

War God 251

Chapter 251 - An Otherworldly Beast

The large depression, or rather, large hole, was a rare patch of ground without flames. However, the temperature inside it was even higher, caused solely by the one all the wolves were worshipping, which was a black beast standing proudly at the center.

It was a gigantic demonic beast, several times larger than a Moon Devouring Wolf. It was similar to the Moon Devouring Wolf in its proportions. Other than the size, there were two main differences: first, its fur was a deep black; second, there was a golden circle mark on its forehead.

A bright light shone from the golden mark, as if there was a miniature sun inside it.

It had sharp claws, sharp teeth, and black eyes that were cold and filled with bloodlust. The thick and heavy aura it radiated invoked true fear in Long Chen's heart. The Sun Devouring Wolf was just too terrifying.

Long Chen felt as if its black fur was a black whirlpool, absorbing light and heat into its body.

It was a Heavenly River Realm beast, but it was relatively weak compared to Li Xuanji. Yet Long Chen had a peculiar feeling that due to its devouring abilities, it was a formidable existence.

He wondered if it would eventually swallow the sun itself if it continued to grow.

Upon closer inspection, he saw black flames rising from its black fur. The flames swirled like tornados on the surface of its body, making it look like the beast was covered in a black sea of fire.

"Xiaolang, are you sure this is the Sun Devouring Wolf?" Long Chen whispered.

"Black fur with a golden sun mark at the center of its forehead. This is undeniably the legendary Sun Devouring Wolf. And I can sense that it's not just a Category One Earth-tier," whispered Mo Xiaolang, his voice trembling.

"Not just Category One Earth-tier? That's going to be difficult to deal with. Be honest, if you're going to cultivate an Earth-tier beast's Beast Soul, is the Sun Devouring Wolf's soul the most suitable for you?" When Mo Xiaolang mentioned the Sun Devouring Wolf, he had a rough guess that he really liked this animal.

"Mhm. I don't have any seniors who can help me get high-level Earth-tier Beast Souls. Since I have to hunt them myself, I can only kill Categories One or Two Earth-tier beasts. Those souls aren't very useful to me though. Just like the Moon Devouring Wolf, I can use them to boost my strength when I am at the First and Second River Stage, but once I reach the Eighth or Ninth River Stage, they will no longer be effective.

"But the Sun Devouring Wolf is different. On the one hand, its devouring abilities are extraordinary, and on the other, I once used the Moon Devouring Wolf as my Black-tier Beast Soul, so the Sun Devouring Wolf's Beast Soul has high compatibility with me and can even boost my combat potential by two hundred percent. Unfortunately,

this Sun Devouring Wolf is at least a Category Three Earth-tier. That's even more powerful than Emperor Yuan from Yuandi City. We're no match for it, even if we fight to our deaths."

"Above Category Three Earth-tier?" Long Chen felt weak. Even a Category One would be difficult to kill, let alone Category Three.

"Big Brother, what now?" Mo Xiaolang asked.

"There are so many Moon Devouring Wolves here, as well as the powerful Sun Devouring Wolf. There's no way we can do anything here. Plus, a Category Three Earth-tier is not something we can deal with right now. This is only the beginning of our journey in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. We'll leave and search for the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance. Once we find it, maybe the tides will turn," Long Chen said calmly.

"Looks like that's the only way." Mo Xiaolang was sulking. It was clear that he really liked the Sun Devouring Wolf's Beast Soul.

It was an extremely rare chance. If he missed this, it would be difficult to find suitable Beast Souls.

A Beast Warrior's cultivation journey was largely assisted by their elders. With powerful elders, they could easily take in a high-tier Beast Soul. As long as they merged successfully, then it was the same as receiving extraordinary talent out of thin air. Without good seniors, it was difficult to become a powerful Beast Warrior.

The Sun Devouring Wolf let out a chilling howl. As if receiving a signal, all the wolves stood up and howled at the sky. Ten thousand wolves howling at the same time was a magnificent sight. Long Chen felt the ground shake.

"That's terrifying," said Mo Xiaolang weakly.

"We'll talk when we're out of here. We're dead if they find us, then we won't even get to talk about the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance," said Long Chen.

Mo Xiaolang nodded.

They left, moving cautiously until they could not hear the howls anymore. That was when Long Chen started to worry about where they should go. The Burning Heaven Secret Realm seemed too big.

"Whatever. Looks like we'll just have to rely on luck." They searched everywhere, and half a day later, Long Chen finally noticed a commotion ahead. He quickly rushed forward and found six people hiding at the base of a mountain to treat their injuries. They were the six from the Lingwu family.

Are they injured?!

Long Chen walked up to them.

When they saw him, they were startled and immediately huddled together, glaring at him with hostility.

They had all sustained injuries of different severities. The strongest of them, Ximen Xiaodie and Nangong Huang, had sustained the most severe injuries. They were as pale as a sheet, treating their injuries with their legs crossed on the ground, ignoring Long Chen.

“What’s the matter? Who hurt you?” Long Chen asked coldly.

“Are you here to gloat?” Dongfang Tianxuan was now the strongest of them all. She stood in front of Long Chen so he could not get any closer to the rest.

“If you do not want the Lingwu family to lose its position, then you should tell me exactly what happened,” Long Chen stated mildly, too lazy to argue.

He had mentioned becoming the ruler of the county and she saw that he had no intention of mocking them, so Dongfang Tianxuan clenched her jaw and said, “I’ll give you some bad news. The Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace have become allies and are searching for you. But they have already gone towards the center of the ruins.”

“How do they know the way?” Long Chen had been walking for half a day and still had no idea where to go.

“We previously found a map and were heading towards the center. We didn’t expect to meet them, and they took our map!” said Dongfang Tianxuan awkwardly.

They were the largest clan in Yuanling County, yet the Lingwu family had lost face several times just after arriving in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. She felt extremely embarrassed and humiliated.

“Do you still remember where the center is?” Long Chen was getting antsy. It was crucial that he got the inheritance. He must not let them get to it first.

Dongfang Tianxuan thought for a moment and told Long Chen, “I still remember the direction.”

They had lost all hope, so the Lingwu family’s future now depended on Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang. This was something they had never expected, so despite being unwilling, they had to surrender to fate.

Admittedly, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang were much stronger than they were.

After learning the direction, Long Chen had no time to waste. He bade them farewell and ran like a madman towards the center of the Burning Heaven Secret Realm.

Afraid of messing up their trajectory, they wrapped themselves with Qi and sprinted right through the flames so they could run in a straight line.

Long Chen now had the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, which contained the fire attribute. That was why the flames scattered throughout the Burning Heaven Secret Realm did not hurt him much. In general, Long Chen could travel normally, as if walking on a piece of flat land.

Time was of the essence. Both of them accelerated without a word, and in an hour's time, something different from everything else appeared up ahead.

It was a gigantic tomb covered in flames. Long Chen first rushed into a light screen, then he arrived at the entrance of the tomb, which led them to a gigantic plaza. There were no flames scattered within the plaza, but there was a huge sea of fire to its right.

The sea of fire was not the most important thing here. The most crucial thing was the huge door leading to the inside of the tomb, but there was a group of people standing outside. These people had just arrived, and they were undeniably the groups from the Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace.

At this moment, both parties were eyeing each other cautiously, standing at least ten meters apart. They were finally going to enter the huge door! Burning passion filled every heart there.

This meant that they had not gotten the inheritance yet. Long Chen sighed in relief.

He saw a multi-colored translucent light membrane at the entrance, containing a strange but strong power. Long Chen knew that it was going to be difficult to enter the tomb.

It was likely that the one who could make it through the light membrane would become the person who received the inheritance.

The allyship between the Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace was solely built on fighting Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang. Now, since the duo were not lucky enough to find the tomb, there was no longer a need for them to work together.

Both parties stared at each other silently without moving, but the tension in the air was thick.

As they were eyeing each other with hostility, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang rushed into the plaza, instantly attracting everyone's attention. When they saw the duo's faces, Li Ziling and Yan Danqing smiled. This meant they could still work together.

The most excited one was Li Ziling, because she could finally take her revenge.

"Wow! I am flattered to have so many people welcoming me." Long Chen was not even anxious, running straight through the two groups.

"I thought you couldn't find this place! Looks like you made it after all," Li Ziling said with a sneer. She then turned to Yan Danqing and said, "You deal with Mo Xiaolang, and I will kill Long Chen. What do you think?"

"Wow, this girl is sneaky! I look weaker than Xiaolang, so you think you can kill me easily and enter the tomb yourself. As for Xiaolang and Yan Danqing, it will take longer for a victor to emerge. And if Yan Danqing beats Xiaolang, he will be fatigued and will no longer be a match for you. This is what you're thinking, right?" Long Chen tried to instigate conflict between them.

Li Ziling indeed had these intentions, but she had not expected Long Chen to sniff them out immediately.

"I must kill you no matter what!" Then she rushed at Long Chen!

Chapter 252 – Mysterious Steel Token Appears Again

Li Ziling was a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator with powerful Qi that was a level higher than Long Chen's when he used the Dragon Soul Transformation. She also had the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, so she was on the same level as Long Chen in that regard. However, Long Chen possessed the Azure Dragon Halberd, which boosted his combat abilities.

Long Chen had robbed her of the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul and even humiliated her in public. Li Ziling, who had been treated like a princess all her life, would never live this down.

That was why she did not care about any schemes and immediately charged at Long Chen.

“Big Brother? Do you need me to do something?” Mo Xiaolang whispered.

“It's fine. I need this bitch to give up completely. Watch Yan Danqing, don't let him get to the inheritance first,” Long Chen said flatly. Then he stepped towards the left side of the plaza. Roaring flames rose from the right side, so it was more convenient to fight on the left.

“You're looking for death!” Li Ziling gave chase.

Their battle attracted everyone's attention.

Mo Xiaolang and Yan Danqing did not, as Li Ziling hoped, engage in battle. Yan Danqing was no idiot; this was the time to save up his energy. He would not attack unless necessary.

He led the rest of the Beast Soul Palace to watch the situation unfold quietly with no intention of fighting, nor did he rush to get the inheritance immediately. He knew that Mo Xiaolang would fight him the moment he moved.

Also, a strong force was flowing through the light membrane. Yan Danqing was not sure how to pass through it at the moment.

That was why everyone watched Long Chen and Li Ziling's fight.

“Brother Qingling, do you think Miss Ziling will win?” asked a teenager from the Dawn Trading Alliance.

“My elder sister is at the late Heavenly Core Realm, and she has the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body. Long Chen is merely at the initial Heavenly Core Realm and his Qi is several times weaker. How could he beat her?” Li Qingling said smugly.

