

## War God 241

### Chapter 241 - Firestorm Talisman

“These five Firestorm Talismans are worth more than ten million divine jades. Even late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators have been killed by them. Long Chen, let’s see how you’ll escape this!” Chu Tianxiong laughed like a madman, his heart completely filled with hatred. He used all five Firestorm Talismans on Long Chen at the same time.

When Long Chen was up against the Thunder Talisman, he remained calm despite the emergency situation because he knew he would survive it. However, he didn’t know if he could survive the sheer force of five Firestorm Talismans! If he survived and was left severely injured, it would greatly affect his chances in the upcoming competition.

“Big Brother!” Mo Xiaolang’s eyes were bloodshot when he saw Long Chen’s situation.

Long Chen had defeated Dongfang Xuanyu, so Mo Xiaolang was confident in his brother. However, he hadn’t expected this. Even though he could easily shake Jin Luan off, he might not make it in time to save Long Chen!

*Am I going to die in this old geezer’s hands?* Long Chen was speechless. He had only just taken the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul from Li Ziling and hadn’t had the chance to enjoy it yet. When the five talismans flew at him and exploded, the look on his face was one of extreme unwillingness!

All five Firestorm Talismans exploded at the same time, every single one turning into a giant fireball. They looked like five suns hanging above Long Chen, shooting out roaring flames. The heatwaves almost threw Long Chen back!

*This is bad!* Long Chen’s expression turned gloomy. The fireballs had started to expand. If they all exploded at the same time, they would probably flatten an area of twenty meters. Being at the center of it all, there was no chance he could come out unscathed.

Chu Tianxiong had said that they could kill a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator, and that was not just him bragging. Dongfang Xuanyu intended to kill Long Chen, so she had made great preparations to ensure that he would die.

*That bitch! I let her live out of kindness, yet she sent these two to kill me, even resorting to such lowly tactics. Dongfang Xuanyu, you’d better hope I don’t get another chance to kill you!* As the talismans started to explode in front of his eyes, all he could do was use the Nine Dragon Flashes to the best of his abilities to exit the twenty-meter radius within one second.

However, Long Chen knew that he could only travel ten meters within that time.

*Am I really going to die here?* He was furious. When he was in despair, he suddenly felt something in his Universe Pouch vibrating strongly. He had no time to think. He knew there wasn’t anything special in his pouch, but if something gave such a strange reaction, he had hope!

While Long Chen ran using the Nine Dragon Flashes, he took out the vibrating object. He then screamed and tossed it away immediately because it was too hot. His hand was burnt red from just touching it for a second, even turning a little black.

Long Chen's eyes darted at the vibrating object, and he recognized it as the mysterious steel token from the Burning Heaven Mountain Range in the Desolate Beastlands. It was the item that had given him the Burning Devil Sun Fist.

When he threw the steel token, he saw something that surprised him. The fireballs suddenly stopped moving and melted into rivers of fire. The mysterious steel token swallowed the rivers of fire until the energy of the talismans was completely gone! No trace of them remained!

Looking at the empty skies, Long Chen knew he had been saved.

"What is that? How is that possible?" Chu Tianxiong was so close to killing Long Chen and taking revenge, but then the token had suddenly appeared and, to his disbelief, absorbed the power of the talismans. Chu Tianxiong was in shock! He felt like he had just stepped into heaven and then tumbled straight down to hell!

"Die!" Long Chen reacted quickly. This time, he did not hold back, and the Azure Dragon Halberd turned into a gust of wind in his hands, then into a roaring dragon as he struck it down on Chu Tianxiong!

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

Two consecutive attacks sent the numb Chu Tianxiong stumbling back, his face pale. Long Chen did not give him a chance to recover. The Shattered Skies attack had pierced cleanly through Chu Tianxiong's chest!

Fresh blood flowed.

"Long Chen, what was that ..." asked Chu Tianxiong unwillingly with blood in his mouth, his face ghostly pale.

"Just a random steel token I picked up. I don't know what it is either, haha." Long Chen knew that although Chu Tianxiong could still speak, he was not far from death.

"Indeed, you are one of those legendary people who are always lucky ..." Pulling the halberd out of his own chest, Chu Tianxiong fell to the ground, face up. His eyes remained wide, staring straight at the sky, but his body never moved again.

"He died without closing his eyes?"[1] Long Chen did not pity him. It was a dog-eat-dog world, and if he hadn't killed Chu Tianxiong, he would be the one who was killed.

There was a cry from Mo Xiaolang's side too. Long Chen looked over and saw that he had killed Jin Luan. Mo Xiaolang had always been much stronger than him. Dongfang Xuanyu had basically sent the duo to their deaths.

"Big Brother, what just happened?" Mo Xiaolang saw that a huge tragedy was about to befall Long Chen, but a steel token had suddenly saved him.

Mo Xiaolang was drenched in cold sweat.

“I don’t know either. It’s very mysterious. I picked it up a while ago in a place called the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. It started vibrating when the Firestorm Talismans appeared, so I took it out. I didn’t know it would save me.” The mysterious steel token had fallen on the ground, returning to its normal state. Long Chen walked over. Upon closer inspection, he knew that it wasn’t hot and would not burn him.

“Burning Heaven Mountain Range? Isn’t that a section of the Desolate Beastlands?” Mo Xiaolang cocked his head.

“Yeah.” Long Chen studied the token in his hand and said, “I don’t know what secrets it holds, and I couldn’t figure it out. Let me put it away.”

After doing so, Long Chen looked at Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan’s bodies.

“Were they really sent by Dongfang Xuanyu?” Mo Xiaolang was furious. That woman had almost killed Long Chen.

“It was definitely her,” he said mildly.

“Should we storm the Lingwu family to demand an explanation from her?” suggested Mo Xiaolang.

“We’re not in a hurry for that. The battle in the ancient ruins will begin soon. We’ll let her go for the moment. There’s a place even more suitable for me to improve my strength. It’ll be great for you too,” Long Chen said mysteriously.

“Where?”

“Desolate Beastlands, Burning Heaven Mountain Range,” he said.

He had a few reasons for going. First, there were few people in the Desolate Beastlands, so they would not be disturbed and could focus on cultivation. Second, there were many beasts there, and Long Chen could improve his cultivation.

“Whatever you say, Big Brother.” Mo Xiaolang grinned.

Once decided, they hurriedly left for their destination.

Long after they were gone, the Dawn Trading Alliance members, who were tired from the chase, finally arrived. Long Chen’s battle against Chu Tianxiong had not taken much time.

Everyone froze when they saw the two black-clothed bodies. Li Ziling, who had recovered by now, pulled the black clothes off their faces and tried to remember who these people were.

“They’re the two Grand Elders of the Lingwu outer families, Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan. Why would they be here, dead?” Li Ziling was puzzled.

“Miss, I have a guess,” said one of the representatives.

“Go ahead,” Li Ziling said, trying to suppress her anger towards Long Chen.

“I heard that Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong have grudges against Long Chen and have been waiting for a chance to take revenge. I think they dressed up in black to tail Long Chen to Fire Thunder Town. After he obtained the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, they attacked him and Mo Xiaolang but ended up being killed instead.”

“Yeah, that is probably what happened.” The other representatives came to the same conclusion.

“Long Chen killed two Grand Elders?” Li Ziling’s brows were furrowed, taking a mental note. Long Chen was long gone at this point, so there was no hope for her to get the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul back.

*Long Chen, one day, you will pay a heavy price for your actions,* she swore angrily to herself.

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Sitting on the Savage Wind Peng, it did not take long for the duo to arrive in Baiyang Town from the Fire Thunder Mountain Range.

He did not enter Baiyang Town, but looked at it from afar. When he realized that everything looked peaceful, they both entered the Desolate Mountains and headed straight towards the Desolate Beastlands.

“The last time I was here, it was your clan’s hunting tournament. I can’t believe time passed so quickly. You have achieved so much since then,” remarked Mo Xiaolang.

“You’re still young. Don’t act so old in front of me. It’s nothing huge, progressing from the Draconic Realm to the Heavenly Core Realm. There are many people stronger than me in this world ...” Long Chen thought about Li Xuanji, which made him sulk.

“Of course. I am known as a prodigy in Yuanling City, but there are many above me in the Biyang Imperial Capital.” Mo Xiaolang felt helpless.

“What are you worried about? We’ll cross that bridge when we reach it. If you can’t do it alone, I’ll help you when the time comes,” Long Chen said.

“The heart of a master.” That was what Mo Xiaolang concluded from Long Chen’s advice.

Very soon, they entered the Desolate Beastlands. There were countless caves, so they quickly found a place to camp on the outskirts of the Burning Heaven Mountain Range.

“I’ll spend the next few days merging with the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul!”

Chapter 242 - Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body

Without Ling Xi around, Long Chen felt a strange emptiness in his heart when he took out the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul.

In the past, Ling Xi would be by his side every time he cultivated. She was the one who had helped him get his first batch of Blazing Thunder Crystals. Now he had obtained the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, but there was no one there to guide him.

“Merging with Blazing Thunder Crystals requires enduring some terrible suffering. I’m sure the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul will be even more terrifying.” Long Chen looked at the suppressed crystal soul in his hand, a little nervous.

“I think the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul will be quite scary. Big Brother, it’s best you’re mentally prepared,” reminded Mo Xiaolang a little worriedly.

“Even that girl Li Ziling could do it, so what’s there to be worried about?” When he thought of this, he was filled with confidence again.

“When she merged with the crystal soul, she must have had Heavenly River Realm masters guiding her. This is different,” said Mo Xiaolang.

“It’ll be fine. I’ve put so much effort into getting this thing. How could I not merge with it?” Long Chen held the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul up in front of him, taking a deep breath. He was already prepared for this.

He had two treasures that assisted him in merging with Blazing Thunder Crystals. One was the Dragon Soul Transformation, the other was the Recovery technique. Long Chen activated the Dragon Soul Transformation.

“Be careful. I’ll keep watch.” Mo Xiaolang nodded, then leaned on the wall of the cave.

Long Chen examined the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul, trying to make himself calm. Then, taking a deep breath, the blood-red Qi in his dantian swirled and crept towards the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. The crystal soul, as if it had turned into a clear fluid, poured into his body like a tide.

The Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul’s power is indeed much stronger than the crystals! The electricity and fire alone are countless times more intense!

He had only just started, but Long Chen was startled because he felt waves of pain crashing through his body, from small to large. Although he had undergone the Dragon Soul Transformation, it was still unbearable!

The Blazing Thunder Power methodically destroyed his body’s structure. This destruction far exceeded the speed at which it could rebuild itself. The pain was much more severe than before, reaching every corner of his body and tearing him apart. It felt as if countless tiny blades were hidden in every corner, slashing wildly.

Very soon, a small trickle of blood flowed from the corner of his lips.

However, he clenched his jaw hard, fighting the pain.

Lightning and fire thrashed his body. Wave upon wave passed over Long Chen, until even his dragon scales sustained damage!

My body has sustained a lot of damage from the fire and lightning. It might be beyond its limits already!

This was only the beginning, but there was not a single patch of uninjured skin on his body. He had no choice but to activate Recovery.

Trickles of warmth started to weave through his body between the lightning and flames. Every muscle and tendon it touched healed slowly as it nourished them.

