

War God 231

Chapter 231 - Fate

Dongfang Tianxuan was surprised. She had never experienced such a sensation before.

The other members of the Eastern Azure Dragon family had no idea what Long Chen had done to her. Long Chen had intentionally blocked the view with his own body and was swift with his actions, so none of them realized what had happened.

No one in their right mind would ever expect that he would do something so shameful in public.

All Long Chen wanted to do was to punish the haughty girl in Yin Mengyao's stead. Since Dongfang Tianxuan had tried to shame Yin Mengyao in the past, he was doing it to take revenge for Yin Mengyao.

"Pervert ..." Dongfang Tianxuan pointed at him, her face flushed red from embarrassment. She didn't know what to do to Long Chen. Her heart was filled with murderous intent when he did that to her, but she couldn't do anything.

Long Chen chuckled and turned around, ignoring her completely. He looked at the Patriarch. "I've defeated both of them. I'm sure you agree that I'm strong enough to enter the ruins, right?"

The family members looked at the Patriarch. Even though they didn't want it, a promise was a promise. Long Chen had won, and they could not go back on their word.

The Patriarch gritted his teeth. "Will you promise me that you will cooperate with everyone else within the ancient ruins to obtain the inheritance?"

"Of course. I would be an idiot to not go all out to obtain such a treasure." Long Chen smiled.

"Don't forget what you've promised! In one month, the Ninth Prince from the Biyang Imperial Capital will come to Yuanling City. The ancient ruins will be opened up then!"

"Thank you, Patriarch." Long Chen laughed and was about to return when he suddenly saw Dongfang Tianxuan staring at him.

Did she fall for me? Long Chen was secretly surprised.

"Long Chen, you will die for your actions today ..." Dongfang Tianxuan whispered.

Long Chen realized he was just thinking too much.

He approached her without a care. "Whether I die or not, we have yet to find out, but your body has been branded by me. You can't get into another relationship until I say so."

"Despicable." Dongfang Tianxuan knew Long Chen was just taunting her, but she did not have the power to fight back.

"Oh, where is Yin Mengyao? How is she doing?" Part of the reason Long Chen had returned to the Eastern Azure Dragon family was to check on her.

“Her? Mo Xiaolang probably took her back to the Silver family,” Dongfang Tianxuan answered truthfully.

“Mo Xiaolang returned to the Lingwu family?” Long Chen was under the assumption that Mo Xiaolang had escaped.

“He wanted to enter the ancient ruins, just like you.”

Based on what Dongfang Tianxuan said, Long Chen knew that both Mo Xiaolang and Yin Mengyao were fine, so he sighed in relief.

Baiyang Town should be fine. With the threat of Li Xuanji lurking around, the Lingwu family will still protect the town. Yin Mengyao has returned to the Silver family, so she would be safe. Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming should be starting their lives all over again somewhere, this time together.

The only problem he had now was Xiao Xi.

Xiao Xi, I will make sure you survive. Long Chen swore to himself and then made his way over to the Silver family. He had never thought that Mo Xiaolang would greet him the moment he arrived.

“Brother, you are alive!” Mo Xiaolang was excited.

“I heard that you brought a mysterious girl to the Black Tortoise Pavilion and shook things up before disappearing. I never thought you would survive after falling down into the abyss of the Star Devil Prison!” Mo Xiaolang was extremely joyous to see Long Chen alive.

“As your elder brother, I have to be much more monstrous than you. An insignificant place like the Star Devil Prison could never kill me!” Long Chen chuckled.

Other than Ling Xi, everything else had more or less been settled.

Mo Xiaolang was happy from the bottom of his heart to see that Long Chen was alive and had become much stronger. Mo Xiaolang had decided to treat Long Chen as his brother the moment Long Chen risked his life to enter the Azure Dragon Star to rescue him from that desolate place.

If their meeting in Baiyang Town was a coincidence, then their current situation was nothing less of fate.

“I just caught wind that you returned to the Lingwu family and was about to go greet you. Did the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch try to kill you?” Mo Xiaolang was worried.

“You think he would dare to do so?”

“He didn't?” Mo Xiaolang was shocked. He recalled how their group had almost died at the Star Devil Prison due to the Patriarch. How had Long Chen entered the Eastern Azure Dragon family on his own and emerged unscathed?

“Do you remember the mysterious woman that followed me to the Black Tortoise Pavilion? The Patriarch fears her, so he will not do anything to me. Also, I defeated Dongfang Tianxuan to enter the ancient ruins. Xiaolang, I heard that you wanted to enter the ancient ruins too?”

“Dongfang Tianxuan? I heard that she was at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. Brother, did you really defeat someone at the mid Heavenly Core Realm? And you are going to the ancient ruins too?” Mo Xiaolang was shocked at the news.

“I’ve reached the Heavenly Core Realm.”

Even Mo Xiaolang was taken aback by what he had just heard. It took him a long time to react and sigh at the news. “You are much more of a monstrous genius than me. It took me half a year to advance from the initial Heavenly Core Realm to the mid Heavenly Core Realm, and now you’ve caught up to me. Looks like you will surpass me soon.”

“Nonsense. The path of cultivation gets increasingly difficult in the latter stages. There’s no way I will breeze through it,” Long Chen said plainly.

Mo Xiaolang was a little bit surprised to see how mature Long Chen was.

When they met for the first time in Baiyang Town, Long Chen was nothing but a useless bum. But now he had become his sworn brother, someone who was mature and rational, who would kill people without hesitation to protect his family.

“Xiaolang, you are my brother now. We will enter the ruins in a month and fight together. I want to see if there’s anyone who can beat us when we work together that day.” Long Chen patted Mo Xiaolang’s shoulder and looked at the passionate youth. Long Chen suddenly felt like his future was grand.

Mo Xiaolang scratched his head and said in an unnatural way, “Yes! We are sworn brothers!”

Mo Xiaolang had thought that things were progressing too fast. The time between meeting each other and becoming sworn brothers was too short, but he still felt like it was natural. He swore to himself that he would fight to the death with Long Chen the moment he remembered how Long Chen had risked everything to rescue him.

“Let’s go grab something to eat. We should also have some wine together, shouldn’t we?” Long Chen had familiarized himself with the streets at a young age, so he knew what he had to do to call himself a sworn brother to Mo Xiaolang.

It was the real deal this time.

Mo Xiaolang was a bit bashful, so he just listened to Long Chen’s suggestion despite being much more powerful.

Long Chen was very happy about taking Mo Xiaolang as his sworn brother. Even though Mo Xiaolang was a genius, he was not snobbish. In fact, Long Chen looked more like the bad guy compared to Mo Xiaolang.

Shit, why is his smile so innocent? It feels like I'm kidnapping a child rather than taking him for a drink.

While walking on the streets, Long Chen asked Mo Xiaolang about Yin Mengyao. Once he knew that Yin Mengyao was living happily with the Silver family, he let go of the stone in his heart. All he needed to do was cultivate and become an Immortal Guard after obtaining the inheritance.

But Long Chen had new worries after learning that Mo Xiaolang was entering the ruins too. Still, he had a bit of time to think about it.

Once out of Lingwu City, they headed to the Eastern Ling District and found a restaurant to eat in. He entered with Mo Xiaolang, and everyone recognized them as the prodigies of the Lingwu family. The restaurant treated them with utmost respect and found them a spot near the window. The establishment was decorated with a timeless yet elegant theme.

Both of them needed a bit of time before they could talk comfortably, as the time they had spent together before this was quite short.

Once they ordered, Long Chen's behavior returned back to when he was a bum drinking in different bars. Even though there were only two of them, the atmosphere was lively. Mo Xiaolang kept laughing and Long Chen kept talking. They finally got close after eating and drinking together.

"Wait, Xiaolang, why do you want to go to the ancient ruins?" Long Chen asked after finally remembering the question.

"I actually wanted to escape after you gave us the chance to do so, but the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch promised me that I could keep the Heavenly Wolf Dagger if I did one thing for him." Mo Xiaolang was a bit tipsy after drinking, his pale face flushed.

"You mean he wants you to enter the ruins too?"

"Yeah. He probably wouldn't have asked me to do so if I had not reached the late Heavenly Core Realm. I've heard rumors that the Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace will be sending geniuses at the late Heavenly Core Realm. The Lingwu family doesn't have any youths at the late Heavenly Core Realm, so the Patriarchs have been anxious. To be honest, it was out of their expectations for the Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace to have youths at the late Heavenly Core Realm. Before this, they only had youths at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, so none of them could compete against the Lingwu family."

"Oh. I see." Long Chen nodded. He needed to obtain the inheritance and become an Immortal Guard, so the ruins had been occupying his thoughts. He had been feeling slightly anxious ever since he heard that Mo Xiaolang would enter the ruins, but it seemed there was no need to. As long as one of them obtained the inheritance, they would complete the mission given to them by the Lingwu family.

"Brother, do you want the inheritance?" Mo Xiaolang was tipsy but not stupid.

“Yes, I need it. It’s important to me.”

“Oh, in that case, I will just give it to you. I’m stronger than you after all.”

Chapter 232 - Deep Enmity

To be honest, Long Chen was moved when he heard that Mo Xiaolang would let him have the ancient ruins' inheritance without hesitation.

He wasn’t wrong in his judgment of this guy.

Long Chen remembered what his grandfather had once said, to be certain of whether his friend’s heart was filled with passion or poison. What Long Chen saw beneath Mo Xiaolang’s calm exterior was passion! “Xiaolang, you’re so nice to me, but I cannot take everything. If we succeed in the end, everything other than the inheritance is yours!” he said generously.

“Hehe, alright. We’ll see when we arrive. If I need it, I will be honest. However, it’s not going to be easy to win even if we work together,” Mo Xiaolang said in a serious tone.

“Why?” Long Chen asked.

“The strongest contender from the Beast Soul Palace is Yan Dangling. I’ve met him once. He’s like me, a Beast Warrior. His Black-tier Primary Beast Soul is the Category Nine Black-tier Peak Essence Beast, which makes him a formidable cultivator. The head of the Beast Soul Palace, whom they call Emperor Yuan, possesses the same Beast Soul. Plus, he’s at the late Heavenly Core Realm, so he’ll be a tough opponent to beat.”

“You’re a Beast Warrior?” Long Chen almost sprayed the good wine in his mouth. He was Mo Xiaolang’s big brother, yet he didn’t even know this.

Long Chen realized that Mo Xiaolang had never used the Beast Soul Transformation in front of him, and he had not brought up the topic before.

“You didn’t know?” Mo Xiaolang was surprised, but he quickly figured it out. “The only time I’ve fought in front of you was the time your stepfather and I fought the Azure Dragon Patriarch. But because no one has helped me, I only had a Category Two Black-tier beast, the Moon Devouring Wolf, as my Primary Beast Soul.

“At my current cultivation level, the Beast Soul Transformation no longer boosts my strength. That is why I’m the same as a regular warrior now. Only when I reach the Heavenly River Realm can I find a higher level Beast Soul.”

This was a huge discovery for Long Chen. It was no wonder no one had said anything about Mo Xiaolang being a Beast Warrior, and it explained why he never used his Beast Warrior abilities.

