

## War God 261

Chapter 261 - Peak Essence Beast

Everyone was speechless at Long Chen's behavior. Everyone thought he had died when he entered the fire, but not only had he survived, he was now looking to die again.

"Are you looking down on me just because you managed to defeat Li Ziling?" Yan Danqing smiled plainly. He was the biggest winner today and he was the strongest youth in Yuanling City. To think Long Chen would dare to point the Azure Dragon Halberd at him.

But Long Chen ignored his taunt and walked to the center of the plaza. He taunted Yan Danqing again. "Yan Danqing, come here! I won't let you take what belongs to me!"

"What belongs to you?" Yan Danqing knew if he didn't use his strongest technique to defeat Long Chen after his taunts, he would lose face.

He slowly approached Long Chen and chuckled. "Brat, you think the steel plate and the inheritance belong to you?"

The mysterious steel plate was taken from the mouth of the Sun Devouring Wolf.

"Of course." The mysterious steel plate was what Mo Xiaolang had prepared for Long Chen, but Yan Danqing had taken advantage of the situation and grabbed it.

Long Chen's answer made everyone laugh. Only the youths from the Lingwu family were left feeling ashamed by Long Chen's words. Dongfang Tianxuan and Ximen Xiaodie looked at each other and sighed. Ximen Xiaodie even spat at Long Chen.

"Is Long Chen's brain fried? Yan Danqing has become the inheritor of the Burning Heaven Emperor. We are just waiting for the Ninth Prince to open up the gate, and Long Chen still thinks he has a chance?"

All of the youths from the Lingwu family were thinking the same thing.

As for the Beast Soul Palace, the youths wanted Yan Danqing to pulverize Long Chen.

Yan Danqing's Qi surged, and he shouted, "See, they want me to beat you to a pulp. I suppose I have no choice!"

He became a whirlwind and ran at Long Chen, his body nothing but a blur.

"First Stage Heavy Blow!"

A strong punch rapidly approached Long Chen. Even though it looked plain, the attack was exceedingly destructive.

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

Long Chen waved the Azure Dragon Halberd around. Not only did he block Yan Danqing's attack, he even managed to land a hit, sending Yan Danqing flying backwards. Yan Danqing wasn't injured, but he felt embarrassed from being sent flying.

“I’ve heard that you are strong but stupid. Since you want to die, I will fulfill your wish! Long Chen, let me show you the strength of a Peak Essence Beast before you die. Consider it an honor.”

Yan Danqing realized that Long Chen would not be simple to defeat, so he decided to use his strongest form.

“Peak Essence Beast, Beast Soul Transformation!”

When Yan Danqing said that, his body expanded and his muscles grew larger. White fur sprouted all over his body and sharp claws grew from his four limbs.

Long Chen was slightly stunned at the appearance of the three-meter-tall humanoid beast. Yan Danqing looked like a white, ape-like demonic beast. Judging from how terrifying he looked, it was clear that the Peak Essence Beast was at the apex of its food chain. Its attack, speed, and defense were clearly very exceptional.

After transforming, Yan Danqing stared at Long Chen with his jade-green eyes, not moving an inch. His breathing was ragged, exhausting white mist from his nostrils. Yan Danqing’s prince-like appearance had changed into a barbaric-looking white ape. Long Chen could not hold it in and burst out laughing.

“Is this your Beast Soul Transformation? The Peak Essence Beast? You became a giant gorilla? I think you look fucking ugly.”

Long Chen’s shrill laugh made Yan Danqing’s eyes go bloodshot. This was the first time someone had told him he was ugly. Everyone else thought Long Chen was stupid for making fun of Yan Danqing’s appearance.

“Die!” Yan Danqing roared, stomping the ground. The entire plaza shook. It was clear that the Peak Essence Beast was very strong.

Even though he looked ugly, he was a frightening foe! Yan Danqing ran towards Long Chen, the ground shaking under his feet. His ragged and hot breath soon reached Long Chen. Yan Danqing’s three-meter-tall body and arms thicker than Long Chen’s waist were incredible!

“Beast Soul Transformation? Do you think you're the only one who can transform?”

Long Chen chuckled, then he changed into his dragon form. Blood-red scales covered his body, and the sharp bone spikes made him look much better than Yan Danqing’s transformation.

This was why Long Chen had insulted Yan Danqing’s appearance.

“You dare use an inferior beast to transform before me? Do you think you can hold a candle to a Peak Essence Beast? Incredulous!” Yan Danqing laughed and punched again. Even though it was the same First Stage Heavy Blow, it was much stronger due to his transformation. The ground shook and the wind howled.

Inferior? You will soon learn that a Peak Essence Beast is an ant compared to a dragon!

Long Chen smiled and used the Nine Dragon Flashes. He quickly flashed across the plaza and used Yellow River Split and Shattered Skies again. The Azure Dragon Halberd became a sharp drill that thrust at Yan Danqing's head!

"Second Stage Heavy Kick!" Yan Danqing's first attack had missed, but he did not panic. He used his legs and kicked Long Chen's Azure Dragon Halberd. In the next instant, the Azure Dragon Halberd was deflected, and Yan Danqing launched another attack at Long Chen's chest!

Long Chen did not panic; he merely moved his finger. "Sword Devil Finger!"

The twinkling starlight gathered and shot towards Yan Danqing's eyes. If Yan Danqing continued his attack, he would hit Long Chen, but he would be blinded too.

Yan Danqing was shocked at Long Chen's reckless fighting style. He didn't want to lose his eyes just to defeat Long Chen, so he recalled his attack.

"Long Chen, is trading blows all you can do? Are you that weak?" Yan Danqing laughed.

To be fair, everyone was currently unsure if Yan Danqing would be able to keep the inheritance after exchanging blows with Long Chen so many times. Dongfang Tianxuan thought about how Long Chen had managed to create so many miracles, and a daring thought crossed her mind.

Could Long Chen become the strongest genius of Yuanling City? How did he get to this position when he was just an insignificant ant?

Dongfang Tianxuan thought Long Chen would lose to Yan Danqing, but he should still be respected. Long Chen's story was a legendary one, one where someone had started from the bottom and slowly rose to the top.

Her hatred towards him slightly lessened.