However, the destructive force of the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was beyond Long Chen's imagination. Even after using the Dragon Soul Transformation and Recovery, it was still wreaking havoc in his body, even triggering the power that remained from the Blazing Thunder Crystals he had previously absorbed.

He thought he would not survive, but upon closer inspection, tiny lightning and fire symbols were left on his tendons and muscles when they were rebuilt. These symbols made up of lightning and fire quickly spread across his whole body.

Mo Xiaolang could also see that every scale on his body now had a symbol. Absorbing the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul was merely one step to complete this array.

"Is this the complete form of the Blazing Thunder Combat Technique? Big Brother didn't look like he could make it, but now he looks better. It seems that the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul's function is to create this array after the Blazing Thunder Crystals strengthened the physical body by destroying and rebuilding it," Mo Xiaolang mumbled to himself. He was previously anxious too, but now he was feeling much better.

Long Chen noticed that when the symbols started to appear, the agony he felt started to subside substantially. Under the healing effects of Recovery, his condition was improving. Now that the array on his body was formed, his muscles gradually strengthened, approaching the Level Three Blazing Thunder Body.

*The Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Technique is indeed a far cry from Level Three. It's no wonder Li Ziling took this so seriously. She must hate me so much; it took her great effort to suppress it, yet in the end it benefited me!* Long Chen was feeling smug.

The Blazing Thunder Combat Technique's symbols and array required a long time to form and complete. The pain was not as intense as before, and this made Long Chen much calmer. He patiently waited for the moment of success.

When Mo Xiaolang saw that Long Chen's life was no longer in danger, he started cultivating. He was not far away from the Heavenly River Realm now. If he could break through within a short time, he would not need to worry about the battle at the ancient ruins.

Five days passed in the blink of an eye.

There was a glow coming from within the cave, and Long Chen's body was the source. The symbols of lightning and fire glowed on his scales, their dense arrangements creating a complex but beautiful array. Every symbol connected to each other, boosting him with additional hardiness and strength.

This was the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Technique, also the Blazing Thunder Combat Technique in its complete form.

“It’s finally done ...” It had taken him five whole days. Long Chen could not suppress his excitement. After the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul had fulfilled its purpose, it disappeared within his body.

Long Chen stood up and felt the explosive power in his body. The Blazing Thunder Combat Technique, which was equivalent to an Earth-tier Body Tempering Combat Technique, had brought about indescribable benefits. At the very least, he sensed that he was several times faster than before.

Body Tempering techniques strengthened the physical flesh, and when the leg muscles were strengthened, one’s speed would increase. One could say that a Body Tempering technique boosted one’s attacks, speed, and defenses. Very often, a Body Tempering technique was the deciding factor between two equally capable people.

Long Chen could feel the explosive energy within him and even felt like he had the ability to fight Mo Xiaolang. Although he was two levels below him, Long Chen’s Dragon Soul Transformation could fill in the gap of one level, while his Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Technique could fill in half a level’s gap. As a result, he really was not far away from Mo Xiaolang’s level.

“Mo Xiaolang, let’s spar!” said Long Chen excitedly after his recent success.

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang always had a straightforward and direct relationship, and Long Chen always said whatever was on his mind. Mo Xiaolang liked this straightforwardness very much.

“You’ve only just completed your cultivation and you want to show it off to me so soon?” Mo Xiaolang was speechless. At the same time, he stood up, which meant that he was agreeing to Long Chen’s request.

“Of course. I want to show you how strong I am now!” Long Chen headed for the space outside the cave. The Desolate Beastlands were flat and wide, making it an awesome place for a fight.

“Big Brother, you’re bragging again.” Mo Xiaolang chuckled, looking around. There was a black patch of empty land in front of the cave.

“Nonsense. Let’s fight.” Long Chen was filled with battle spirit despite Mo Xiaolang looking down on him. He was still in his Dragon Soul Transformation form and had also pulled out the Azure Dragon Halberd.

Mo Xiaolang did not dare take him lightly in his current form. He took out his Heavenly Wolf Dagger, the gemstone that resembled a wolf’s eye on its hilt glinting beautifully in the dark of the night. Mo Xiaolang slashed it across the air, forming arcs of light in the night.

Long Chen knew that the Heavenly Wolf Dagger was not at all weaker than the Azure Dragon Halberd.

“Be careful! Illusory Divine Step!” Mo Xiaolang had just spoken when he turned into an illusion and appeared in front of Long Chen in a flash. He had spent his life mastering this Body Tempering technique, and it differed from Long Chen’s Nine

Dragon Flashes because its main focus was speed, while the Nine Dragon Flashes focused on agility.

Using his sharp dagger and superspeed, Mo Xiaolang's strength was in close-range melee combat, while Long Chen's expertise was more rounded in different areas. However, he knew that if he let the dagger-wielding Mo Xiaolang near him, he would be dead.

"Think you can get close to me? Dream on!" Long Chen laughed and used the Nine Dragon Flashes. He brushed past Mo Xiaolang's shoulder, causing him to miss.

"Xiaolang, I'll give you a taste of pure power from my Blazing Thunder Combat Technique!" Long Chen roared and turned around, sweeping his Azure Dragon Halberd at Mo Xiaolang's waist!

When he used all his strength, the previously hidden symbols appeared on his body. The power of lightning and fire flowed out into the Azure Dragon Halberd!

It was just one sweep without even using his Qi, but it was as powerful as a mid Heavenly Core Realm cultivator's most powerful attack. Mo Xiaolang hurriedly blocked with the Heavenly Wolf Dagger!

Clang!

There was an ear-piercing clang when two Earth-tier Divine Weapons collided. However, Mo Xiaolang was thrown back by the force. Shocked, he stuttered, "T-that was powerful! Big Brother, the Blazing Thunder Combat Technique is indeed strong!"

Chapter 243 - Surprise Appearance of Heavenly River Pill

Despite Mo Xiaolang's shock at the strength of Long Chen's Blazing Thunder Combat Technique, he was no idiot. After he was thrown into the air, he spun and, like a spry wolf, pounced on Long Chen once more.

"Demonic Wolf Combat Technique, Deathly Shadow!"

Mo Xiaolang turned into a blurry shadow and disappeared. All Long Chen could see was a cold glint from the Heavenly Wolf Dagger.

*Mo Xiaolang is a natural killer when he is wielding the Heavenly Wolf Dagger.* Long Chen was impressed. Mo Xiaolang was just too fast, much faster than him with the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Technique, so he had no choice but to place all his focus on the fight.

*Where is he?* Once he pinpointed Mo Xiaolang's position, his eyes flashed coldly and he slashed the Azure Dragon Halberd at him!

"Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Split Yellow River!"

Two attacks of the same level collided violently, supported by Qi from both ends. What shocked Mo Xiaolang was that this was almost an equal-level fight. The waves of strength from the Azure Dragon Halberd caused vibrations that numbed his arms.

"Demonic Wolf Combat Technique, Bloody Killing!"

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Shattered Skies!”

Mo Xiaolang grew more nervous with every strike. He admitted that Long Chen now had the ability to fight him directly. Of course, they were just sparring now. If this was a true battle to the death, Mo Xiaolang was confident he could kill Long Chen. However, he knew that although he was at the late Heavenly Core realm and had the Heavenly Wolf Dagger, he would still have to pay a hefty price!

“Big Brother, haven’t you learned an Earth-tier combat technique? Don’t waste time! Use it!” Mo Xiaolang suddenly said.

“You even know about that?” Long Chen was sour.

“Of course I do. No one in Yuanling City is as talented as you are in cultivation. You must’ve mastered Starsweep Dragon a long time ago. Are you not going to use it today?” Mo Xiaolang laughed.

“I initially wanted to debut it during the battle at the ancient ruins. But if you request it, I will gladly oblige. Xiaolang, be careful!”

Long Chen grew solemn. This was his first time using the Earth-tier combat technique, so he was afraid he couldn’t use it well.

“Don’t worry, I’m not weak!” Mo Xiaolang retreated quickly, then when they collided once again, both of them used their Earth-tier techniques!

Long Chen’s Azure Dragon Halberd swung madly, so fast he couldn’t see it. All he could see was countless azure dragons spinning in the air, and a strong pressure pressed on Mo Xiaolang.

“Indeed, this is an Earth-tier technique!” Mo Xiaolang did not back down. With the Heavenly Wolf Dagger in hand, he accelerated. The dagger seemed to slowly melt and merge with his arm until his whole arm turned into a scary, thin, and sharp wolf fang!

“Demonic Wolf Combat Technique, Heavenly Wolf Fang!”

The air whistled when he used this attack, as if even space had been pierced through.

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Starsweep Dragon!”

Long Chen unleashed the Earth-tier Starsweep Dragon attack, one that Dongfang Xuanxiao had used before, against Mo Xiaolang’s Heavenly Wolf Fang. Countless azure dragons swarmed at Mo Xiaolang. Every dragon was actually the tip of Long Chen’s fast-moving halberd!

Two Earth-tier techniques were engaged in melee combat!

Boom!

Dust flew all around them from the vibrations, even leaving cracks on the ground. The battleground was thrown into chaos!

Both Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang were launched backwards!

This was the most powerful collision of the battle. Long Chen admitted that he had used his Blazing Thunder Power to its maximum. He believed that he could kill many late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators with just one strike using this attack. However, it was not powerful enough to beat Mo Xiaolang.

Mo Xiaolang was also thrown back into the air, his expression showing that he was not happy. However, he could land on his feet, unlike Long Chen, who lost control. Based on this, Long Chen still lost. However, the gap between them was minute, and in a true battle, there was absolutely the possibility of overcoming it.

This time, Long Chen could say that he had once again lost to Mo Xiaolang, but he was not depressed and instead laughed. "What an impressive fight that was."

"Are you alright?" Mo Xiaolang walked over to Long Chen worriedly, though what shocked him was that although Long Chen was a little pale, he was completely fine.

"Big Brother, look, you could withstand my attack as an equal. You're improving so quickly. In just a few days, I'll be left far behind ..."

"None of that ass-kissing! With my ego, I'm going to fly if you keep complimenting me, haha," said Long Chen.

Mo Xiaolang smiled shyly. He knew he wasn't ass-kissing; they were genuine words.

"Big Brother, you're almost as strong as Li Ziling already. When when work together in the ancient ruins, no one will pose a threat to us unless Yan Danqing and Li Ziling fight together," said Mo Xiaolang.

"That's true. However, we must still be careful. We still have time. I'll familiarize myself with the Blazing Thunder Combat Technique, and when the time comes, we'll return to Yuanling City."

After making plans, they chatted for a while and then prepared to cultivate. However, that was when they saw a beautiful, multi-colored ray shooting out into the sky, in the direction of the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. It lit up the night sky of the Desolate Beastlands.

The ray quickly vanished. There was no sound, and if they were not here, they would not have noticed it at all.

"What just happened?" Mo Xiaolang looked at Long Chen.

"That type of phenomenon must be related to a treasure. I think there's something good in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. Xiaolang, let's go check it out. If we're lucky, haha, won't we be rich?"

Since Long Chen had suggested it and Mo Xiaolang did not want to miss this rare chance either, he nodded.