When he finished speaking, Long Chen was thrown up into the air by Li Ziling.

“Just as I said.” Li Qingling watched Long Chen coldly. He remembered the two times Long Chen had humiliated him in the Fire Thunder Mountain Range.

“Sister Ziling and Brother Qiling are so awesome.”

There was a similar conversation taking place in the Beast Soul Palace contingent, though Yan Danqing had a different opinion. He said, "I heard that Long Chen has a powerful Beast Soul Transformation. And they've only just begun. We'll see."

As they fought, Long Chen was thrown back into the air with one punch from Li Ziling. She huffed, then caught up to him.

"Long Chen, aren't you a Beast Warrior? Show me your Beast Soul Transformation, then! Your current form is no match for me!" Li Ziling punched again!

"As you wish." It was true that he had far less Qi than her. This gap could only be filled if his Qi was more condensed.

Long Chen's Dragon Soul Transformation was completed quickly, and he was now in his most powerful form. The blood-red scales covering his whole body and the sharp, bony spines were a magnificent sight.

"Your Beast Soul Transformation is special indeed," Li Ziling said, though she did not mean it as a compliment. She attacked with all her strength the moment he transformed.

"Really?" Long Chen smiled. With the Azure Dragon Halberd in hand, he collided with Li Ziling.

Admittedly, she was a powerful opponent. He used Split Yellow River and Shattered Skies consecutively, even weaving in the Spirit Devil Sword Finger to ambush her, but it was too difficult to injure her!

Li Ziling unleashed a seal technique that was very impressive. The technique brought with it a heavy attack that felt like mountain peaks getting in Long Chen's way, so he could not fully use the Azure Dragon Halberd.

"Since Black-tier combat techniques aren't working, I'll let you try out the Earth-tier one." Long Chen used the Nine Dragon Flashes and quickly rushed behind Li Ziling.

In reality, Li Ziling was getting more shocked as she fought. In the beginning, she thought it would be easy to defeat Long Chen, but she hadn't expected him to be this difficult to deal with. All the attacks she had used were difficult even for late Heavenly Core realm cultivators to withstand. But not only could Long Chen block them, he could also retaliate!

"Seal of Mountain and Ocean, Magpie Mountain Seal!"

When the seal technique was unleashed, a gust of wind blew. It was undeniably an Earth-tier combat technique. Li Ziling did not hold back at all—when Long Chen was about to use his Earth-tier technique, she also expertly unleashed one of her own!

Her arms turned into mountain peaks, blasting heavily towards Long Chen!

"Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Starsweep Dragon!" Long Chen slammed her with this attack without hesitation, and countless halberd tips turned into a dense mass of tiny dragons. The two forces collided instantly.

This was a critical moment. Everyone's eyes were locked on the fight, anxiety running through them.

It was not common to witness a battle as intense as this.

Those who previously looked down on Long Chen were privately impressed when they saw him use an Earth-tier technique so well.

Li Qingling's smug smirk was long gone. He was full of fear and anxiety as he watched the teenager fight his prodigy sister.

The collision led to an explosion. This was Long Chen's first time using Starsweep Dragon on such a powerful opponent. He felt like it had not done much damage to Li Ziling because the Magpie Mountain Seal was equally powerful.

Long Chen did a flip in the air, then he landed gracefully on his toes. As agile as a swallow, he sprinted at Li Ziling once more with the Azure Dragon Halberd in hand!

Li Ziling had stumbled backwards from the collision just now, causing some of her hair to fall from its updo. It made her look crazy and more desperate than the graceful Long Chen.

"You... You're looking for death!" Li Ziling was beside herself with rage, which filled her entire body. Glaring at his shameless grin, she wanted to tear him apart.

Then she charged once more.

"Has the tigress gone mad?" Long Chen teased her, then he retreated slightly to welcome her storm of attacks.

Everyone looked at each other quizzically. They resembled a married couple fighting.

When Li Qingling saw his sister get humiliated by a lowly lecher, his whole face turned purple, and he almost wanted to beat him up himself.

At this moment, Long Chen had a sense of his opponent's capabilities and knew that it was time to end it all.

He was prepared to end the fight, but the whole tomb suddenly started to shake. A black pillar suddenly rose from the ground at the center of the plaza, throwing up dust in the air.

"What the hell is going on with that pillar?" Everyone was puzzled.

The pillar itself was nothing special, but there was something on top of it that attracted their attention, which was a mysterious, black steel token. At this moment, the steel token was burning with bright red flames.

When he saw the token, Long Chen was startled because it was exactly like the steel token he had found in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range.

Long Chen had no time to think, because everyone knew it was time to fight for the steel token.

Mo Xiaolang and Yan Danqing, who were closest to it, turned into two shadows as they shot towards the black pillar. Because they were in a fight, Li Ziling and Long Chen were a bit slower, but it did not matter!

Mo Xiaolang and Yan Danqing were very close to the black pillar. There was a glint in Mo Xiaolang's eyes, and he turned to throw a punch at Yan Danqing!

Mo Xiaolang decided to do this because he felt like he might not be as strong as Yan Danqing, but he knew that Long Chen was stronger than Li Ziling. Instead of having himself and Yan Danqing fighting over the token, he wanted to have Long Chen and Li Ziling fight over it instead.

Just as he expected, Yan Danqing had no choice but to block the sudden punch. This small delay allowed Long Chen to overtake them. While he ran, he put away the Azure Dragon Halberd and unleashed the Spirit Devil Sword Finger twice while approaching Li Ziling! She had no choice but to block his fast-paced attack!

Long Chen was now closest to the pillar.

I'm so close! He was relaxed because Yan Danqing was occupied with Mo Xiaolang, while Li Ziling was biting dust at the back. The rest were just bystanders.

Everyone went crazy with rage when they saw that Long Chen was about to get the mysterious steel token.

That was when Long Chen faintly heard a wolf's howl.

He thought he had imagined it at first, but a huge pressure locked onto him. It was a killing intent that sent chills through his body. Connecting this to the wolf's howl, an image of ten thousand wolves worshipping a figure appeared in his mind. Ignoring the mysterious steel token, he retreated and yelled towards Mo Xiaolang, "Fall back!"

Mo Xiaolang had also heard the howl, and since Long Chen was backing away, he ignored Yan Danqing and reunited with his brother.

At that moment, a black shadow sprinted forward and stopped in front of the black pillar. Long Chen looked closer and indeed, it was the Sun Devouring Wolf.

Following closely behind it were tens of thousands of Moon Devouring Wolves, all charging into the plaza.

Chapter 253 - Breaking Free

The appearance of the Sun Devouring Wolf had been a surprise to Long Chen. That was why he had no choice but to abandon the mysterious steel token he was about to reach and retreat to the edge of the plaza.

Yan Danqing and Li Ziling were not stupid either. They saw that even Long Chen was running away, and the demonic wolf was obviously an Earth-tier beast. Ignoring the steel token, they led their groups and hurriedly hid in a corner, watching the Sun Devouring Wolf anxiously.

The beast stood there. It was like a black hole, swallowing the surrounding light and heat. Yan Danqing, Li Ziling, and the rest were shocked by the peculiar beast.

"Big Brother, what now?" whispered Mo Xiaolang.

"We are no match for the wolf, so all we can do is watch. Let's see what it wants to do." Long Chen watched it solemnly.

Thousands of Moon Devouring Wolves gathered in the plaza. Without a command from the Sun Devouring Wolf, they crouched obediently on the spot, not attacking Long Chen and the other humans.

As for the Sun Devouring Wolf, its pitch-black eyes were fixated on the mysterious steel token on the black pillar. Then it picked the token up with its mouth.

Why does it want the steel token? Maybe it wants to enter the tomb? How could a demonic beast receive an inheritance left by a human? Thoughts raced through Long Chen's mind. In the end, he decided that something must have piqued the wolf's interest in the tomb.

The Sun Devouring Wolf had retrieved the token, and no one dared to fight it.

Everyone stared as the wolf carried the steel token and rushed towards the entrance of the tomb like a black shadow. It moved countless times faster than Long Chen and the rest.

The crowd smiled bitterly. They couldn't believe that a wolf that had appeared out of nowhere was going to take the inheritance in the end. While it clearly could not receive a human inheritance, the token was clearly the key to enter the tomb. If it brought the key inside, then what could they do? Might as well go home.

However, there was a twist.

When the Sun Devouring Wolf neared the light membrane, a layer of black flames burst from it, radiating intense heat. The black flames aggregated into an old man's face, whose eyes were fixed on the wolf.

Long Chen shuddered. He had seen that face before. The same old man had appeared when he learned the Burning Devil Sun Fist from the steel token! He saw that face within the flames again.

"You animal! Don't you dare think you can get my inheritance!" bellowed the old man hoarsely. Then a ray of light shot out of his mouth and struck the wolf at lightning speed!

The Sun Devouring Wolf bled profusely from the strike. With a cry of agony, its gigantic body flew backwards! Then it landed in the sea of fire on the right side of the plaza, instantly swallowed by the flames!

The appearance of the Sun Devouring Wolf was a twist, but the wolf getting severely injured was also a twist. The mysterious token was still in its mouth, so when the group saw that it was hurt, and the old man's face had disappeared, they snapped back to reality and quickly charged into the sea of fire.

The countless Moon Devouring Wolves howled when they saw their leader being injured, rushing into the sea of fire at a speed that surpassed the humans. However, they had underestimated its temperature, and the tens of wolves that entered the flames were reduced to ashes instantly!

Long Chen gasped. Upon closer inspection, he saw wisps of black fire within the red flames. The black flames were the cause of the fire's high temperatures. Even Category One and Two Black-tier wolves had been burnt to crisps. Although Long Chen and the rest were powerful, they could not stay inside for long.

Plus, although the Sun Devouring Wolf was injured, it was unknown exactly how severe its injury was!

Everyone halted in their tracks. The wolves, after seeing tens of their comrades dying, learned of the fire's danger and stopped too, crouching on the ground and howling in grief.

Long Chen and the group looked at each other. Even Yan Danqing and Li Ziling did not dare take the risk of running into the sea of fire.

“Big Brother!” Mo Xiaolang called anxiously.

“What is it?”

“I'm going in! This is a one-in-a-million chance! That man in the flames clearly wanted to kill the wolf, that's why he threw it into the sea of fire! The Sun Devouring Wolf was severely injured, so it probably cannot move easily. It will be burned to death very quickly in there, so this is my only chance to get its Beast Soul! Also, I can help you find the steel token!” Mo Xiaolang exclaimed ardently.

“How long can you last in the flames?” Long Chen asked with furrowed brows.