Long Chen and Yan Danqing clashed again.

*His speed, strength, and defense are almost on the level of a demonic beast. But his skin could never withstand the attacks from the Azure Dragon Halberd.* Long Chen smiled coldly and steeled his heart.

He didn't want to play with Yan Danqing anymore, so his body blurred. He ran towards Yan Danqing, and the Azure Dragon Halberd swung around his body, leaving afterimages in its wake. Numerous dragon roars could be heard as he stabbed wildly at Yan Danqing, forming a tsunami of attacks.

"Azure Dragon Technique, Starsweep Dragon!"

Even Yan Danqing had to take Long Chen's strongest technique seriously. He roared and used all of his Qi to launch a single attack.

"Ninth Stage Shattered Void!"

The technique was clearly an Earth-tier martial technique. First Stage Heavy Blow was strong already, and Ninth Stage Shattered Void was a combination of nine First Stage Heavy Blows. The

power from the nine punches fused together and multiplied its strength. Even though the technique looked plain, it was considerably strong, and it clashed directly with Long Chen's Starsweep Dragon.

Boom!

The air surrounding them exploded, and the shockwave spread throughout the plaza. Everyone heard the sound of the halberd and fist colliding nine times before both Long Chen and Yan Danqing were knocked backwards by the impact.

This time, they were using all of their strength.

*In terms of pure strength, Long Chen is weaker than Yan Danqing after he transformed into the Peak Essence Beast.* Dongfang Tianxuan frowned as she watched the big clash.

But when she saw the result, her lips opened slightly from shock. *How is this possible?*

Everyone else took a bit more time to react after seeing who had emerged victorious. Long Chen landed gracefully, while Yan Danqing fell onto the ground and rolled several times. His face was dusty and his blood was boiling.

How could this be? Had the strength-orientated Peak Essence Beast lost to Long Chen's inferior beast?

Even Yan Danqing refused to believe it. He was deeply ashamed.

He suddenly stood up and charged at Long Chen.

"Long Chen, how dare you fight dirty!"

"Fight dirty?" Long Chen chuckled. "Since I didn't kill you with that attack, I have no choice but to use this one ..."

Chapter 262 - Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension

"Another technique?" Yan Danqing's face paled. Yan Danqing was actually preparing another technique to kill Long Chen, but to think Long Chen had another technique too.

Hmph! His meager attack will never be able to beat the secret technique of the Beast Soul Palace!

Yan Danqing relaxed and smiled as he ran towards Long Chen. Yan Danqing's Qi was still pulsating, forming a large ball of Qi that enveloped him.

"Long Chen, let's decide this once and for all. We shall see who's the strongest!" Yan Danqing howled. He was initially only afraid of Mo Xiaolang and not Long Chen, and he had never thought Long Chen would force him to use all of his strength!

Yan Danqing was anything but calm, while Long Chen was the opposite. He slowly placed the Azure Dragon Halberd's tip on the ground while looking at Yan Danqing calmly.

"Peak Essence Shredding Punch!"

He was very close to Long Chen when he shouted, raising his massive fist up into the air. The swirling Qi enveloped Yan Danqing's body, and he shot towards Long Chen on all fours.

The entire ground shook. It was clear that even a mountain would be destroyed by that attack, much less Long Chen.

Everyone felt their guts go cold when they saw Yan Danqing punch Long Chen. They thought Long Chen would be able to defeat Yan Danqing after sending him flying backwards, but it was clear Long Chen would lose to Yan Danqing's strongest attack. Long Chen was still rooted to the ground.

But was that really the case?

Long Chen raised his head and saw the beast towering above him. He smiled and moved in a flurry.

I wonder how strong an intermediate Earth-tier martial technique is.

Long Chen swung the Azure Dragon Halberd upwards from the ground, and a burst of light exploded. Numerous light particles were attracted towards the Azure Dragon Halberd in the air.

Long Chen was essentially swinging the Azure Dragon Halberd upwards, but it was not a simple swing. The massive azure dragon soul flew upwards from the Azure Dragon Halberd.

The halberd had transformed into the flashy soul of the azure dragon!

“Azure Dragon Martial Technique, Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension!”

The illusion of a massive dragon flew skywards, bearing its claws and fangs towards Yan Danqing. The techniques collided mid-air and caused an impressive explosion.

The explosion made everyone cusp their ears. Some of them even fell backwards in pain from the shock wave.

Even though the plaza's ground was very strong, the stones were currently being sucked upwards before being ground to dust. The dust covered everyone's vision. All they could hear was a dragon's roar and a beast's howl.

The colliding energy exploded and then there were no more sounds. Someone flew outwards from the dust cloud with blood spraying everywhere. The person crashed onto the ground, his breath ragged and his face pale. The look of pain on his face made it clear that he had suffered internal injuries. On top of that, his right arm was missing. Everyone saw his right arm fly up in the air before falling onto the tomb and rolling in front of Mo Xiaolang. Mo Xiaolang sneezed and the arm flew away.

It was Yan Danqing who was injured!

Everyone's minds went blank when they saw his pale face. Once the dust settled, Long Chen dispelled his transformation and put the Azure Dragon Halberd away. He smiled and looked at everyone, causing all of them to retreat instinctively.

The youths from the Beast Soul Palace almost went crazy after seeing that Yan Danqing's right arm was severed by Long Chen. Fear and worry flooded their hearts. They knew Yan Danqing was the treasure of Emperor Yuan, and now Long Chen had severed his arm. An angry Emperor Yuan was exceedingly terrifying.

They looked at each other before rushing to Yan Danqing. Some of them treated his injuries while others went to find his severed arm to preserve it. If Yan Danqing died, not a single one of them would be allowed to live.

Thankfully, Yan Danqing was not dead. He was still conscious, but he couldn't feel his right arm. The burning pain caused his entire body to tremble and spasm. He gritted his teeth and endured the pain to look at Long Chen only to find that the latter was grinning at him,

Yan Danqing's ego had suffered a serious blow. To think that he, the strongest youth in Yuanling City, had lost to the unknown Long Chen in their first fight! He could not accept it. His hatred towards Long Chen was immense, and he swore he would kill Long Chen for severing his arm!