Long Chen had encountered a Moon Devouring Wolf when he first met Ling Xi, but he was no match for it at the time. “Big Brother, to be honest, I feel like I am almost at the Heavenly River Realm. There aren’t any powerful demonic beasts near Yuanling City, so I decided to try my luck at the ancient ruins,” said Mo Xiaolang solemnly.

“What?” Long Chen was shocked once again. This time, he was truly speechless because Mo Xiaolang was a wicked talent. He was only fifteen, and he was already close to the Heavenly River Realm?

When would he ever catch up and become a “true” big brother?

“That’s a great idea. Let’s search for one when we arrive at the ancient ruins.” With such a powerful cultivator by his side, Long Chen’s confidence was boosted.

“Actually, my strength is nothing in Biyang Imperial City,” Mo Xiaolang suddenly said with some despair in his eyes.

Long Chen caught on that he might have a worry plaguing him. He recalled how Mo Xiaolang once told him that his family had been killed.

This area of the restaurant was quite noisy with several tables of rich youths having fun and playing drinking games. It was a busy place, but there weren’t any masters in the building.

Long Chen looked around. When he felt safe, he leaned over to Mo Xiaolang’s ear and asked seriously, “Xiaolang, you seem familiar with the Biyang Imperial Capital. You haven’t lived there, have you?”

Mo Xiaolang didn’t feel the need to hide it from Long Chen. He gritted his teeth, and a hint of killing intent flashed in his clear eyes. “Big Brother, I’ll tell you the truth. The Mo family used to be one of the four great families of the Biyang Imperial Capital, but the whole family has died. I was the only one who escaped. I was only six at the time.”

Mo Xiaolang spoke calmly, but Long Chen could sense the years of blood, sweat, and tears hidden underneath his facade.

His family had been annihilated, and he was only a six-year-old child left all alone to survive in the world. Although Mo Xiaolang was still very innocent, Long Chen knew that his brother had suffered through more hardship than himself.

For the first time, Long Chen’s heart ached for his little brother. “Who did it?” Long Chen had nothing to say to comfort him, but even if he didn’t say it aloud, he privately promised himself that if Mo Xiaolang decided to avenge his family one day, he would be by his side.

“Let’s not talk about that. I am no match for them. If I want revenge, I need at least forty years.” Mo Xiaolang looked helpless, bitterness welling up in his eyes.

“Nonsense. Just tell me who did it, that is all.” Long Chen stared straight at him coldly.

“The royal family,” Mo Xiaolang answered helplessly.

Long Chen laughed and returned to his seat, looking at him teasingly. “So, it’s just the royal family? That’s no problem. Lighten up for your big brother. It’s just forty years, you say? Don’t we have forty years to spare? They’ll die sooner or later.”

If anyone heard him, they would laugh until their teeth fell out, but Mo Xiaolang didn’t think that way. He stared at Long Chen in a daze, touched. He guessed that his unwillingness to admit defeat

was why Long Chen had grown so much in just half a year! “Thank you for the lesson, Big Brother! I will remember it! Come, cheers to you!”

Mo Xiaolang blushed, and they bumped their bowls of wine together.

After Mo Xiaolang’s confession, they grew even closer.

“That reminds me. The Ninth Prince of the royal family will be here in a month. Will that be dangerous?” Long Chen said suddenly.

“I don’t think so. The Ninth Prince doesn’t usually appear in public, and I was very young at the time. Not many people knew me. Plus, the Mo family has been wiped out, so who would expect me to be a survivor?” he said.

Long Chen was relieved.

Then they discussed the specifics of the ancient ruins, but Long Chen suddenly felt a few burning glares directed at himself. He turned and saw that the glares were coming from the Lingwu prodigies.

He spotted Beitang Mo, Dongfang Tianxuan, and Dongfang Tianchen, along with a few young prodigies that he didn’t recognize. “This is the Lingwu family contingent for the ancient ruins event,” Mo Xiaolang said mildly. It was clear that he didn’t care about them very much.

There were eight of them, so with Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang, there were ten representatives in total.

What surprised Long Chen was that Dongfang Tianxuan, whom he had disqualified, was with the group. He guessed that one of the slots had been given to her because she had attained the mid Heavenly Core Realm.

“That tall, muscular guy is the Southern Vermilion Bird family’s Nangong Huang, while that smaller girl is the Western White Tiger family’s Ximen Xiaodie. Adding Dongfang Tianxuan, Beitang Mo, and Dongfang Tianchen, the five of them are considered the Lingwu family’s most powerful youths,” explained Mo Xiaolang.

“But it’s possible that the Dawn Trading Alliance and Yuandi City have late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators, right?” remarked Long Chen.

“For the Dawn Trading Alliance, it’s only rumors, but Yuandi City definitely has them. And it’s definitely Yan Danqing, the guy with the Peak Essence Beast Soul. He is a true Beast Warrior, and no one in the four inner families is a match for him. It’s been a long time since Yuandi City has had a prodigy like him. That was why when the Azure Dragon Patriarch saw that I attained the late Heavenly Core Realm, he wanted me in exchange for the Heavenly Wolf Dagger.

“If I hadn’t taken the offer, I think Sister Mengyao and my other friends in the Silver family would’ve been in trouble because of me. Anyway, the ancient ruins will be a good place to find an Earth-tier Beast Soul,” said Mo Xiaolang.

When Long Chen looked at them, they were also eyeing himself and Mo Xiaolang, the two legendary prodigies.

The Lingwu family used to be their territory, but for the past few days, the duo had become more well-known than them.

Mo Xiaolang was at the late Heavenly Core Realm and was definitely the Lingwu family's most powerful youth. As for Long Chen, he had only just attained the Heavenly Core Realm, but the Azure Dragon Halberd had recognized him as its master, and he was strong enough to defeat Dongfang Tianxuan in battle. This meant that he was at least as strong as Beitang Mo.

There was nothing but hostility between them. Plus, Long Chen had embarrassed Beitang Mo greatly. When he saw Long Chen, Beitang Mo was about to attack, but Nangong Huang pulled him back and whispered, "Mo, do not be rash. This is not the time to fight. There will be many chances when we enter the ancient ruins."

The muscular guy was a composed person and held a high status among them. After he stopped Beitang Mo, he led the group upstairs. From there, they could see Long Chen through the barrier.

There was one person who was privately even more emotional when she saw him, and that was Dongfang Tianxuan. Till now, she refused to believe that what had happened was real.

Had he really defeated her?

Every time she thought about it, Dongfang Tianxuan had a strange feeling. On the one hand, she couldn't wait to kill him. On the other hand, she felt a little helpless. "Third Sister." Dongfang Tianchen called her name gently, and she turned towards him. Looking at her usually quiet brother, she asked, "Big Brother, what is it?"

"You must hate him, right? I'll kill him. What do you think? In the ancient ruins."

"Why? Doesn't Grandfather want him to help fight for the inheritance?" she asked, puzzled. She suddenly felt like her eldest brother, who was usually calm and cautious, was acting strangely.

"I can get the inheritance myself," Dongfang Tianchen said confidently.

Then his eyes shone coldly. "Do you know? Because of the fight over the right to rule, the Vermilion Bird Patriarch and the others have exhausted half a year's worth of Qi to plant Qi seeds in Nangong Huang and the others. That's why they can use the Vermilion Bird Fan, the White Tiger Blade, and the Black Tortoise Axe. And for me, all I can do is watch. So, don't you think I should kill him to take back the Azure Dragon Halberd that rightfully belongs to me?"

Chapter 233 - Madness in the Heart

Dongfang Tianxuan saw madness in the depths of the man's calm gaze.

She could understand the feeling of seeing something belonging to you in someone else's hands. Dongfang Tianchen wasn't just uncomfortable—he was embarrassed to not have an Earth-tier Divine Weapon in the presence of Beitang Mo and the rest.

That was why he had spoken little throughout the journey.

After they sat down, they started to discuss the ancient ruins. The ones who hated Long Chen occasionally glanced at him. One of them was Beitang Mo.

The hatred he felt was even more intense than Dongfang Tianchen's. Long Chen had made him lose face and caused him to lose Yang Lingqing. It was like he had stolen something right out of the palm of his hand. Beitang Mo had never experienced bullying and humiliation of this level in his life!

Beitang Mo and the others shot Long Chen venomous glares, but the subject of their hatred felt nothing. He continued chatting away with Mo Xiaolang, and they slowly grew much more familiar with each other. "I think they hate you to bone," remarked Mo Xiaolang.

"How am I to blame if I'm just too handsome? Is that why I stole away the people they liked?" Long Chen said shamelessly.

That was when they suddenly heard an argument nearby. Long Chen frowned and saw that the youths sitting at the two tables next to him had erupted in a fight after they had too much to drink. They were even starting to get physical inside the restaurant. Chaos erupted instantly with bowls and plates flying everywhere, some even flying in Long Chen's direction.

It was an unlucky incident for them, and Long Chen didn't want to intervene, intending to leave immediately. Unexpectedly, Beitang Mo had also seen the fight break out downstairs and cocked an eyebrow. Then he threw the wine jug down at the source of the noise!

Boom!

There was a loud crash, and the jug shattered at the center of the crowd. Due to the strength of the throw, the broken pieces of the jug and good wine flew in all directions. A few people were hurt by this and screamed. "Shut up! This place is under the jurisdiction of the Lingwu family, everyone get the fuck out!" Beitang Mo glared daggers at everyone, scaring the fighting folk into cowards who dared not make a sound. The entire county belonged to the Lingwu family, so who would dare anger them?

Long Chen knew that Beitang Mo was flexing his authority in an attempt to intimidate him. Under Beitang Mo's deliberate control, some of the flying fragments had flown in Long Chen's direction. If he hadn't defended himself, he could have been injured by the fast-flying shards!

Beitang Mo was chuckling coldly to himself. He had done this extremely subtly, and if other people started questioning him, he could definitely say it wasn't on purpose.

However, he had forgotten how emboldened Long Chen had been in recent times.

"Think you can use such lowly tactics on me?" Long Chen smirked. He did not let this matter slide. Under everyone's watch, he gripped the wooden table next to him, which was covered with plates of food, and flexed his muscles. The large, heavy table immediately flew upwards, crashing directly in Beitang Mo's direction!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Countless plates, bowls, and food fell on the ground. Bits of food were sent flying towards Beitang Mo and his group.

The moment food left its plate, it could be considered garbage. Therefore, a whole pile of garbage landed on their heads, and despite their talent, they ended up looking pathetic. This was especially so for a person like Dongfang Tianxuan, who screamed even though only a little sauce had landed on her clothes.

The aristocratic gentlemen and ladies scattered like a chaotic nest of ants. After dodging the garbage with great difficulty, they glared at Long Chen angrily. With Beitang Mo at the lead, a few of them were already rushing downstairs. “Long Chen, what the hell are you doing? Are you looking for death?” Beitang Mo seemed to be the angriest of them all, but in reality, the stone-faced Dongfang Tianchen was burning with killing intent inside. There was a piece of bok choy stuck to his neck, but unfortunately, he didn’t notice it.

