love when he first arrived, but when she recalled his cultivation level and realized that he was not strong enough to fight the Northern Black Tortoise, her face paled instantly! She panicked and screamed with all her might, "Big Brother! Leave now!" Her tears were previously flowing from shock, but now they flowed from fear and worry!

"Leave?" He approached Beitang Mo menacingly while his aura strengthened. "How could I, Long Chen, ever leave? Haha!" The Qi of a Heavenly Core Realm cultivator surged within his body. Although he hadn't undergone the Dragon Soul Transformation or taken out the Azure Dragon Halberd, he was scary enough.

"The Yin Poison Strike didn't kill you last time only because I hadn't used all my strength! You brat! You are no longer a member of the Lingwu family; how dare you embarrass the Northern Black Tortoise by interfering with my wedding! I will kill you today!" Beitang Mo's voice was as cold as ever. His footsteps quickened, and the twenty-meter gap closed in one second.

A cold Yin Qi swirled quickly in his hand, generating gusts of wind that invoked fear in others. His palm was already moving towards Long Chen's chest! "Yin Poison Strike!" he roared.

The crowd was startled by it, privately praising the Lingwu family's power. At the same time, they were looking forward to seeing how Long Chen would die.

"Do you really think you can kill me with just that?" Long Chen chuckled coldly. Bits of starlight appeared on his finger, and the air trembled around it. When he accelerated and charged at Beitang Mo, the starlight instantly turned into a shining arc of Sword Qi, colliding with the Yin Poison Strike!

Several deafening booms and powerful shockwaves shook even the pillars of the great hall!

"What?" What shocked everyone was that Long Chen hadn't been killed in one strike like they expected. After the impact, both of them were blasted backwards by their opponent's attack, unable to stabilize themselves!

As they stumbled backwards, several deep craters were formed beneath their feet!

The depth of the craters allowed them to gauge how powerful the two young men were! It was not surprising that Beitang Mo could do this, but how was Long Chen's attack equal to his?

That's impossible! What just happened? Beitang Mo was shocked. He could sense that Long Chen was not at all weaker than himself.

Did he make another breakthrough ... With that thought, his determination to kill Long Chen intensified.

On the other side, Yang Lingqing had clearly witnessed the collision. While she was familiar with Beitang Mo's strength, she was shocked by Long Chen. How had Long Chen go from being a weakling to being equal to Beitang Mo within just half a year?

When she looked at the person who had created so many miracles, she called out, "Big Brother ..."
Her tone was filled with admiration and respect. And, of course, great pride too.

Chapter 226 - Supreme Yin Devil Body

The singular exchange between Long Chen and Beitang Mo had ended with a draw. This sent a huge shockwave across the whole Black Tortoise Pavilion.

Dongfang Xuanfeng and Dongfang Xuanyu looked at each other. Xuanfeng frowned and said, "Not only did the brat not die, he seems to have reached the Heavenly Core Realm. He has ascended two levels consecutively! This is unbelievable. The Azure Dragon Halberd must be with him."

"Brother, it's time to end this drama. I'll kill him now, and the Azure Dragon Halberd will return to our family!" With a *whoosh*, Dongfang Xuanyu shot up, attracting the gazes of the crowd.

Beitang Mo was about to erupt with his true capabilities to kill Long Chen, but when he saw that the Eastern Azure Dragon members wanted to kill him, he thought about it for a moment and took a few steps back.

Long Chen was previously a member of their family, so letting them kill him was more appropriate. "You brat, you've been lucky to have survived. But the events of today must end here. I'll see you off myself." Dongfang Xuanyu was at the late Heavenly Core Realm, the same cultivation level as the nine Grand Elders. When she passed Beitang Mo and approached, Long Chen could feel immense pressure.

But he was not afraid, because he had a trump card. "You should be honored to die by an Earth-tier technique." Dongfang Xuanyu's Qi erupted, and her clothes flapped in the wind. The powerful aura of a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator rolled off her!

Other than the Azure Dragon Halberd's technique, the Eastern Azure Dragon family had another Earth-tier combat technique, which was the one she was using.

When they heard her, the crowd drew in a sharp breath. There were very few people in Yuanling City who possessed an Earth-tier technique and even mastered it.

"An Earth-tier combat technique, you say?" Long Chen was prepared to use the Dragon Soul Transformation and pull out the Azure Dragon Halberd. His objectives today were to stop the wedding and test his strength. Either Dongfang Xuanyu or Beitang Mo would be suitable for testing his capabilities, though Xuanyu was stronger!

"Die!" A dragon's roar erupted, and a strong gust of wind howled around Dongfang Xuanyu. She stared at him coldly, as if she was looking at a dead person.

An immense force locked onto Long Chen. Without a change in expression, she punched hard! "Earth-tier combat technique, Piercing Wind Dragon!"

Boom!

When she thrust her fist out, a gigantic dragon image appeared within the howling wind and charged at Long Chen. The people in the Black Tortoise Pavilion gawked at the powerful attack.

Most of them admitted that they could not withstand this attack.

Beitang Mo and Beitang Ming looked at each other. They knew that Long Chen was finished. Next to him, Yang Lingqing was heartbroken. Anyone who wasn't blind could see that Long Chen was no match for Dongfang Xuanyu!

That would be true if Long Chen did not have the Dragon Soul Transformation or the Azure Dragon Halberd. He indeed would not be her match if all he had was his red Qi. However, with those additions, everything would be different. *Think you can kill me? Looks like you're worried about the Azure Dragon Halberd*, he thought to himself. In the face of this immense attack, he was about to use his Dragon Soul Transformation to shock the crowd thoroughly when a person stood in front of Long Chen. She waved her hand gently, and Dongfang Xuanyu's Piercing Wind Dragon was broken through. Dongfang Xuanyu was thrown back, spraying blood from her mouth!