“I don't know, but at least fifteen minutes, I'd say,” he replied anxiously. Then he stopped talking, condensed his Qi outside his body to protect himself, and charged into the sea of fire.

This was Mo Xiaolang's first time making a voluntary decision without Long Chen's agreement, and it was all for the Beast Soul of the Sun Devouring Wolf. Long Chen could tell that he was greatly attracted to its Beast Soul, and it was the key for him to take revenge in the future. That was why he did not refuse.

When he saw Mo Xiaolang rushing into the flames, he was ready to rush in too when Li Ziling blocked his way with a smirk. “You bastard! The battle between us has not ended. Where do you think you're going?”

“Fuck off!” Long Chen had no time to argue with her. He was worried about Mo Xiaolang's safety and did not want him to go in alone.

Li Ziling was even more smug when she saw that he was anxious. She had no intention to let him go and turned to Yan Danqing. “This is the best time to kill Long Chen. Let's work together. What do you think?”

Mo Xiaolang had entered the sea of fire, leaving Long Chen alone. He had not expected Li Ziling and Yan Danqing to surround Long Chen.

To be honest, Yan Danqing also felt hugely threatened by Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang, so he took Li Ziling up on her offer with zero hesitation and positioned himself behind Long Chen.

Long Chen had angered Li Ziling before, but this time, he was the one who was furious.

Standing on the edge of the sea of fire, Li Ziling didn't say another word. She instantly unleashed the Earth-tier Magpie Mountain Seal towards Long Chen!

The immense attack forced Long Chen away from the sea of fire! Behind him, Yan Danqing also launched an attack!

Yan Danqing was only assisting Li Ziling, so he did not use his Beast Soul Transformation. Even without it, he was very powerful! Just one random punch brought with it a powerful gust of wind that hit Long Chen's body!

"You're looking for death!" Long Chen used the Nine Dragon Flashes and engaged in a death duel against the duo. This delay had caused him to lose track of Mo Xiaolang in the sea of fire. If he rushed inside now, he might not find him immediately!

The life of his best friend was on the line! Li Ziling's actions had successfully triggered Long Chen's rage!

Yan Danqing was not using all his strength, but with such a powerful opponent watching, Long Chen did not dare lose focus. With the Azure Dragon Halberd in hand, he placed his focus on Li Ziling, the one who hated him.

Li Ziling unleashed attacks with full insanity. This would be her only chance to defeat him and wash herself of the humiliation he had caused.

Long Chen was speechless in the face of such a crazy, furious woman.

"Fucking hell! Since you want to die, I'll gladly oblige!" Long Chen cursed loudly, swinging the Azure Dragon Halberd madly. It turned into a blurry illusion, and a powerful aura erupted from his body.

"Starsweep Dragon again!" Yan Danqing and Li Ziling could see that the Magpie Mountain Seal could definitely withstand Long Chen's Starsweep Dragon.

Yan Danqing stopped trying so hard when he saw this. He wanted to save his energy to fight Mo Xiaolang, who might exit the sea of fire alive.

"All you're using is Starsweep Dragon, and you think you can defeat me?" Li Ziling was not afraid at all, unleashing the Magpie Mountain Seal once more! Mountain peaks flew at Long Chen!

"It's not as simple as you think ..." Long Chen used the Nine Dragon Flashes to escape Yan Danqing and then leaped at Li Ziling, unleashing the Azure Dragon Combat Technique and sending sharp glints of the halberd's tip towards Li Ziling!

"Starsweep Dragon!"

Countless tiny dragons attacked Li Ziling in a flurry.

"Cheap tricks." Li Ziling remained calm, keeping her eyes on him. She knew that Starsweep Dragon could not kill her.

That was when she saw something strange in his eyes that shocked her. She suddenly felt completely attracted to those immensely beautiful eyes, and his silhouette turned dreamy. She felt as if she was sleeping in a soft bed, with a strong, muscular arm as a pillow under her head ...

“What just happened?” Li Ziling woke up in shock.

Losing focus in battle was a huge mistake. Li Ziling had committed this huge sin at such a critical moment, and due to that momentary loss of focus, Long Chen’s Starsweep Dragon broke through her attack and the sharp halberd-tips immediately landed on her body!

At the very last moment, Li Ziling tried to dodge them, but she failed to escape.

Fortunately, due to the powerful faction backing her, Long Chen did not intend to kill her. He slammed the halberd hard on her chest, causing her to fly backwards. As she traveled through the air, blood sprayed out of her mouth.

When she landed, she was incapacitated.

“So, the Soul Swallowing Gaze is very useful ...” mumbled Long Chen.

Chapter 254 The Death of Xiaolang

Long Chen had suddenly grown stronger and defeated Li Ziling at lightning speed. The crowd was momentarily shocked when they saw Li Ziling flying with blood spraying out of her mouth, her face pale. Even Li Qingling was in a daze, forgetting that he should’ve been saving her.

After Long Chen had escaped from Yan Danqing, the latter had stopped attacking. Long Chen had then proceeded to defeat Li Ziling a moment later. Yan Danqing could not even react.

After defeating Li Ziling, he glared at Yan Danqing as a warning and rushed into the sea of fire, leaving everyone to look at each other. Li Qingling finally realized that his older sister was severely injured, shrieked, and then rushed over.

“Did you just try to intimidate me?” Yan Danqing smiled. He had remained calm since the beginning, only feeling slightly shocked that he could defeat Li Ziling.

“Whatever. I’ll let you guys fight for your lives there. I will wait for you all to come out. Long Chen, you’ll see what it means to be number one on the Potential Ranking Board.”

The temperature was high due to the red flames with wisps of black in them. Due to his Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, Long Chen had higher resistance towards fire, and with his Qi as protection, he thought he could stay there for about an hour, which was a little longer than Mo Xiaolang.

His eyes were useless in the sea of fire. Long Chen could only rely on his memory and run towards the direction where the Sun Devouring Wolf had fallen

He felt uncomfortable because it was just too quiet around him. The only sounds were the explosions of fire. There was no sign of the wolf or Mo Xiaolang.

Did something happen to Xiaolang? Long Chen felt his heart turn cold.

Mo Xiaolang had charged inside on his own, and Long Chen couldn’t stop him in time. His intention was to follow him inside to be safe, but that idiot Li Ziling had recruited Yan Danqing to stop him, delaying his entry.

Long Chen quickened his footsteps, dredging ahead. At the same time, he took out the Azure Dragon Halberd to guard against any dangers that could pop up.

This was a fiery hell. He still felt miserable in the roaring flames even with the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body.

After quickly moving across about a hundred meters, Long Chen suddenly heard the sound of haggard breathing ahead. It sounded like the Sun Devouring Wolf. His chest tightened, gripping the Azure Dragon Halberd tightly and preparing to attack.

Xiaolang, you must live ...

This was his only wish.

When he rushed forward, he realized that the flames around him had disappeared. Gasping in shock, he looked around and realized he was in a twenty-meter-wide circular space without fire.

Killing intent exploded from his body the moment he arrived because he saw the gigantic Sun Devouring Wolf standing in front of him. The wolf was covered in small cuts, bleeding everywhere, though it had a weak gaze. It was clearly severely injured, but it was not dead.

Long Chen sensed that it had formed this no-flame zone.

“Xiaolang!” Long Chen screamed. When he rushed into the circular zone, he first saw the severely injured wolf, then Mo Xiaolang, who was lying on the ground. The Sun Devouring Wolf was walking in circles around him, licking his body with its large, red tongue.

Long Chen halted, as if he was struck by lightning.

Is Xiaolang dead?! That was his first thought. When he was sure that there was no movement from Mo Xiaolang, grief and rage crashed through his body and drowned him. His eyes turned blood-red and green veins popped from his skin. Gripping the Azure Dragon Halberd tightly, his breathing grew haggard!

Long Chen really liked that guy. To be honest, other than his family and Ling Xi, Mo Xiaolang had become the most important person in Long Chen’s life, the only one he could call a brother. But now his only brother was on the ground, dead.

All the insanity and violence hidden in his body were unleashed the instant he saw him!

“You animal! You killed Xiaolang!” Long Chen roared, his red-scaled face turning terrifyingly vicious.

He had lost all sense of logic, ignoring how powerful the Sun Devouring Wolf was!

After his shout, Long Chen swung the Azure Dragon Halberd and charged at the wolf!

The injured wolf had spotted him the moment he arrived. It did not come to kill him immediately, but rather took a few steps back and placed Xiaolang’s body in front of Long Chen.

Within its eyes, Long Chen saw many emotions: confusion, pain, grief—as if it had many things it wanted to tell him.

Long Chen did not care about this strange scene. His only concern was whether Mo Xiaolang was alive!

Holding his brother's ice-cold hand, he realized that his body was devoid of warmth and his heart was not beating. Qi was slowly disappearing from his body as well. At this point, he was probably not even at the Draconic Realm level.

Undeniably, Mo Xiaolang was dead!

This was devastating to Long Chen. Every moment he had spent with Mo Xiaolang over the past month replayed in his mind. The shy, kind, and resilient teenager who held a bloody grudge on his shoulders was Long Chen's only brother. But now he was dead!

Long Chen felt his blood boil, and his chest was going to explode.

"You animal! You must pay for taking Xiaolang's life!" He quietly put Mo Xiaolang's body in his Universe Pouch. He then hung his head solemnly and stood up. This time, even if he died in the process, he absolutely had to kill the injured Sun Devouring Wolf to avenge Mo Xiaolang!

He initially thought that the wolf would fight him to the death in the sea of fire, but unexpectedly, the wolf picked up the mysterious steel token on the ground with its mouth and then quickly turned around and ran off. It was running out of the sea of fire!

When the wolf left, fire engulfed Long Chen once more.

"Think you can run?" Without another word, he ran after the wolf!

He initially came to the Burning Heaven Secret Realm to retrieve the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance, but the only thing he wanted to do now was chop the wolf up into a thousand pieces to give Mo Xiaolang's spirit closure!

The man and the beast ran madly through the sea of fire. The wolf was huge, so when it approached the boundary, the people outside knew that the terrifying beast was coming out. When he saw that it was bloody and its gaze was dimming, limping as it ran, Yan Danqing's eyes flashed coldly.

When he saw the wolf leave the sea of fire, Yan Danqing was surprised to see the token still in its mouth. He clenched his teeth and appeared by its mouth in a flash. Then he threw a punch straight at its jaw!

This time, he had made the right bet. The Sun Devouring Wolf was very heavily injured, and it had just rushed out of the fire and could not see the outside clearly. When the fist struck its mouth, the steel token flew out!