“Who’s looking for death?” Long Chen gestured nonchalantly, then he looked at Beitang Mo. “Are you trying to play your childish games with me? That jug you threw just now—that was undoubtedly directed at me. You served me wine, so I served you some dishes. Isn’t that how it’s meant to be? And what’s up with your face? It’s so red! Is it a monkey’s butt?” Long Chen let out a guffaw with no reservations.

“Long Chen, don’t you dare overstep the boundaries now. Do you really think we wouldn’t dare to touch you?” Dongfang Tianxuan glared at him angrily.

“If you want to touch my big brother, you’ll have to go through me first!” Mo Xiaolang spoke for the first time, now standing by Long Chen’s side. Although he looked calm, he would not hold back if he fought.

Even though Beitang Mo had the Black Tortoise Axe, he wasn’t confident that he could defeat Mo Xiaolang. The rest were not either. They knew that Mo Xiaolang and Long Chen shared some history, and Long Chen even rescued him from the Star Devil Prison. It made sense that Mo Xiaolang was so close to him.

Does this mean that we truly can’t kill this bastard? Dongfang Tianxuan despaired. She had never expected that these two brothers could step on their heads when they were some of the most powerful people in Yuanling County!

“Tianxuan, I intend to act now ...” Dongfang Tianchen took one step forward and stood with Beitang Mo. Long Chen’s reckless words and stupid smirk had made him lose his patience. He wanted to teach him a lesson right now.

“Big Brother, you must wait.” Dongfang Tianxuan was worried.

“Long Chen is only at the initial Heavenly Core Realm and he barely managed to defeat you. If it wasn’t for his master, or Mo Xiaolang, could he have survived until today? He’s just a brat relying on other people’s reputation to live. How can we live with pride if we’re getting stepped on by lowly scum like this? If we don’t do anything, what will happen to the pride of the Lingwu family?”

Towards the end, Dongfang Tianchen was almost shouting.

All the rage in his chest had been unleashed with his rally cry. Everyone realized that the quietest one, Dongfang Tianchen, was actually the one who hated him most!

The last question gave a ton of motivation to every Lingwu teenager.

Even Nangong Huang and Ximen Xiaodie locked eyes, then they stood at the very front, preparing to attack.

There were five mid-Heavenly Core Realm cultivators and three initial Heavenly Core Realm cultivators. Wasn't that enough to defeat Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang?

"My brothers and sisters! Tianchen is right. We are the proud Lingwu family, also the leaders of Yuanling County. We must not let two dogs climb on top of our heads and act so arrogantly!" Beitang Mo also became emotional when he saw how passionate Dongfang Tianchen was.

Long Chen was speechless watching their silly, youthful rage. He was truly only afraid of the people above the late Heavenly Core Realm, not them.

"Big Brother, shall we?" asked Mo Xiaolang, stepping next to him.

"If the enemy moves, we will beat them up. If they don't move, we won't move. There's a long journey ahead; there will be many more opportunities to beat them up if we are patient," said Long Chen.

With such a large conflict taking place, everyone in the restaurant had retreated to the walls. Especially the people who had first started fighting—they were now trembling with fear.

The more knowledgeable bystanders guessed the identities of both sides. Dongfang Tianchen and his group were famous in Yuanling City, but Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang weren't as famous. However, after today, their names would spread!

Who would dare challenge the prodigies of the Lingwu family when there were only two people on their side?

"Which faction are these two teenagers from? Based on their boldness, they must be quite strong!"

"Who knows? We'll see. They might just be two stupid youths. They're obviously not from the Dawn Trading Alliance or the Beast Soul Palace, so they might be from one of those small clans no one cares about."

Similar conversations could be heard all around.

Long Chen was fully prepared. If the group could no longer hold themselves back, he didn't mind having a warm up here before the fight at the ancient ruins.

The furious Lingwu youths looked at each other, about to make a move, when a shrill shout came from the door. "Stop it!"

Everyone turned to look. It was that woman, Dongfang Xuanyu.

She entered the restaurant icily, staring at both parties. She hated Long Chen, so she naturally stood next to the Lingwu youths.

When the woman arrived, Long Chen knew that the fight would not happen today.

“What’s going on?” she asked.

“Aunt Xuanyu, Long Chen insulted us! What he said was over the line, so ...”

Dongfang Tianxuan, who had always held a lofty position, found Long Chen’s words hard to swallow. When she thought of Dongfang Tianchen’s internal suffering, she couldn’t wait to slap Long Chen hard. After all, she had always looked up to her eldest brother.

“Insult?” Dongfang Xuanyu was furious, her heart aching as she looked at the youths. To be honest, she really wanted to attack Long Chen herself. However, she was the only senior here, so she had to have some sense. She couldn’t ruin her father’s plans, so she gritted her teeth and prepared to stop the fight.

But that didn’t mean she would let him go easily!

She woke from her thoughts and glared coldly at Long Chen. “You dirtbag, you’re getting more and more arrogant. Don’t you know that there should be limits to your arrogance? With that attitude, you’re going to die a tragic death!”

“And what’s that got to do with you, Miss Dongfang?” Long Chen was too lazy to argue with her. Under everyone’s furious gazes, he told Mo Xiaolang, “Let’s go.” Then they left without looking back.

“Long Chen! You!” Dongfang Xuanyu raged when she was ignored. She turned to see that the Lingwu youths were almost vomiting blood from rage and privately made a decision. “You must die even if I die as well!”

Chapter 234 – Killing

Once they left the restaurant, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang returned to the Lingwu family. He didn’t want to return to the Eastern Azure Dragon quarters, so he followed Mo Xiaolang back to the Silver family. Other than when they were cultivating, they never left each other’s side.

Mo Xiaolang was very experienced in cultivation and real battle, so he was a great person to learn from. That was why Long Chen spoke to him often during his stay with the Silver family. They discussed the flaws in his cultivation, and his practical experience increased.

Long Chen mainly focused on studying the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. It was an Earth-tier combat technique that was difficult to master. Even with his talent, he was forced to put in effort to slowly learn the technique. While the text was easy to understand, it was not easy to truly wield it effortlessly.

So far, when they sparred in their peak forms, Long Chen was no match for Mo Xiaolang, though he was close. Based on Mo Xiaolang’s estimations, Long Chen was currently more powerful than people such as Beitang Mo, even though they had Earth-tier Divine Weapons.

The Dragon Soul Transformation and the Azure Dragon Halberd both offered the greatest boosts to his strength.

During this time, Mo Xiaolang had been long puzzled over Long Chen's Beast Soul Transformation.

Long Chen's Beast Soul Transformation was clearly the Underground Blood Lizard, which was the same as what he used when he was at the Draconic Realm. How could a Category Five Yellow-tier demonic beast boost Long Chen's strength by ten times? Mo Xiaolang wouldn't believe any explanations, but he knew that this was the largest secret that Long Chen held. *My Moon Devouring Wolf transformation only boosts my original Qi by two times. Even the Peak Essence Beast offers a boost of five times, yet Big Brother is only using a Yellow-tier beast? How is he so terrifyingly strong, then?* Mo Xiaolang kept wondering about this.

He didn't know that Dragon Warriors existed, nor that it was normal for the Primordial Dragon's Inherited Blood Essence to boost Long Chen's Qi by ten times.

In fact, when he absorbed the rest of the essence, he would gain even more peculiar powers, ones even more powerful than the Blood Transmutation.

Although Mo Xiaolang was puzzled, he didn't ask. It was best not to talk about secrets that were related to one's life and death.

Long Chen knew that while he and Mo Xiaolang were getting close, it was still not the time to reveal his trump card.

All the previous drama had come to an end. Other than the approaching fight at the ancient ruins, there were no other events on the horizon. When he was not cultivating, Long Chen's favorite thing to do was to have fun in Yuanling City with Mo Xiaolang, doing things like pulling pranks on unscrupulous businessmen, teasing housewives, and more. Sometimes, if Mo Xiaolang couldn't come out, he'd go alone. *How nice it'd be if Ling Xi was with me.* Long Chen's heart sank whenever he felt the emptiness in his ear.

To be honest, he was still very worried about the girl who had accompanied him for half a year. If he was alone and not cultivating, he would become miserable with longing and self-blame. That was why he had to take walks outside. Plus, he was testing the pulse of Yuanling City.

There was going to be a huge event in the city, which was the fight for the right to rule. The youths of Yuanling City had become much more famous, attracting a lot of attention. People also gradually got to know Long Chen's name.

In fact, those who had excellent information channels even developed a Potential Ranking Board based on the prodigies' capabilities.

The Potential Ranking Board was a ranking of Yuanling City's young prodigies. It also represented the opinions of the outside world towards the three major factions' younger generation.

Three people topped the Potential Ranking Board, all of them being late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators. In third place was a girl named Li Ziling from the Dawn Trading Alliance, but Long Chen didn't read much about her. Second was Mo Xiaolang, who had the Heavenly Wolf Dagger. In first place was Yan Danqing of the Beast Soul Palace. Yan Danqing possessed the Category Nine

Black-tier Peak Essence Beast soul. The public opined that he was stronger than the disappeared-and-reappeared Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen was ranked tenth, just on top of Dongfang Tianxuan.

Beating Dongfang Tianxuan was his most glorious achievement so far. As the only initial Heavenly Core Realm cultivator in the top ten, he also attracted a lot of attention. And because he had a good relationship with Mo Xiaolang, this boosted the public's confidence in him.

As he traveled within Yuanling City, conversations about the Mayor's Battle could be heard everywhere, including discussions about the people on the Potential Ranking Board. It was clear that the Mayor's Battle was the hot topic of the city.

"Long Chen, do you have the guts to come with me?" On this day, Long Chen was strolling around aimlessly and was preparing to head back when a voluptuous woman stood in front of him, glaring coldly.

It was Dongfang Xuanyu.

Long Chen remembered how he had angered her just a few days ago. Nothing good was going to come out of this if she was looking for him. However, he wasn't afraid of her and wanted to see what trick she had up her sleeve. So he said, "My guts are bigger than your donkey brain. Just bring me to wherever you want to go. But you're old enough to be my aunt, alright? Unless you're interested in men far younger than yourself?"

Long Chen's words were extremely insulting, and he thought Dongfang Xuanyu would immediately explode. Yet she swallowed her anger and led him on to a small alley with fewer people. Soon, they arrived at an abandoned area with not a single soul to be found.

This place was dirty and messy, with dilapidated houses everywhere. Long Chen looked up and asked when they arrived, "So? You want to kill me?"

She turned around and said coldly, "You are a bold one. I'll tell you, regretfully, that you are right. If I do it here, no one will know that I was the one who killed you. Accept your fate, Long Chen."

Long Chen froze. He didn't expect Dongfang Xuanyu to do this. It looked like he had put too much pressure on her, pushing her past her limits. "If I die, it doesn't matter who killed me. My master will annihilate the entire Lingwu family!" Long Chen shrugged.

"Don't worry about that. I have planned for this. You killed Yan Chixue of the Blood Saints. So after you die, I will pin the blame on the Beast Soul Palace. I've been working on this plan for the past few days. I have accounted for everything. So, die!"

As she spoke, she was already preparing her Qi. She raised her hand with a *whoosh*.

"Damn, did you really do that?" Long Chen was a little speechless. He had always thought that she was a dumb pig-brain, but she was actually quite smart. If she really had a way to pin the blame on the Beast Soul Palace, then the Lingwu family would be able to avoid tragedy.