"Who is that?!" Everyone was shocked by the abrupt event! Especially Dongfang Xuanfeng. After catching the injured Dongfang Xuanyu, his glare was filled with killing intent!

To be honest, even he was shocked that someone could defeat Dongfang Xuanyu just like that.

When he saw that the person standing in front of Long Chen was a beautiful teenage girl, Dongfang Xuanfeng wasn't the only one who was stunned—the whole crowd had been caught by surprise. They admitted that this was the most beautiful girl they'd ever seen. Not only were her looks and figure perfect, most importantly, she seemed to possess extraordinary strength.

Who was she? Everyone had the same question.

All Long Chen could do was smile bitterly. Initially, he thought Li Xuanji would only act if his life was truly in danger. He didn't expect her to appear so soon. Unless ... Did she really care about him?

Then he realized he was overthinking it.

"Who are you, may I ask? Why did you hurt my younger sister?" asked Dongfang Xuanfeng with furrowed brows.

When Dongfang Xuanfeng spoke, Beitang Mo had already secretly slipped away while his father, Beitang Ming, walked forward to stand with Dongfang Xuanfeng. It was difficult to estimate this girl's strength, so they did not dare act.

When he saw that Li Xuanji wasn't answering, he probed cautiously again. "May I ask who you are, miss?"

Li Xuanji's gaze moved to Yang Lingqing. Her beautiful, red lips moved as she mildly said, "You. Come here."

Yang Lingqing was also in a daze, but she knew that the beautiful teenage girl was here with Long Chen. Seeing Long Chen's eyes signaling her, she approached.

“Don’t you dare move!” Beitang Ming would never let her go that easily.

“Get out!” Li Xuanji waved casually. What made everyone almost wet their pants was that the two heads of the Lingwu family were thrown back just like Dongfang Xuanyu, crashing clumsily into a mess of tables and chairs.

“A Heavenly River master!” Dongfang Xuanfeng and Beitang Ming locked eyes. They knew they were thinking the same thing. Heavenly River Realm cultivators were the apex of Yuanling City. Seeing as this girl could easily defeat them, she had to be at the Heavenly River Realm!

Both of them swallowed their anger and climbed to their feet, not showing any anger. They could only continue watching like they were bystanders, which was comical to see. Everyone else also looked at each other and dared not make a sound. The term “Heavenly River Realm” appeared in their minds.

Such a young Heavenly River Realm cultivator! How was that possible?

Everyone was shocked.

The fact that a prodigy like her would protect Long Chen ... What did that mean? It showed that Long Chen was here because he had a trump card! He wasn’t a reckless hero wannabe; he was truly a terrifying person!

When Yang Lingqing walked over, Long Chen grabbed her hand. Her tears flowed uncontrollably when she felt his warmth.

Long Chen’s heart ached upon seeing the girl look so fragile. He wanted to kill the Northern Black Tortoise family even more now.

When he saw Li Xuanji eyeing Yang Lingqing closely, Long Chen was confused and asked, “Is there any problem with her?”

“I’m guessing that the Dark Yin Body is the fetal form of the Supreme Yin Devil Body ... The legendary Supreme Yin Devil Body with a cold Yin quality, whose name comes from the Nine Yin Meridians...” mumbled Li Xuanji. It was obvious that she was in a daze due to overwhelming emotion.

“Supreme Yin Devil Body? Nine Yin Meridians?” Long Chen had never heard those terms before, but anything that could shock Li Xuanji had to be extraordinary! He now knew that Li Xuanji acted sooner than he expected because she had noticed that there was something special about Yang Lingqing.

Li Xuanji was about to speak but then frowned. That was when two old men rushed from the outside into the pavilion. One of them was a thin but energetic old man, the Azure Dragon Patriarch. The other was a tall and muscular old man—he had to be the Black Tortoise Patriarch!

Beitang Mo had slipped away earlier to look for the two ultimate masters of the Lingwu family! They were Heavenly River Realm masters, and only they could hold Li Xuanji down and let them kill Long Chen!

When they saw the two Patriarchs make their entrance, Beitang Ming and Dongfang Xuanfeng locked eyes and sighed in relief. They could finally turn the tides with the two Patriarchs present.

The Patriarchs first saw Long Chen. The Azure Dragon Patriarch was thoroughly shocked to see that Long Chen survived, but that also meant that he had a chance to get back the lost Azure Dragon Halberd. Though he had heard that there was a young Heavenly River Realm master here too?

Both of them quickly eyed Li Xuanji.

What confused the two of them was that they couldn't sense star power on her body. Conversely, her body seemed to be a black hole, absorbing their gazes. Both of them even felt like Li Xuanji didn't seem to belong to this world! *How is that possible?* They locked eyes with each other, not confident in this encounter.

Li Xuanji then turned to them.

“How dare you act so boldly before me when you're mere Heavenly River Realm cultivators.” Li Xuanji chuckled coldly. She hadn't spoken loudly, so the only ones who heard her were Long Chen, Yang Lingqing, and the two Patriarchs.

Her words were like a mountain crashing into their heads. They both halted in their tracks, as if they were struck by lightning. Upon closer inspection, a little blood trickled from their ears!

One simple sentence had been enough to hurt the two Patriarchs with its vibrations!

The Patriarchs were completely defeated. They knew that she was not at the Heavenly River Realm, she had to be at an even higher level! *Why would such a powerful master appear in a place like Yuanling City?* They couldn't figure it out, but they didn't dare slack off.

Everyone was watching to see the Patriarchs finish her off. What shocked them was that they suddenly paled and walked up to her nervously, greeting her with utmost reverence. “Greet ... Greetings, Senior! Please ... forgive us for not giving you a warm welcome on your visit to the Lingwu family! We shall immediately prepare a grand feast to welcome you, Senior!”

Senior?