“The mountain range is huge, but I remember the direction of the ray. Let’s head there in a straight line. We’ll start searching when we’re almost there,” Long Chen said, walking ahead.

“Big Brother, do you think it’ll be dangerous? I’m worried it’ll affect the battle of the ancient ruins.” Mo Xiaolang frowned.

“We can only achieve great things if we take risks. We’ll be careful and it’ll be alright,” said Long Chen with a grin.

Mo Xiaolang nodded. To be honest, he was also an adventurous person.

Very soon, they entered the pitch-black Burning Heaven Mountain Range. Compared to the last time they were here, the temperature was much lower, almost similar to other places.

There was an air of creepiness in the area, so Long Chen did not dare let his guard down.

They traveled quickly and soon, they were almost at the spot where the colorful ray had appeared. Long Chen could only confirm that it came from this area, but they needed to search for it.

After a little searching, Long Chen detected a hint of medicinal scent.

“Big Brother, I think I know what it is ...” Mo Xiaolang looked emotional.

“Here.” His nose was more sensitive. Long Chen followed him. After walking quickly, he saw a patch of white light ahead. There were two pills on the ground, each about the size of the tip of a pinky finger. They were glowing white, like gemstones.

The pills radiated a familiar energy. Long Chen thought for a moment and recalled that this was star power.

“Indeed! Those are Heavenly River Pills!” Mo Xiaolang was surprised.

“What is a Heavenly River Pill?” Long Chen asked.

“Heavenly River Pills are condensed and refined by Heavenly River Realm masters after absorbing star power. Big Brother, you don’t know a Heavenly River Realm cultivator’s cultivation process, do you? They absorb star power, condense it into a soothing pill, then consume it. This is how they increase the amount of tame star power in their bodies. Heavenly River Pills are not only important to Heavenly River Realm cultivators, they are even more important to us cultivators who are close to the Heavenly River Realm. Breaking into the Heavenly River Realm is much easier if we consume one!”

“There’s such a thing?” Long Chen did not know anything about the cultivation process of the Heavenly River Realm.

“Yep. Cultivators at the First River Stage take one month to refine one Heavenly River Pill; and there are two pills here! Also, the Heavenly River Pill is a common currency in

the Biyang Imperial Capital. Divine jades are mostly used for low-quality, cheap goods. So, do you know how important Heavenly River Pills are now?"

They could be used as money! How could he not understand their importance?

"Xiaolang, you're almost at the Heavenly River Realm. Take both of them and we'll leave this place immediately," Long Chen said decisively.

"No way, we share both good things and bad things. I only want one. Big Brother, you cultivate fast and will also soon reach the Heavenly River Realm. The Heavenly River Pill will be useful to you too," insisted Mo Xiaolang.

"Alright, we'll take them now and talk later." Long Chen knew that Mo Xiaolang was a little stubborn, and if he didn't agree, Mo Xiaolang wouldn't touch the pills. The Burning Heaven Mountain Range was a strange place, so hanging around for too long was a bad idea.

Mo Xiaolang sighed in relief when Long Chen agreed, then he took the pills. Long Chen examined their surroundings and noticed a small crack on the ground. It was very tiny, and if he hadn't searched deliberately, he would not have found it.

*Did these pills fly out of this crack? The light from just now also came from it. And now the crack has closed?* Long Chen was in deep thought.

He stomped his foot gently and realized that the ground was very hard, even as hard as steel. There could not be an empty space beneath.

"Big Brother, what is it?" asked Mo Xiaolang when he saw Long Chen's strange behavior.

Chapter 244 - The Return of Royalty

"I'm guessing that the Heavenly River Pills and that colorful ray came out of this crack. But the crack isn't doing anything now." As Long Chen spoke, he took out his Azure Dragon Halberd. It contained a lot of energy and was made of an extraordinarily sharp material.

*Clang!* Long Chen stabbed it into the crack. The ground was indeed as hard as steel, so despite his great strength, the halberd only penetrated about centimeters into the ground.

"A crack?" Mo Xiaolang leaned over.

"Based on the sound, there should be a hard layer of soil at least a hundred meters thick. I don't think we will get anything if I just dig using the Azure Dragon Halberd. But I don't know if that strange phenomenon will happen again. Let's wait here for a while and see if we get anything else," said Long Chen.

"Alright." Mo Xiaolang nodded.

They had initially decided to hurry off after taking the pills, but there might be more Heavenly River Pills. Even though it was a little dangerous, the duo decided to stay.

After about an hour, Mo Xiaolang suddenly exclaimed in a low voice and Long Chen hurried over. "What happened?"

"That crack! It has completely disappeared!" said Mo Xiaolang .

Long Chen examined the ground closely and indeed, it had disappeared. This meant that the surface of the ground was moving with time.

"Should we leave?" asked Mo Xiaolang.

"We'll wait a little longer," Long Chen responded after some thought.

They stayed for a while longer. At that point, Long Chen was prepared to leave. The Heavenly River Pills were already a great surprise.

However, another colorful ray appeared in the sky and disappeared in a second.

That ray had appeared in another spot, though it was still in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. They looked at each other and accelerated, rushing towards its source. This time, they arrived much quicker than before and found three glowing Heavenly River Pills.

They approached, took the pills, and then rushed to a crack. The crack was next to the pills, and when Long Chen first saw it, it was the width of a palm. When he looked down into it, it was pitch-black and he could not see anything.

However, the crack was narrowing at a rate detectable by the naked eye. It was decelerating though, and when it was a finger's width wide, he could no longer visibly see the ground moving.

The three pills were all they got from it.

"Big Brother, do you think there are more Heavenly River Pills in the crack?" Mo Xiaolang asked.

"Probably a lot more, but we can't do anything. The crack has disappeared. Let's wait here and see if another ray appears," said Long Chen.

The Heavenly River Pills must have come from the ground. Two pills had appeared earlier, and now three. This meant that there might be an infinite supply! As long as they had enough Heavenly River Pills, both of them would be able to cultivate at the Heavenly River Realm with no obstacles.

This was a huge opportunity, so Long Chen dared not slack off.

And just like that, they stayed in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range for ten days. They obtained a total of thirty-four Heavenly River Pills during that time. Splitting them in half, both of them ended up with seventeen. Heavenly River Pills were worth much more than divine jades, so even though Long Chen only had seventeen, very few people in Yuanling City were richer than him.

Even the Azure Dragon Patriarch would take one and a half years to refine seventeen pills, plus he would need to use them to cultivate. That was why he would not have seventeen pills on hand.

They knew that there were more treasures waiting in the strange cracks of the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. But no matter what Long Chen tried, he had no way to retrieve more pills from within the cracks. So he had no choice but to leave it be.

During the first few days, the rays appeared fairly frequently. However, the gap between appearance rose to two to three days later on. The number of pills decreased too. On the tenth day, Long Chen decided to leave this place for the moment.

The battle of the ancient ruins would begin soon, and they had spent a lot of time on the Heavenly River Pills. If they did not return now, it could affect their participation. To Long Chen, becoming an Immortal Guard and thus obtaining the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit was more important than everything else.

“We can only investigate the Burning Heaven Mountain Range’s secrets after the ancient ruins battle ends. I hope it hasn’t ended by then. Xiaolang, let’s go,” said Long Chen.

They traveled back to the Desolate Mountains, where the Savage Wind Peng they had borrowed was.

“Right, do you know where the ancient ruins are?” he asked when they walked out of the Desolate Beastlands.

“I don’t. The ancient ruins were discovered by the royal family, so it is being kept a secret. They’re worried people will go there to scout for information,” said Mo Xiaolang.

The Savage Wind Peng ascended into the air with Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang, and they headed in the direction of Yuanling City.

Long Chen had received two main things from this trip: first were the Heavenly River Pills, which would greatly help him enter the Heavenly River Realm. Second was the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Technique.

*That bitch Dongfang Xuanyu better not let me catch her. Or I’ll make her wish she was never born.* He had almost died because of her, so he kept this grudge in his heart.

“Right, Xiaolang, how strong is the Ninth Prince?” Long Chen suddenly asked.

“The princes of the royal family are usually at the Heavenly River Realm and above. Although the Ninth Prince is not very famous, no one in Yuanling City is a match for him. He’s here to recruit an Immortal Guard, but that’s not actually his task. His real purpose is to scare border factions like the Lingwu family by flexing the royal family’s power.”

Mo Xiaolang analyzed their motives clearly.

Long Chen looked at the white jade-like city on the horizon in a daze. It was such a beautiful place. What storm awaited him there?

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Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang arrived at the Silver family's compound on the Savage Wind Peng's back. When they had just arrived, an elegant girl looked at them smilingly with concern in her eyes.

"Xiaolang, Long Chen, you're finally back! The Patriarchs have come here so many times in the past few days. I think they're so worried, their mustaches have curled upwards!" said Yin Mengyao with a small smile.

"Sister Mengyao, any recent updates on Yuanling City?" asked Long Chen after sitting in a pavilion.

"This morning, the old Patriarch and a few elders, along with some outstanding disciples, went to welcome the Ninth Prince. The rest of them will return after escorting the Ninth Prince to the Jade Royal Palace. I heard there will be a grand feast tonight, and the Azure Dragon Patriarch said to go meet him immediately after you arrive. You guys must join this feast."

"Jade Royal Palace?" Neither of them knew where that was.

"It is a palace that the three main factions of Yuanling City contributed resources to build a month ago. It was specifically built for the Ninth Prince. I hear that there's divine jade and precious treasures everywhere inside, much grander than the Lingwu family's buildings. The three factions have spent a lot of resources just to please the Ninth Prince. But I hear that the Ninth Prince really likes the palace and even promised to stay there often."

The Ninth Prince's visit to Yuanling City would be one month long at most, yet the three main factions had built a palace just for him. This meant that despite Yuanling City being considerably far from the Biyang Imperial Capital, they were still afraid of the royal family.

*It looks like the royal family is quite scary. It'll be difficult to take revenge for Xiaolang,* thought Long Chen.

"It'll be evening soon. You two should go see the Azure Dragon Patriarch. Your disappearance made him very anxious, so his mood is very unstable," said Yin Mengyao worriedly.

Long Chen smirked to himself. That old geezer definitely didn't know that his daughter had sent people to assassinate Long Chen. If she had succeeded, Long Chen would never have returned and Mo Xiaolang would probably have slaughtered his way back here.

"Xiaolang, let's go. Let's see how powerful the Ninth Prince is. He must have three heads and six arms if he can make the three factions bend their knees like they saw their fathers," Long Chen mused.

"Long Chen, be careful with your words in front of them." Yin Mengyao furrowed her brows.

“Don’t worry, I know my limits.”

Then they both went to the Eastern Azure Dragon family. Long Chen didn’t go to the main administrative area, the Xuanfeng Pavilion, but rather went straight to the Xuanyu Pavilion. It was completely empty. The ancient ruins were about to be opened, so the other youths had stopped cultivating.

Here, Long Chen sensed Dongfang Xuanyu’s aura. When they stepped in, Dongfang Xuanyu rushed out. Her face changed when she saw Long Chen.

“Why are you scared? Unless ... you did something that made you feel guilty?” Long Chen said darkly, taking a few steps forward.