"The heavens are helping me!" Yan Danqing laughed, and with the token in hand, he ran towards the entrance of the tomb!

"What?" Long Chen had just exited the fire when he saw the Sun Devouring Wolf lying in a corner from the punch. The punch from a late Heavenly Core Realm Beast Warrior had aggravated its injuries, making its gaze even dimmer.

Yan Danqing was holding the token and already arrived in front of the tomb.

Long Chen watched Yan Danqing run into the light membrane and enter the tomb. Previously, he would have given chase, but his mind was set on avenging Mo Xiaolang, so he had tossed the matter of the inheritance aside. That was why he did not care that Yan Danqing had gotten the mysterious token.

Locking on the wolf's position, he roared, swinging his halberd and unleashing Starsweep Dragon! Everyone was still watching. The sudden turn of events made it difficult to react!

“Long Chen defeated Li Ziling, ran into the sea of fire, then the beast ran out and Brother Yan Danqing retrieved the steel token. Brother Yan Danqing successfully got the inheritance, yet Long Chen doesn't care and is bent on killing the beast?”

They did not know that Mo Xiaolang was dead, so they did not understand.

Starsweep Dragon approached the wolf, and a pained expression flashed in its eyes. It finally moved, barely lifting its head as it waved its huge paw. Its claws and the Azure Dragon Halberd collided, resulting in the sound of metal clashing with metal!

Boom!

There was a boom, and Long Chen was thrown back in the air by the powerful explosion! He crashed into the ground!

“An Earth-tier beast is indeed extraordinary!” Long Chen leaped out and exchanged a few moves with it. He felt his arm starting to go numb.

When the thousands of wolves saw that Long Chen dared touch their leader, they charged at him the moment he landed, and he was instantly swallowed by countless wolves.

I haven't used that move in a long time ... Violence flashed in his eyes.

Chapter 255 – Mid Heavenly Core Realm

“Blood Devouring Domain!”

A blood-red shadow engulfed the whole pack of wolves, and tens of thousands of Moon Devouring Wolves were covered by a blood-red wall. Tiny blood-colored dragons swam through the faintly red space.

It was a peculiar space indeed.

Hiss!

Awooo!

The Moon Devouring Wolves let out cries of agony under the immense vacuum. The wolves nearest to Long Chen were immediately covered in blood, then giant globules of blood flew towards him! They hit his body like cannonballs, then turned into gas and spread in the air after he had absorbed the essence within them!

“The Moon Devouring Wolves are not weak, so the rate of absorption is too slow!” Long Chen's eyes flashed coldly, then he swung the Azure Dragon Halberd, running through the pack of wolves like a madman. As long as the halberd slightly pierced the

wolves, endless amounts of blood would pour out of them, and Long Chen would then proceed to absorb it all. He left behind a three-meter-wide globule of blood, and his body constantly absorbed and refined it. At the same time, more blood was created from slashing with his halberd!

All his hatred towards the Sun Devouring Wolf was vented on the Moon Devouring Wolves. Like a harvesting machine, the wolves cried and were killed by the Azure Dragon Halberd and Blood Devouring Domain one by one!

Under the powerful gravity of Long Chen's technique, the wolves couldn't put up any resistance at all since they were far weaker than him. They could not even run. Everywhere he went, a mass of dried, bloodless carcasses was left behind!

Long Chen was confused about why the Sun Devouring Wolf's eyes had a dazed look to them, not reacting to him.

The rest of the people felt chills all over as they watched the bloody scene. They had never seen such a bloody massacre technique. Long Chen had become death itself, collecting lives as the wolves died one by one in his hands. This should have formed a river of blood, but that did not happen because he was absorbing it all.

The rest of the people started to tremble, especially the severely injured Li Ziling. She had been unwilling to admit defeat, but all her resentment had turned completely into terror. She had never seen such a scary person in her life. When she thought of how she had made an enemy out of him, her legs shook.

"What kind of monster is Long Chen?" This question echoed endlessly through their hearts.

While he massacred the wolves, he thought the Sun Devouring Wolf would attack him since no one would let their minions get killed like that. However, what made him suspicious was that the wolf continued standing there in a daze, not moving.

Is the wolf's brain broken or something? He cursed to himself, though his hands did not stop. He had to avenge Mo Xiaolang while the Sun Devouring Wolf was hurt, or he would not get another chance.

Being at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, he was no match for it. Therefore, he had to become much stronger, and his ticket up was the wolves. As he continued to use the Blood Transmutation technique, he sensed that his Qi was quickly ballooning. After killing about half of the wolves, his Qi had expanded to its maximum!

Just one more step and I will attain the mid Heavenly Core Realm.

His dantian could no longer store any more of the blood-red Qi he was accumulating from the blood of the wolves. After reaching its peak, the Qi in his body exploded and surged through his four limbs before it quickly flowed back. When all of his Qi returned to his dantian once more, it shuddered, and the Qi was condensed into an even smaller Heavenly Core, this time the size of a soybean.

Powerful fluctuations of Qi radiated from his Heavenly Core, containing late stage Blazing Thunder Power and also Azure Dragon Qi formed via the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, while next to it was a faint, blood-red mist.

Thanks to his Dragon Soul Transformation, which boosted his Qi by ten times, Long Chen's Qi was equal to that of a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator, even surpassing many of them!

He had finally reached the mid Heavenly Core Realm. Long Chen deactivated the Blood Devouring Domain and appeared in front of everyone. He was still in his dragon form, but the blood Qi and killing intent coming from his body were much thicker. His cold, blood-red eyes made everyone take a few steps back, faces pale and shaking in fear.

Li Qingling, who was supporting Li Ziling, badly wanted to beat Long Chen up. But after seeing his gaze, he lost all courage.

This was his first time seeing such a terrifying human being!

"Sun Devouring Wolf ..." Long Chen had a dark expression. His cultivation level had risen. With the halberd in his hand, he took one firm step forward and shot furiously at the Sun Devouring Wolf!

"Die! Xiaolang, I am going to take this animal's life as offering to your soul in heaven!" The Azure Dragon Halberd turned into a gust of strong wind, and countless dragons charged at the wolf! His attack was now several times stronger than before! Long Chen refused to believe that this was not enough to kill the wolf!

Another bout of Starsweep Dragon flew at the Sun Devouring Wolf, appearing before its eyes.

Long Chen was very careful. He had exchanged one strike with the Sun Devouring Wolf already, so he was carefully thinking of a strategy to use against it. However, what puzzled him was that the wolf did not move. Instead, it stood up from its crouching position, supporting its own weight with great difficulty, then it looked at Long Chen with a dazed expression, as though there was pain and confusion in its black eyes.

"That gaze ..." Long Chen was startled. When he looked into its eyes, he suddenly felt like he had known this wolf once. He carefully looked through his memories, and when the Azure Dragon Halberd was about to stab into the Sun Devouring Wolf, he suddenly remembered. *That look in its eyes ... Isn't that Mo Xiaolang?*

Long Chen felt like it was a wild thought, but it was this very thought that made him retract his attack.

He believed that if he had not retracted his attack, the wolf, which had no intention of fighting back, would've been killed in just one strike. Now that Long Chen was at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, even Mo Xiaolang might not be a match for him, much less a Sun Devouring Wolf who could not defend itself.

Long Chen peered at the wolf, puzzled. When the wolf saw that he had stopped attacking, its eyes lit up with joy and it twisted its body. Its gigantic figure was starting to shrink, stopping only when it was the size of a small dog.

In this state, the Sun Devouring Wolf was covered in fuzzy, black fur with a round sun image on its forehead. Its teeth and claws were no longer sharp, now looking dainty. It stared at Long Chen with its watery, black eyes. It looked adorable.

Long Chen stared back in shock.

From its gaze, Long Chen could tell that it had human intelligence. To be honest, if he only looked at its eyes, he would've thought the wolf was a human being. A whole, live person. In fact, he knew this person well.

Long Chen squatted and reached out to pet its head. The wolf did not fight back but enjoyed it comfortably, its canine teeth peeking out of its mouth cutely.

Due to its previous injuries, the shrunken Sun Devouring Wolf still had some blood on its body. The wolf reached out with a paw and traced a slanted character on the ground.

Mo.

Long Chen froze, then he blurted, "You're Mo Xiaolang?"

The wolf nodded hurriedly. Perhaps because Long Chen recognized it, the pain and confusion in its eyes finally lessened.

Long Chen gulped and eyed it carefully.

Isn't Xiaolang dead? Why would the Sun Devouring Wolf claim to be Mo Xiaolang? The wolf's current state is completely different from its fierce, previous form. Could it really be the truth? Long Chen's mind was a mess.

The only thing that made him happy was that he had initially thought Mo Xiaolang was dead, and his brother's body was even in his Universe Pouch. However, based on this strange twist with the wolf, could Mo Xiaolang really be alive?

The only explanation was that Mo Xiaolang's soul had entered the Sun Devouring Wolf's body and could even control it!

Long Chen did not know how this had happened. All he knew was that Mo Xiaolang had chased after the Sun Devouring Wolf to hunt its Beast Soul. Perhaps when he cultivated it as his Primary Beast Soul, an unexpected accident happened that left Mo Xiaolang no choice but to give up on his own body for the wolf's body.

There were no injuries on Mo Xiaolang's body. This was something that Long Chen could confirm. That was why he thought it was likely that his guess was right, that Mo Xiaolang was currently possessing the wolf's body. In other words, Mo Xiaolang had become the Sun Devouring Wolf!

Long Chen did not know how to react to such an unexpected twist.

He focused his mind and decided to do one last test.

"When we were in Baiyang Town, you gave me the Constellation Body, right?" Long Chen asked. If the Sun Devouring Wolf could understand his words, then this would undeniably be Mo Xiaolang.

Indeed, it nodded.

Tears of joy flowed out of Long Chen's eyes.

He embraced Mo Xiaolang in his arms, sobbing and unable to speak.

Xiaolang, now in his Sun Devouring Wolf form, could not bear to see Long Chen suffering so much. Tears started to well up in his eyes, but because of the tears, the pain and confusion in his eyes disappeared completely.

Although he had turned into a demonic beast, he knew that at least in front of Long Chen, he was still his best friend. And that was enough. This meant that he was not alone.

“Xiaolang, no one could have expected this to happen. However, I promise that you will be my best friend in every lifetime. Your grudges are my grudges; your wishes are my wishes. Although you have become like this, I will make sure you have a human body again one day! This is my promise to you!”

Chapter 256 - Burning Heaven Emperor

Long Chen knew that he could not reveal to the others that Xiaolang had turned into a Sun Devouring Wolf. That was why he did not announce anything when he recognized him.