But then fear gripped his heart when he saw Long Chen's devilish smile. He felt his heart quivering before blood surged into it, causing him to spit blood.

"I remember seeing you use your right hand to grab the steel plate, so I chopped your whole arm off. Next time, you better remember that you can't touch anything without my permission." Long Chen's voice was calm but dangerous.

"Long Chen ... Do you know who I am? My grandfather is the strongest person in Yuanling City. I will also become an Immortal Guard soon. You will die!" Yan Danqing yelled.

"Is that so? I should just kill you, then. Then I can just take the inheritance from you and I will become the Immortal Guard. Your grandfather would not be able to lay a finger on me then." Long Chen chuckled.

"You can't kill me! I've obtained the inheritance, so the Ninth Prince will kill you!" Yan Danqing howled.

"Long Chen, you can't do this. Yan Danqing obtained the inheritance first. If you take it now, you will break the Ninth Prince's rules. If that happens ..." Li Ziling quickly advised Long Chen otherwise.

Long Chen knew that the Ninth Prince had stated that they could use any tactic they wanted before the inheritance was found. But now that the inheritance was in Yan Danqing's hands and everyone was waiting for the Ninth Prince to open the gate, that meant that Long Chen would indeed be in the wrong if he killed Yan Danqing now.

But only Long Chen knew that the inheritance Yan Danqing had found was incomplete.

Long Chen was the one who had obtained the complete inheritance, so he didn't need Yan Danqing's incomplete one. Also, he had a feeling that the Ninth Prince's intention was to have them find the inheritance in his stead. Long Chen decided not to tell anyone about how he had gotten the complete Divine Fire Clone technique as well as the two thousand Heavenly River Pills.

Long Chen smiled and approached Mo Xiaolang.

"Let's go find a quiet place to stay."

They would have to wait for the Ninth Prince to open the gate, so Long Chen decided to go somewhere else to see what they'd obtained.

Mo Xiaolang stood up and followed Long Chen to leave the plaza.

Everyone just stared at him while they left, especially the Lingwu family youths. Words could no longer describe their shock. Long Chen had defeated Yan Danqing and become the strongest youth in Yuanling City. To them, this was the most shocking news.

More importantly, why was the Sun Devouring Wolf listening to Long Chen?

The Sun Devouring Wolf was an Earth-tier demonic beast, yet Long Chen had turned it into his pet? This meant that even though Long Chen could not become an Immortal Guard, he could still dominate Yuanling City!

"How many more secrets does he have?" Dongfang Tianxuan mumbled.

After separating from the rest, Long Chen found a quiet location and assessed what he had gained.

"If even Yan Danqing isn't my match, that means no one at the Heavenly Core Realm can beat me. But I must not get complacent yet. As long as I'm not at the Heavenly River Realm, I will still get bullied by others, especially the Ninth Prince and the others at the Biyang Imperial Capital. All of them are at the Heavenly River Realm and above."

He was only at the mid Heavenly Core Realm at the moment, and he needed to reach the late Heavenly Core Realm as soon as possible. Blood Transmutation was a good way to progress, but Black-tier demonic beasts were no longer useful to him. He needed beasts at the Earth-tier and above.

"There's still a few days. I need to learn how to use the Nine Spinning Fire Shield and Divine Fire Clone. Mo Xiaolang, didn't you say that you wanted to try and learn it? Let's learn it together."

Rather than talking to Mo Xiaolang, it was more like he was talking to himself. He still didn't have a method to change Mo Xiaolang back to a human, so he had no choice but to get accustomed to learning Mo Xiaolang's gestures. Long Chen knew that he would spend a long time with Mo Xiaolang after this was over.

The Nine Spinning Fire Shield was an intermediate Earth-tier martial technique, and it was stupidly strong. After learning its basics, Long Chen realized that the technique could easily block his amateur Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension numerous times. The Nine Spinning Fire Shield was easily the strongest martial technique in Yuanling City.

As for Divine Fire Clone, it was even more of a monstrous martial technique.

"It's such an interesting technique. There's no way the Ninth Prince wouldn't covet this. I should lay low once I get out of here."

Long Chen would never let the technique leave his side.

Time slowly passed, and Long Chen felt the ancient ruins open up once more.

## Chapter 263 - Reopening

Once out of the ruins, they had to decide who would become the Immortal Guard. This was important to Long Chen, but there was a problem now.

Long Chen had indeed obtained the true inheritance, but to the others, Yan Danqing was the one who had obtained it. If Long Chen revealed the truth, he would definitely be able to obtain the post of Immortal Guard, but that was a bad choice. The Ninth Prince would be interested in the Divine Fire Clone technique, and there was no way Long Chen would part ways with it.

Long Chen was trying to figure out how to become an Immortal Guard through other means. His strongest value was being stronger than Yan Danqing. Since the Ninth Prince wanted to choose someone to be an Immortal Guard, he would naturally choose the strongest. Long Chen refused to believe he had no chance at all.

After deciding on a course of action, Long Chen made the decision not to reveal that he had obtained the complete inheritance. He could explain it some other time if he used those techniques in public later on. After all, he would be much stronger by then and would not be easy to bully.

Everyone also sensed that the gates were being opened. None of them wanted to stay here any longer, so they ran towards the exit. They were still separated into three groups, with Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang walking leisurely at the back.

Yan Danqing was leading the first group. He did not look back, because he knew Long Chen was just behind them. His eyes were filled with hatred and his right arm was safely secured in his Universe Pouch. He would only be able to restore it once he was back in Yuandi City. Before that, he was just a cripple.

Every time he thought about how Long Chen had cut off his arm, anger would bubble in his heart.

None of them spoke as they ran out of the ruins and returned to their original location. When they exited, two flashes of light flew out. The Patriarchs from the Lingwu family recognized what they were—the Black Tortoise Axe and the Heavenly Wolf Dagger. That meant that their owners had perished.

They knew that a few people would lose their lives in the ruins. Even though the Lingwu family felt a sense of loss with Beitang Mo's death, they were more shocked that Mo Xiaolang was dead too. Still, Mo Xiaolang was essentially an outsider, while Beitang Mo's grandfather was standing there with them.

When the youths were back in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range, they each sought their own factions.