Next, considering Long Chen's arrogance, she was sure that she could lead him to this quiet place. At that point, there was a zero percent failure rate.

Of course, while there were no problems with the plan, Dongfang Xuanyu had overlooked one thing: Long Chen's capabilities.

"Late Heavenly Core Realm?" To Long Chen, she was an amazing opponent. He guessed that Dongfang Xuanyu was as strong as Beitang Mo and the others with Earth-tier Divine Weapons. It was great to have a sparring partner before he fought them.

She and Mo Xiaolang were indeed on the same level, the late Heavenly Core Realm, but she lacked actual battle experience compared to Mo Xiaolang.

"Long Chen! Ever since you entered the clan, I have never had a good night's sleep! You're a cancerous tumor! You terrorize the youths of my clan, and if I don't stand up for them, how can I call myself their senior? You should be honored to die by my hand!" When she attacked, she vented all the anger in her heart!

There was too much resentment towards Long Chen accumulated over time.

"Comet Dragon Seal!" Supported by a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator's powerful Qi, the Comet Dragon Seal she produced was ten times stronger than what Dongfang Tianxing's. Instantly, a roaring dragon soared and charged at Long Chen, leaving a trail of pulverized waste in its wake!

"Not bad." Long Chen snickered. He didn't dare slack off while facing Dongfang Xuanyu. The moment she attacked, he used the Dragon Soul Transformation, and his Qi was boosted to its peak form. His body, now covered in blood-red dragon scales, was filled with explosive combat power!

Long Chen was not in a hurry to take the Azure Dragon Halberd out. When the Comet Dragon Seal came hurling towards him, a ray of starlight shot out of the fingers on both his hands. *Ling Xi, if only you could see me use the Sword Devil Finger you gave me ...* When he thought about her, infinite rage rose in his heart.

"Sword Devil Finger!"

With a roar, two shining blades of Sword Qi shot out consecutively from his fingers!

Boom!

The Sword Qi and dragon image collided, leading to several explosions. The surrounding broken walls and scattered roof tiles were instantly pulverized from the shockwaves. Sword Qi shot in all directions!

"How is that possible?" Dongfang Xuanyu was shocked. She had clearly seen that Long Chen had only used the Sword Devil Finger, yet its strength was equal to her attack!

"Do you still think you can beat me now?" Long Chen laughed. His body flickered and he charged at her. Now that he had used two blades of Sword Qi from the Sword

Devil Finger to successfully defeat Dongfang Xuanyu's attack, he had a rough guess of her strength.

In terms of combat technique and real battle experience, she was almost equal to Dongfang Tianxuan. The only difference was that her Qi was ten times stronger, and therefore her attacks were ten times stronger.

"You've merely withstood one strike; what's there to be so smug about?" Dongfang Xuanyu knew that she had to finish this battle as soon as possible so that she could appropriately clean up the crime scene. After realizing that the brat had withstood her Comet Dragon Seal, she decided to use the attack that she had once used on him at the Black Tortoise Pavilion.

At the time, Long Chen looked so scared that he stumbled backwards. If it wasn't for Li Xuanji, he would have died.

But was that really what had happened?

Chapter 235 - Opportunity For Level Three Blazing Thunder Body

While Dongfang Xuanyu was preparing to unleash the death blow, Long Chen was already charging at her.

In truth, from his perspective, it was meaningless to fight this stupid woman. She was a beauty but no brains!

She was probably about forty years old, yet she was still gorgeous. If she were at a brothel, she could be the queen of the place based on her mature sophistication. The Jade Palace Brothel had a pretty lady similar to her, and Long Chen practically worshiped her.

A powerful aura exploded from her body, and in a flash, she turned into a tornado and whirled towards him!

"My Earth-tier combat technique is ten times stronger than Tianxuan's. Long Chen, do you think you'll survive this?" she cried sternly. There was a saying that women were like wolves at thirty, but tigers at forty. Dongfang Xuanyu pounced on him like a tigress!

"Earth-tier combat technique, Piercing Wind Dragon!"

Long Chen had witnessed this Earth-tier combat technique twice now. It was true that hers was ten times stronger than Dongfang Tianxuan's. The problem was that Long Chen was also ten times stronger when he used the Dragon Soul Transformation!

That was why when she attacked, Long Chen used the same method of retaliation that he had used in his fight against Dongfang Tianxuan!

"Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Split Yellow River, Shattered Skies!"

Two consecutive attacks were unleashed, charging powerfully at Dongfang Xuanyu's Piercing Wind Dragon. The cold glint of the Azure Dragon Halberd made her face change.

How are you this strong? She gasped. Fear crept into her heart. The halberd's aura made her feel as if a mountain was sitting on her. It was as if it could split her attack in half!

That was only my imagination. I must kill him! I must! She gritted her teeth, steadied her mind, and used all her might to kill him!

"It's all for nothing." Long Chen smiled faintly. Carrying the Azure Dragon Halberd, he blasted the Piercing Wind Dragon away and turned around. He then swung the halberd down while using Shattered Skies, piercing it into the Piercing Wind Dragon. He pushed it as hard as he could, and it shattered to pieces. The shockwaves from the halberd slammed into her body and blood sprayed out of her mouth as she flew backwards, ghostly pale!

When she was severely injured, Long Chen put the Azure Dragon Halberd away and caught up to her while she was midair. He drummed his fingers quickly on her body. The previous impact had left her incapacitated, but what he did next caused her body to relax midair, and she felt the strength sapped from her whole body!

"Long Chen! What ... what did you do to me?" Initially, she refused to accept that she had been defeated, and her mind had already gone blank. However, he then did something strange to her that caused her whole body to go limp, and this terrified her.

"What did I do? Hehe. This is a little trick Xiaolang taught me a few days ago. It's called the Meridian Breaking Technique. I thought I could use this for flower-picking ... So today, I used it on you. What do you think? Do you feel weak all over? Like I can do anything to you?" Long Chen sneered creepily.

"Lecher! You lecher! You deserve to die!" When she thought about what would happen next, she would have bit her tongue and killed herself if she hadn't lost all her strength.

The Meridian Breaking Technique wasn't actually as simple as he had described.

This strange technique worked when the opponent was severely injured and had lost all combat capabilities, though still alive. Then the cultivator could quickly inject his own Qi into the other person's meridians. If the Qi was condensed and powerful enough, the other person would not be able to make it dissipate for the moment and would therefore be at the user's mercy. This was a magical trick from Mo Xiaolang's family, though Long Chen was now using it on her.

When they landed, he carried her by her waist. He admittedly found it attractive as he sensed the warmth and softness of her body.

However, ever since he met Ling Xi, he'd gradually forgotten his past ways. He was only trying to tease and scare the brainless woman just now.

"I wonder what's going to happen next ... Spring is here! I think I should bring a breath of spring to this place too," he said with a snicker.

“You ...” Dongfang Xuanyu was truly terrified of this monster. She trembled with terror, and her harsh attitude turned pitiful as she begged for mercy. “Long Chen, I’m begging you to let me go. I won’t trouble you ever again after today. How about that?”

Long Chen felt amazing seeing her break down like this. He had always wanted to teach this arrogant woman a lesson.

“Long Chen! Let me go! I am willing to tell you a secret!” Under such dire circumstances, she had an idea when she recalled something.

“Oh?” Long Chen was only teasing her and never actually wanted to do anything to this forty-year-old woman. However, he was pleasantly surprised to hear her say that and feigned nonchalance. “But we’ll have to see if your secret is as tempting as your body to me ...”

Looking at his perverted smirk, Dongfang Xuanyu was suddenly blushing because what he had said was just too spicy. She had always felt like she had gotten old, but according to him, she was still attractive?

However, she could never let him know what she was thinking, or she would lose face. She refused to believe that she would have such peculiar thoughts, so she chided herself and then said coldly, “It is indeed a huge secret that will benefit you greatly.”

“Just tell me. Don’t waste anymore time. I can hold myself back, but my hands can’t,” he threatened.

He was very curious.

“Alright, I’ll tell you! You have the Level Two Blazing Thunder Body, right? Did you get your Blazing Thunder Crystals from the Dawn Trading Alliance? Do you want to achieve its full form, which is the Level Three Blazing Thunder Body? That’s a Body Tempering technique equivalent to the initial Earth tier!”

Long Chen was convinced. To be honest, that was much more attractive to him than the incapacitated Dongfang Xuanyu.

“Just spit it out. Don’t you make me guess,” he said coldly.

“Alright, alright. You must know that no amount of Blazing Thunder Crystals can help you achieve Level Three. You must merge with a Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul first. This year, the Dawn Trading Alliance found a Blazing Thunder Crystal vein and has nurtured many experts thanks to it. There are a few top cultivators among them, and they all have the same thing—the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Bodies. One of them even completed Level Three, and her name is Li Ziling. She merged with a Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul! Although they have a mine, they have only found one

soul so far. According to the information I have, they discovered another soul just two days ago! That is why their best youths have all rushed to the headquarters!”

Dongfang Xuanyu was terrified of him, so she immediately threw all the useful information she had at him. He was recently worried about this because he had powerful combat techniques and the amazing Nine Dragon Flashes, yet his Body Tempering Technique was falling behind. A Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was undoubtedly exactly what he needed.

However, he had seen the name Li Ziling before. She was the most powerful young prodigy of the Dawn Trading Alliance, and she was ranked second on the Potential Ranking Board. The crystal soul was probably the reason why she was so powerful, because she had the Level Three Blazing Thunder Body.

“Where is it?” asked Long Chen.

When she saw that he was very interested, she sighed in relief and broke free from his arms with all her might. “I’ll tell you after you undo whatever you did to me!”

If Long Chen still touched her after giving him the information he needed, then she would rather die.

The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was much more important than teasing this dumb donkey. Long Chen was in no mood for revenge, so he undid the Meridian Breaking Technique, allowing her to recover her strength. However, she was still injured and felt a burning pain in her chest.

“Don’t pull any tricks on me. If you anger me, I will make you regret you were ever born! I’m serious!” he said mildly.

Although his tone was flat, it was extremely effective in scaring her. She took a few steps back, treated her injuries with some spiritual medicine, and then said, “The Dawn Trading Alliance’s Blazing Thunder Crystal mine is located in the Fire Thunder Mountain Range. At its base is a place called Fire Thunder Town. If you go there, you should be able to obtain information easily,” she said honestly.

“Mhm, alright. I’ll remember this and confirm this with another person. If I find out that you are lying, I will kill you!” he threatened.

“It’s completely true!” she responded. Then, she said hurriedly, “I’ve said what I wanted to say, so goodbye!”

Then she turned to leave.

“Don’t go!” he shouted.

“What do you want?” Dongfang Xuanyu asked anxiously, arms wrapped around her chest.

“If I go fight for the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, I will definitely encounter powerful enemies. Then you’ll use them to kill me off, right?” Long Chen had obviously guessed her train of thought. The information regarding the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul

seemed to be true, but to obtain it, he would definitely encounter powerful enemies. If he was not strong enough and died at the hands of the Dawn Trading Alliance, she would be overjoyed.