Everyone was still watching anxiously for the victor to emerge from the battle between Long Chen and the Sun Devouring Wolf. However, Long Chen stopped his attack and, to their shock, the wolf shrank into a cute cub that resembled a small dog. And now Long Chen was carrying it in his arms.

The events of today had really challenged their sense of imagination.

They all watched in a daze, unable to speak.

Long Chen had just recovered from the shock of Xiaolang's change, feeling very bitter as he looked at his best friend in his arms. Xiaolang was probably feeling very miserable to have turned from human to beast.

There are so many strange things in this world! If Ling Xi, who only has a soul remaining, can recover her body using spiritual herbs, then Xiaolang can too! I've heard that the strongest beasts possess divine abilities that allow them to take human form. Now Xiaolang is a Sun Devouring Wolf, a wolf that, according to legends, has devouring-type abilities! I refuse to believe that he can't return to his human form! Long Chen thought to himself.

Being able to devour heat and light made the Sun Devouring Wolf an extremely impressive beast.

Xiaolang could not speak in his current state, but Long Chen could roughly guess his thoughts by looking into his eyes. The confusion and pain in his eyes had turned into acceptance of reality. This had become his reality, and the only thing they could do was find a way to fix it, not wallow in grief.

Long Chen finally recalled that he had to obtain the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance.

As if Xiaolang could guess his thoughts, he touched Long Chen's hand with his delicate, black paw and then leaped out of his arms and towards the sea of fire.

Where is Xiaolang leading me? Long Chen knew that Xiaolang would not hurt him, so he followed him inside without hesitation. He initially wanted to envelop Mo Xiaolang in Qi, but he was not

afraid of the flames at all. The flames around Mo Xiaolang retreated and left a space that was just big enough for Long Chen to squeeze through.

Mo Xiaolang had once thought that the flames would burn the wolf to death, but in fact, the only thing it was not afraid of was fire.

Ignoring the looks from everyone, he followed Mo Xiaolang through the sea of fire. There was no path there, and he could tell that Xiaolang was only feeling his way around.

Perhaps Xiaolang saw something special the last time he came in here, thought Long Chen.

Indeed, a strange ripple appeared ahead. Long Chen thought the ripple was familiar. Xiaolang stopped walking, turned to Long Chen, and nodded, intending for Long Chen to walk ahead.

“Is this ... the entrance to the tomb?” Long Chen gasped. Standing in front of him was the wall of the tomb. There was a small door built in the same fashion as the large door outside. Similarly, there was a translucent light membrane stopping trespassers.

“Xiaolang, could this also be a door to the tomb? Plus, this little door looks special. Maybe there’s something special inside...” whispered Long Chen.

Based on his experience, the most important things were always hidden.

Although Mo Xiaolang could not speak, he could still nod and shake his head. He nodded, though it looked like he was struggling to explain something.

“But how can I enter?” Long Chen grew worried. The mysterious steel token was meant for the large door, but that had been taken by Yan Danqing. And whatever was inside must have been taken by Yan Danqing already.

At this point, Mo Xiaolang was spinning in circles frantically. He wanted to tell Long Chen something, but he could not seem to explain it. He cocked his head and used two paws to form a flat shape.

“You’re referring to the steel token I got in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range!” Long Chen was pleasantly surprised. He should have thought of it earlier, but the incident with Mo Xiaolang was still muddling his brain.

That steel token appeared in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range, so it must be hugely related to the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. Plus, it is the same as the token Yan Danqing got, so it’s likely I can pass through the light membrane using it.

Long Chen grew awfully excited with that thought. He carefully carried Xiaolang in his arms, then he took out the mysterious steel token from his Universe Pouch. When it appeared, it vibrated slightly. Long Chen leaned towards the light membrane, and a ray of light shone on him. He then felt a strong force pulling his body, and a moment later, he was swallowed by the light.

After a moment of darkness, Long Chen realized that he was standing in a long tunnel. This hallway was built using yellow mud bricks, arranged neatly to give the place an air of solemnity and regalness.

There was a lantern hanging every ten meters or so. Small, red flames, the type that burned for eternity, burned within the lanterns. It was due to these flames that the tunnel was lit very brightly.

“This should be the inside of the tomb. I can’t believe I’m really inside the Burning Heaven Emperor’s tomb.” With Xiaolang in his arms, he trekked ahead. The Sun Devouring Wolf’s body was severely injured, so Long Chen had to carry him to avoid aggravating his injuries.

Although it was odd for a man to carry another man, this was a different situation, and Xiaolang needed care.

The meridians of the Sun Devouring Wolf should be different from those of humans. Xiaolang will need some time to understand this body, thought Long Chen.

Not understanding his body meant that Xiaolang could not absorb spiritual medicines effectively. Without that, his healing process would greatly slow down.

Thankfully, the Sun Devouring Wolf was above the Earth-tier. Long Chen just wondered what combat abilities he would possess after he recovered.

Mo Xiaolang was currently the equivalent of a domesticated Category One Earth-tier demonic beast. That was equal to a Heavenly River Realm cultivator. This meant that with Mo Xiaolang supporting him, as long as he did not provoke a person like the Ninth Prince, Long Chen could do whatever he wanted in Yuanling City.

The top priority right now was to find the most important thing in the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. He had a feeling that he might get something different from Yan Danqing.

Long Chen ventured deeper into the tunnel. After walking for about fifteen minutes, he came across two small, golden doors.

He grew excited. If there was treasure within this tomb, then it would be behind these doors.

Long Chen walked up to one of the doors and gently placed a hand on it, barely containing his excitement. He felt a metallic coldness and a gentle swaying, meaning that it was closed but not locked.

Then he pushed the door open without hesitation and entered a room that was not large. The walls were made of the same material as the tunnel, though the ground was black.

His gaze was immediately attracted by a table at the center of the room. He walked up to it and noticed two secret scriptures placed on the rotting desk.

They were two combat techniques. Looking at the yellowed material, he could tell that they had existed for a long time.

“I’ve got to say, I’m very lucky indeed ...” Long Chen sighed. They had all entered the Burning Heaven Secret Realm, and Xiaolang had started off stronger than him. But now Xiaolang had turned into a Sun Devouring Wolf and Long Chen was the one who had received the Burning Heaven Emperor’s treasure.

I wonder if this is considered the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance? Or did Yan Danqing get something better? Long Chen wondered as he carefully reached out to grab the two scriptures. Just as he was about to touch them, they burst into flames and a familiar, old face appeared in the flames.

"My child, how lucky you are that you made it here!" The face in the flames seemed ancient.

"Are you the Burning Heaven Emperor?" Long Chen asked respectfully.

"It is I." The old man, whom they called the Burning Heaven Emperor, eyed Long Chen up and down, impressed. When he saw the Sun Devouring Wolf in his arms, he gasped and exclaimed, "How is it possible that the Sun Devouring Wolf would make peace with you?"

"I don't know. He just likes me," Long Chen responded. It was not on purpose; it was just that Mo Xiaolang's incident was so unbelievable that it was not convenient to tell anyone.

"I don't have much time. Your arrival here proves that you and I have a karmic connection. These are two combat techniques. One book is the Nine Spinning Fire Shield, and the other is my most famous technique, Divine Fire Clone. All of it is for you, and I hope you can inherit my techniques and allow them to live on! And make them shine bright with glory! There are Heavenly River Pills I left behind in the room opposite. Those are for you too," the face in the flames said mildly.

Just based on their names, the Nine Spinning Fire Shield and Divine Fire Clone sounded extraordinary. Long Chen was overjoyed to receive them and hurriedly expressed his appreciation. "Thank you for your generosity! I will never forget this! I will use these two techniques to their full potential, and their names will rock the world!"

"Not bad, child. A person of ambition," remarked the Burning Heaven Emperor.

"Sir, I have one more question. There is a main door within the tomb. May I ask what the guy who entered from that main door will get?" Long Chen was still puzzled over the inheritance. What constituted as truly receiving the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance, leading to being recruited as an Immortal Guard?

Chapter 257 - Nine Devils Ancestral Fire

"Hehe. That's just a distraction I set. He will get the complete Nine Spinning Fire Shield and an incomplete Divine Fire Clone technique. And he will receive one-tenth of the Heavenly River Pills you will get. That is why the person who has truly received my inheritance is you. I don't have much time left. This is merely a remnant of my soul that has survived for countless years. Now that my only wish has been fulfilled, I am very content ..."

The Burning Heaven Emperor fell into a state of nostalgia. From the look in his eyes, Long Chen could tell that he had a glorious past.

Then his gaze fell on the Sun Devouring Wolf and he said, puzzled, "That's strange. This Sun Devouring Wolf has stayed here for countless years to get the legendary ancestral fire. Why is it so obedient now that it's here?"

"Ancestral fire?" Long Chen froze. Previously, the Sun Devouring Wolf was impatient to rush into the tomb, obviously desperate for something. Could it have been the ancestral fire?

"May I ask what the ancestral fire is?" Long Chen asked respectfully.

"I am not very sure either. I have guarded the ancestral fire for countless years but have never dared to go near it. I only know that it is a super divine object that came to be when the heavens and earth were first formed, according to legends. It holds mysterious powers. There are not many ancestral fires in the world, and encountering one was a huge honor brought about after three lifetimes of accumulating karma. Throughout the ages, I have seen countless masters attempt to tame the ancestral fire, yet no one has had any success."

A divine object formed from the formation of heaven and earth? Could it be similar to the ancestral dragon's inherited blood essence? Both of them have the word 'ancestral,' so they could be similar, thought Long Chen.

He could sense Xiaolang acting a little unnatural in his arms when he heard the words "ancestral fire." Xiaolang probably didn't know what an ancestral fire was, so this was probably due to the remaining willpower of the Sun Devouring Wolf.

When the Burning Heaven Emperor finished speaking, he paused and continued, "Child, you don't know this, but the Sun Devouring Wolf in your arms was a terrifying presence countless years ago, during my era. Perhaps it's weak when it's young, but when it grows up and is released into the vast world out there, it will grow quickly. It can consume any flame, fire crystal, lava, or other fire-element treasure. It then turns them into energy for itself. In terms of growth, it's number one across all demonic beasts!

"Just as its name suggests, the sun is this world's largest source of fire. Theoretically, it can even swallow the sun! That is why whenever a Sun Devouring Wolf appeared, the masters of my era were sure to kill it immediately! The Dragon Continent no longer has Sun Devouring Wolves. The one in your arms is probably the only one. The humans of the current era have long forgotten the terror they brought, which is why I sincerely request that you kill it. If you let it grow, it will definitely bring chaos and harm to the world!