Long Chen came out with Mo Xiaolang in his arms, and he saw that everyone was waiting for them outside. The Ninth Prince, Lin Cangtian, and the black butler were on one side, while the Dawn Trading Alliance, Emperor Yuan, and the two strongest fighters under him were waiting anxiously on the other. The four Patriarchs as well as some elders were also waiting at the Lingwu family's corner. People like Dongfang Xuanfeng and Beitang Ming, who were busy handling the family, had not come here. Only Dongfang Xuanyu was standing beside the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch.



When Long Chen and the others walked out, the Lingwu family checked on them to see who was injured and who had died. With the appearance of the Black Tortoise Axe, everyone knew that Beitang Mo was dead, and they quickly noticed that Dongfang Tianchen was missing.

Li Ziling from the Dawn Trading Alliance looked very fatigued too, and Yan Danqing was missing an arm!

The only one who didn't have any injuries was Long Chen. Everyone looked at him and assumed that he had obtained the inheritance.

All of them quickly ushered the youths back to their factions, leaving Long Chen standing alone.

"What happened?" the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch asked everyone.

"Brother Tianchen and Beitang Mo were killed by Long Chen!" Dongfang Tianxuan said while gritting her teeth.

"What?!" All of the Patriarchs were angry. They glared at Long Chen with hatred.

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch glared at Long Chen. "Long Chen, didn't you promise me that you would fight alongside them?"

"I did, but some people are just too stubborn to understand. They tried to take the Azure Dragon Halberd from me and ended up losing their lives. I blame myself for not holding back."

"You!" The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch had a rough idea of what had happened, but that didn't mean that he wouldn't get angry about losing the family's strongest fighters. Still, Lin Cangtian was around, so he could do nothing to Long Chen. Unfortunately, however, someone else was blinded by hatred.

When Dongfang Xuanyu saw Long Chen's despicable smile and thought about Dongfang Tianchen, the hatred in her heart exploded. She ran at Long Chen to kill him!

"You want to die that badly?" Long Chen wanted to kill Dongfang Xuanyu for setting him up. She had almost taken his life before, and now she was underestimating him by charging wildly. Long Chen's eyes turned cold, then he used the Sword Devil Finger numerous times on her. The energy shot out of his finger and stabbed into her.

He had launched five attacks. Not only had he neutralized her attack, but Long Chen's final Devil Sword Finger exploded just in front of her, the razor-sharp energy tearing her clothes to pieces. Everyone saw her naked body for just a split second before numerous wounds appeared on her skin and covered her in blood.

Dongfang Xuanyu cried out. She was covered in wounds, feeling more pain than she had ever felt before. She wanted to faint, but the pain kept her awake. She knew that her clothes were torn off and her entire body was exposed to the world, causing her heart to crumble.

She only realized then that she was not special and that there were people she should not offend.

“Xuanyu!” the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch shouted.

He quickly took out a robe to cover her body before pushing her to the Southern Vermillion Bird Patriarch for treatment. The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch gave Long Chen a furious look before unleashing his Heavenly River Realm aura. He wanted to kill Long Chen right now!

“Stop,” said a soft voice. It was Lin Cangtian.

No matter how much the Patriarch hated Long Chen, he had no choice but to stop himself and endure.

Long Chen knew that the Ninth Prince would stop them, so he had held back from killing Dongfang Xuanyu. Allowing her to live was an act of mercy, though Long Chen had inflicted so much emotional damage that she would likely end up with the same fate as Yang Zan.

Even if the Patriarch had attacked him, Long Chen still had Mo Xiaolang by his side, so he was not afraid.

Everyone looked at the prince. “You dare attack in front of me? Have you forgotten I’m here?”

“I admit my mistake, Ninth Prince.” The Patriarch bowed down. He knew now was not the time to be rash.

“As long as you know you’ve made a mistake. All of you better behave.”

Lin Cangtian looked around and asked the youths the most pressing question. “Who obtained the inheritance?”

*Damn.* The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch felt his heart tighten. It was very clear that Long Chen had obtained the inheritance since he was unharmed. If that was the case, he would become an Immortal Guard and the Lingwu family could no longer kill him. But at least the Lingwu family would continue to rule over the city, so it was not that bad.

Unfortunately, he was wrong.

All the youths immediately looked at Yan Danqing. He raised his courage and replied, “Ninth Prince, I was the one who obtained the inheritance!”

His voice was hoarse while he looked at Long Chen. It was sufficient to say that he was afraid of Long Chen.

A clamor arose when they heard that. Everyone assumed it was Long Chen, but Yan Danqing was the one who had won. That meant that the Beast Soul Palace would be able to rule Yuanling City for the next twenty years.

“I knew that he was not that strong. Big Brother, since he didn’t obtain the inheritance, killed Mo’er and Chen’er, and even injured Xuanyu ...” The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch looked at the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, his intentions clear. They needed to kill Long Chen!

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch nodded.

Everyone was still perplexed. Yan Danqing had lost an arm, yet he had come out with the inheritance.

Lin Cangtian was surprised too before he chuckled. "Then who severed your arm?"

It was embarrassing, but Yan Danqing dared not delay his answer. He lowered his head and muttered, "Long Chen."

Long Chen.

His name was etched deeply into everyone's hearts.

"You fought him head-on?" Lin Cangtian was interested.

Everyone would look down on him if he didn't admit it, so Yan Danqing nodded.

#### Chapter 264 - Battle in Ten Days

Long Chen had defeated a Category Nine Black-tier Peak Essence Beast and even severed one of Yan Danqing's arms? Everyone thought that was impossible, but that was not the case. Long Chen had improved too fast. Since he had defeated Yan Danqing, that meant he was the strongest youth in Yuanling County. He was now more famous than Mo Xiaolang!

No one had expected that the nameless Long Chen would become so strong in such a short amount of time.

Long Chen smiled. He was still trying to come up with a way to escape the Lingwu family's encirclement and obtain the approval of the Ninth Prince to become an Immortal Guard.

Long Chen was a smart man. Judging from Lin Cangtian's behavior and the look in his eyes, he could guess what the Ninth Prince wanted. When he stopped their fight just now, Long Chen already had a feeling that the Ninth Prince was protecting him, though that didn't necessarily mean the Ninth Prince wanted to bring him to the capital. At most, the Ninth Prince was just interested in him.