“What do you mean by that?” Dongfang Xuanyu replied. She had secretly investigated and learned of Chu Tianxiong and Jin Luan’s deaths. She also knew that Long Chen had snatched away the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. In the past, she was no match for him, but now she was helpless.

However, this was the Lingwu family, so she had people protecting her. That was why she boldly refused to admit it.

“Don’t you dare act dumb in front of me, Dongfang Xuanyu! I showed you mercy once, yet you tried to kill me. This is your fault! I am not killing you now because I have more important things to do, but don’t you let me get a chance, because I’ll make you regret being born.”

Then Long Chen left.

Dongfang Xuanyu trembled greatly, feeling as if she had fallen into an icy pool.

Chapter 245 - Emperor Yuan and the Dawn Trading Alliance Chairman

The Azure Dragon Patriarch was quickly notified of Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang’s arrival. When Long Chen had just exited the Xuanyu Pavilion, the Patriarch appeared in front of him with a *whoosh* and glared coldly. “What did you do to Xuanyu?”

“She’s your daughter, would I dare do anything to her?” Long Chen replied with a question. If he touched Dongfang Xuanyu, it would be a gesture of great disrespect to the Azure Dragon Patriarch. For the sake of his future plans, he held it in.

“Good. I heard you took Li Ziling’s Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul? Long Chen, you have ruined the Lingwu family’s big plans for your own selfish benefit!” The Azure Dragon Patriarch was extremely displeased with Long Chen’s actions.

“Did the Lingwu family intend to collaborate with the Dawn Trading Alliance? But the relationship turned sour because of me?” Long Chen instantly guessed what he was about to say.

“You’ve guessed correctly. The other Patriarchs and myself have made extensive preparations to collaborate with them, yet it was all for nothing because of you!” he said.

“You’ll have to blame your daughter for this. She was the one who told me about the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul at the Fire Thunder Mountain Range, and she even sent people to murder me! If I wasn’t smart, I wouldn’t be standing in front of you right now. You old geezer, let me tell you this: if anything happens to me, my master will annihilate your whole family immediately!”

When he mentioned Li Xuanji, the Azure Dragon Patriarch’s face changed. He did not even rage when Long Chen called him an old geezer.

After a long pause, he changed the topic and said, “Tonight, we will have a grand feast at the Jade Palace to welcome the Ninth Prince. All the youth disciples who will enter the ancient ruins must go. You two stay here for the time being, and I will come get you when the time comes. The Ninth Prince holds a high status. You two should know how to handle this.”

Then the Azure Dragon Patriarch left.

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang looked at each other and nodded.

“I haven’t met a person from the Imperial Capital in so long.” Mo Xiaolang sighed.

Night fell quickly.

The busiest place in Yuanling City tonight was the newly erected Jade Royal Palace. It was the most lavish and extravagant place in the entire city, and the cost of building it was astronomical. However, the three factions had not even furrowed their brows when spending all that money.

Yuanling City was a minor faction after all, and it was very rare for people from the Imperial Capital to visit. This was the best opportunity to leave a good impression.

Colorful lanterns and streamers hung everywhere in the Jade Royal Palace, though most of the light came from shining divine jades and precious gemstones. They emitted a soft glow, making the place look beautiful.

Within the largest building of the Jade Royal Palace, also called the Jade Royal Hall, the three main factions were present. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang were sitting in a corner in the designated Lingwu area, keeping a low profile. There was no reason for them to attend this event other than to get to know many legendary characters.

Long Chen knew most of the people from the Lingwu family, though two elders he hadn’t seen before attracted his attention. They were in the seats meant for people of the same rank as the Azure Dragon Patriarch, so they were the legendary Vermilion Bird Patriarch and the White Tiger Patriarch. The Vermilion Bird family’s head was a lady, and although she was of similar age to the other Patriarchs, she cared for her appearance well. That was why with her black hair and sophisticated features, she looked like she was in her forties.

The leaders of the Dawn Trading Alliance were headed by a plump old man. His face glowed red and he was very fat, as if he could be knocked over by a kick. However, Long Chen knew that he

was a cultivator at the Heavenly River Realm. Plus, he was the head of his powerful faction. There were two Heavenly River Realm cultivators in the Dawn Trading Alliance, and the other was the alliance's head emissary, who had been the old man's good friend for many years.

Li Ziling and Li Qingling were with the Dawn Trading Alliance's group.

But Long Chen paid more attention to the Beast Soul Palace's side. This was his first time truly meeting a group of Beast Warriors. They radiated killing intent and brutality, qualities that were unique to demonic beasts. Upon closer inspection, he could see blood in the depths of their eyes. They looked like normal people, but they gave off the feeling of demonic beasts laying low for their next kill, making people's scalps go numb and attracting attention.

Long Chen knew that the legendary number one master of Yuanling City was not one of Lingwu's four Patriarchs, nor was it the Dawn Trading Alliance's fat old man and head emissary. It was the only Heavenly River Realm cultivator in Yuandi City, Emperor Yuan. This was what every head of the Beast Soul Palace was called.

The old man in question was easy to spot. If the members of the Beast Soul Palace were like demonic beasts, then he was the leader of the pack, attracting gazes instantly. The incumbent Emperor Yuan's age was similar to that of the Azure Dragon Patriarch and the others, but from the outside, he looked more like the Azure Dragon Patriarch's son, Dongfang Xuanfeng. With black hair, dark eyes, and a wrinkle-less face, he still possessed a vibrant life force.

"That person is indeed powerful. Even the Azure Dragon Patriarch's aura is weaker than his." When Long Chen saw Emperor Yuan, he felt a sudden stinging pain in his eyes and quickly turned away, not daring to look again.

"There are three generations living in the Beast Soul Palace. The strongest of each generation has their own title, namely Emperor Yuan, King Yuan, and Prince Yuan. The one who will participate in the ancient ruins battle is Prince Yuan, Yan Danqing. He is also ranked first on the Potential Ranking Board," explained Mo Xiaolang by Long Chen's ear.

Long Chen finally noticed the teenage boy sitting one step below Emperor Yuan. He was basically a younger version of Emperor Yuan, and with some time, he should be able to become just as powerful. However, he was terrifying enough now. At least he was ahead of every other youth in Yuanling City.

When Long Chen looked at Prince Yuan, the other party also looked in his direction, though his gaze landed on Mo Xiaolang. After they both eyed each other for a while, Prince Yuan glared coldly. When his elders started to chat with him, he turned and no longer looked around.

"Xiaolang, it looks like you're the only one he considers an opponent." Long Chen chuckled.

"That's because he doesn't know how strong my brother is," said Mo Xiaolang.

"This is bad. You've only been with me for a short time, yet you've already learned how to kiss ass?" mused Long Chen.

Mo Xiaolang felt awkward, not knowing what to say.

At this moment, the head of the four Lingwu Patriarchs, the Azure Dragon Patriarch, was engaged in an indirect battle against the Dawn Trading Alliance's fat old man, Li Wudi, and Emperor Yuan. They targeted each other with words, making implicit insults.

“Brother Dongfang, I hear that your clan produced a disciple called Long Chen ... He's something! He snatched the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul right out of my Lingzi'er's hands and even injured Qingling!” The fat old man squinted, targeting the Azure Dragon Patriarch immediately.

Not many people knew of this, so when Li Wudi mentioned it, everyone searched and found Long Chen in the corner, giving him shocked gazes. When the masters discovered that Long Chen was merely at the initial Heaven Core Realm, they were shocked and speechless. Even Emperor Yuan regarded Long Chen for a long while.

Long Chen had made a huge mess, and it would be difficult for the Azure Dragon Patriarch to pick up the pieces. Long Chen did not feel any pressure at all and answered in his place. “It is only natural that treasures should be given to the strongest cultivators so as to not insult its value. Alliance Chairman, I'm sure you understand this simple concept. Even the battle over the ancient ruins' inheritance—is that not a battle of strength?”

Long Chen was too brave. He did not actually have a right to speak there, but not only had he spoken, he had done so in such an arrogant tone that Li Wudi did not even know how to respond. Li Wudi laughed, his flesh trembling, then he said, “What a witty brat! He has a quick mind too. I just wonder, how is your cultivation going?”

“It's fine,” said Long Chen humbly.

Such a quick answer made everyone almost vomit blood.

Li Ziling could stand it no longer. *Whoosh!* She shot up from her seat and pointed at him, exclaiming, “You bastard! You took the chance to attack when I was exhausted after I suppressed the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul! You even ambushed my younger brother to threaten me! You committed such a lowly crime, yet you dare act so arrogantly here today! Fight me here and now if you have the balls to! Let's see who is truly the superior one!”

Li Ziling had always been a direct person. Everyone looked at Long Chen, wondering how he would respond. It was embarrassing when a woman said that a man had no balls.

But Long Chen was not afraid at all. He laughed and said, “That's a strange thing to say, Miss Ziling! We can't prove whether I have balls or not here—we'd have to prove it in bed! Miss, is this all because you think I'm handsome? Are you asking for a chance to bed me?”

Long Chen's shameless response allowed him to dodge her question easily; he could even tease her at the same time. Everyone was completely impressed. However, the people from the Dawn Trading Alliance were furious.

“Shut your mouth, Long Chen!” bellowed the Azure Dragon Patriarch before the alliance members exploded. Long Chen smiled nonchalantly and sat down. Other than Li Wudi, many alliance members stood up and glared coldly in the direction of

the Lingwu family. Everyone knew that the relationship between the Lingwu family and the Dawn Trading Alliance, which had taken massive effort to build, was completely broken.

“Long Chen ... ” Li Ziling’s face was green with rage and she trembled all over. She glared at him and said through gritted teeth, “You have humiliated me today, so I will kill you in the future. I will use your blood and flesh to wash away the humiliation you made me feel!”

The killing intent in her eyes scared everyone into silence.

“Is it that serious? It’s not like I sexually harassed you in public,” Long Chen mumbled softly, rolling his eyes. The girl thought too highly of herself.

Mo Xiaolang saw that the conflict was going to continue, so he tugged at Long Chen and whispered, “Stop talking. The Ninth Prince is here.”

#### Chapter 246 - The Ninth Prince

When Long Chen heard that the Ninth Prince was coming, he shut his mouth even though he was having a great time insulting Li Ziling. He was smart, so he knew who he could and could not afford to offend. With the Lingwu family behind him, he could anger Li Ziling. However, an important figure from the Biyang Imperial Capital like the Ninth Prince was not someone he would dare to offend.

Also hearing the news, Li Ziling, whose face was green with rage, was also tugged down to her seat by Li Wudi next to her. When he saw that Li Ziling was still furious, he said in a low voice, “Ziling’er, you must learn to contain your anger. You’ll be going to the ancient ruins the day after tomorrow. Instead of arguing here, you should plan how to vent your anger there.”

“Grandfather, I understand. I want to kill him there. If I had not been exhausted, even a hundred Long Chens would’ve been no match for me,” said Li Ziling, calming herself down.

“You’re one of the top three cultivators of Yuanling City’s younger generation, why would you get angry over a small character like that? Remember, Yan Danqing and Mo Xiaolang are your true opponents. Don’t lose sight of the prize over a small distraction,” said Li Wudi.

“Yes, I have learned my lesson.”