Jaws dropped when they saw how low the two Patriarchs bowed. Everyone grew even more shocked when they thought about it, because ...

They all turned to look at Long Chen. The fact that Long Chen could make a person like that stand up for him meant that he had absolute power.

Chapter 227 - Nine Absolute Yin Veins

Li Xuanji's sudden appearance caused a stir at the wedding. Everyone was shocked when the two Patriarchs lost to her.

Both the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch were wary of Li Xuanji's absolute strength. They bowed before her, waiting for Li Xuanji to speak. Both of them were too scared to do anything.

Why is Long Chen still alive? Who is she? Did Long Chen save her from the bottom of the abyss? That should be it. There's no one this strong even in the capital. Only someone of her caliber is

capable of saving Long Chen. What is her relationship with him? The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch was shaken.

Long Chen had gone from the Draconic Realm to the Heavenly Core Realm in just half a year. As much of a prodigy as he was, even Mo Xiaolang hadn't progressed that fast. Being trapped by Ling Xi and the appearance of Li Xuanji made the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch feel that Long Chen's background was a mystery.

No one uttered a single noise as they waited for Li Xuanji's response.

Li Xuanji was still looking at Yang Lingqing, completely ignoring the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. She then waved her hand after some time, "I've been in a good mood for the past few days, so I don't want to kill anyone. Don't bother me, just do whatever you want."

This was the Lingwu family's territory, but Li Xuanji had the strength and confidence to shoo them away. It was clear she was leagues above them.

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and the others dared not utter a single sentence. They knew that legendary cultivators past a certain cultivation level would be able to retain their youth even though they were old. Seeing that Li Xuanji was young and yet still accepted them when they called her an elder, she was definitely very old.

"Let's get out of here. It's time for me to do my part," Long Chen suggested. He had realized that Li Xuanji was so excited to find out about Yang Lingqing's body that she had completely forgotten about the Soul Swallowing Gaze.

Li Xuanji nodded. Long Chen called for Yang Yuntian and Yang Lingqing before leaving the place. The crowd didn't know what to do.

All of them knew that Long Chen was not someone they could offend—even the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch could not do anything to him!

The Lingwu family was left feeling miserable for the very first time!

This was especially true for the people who once tried to get rid of Long Chen such as Dongfang Tianyu, Dongfang Tianxing, and Chu Tianxiong. All of them stood quietly in the Black Tortoise Pavilion while Long Chen humiliated them by taking Yang Lingqing away from Beitang Mo with the aid of Li Xuanji.

After Beitang Mo called for the two Patriarchs, he had been waiting at the gate to see Long Chen and Li Xuanji die, but it was out of his expectations when even both of the Patriarchs lost to her. Beitang Mo felt his pride break to pieces. The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch was his role model, and the man he looked up to had not only lost, he had even conceded to the enemy.

When he saw Yang Lingqing smiling happily when she was being escorted out by Long Chen, Beitang Mo felt like his chest had been engulfed by a raging fire.

"Long Chen ..." Beitang Mo had never thought that the insignificant brat before him would become the person who had humiliated him the most!

I will kill you! I will kill you no matter who the woman protecting you is! Beitang Mo had clashed with Long Chen earlier, so he had a good grasp of the latter's strength despite having held back

When Long Chen left, everyone sighed in relief. They looked at each other, their faces filled with defeat. Everyone had been holding their breath unconsciously ever since the mysterious girl appeared, so they didn't even think about laughing at the Northern Black Tortoise family.

The wedding had been turned into a massive joke. No one had any reason to stay, so they left promptly.

Once out of the Northern Black Tortoise family, Long Chen found a random patch of shade and stood there.

Yang Yuntian and Yang Lingqing were still reeling from the shock, unable to believe that they had managed to escape such a terrible fate. They dared not say anything since the god-like Li Xuanji was still here.

"What's the Supreme Yin Devil Body?" Long Chen could tell that she was very interested in it.

"As I've said, the Supreme Yin Devil Body and the Nine Absolute Yin Veins are the two strongest Yin-based body constitutions in the world. Even though their initial growth rate is slow, they can unleash their full potential as long as their owner has the necessary resources and cultivation methods. Your cousin ... I detected a hint of the Supreme Yin Devil Body underneath her Dark Yin Body. I think she has the potential to grow into having the Supreme Yin Devil Body."

Li Xuanji came from an extraordinary place. Since she admired the Supreme Yin Devil Body and called it one of the two strongest Yin-based body constitutions, it meant that the situation was not that simple. Long Chen had a feeling that Li Xuanji somehow wanted to take Yang Lingqing as her disciple.

"It seems that you don't have any idea how strong those body constitutions are," Li Xuanji said plainly as she stared at Long Chen. "I have the Nine Absolute Yin Veins and I have yet to find another with the same body constitution as me. How strong do you think I am?"

Li Xuanji's strength was naturally beyond his imagination.

"I know you are strong, so strong that no one in this country could rival you." Long Chen nodded.

"Hehe ..." Li Xuanji smiled and acknowledged it. "Since you've cultivated my Soul Swallowing Gaze, go and do what you promised. I will wait for you here."

Long Chen had seen how strong Li Xuanji was just now. Even though he wanted to kill the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, he dared not go against Li Xuanji's order. He was also afraid of her and wanted to fulfill his promise as soon as possible before running away. Long Chen had a feeling that if he said something wrong and angered her, he would be killed instantly.

“Xiao Qing, wait here. I will be back soon,” Long Chen told Yang Lingqing. He then exited Yuanling City and headed towards the Eastern Ling District.

The second stage of the Soul Swallowing Gaze is Soul Snatching. Let me try it now. Long Chen weaved around the crowd and found a residential area. He had a higher chance of finding a target here.

Li Xuanji needed the souls of virgin women. Long Chen did his best to find two hundred young women. He was afraid of harming them, so he increased the number from a hundred to two hundred so the strain on their souls would be lessened.