Just mere interest.

Seeing that Yan Danqing had obtained the inheritance, Lin Cangtian nodded in approval. "Since you've obtained the inheritance, I won't say much anymore. Return to Yuanling City, and I will announce the result to the whole city tomorrow."

He then called over the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon, and the butler mounted it. The Ninth Prince gestured at Yan Danqing. "Follow me."

Everyone thought it was an honor to ride with the Ninth Prince, but Long Chen knew that the Ninth Prince's intention was to find out what Yan Danqing had obtained in the ruins.

But the others didn't know that.

Yan Danqing's grandfather, Emperor Yuan, was smiling happily as he watched his grandson climb onto the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon. He then told everyone from the Beast Soul Palace to ride their Savage Wind Peng.

The Dawn Trading Alliance had gained nothing, so they headed out quietly.

The Lingwu family, however, didn't leave. They knew what was going to happen next. All of them wanted Long Chen to die.

Once the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon was ready to fly, Lin Cangtian turned around and smiled at Long Chen evilly. "An Earth-tier demonic beast recognized you as its owner? Long Chen, I await your return to Yuanling City."

Only Long Chen heard that.

He did indeed find out. Thankfully, he didn't realize that it's a Sun Devouring Wolf. I guess the aura of an Earth-tier beast cannot be hidden completely.

Lin Cangtian took off. Everyone thought Long Chen would surely perish today, but Lin Cangtian actually didn't want him to die. Since Long Chen had an Earth-tier beast protecting him, he would probably be fine and should be able to make it back to the city.

Wait for me in Yuanling City? What is his goal? They are going to announce the results tomorrow, and I need to seize the opportunity.

Once the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon and the Savage Wind Peng flew away, the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch looked at Long Chen. "Don't you find it strange that you've been abandoned? You think we won't hurt you because we're afraid of what your master might do?"

"I'm curious as to why you are being so bold," Long Chen responded. They had been afraid of Li Xuanji this whole time, but why were they so bold today?

"Pitiful! Did you think I would believe your lie? Long Chen, while you were in the ancient ruins, I investigated and determined that she is not your master. She left with your cousin quite some time ago. Everyone in Baiyang Town bade them farewell!"

"Oh, so you found out. I thought you had grown some balls." Long Chen was not afraid, however.

"Aren't you afraid of dying?"

"You think the four of you can kill me?"

"Hm?" The four Patriarchs were confused. They thought Long Chen still had some kind of trick up his sleeve, but they knew he didn't have anyone else to rely on anymore.

"You think you can threaten us with empty lies? Long Chen, you have offended the Lingwu family one too many times. You even killed Tianchen and Beitang Mo! Our hatred for you will not disappear even after we kill you! We will torture you for a very long time. Fourth Brother, do you want to attack first?"

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch had each lost a grandson, so they hated Long Chen the most.

"Brother, I'll do it! I promise I won't take his life immediately!" The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch took a few steps forward. His body was much stouter than that of the Eastern Azure

Dragon Patriarch. His aura was imposing, and the Black Tortoise Axe that had flown out of the ruins was already in his hands.

Long Chen smiled when he saw the murderous Lingwu family.

“Looks like we can’t resolve this completely. I have a suggestion. In ten days, both me and my wolf will fight the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch at the city gates to determine the winner once and for all. How about that?”

“Are you stupid? We will make sure to kill you today!” The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch moved. Even though he was stout, his speed was anything but slow. He was ten times faster than Long Chen!

“Xiaolang.” The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch was just about to reach him, and the wind prickled Long Chen’s skin.

Hearing him, Mo Xiaolang jumped from his arms and spat a peculiar flame towards the Patriarch. When the flame appeared, the temperature surrounding them plummeted.

Sensing the danger, the Patriarch dodged it hastily and stopped. He fell backwards and looked disheveled, but he managed to dodge the attack.

When he raised his head, he saw that the small wolf in Long Chen’s arms had become incomparably huge. The Sun Devouring Wolf was so magnificent that all of them were shocked.

“An Earth-tier beast!”

No one could believe their eyes. Dongfang Tianxuan and the other youths had forgotten about the beast and were now reeling from the shock once more, their faces pale with fright.

“Haha, I’m glad you know what it is.” Long Chen sat on the wolf and looked at them. “Since our grudge can no longer be resolved peacefully, we shall fight at the city gates in ten days. I want to see if you have the balls to fight me then.”

The Sun Devouring Wolf transformed into a black shadow and quickly disappeared. The Lingwu family looked at each other when Long Chen was gone.

“Big Brother, can we beat Long Chen now that he’s this strong?” The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch trembled. The fire was too horrifying, and he had a feeling that he would’ve died horribly if he had come into contact with it.

“Wrong! He must die in ten days!” the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch snarled.

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Long Chen rode on Mo Xiaolang’s back as he chased after the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon. The Sun Devouring Wolf was much stronger than the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon, so it could travel much faster even though it was running on the ground.

The delay caused by the Lingwu family was easily recovered thanks to Mo Xiaolang's speed. Long Chen looked up and saw the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon. He then told Mo Xiaolang to slow down.

"Xiaolang, I think Yan Danqing gave the prince the method to cultivate Divine Fire Clone, though I don't think the prince would want the Heavenly River Pills."

Mo Xiaolang couldn't speak, so he merely nodded. He felt depressed by his inability to communicate.

"I can finally settle my grudge with the Lingwu family in ten days." Long Chen was not rash; this was part of his strategy. But there was something else he needed to do, and that was to obtain the Immortal Guard position from Yan Danqing. Based on Lin Cangtian's attitude, Long Chen had a feeling that all was not lost.

Emperor Yuan was just an ant to the Ninth Prince. The Ninth Prince could give the Immortal Guard position to whoever he wanted, and there was nothing anyone in the city could do.

With the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon's speed, it arrived at Yuanling City within half a day.

The Ninth Prince had long noticed Long Chen's presence when he was up in the sky. Before reaching the city, the Ninth Prince ordered the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon to land at the clearing in front of the city. Long Chen stopped there as well and jumped down from Mo Xiaolang's back, looking at the happy Ninth Prince and the somewhat embarrassed Yan Danqing.