When Li Wudi heard her, he smiled with pride. Then his gaze turned along with everyone else towards the depths of the Jade Royal Palace. There were two figures walking out, and they could quickly make out their faces in the bright lights of the palace.

Long Chen eyed the two of them carefully. The person walking behind was wearing all black. His hair was black with streaks of white, combed back tightly into a bun so not even a strand was out of place. His back was bent, so clearly his position was beneath the person walking in front. Long Chen guessed that the black-clothed old man was something like a butler.

The young man in front surprised Long Chen. He was about twenty years of age, wearing luxurious, black and white brocade clothing. He had a tall nose with clearly defined brows, his skin as fair as white jade, radiating sophistication. He was handsome and confident, his beauty on par with Dongfang Xuanxiao's. Compared to Dongfang Xuanxiao, however, he had an aura that shook the onlooker to their core.

Long Chen found it difficult to describe his aura. From his eyes to his fingers, all Long Chen could see was one thing—a sword. This man was like a sharp sword. Although he did not put his strength on display, hints of Sword Qi radiated in all directions. Everyone felt a prickling sensation on their skin.

*Sword Qi. It's as if he's a human being made out of Sword Qi.* Long Chen was shaken. It was clear that the Ninth Prince was a Heavenly River Realm master, and he definitely was no weaker than the most powerful cultivator present, Emperor Yuan.

Indeed, he's from the Biyang Imperial Capital. That place is one tier higher than Yuanling City, thought Long Chen. The feeling he had was the same as when he was in Baiyang Town looking at masters from Yuanling City. His heart was filled with reverence, and before he had the capability of seeing this person as an equal, he chose to lay low.

When the Ninth Prince arrived, he sat down in his seat with a smile on his face and his gaze swept across the crowd. He had completely recalled all of the Sword Qi on his body, so his gaze looked as warm and friendly as spring. His eyes resembled the prettiest stars in the sky, and some of the girls swooned when they met his gentle gaze.

Everyone stood up and quickly left their seats, bowing their heads in respect.

“Greetings, Your Highness the Ninth Prince!”

Long Chen imitated everyone else and looked practiced. However, he noticed that Mo Xiaolang was a bit stiff. It seemed that he held a grudge against everyone in the royal family. Even though the Ninth Prince had nothing to do with the annihilation of his family, he still had royal blood running through his veins.

“Please take your seats, everyone. There's no need for formalities,” said the Ninth Prince with a smile, looking around. His smile was like a spring breeze, making people feel close to him.

As Long Chen sat down, he eyed the Ninth Prince secretly.

*When he made his entrance, he deliberately showed a little of his power to scare us. Now he's treating us with gentle friendliness. He controls the carrot and the stick well, making everyone both respect and fear him. It seems he has many tricks up his sleeves, though he does have the signs of a royal family member. Both his status and capabilities make him powerful, so if I want to become an Immortal Guard, it will be most dependent on him. No matter what happens, I must act humble and build a good relationship with him.* Long Chen thought.

He wasn't even this careful when he first met Mo Xiaolang. Right now, he felt like an ant in front of the Ninth Prince.

At the time, Xiaolang was also much stronger than I was, but now he's my best friend. If the Ninth Prince isn't some evil-hearted guy, I can try climbing this very tall mountain.

While Long Chen was privately planning, the Azure Dragon Patriarch and the rest were already starting to greet the Ninth Prince. The grand feast had officially started, and countless precious, rare foods were served. However, most people did not eat, only watching the three faction leaders wine and dine the Ninth Prince, chatting away happily.

Time passed slowly as everyone watched the Ninth Prince with forced smiles. The Azure Dragon Patriarch and the Ninth Prince were chatting away happily. It did not matter if it was the Azure Dragon Patriarch, Li Wudi, or Emperor Yuan, they all called him "Your Highness." The Ninth Prince looked displeased and said, "You three are all my elders, and this is not the Biyang Imperial Capital. I'm just here to relax and enjoy myself, so there's no need to be so formal. My name is Lin Cangtian, so you can call me Cangtian."

"No, no! Ninth Prince, we can't toss away formalities! If the Sword Emperor found out that we called you by your name, our heads would be on the ground," said the Azure Dragon Patriarch hurriedly.

"What Brother Dongfang says is true. It would be very inappropriate," said Li Wudi hurriedly.

"Since you both think so, then I shall not insist. Hehe, it's getting late. It's time for the feast to end. I'm very satisfied with the welcome I've received," said Lin Cangtian with a faint smile.

"Yuanling City is a poor place, so it doesn't have anything good. Our welcome wasn't good enough," said Li Wudi of the Dawn Trading Alliance with a smile.

"You're being too humble, Chairman Li." The Ninth Prince chuckled. Then he recalled something and asked the Azure Dragon Patriarch, "Patriarch Dongfang, I once came to Yuanling City when I was young. At the time, there was a guy named Jin something, and I really liked him. May I know where he is?"

The last time he came to Yuanling City, the Ninth Prince was here to hide from some trouble. At the time, he was one of the less-welcomed princes. Now, everything was different because while he was not the strongest, he had some power in the Biyang Imperial Capital.

When he first came to Yuanling City, the cunning Jin Luan had offered Lin Cangtian his daughter, planning to skyrocket his status from this. That was Lin Cangtian's first taste of a woman, so naturally there was some emotion tied to it. However, he returned to the Biyang Imperial Capital later and soon forgot about this minor matter. Now that he was in Yuanling City, he suddenly remembered and decided to ask about the man.

Many people in the Eastern Azure Dragon family knew about this, but they didn't think much of it. Dongfang Xuanyu had remembered this incident when Long Chen left for the Fire Thunder Mountain Range, which was why she had recruited Jin Luan and Chu Tianxiong. If the Firestorm Talisman could not kill Long Chen, then she thought the Ninth Prince would finish him off. Wouldn't that guarantee Long Chen's death?

Not many people knew of the full story, but almost everyone present knew that Long Chen had killed Jin Luan.

The Ninth Prince had only asked the question casually, but when everyone fell silent and they looked at each other, he lost interest and said, "You guys don't know him? I might have remembered wrongly. Perhaps he's dead." Then he shrugged it off.

However, Long Chen grew cautious because he sensed that something was off. Because the Azure Dragon Patriarch and the others all glanced at him. That was when Li Ziling, who was sitting opposite them, suddenly spoke with excitement in her eyes. "Your Highness, I know who you're talking about. It's Jin Luan, the Grand Elder of the Lingwu family's Golden family! However, he was killed by Long Chen just a few weeks ago!"

Everyone drew in a sharp breath when she spoke. They then looked at Long Chen pitifully. From their perspective, a person whom the Ninth Prince remembered had been killed by Long Chen, meaning Long Chen was going to die.

Long Chen was initially confused, but he very quickly realized the Ninth Prince was talking about Jin Luan. This was completely beyond his expectation. He didn't know that Jin Luan and the Ninth Prince once had a relationship. In that case, this was terrible news ...

Seeing everyone's strange looks, Mo Xiaolang sensed that the situation had turned south. He grabbed Long Chen's arm, clearly very nervous. If the Ninth Prince made a move, then it would be a duel to the death for them tonight.

And they would likely die.

When Li Ziling finished speaking, she smiled coldly at Long Chen, gloating.

Everyone was staring at Long Chen. The Ninth Prince didn't even have to ask and already knew who Long Chen was.

Long Chen's heart was in his throat, waiting for the final judgment made by the young man, who was eyeing him with interest. He thought he had dealt with the assassins Dongfang Xuanyu had sent him, but he hadn't expected that bitch to make such a powerful move. This trump card had been hidden from sight, and from this, he could see that she was evil.

"Haha ..." The Ninth Prince suddenly laughed and patted the armrests of his chair. "You're only at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, yet you killed a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator. Not bad, kid! I'm looking forward to your performance at the Burning Heaven Secret Realm."

Then he stood up and turned around nonchalantly. He moved his foot and then disappeared.

Everyone looked at each other, all of them impressed by Long Chen's luck. Not many people were happy with his brush with death, but many hung their heads in sorrow, or rage. Li Ziling initially thought he'd die for sure, but was frustrated that he had survived.

After surviving the ordeal with ease, Long Chen was left with countless questions. Based on logic, he should just be an ant to the prince, so why hadn't the prince killed him?

Also, was the Burning Heaven Secret Realm the name of the ancient ruins?

## Chapter 247 - Burning Heaven Secret Realm

The Ninth Prince's welcome feast had come to an end, seeing as the prince had left. Long Chen returned to the Lingwu family nervously. He had figured out why the Ninth Prince hadn't touched him. Perhaps he was trying to appear friendly, as he had just arrived in Yuanling City and it was not a good time to kill anyone. That was why he had survived.

Long Chen had decided how he would deal with Dongfang Xuanyu, the one who had schemed to kill him. However, the Burning Heaven Secret Realm would open the day after tomorrow, and he knew his priorities, so he decided to let this grudge go for the moment and focus on winning the inheritance.

However, he was puzzled over the name of the Burning Heaven Secret Realm.

"Do you know where the Burning Heaven Secret Realm is?" Long Chen asked the Azure Dragon Patriarch on the way back.

"That was the first time the name of the ancient ruins was announced. How would I know where it is?" said the Azure Dragon Patriarch. Looking at Long Chen, he recalled the incident with Dongfang Xuanyu and said with furrowed brows, "Long Chen, I know that what Xuanyu did was over the line, but you're fine now. Seeing as the Lingwu family has treated you decently, let her go, alright?"

"Why would a man hold such a small grudge?" Long Chen laughed and called for Mo Xiaolang, running after him and leaving the rest of the Lingwu members behind.

The others were surprised at Long Chen's nonchalant assent to cooperate. The Black Tortoise Patriarch frowned and said, "Big Brother, the kid doesn't look as generous as that. I think he'll look for a chance to make a move."

"What can I do? He has that mysterious lady protecting him, and Mo Xiaolang looks like he treats Long Chen as his leader. How could we touch him?" The Azure Dragon Patriarch was exasperated.

Everyone felt helpless when he mentioned that mysterious woman.

That was when Beitang Mo said, "What lady? She hasn't appeared in a long time. Long Chen said that she was his master, but is it true? Grandfather, could he be tricking us again?"

When Beitang Mo questioned it, everyone thought for a moment and realized that it was possible. However, they did not dare to test if it was true before the Burning Heaven Secret Realm was opened.

"Let's not deal with that brat Long Chen yet. Let him sell his life for our family in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm first. If we want to kill him, let the Beast Soul Palace and the Dawn Trade Alliance do it. Borrowing a knife for a murder is the best way to go," mused the Azure Dragon Patriarch.

Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen looked at each other, exasperated at how cautious their elders were.

“The Burning Heaven Secret Realm will be opened the day after tomorrow. There’ll be many intense battles then. Go back and rest well, then make the Lingwu family proud!”

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“Big Brother, I feel like the name ‘Burning Heaven Secret Realm’ is a little familiar,” said Mo Xiaolang in puzzlement in the Silver family quarters, scratching his head.