"When I found that an extinct Sun Devouring Wolf was born from that pack of Moon Devouring Wolves, I was worried, though at least it could not go to the Dragon

Continent. But this is different. It has formed a bond with you, and you're definitely going to take it outside. When that happens, it will bring terror upon the world!"

The Burning Heaven Emperor grew more and more emotional as he spoke.

Long Chen was stunned. The ancestral fire the Burning Heaven Emperor spoke of sounded extremely awesome. Then, based on what he had just heard, Long Chen finally understood how powerful the Sun Devouring Wolf was. It could even swallow the sun. How powerful was that? This meant that the Sun Devouring Wolf had the ability to destroy the world.

That was terrifying ...

But the Burning Heaven Emperor had not commanded him directly. Instead, he had told him the truth of what happened, wanting Long Chen to be fully convinced to kill the Sun Devouring Wolf. That was why he had said so much. He felt like Long Chen could not bear to kill such an awesome pet, but after learning of the harm it could bring and receiving the inheritance, he was likely to agree.

Long Chen did not look like an idiot.

Yet he did not agree. He shook his head and said, "Sorry for disappointing you, Sir, but I cannot kill him, because he is my best friend."

"What?" The Burning Heaven Emperor was angry now. He could not understand Long Chen at all and exclaimed in an accusing tone, "Why would you bring terror upon the world because of your selfish desires?!"

Since the Burning Heaven Emperor was going to die soon, Long Chen was direct. "To tell you the truth, there's another reason why this Sun Devouring Wolf has bonded with me. Sir, I entered the Burning Heaven Secret Realm with my best friend, Mo Xiaolang. During the fight outside the tomb, the Sun Devouring Wolf was severely injured, and Mo Xiaolang wanted to take the opportunity to cultivate its Beast Soul. Unfortunately, there was an accident and now his soul has possessed the Sun Devouring Wolf's body. It doesn't matter how terrifying the Sun Devouring Wolf is, he's still human in his core. You can just treat him as an extremely talented person. Won't that do?"

The Burning Heaven Emperor was shaken by Long Chen's explanation, unable to reply for a long time. Then he looked at the Sun Devouring Wolf in disbelief and said, "You mean to say that the ferocious Sun Devouring Wolf is dead and what I'm looking at is a human in its body?"

"Yes," said Long Chen.

"Good heavens! How is it that I could witness such a peculiar thing right before I die? I wonder what interesting thing will happen when human consciousness enters such a powerful beast's body? Will the whole Dragon Continent be changed because of this?" The Burning Heaven Emperor's voice was already starting to fade.

"When I was small, which was during the end of the Middle Ages to you guys, the Dragon Continent was not divided into a few pieces like right now. Information flowed throughout the land easily. I once heard that the most talented warriors were

the Dragon Warriors, who had the Inherited Blood Essence of the ten great ancestral dragons. But they had never appeared before! Never! I dare confirm that this child in the Sun Devouring Wolf's body has a talent similar to the ancestral Dragon Warriors! If he can control the ancestral fire, which is as ancient as the ancestral dragons, I wonder if something even more interesting will happen?" The Burning Heaven Emperor was so excited that he fumbled his words. He stared at Xiaolang with fire in his eyes. Based on his words, it seemed he had no intention to kill Xiaolang anymore.

Long Chen was relieved.

Xiaolang accidentally possessed the Sun Devouring Wolf's body, but he received powerful abilities in return. I guess that's considered a silver lining. And me ... the Burning Heaven Emperor said that warriors with the ancestral dragons' Inherited Blood Essence had never appeared before, so I don't think I'm one.

Long Chen was a little disappointed that he was not a Dragon Warrior of the most powerful type, but Mo Xiaolang's future looked hopeful again, and Long Chen was genuinely happy for him as he stared at the brat's dazed eyes.

"My two children, I don't have much time. I'm incredibly excited to meet the future strongest cultivator of the Dragon Continent before I die. Finally, let me tell you about the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire beneath this tomb ..."

"Nine Devils Ancestral Fire? Sir, please do tell." Long Chen nodded. He knew that it was the ancient flame from the beginning of the world's formation, which was as magical as the ancestral dragons.

"Of course. The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire isn't complete; it's just a small portion of it. If the complete form were present here, the Burning Heaven Secret Realm would have collapsed a long time ago. However, even this small piece has caused countless cultivators who wanted to tame it to die. Among them, there were cultivators who were thousands of times stronger than I was. You guys might not understand what that means, but I have existed for a huge part of history and know more than you. The eastern portion of the Dragon Continent, where we are right now, is called the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. Ten thousand countries of all sizes exist in this area. The Cangyang Kingdom is but a drop in the ocean! There are ten great factions in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. Ten super empires, each ruling over a thousand smaller kingdoms. They are known as the ten great empires. What I'm trying to say is that the strongest warriors of the ten empires were killed by the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire!"

"That's terrifying!" Long Chen drew a sharp breath. He felt scared when he remembered that such a terrifying entity was just underneath him. If even those warriors had died, then he was terrified he might die from just approaching it.

“That’s right. I am the only one in the world who knows that the Nine Devil Ancestral Fire has escaped to this place. It is sentient, though right now it is in deep sleep. It won’t wake up if no one disturbs it, so don’t worry. But, my children, do you want to try to change the world?!” he exclaimed excitedly.

“The Sun Devouring Wolf can swallow all fire. Before this child possessed its body, the wolf had come several times. I think it was attracted to the scent of the ancestral fire. Do you think the Sun Devouring Wolf will succeed in swallowing the ancestral fire?”

Long Chen knew that this old man, who clearly had some madness in his bones, would have this thought.

“But the ancestral fire is so powerful. Would Xiaolang survive it?” said Long Chen worriedly.

“What are you afraid of? Right now, he possesses the best evolutionary abilities of any beast in the world,” said the Burning Heaven Emperor.

It was such a risky and exciting idea. If it was Long Chen, he would definitely do it, though now he had to ask Mo Xiaolang if he was willing. But when he saw Mo Xiaolang’s burning eyes, he knew that he had made a firm decision.

Mo Xiaolang was indeed as crazy as he was.

Chapter 258 – Divine Fire Clone

“Has he agreed to it?” asked the Burning Heaven Emperor excitedly.

Mo Xiaolang could not speak, so he only nodded.

Long Chen could only shake his head with a bitter smile. This was Mo Xiaolang’s decision for his own life, so he could not stop him.

“It’s a pity I don’t have enough time left to witness the result. After such a long chat with you guys, the soul power I have saved up for countless years has been all used up, and I shall return to the cycle of reincarnation.” The Burning Heaven Emperor’s heart was filled with bitterness.

“Sir, do you have any unfulfilled wishes you’d like us to help you with?” This was all Long Chen could say.

“Wishes? It’s been so many years. What wishes could I have?” The Burning Heaven Emperor’s gaze swept from Long Chen to Xiaolang. Then his eyes brightened as he said, “It is tremendously lucky that we have met here at this time. Both of you possess extraordinary talent, and I can tell you have a close bond. I have no unfulfilled wishes, but I wish nothing but the best for you. I never had a brother like that in my life, so I admire the brotherhood between the two of you. May you two look out for each other for the rest of your lives!”

“Thank you, Sir!” Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang looked at each other and smiled. The Burning Heaven Emperor seemed to also be a person who took friendship seriously.

“I should be the one thanking you two for accompanying me on the last leg of my life’s journey so calmly.” The Burning Heaven Emperor gave a small smile.

As they waited, Long Chen felt at a loss for what to do, because he was witnessing the end of a life. However, the Burning Heaven Emperor maintained a faint smile on his lips right until his spirit completely disappeared. Perhaps dying so happily was the most beautiful release.

“Xiaolang, let’s go.” Long Chen put the two books on the rotting table in his Universe Pouch, then he called for the little black wolf on the ground. Mo Xiaolang still wasn’t able to control the Sun Devouring Wolf’s body well, so when he trotted along, he was awkward and wobbly, making him look comical.

Of course, girls would find this adorable.

No one would expect such a cute wolf to be an apex predator as described by the Burning Heaven Emperor.

Closing the door gently, Long Chen did not hurry deeper into the room but rather opened the other door. Xiaolang was now a demonic beast, so he could not utilize the Heavenly River Pills. This meant that all the pills in the room belonged to Long Chen alone.

When he opened the door, a huge amount of star power flowed out, almost knocking Long Chen over. Fortunately, the Heavenly River Pills’ star power was gentle in nature.

Stabilizing himself, Long Chen looked closer and saw dozens upon dozens of Heavenly River Pills in the room. The countless pills transformed the room into a starry night sky, each pill sparkling like a star.

“I’m going to be rich!” Long Chen broke into the widest grin. This was, without a question, the most assets he had ever owned. The divine jades he previously had were nothing compared to these Heavenly River Pills. All his divine jades might not even be worth the price of two pills.

Long Chen knew that even the Azure Dragon Patriarch owned no more than ten Heavenly River Pills himself. Yet there were piles and piles of them in this room ...

If Ling Xi were here, she would have given me several hard kisses! It’s a pity. I don’t know when that girl will wake up. I’m going to show her my fortune the moment she does! Haha ... Long Chen was delighted. He counted the pills as he gathered them up. Half an hour later, the room was empty and all the Heavenly River Pills were in his pouch.

There are about two thousand Heavenly River Pills in total! Xiaolang once said an average Fourth River Stage cultivator has a net worth of about a thousand Heavenly River Pills. So, does that mean I’m richer than an average Fourth River Stage cultivator? When I enter the late Heavenly River Core Realm, I will be able to ascend to the Heavenly River Realm within a very short time thanks to all these pills!

This was an opportunity for him to become stronger, laid before his very eyes. Long Chen was extremely excited.

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang were the greatest winners of the trip to the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. Although Mo Xiaolang had lost his body and turned into a beast, he had received extraordinary abilities, so it was difficult to say if it was a good or bad thing. However, Long Chen had received the larger part of the Burning Heaven Emperor's inheritance, so relatively speaking, reaching the mid Heavenly Core Realm was a minor win. He had received three separate things in total.

First, the Nine Spinning Fire Shield, which was an intermediate Earth-tier defensive combat technique. Defensive combat techniques were rare, rarer than body combat techniques, in fact. This was the equivalent to the last two attacks of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

Second, two thousand Heavenly River Pills, of course. Even the average Fourth River Stage cultivator did not have wealth like this. With these pills, not only would he be able to enter the Heavenly River Stage confidently, he would also not need to worry about money for a very long time.

Third, the Divine Fire Clone technique. To Long Chen's shock, it was an even rarer combat technique, even rarer than life combat techniques. Many people had not even heard of techniques like this. Divine Fire Clone should more aptly be called a divine technique, specifically an advanced Earth-tier divine technique!