"Long Chen, why did you chase after us?" the Ninth Prince asked plainly.

Both the Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace were also looking at Long Chen and the Sun Devouring Wolf. They knew that the wolf was an Earth-tier beast.

"Ninth Prince, you said that you would make the strongest youth an Immortal Guard. I've defeated Yan Danqing, which should be more than enough to prove my strength. I implore you to give me the position of Immortal Guard so I can serve you, Ninth Prince!"

He needed to become an Immortal Guard to enter the Counter Essence Realm. Only then could he find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. Long Chen had to do it for Ling Xi. If this plea failed, he might need to reveal the complete Divine Fire Clone technique to the Ninth Prince.

#### Chapter 265 - Killing the Peak Essence Beast

When Long Chen said that, everyone present became angry at him, especially the Beast Soul Palace. He had severed Yan Danqing's arm and they still hadn't taken revenge. And now Long Chen was stirring up trouble again? Even though Long Chen had an Earth-tier beast at his side, he shouldn't be that arrogant.

The people from Yuandi City were extremely arrogant because Emperor Yuan was the strongest fighter in Yuanling County at the Second River Stage.

“Dream on! The Ninth Prince said that the person who found the inheritance would become an Immortal Guard. You might’ve defeated Yan Danqing, but you did not obtain the inheritance! Plus, no one knows if you used an underhanded tactic to win.”

“Yeah! You are too arrogant! Ninth Prince, that man is traitorous and ruthless! If you bring him back, he will only bring shame to you. Just kill him!”

Everyone from Yuandi City shouted left and right.

“Enough.” Emperor Yuan noticed that the Ninth Prince was frowning and immediately silenced his people.

The Ninth Prince was still looking at Long Chen with interest. “Do you think you’re strong? I don’t. You don’t have the strength to impress me, and I should just do what I said I would do.”

“I wonder, would you be impressed if I defeated the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch?”

Everyone laughed at his words, but none of them dared to taunt Long Chen in the Ninth Prince’s presence. Long Chen was too arrogant. He had become the strongest youth after defeating Yan Danqing, but defeating the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch would make him one of the strongest cultivators in Yuanling City.

“Only if you don’t use the Earth-tier beast. I would be impressed if you had the strength to defeat the patriarchs in this small city, but it’s clear that you don’t,” the Ninth Prince answered. He was even more interested in Long Chen.

“I made a promise with the Lingwu family to fight the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch here in ten days. We will decide the winner in one go!”

Everyone was speechless at his announcement. They weren’t sure if it was a prank or not.

The news of them fighting in ten days would soon spread throughout the city.

The people didn’t know how else to insult the youth who was so arrogant.

“In that case, I will delay the announcement of who will rule Yuanling City and who will become the Immortal Guard by ten days. Long Chen, I await your performance.” The Ninth Prince accepted it, which surprised everyone. After saying that, he left with the butler and headed towards the palace.

Long Chen was standing in front of the strongest cultivator in Yuanling County, Emperor Yuan, as well as his grandson Yan Danqing. Yan Danqing was glaring at Long Chen, and Emperor Yuan’s gaze was chilly.

“Sorry, it seems you won’t become an Immortal Guard.” Long Chen was happy that things had gone his way.

“Long Chen, stop dreaming. I can’t wait to watch the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch kill you!” Yan Danqing said through gritted teeth.

“Is that so? Then I’ll stop wasting my time on you. You should hurry home to fix your right arm.”

“You bastard ...” Losing his right arm was the biggest embarrassment Yan Danqing had ever faced.

At this time, Emperor Yuan looked at Long Chen and said, “Long Chen, you killed my other grandson, Yan Cixue, right?”

Yan Cixue was the Grand Priest of the Blood Saints. Long Chen did not think that the old man would still remember him.

"You killed one of my grandsons and severed the arm of my other grandson. No one from Yuanling City has ever dared to mess with me like this before." Emperor Yuan’s gaze was calm yet cold. “Remember, don’t make me angry. I’m indeed weak compared to the people of the Imperial Capital City, but even if the Ninth Prince chooses you, I’ll make sure your life would be worse than dying. Don’t underestimate me.”

After saying that, Emperor Yuan bade farewell to the others and slowly walked off.

What Emperor Yuan had said caused Long Chen to fall into deep thought.

"It seems Emperor Yuan is going to be even harder to deal with than the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and the others. I’d better be careful."

After everyone had left, Long Chen took Mo Xiaolang, who had shrunk, and entered Yuanling City. He didn't want to stay there, so he wrote a letter and then snuck into the Lingwu family. He stealthily made his way to the Silver family and placed the letter in Yin Mengyao’s room.

The letter’s purpose was to explain that Mo Xiaolong hadn't died but had to go to a faraway place. *Don’t believe it if you hear the news of Mo Xiaolong's death, and don't spread the news that he didn't die.*

Yin Mengyao considered Mo Xiaolang her only friend in Yuanling City. When that was done, Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang left the city and headed in the direction of Baiyang Town.

"Mo Xiaolang, are you sure that there is an Earth-tier beast in the Desolate Beastlands?" Long Chen asked.

Mo Xiaolang nodded.

When they were in the ruins, Mo Xiaolang had mentioned that there was a Category One Earth-tier demonic beast in the depths of the Desolate Beastlands. Mo Xiaolang had decided not to use it as his Primary Beast Soul because it didn’t suit him.

There was a reason why Long Chen was interested in the Earth-tier demonic beast: only beasts above the Black-tier could improve his strength significantly in ten days. There were very few beasts that met his requirements in Yuanling County, so he had to aim for the Earth-tier demonic beast in the Desolate Beastlands.

He was going to settle his grudge with the Lingwu family in ten days. Moreover, Long Chen had to take revenge on Dongfang Xuanxiao’s behalf. He also needed to kill the Eastern Azure Dragon



Patriarch for making Ling Xi enter a coma. The Patriarch was the reason why Ling Xi was currently sleeping, and he wasn't sure if she would ever wake up or not.

The Sun Devouring Wolf's speed was unmatched despite being unable to fly. After just half a day's time, Long Chen passed the peaceful Baiyang Town and rushed into the Desolate Beastlands. This time, he headed directly towards the deepest part. The place that once terrified him was nothing to him now.