“Not just a little. I think it’s super familiar. I have an intermediate Black-tier combat technique called the Burning Devil Sun Fist, which I retrieved in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. Both of them have similar names. Plus, both of us noticed the strange phenomena at the Burning Heaven Mountain Range a few days ago, so I’m guessing the Burning Heaven Secret Realm is related to the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. Maybe it’s underneath it!” said Long Chen solemnly.

Long Chen had made the connection when he first heard the name.

“After hearing your explanation, I think the Burning Heaven Secret Realm is very special. We have not even entered it yet, yet we’ve retrieved thirty-four Heavenly River Pills. There must be a lot more stuff inside.” Mo Xiaolang grew excited.

He was like Long Chen, also yearning to become stronger.

“Mhm, that’s right. Xiaolang, you’ve been using the Heavenly River Pills. How were they?” asked Long Chen.

“I used one pill. The star power inside is very powerful, but I still cannot open the starry sky within my body.[1] I’m guessing that I need many pills to succeed,” he replied with a frown.

“That’s fine. We’ll collect as many pills as possible for you to break through!” said Long Chen with a grin.

“What about you?” asked Mo Xiaolang.

“You fool, who will be able to take the Heavenly River Pills from you when you reach the Heavenly River Realm? It’ll be easy to get pills from then on. When that happens, I’ll get however many I need,” laughed Long Chen.

Then he turned his gaze towards the direction of the Desolate Mountains of Baiyang Town.

A true war was about to begin.

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Two days passed quickly. Early in the morning, Long Chen and the rest of the candidates selected to enter the Burning Heaven Secret Realm were already gathered outside the Jade Royal Palace.

Leading the group were the four Patriarchs. As for the Dawn Trading Alliance, Li Wudi and the head emissary brought five teenagers with them, while Emperor Yuan brought eight teenagers.

There were twenty-three people in total. The Lingwu family had ten participants, the Beast Soul Palace eight, and the Dawn Trade Alliance five. This also reflected the ratio of power the three factions held.

The battle was about to begin. Everyone looked solemn.

Long Chen could faintly sense intense hatred coming from two sources, one being the Lingwu family's Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen, while the other was the five people of the Dawn Trading Alliance.

*It looks like a huge battle against them will be unavoidable in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm,* thought Long Chen. His strength had improved greatly after merging with the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. Very soon, it would be evident who the strongest cultivator truly was.

Suddenly, a shrill beast's cry came from within the Jade Royal Palace. Some of them felt a piercing pain in their ears from its shrillness, furrowing their brows. If its cry could make them feel miserable, then the beast was sure to be quite powerful.

A moment later, a gigantic demonic beast flew out of the palace, its fleshy wings spread wide. It was not an avian-type beast, though its size was similar to the Savage Wind Peng. It had sharp claws and teeth, along with green scales covering its whole body. All these characteristics proved that it was a fierce beast several times stronger than a tame Savage Wind Peng.

"This is the Category Nine Black-tier Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon, a beast that is extremely hard to defeat. Even I find it very difficult to kill," said Mo Xiaolang, frowning.

"Is that the Ninth Prince's mount?" asked Long Chen.

"Probably."

The fact that the Ninth Prince could tame a Category Nine Black-tier beast to be his mount showed just how awesome he was. Long Chen could only admire a person of this status.

As they spoke, the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon was already flying above them. It let out several deafening cries, causing the Savage Wind Peng birds on the ground below to tremble in fear, unable to move.

The Ninth Prince's clear voice came above. "Our destination is the Desolate Beastlands. Everyone, follow me."

"Understood!" Everyone from the three factions replied hurriedly, then they quickly got on the backs of Savage Wind Pengs. Unfortunately, with the Dragon Falcon above, they did not dare move at all.

"Useless idiots." The Azure Dragon Patriarch was furious and panicked.

When the Ninth Prince saw this, he merely gave a small smile and urged his Dragon Falcon to speed up. Then the Savage Wind Pengs at the bottom were finally willing to tail it from far behind.

Amidst the howling wind, Long Chen patted Mo Xiaolang's shoulder and said, "It looks like we guessed it right. The Burning Heaven Secret Realm is indeed in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range."

Mo Xiaolang nodded.

"This battle is an opportunity for us to become much more powerful. Let's do our best and fight alongside each other!" Long Chen was filled with confidence.

"Yes, Big Brother."

As the strong wind howled, time passed slowly and the people could not calm themselves down.

Hate, ambition, and anxiety were some of the emotions that filled their hearts.

Following the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon, they entered the Desolate Beastlands. This large piece of land was no longer a dangerous threat to Long Chen with his current strength.

"The Desolate Beastlands sit on the Cangyang Kingdon's soil. There are beasts ranging from Category One Yellow-tier to Category Nine Black-tier in here. My Moon Devouring Wolf beast soul from years ago was actually collected here. I was alone at the time and could only kill beasts one level above myself. If I had seniors present, I too could have used a Category Nine Black-tier demonic beast as my Primary Beast Soul. Then I would be like Yan Danqing, truly unleashing the potential of a Beast Warrior, unlike my current state. I may be a Beast Warrior now, but I'm fighting just like a normal cultivator," said Mo Xiaolang with a bitter smile.

Long Chen recalled his first time entering the Desolate Beastlands. He was terrified then. Just one Moon Devouring Wolf was enough to terrify him. But now he was not even afraid of demonic beasts countless times stronger than the Moon Devouring Wolf.

"You have two goals in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. One, collect enough Heavenly River Pills and break through to the Heavenly River Realm. Second, condense and cultivate an Earth-tier beast's beast soul. Am I right?" asked Long Chen.

"Yes." Mo Xiaolang nodded.

"But we have no access to higher-level Earth-tier beasts. Even if you make a breakthrough, you will only get a Category One Earth-tier demonic beast if you risk your life for it. In that case, wouldn't you end up in the same situation as right now?" asked Long Chen with a frown.

"I don't have a choice. Who would let me kill a Category Seven or Eight Earth-tier demonic beast? But I know that there is a Category One Earth-tier beast in the deepest part of the Desolate Beastlands, though it does not suit me." Mo Xiaolang was frustrated.

“Then let’s try our luck in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. Maybe a high-level Earth-tier beast will suddenly die and benefit us,” said Long Chen.

“Looks like that’s the only way.” Mo Xiaolang bitterly smiled.

They arrived at the Burning Heaven Mountain Range.

Everyone dismounted and looked at the black, barren mountain range.

“Is this the Burning Heaven Secret Realm?” The group was puzzled.

“This is only the entrance.” The Ninth Prince turned and swept his gaze across the group. “The Burning Heaven Secret Realm is the tomb of a master from the Middle Ages, called the Burning Heaven Emperor. His inheritance remains inside. Whoever gets his inheritance will be the victor, and also the Immortal Guard. Therefore, you must do your best ...”

“Yes, Your Highness!” everyone replied in unison.

*Burning Heaven Emperor?* Long Chen wondered if there was a connection between the Burning Heaven Secret Realm and the mysterious steel token. A human face had appeared in the flames when he learned the Burning Devil Sun Fist. Was that the Burning Heaven Emperor?

Long Chen faintly felt like the steel token would give him an advantage later.

#### Chapter 248 - Confidante

Long Chen had already done everything he could during his previous search for Heavenly River Pills at the Burning Heavens Mountain Range to uncover the secret held within its depths, but to no avail. Now, under everyone’s expectant gazes, the Ninth Prince was finally going to open the portal to the Burning Heaven Secret Realm.

“The Burning Heaven Secret Realm is a Miniverse, and its entrance is located in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. A powerful force is required to blast the entrance open, so everyone should stand back,” Lin Cangtian said with a cold voice.

Everyone stepped back, directly leaving the Burning Heaven Mountain Range altogether. Long Chen was with the group. He initially thought the Ninth Prince was going to do it himself, but the only person who stayed behind was actually the black-clothed old man who had followed him. This showed that the black-clothed old man was also a master at a high cultivation level, at least at the Heavenly River Realm.

After everyone was a distance away, their eyes were fixed on the old man. Although there was a huge distance between them, Long Chen could still feel powerful energy ripples coming from the old man’s body. Long Chen was convinced that if he approached the ripple, he would be flattened by its force.

Suddenly, a black light appeared in his fist. It flickered lightly in the beginning, but when he moved, it suddenly erupted into a gigantic image of a fist and blasted into the ground at lightning speed.

Rumble, rumble!

The ground shook violently. The earth and mountains shook and boulders rolled everywhere. Long Chen and the others almost fell. In front, a huge mass of soil had been blasted into the air and instantly blocked their field of vision, swallowing the old man. However, his fist attack was still causing the surface of the ground to shake.

“He made the ground shake with just one punch!” Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang looked at each other, shaken. From that move, Long Chen truly appreciated the strength of the Biyang Imperial Capital.

“Xiaolang, what do you think that old man’s cultivation level is?” whispered Long Chen.

“I’m guessing at least the Fourth River Stage,” said Mo Xiaolang weakly.

It was clear that taking revenge against the most powerful faction in the Biyang Imperial Capital, the royal family, would be extremely difficult.

The dust settled, and the black-clothed elder appeared in front of Lin Cangtian with a bow. “Your Highness, the portal to the Burning Heaven Secret Realm has been opened.”

“Well done.” Lin Cangtian nodded and turned to look at the heads of the three factions, as well as the twenty-three teenagers who were about to enter, with a smile. “The time has come, and I will not waste time talking nonsense! Treat this battle as a training opportunity, and the rules are ... There are no rules! Kill all you want! This is a battle of both wit and courage! I will only look at the final result, which is the person who receives the Burning Heaven Emperor’s inheritance!”

“Understood!”

Under Lin Cangtian’s lead, they all entered the Burning Heaven Mountain Range once more and headed to the spot where the black-clothed elder had punched. To their shock, there was a two-meter wide spiral in the ground. It looked like black water, though there were red flames burning on the surface.

No one could have imagined that the entrance would look like this.

“The three factions shall enter the Burning Heaven Secret Realm in three batches, and the realm will deliver you all to different places. Then the entrance will close. You have ten days in total. After that, I will open this entrance again and you all will sense the exit. If no one gets the inheritance in ten days, then unfortunately, no one will be recruited as an Immortal Guard. As for the right to rule, I will think of another way to decide it.”

Long Chen privately memorized his words.

The first batch to enter was the Dawn Trading Alliance participants, also the smallest batch. Under the watch of the alliance chairman, Li Ziling and the others leaped into the flaming whirlpool. Li Ziling had not looked at Long Chen once from beginning to the end, though her expression remained cold.

The second batch was naturally the people of the Beast Soul Palace. The eight disciples were Beast Warriors, but other than Yan Danqing, the cultivation levels of the others were average. Including Yan Danqing, there were only four people at the Human Core Realm. However, due to their beast souls, they had violent auras, making it clear that they were strong in combat.

The Lingwu family had the most participants and were the last to enter. The ten of them were divided into two groups. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang stood together, while the others also stood together with no intentions of operating with the duo.

“Long Chen, Mo Xiaolang. Don’t forget what you need to do there. After entering the Burning Heaven Secret Realm, you must cooperate with Tianchen and the others!” reminded the Azure Dragon Patriarch coldly before they entered.

“I’m willing, but your grandsons hate us,” Long Chen mused.

“Don’t worry about that. I’ve already talked to them. Work together and look out for each other,” said the Azure Dragon Patriarch.