This was Long Chen's highest-tiered combat technique so far, ranking above the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

Long Chen glanced through the instructions for Divine Fire Clone. He would have to condense his Qi into a True Fire Seed and store it in his meridian point during his usual cultivation process. When facing an opponent, he could then release the True Fire Seed to form a clone made of fire!

The clone would be completely controlled by Long Chen's mind and could assist in attacks. It would have about one-fifth of Long Chen's strength, though of course, its stamina would be vastly different from that of a true cultivator. The number of clones one could create was related to the cultivator's Qi and cultivation level.

Divine Fire Clone had four stages. After mastering the first stage, he would be able to produce one clone. At the second stage, up to five clones; at the third stage, up to twenty-five clones. As for the last stage, he would be able to produce a hundred and twenty-five Divine Fire Clones!

Long Chen guessed that the Divine Fire Clone that Yan Danqing had received could only reach the third stage at maximum. Twenty-five Divine Fire Clones who had a fifth of his combat abilities. Although it was powerful, it sounded realistic. But a hundred and twenty-five? That would be vastly different.

As Long Chen skimmed through the Divine Fire Clone scripture, Xiaolang lay on his chest, also reading intently.

"Xiaolang, can you cultivate this too?" Long Chen asked casually.

To his surprise, Mo Xiaolang nodded, though then shook his head sourly.

"You mean you're not sure? But it's possible?" he asked excitedly.

Mo Xiaolang nodded.

“Now that’s interesting! We’ll see who cultivates it first,” he said with a guffaw.

The Divine Fire Clone technique was indeed a good technique. Long Chen believed that if he could unleash it to its maximum, he would be extra terrifying! Terrifying enough for people to fear his name!

When a hundred and twenty-five clones of himself attacked at the same time, who could stop him?

All in all, Long Chen had a bountiful trip!

There was only one thing left to do.

Now that he had collected the pills, he glanced through the Divine Fire Clone scripture once more, then put it into his pouch and looked at Mo Xiaolang solemnly. He asked, “Xiaolang, are you sure you want to try your luck with the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire? You must know that it might kill you.”

Xiaolang hesitated for a while but still nodded. He knew that it was a huge opportunity, though whether he could take it or not would depend on his capabilities.

Xiaolang was currently controlling the Sun Devouring Wolf’s body, and he wanted to familiarize himself with its abilities. When Long Chen saw that he insisted, he did not ask again. He pushed the small golden door open and walked deeper into the tunnel.

The Burning Heaven Emperor had said that the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was in the deepest part of the tunnel.

The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was an extraordinary presence amongst the other ancestral fires. It was also called Hellfire! Hell was extremely cold, so when observed visually, it seemed extremely cold. However, judging it by its looks would be a huge mistake because the fire was so cold that it had turned into extreme heat! In terms of combustive abilities, it was one of the best amongst all the ancestral fires!

Of course, the fire that Xiaolang was going to absorb was just a part of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

The tunnel led downwards, likely going underground. The deeper he walked, the colder Long Chen felt. This might make one think that the ancestral fire emitted cold, but in truth, the low temperature was because the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire had absorbed all the heat in the air.

The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was likely still in deep slumber now. Long Chen could only get this deep because of his Level Three Blazing Thunder Body. The duo went on for a while until the tunnel disappeared and revealed a cave ahead. Long Chen focused his sight and found that the cave was covered in hard, thick, black ice. It was a dim place, and everything around him was covered in a layer of black ice.

A gust of cold wind greeted Long Chen, instantly causing him to shiver. He had no choice but to activate his Qi. Once Qi was surging through his whole body, he felt a bit better.

“Fuck me! What is going on with the ancestral fire? How is it so cold?!”

Although he knew that the fire itself was not cold, Long Chen still complained.

“Black ice?” He stepped on the black ice, and coldness rushed through his body. Long Chen stomped gently and discovered that it was extremely hard and likely very thick. It must have existed for a long time.

“Is that the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire?”

Chapter 259 - Absorbing the Ancestral Fire

Long Chen could not help Mo Xiaolang absorb the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire; it was all up to Xiaolang himself. Even though this was Xiaolang’s business, Long Chen was anxious too, seeing as this was a matter of life and death.

The Burning Heaven Emperor had mentioned that even the best of the ten great empires had died from the reactionary response of the ancestral fire while trying to absorb it. Xiaolang was only at the Earth-tier now, and if not for the extraordinary capabilities of the Sun Devouring Wolf, he would never even be able to dream of absorbing the ancestral fire.

Xiaolang leaped from Long Chen’s arms to the ground. He turned to give Long Chen a determined look, then he quietly stepped on the hard ice and went towards the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire. Long Chen followed him. Even though he couldn’t help, he wanted to watch the absorption process to feel more reassured.

The temperature dropped deep into the cave. After walking for about a hundred meters, Long Chen sensed a layer of frost forming on his body. If not for Qi beneath the surface of his body, pumping heat on overdrive, he would have been frozen to death.

And this was with Long Chen’s body being much hardier than that of the average person. Other people would have felt worse. This was a clear display of the wrath of the ancestral fire.

Ancestral fire, ancestral dragon. These are the oldest, most terrifying things. That sliver of inherited blood essence I have—if that is the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon’s blood ...

Long Chen recalled how his growth had been sped up by the Inherited Blood Essence. It had given him Blood Transmutation, the Dragon Soul Transformation, and extraordinary talent, plus that strong feeling he had in his mind. He believed that the Inherited Blood Essence in his sea of consciousness was from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, which was the ancestral dragon of blood and massacre!

I hope that happens. If Xiaolang succeeds with the ancestral fire, then I should have the Inherited Blood Essence of the ancestral dragon to keep up with him. Will I be able to get more blood essence in the future? Long Chen thought with great excitement. In reality, he knew that despite the power of the inherited blood essence, he had something else that was even more powerful—the mysterious jade pendant, because it suppressed the ancestral dragon’s inherited blood essence.

As he thought over the matter, the space ahead suddenly opened up to reveal a one-hundred-meter-wide underground room surrounded by thick, black ice. Long Chen’s gaze was instantly attracted to the center of the space. There was an altar-like platform that was pitch-black with dense, strange symbols carved on it. The symbols radiated a faint, black glow.

About two meters in the air above the altar was a palm-sized flame floating in the air. It was a black flame that burned calmly, as tranquil as a flame in an oil lamp, flickering very slowly.

Long Chen had seen many similar black flames outside, but none of them gave them the same feeling as this. Just like the first time he encountered the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's blood essence, a thick, ancient aura blasted in his face, and his eyes were fixated on the black flame. For a brief moment, he felt like he could see the world in its first few moments in the fire. All he saw was gray mist, so visibility was low. Air currents rose and fell, but the world remained completely blurry.

Then came countless screams and wails. Long Chen felt as if he was looking at hell itself. Pieces of corpses were scattered across the ground with blood everywhere. This was a hell-like place with an eerie, black fire burning violently in the sky. The flame was gigantic, and it suddenly spread across the entire sky in a second, turning it into an upside-down black flame. Countless tiny flames fell like rain, covering the earth. Then the fire destroyed the world.

"Is ... is this the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire?" Long Chen suddenly woke up, gawking at the black flame above the altar. The flame did indeed look very normal, but it was not.

When Long Chen saw the flame, he was merely impressed, but Xiaolang felt much different. His breathing grew heavy and his body slowly expanded. Very soon, he returned to the Sun Devouring Wolf's combat state. With four limbs on the ground, standing next to the ancestral fire, Xiaolang's back almost touched the ceiling.

When they first entered, Long Chen could guess that the ancestral fire was in a deep slumber from the speed of its flickers. The approaching Xiaolang must have startled it awake, because the speed of the flickering slowly increased, and Long Chen felt the air getting colder.

"Xiaolang, hurry." Long Chen knew that his chances of success would be higher if the fire was still asleep.

Xiaolang growled deeply at the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire and then opened his mouth without hesitation. Long Chen felt an eerie but familiar sensation. His enemies felt this whenever he used the Blood Devouring Domain and Soul Swallowing Gaze techniques.

A black whirlpool the size of a human head appeared in the Sun Devouring Wolf's mouth, generating a strange gravitational pull. This was the wolf's powerful absorption ability. It was a devouring technique that was different from Long Chen's technique. Long Chen devoured blood via the Blood Transmutation technique, but Mo Xiaolang could devour fire—as well as anything related to fire—and turn it into energy for himself.

When the black whirlpool appeared, the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire shuddered and moved towards the wolf. As it moved, its black flames flickered faster. When it was almost inside Xiaolang's mouth, it seemed to wake up completely!

Instantly, a soul-piercing shriek rang through Long Chen's sea of consciousness, directly acting on his soul. He felt a piercing pain inside his head. He had not expected the ancestral fire to hold soul-affecting power like a real human.

The temperature of their surroundings fell even more.

Left with no choice, Long Chen could only retreat. He was worried for Xiaolang's safety but could not do anything about it. All he could do was shout, "Do not force yourself!"

He knew that Xiaolang would not back down, but this was a matter related to Xiaolang's destiny, so Long Chen could not interfere. He ran back the way they came for a while, and the bone-chilling sensation lessened. He knew that if he had not escaped in time, he would have died from the cold.

It was only a piece of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, but it was beyond terrifying. Extremes of anything created the opposite effect. This place was extremely cold, so anyone who entered would assume the fire was cold. However, they would be burned to death instantly if they touched it!

Xiaolang, all I can do is ask the damn heavens to watch over you.

Long Chen sighed, controlling the Qi flow in his body with great difficulty as he waited far away. If Mo Xiaolang succeeded, he would be overjoyed.

Since the Burning Heaven Emperor had supported him, Long Chen felt like Xiaolang had a high chance of success, seeing as the Burning Heaven Emperor thought the Sun Devouring Wolf to be a terrifying being.

Time passed slowly. He could constantly hear sounds of shuffling and panting from the depths of the cave, as well as the sound of airflow. Long Chen was very anxious at the start, but after two hours, he realized that the temperature of his surroundings was starting to rise. This was an amazing sign.

He quickly sprinted into the depths of the cave and peered inside. The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire had disappeared and Xiaolang was lying on the black ice with his eyes closed. Long Chen could see roaring, black flames covering his whole body. The flames looked cold and radiated cold. That was undeniably the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

Has Xiaolang succeeded? Long Chen was excited. He was not sure yet, so he continued waiting.