Chapter 236 - Fire Thunder Town

Long Chen had guessed Dongfang Xuanyu's objective correctly. Her hatred for him had not diminished. While using this piece of secret information to save herself, she was also laying a trap for Long Chen.

"Seeing as this thing is indeed important to me, I won't be petty about it. Just tell me the power structure of the Dawn Trading Alliance at Fire Thunder Town. I don't have much patience. If you don't answer me well, I don't mind taking you right here in the wild," he said mildly.

Her plan had been exposed and she was truly terrified of this teenager who was perverted both in the mind and in strength, so she said hurriedly, "The Dawn Trading Alliance places great importance on the Blazing Thunder Crystal mine and usually sends five late Heavenly Core Realm emissaries to guard the place. Also, in order to suppress and collect the crystal soul, Li Ziling will likely be there."

"Why do they need to suppress the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul?" he asked.

"The soul has a violent, manic energy. Any cultivator below the Divine Core Realm will die if they come within a hundred meters of it. Even Heavenly Core Realm cultivators can barely withstand it. Only a suppressed crystal soul can be merged with. When Li Ziling got the soul, it was because it had been suppressed by a Heavenly River Realm cultivator. Now she has a Level Three Blazing Thunder Body, and due to it being elementally the same, she will have a much easier time suppressing the soul. I'm guessing she will be there!"

Due to Long Chen's threat, she did not dare hide more information from him.

Li Ziling? Level Three Blazing Thunder Body? She's just a girl. If she trains her muscles until they're too firm, there's no way it'll feel good to touch her. In his mind, he automatically thought that she was one of those extremely muscular women.

That was a total of six Heavenly Core Realm cultivators. It would not be easy to snatch the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul from them. However, he knew that he didn't need to fight them directly. Plus, with Mo Xiaolang's help, he might stand a chance.

"Get out." Long Chen ignored her and headed to the Silver family. When he found Mo Xiaolang, he told him about the information he had received from Dongfang Xuanyu.

"Six late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators? Big Brother, I'll go with you." Mo Xiaolang agreed without hesitation.

“You’re definitely a good brother to me!” Long Chen laughed and patted his shoulder. “Go get your Grand Elder to help me verify if this information is true. If it is, we will leave immediately. There are still twenty more days before the Ninth Prince arrives, so it’s enough for me to try my luck here.”

Mo Xiaolang nodded. After he managed to verify the information with the Silver family’s Grand Elder, both of them packed their necessities, borrowed a Savage Wind Peng from the Grand Elder, and flew towards Fire Thunder Mountain Range!

In the outer families’ compound, Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong were playing chess in the yard. Long Chen’s quick rise had made them completely unable to remain calm.

“Brother Chu, if this goes on, we will never be able to avenge Sheng’en and Yunxi. Long Chen now has his master backing him, and even the inner families are afraid to touch him. We ...” Ji Luan put down his chess piece and sighed.

“I am unable to do anything either. My only regret is that I didn’t kill him while he was still weak. Now he’s gotten arrogant and can even defeat Miss Tianxuan, who is at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. He’s almost caught up to us already. There’s no chance we can take revenge.”

“My son Sheng’en originally had a bright future ahead of him, yet he died because of Long Chen. If I can avenge him, it will be worth it even if it costs me my life,” said Jin Luan through gritted teeth.

That was when a plump woman entered the yard.

Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong were startled and hurriedly bowed. “Madam Xuanyu, may I ask why you are here?”

They were worried because their conversation had been a little loud and she must have heard them.

Dongfang Xuanyu’s expression was dark. The moment she walked over, she said directly, “I will not waste any time. All I have is one question—if you could kill Long Chen in a way where no one would find out, would you two do it?”

They both looked at each other and quickly understood what she was implying. They answered hurriedly, “Madam Xuanyu, what instructions do you have for us?”

“Long Chen has left Yuanling City to go to the Fire Thunder Mountain Range to fight the Dawn Trading Alliance for a Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. You two, go there and see if you can find a chance to kill him!” When Dongfang Xuanyu recalled how Long Chen had almost raped her, a chill went through her body.

She would never live in peace if he was not dead.

“We’ll go!” The Grand Elders were overjoyed.

“Remember! Even if you manage to kill him, you are not to reveal your identities! It will be best if you can pin the blame on the Dawn Trading Alliance. That way, his master won’t come to the Lingwu family looking for trouble!”

“We understand, Madam Xuanyu!”

She then lowered her voice and said confidently, “I’ll give you two something. With it, I’m sure you’ll be able to kill him easily!”

Then she started to explain to the two shocked men.

After everything was settled, she left with a grin on her face.

“The Ninth Prince visited Yuanling City once when he was young. Many people know that Jin Luan had a sudden growth in strength, even catching up to the sixty-year-old Chu Tianxiong at only fifty years of age, mainly because of the Ninth Prince’s reward to him. Unfortunately, he was naturally not talented enough, so he never progressed further within the Lingwu family.

Dongfang Xuanyu’s plan was this: even if they couldn’t kill Long Chen, and he ended up killing Jin Luan instead, then he would still die once the Ninth Prince arrived.

This was a flawless plan. It didn’t matter if Long Chen lost or won, he would still end up dead!

Despite having defeated Dongfang Xuanyu, Long Chen was well aware that he wasn’t as strong as the top cultivator of Yuanling City’s younger generation. But if he could get the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, the gap would be closed.

The Fire Thunder Mountain Range was not far, so it only took a quarter of the time it had taken to get to the Nine Devil Mountains. After about two hours, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang could see a huge town beneath them. They left the Savage Wind Peng outside town, where there was a shop that had people who specialized in taking care of carrier animals.

Then they both walked into Fire Thunder Town.

“It’s still early spring, but I can’t believe that the temperature is already so high in Fire Thunder Town,” remarked Long Chen as he eyed the people in the crowd while he walked.

“The Blazing Thunder Crystal is indeed peculiar. It doesn’t just strengthen the body, it also boosts your Qi,” said Mo Xiaolang, nodding.

“Xiaolang, what level is your Body Tempering technique?” asked Long Chen.

“I have an Earth-tier Body Tempering Technique left behind by my family, but I haven’t used it. I’m not strong enough right now, and I’m worried that the people of the Imperial Capital will recognize it. That is why I haven’t cultivated any Body Tempering techniques,” Mo Xiaolang replied with sorrow.

Mo Xiaolang didn't have a Body Tempering Technique, yet he had managed to achieve such heights. Long Chen was speechless.

"Don't worry. Once you cultivate an Earth-tier beast's Beast Soul, your post-Beast Soul Transformation form will be equivalent to a formidable combat body," Long Chen comforted.

To Beast Warriors, Beast Soul Transformations and Body Tempering techniques were not in conflict because the first strengthened the outer body, while the latter strengthened the internal organs and muscles.

The duo continued walking ahead.

Although Fire Thunder Town was just a town, it was a busy one, and their people were the violent type. There were many brawls at street corners, but there were not many powerful cultivators.

"Walking around blindly won't gain us any information on the Dawn Trading Alliance. There's a place called Fire Thunder Restaurant in front, and it should be the largest one here. We can go there to ask someone and also get some rest," said Long Chen when he saw a large, bright building up ahead.

"Whatever you say, Big Brother." Mo Xiaolang grinned.

They entered the restaurant.

They were both aristocratic men at first glance, completely different from the people of Fire Thunder Town. That was why they attracted a lot of looks when they walked in.

One of the sharper waiters hurried over to welcome them, warmly leading them to the elegant seats of the second floor. Soon after, delicate dishes and good wine were served.

"Don't go yet. I need to ask you something." Long Chen waved him over after the food was served.

"Me?" The waiter was a little nervous and hurried over. There had been many foreign, powerful cultivators like Long Chen in town for the past few days. This led to many bad things happening where stupid people died.

"That's right, you." Long Chen grinned.

"Young Master ... What would you like to know?" he asked nervously.

"Has there been anything different these past few days?" Long Chen asked.

"Anything different?" The waiter froze, then he said, "There have been many more visitors to Fire Thunder Town. However, the town is controlled by the big shots of the Dawn Trading Alliance, so the troublemakers have been cleaned up."

Indeed, the whole town was already under the control of the Dawn Trading Alliance.

“Where are the Dawn Trading Alliance people now?” This was Long Chen’s objective. He could only learn more if he knew where they were. Right now, he didn’t even know where the Blazing Thunder Crystals were mined in the Fire Thunder Mountain Range, and he didn’t even know where the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul had been found.

“There have been rules set about information related to the Dawn Trading Alliance. Please forgive me, because I can’t answer you!” The waiter took a few steps back fearfully when he heard the question.

Long Chen took out fifty spirit jades and said, “These are all yours. What do you think?”

The waiter looked at the fifty spirit jades. It was equal to half a year of pay, so it was tempting. In the end, he gritted his teeth and walked up to Long Chen’s side. He said, “The Dawn Trading Alliance acts mysteriously, but I know they have a base in town. The Blazing Thunder Crystals they mine are aggregated there before being sent to Yuanling City.”

Leaning close to Long Chen’s ear, the waiter told him an address.

“This is yours.” Long Chen pushed all the jades to the waiter, who put them away hurriedly, excused himself, and left excitedly.

“Big Brother, do you know the location now?” Mo Xiaolang asked.

“Yes. Based on this situation, it looks like news of the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul hasn’t circulated yet. Don’t waste the food here. Once both of us are full of this good wine and good food, we’ll storm the Dawn Trading Alliance.”

This would be his second time stealing from the Dawn Trading Alliance. Last time, it was with Ling Xi, but it would be with Mo Xiaolang this time.

“Alright.” Mo Xiaolang nodded, forever looking like an obedient child. However, Long Chen knew that he was also filled with passion, hatred, violence, and insanity.

They had just picked up their chopsticks when a huge commotion came from downstairs.

Long Chen turned to peer downstairs, only to see a group of blue-armored cultivators walk into the restaurant. The crowd parted for them. These people were at least at the late Human Core Realm, each of them glaring coldly. They were obviously experienced in killing.

Chapter 237 - This Girl Is Spicy

With such power, they could do whatever they wanted in a place like Thunder Fire Town.

However, Long Chen noticed a young man at the center of the group, protected by them. The young man was clad in luxurious, green, brocade clothing, and he had a fair, hairless face. He seemed to be about Mo Xiaolang’s age, but he radiated arrogance. He was clearly an aristocratic young man who was used to living a life above others.

Long Chen picked up on a familiar aura from him. After some thought, he recalled that it was the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body. This teenager also had a Blazing Thunder Body. He was

undeniably one of the Dawn Trading Alliance's young prodigies. Long Chen guessed that he was at least at the mid Heavenly Core Realm.

"That guy is great in all aspects, but he is no match for you." Mo Xiaolang had a keen eye. With just one glance, he could analyze this person in great detail.

"You know him?" asked Long Chen.

"I think he is Li Qingling, Li Ziling's younger brother. The amount of attention he gets from the Dawn Trading Alliance is only second to Li Ziling. He is three years younger than her, and it is estimated that he will achieve the late Heavenly Core Realm by the time he is her age," said Mo Xiaolang.

"It looks like the resources provided by the Dawn Trading Alliance are definitely not lesser than the Lingwu family, perhaps even more. If the Lingwu family didn't have you, they wouldn't be able to keep their mayor title," mused Long Chen.