It was clear that the Soul Swallowing Gaze was a unique technique. Long Chen found his first target washing clothes beside a river. He approached and gently tapped her back. She looked back and blushed out of shyness when she saw the handsome Long Chen.

“Look into my eyes.” Long Chen’s pupils lit up with a dark-green light. The first stage was Seduction, and he was already using it. Seduction allowed him to see a blob of gray mist within the woman’s body, and he had a feeling that the gray mist had lowered its hostility towards him, as if it could be coaxed out.

“Soul Snatching ...” The ancient character for the word “snatch” appeared in his pupils. With his strong control, he saw a part of the gray mist detach from her body, and it was then sucked into his eyes.

“Success.” Long Chen was surprised that he had succeeded on the first try.

But he then saw the woman’s face become pale. This made him feel slightly ashamed of his actions, but he had no choice. He needed to do it to survive.

He then proceeded to find more women to do the same to. It took him an hour to finish his mission. This was the first time he had gotten a good grasp on the two useful tricks of the Soul Swallowing Gaze. He had a feeling that he would unlock stronger techniques when he got stronger.

He returned to Yuanling City and found that everyone was still at the same place.

“You are slow.” Li Xuanji’s gaze was cold and fearsome.

“Sorry, it was my first time using it, so I wasn’t very familiar with it.” Long Chen lied. If he had taken a hundred whole souls, he could have done it in half an hour.

Li Xuanji forgave him when she heard his excuse. No matter what, Long Chen was still the one who had freed her.

She used the Soul Swallowing Gaze and took all of the souls from Long Chen, making them her own.

After absorbing the souls, Li Xuanji sat cross-legged and started refining them. Just then, Yang Lingqing and Yang Yuntian signaled for Long Chen to come to them. They were seated slightly further away. Yang Lingqing had a serious look in her eyes when she said, “Brother, I want to follow her.”

“What?” Long Chen’s eyes widened, but he soon realized what had happened. Li Xuanji had most likely proposed to have Yang Lingqing follow her.

“Did she threaten you?” Long Chen whispered.

Li Xuanji had the Nine Absolute Yin Veins while Yang Lingqing had the potential to grow her Dark Yin Body into the Supreme Yin Devil Body. It was clear that Li Xuanji wanted her.

“No, she just asked if I wanted to accept her as my master. She said she’s stronger than you by at least ten thousand times. Even though she looks fierce, I know she’s a good person!” Yang Lingqing looked at Li Xuanji.

“A good person? We all thought Beitang Mo was good at first.” Long Chen was still worried. He would rather have Yang Lingqing go back to Baiyang Town and live a peaceful life rather than risk it.

“It’s not the same.” Yang Lingqing was adamant. She told him seriously, “Brother, I’ve thought about it. I need to live my own life and cannot be protected by you all the time. This is the opportunity of my life. If I pass on it, I will remain a nobody until the day I die. I want to see the world and the wonders of it. Brother, you have the right to do it, so I should too, right?”

“Erm ...” Long Chen didn’t know what to say as he looked at her passionate eyes.

“When you were doing your mission, she told me about the world, about the Dragon Continent, the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, and the Three Emperor Territory. This is the first time I’ve learned how big the world is ...” Yang Lingqing had a dreamy look on her face.

“Let her go.” Out of Long Chen’s expectations, her father agreed to it.

Chapter 228 - Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus

Long Chen noticed Yang Yuntian looking at his daughter with love.

“I’ve learned that the weak have no rights at all in this world after going through that. If it wasn’t for you and the lady, Xiao Qing’s life would’ve been ruined. No matter what, I want my daughter to make an attempt to take control of her life. Lingqing, you are my biggest pride!”

Yang Yuntian was on the verge of tears when he said that. He realized that his second uncle had aged so much.

The man who had once tried to kill him had changed.

“Relax. Even though I am harsh, that doesn’t mean I’m always plotting something. If I said I will take care of her, I will.” Li Xuanji had finished refining the souls and approached them. Long Chen could visibly tell that she had recovered slightly.

After spending a bit of time together, Long Chen had an inkling of Li Xuanji's character.

"How will I find you in the future?" Long Chen asked. He had silently agreed to let Yang Lingqing go and respect her decision.

"You?" Li Xuanji was taken back. Normally, Long Chen would never be able to go to where Yang Lingqing was going, so she would be the one who had to visit him. But Li Xuanji didn't want to hurt Long Chen's feelings. "If you ever want to come to visit us, you need to find a place called the Three Emperor Territory. Once there, ask for Li Xuanji from the Nine Yin Absolute Devil Realm. You should be able to locate us."

"Three Emperor Territory, Nine Yin Absolute Devil Realm?" Long Chen etched those words into his memories.

"When will you be departing?"

"Brother, I want to go back to Baiyang Town to prepare before leaving with my master," Yang Lingqing said.

"Alright."

Long Chen said nothing else. He had decided to send her off since she was leaving.

Back in Baiyang Town, Long Chen and Yang Lingqing visited various familiar places. Yang Lingqing cried a few times when she thought that she would be leaving her hometown and going somewhere far away to chase her dream. She cried in Long Chen's arms.

Long Chen was sad too, but he was happier that she had the chance to go explore the world under the tutelage of someone this strong. Three days later, they gathered at the entrance of the town. It was time for them to leave.

Last time, everyone was sending off Long Chen to the Lingwu family. This time, they were sending off Yang Lingqing. Once she bade everyone farewell, she approached Long Chen.

"Brother, do you remember that we were born in the same year, same month, and same day?" Her eyes were red from crying.

"Sigh ... You silly girl." Long Chen felt his heart ache as he looked at the strong girl in front of him. He hugged her before laughing. "Alright, stop crying now. I will make you a promise."