Mo Xiaolang had been to the depths of the Desolate Beastlands before and had seen the Earth-tier demonic beast, so it was easy for him to find its tracks. They found themselves surrounded by gray mist, and a suffocating presence filled the air. The place was desolate, but Long Chen suddenly felt a powerful aura in front of him.

Mo Xiaolang rushed towards the demonic beast.

Long Chen wouldn't be hunting the demonic beast. After all, he was still no match for an Earth-tier demonic beast. Mo Xiaolang would be the one killing it since he was much stronger.

A massive beast appeared in front of them, roughly the same size as the Sun Devouring Wolf. But then it stood up and became much taller than Mo Xiaolang.

"A Peak Essence Beast?" Long Chen was shocked. To think that the Earth-tier demonic beast was a Peak Essence Beast. It was a strong beast where even the regular adults were at the Category Nine Black-tier. There are a few exceptions where an individual Peak Essence Beast would be strong enough to advance into the Earth-tier.

Long Chen knew that Emperor Yuan's Primary Beast Soul was a Category One Earth-tier Peak Essence Beast. A Category Nine Earth-tier demonic beast was a being that was impossible to exist in the vicinity of Yuanling City. That was why Emperor Yuan was capable of finding a Category Nine Black-tier Peak Essence Beast while he himself used a Category One Earth-tier Peak Essence Beast instead.

Even though that was the case, Emperor Yuan's previous Primary Beast Soul was a Black-tier Peak Essence Beast so he was very familiar with the beast. His mastery in using the beast soul was why he was stronger than the Patriarchs of the Lingwu family.

Long Chen saw the massive white ape in front of it. When it saw the Sun Devouring Wolf, it suddenly stood up and howled before charging at Mo Xiaolang.

"Xiaolang, it's up to you now." Long Chen laughed and jumped down.

Mo Xiaolang smiled at the Peak Essence Beast, as if his opponent was nothing.

He was a Category Two Earth-tier demonic beast and he could utilize the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire. His goal in this fight was to experiment with it.

The Peak Essence Beast swiped its claws at Mo Xiaolang, who responded by spitting out an ember of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

The beast caught on fire the moment it came into contact with the ember. The flames quickly spread to its head, burning away its skin and bones until its brain was exposed. Long Chen heard the sound of ice cracking before the Peak Essence Beast crumpled onto the ground.

Mo Xiaolang stood proudly.

“That fast?” Long Chen was shocked that it was over so soon. To think Mo Xiaolang could kill a Category One Earth-tier beast so easily. Still, Long Chen knew that it was thanks to the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, or the battle would’ve lasted longer.

Long Chen walked up and saw that the Peak Essence Beast’s head was covered in black ice. He touched the ice and it shattered, causing the Peak Essence Beast’s head to disappear into a cloud of ice. The beast was now headless.

“The demonic core!” Long Chen shouted. Since the Peak Essence Beast’s head was destroyed, the Earth-tier demonic core was gone too ...

Chapter 266 - Late Heavenly Core Realm

Long Chen had two thousand Heavenly River Pills in his possession, and the demonic core of the Peak Essence Beast could only be sold for so much. Still, he hated not being able to earn some extra money.

After killing the beast, Mo Xiaolang stepped aside to learn how to use Divine Fire Clone.

*I wonder if Mo Xiaolang can cultivate it with his new body.* Long Chen activated the Dragon Soul Transformation while thinking that.

He needed to use Blood Transmutation as soon as possible. The blood of an Earth-tier demonic beast was rare.

Still, there was a huge amount of energy contained within the beast, so he could not be hasty. There was also the issue of the beast having several tons of blood. Long Chen deliberately had to slow down while transmuting it.

He felt his Qi slowly increase in the slow process of using Blood Transmutation. As time went on, more and more blood was consumed as Long Chen transformed it into Qi before pouring it into his Dantian.

It took him half a day to complete the process. The beast’s corpse was dry and Long Chen felt like his Dantian was about to burst. He now needed to use the large amount of Qi to make a breakthrough.

The process was smooth as he had a lot of Qi. He successfully broke through the barrier and found that the Heavenly Core in the center of his dantian had become smaller, roughly the size of a green bean.

It was incredible to think that such a small object was the source of his power.

When I was at the Human Core Realm, my core was the size of a chicken egg. But now it's only the size of a green bean, and yet it's many times more powerful. So strange.

Still, I've completed the Divine Core Realm. All I need to do now is break into the Heavenly River Realm. Since I have two thousand Heavenly River Pills, I should be able to do so fairly quickly. Stepfather was the strongest cultivator under the Heavenly River Realm, but he could not break through because he lacked the pills.

Long Chen was well aware of the importance of Heavenly River Pills.

There were nine more days until the battle, and Mo Xiaolang was still learning how to use Divine Fire Clone. Even though Long Chen was confident that he could win at his current cultivation level, he didn't dare to stop cultivating.

He spent this time not only consolidating his cultivation; he also cultivated the Nine Spinning Fire Shields and Divine Fire Clone. Thanks to his incredible comprehension, it was easy for him to learn the Nine Spinning Fire Shields, but Divine Fire Clone was much more difficult. It took him some discussions with Mo Xiaolang before they saw results.

“There are four stages to Divine Fire Clone. I wonder when I can learn the fourth stage?” Long Chen knew that the fourth stage of the technique would allow him to split himself into one hundred and twenty-five clones. It was a stupidly powerful technique, but it would require a large amount of Qi. At Long Chen's current cultivation level, it was already an excellent result if he could use even one clone.

On the night before the fight, Long Chen rode on Mo Xiaolang's back and returned to the city. It was a crucial fight for him because he not only had multiple grudges to settle, he also had to become an Immortal Guard. The Ninth Prince couldn't find out that he had received the completed version of Divine Fire Clone, so he would have to utilize other techniques.

The reason he had challenged the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch at the same time was to settle all of his grudges with the Lingwu family in one go.

He initially thought it would be difficult for Xiaolang to travel so much, but Long Chen's worries had gone away after seeing how he had killed the Peak Essence Beast in just one move.