Long Chen could choose to believe him, but when he glanced at Dongfang Tianchen, Beitang Mo, and the rest, they all looked at him coldly. Long Chen smirked to himself and did not say anything else. He and Mo Xiaolang entered the whirlpool. Under the elders’ encouragement, Dongfang Tianchen and the rest also jumped into the Burning Heaven Secret Realm.

Once the youths had all entered the Burning Heaven Secret Realm, the place was much emptier than before. Lin Cangtian wrung his hands and said, “You may all return. In ten days’ time, we shall witness a miracle.”

Then he called his Category Nine Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon and lifted off into the skies.

On the Dragon Falcon, the black-clothed old man sitting next to Lin Cangtian said, “Your Highness, is this all not too grand for what we need? The Imperial Capital has never lacked Immortal Guards, so recruiting guards from a small place like this is just meant to increase the local youths’ motivation to cultivate. There’s no need for you to personally attend the selection, right?”

“You don’t understand. The Imperial Capital has been chaotic recently, so it’s a good thing for me to get some rest here and avoid the chaos for a while. Then again, although the Burning Heaven Secret Realm is a small ancient ruin, there is something I’m interested in inside. I’m resting here, and they’re helping me get it out. Isn’t this amazing?” Lin Cangtian smiled.

“What is it?”

“During a training session, I found a map that marked this Burning Heaven Secret Realm. The map stated that this place contains the inheritance left behind by a cultivator called the Burning Heaven Emperor from the Middle Ages. However, I estimate that the guy was only at most a Category Seven or Eight Earth-tier, yet he dared call himself an emperor. How laughable. But, he did possess something remarkable.”

Lin Cangtian paused before he continued, “The map states that the Burning Heaven Emperor’s inheritance includes a gigantic sum of Heavenly River Pills and an intermediate Earth-tier defensive combat technique called the Nine Spinning Fire Shield.”

“Those two things aren’t enough to make you interested enough to come to Yuanling City, are they? I wonder, what is the remarkable thing you spoke of?” asked the black-clothed elder.

“It’s an advanced Earth-tier combat technique, considered a divine technique called Divine Fire Clones. Cultivating this technique allows the user to condense his Qi outside his body to create a fire clone, whose combat abilities depend on the cultivator’s strength. The stronger the cultivator, the more clones produced and the stronger they are. If I get the Divine Fire Clones technique, my strength will improve greatly,” said Lin Cangtian with reverence.

“If that is the case, why don’t you enter the Burning Heaven Secret Realm yourself? You would have better assurance,” questioned the black-clothed elder.

“I want to, but the Burning Heaven Emperor was probably a master who came from a small place like Yuanling City, and he left the inheritance possibly to nurture the younger generation. When he planned the tomb, he placed a seal from the Middle Ages. I am at the Heavenly River Realm right now, and the tomb would definitely break down if I entered, ruining my plans.”

“I see. In that case, you don’t even need to break a sweat for it. This is a smart plan, Your Highness.” The black-clothed elder was genuinely pleased with his master.

He had been puzzled over this event for a long time, and now Lin Cangtian had answered his doubts.

“Old Yan, have you noticed something?” Lin Cangtian suddenly asked.

“What is it?” The old man froze.

“I lack a close confidante. A true confidante who would risk his life for me,” he said mildly.

“Your Highness, I am willing to walk through fire for you. Am I not considered a confidante?” asked the old man in a panic.

“I don’t mean that. You are my right hand, and you are extremely capable. I’m referring to someone my age. There are so many young talents working alongside Eldest Brother and Fourth Brother, and all of them are stronger than me,” he remarked.

“That’s true. Your Highness, you are still young and inexperienced. You only started to grow stronger in recent times, unlike the other two princes, who have deep roots in the Imperial Capital. That’s how they developed huge factions,” said the old man.

“Old Yan, you must have read Long Chen’s details. In just half a year, he grew from having no cultivation to entering the Heavenly Core Realm. That guy must be an extraordinary prodigy that shines brightly when he needs to.” The corner of his lips curled upwards.

“Long Chen?” The elder froze and said, “Is that why you forgave him, Your Highness?” He was talking about Jin Luan’s death.

“Old Yan, you underestimate me. Jin Luan is such a minor character; is it really necessary for me to avenge him? As for Long Chen, we’ll have to see how he performs in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. If he can get the inheritance, I don’t mind giving him a boost!”

As Lin Cangtian spoke, he turned to look in the direction of the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. Far away, several Savage Wind Pengs flew, keeping their distance from the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon.

“I’ll also give him a one-way ticket, haha!” Lin Cangtian added.

#### Chapter 249 – Killing Inner Family Disciples

It was boiling hot.

This was the only thing Long Chen felt. After he entered the black whirlpool, he felt a gush of fire grabbing him tightly. The flames at the entrance were hot too, and if he had not protected himself using Qi in time, he could have been burnt.

He felt himself swimming through the sea of fire, and it was a miserable feeling. Fortunately, the intense heat disappeared soon after, though the surrounding temperature was still high.

When his eyes sprang open, he was surprised to find himself standing on some black soil. The ground was black like burnt charcoal, similar to the soil in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range, but much harder. Long Chen stepped on it, and it felt the same as stepping on steel, despite it being soil.

What differed from the Burning Heaven Mountain Range was that the temperature here was several times higher. A regular person would find it hard to survive for more than fifteen minutes.

He noticed flames all around him when he opened his eyes. The flames were in random shapes and sizes, even presenting different colors. The most common color was red, and the flames looked like flowers blooming in the black soil. Some flames even melded into each other to form walls, blocking one's vision and pathway.

With the flames nearly covering the ground completely, they couldn’t even find three square meters of open space, and some flames rose to heights of above two meters. Everyone had no choice but to tread very carefully. This was the Burning Heaven Secret Realm after all.

Long Chen first saw the fire, then he saw Mo Xiaolang next to him, who was equally shocked. Next, he spotted the other eight people of the Lingwu family not far away. As for the Beast Soul Palace and the Dawn Trading Alliance members, their whereabouts were unknown.

No one could orient themselves here, so for a moment, Long Chen did not know which direction he should go towards.

“Big Brother, should we be traveling with them?” Mo Xiaolang asked.

“Don’t we have enough problems already? Let’s go.” Long Chen had zero intentions of fighting alongside the Lingwu people. After answering Mo Xiaolang, he picked a direction and walked ahead.

“Stop right there!” He had just taken a few steps when the eight Lingwu youths started to surround him. Very quickly, they completely encircled Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang so they could not leave.

Out of the eight, the three people with Earth-tier Divine Weapons were the strongest, while Dongfang Tianchen and Tianxuan were at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, which was not weak. As for the ones who were at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, they were merely placeholders.

“What is the meaning of this?” Long Chen was a little taken aback that these brats dared block his way. He peered at them with interest, only to notice their cold expressions. It seemed that they had planned to surround him before they even entered the Burning Heaven Secret Realm, likely without permission from the Azure Dragon Patriarch and the rest.

“You’re asking for the meaning of this? Long Chen, don’t people call you a genius? Can’t you figure it out yourself?” said Dongfang Tianchen coldly, taking a step forward.

“I really have no clue. Unless ... Are you guys thinking of attacking me? You’ve got some guts,” said Long Chen. To be honest, he truly had not expected these brats to attack as soon as they entered the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. The combat abilities of him and Mo Xiaolang were already well-known, and even late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators were no match for him, not to mention Mo Xiaolang.

“Long Chen, other people might be able to withstand the humiliation you’ve made us endure, but we cannot. The Lingwu family is the number one clan of Yuanling City, yet a stray dog like you has stepped on our heads. We have been bearing it all because we were waiting for today,” said Dongfang Tianchen coldly.

“That’s right.” Beitang Mo also took a step forward. “The Azure Dragon Halberd belongs to the Lingwu family. Only when we have killed you will Tianchen get it. Once all four of us with the four great Divine Weapons work together, Yan Danqing and Li

Ziling will be no match for us. We still get the inheritance regardless, so we don't need trash like you!"

"Even if you get the Azure Dragon Halberd, you guys won't be able to use it." Long Chen could not understand these idiots at all.

"You're wrong. We can use it, and it's all thanks to you for letting the Azure Dragon Halberd recognize you as its master," said Dongfang Tianchen with a smirk. "I coincidentally learned that if I take the Qi belonging to the dead master of the Azure Dragon Halberd and then condense it into a Qi seed and plant it in my body, I can use the Azure Dragon Halberd for at least ten days!"

Long Chen realized that these brats had attacked without permission because they were eying the Azure Dragon Halberd. That was indeed a great idea, because if they killed Long Chen, not only could they resolve the hatred in their hearts, they could also use the combined power of the four Divine Weapons to deal with Yan Danqing and Li Ziling. Although the elders forbade them from doing this, and this was also a very risky move, they were willing to risk it all to wash away their humiliation and get the respect of their elders!

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang locked eyes. They knew that their first battle in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm would be against the Lingwu family's youths. Long Chen hated Beitang Mo to the bone, and he had not taken revenge for that one slap yet, so this was his chance!

"Xiaolang, we'll go for it! Let's show them how powerful we are!" Long Chen took a few steps back and laughed. The crowd felt goosebumps when they heard his laugh.

"That's right, Big Brother! We'll fight together!" Mo Xiaolang was excited.

When they saw that the duo was not afraid of death, Dongfang Tianchen and Beitang Mo looked at each other and commanded, "Everyone else, block Mo Xiaolang off! We only need fifteen minutes to kill Long Chen!"

Then the two of them charged furiously at Long Chen while everyone else rushed at Mo Xiaolang.

"Xiaolang, don't kill them. Give them some leeway," Long Chen instructed secretly.

He had to kill Beitang Mo. On the other hand, due to the conflict over the Azure Dragon Halberd, the fight with Dongfang Tianchen would clearly not end until one of them died. As for the others, Long Chen had less hatred towards them.

He had already faced Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen alone. His attention was attracted by Beitang Mo's weapon. It was a huge, black ax. The handle was more than two meters long and covered with a very hard, black turtle shell. The ax's blade looked evil, and it was as sharp as the Azure Dragon Halberd.

This was the Earth-tier Divine Weapon belonging to the Northern Black Tortoise family, the Black Tortoise Axe. All five great Divine Weapons of the Lingwu family were equal in strength, so when the ax was used, it provided the user with a boost that was similar to the Azure Dragon Halberd.

“Since you guys want the Azure Dragon Halberd so badly, I’ll let you all watch me use it.” With a flash, the Azure Dragon Halberd appeared in his hand.

The rest of the people had already surrounded Mo Xiaolang. Obeying Long Chen’s instructions, he merely toyed with them, though at superspeed. If he fought with full force, the three initial Heavenly Core Realm brats would die instantly!

Thanks to that, Long Chen could place his full focus on the two people in front of him.

“Beitang Mo, you slapped me once, so I shall give you a taste of my halberd. You may defend yourself, and if you survive it, I will show you mercy and let you live. As for you, Dongfang Tianchen, it’s alright if you want the Azure Dragon Halberd. If you survive one hit from it, I’ll give it to you!” Long Chen slashed the halberd in the air and charged at them.

“Arrogant!”

“He’s just bragging!”

Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen did not care about what he had said. Long Chen wanted to determine the victor in one move, and they did not want to waste time, so they used their most powerful attacks immediately.

Holding the Black Tortoise Axe with both hands, Beitang Mo leaped into the air and swung the ax down. It was as if a huge mountain was falling, and even the air trembled. A black glint from the ax formed an arc, and a monster with a snake head and tortoise body charged at Long Chen!

“Black Tortoise Combat Technique—Black Tortoise Reveal!”

A huge surge of power exploded, one that an average late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator would find hard to achieve. Beitang Mo with the Black Tortoise Axe could definitely defeat a cultivator like Dongfang Xuanyu.

Although Dongfang Tianchen did not have the Azure Dragon Halberd, the halberd in his hand was an extraordinary one. At least it was much more powerful than the Sun Halberd that Dongfang Tianyu once used. He leaped at Long Chen, slashing his halberd. His move created countless tiny dragon images that swirled around him. With a roar, the tiny dragons, which were shaped like halberd tips, all thrust towards Long Chen!

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Starsweep Dragon!”

This move made Long Chen’s lips curl up into a small smile.

“Is that Starsweep Dragon? Let me show you what the true Starsweep Dragon is.”

Long Chen’s tone was very calm, but when he swung his halberd in the air, the wind and clouds seemed to swirl and howl. He charged forward, and even more azure dragon images appeared around him. From an outsider’s perspective, this Starsweep Dragon was of much higher quality than Dongfang Tianchen’s rendition.

“How is that possible?” Not much time had passed since Long Chen had received the Azure Dragon Halberd, yet he was already able to use Starsweep Dragon. From this, they could see just how extraordinarily talented he was at cultivating techniques..

The immensely powerful Starsweep Dragon launched countless halberd tips at Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen. The wind howled manically, and the red flames around them were extinguished by the shockwaves!

Everyone’s faces changed when they saw how powerful the attack was. The surprised Dongfang Tianchen and Beitang Mo, and they did their best to drum up all the Qi they could before the suffocating attack arrived!

*We’re two mid Heavenly Core Realm cultivators! How could we be weaker than Long Chen, who is merely at the initial Heavenly Core Realm? The results of this duel are not set yet! Perhaps this brat only looks impressive, but actually has no substance!* With that thought, despite the massive discomfort in their hearts, the duo held out hope.

However, when they truly collided with Long Chen, they realized that they were too naive. Long Chen’s Starsweep Dragon held power that they could not imagine.

Chapter 250 - The Legend of the Moon Devouring Wolf

“Brother!”

“Mo!”

“Tianchen!”

The six people blocking Mo Xiaolang let out gut-wrenching screams. Their hearts turned cold and they no longer cared about Mo Xiaolang, the opponent who was toying with them. They rushed to the duo’s rescue.

To them, Long Chen looked like a powerful tornado as he manipulated the Azure Dragon Halberd wildly, slashing Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen’s attacks to pieces. Then the two ghostly-pale men were swallowed into the attack range of the halberd, the tornado spinning around them. Although there was no bloodshed yet, everyone knew it was coming.

Indeed, Long Chen had stopped attacking and took a few steps back, keeping away from them.

He had not even used his most powerful form, the Dragon Soul Transformation, for this fight.

When they saw Long Chen’s cold gaze, the Lingwu members knew that it was likely a tragedy. Dongfang Tianchen and Beitang Mo stood on the spot, in a daze. Their eyes were wide, their faces filled with disbelief.

Clang!

The Black Tortoise Axe fell on the ground, bounced up, and then disappeared from sight. Due to the vibration from the bounce, they saw growing patches of blood painting Dongfang Tianchen and Beitang Mo’s chests. They each had a piercing wound on the location of their hearts. The large wounds were enough to kill them.

Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen were dead!

Beitang Mo had received his death sentence when he almost killed Long Chen with his Yin Poison Palm Strike. As for Dongfang Tianchen, due to the fight over the Azure Dragon Halberd, Long Chen could only live in peace if he was dead.

The remaining six people stared in shock, drowning in grief and regret.

Long Chen was the devil to them. They would have never thought that the idiotic-looking newbie who had just joined would grow to this terrifying level within such a short time.

They had known for a long time that Long Chen was not someone they could bully. With his capabilities, he had the right to step on their heads!

Even the Black Tortoise Axe was no longer in Beitang Mo's control. This meant the two were very dead.

"Remember this. Do not provoke me, or you will end up like them," Long Chen said mildly, then he gestured for Mo Xiaolang to leave with him.

The Lingwu contingent had lost Beitang Mo and Dongfang Tianchen, which also meant that they had lost the ability to fight for the inheritance. Of course, if Long Chen or Mo Xiaolang won, the right to rule would still be given to the Lingwu family.

They watched Long Chen leave with pain, struggle, and mostly fear in their eyes.

"Big Brother, aren't you afraid of the Patriarch coming after you since you killed them?" asked Mo Xiaolang.

"What else could I have done? If I hadn't scared them enough, they would've continued harassing us. Plus, I have a huge grudge against Beitang Mo. I had to kill him!" said Long Chen with a bitter smile.

"But it's fine. As long as you get the inheritance, you will be someone the Ninth Prince protects. No one in Yuanling City will touch you," said Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen understood this too. That was why he knew that getting the inheritance was of utmost importance.

"There's no sense of direction in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. Where should we go?" Looking at the barren, endless expanse, Long Chen felt frustrated. It was only black soil and continuously burning flames. There was no inheritance to be seen.

Mo Xiaolang had no ideas.

"Let's do it this way. There seems to be some difference in the denseness of the flames. We will head towards the place with the densest flames." Long Chen finally found some difference after observing for a long time.

Mo Xiaolang agreed, as he had no other opinions.

They walked for about an hour. During this time, the only thing they gained was the realization that the flames' densities were irregular. Some places had more flames, some less. That was a normal phenomenon.

“Looks like I guessed wrongly.” Long Chen didn’t know what to say.

“Big Brother, I sense the aura of a Moon Devouring Wolf,” Mo Xiaolang suddenly said. Then, following the aura, he traveled ahead across the black soil.

“Moon Devouring Wolf? There are Moon Devouring Wolves here?” If there were clues of live beasts, they might find something there. Long Chen hurried after him.

It was a mountainous region nearby. Both of them treaded lightly and very soon, they found a valley below. They stretched their necks to peer down and coincidentally saw about six beasts running past!

They were large, wolf-type beasts with silver fur. They looked beautiful beneath the moonlight, and a dreamy light flowed within their faint, silver eyes, shrouding them in an air of mystery. However, the sharp fangs protruding from their lips and powerful limbs hinted that they were fierce animals.

“Indeed, they are Moon Devouring Wolves.” Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang had encountered them before.

“The Moon Devouring Wolf is a strange animal because it’s a devouring-type beast; therefore, it has the ability to ascend levels. These wolves have devoured something strange though,” mumbled Mo Xiaolang.

“Strange? Can you tell me more?” Long Chen was interested. In their fundamental forms, Blood Transmutation and the Blood Devouring Domain were also devouring-type skills.

“The Moon Devouring Wolf. Based on the name, you might assume that they devour the moon, though that would obviously be too dramatic. In reality, Moon Devouring Wolves can absorb moonlight, which is similar to how humans cultivate. An average wolf is a Category One Black-tier when it matures, but as it increases in age, reaching Categories Two, Three, or even Five is possible. This is how they differ from other beasts. As for the wolves that passed us just now, three of them are Category Two Black-tiers,” explained Mo Xiaolang.

“While that is impressive, if Category Five Black-tier is their maximum, then they are nothing to be afraid of. It’s a pity that moonlight is a weak resource. If they could absorb other things, then they could become a truly powerful presence,” said Long Chen. Devouring-type beasts had always been rare. It was likely that the Moon Devouring Wolves were the only ones with that ability in the whole Cangyang Kingdom.

When Long Chen was in the Desolate Beastlands, he killed a Constellation Demon Wolf, which could also absorb starlight. But it was different from a Moon Devouring Wolf. The Moon Devouring Wolf consumed moonlight and turned it into demonic power, while the Constellation Demon Wolf absorbed starlight to increase the hardness of its fur.

“There is a beast that fits that description. I’ve only seen them in books though, and they have probably been extinct for a long time,” said Mo Xiaolang.

“What beast is that?” Long Chen froze.

“It’s closely related to the Moon Devouring Wolf, called the Sun Devouring Wolf. It is a fire-type demonic beast through and through, and true to its name, it can consume sunlight. Not just that, it can consume anything related to fire and turn it into demonic power for itself. According to legends, Sun Devouring Wolves can grow to become apex predators and still continue their boundless growth, though they can’t be found in any records.” Mo Xiaolang was truly impressed by the Sun Devouring Wolf.

“Boundless growth?” Long Chen drew in a sharp breath. Boundless growth meant that as long as it had enough resources, it could be truly extraordinary. Fortunately, there were laws of nature that would never let such a powerful being exist.

“Right, if the Moon Devouring Wolf starts as a Category One Black-tier, what does the Sun Devouring Wolf start with?” asked Long Chen.

“According to the books, a matured Sun Devouring Wolf should be at Category One Earth-tier. However, apparently, becoming a Category Nine Earth-tier is also possible.”

Long Chen nodded.

“Big Brother, the Moon Devouring Wolves we saw just now looked like they were in a hurry. If we follow them, maybe we’ll make a discovery,” said Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen thought about it and agreed. Instead of walking around blindly, they should try their luck. So they headed in the direction that the wolves had run towards, traveling cautiously.

They ran faster than the Moon Devouring Wolves, so less than fifteen minutes later, they saw the butts of the wolves. The duo tailed them from far behind, but after a while, they were shocked to find more and more wolves gathering, also traveling in the same direction.

To avoid attracting the wolves’ attention, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang had no choice but to hide themselves and sneak up carefully.

“Big Brother, why do you think there are so many Moon Devouring Wolves heading in the same direction?” asked Mo Xiaolang, puzzled.

“Look at their gazes.” Long Chen thought of a possibility and was excited.

“What?” Mo Xiaolang couldn’t figure it out.

“There’s only one thing in their eyes—worship,” Long Chen answered. Then continued with excitement, “Xiaolang, I have a feeling that something shocking will be revealed ahead of us. What do you think these wolves worship?”

Mo Xiaolang's eyes brightened.

They moved forward carefully as the pack of Moon Devouring Wolves grew larger and larger. There were now more than a thousand wolves ahead, densely packed together. They ran through fire, howling without reservations like a wave crashing ahead unobstructed. It was a terrifying sight.

About half an hour later, Long Chen sensed a suffocating aura ahead.

All the Moon Devouring Wolves leaped high up and into a gigantic crater. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang quickly hid themselves, carefully peeking out from behind a boulder.

They saw tens of thousands of Moon Devouring Wolves gathered in the crater. They crouched with their front limbs bent, laying on the ground with reverence and loyalty in their eyes as they gazed at the center of the crater.

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang looked at the center. That was the source of the immense pressure they were feeling. When they saw the gigantic, black figure, Mo Xiaolang exclaimed in shock. Thankfully, he covered his mouth in time and did not attract attention.

“Big Brother, it's a Sun ... Sun Devouring Wolf!”