"A promise?"

Long Chen smiled and patted her shoulder. "I promise you that one day, I will appear in front of you and I will still be stronger than you. I will protect you once more! All you need to do is call me your brother!"

"Alright ..." Yang Lingqing cried gratefully. She held his hands tightly. "I will believe you. I know you can do it. I will wait for you!"

Everyone was touched by what they had heard. Even Li Xuanji felt a ripple in her heart.

Does he know how hard it will be to keep that promise ... Or rather, it would be more accurate to say he will never be able to do it. I don't even know if he will be able to leave this country, much less reach the Three Emperor Territory. Too bad I can't use that mysterious Ling Xi Sword ...

She suddenly recalled something and looked at Long Chen. "Come here, Long Chen."

Long Chen went over to her.

"The soul within the sword ... I think it's a human soul. Are you looking for a way to restore her physical body?" Li Xuanji wasted no time and got to the point.

Long Chen never expected Li Xuanji to know about Ling Xi. Seeing that she might have a plan, he got very excited. "You have a Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit?"

Ling Xi had once said that the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit could restore her physical body.

"You even know about the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit?" Li Xuanji was surprised, but she shook her head. "I don't have one, but I know where one is located."

"Where?" Long Chen was very excited to find out that there was a chance for Ling Xi to restore her physical body.

"There is a Miniverse within your small country. I've gone in there before and found a Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. I think it's called the Counter Essence Realm."

"The Counter Essence Realm?" Long Chen had heard of it before. He tried recalling and suddenly realized where that place was. He was ecstatic! "I know where the Counter Essence Realm is! If I can become an Immortal Guard by winning the Mayor's Battle that's soon to be held in Yuanling City, I will get a chance to obtain the fruit!"

He had spilled everything in his moment of excitement.

Before this, he didn't know how to help Ling Xi. Now he had a clear goal: becoming an Immortal Guard!

I need to go back to the Lingwu family! Plus, they have no way of knowing that Li Xuanji is leaving. They would be wary of her and will never harm me.

"Thank you." Long Chen was grateful for her help.

"Is she that important to you?" Li Xuanji had a hint of displeasure in her tone.

"Yes, she's extremely important to me!" Long Chen failed to detect her tone and was surprised by Li Xuanji's cold gaze.

"Don't forget that you saw my naked body in the abyss of the Star Devil Prison!" Li Xuanji's voice was cold and murderous intent emanated from her body.

“No man had ever seen my body before, and I’ve thought about killing you once you’d collected the souls, but I will refrain from doing that on behalf of your sister.” Li Xuanji returned to normal.

Long Chen was sweating bullets. If it wasn’t for the fact that Yang Lingqing had a chance to cultivate the Absolute Yin Devil Body, he would’ve lost his life due to that incident.

But he found it somewhat comforting to know that even though he might’ve died, at least he had seen her beautiful body.

“Time for me to leave. I will give you one last thing.” Li Xuanji took out an item. When she did, an intense aroma spread around the area. Long Chen took one sniff and felt his entire body relax, as if he was about to float into the air.

The aroma attracted everyone’s attention.

Long Chen was puzzled. Li Xuanji was just about to kill him but was now giving him something. *A woman’s heart is very hard to read, especially for someone like Li Xuanji.*

“This is a Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus.”

Long Chen inspected it. Even though it was glowing white and looked like jade, it was actually a lotus root around half a meter long.

“How should I use it?”

Li Xuanji rolled her eyes. “Wandering souls can possess the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus and control it. They can change their appearance into that of a human. This means that it could be used as a vessel for the soul within your sword. But there are two downsides. The first is that it’s a single-use item. Once the soul leaves the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, the item will rot and disappear. The second downside is that the body formed with the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus will not have any combat capabilities. They would be a regular human. She would just be extra luggage for you. Decide for yourself whether you want to use it or not.”

Long Chen received it. His heart started beating rapidly.

The Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus would allow Ling Xi to become a human again, but she would lose all of her power. If the lotus was damaged, she would be forced back into the Ling Xi Sword.

Still, it was better than nothing. Worst case scenario, he would use it temporarily before finding the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit.

“Thank you!” Long Chen was grateful to Li Xuanji.

“The reason I gave you the lotus is because I don’t have the confidence that you could obtain the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. Long Chen, listen to my advice. If you really love her, let her use the lotus and become a normal person. Find another place and live your life with her peacefully. The world is massive, and people like you at the corner of the world never have the chance to be at the center of it. It’s better if you live a peaceful life in a remote place instead.”

She was actually looking out for Long Chen.

She thought Long Chen would heed her advice and give up, but he had the Dragon Jade Pendant. He was the Dragon Warrior. How could he be discouraged so easily?

“Don’t you worry. I have my own plans.” Long Chen didn’t want to ignore her advice openly. He swore that he would fulfill his promise to one day visit Yang Lingqing and Li Xuanji, and he would be stronger than them.

“Then let’s never meet again!” Li Xuanji couldn’t kill him even though he had seen her naked body, but then she thought that they would never meet again, so there was no difference.

With that, Yang Lingqing left Baiyang Town and set off on a new journey with everyone’s blessing. Long Chen felt a wave of passion in his heart as he watched them leave.

Once Ling Xi wakes up, I will let her use the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, then I can finally ... Hehehe ... Long Chen’s smile was obscene. This was his true goal.

Eastern Azure Dragon family! Wait for me! I will be the one who shall obtain the qualifications to become an Immortal Guard! Counter Essence Realm and Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, wait for me!

The sun rose, and Long Chen bade farewell to everyone in Baiyang Town four hours later. He rode the Divine Gale Peng and returned to Yuanling City.

What kind of fate awaited him there?

Chapter 229 - Fierce Battle on the Mortal Arena

A Divine Gale Peng was much faster than a Black Scaled Dragon Horse. Long Chen soon arrived at Yuanling City. This time, returned as one of the elites of the county.