They continued chatting and drinking wine when the arrogant Li Qingling took a look around and announced in a shrill voice, "The Dawn Trading Alliance will be reserving the whole restaurant. Everyone must leave within fifteen minutes! Cashier, put it all on my tab! My older sister is coming from Yuanling City, give her the grandest welcome you can. She is one of the top three prodigies of Yuanling City! You will be rewarded generously for this. If you slack off, don't think you can continue running this restaurant!"

Long Chen put down his chopsticks and smirked.

To be honest, with the power that the Dawn Trading Alliance held in Fire Thunder Town, Li Qingling was not being too unreasonable. At least he had offered to pay for everyone. The other cultivators from smaller factions, despite having eaten half their meals, had no right to say anything when the Dawn Trading Alliance's name was used, so they left on their own.

The group of blue-armored guards were not just there for display. If they were obedient, the guards were friendly, but anyone who disobeyed them would suffer.

Li Qingling was pleased when he saw the place emptying. Most patrons had left, and Li Qingling gestured and said, "Boss! Quickly clean this whole place up. Don't let me see a smidge of dirt here! If my sister isn't satisfied, I'll kill your whole family!"

The boss of the Fire Thunder Restaurant was terrified after Li Qingling's threat and quickly called all his staff over to clean up the mess left behind by the other patrons. Li Qingling smiled, very satisfied.

"Young Master, there's someone on the second floor who hasn't left," reported one of the guards in his ear.

"What?" Li Qingling jumped up. He had not expected anyone to refuse to leave. This was blatant disrespect! Furious, he led his group of guards to storm the second floor, arriving in front of Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang.

"Big Brother, should we leave?" asked Mo Xiaolang.

“There’s no need.” Long Chen poured more wine for Mo Xiaolang. “This brat has gotten used to his arrogant ways. I need to teach him a lesson.”

Mo Xiaolang nodded.

When he said that, Li Qingling had already rushed upstairs. When he saw the duo ignoring him, he wasted no time in instructing the guard next to him, “Chop these two up and feed them to the fishes in the river!”

“Yes, Young Master!” The group of blue-armored guards rushed towards Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen was too lazy to talk to them. The best way to deal with people like that, specifically the arrogant type that treated other people’s lives like blades of straw, was with action.

With his current strength, he needed to use his Dragon Soul Transformation to deal with the brat. But that would be too dramatic, so he turned to Mo Xiaolang and said, “Give that brat two slaps. Turn him into a pighead!”

Then he rushed to the center of the guards and slapped everyone once. When everyone had turned red and green from the slaps, he threw them downstairs, one by one. When he had thrown half of them, Mo Xiaolang slapped Li Qingling until his head swelled like a pig’s head and also tossed him downstairs.

Cries of agony rang through the restaurant.

Long Chen sped up, and very soon, all the guards had been thrown down the stairs. He clapped his hands and smiled with satisfaction. “How dare you threaten me! That was stupid of you. This is just a small lesson for you all. Next time, I’ll throw them into the river to feed the fish. Xiaolang, let’s go!”

Li Qingling had been taught a lesson. Once Li Ziling arrived, she would likely be accompanied by many masters too. Inciting conflict would not be a wise choice then, so after Long Chen beat them up, he decided to leave.

The ground floor of the restaurant echoed with cries of agony. Under the shocked gazes of the waiters and the boss, they both sprinted out of the restaurant. Long Chen then picked a spot to hide, a place where he could see the restaurant but wouldn’t need to worry about being spotted.

Long Chen turned to ask Mo Xiaolang, “Li Ziling is likely coming here to suppress the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. Xiaolang, do you think we stand a chance with the two of us fighting together?”

“The emissaries of the Dawn Trading Alliance are not their core members. Although they are at the late Heavenly Core Realm, they are around the same level as the nine outer Grand Elders. It will be hard for me to kill five of them, but it’s definitely alright if I only need to keep them occupied so they can’t leave to disturb you,” said Mo Xiaolang.

“So that means I will need to snatch the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul from that muscular woman?” Long Chen was filled with battle spirit when he thought about this opponent who was almost as strong as Mo Xiaolang.

“Muscular? Li Ziling? I heard Li Ziling is as beautiful as a fairy. Looking at Li Qingling’s face, his sister must look quite good too,” said Mo Xiaolang, puzzled.

Long Chen didn’t know what she looked like. However, he instinctively thought that a girl who could complete the Level Three Blazing Thunder Body was one of those muscular, vicious types. But reality proved him wrong.

Although she didn’t possess soul-shaking beauty like Ling Xi did, she was on the level of an immortal fairy. She wore a long, purple dress and had a delicate figure—tall and thin with skin as white as snow. She was definitely in the top ranks of Yuanling City in terms of beauty.

However, like her younger brother, she radiated arrogance. Although it was hidden well, it was very clear in Long Chen’s eyes.

Being escorted by even more guards, Li Ziling entered the Fire Thunder Restaurant with the five older emissaries by her side.

“Say, what do you think she’ll do when she sees her brother screaming on the ground, his head looking like a pig?” Long Chen was curious.

The moment he asked the question, a portion of the restaurant collapsed along with a chorus of cries. A huge plume of dust rose to the sky. Long Chen could faintly see the iciness and rage on her face.

“This girl is spicy,” said Long Chen in shock.

She was so angry that she caused part of the restaurant to collapse, so she naturally had no intention of resting there. Her group left for the mountain range outside town, along with the pig-headed Li Qingling.

“They’re going to the Fire Thunder Mountain Range. There aren’t other mid Heavenly Core Realm cultivators amongst them, so the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul must have been prepared for Li Qingling. Let’s follow them now.” Long Chen waved Mo Xiaolang over and followed them sneakily.

If Ling Xi were here, she would have noticed that Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang had picked up two pursuers.

Two black-clothed people were hidden in a dark corner, their eyes filled with bloodlust.

Very quickly, the people of the Dawn Trading Alliance exited Fire Thunder Town and entered the Fire Thunder Mountain Range. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang followed from afar, strategizing.

“Big Brother, the crystal soul is extremely violent. Although Li Ziling and the crystal soul are elementally the same, she will still exhaust a lot of power to suppress it.

Since she will be exhausted moments after the suppression is complete, you'll have a high chance of succeeding if you attack then. I'll help you keep the five emissaries occupied. What do you think?" said Mo Xiaolang.

"That's perfect. Haha, when your big brother gets the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, you'll be rewarded generously," said Long Chen with a grin.

"Big Brother, rescuing me out of the Azure Dragon Star was already the greatest gift ever. A Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul is nothing." Mo Xiaolang smiled innocently.

The more Long Chen talked to him, the more he felt like he was the evil one. Or rather, no matter how he hid it, the evilness in him would be revealed whenever he was faced with Mo Xiaolang's innocence.

Whatever. I'll let him help me get the crystal soul. Next time, I'll help him hunt the Earth-tier beast and deal with the people who murdered his family. Perhaps this is what Grandfather called 'brotherhood.' We take care of each other, share each other's joy and tears, risk our lives together, and bask in glory together! Long Chen thought to himself.

The deeper they trekked into the Fire Thunder Mountain Range, the higher the temperature. Long Chen could faintly sense the auras of Blazing Thunder Crystals. After an hour, they arrived at a mine that wasn't large but was well kept. There were at least a thousand blue-armored cultivators present, and all of them were at least the late Human Core Realm. They were guarding the mine tightly.

There was a hole in the wall of the mountain, which was the entrance. Miners entered and exited the mine belonging to the Dawn Trading Alliance. Those who exited were usually transporting Blazing Thunder Crystals that had not been processed yet. Those crystals were still covered in rock, dust, and soil, so they looked like plain rocks.

"Attention, everyone! Stop all mining now! Let Miss Ziling enter to suppress the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul!" bellowed one of the emissaries.

Chapter 238 - Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul

Once they heard his bellow, the miners in the cave poured out.

To be honest, it was difficult to mine Blazing Thunder Crystals. Although it was known as a Blazing Thunder Crystal vein, there was still a lot of normal rock in the region. Only one crystal appeared amidst countless rocks, and only one Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul would appear amidst countless crystals, so the crystal soul was extremely precious. Only two souls had been found in such a gigantic mine.

The legendary prodigy from Yuanling City had arrived. The miners finally had a chance to rest, so they looked happy. Their eyes were filled with reverence when they saw the fairy-like Li Ziling, though there was also a hint of greed.

The people of the lower levels of society dreamt of having a girl like her.

"Is that Miss Ziling of the Dawn Trading Alliance? She's as pretty as a fairy."

“Don’t speak like that! Be careful, or your head will be gone. Do you think you have the right to talk about Miss Ziling?”

Li Ziling’s face did not change despite hearing conversations like this. She had become sick of praises like that after so many years.

She looked at the dirty miners coldly. The iciness in her eyes made their scalps go numb.

After a while, the mines were basically empty, though before that, one of the emissaries gave her a map of the mines. She studied it for a while, memorizing the location of the crystal soul.

“This Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul is much deeper than the one I used. It was only three hundred meters deep last time, I think? This time, we’ll have to walk six hundred meters into the mines,” she said mildly.

“The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul is extremely rare; it is impossible for two to appear in the same location. The Blazing Thunder Crystals and the crystal soul are closely related. It is the energy radiating from the crystal soul that turns regular stone into Blazing Thunder Crystals ...” explained one of the emissaries.

Long Chen listened to every word they uttered.

“Six hundred meters deep ...” He made some calculations privately, now with a rough idea of its location.

After chatting with the emissaries for a little, Li Ziling pursed her pink lips and called Li Qingling over before entering the cave.

Long Chen’s guess was correct. The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul had indeed been prepared for Li Qingling.

His head still resembled a pig’s head as he had just been beaten up by Mo Xiaolang, so he looked comical. Many people kept pointing and talking about him along the way. Being an arrogant person, he obviously could not swallow his anger. As he followed Li Ziling into the mines, all he thought about was finding Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang in Fire Thunder Town after he merged with the crystal soul. At the very least, he had to kill them.

Never in my life has anyone dared to slap me in the face! You two have a death wish! Li Qingling thought to himself as he walked.

“Qingling, you said just now that it was two teenagers that beat you up? And they looked like they were roughly your age?” asked Li Qingling, who was walking ahead.

“Yeah! I don’t know where those two brats came from. Their cultivation is decent, though they only got a chance to hit me because I was careless,” answered Li Qingling.

“You’re almost as strong as Dongfang Tianchen and the rest from the Lingwu family. However, they have Earth-tier weapons, so you are no match for them. The two attackers aren’t from the four inner families, so I’m guessing they’re Long Chen and

Mo Xiaolang. They have been the recent hot topic of Yuanling City.” There was a cold flash in her eyes when she mentioned their names.

“It was them? How could they be so strong?” Li Qingling had also heard their names a few times. Long Chen was ranked lower than himself on the Potential Ranking Board.

“Mo Xiaolang is indeed a strong opponent. However, the representatives of the Lingwu family aren’t that strong. Our main enemy is Yan Danqing of the Beast Soul Palace. Once you have merged with the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, you will be strong enough to help me face him. That is why we must succeed,” said Li Ziling with furrowed brows.