Another two hours later, the temperature of the surroundings had risen to almost normal room temperature. At this point, the black flames on Xiaolang's body had completely disappeared. Long Chen noticed that the injuries on his body had disappeared too. He seemed to have returned to his usual form, or rather, an even stronger form.

Finally, Xiaolang opened his eyes. For a brief moment, Long Chen saw a cold, black flame burning in his eyes, and the sight made his soul shudder.

When Xiaolang saw Long Chen, he looked ecstatic. Probably because he felt like his combat form was too large, he turned back into his previous, adorable form and ran cutely up to Long Chen, lifting his head to stare at him.

Long Chen was knocked out by how cute his expression and actions were. Xiaolang was not deliberately trying to look cute, he was merely not very familiar with his new body, which was why his butt swayed so much when he ran.

"We'll talk while we walk." When Long Chen saw that his injuries had healed, he did not waste time on small talk. Grabbing him by the scruff, he lifted Xiaolang up and sprinted out because he could tell that due to the absence of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, the temperature was rising and the ancient ice around them was starting to melt.

“Xiaolang, have you fully absorbed the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire?” Long Chen asked excitedly.

Xiaolang gave a dazed look, nodded, then shook his head.

This inability to converse was an inconvenient problem. Long Chen did not understand him at all and did not even know what to say. At this point, he could only do his best to guess and let Xiaolang nod if he somehow made a correct guess.

Xiaolang opened his jaw, and Long Chen saw a cold flame dancing on his tongue. It looked like a small version of the ancestral fire. The awakened Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was violent and destructive, while the flame on his tongue danced with child-like mischief. Under Xiaolang’s control, it moved from left to right.

Xiaolang closed his mouth, and the flame disappeared.

“I understand now. You didn’t absorb it to turn it into your own power, you took control of the ancestral fire and made it recognize you as its master. That way, despite not receiving the benefit of an instant increase in strength, you still receive many other benefits,” Long Chen guessed.

Xiaolang nodded, his eyes squinting so they looked like crescent moons.

“Fuck, don’t act cute in front of me!” Long Chen scolded him jokingly.

Mo Xiaolang sulked.

Chapter 260 - Loser

Long Chen was so happy that words alone could not describe how he felt.

After spending some time with Mo Xiaolang, he could guess what his intentions were by looking at his gestures. Even though it was difficult, Long Chen was happy that he could at least communicate with Mo Xiaolang.

After turning into the Sun Devouring Wolf, Mo Xiaolang had lost everything he had worked for as a human as well as his human identity and language. To the others, he was as good as dead. But he had obtained the body of the Sun Devouring Wolf, a beast with monstrous talent; he had even devoured one of the ancestral fires, the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire. It was up to him to decide which form was better.

While walking through the long corridor, Long Chen managed to get a grasp on Mo Xiaolang's current strength. The Sun Devouring Wolf was a Category Three Earth-tier or so, but after Mo Xiaolang refined the Beast Soul, an accident occurred. Due to the injury, some of the Qi of the Sun Devouring Wolf was lost. Mo Xiaolang was roughly at Category Two Earth-tier, equal to a cultivator at the Second River Stage. If Long Chen were to fight Mo Xiaolang right now, he would be instantly obliterated even without Mo Xiaolang using the deadly Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

The ability of the Sun Devouring Wolf allowed Mo Xiaolang to control the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire as he wished. Long Chen knew that Mo Xiaolang’s future opponents would meet a terrible demise.

Unfortunately, Mo Xiaolang still had a lot of growing to do. While he could control the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, he didn't have full mastery of it. Most of the fire was contained within his body and limbs. Though as he got stronger, he would be able to control more. The amount of fire he could control now was just a small part of it. Even then, the diluted fire was extremely deadly.

Mo Xiaolang's condition was not as hopeless as they had thought. At least he had fun controlling the Sun Devouring Wolf's body. But Long Chen was still sensitive enough to notice that Mo Xiaolang had a hint of pain and confusion in his eyes. Long Chen didn't know how much pain he was feeling in his heart without personally experiencing turning into a beast himself.

"Xiaolang, let's go. Let's see how many items Yan Danqing has obtained. Hahaha ..."

Disregarding Mo Xiaolang's condition, Long Chen was the biggest winner. Unfortunately, he could not show everyone what he had obtained. To the others, Long Chen had lost a sworn brother and Yan Danqing had taken the time to snatch the mysterious steel plate, becoming the most promising individual amongst all of them.

Since he had recovered, Mo Xiaolang didn't want Long Chen to carry him any further. Mo Xiaolang jumped down with his lithe body and matched Long Chen's pace. He wasn't used to using four limbs yet, so it took him a lot of energy to do so. Long Chen laughed at how uncoordinated Mo Xiaolang was.

Mo Xiaolang rolled his eyes and continued wobbling around.

Long Chen chuckled when he saw Mo Xiaolang ignore him. They eventually exited the corridor and found themselves in the sea of fire once again. Mo Xiaolang frowned and opened his mouth. The fire shuddered before flowing into his mouth like water. In just a few breaths, all the fire within hundreds of meters was almost completely swallowed by him.

"Mo Xiaolang, save some fire to block this entrance," Long Chen told him cautiously.

Xiaolang stopped devouring the flames and left some fire near the entrance. He knew that Long Chen didn't want others to know that they had obtained a bunch of treasures.

Mo Xiaolang burped after consuming all that fire, but his cultivation barely progressed. Long Chen was initially curious as to why the Sun Devouring Wolf had not eaten the flames here. It seemed that despite it looking like a large concentration of particularly hot fire, it was an insignificant amount for the wolf ...

It seems that it might not be as easy as I thought to increase the strength of the Sun Devouring Wolf. The quality of the flames must be quite high to have a significant effect on his cultivation.

Everyone was shocked to see the sea of flames beside them reducing drastically.

Near the center of the plaza were three groups of people. Two of the groups appeared to be sad and lost. They were the six people from the Lingwu family and the five people from the Dawn Trading Alliance. The youths from the Lingwu family seemed to be in the worst condition, while the people from the Beast Soul Palace were laughing arrogantly. They surrounded Yan Danqing and were showering him with praise.

“From now onwards, Yuanling City’s most powerful faction will be the Beast Soul Palace and not the Lingwu family! Prince Yuan, it’s all thanks to your courage and wisdom that we’ve obtained the inheritance of the Burning Heaven Emperor!”

All of them praised non-stop, much to the dismay of the youths from the Lingwu family.

Just then, Dongfang Tianxuan and Ximen Xiaodie huddled together. They were the strongest ones in their team, at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. Ximen Xiaodie was especially strong with the White Tiger Blade, putting her on par with someone at the late Heavenly Core Realm.

“Tianxuan, they are too arrogant! I can’t stand it anymore!” Ximen Xiaodie was almost crying.

“Endure it. There are a few more days before the gates of the ancient ruins open again. Now that Yan Danqing has obtained the inheritance, they have every right to be arrogant, while we can only be shamed as losers ...” Dongfang Tianxuan answered weakly.

“Why? Isn’t the Lingwu family the strongest? Why did we lose to them?” Ximen Xiaodie could not let it go.

“That’s just how fate is. Just like how Long Chen was weaker than us previously but is stronger than us now. If we stop improving, we will be surpassed by others. The Lingwu family might’ve been too complacent all this time.”

“Don’t talk to me about Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang again. They promised that they would get the inheritance, but they lost to Yan Danqing. They even went missing! To think that the Patriarchs would trust those two worthless idiots! Look at our situation now! We lost! We lost everything!” Ximen Xiaodie no longer had the face to return to the Lingwu family.

Dongfang Tianxuan was taken aback when she mentioned Long Chen. “I heard that Mo Xiaolang was killed by an Earth-tier wolf-type demonic beast and Yan Danqing managed to use that opportunity to slip past. Also, it seems Long Chen defeated Li Ziling. They are indeed strong, but they aren’t ruthless like Yan Danqing, so they ended up losing. Now Long Chen is missing and we don’t even know if he’s alive ...”

In Dongfang Tianxuan’s eyes, Long Chen was a monstrous genius that would never lose. To think he had lost to Yan Danqing.

“I thought he would continue to show us miracles ...” Dongfang Tianxuan sighed.

Just then, the sea of flames beside them grew smaller. All of them were alerted to the change and quickly got into battle positions.

“Who’s there?” Yan Danqing pushed away his underlings and looked at the shrinking sea of fire.

In front of everyone's eyes, a man and a beast walked out of the flames. When they saw that it was Long Chen and the Sun Devouring Wolf, all of them took a few steps back, their faces pale from the shock.

They were only slightly shocked at Long Chen's appearance, but why was the Sun Devouring Wolf by his side?

Everyone knew the strength of the Sun Devouring Wolf, so all of them were afraid when they saw it. Even the strongest person present, Yan Danqing, took a few steps back, his fighting spirit soaring.

Looking at his fearful stance, Long Chen chuckled secretly. "Xiaolang, step away. Don't let them know that I'm with you."

Xiaolang understood his intention. Long Chen would never let Yan Danqing take the inheritance just like that. Mo Xiaolang stopped and fell to the ground near the tomb, then he closed his eyes to sleep. He needed some time to digest some of the Nine Devils Ancient Fire that he had just obtained.

Everyone knew that the Sun Devouring Wolf had been injured by the Lingwu family. They now assumed that the wolf could not continue to fight and had transformed into its miniature version. Everyone sighed in relief, thinking that the Sun Devouring Wolf had been weakened.

It was rare for a demonic beast to be able to change its body size, but it was not impossible. Therefore, none of them were surprised to see that the Sun Devouring Wolf had become smaller.

Everyone finally looked to Long Chen after seeing that the Sun Devouring Wolf was no longer a threat to them. They were curious as to why Long Chen was fine even after spending so much time with the Sun Devouring Wolf.

They felt like Long Chen was shrouded in mystery.

As far as Yan Danqing knew, Mo Xiaolang was dead and Long Chen had defeated Li Ziling, so Long Chen was the strongest fighter here. Yan Danqing was naturally hostile to the person that could threaten him.

Long Chen walked over to the Lingwu family group. Dongfang Tianxuan and everyone else looked at him with unfriendly gazes because he had not obtained the inheritance.

"You boasted so much in the past, but you are nothing but a loser," Ximen Xiaodie grumbled, but no one else dared to say anything. All of them still remembered how he had killed Dongfang Tianchen.

"Who said I'm a loser?" Long Chen chuckled. "The real fight hasn't even begun."

He then brandished the Azure Dragon Halberd and pointed at Yan Danqing. "Do you have the guts to fight me? So we can finally have the closure we need here in the ancient ruins?"

Yuanling City's strongest youth smiled plainly at Long Chen's taunt.

"You arrogant brat."