He wasn’t even at the Divine Core Realm the first time he set foot here. He was nothing but a speck of sand.

In just an hour, he was back at the Eastern Azure Dragon family.

Officially, Long Chen had been exiled from the family.

I want to enter the ruins and yet you want to exile me? Ha, let’s see what you can do if I don’t budge.

Long Chen was very brave to do so. Although Li Xuanji was gone, he was still using her presence and name to threaten the Lingwu family. He wanted to be allowed to fight in the ancient ruins. Long Chen would be killed if the Lingwu family found out that Li Xuanji was gone, but he knew that wouldn’t happen, as Li Xuanji had made the Patriarch completely terrified of her.

Back in the family, several youths were surprised to see him. None of them dared to block Long Chen, they just ran inside while shouting. Soon, everyone within the Eastern Azure Dragon family knew that Long Chen had returned. When he reached the Xuanfeng Pavillion on his own, the others were just behind him. The gloomy Patriarch was at the front of the crowd.

When he saw that the scary woman beside Long Chen was not there, the Eastern Azure Dragon family Patriarch felt the pressure in his heart loosen up a bit.

The Patriarch went straight to the main point. “Long Chen, where is the senior that came with you that day?”

“You mean my master? She’s an insanely strong cultivator who appears and disappears as she wants. How would I know where she is now?” Long Chen said in a serious tone. None of them saw through his bluff.

“Master?” Everyone took a deep breath. They had suspected that it was a possibility, and now it was confirmed that she was indeed his master.

The Patriarch, who had once injured Long Chen, was not looking good. Him and the elders kept wondering why the Azure Dragon Halberd had disappeared without any reason, but it seemed that Long Chen’s Master might’ve used a secret technique to achieve that.

The Azure Dragon Halberd was just a toy for her.

“You’ve been exiled from the family, so why are you back?” Dongfang Xuanyu’s tone was harsh and cold.

She wasn’t young, but her brain was still dull. She was the one with the slowest uptake amongst the four of her generation.

“Who said I was exiled?” Long Chen laughed, and the Azure Dragon Halberd appeared in his hand. In front of everyone’s shocked gazes, Long Chen twirled it around. “To be fair, my master helped me make the Azure Dragon Halberd mine. It belongs to me now and it has recognized me as the owner. The Azure Dragon Halberd is the treasure of the Eastern Azure Dragon family, and now I have it. How am I an outsider?”

Long Chen’s words spread a huge shockwave amidst the family.

The Patriarch had a gloomy look on his face. The worst-case scenario had come true for him.

When the Azure Dragon Halberd did not return, the Patriarch had a feeling that it might be similar to Mo Xiaolang’s case, where the Divine Weapon recognized him as the owner. And now the truth was in front of his very eyes. Even though they did not want to recognize it, they had no choice but to believe it.

Some of the high ranked family members felt like their assumptions had been confirmed after Long Chen told them Li Xuanji had helped him control the Azure Dragon Halberd.

A cultivator would not take care of a stranger’s needs if they weren’t master and disciple.

Now the only way to take the Azure Dragon Halberd back was to kill Long Chen, but since he was under Li Xuanji’s protection, the entire Lingwu family might be wiped out if they did.

The Eastern Azure Dragon family had no choice but to look at the bigger picture.

Long Chen was laughing internally. If they knew the truth, they would've died from shock. The reason his trick had worked was because he was bold enough and smart enough to make the lie believable, to the point that all of the elders believed him.

They were glaring at Long Chen when they saw him put the Azure Dragon Halberd back in Universe Pouch, especially Dongfang Tianchen. The latter clenched his fists but dared not move, his eyes filled with killing intent.

The treasure of the Azure Dragon family was now in Long Chen's hands.

"Long Chen, just get straight to the point. Why are you here?" the Patriarch suddenly asked. He already knew that Long Chen had an ulterior motive for coming here.

"I want to represent the family to go to the ruins."

"Impossible!" Dongfang Xuanyu cried out, her face anxious.

There were only two spots given to the Azure Dragon family. One would belong to Dongfang Tianchen, while the other would either belong to Dongfang Tianxing or Dongfang Tianxuan. Even though Long Chen had the Azure Dragon Halberd, he was powerless against the geniuses from Yuandi City and the Dawn Trading Alliance. He would be wasting their chances!

The only reason they hadn't killed Long Chen was not because he was strong, but because he had Li Xuanji protecting him.

"Why not?" Long Chen chuckled.

Thinking that Li Xuanji could come back at any moment, Dongfang Xuanyu had no choice but to lower her voice and persuade Long Chen. "The one remaining spot will belong to either Tianxuan or Tianxing. The battle in the ancient ruins will determine who gets to rule for the next twenty years, and this concerns the entire Lingwu family. We cannot make such a change just because of your whims. Long Chen, this concerns the lives of the twenty-thousand Lingwu family members!"

"I don't think you understand. Do you mean that as long as I'm strong enough, I will be allowed to go? I can just defeat both Dongfang Tianxuan and Dongfang Tianxing."

"You?" Dongfang Tianyu didn't know what to say and looked at her father. The Patriarch contemplated it. "If you are stronger than Tianxuan and Tianxing, then you will pass. But you have to give it your all to help the Lingwu family obtain the inheritance."

To be fair, Dongfang Tianxing had been defeated by Long Chen before. Even though he had improved a lot in a month, he was still not Long Chen's opponent. On the other hand, Dongfang Tianxuan, who had cultivated an Earth-tier martial technique, was likely stronger than Long Chen.

"If that's the case, then let's go to the Mortal Arena. Old man, you were the one who said that I could represent the family to enter the ancient ruins as long as I defeated them!" Long Chen smiled and looked at both Dongfang Tianxuan and Dongfang Tianxing. Both of them clenched their fists while glaring at Long Chen. They were just one step away from losing their rationality.