“I understand.” His older sister went on ahead, her beautiful figure swaying as she walked. Li Qingling’s eyes were fixed on her bottom, and he took a few gulps.

Once I merge with the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul and attain the late Heavenly Core Realm, I shall be the number one prodigy of Yuanling City. Once that happens, pretty girls on my sister’s level will all jump into my arms!

Six hundred meters.

Based on their speed when they entered the mine, Li Ziling and Li Qingling would need about fifteen minutes to arrive. Seven minutes after they disappeared inside, Long Chen smirked and patted Mo Xiaolang, saying, “The five emissaries did not follow them. That is a good thing. The two siblings are probably halfway there already, so they won’t be able to hear the fighting outside. I will rush in, and you’ll help me block off the entrance. Don’t let anyone in, and at the same time, do your best to suppress the noise level. Is that alright?”

“I understand. Big Brother, go get the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul and leave the rest to me. With me here, I guarantee the duo won’t hear anything from outside.” This was Mo Xiaolang’s first time doing such an exciting thing, so he was clearly thrilled.

“That’s good, but be careful. The five late Heavenly Core Realm emissaries also have a thousand blue-armored guards with them. And they’re all decent fighters!” reminded Long Chen.

“The mouth of the cave isn’t large. If I stand there, it will be very effective in blocking them out. Don’t worry. If I can’t take it anymore, I can call for you, right?” Mo Xiaolang said solemnly.

Long Chen thought for a moment and agreed. Mo Xiaolang’s true capabilities were far from what he could see right now. That was why he nodded and gave him a look for them to act now.

At this moment, the five emissaries were sitting in a pavilion, drinking tea and chatting away. The blue-armored guards were guarding the mine tightly.

“Everyone, do you think the Dawn Trading Alliance stands a huge chance in the Mayor’s Battle?”

“That’s difficult to say. The Dawn Trading Alliance will rely on Ziling and Qingling. The Beast Soul Palace only has one person, Yan Danqing, while the Lingwu family doesn’t have anyone outstanding other than Mo Xiaolang from one of the outer families. Everything is unpredictable right now.”

“I heard that Mo Xiaolang has just stepped into the late Heavenly Core Realm, and also recently got the Heavenly Wolf Dagger. He isn’t as strong as Miss Ziling, who merged with the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul a long time ago. I’m speechless that he is ranked above her on the Potential Ranking Board.”

“I agree. The only person stronger than her in Yuanling City is Yan Danqing, who has the Peak Essence Beast’s Beast Soul. That brat has been at the late Heavenly Core Realm for a while. I think he will be her largest obstacle at the ancient ruins.”

While they were chatting casually, they suddenly heard a few cries. Several blue-armored guards flew in the air, and when they landed, half of their faces were swollen and they rolled on the ground in agony.

“What’s going on?” The five emissaries were shocked and jumped from their seats. When they looked up, they saw two teenagers sprinting towards the mouth of the cave. By then, they had already beaten up many guards and were approaching the mines.

“Brats! This is the Dawn Trading Alliance’s territory! This is trespassing; do you have a death wish?” one of them yelled sternly. While they tried to scare the duo, they were sprinting madly towards them.

“Idiots. My brother shall greet you all well.” Long Chen laughed, then he accelerated and rushed into the cave. Mo Xiaolang, to everyone’s surprise, stood at the mouth of the cave and turned around, staring at the emissaries mildly.

“These two teenagers seem to be the brats that Young Master Li Qingling described. How bold of them to attack the Dawn Trading Alliance! They must have a death wish. Brothers, let’s kill the brat!”

“Yes! We must kill them! Don’t let them disturb Miss Ziling and delay her efforts!”

The five of them formed a row and closed in on Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang, though only Mo Xiaolang greeted them. He stood at the mouth of the cave without a hint of fear on his face, as if the five emissaries were just five dogs.

I’ll play with you while my Big Brother gets the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. I haven’t sparred to my heart’s content for a very long time, so you guys will be my punching bags for now. The Qi of a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator exploded from his body as he blocked the path of the five people so Long Chen could pull a larger distance between them.

Long Chen trusted Mo Xiaolang to keep them occupied.

Xiaolang said that the girl will be temporarily weak after she suppresses the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. She'll only have Li Qingling with her, so it won't be impossible for me to snatch the crystal soul from them. If I really want to shine at the ancient ruins and win the Immortal Guard position, I must take this risk.

Risks had to be taken in order to achieve great things. This was a concept as old as time.

Li Qingling and Li Ziling walked six hundred meters, but Long Chen ran. After about ten breaths, he had already covered three hundred meters and could no longer hear the commotion outside. He could faintly feel the temperature increasing with hints of lightning appearing in the air. Faint flames covered the cave's walls.

When he could faintly hear the duo's conversation and sense their auras, he slowed down. Wrapping the bottom of his feet with Qi, he slowly crept nearer. Li Ziling's fragrance lingered in the air, so Long Chen easily found his way through the caves.

At that point, he could clearly hear their conversation.

After a while, the chatter ended, but he heard what sounded like low exhales. Lightning crackled in the air, and Long Chen guessed that they had reached the crystal soul. He crept up carefully and indeed, he found himself in a circular cave. Li Qingling was watching anxiously while Li Ziling suppressed the legendary Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul in the center.

Chapter 239 - Crystal Soul Robbery

The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul instantly attracted Long Chen's gaze.

It was a rhombic, blue, translucent crystal about three times larger than a Blazing Thunder Crystal. It looked like a bigger version of it, but the lightning and flames enveloping it were countless times stronger. Even the air surrounding it trembled, as countless bolts of lightning and blue flames flickered within the small room. Even Li Qingling only dared to hide in a spot outside the room, which was not far from Long Chen.

The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was indeed terrifying.

Anyone below the Divine Core Realm could die easily from the flames and lightning. Long Chen could sense the prickling sensation on his skin caused by tiny flames and lightning bolts.

That is a magical crystal indeed. The crystal soul is definitely as strong as an Earth-tier Body Tempering combat technique. Its effects are countless times stronger than the Blazing Thunder Crystals. If that brat gets his hands on the crystal soul, I might be no match for him. Long Chen was privately shocked.

Thank goodness that stupid Dongfang Xuanyu told me about this, so now I have the chance to get my hands on it. Plus, I have Xiaolang blocking everyone off in front of the cave. I must not disappoint him.

Long Chen kept himself hidden as these thoughts raced through his mind.

As Li Ziling had already merged with a Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, she had the power of a Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body. She started to force the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul into submission. If she suppressed it successfully, the crystal soul would turn into a normal crystal that could be merged with fairly easily.

Suppressing the crystal soul involved using a large amount of Qi to squash the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul's power into itself so it was contained inside.

This process did not require a long time, but it required powerful Qi.

Although her cultivation level wasn't high, the Blazing Thunder Power within her Qi, which was more intense than Long Chen's, gave her the ability to suppress it.

Despite that, it was still a daunting task. Merely seven minutes in, Li Ziling was already drenched in sweat. Sweat soaked through her clothes, faintly revealing her fair skin and delicate curves. Long Chen's mouth went dry.

It looks like suppressing that thing is indeed an exhausting task ... Long Chen smirked to himself. The more Li Ziling exhausted herself, the better it was for him.

Fifteen minutes passed. With great effort from Li Ziling, the rate at which the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul's destructive power receded was detectable by the naked eye.

At this point, not much energy was flowing out of the crystal. Only a thick layer of fire and lightning was wrapped around the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. Although it was small now, if the power it contained was unleashed, its effect would be even more terrifying.

He would get his chance soon. Long Chen tried his best to quiet his mind. His eyes darted at Li Qingling, who was nearby, and he had an idea.

Li Ziling was using all the Qi she had to suppress the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. When the suppression was almost complete, she was already panting, though there was unconcealable excitement in her beautiful eyes.

Grandfather was right. Suppressing the crystal soul will help condense my Qi and increase my ability to control my own Qi. I'm almost there ... As she watched the lightning and fire outside the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul shrink, she held her breath, waiting for the moment of success.

"It's done." A beautiful smile appeared on her delicate face.

She had finally suppressed the crystal soul. She was so tired that her face was pale, and she was on the verge of collapsing. But she was excited.

This act had helped her become stronger, and it would boost her younger brother's strength. He would definitely become extraordinary once he merged with the crystal soul.

"Big Sister, is it done?" Li Qingling was overjoyed.

The surrounding flames and lightning had disappeared. The previously violent Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was now quietly lying in her thin palm.

"Mhm. My effort paid off. We've finally succeeded! Qingling ..." Despite her exhaustion, she was looking at him smilingly. That was when a red shadow shot out from a spot nearby and pounced on Li Qingling!

This took them by surprise.

There were five powerful representatives guarding the mines, so they never would have imagined that someone could have slipped inside. Also, they had just suppressed the Blazing Thunder Crystal

Soul, so their guards were down because of their excitement. Long Chen's sudden ambush had completely taken them by surprise.

Li Qingling had no time to react at all, because it was completely unexpected. He could only throw one punch, which led to a tsunami-like fist seal charging at Long Chen!

But this was a haphazard attack—how could it beat the well-prepared Long Chen?

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Split Yellow River!”

Power erupted from him, and the Azure Dragon Halberd turned into a dragon, shattering the fist seal. It then struck Li Qingling's shoulder. Li Qingling screamed at the impact and blood sprayed out of his mouth. He was about to collapse.

“Who are you?! You have a death wish!” Li Ziling had only just noticed Long Chen, but he had already neutralized Li Qingling. When Li Ziling was about to attack, Long Chen had already put the Azure Dragon Halberd away, using his post-Dragon Soul Transformation claws to strangle Li Qingling. If he wanted to, he could kill Li Qingling any time with his long, sharp claws.

“Girl, if you want him to live, you'd better relax ...” Long Chen smiled shamelessly as he used Li Qingling to block her. His sneer was even more chilling in his post-transformation form.

“Who are you?” asked Li Qingling. Li Ziling was shocked that Li Qingling had fallen into the enemy's hands in just the blink of an eye. Due to Long Chen's sharp claws, she had no choice but to stand down and calm her nerves.

“I don't care who you are! You threatened a member of the Dawn Trading Alliance, so you are fated to die. You brat, let him go and disappear from my sight! Then I might let you live!” exclaimed Li Ziling as she stared at him coldly.

“You're spicy. Not bad, that's the type I like.” Long Chen laughed, not afraid of her at all. He continued, “Alright, I'm sure a girl your age isn't that naive. Since I'm willing to do something as risky as this, I won't leave without getting something out of it. I only have one small request—give me the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul in your hand, and I will leave immediately. Plus, I guarantee not to hurt even a hair on this brat's body.”

“And if I refuse?” The enemy was indeed after the crystal soul. This was not surprising to Li Ziling. She saw her younger brother trembling in the enemy's hands, severely injured with blood flowing from the corner of his lips. Li Ziling's face twitched. She had always looked out for her little brother.

“If you refuse, he will die. I will give you ten breaths' time to think. I'll start counting soon, and with every count, I will dig a piece of flesh from his body. I'd like to see who gives up first, you or me. Haha ... Where should I pick for my first count? Alright, I'll pick the part he'll use to carry on his lineage. He can still live well without that piece.”