Long Chen remembered how Dongfang Xuanxiao, Xuan Ming, himself, and Mo Xiaolang had struggled bitterly against the Patriarch. But now Long Chen was capable of not only trespassing into Lingwu family territory, he could even blackmail them with just a few words. He felt liberated. One couldn't treat another poorly, as that person might end up becoming stronger.

"Fine, the Mortal Arena it is! Grandfather, let me see how strong he is. To think that he would dare to talk shit about our family!" Dongfang Tianxuan thought Long Chen was targeting her and felt angry.

Dongfang Tianxing was indeed weaker than her, so she was the most likely candidate to be chosen to fight in the ancient ruins. And Long Chen was messing up her plan, so it was natural that she would get angry.

Since the conditions had been set, everyone made their way towards the Mortal Arena.

"Tianxuan, fight with all your strength, but don't kill him. We cannot kill him now." The Patriarch's voice was hoarse and his face was filled with resignation.

Dongfang Tianxuan swore to herself that she would beat up Long Chen after seeing how her grandfather, whom she idolized a lot, was resigned to this.

Long Chen is a disgrace for using a woman's strength to show off. He's a useless man!

Everyone arrived at the Mortal Arena. Long Chen said nothing and went up on stage before taunting both Dongfang Tianxing and Dongfang Tianxuan. "Both of you can come up together so that we don't waste time."

"What did you say?" Dongfang Tianxuan's face flushed red with anger. She took Long Chen lightly, but she had never thought he would do the same.

"Tianxuan, agree to it. Don't let this chance slip by." The Patriarch's voice came from beside her. Dongfang Tianxuan knew that the Patriarch was asking both of them to fight Long Chen together as insurance. Long Chen was the one who had proposed it, not the family, so there was nothing he could do if he lost.

Dongfang Tianxing and Dongfang Tianxuan looked at each other before walking up the stage under the hopeful gazes of the family.

"Dongfang Tianxing, do you remember how you lost to me last time we were here?"

Dongfang Tianxing's face was red with anger. It was indeed the largest regret of his life.

"Don't get too happy. I will take revenge for that day!" Dongfang Tianxing snarled.

"Idiot," Long Chen responded.

Dongfang Tianxing and Dongfang Tianxuan separated and got on either side of Long Chen.

"Brat, use your Beast Soul Transformation!" Dongfang Tianxing knew that Long Chen needed to transform to reach the peak of his strength.

"Transform? Don't make me laugh. I don't have to transform to beat you!"

He was at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, the same as them, so there was no need to transform.

Chapter 230 - Shattered Skies

“What?” Both Dongfang Tianxing and Dongfang Tianxuan were offended when Long Chen underestimated them. However, they knew that it was important for them to work together; their pride was not the priority here. If Long Chen was stupid enough to antagonize them, they were more than happy to fall for his taunt.

“You asked for it! We won’t take responsibility if you lose!” Dongfang Tianxing turned serious, while Dongfang Tianxuan felt nothing but disgust when she looked at Long Chen.

“Go!” she roared, and Dongfang Tianxing followed her order. Both of them moved at the same time, each using an advanced Black-tier martial technique.

“I don’t have time to waste on you guys.” Long Chen smiled before his feet moved rapidly.

Nine Dragon Flashes!

Long Chen easily escaped their encirclement, causing their attacks to miss him completely.

“How can Long Chen move so fast? Is he really at the Heavenly Core Realm?” They were just as surprised as the onlookers when they saw how fast Long Chen had moved. Long Chen had advanced two cultivation levels in just one month, putting him at the Heavenly Core Realm. What kind of a genius was he?

But he was too lazy to be bothered by their reactions. After escaping the encirclement, he ran towards Dongfang Tianxing and brandished the Azure Dragon Halberd.

“Dongfang Tianxing, time for you to taste this technique again!” Long Chen was extremely fast. He left afterimages as he charged towards Dongfang Tianxing. Even Dongfang Tianxuan could not keep up!

He’s too fast! Dongfang Tianxing felt chills run up his spine. Long Chen was like an arrow shot out of a bow, aimed directly at him. Dongfang Tianxing had a feeling that he could not dodge the attack.

“Tianxuan, save me!” At the critical moment, he called for help before making seals with his hands. His Qi condensed and swirled around him, his hair billowing in the wind. If Dongfang Tianxing hadn’t been so scared, he would’ve looked cool.

“Comet Dragon Seal!” Dongfang Tianxing launched his attack at Long Chen. When he did, an illusory dragon charged towards Long Chen, the force hidden within it surprising everyone. It seemed Dongfang Tianxing had improved as well.

But to Long Chen, the dragon was like a passing fart.

Long Chen swung the Azure Dragon Halberd around his body, and an illusion slowly formed. Split Yellow River was a simple swing of the halberd, while Shattered Skies was numerous thrusts that perforated the heavens!

“Azure Dragon Technique, Shattered Skies!”

The wind howled and a horrible screeching sound exploded in the air. Numerous sparks flew out as Long Chen thrust the Azure Dragon Halberd forward numerous times. His stabs were so fast that they coalesced into a solid, azure dragon. The dragon’s sharp horn contained immense energy that was concentrated at the tip. It was an unbreakable thrust aimed straight at Dongfang Tianxing.

Long Chen had not used his Dragon Soul Transformation, so this was not Shattered Skies’ true strength, but it was more than enough to deal with Dongfang Tianxing.

Plus, Long Chen had more Qi than him and was even using an intermediate Earth-tier Divine Weapon.

In front of everyone’s shocked gazes, the Comet Dragon Seal was shattered into oblivion. If Long Chen’s powerful strike hit Dongfang Tianxing, he would die instantly.

Everyone was certain that Dongfang Tianxing would die, including Dongfang Tianxuan.

Dongfang Tianxuan’s ultimate technique was slowly closing in on Long Chen. If Long Chen hit Dongfang Tianxing, he would get hit by Dongfang Tianxuan’s attack.

“Tianxing!” Dongfang Xuanyu shouted and cried when she saw that her son was going to die! She could not suppress her killing intent and ran towards Long Chen.

Long Chen had no intention of killing Dongfang Tianxing.

Li Xuanji is gone, and while I can blackmail them, they will retaliate if I overdo it. I need to enter the ancient ruins, so I must not antagonize them too much. Long Chen steered his attack sideways to avoid Dongfang Tianxing, but in the process, he used his Destructive Mountain Kick to pulverize Dongfang Tianxing’s skull, caving in his face in the process.

When Dongfang Tianxing flew backwards from the impact and landed in Dongfang Xuanyu’s embrace, his face was burning and his vision was swimming. He cried from the pain.

It was too painful.

No one managed to react to what had happened.

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch released his clenched fists when he saw that Dongfang Tianxing was safe. If Long Chen had not held back, he would’ve intercepted the attack and saved Dongfang Tianxing. He was the Patriarch’s grandson after all.

Only Dongfang Tianxuan was left. All of them looked at her anxiously while Dongfang Xuanyu was busy consoling and treating her son. Dongfang Tianxing’s face was heavily bruised, and Dongfang Xuanyu’s heart was shattered upon seeing her son so heavily injured. She hated Long Chen even more now.

Long Chen, that bastard! Fucking mongrel! Once your master is gone, I will tear you apart! Only then will I be satisfied! Dongfang Xuanyu’s heart was filled with the flames of vengeance.

But only Dongfang Tianxuan could beat up Long Chen at this point.

Still, they had some confidence in Dongfang Tianxuan. That was because she had made some progress with her cultivation a few days ago, much to the Eastern Azure Dragon family's delight.

Dongfang Tianxuan and Long Chen were the only ones left.

After defeating Dongfang Tianxing and using the Nine Dragon Flashes to avoid Dongfang Tianxuan's attack, he was now ready to face her head-on.

Long Chen still remembered how Dongfang Tianxuan had bullied Yin Mengyao due to her strength.

"Young lady, I see that you've reached the mid Heavenly Core Realm." Long Chen chuckled without a hint of fear.

Dongfang Tianxuan scoffed and retorted, "You know that, yet you still dare to talk shit in front of me? Do you think you're some kind of hotshot after defeating Tianxing?"

She had indeed reached the mid Heavenly Core Realm. Excluding Mo Xiaolang, there were only five people in their age group who had reached the mid Heavenly Core Realm, and she was one of them now. She was indeed very excellent.

In terms of Qi, she was stronger than Long Chen if he did not use the Dragon Soul Transformation. Still, Long Chen's advantage was the Azure Dragon Halberd.

The Azure Dragon Halberd contained immense power thanks to the azure dragon within it. He could use the Qi from the halberd to increase his fighting power explosively, making his attacks numerous times more powerful. The multiplier from the attack was almost as strong as Long Chen's Dragon Soul Transformation!

"Mid Heavenly Core realm? Dongfang Tianxuan, no matter how strong you are, you are just a weak lady in my eyes. Your wrists and legs are too frail. How could you ever beat me? Sure, you have a bigger chest and a fatter butt than me, but that won't help you." Long Chen taunted her while using the Nine Dragon Flashes.

His crude remarks made everyone flushed from anger. All of them were cursing Long Chen, while Dongfang Tianxuan's face was red from anger. Killing intent spilled forth from her.

"Die, Long Chen! Earth-tier martial technique, Piercing Wind Dragon!"

She used her strongest technique after falling for his taunt. She was so talented that the power of her Piercing Wind Dragon could match Dongfang Xuanyu when she used the same technique.

The powerful attack lit everyone's hope up! An Earth-tier martial technique from someone at the mid Heavenly Core Realm was probably enough to defeat Long Chen at the initial Heavenly Core Realm.

Within the wild winds, the immense dragon illusion made Long Chen squint.

"Not bad, but it's not as strong as my Earth-tier martial technique ..." Long Chen sighed and waved the Azure Dragon Halberd again, spinning it wildly around his body before he jumped into the air. Facing the Piercing Wind Dragon, he soared downwards like a meteor, and the Azure Dragon Halberd transformed into a divine dragon in his arms.

“Azure Dragon Technique, Split Yellow River and Shattered Skies!”

A slash and a thrust. The techniques were meant to be used consecutively. When used as they were intended, their resulting destructive force was much stronger than when using them individually.

Long Chen used Split Yellow River to chop the Piercing Wind Dragon in half, much to everyone’s dismay. Shattered Skies then stabbed towards the pale Dongfang Tianxuan, who dodged as best as she could.

Even though she was on the verge of death, Dongfang Tianxuan didn’t know she had lost. If Long Chen had not held back, she would’ve been dead already.

“Tianxuan!” Dongfang Xuanyun, the only one who had a friendly relationship with Dongfang Xuanxiao, cried out anxiously.

Long Chen would never kill Dongfang Tianxuan. His grudge with her was not very deep, and it was thanks to Dongfang Xuanyun’s help that he had gotten his hands on the Sky Soul Fruit.

Dongfang Tianxuan was worn out and gave up on fighting. She felt her spine tingle when she was locked in a battle where her life was on the line.

At the same time, the deadly presence disappeared. She knew Long Chen had shown her mercy. She sighed in relief before feeling a peculiar sensation on her chest.

The strange sensation made her body tingle. When she opened her eyes, she saw Long Chen smiling mischievously in front of her.

Long Chen was fondling her breasts! He fondled her and then patted them before saying with satisfaction, “Not bad, but there’s still room to grow.”