“You bastard! Don’t you threaten me! Do you think the Dawn Trading Alliance is easy to bully?” cried Li Ziling through gritted teeth, startled.

“It’s best you don’t waste your time with me. And don’t use the Dawn Trading Alliance to threaten me either. I am bold enough to be here today, and I am bold enough to cut off his private parts. This means I am not afraid. If you want to test me, and see if I’m telling the truth, that’s alright. This brat won’t be able to have a taste of women for the rest of his life, haha ...”

“Big Sister! Save me, save me! I don’t want the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul! Save me!” This was a terrifying ordeal for Li Qingling, and he was more afraid of losing *that* than having his arm chopped off. When Long Chen’s claws moved to his crotch, his features contorted and hot tears flowed, almost making him cry for his parents.

Given the violence that was mixed with his cold aura, Li Qingling did not dare question Long Chen’s words.

“You!” Li Ziling’s face turned purple with rage. The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was a present she had prepared for her brother, and she had spent so much effort to suppress it, exhausting almost all her energy. How could she willingly give it to another person?

However, she had no choice. Her father only had one son. If her little brother’s little brother was gone, her family could no longer carry its name on. Then she would be a criminal to them.

“Alright, I’ll agree to your terms!” Li Ziling said, clenching her teeth.

“What a good kid! You should have said so earlier. I treat good girls well! Toss it over,” said Long Chen creepily.

Li Ziling didn’t do as he said. She tossed the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul towards the outside of the cave, so it flew past him and hit the wall behind him.

Long Chen would have to leave to get it.

“I told you to toss it to me, why did you have to pull a trick like that?” Long Chen grinned and let Li Qingling go. He used the Nine Dragon Flashes and instantly arrived at the spot where it landed. He picked it up quickly and stored it in his Universe Pouch. After he put it away, Li Ziling was already pouncing on him!

This was the reason why she had thrown it far away!

“Die, you bastard!” Using the little Qi left in her body and her Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, she threw a hard punch. Although she was already at her limit, this punch was no ordinary punch.

“This is nothing.” The Azure Dragon Halberd appeared instantly in Long Chen’s hand, and he swung it around, sending a powerful attack at her!

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

The two consecutive attacks sent the already fatigued Li Ziling flying. Long Chen laughed and ran out of the cave, out of sight.

“Bastard! Thief! It’s only because I’ve exhausted my power! In my usual state, even ten of you wouldn’t be able to defeat me!” Li Ziling had never been this furious in her life.

Then she recalled something.

“Was that the Azure Dragon Halberd? Was that Long Chen?”

Chapter 240 - Attempted Murder

Long Chen knew that Li Ziling would not have much strength left after suppressing the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. If the conflict had escalated, Long Chen might have been able to kill her. However, killing her before the battle at the ancient ruins would definitely trigger retaliation from the Dawn Trading Alliance, so he didn’t touch her.

Plus, she was beautiful, so he couldn’t bear to kill her.

Long Chen was satisfied, as his objective of obtaining the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul had been completed. He did not care if Li Ziling recognized him. So what if she did? Putting Li Xuanji’s reputation aside, Long Chen was now part of the Lingwu family, so they would protect him.

However, there was half a month left, and he was not going to return to the Lingwu family. There was a more suitable place for him to merge with the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul and increase his combat capabilities.

Right now, the most important thing was to escape. He didn’t know how Mo Xiaolang was faring outside. The duo could not catch up to him at all at this speed, and he accelerated even more.

When he was about to emerge from the cave, Long Chen could hear cries of pain from the outside. When he rushed out, he saw a large mass of collapsed blue-armored guards, while the rest stared at an insane-looking teenager at the center of the crowd.

“Two of the five representatives have collapsed!” Long Chen gasped because he saw that Xiaolang was locked in an intense battle against three late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators while two were being treated by their guards.

Long Chen had taken about half an hour to obtain the crystal soul. This meant that Mo Xiaolang had been fighting for that long, which was very impressive.

“Xiaolang! Let’s get out of here!” Long Chen laughed as he shot out of the cave.

When Mo Xiaolang heard Long Chen’s voice, he was overjoyed. Being quicker than his opponents, he disappeared in a flash, sprinting towards Long Chen at a speed that made him almost invisible to the naked eye. This was the Illusory Divine Step that Yin Mengyao had once mentioned!

Rushing to Long Chen's side, he asked excitedly, "Big Brother! Did you get it?"

Long Chen could sense that he was a little fatigued from such a long fight. He was fighting against five equal-level masters after all, which was difficult to achieve.

"I went in there myself, so of course I was successful! Xiaolang, I really want to thank you for your help. Without you, I never would have gotten the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul!" Long Chen thanked him genuinely.

"Big Brother, don't say that! We are brothers! Of course we should fight alongside each other!" Mo Xiaolang chuckled, looking both innocent and shy.

"You put it so fucking well! Let's not waste any time! Run!"

At this moment, Li Ziling and Li Qingling had already run out, and the five representatives had learned that Long Chen had taken the crystal soul. Now a large horde of people was running madly after them.

Unfortunately, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang were just too fast. The strongest of them all, Li Ziling, was currently in a fatigued state, so they were left in the dust.

"Damn it!" Li Ziling punched the boulder next to her, causing it to shatter!

"Give chase! I want them flayed!"

"Big Brother, that was so exciting!" Mo Xiaolang chuckled when they were out of danger.

"If you're with me, excitement is guaranteed." Long Chen was happy. He thought back to when they met at Baiyang Town. At the time, due to the gap in strength, Long Chen looked up to him. Now that the gap wasn't so wide, he felt much better.

At this point, they were out of the Fire Thunder Mountain Range and were heading towards Fire Thunder Town, so Long Chen was somewhat relaxed.

The mouth of a valley was up ahead, and once they passed it, they would arrive at Fire Thunder Town.

Long Chen was about to run past it when a giant boulder suddenly rolled down, bringing with it a huge power that caused the ground to shake.

"Xiaolang, run!" At this critical moment, they had no choice but to separate and run to the side. The boulder brushed past them and landed on the ground, throwing pebbles and dust in all directions!

Long Chen's chest tightened. He knew someone had ambushed them, but there was no time to guess who it was. Amidst the chaos, he activated the Dragon Soul Transformation!

Perfect, blood-red scales covered his whole body, and sharp, red spines emerged from his joints!

“Who’s there?” Long Chen sensed a black figure charging at himself amidst the cloud of dust. He hurriedly stumbled backwards to dodge that person’s attack.

When the dust settled, Long Chen’s vision cleared.

Two black-clothed people had stopped them. After they used the boulder to separate him and Mo Xiaolang, one of them attacked Mo Xiaolang fiercely while the other charged at Long Chen!

Is this an assassination attempt? Long Chen squinted, his mind racing. The Dawn Trading Alliance was the only enemy in Fire Thunder Town, and it was impossible for them to have sent someone else so quickly. This meant that these two were from Yuanling City. There was only one person in Yuanling City who knew that he was here—Dongfang Xuanyu!

“Dongfang Xuanyu sent you two here, right?” Long Chen didn’t counter his enemy’s attacks immediately, but first dodged them.

When he spoke, his opponent was startled, but they continued attacking without a word. But their response was enough of an answer for Long Chen.

Based on their attacks, Long Chen guessed that they were at the late Heavenly Core Realm. There was only a limited number of cultivators of this level in the Lingwu family, so when Long Chen looked at their body shapes, he had his guesses.

“Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan! Did you think I wouldn’t recognize you just because you’re clad in armor? Isn’t that too naïve of you?” Long Chen suddenly laughed while they fought.

“Long Chen, I must admit that you are indeed very smart. But smart people are usually the first to die!” The black-clothed person fighting Long Chen finally spoke up. As expected, it was Chu Tianxiong. Jin Luan was the one fighting Mo Xiaolang.

Chu Tianxiong did not panic or hold back despite Long Chen exposing him. Instead, his attacks grew more fervent. He used the Chu family combat techniques paired with his late Heavenly Core Realm Qi, which were countless times stronger than Chu Yunxi’s attacks!

“Brother Chu, kill Long Chen quickly!” Jin Luan yelled pathetically. He had underestimated Mo Xiaolang’s strength, so he had been fighting a losing battle since the beginning. The only way for him to escape was if Chu Tianxiong followed their plan, which was to kill Long Chen immediately and come help him!

The plan was perfect, but could Chu Tianxiong kill Long Chen in time?

Long Chen instantly guessed their plan. The Azure Dragon Halberd instantly appeared in his hand, and he swung it at his foe. The image of a dragon appeared, bringing with it a powerful momentum. Before the halberd landed, dust was already flying from the vibrations!

“The Azure Dragon Halberd? It’s impressive indeed! However, Long Chen, you killed my grandson. No matter what happens, you will pay for it today!” Although their faces were covered, Long Chen knew that Chu Tianxiong’s face had turned green.

“Cataclysmic Wind Finger!” The wind howled as he sent a finger seal at Long Chen’s Azure Dragon Halberd!

Chu Tianxiong was the Grand Elder of an outer family after all, and he had clearly mastered the Cataclysmic Wind Finger. It withstood Long Chen’s Split Yellow River.

“You think you can kill me with such a weak attack?” Long Chen chuckled coldly. If he could defeat Dongfang Xuanyu, who had cultivated an Earth-tier combat technique, Chu Tianxiong would be easy!

He turned his halberd, and a dragon image appeared, shooting right at Chu Tianxiong!

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Shattered Skies!”

The Shattered Skies attack was more vicious than Split Yellow River. The Cataclysmic Wind Finger was Chu Tianxiong’s most powerful technique, so he had no answer for Shattered Skies. Chu Tianxiong squinted as he looked at Long Chen’s attack flying towards himself.

It’s no wonder Madam Xuanyu said I am no longer a match for him. It’s indeed true. It looks like I must use the thing she gave me!

When Long Chen used Shattered Skies, Chu Tianxiong did not panic. He retreated as fast as he could and pulled out an object.

There were several yellow talisman papers in his hand. They were covered in fire-red characters, and upon closer inspection, the characters were emitting flames!

“Firestorm Talisman?” Long Chen knew what they were since he had been in the Lingwu family for some time. They were worth much more than Thunder Talismans, as they were one level higher.

Chu Tianxiong had several Firestorm Talismans in hand. When they were used together, their effects would not increase proportionally, but exponentially. That was why Long Chen was startled when he saw Chu Tianxiong take them out!

He had almost been reduced to black charcoal due to Chu Yunxi’s Thunder Talisman a while back. Long Chen remembered that Chu Yunxi had received it from Dongfang Tianyu. Therefore, it was clear that Dongfang Xuanyu was the one who had provided the Firestorm Talismans!

Long Chen was speechless. The same thing had happened to him twice, yet he still had no defenses. Dongfang Xuanyu knew that he was stronger, yet she had sent Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan here to their deaths. How was it possible that they wouldn’t have a final trick up their sleeves?

Also, when Long Chen defeated Dongfang Xuanyu, she never used any talismans. This meant that she had prepared them specifically to kill Long Chen!

“Die!” Chu Tianxiong roared.