Long Chen thought about how he was only at the Eighth Draconic Stage when he entered the Lingwu family. Now, less than a year later, he was almost at the peak of the entire county.

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Thanks to the Dawn Trading Alliance and the Beast Soul Palace spreading the news, everyone flocked to the city walls early in the morning to spectate the fight.

Everyone squeezed together at the top of the walls, yelling and bumping into each other.

In the eyes of the civilians, the Lingwu family was a massive organization that had controlled their city for numerous generations. Meanwhile, they'd only heard of Long Chen a few times before. How come someone so low in the rankings was going to fight against the Lingwu family?

“Who is Long Chen? To think he would be brave enough to oppose the massive Lingwu family. I heard that only the Beast Soul Palace has the power to stand up to them. Is Long Chen stronger? But Emperor Yuan should be the strongest in Yuanling City!”

“I was told that Long Chen challenged the Patriarch of the Eastern Azure Dragon family. The Patriarch is one of the strongest fighters in the city, while Long Chen is barely twenty. Is he some kind of monster in disguise?”

“He’s only twenty years old and he’s already challenging the Patriarch. Even if he loses, his name will be spread around forever.”

“No, I heard that Long Chen has a powerful demonic beast and that the Lingwu family is wary of it. That’s why they agreed to Long Chen’s terms. I think if it wasn’t for the beast, Long Chen would be nothing to the Lingwu family.”

“I don’t think that’s true. Rumors say that he severed Yan Danqing’s arm. If that’s true, Long Chen is the strongest youth in Lingwu County. We can only imagine what it’s like to be that strong.”

Yuanling City had never been buzzing with so much activity as the rumors flew everywhere. It was a miracle that the sky did not blow up from their voices.

On one of the towers overlooking the city walls, the Ninth Prince as well as the people from all the large factions, including the Lingwu family, were looking down at the city gates while discussing the day’s event.

“Guys, I don’t think you know about this,” a middle-aged man said.

“What is it?”

“Hurry and tell us!”

“Don’t be in such a hurry, I only just heard it myself. The Lingwu family wanted to seal the news away, but I managed to catch wind of it!”

“Are you trying to tell us about Dongfang Xuanyu committing suicide?”

“Wait, how did you know!?” The middle-aged man was shocked.

“Idiot. I found out about it a few days ago. Only a few people in Yuanling City are still oblivious to it. And you thought it was a secret?”

“I heard that Long Chen tore away Dongfang Xuanyu’s clothes near the entrance of the ruins. She felt humiliated and killed herself because of that.”

“Long Chen is despicable! I fear that their grudge is too deep. I think there are several people from the Lingwu family who died because of him.”

“Wasn’t he part of the family before? Why did he kill them?”

“All I know is that they are going to settle it once and for all with a single battle. We just need to watch. We will know if Long Chen is strong or weak after the battle.”

Everyone looked at the flat plain in front of the city. They knew Long Chen would appear there.

Or maybe he wouldn’t even show up?

In the tower, the Ninth Prince was sitting on a chair made of white jade. The chair was so high that even if he laid down, he could still see the plains.

The three largest factions of Yuanling City surrounded the Ninth Prince. Since the Beast Soul Palace and the Dawn Trading Alliance weren't the main characters here, they were quiet. The Lingwu family, however, spoke amongst each other. Almost every high-ranking member of the family was present—the four Patriarchs, the several elders, and even the four people who ran the families.

All of them were solemn.

This was the most embarrassing moment for them, especially after the death of Dongfang Xuanyu. There was no way to resolve this amicably anymore.

Dongfang Xuanfeng looked at the plains and whispered to the Patriarch, "Father, do you think he will come?"

"He wants to become an Immortal Guard, so he will come." The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch stared at the plains. His eyes were calm, but a strong killing intent hid behind them.

"It's either his death or ours this time. If he survives, the reputation of the Lingwu family will plummet. Plus, we just lost the right to rule the county, so I wonder, when will we be able to rise again?" Dongfang Xuanfeng sighed.

His most cherished son was dead, so he was very resentful.

"He will come. And he will die. We are the Lingwu family, and we will never lose!" the Patriarch solemnly said.

"It's all our fault for underestimating him and not building a friendly relationship with him. To think I would be this careless at my age. I suppose we can only erase him and restore our family's honor at this point in time," Dongfang Xuanfeng said.

"He's here," the Patriarch said with a sigh.

Everyone perked up when they saw a man and a wolf running in the distance.

Chapter 267 - Before The Final Fight

"He came?"

When the man and the wolf finally came into view, the crowd couldn't help but sincerely admire Long Chen's courage. He was about to fight to the death against the topmost superpower of Yuanling City in front of the public!

Was this something a youth under twenty could do?

Everyone stared at the now-famous Long Chen.

"He doesn't look special. To think he could be this famous... His legacy will last a long time even after he dies at the hands of the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch."

When Long Chen appeared, the eyes of everyone in the Lingwu family started shimmering with hatred.

“He actually came? He’s got guts.” The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch stood beside the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, staring at the oncoming Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang.

“Fourth Brother, that is not a simple beast. It came from the ancient ruins, so it’s probably special in some way. Just distract it while you battle, and I will finish off Long Chen as soon as I can so we can join forces and kill the beast,” the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch said.

“I understand, Brother.”

The path was dusty.

Long Chen saw that there were many spectators up on the walls of Yuanling City, and he knew that they were there because of him. He was once just a powerless whelp, but now he possessed enough strength to attract all these people. He had endured numerous difficulties and survived countless life-or-death situations to get to where he was. He got goosebumps every time he thought about how close he had come to dying.

There was one final obstacle left: kill the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and win the Ninth Prince’s favor to become an Immortal Guard.

“Xiaolang, let’s fight with all our strength and begin our journey as brothers.” Long Chen was feeling inspired.

Mo Xiaolang howled in response. His howl pierced and shook Yuanling City. The demonic beasts within the city trembled from fear when they sensed the strength of the Earth-tier demonic beast.

Both of them stood outside the gates.

Long Chen raised his head and shouted at the tower, “Ninth Prince, I am here to honor the challenge!”

“Good.” The Ninth Prince smiled. He was somewhat happy to find Long Chen in this backwater place. It was not every day that he ran into someone so extraordinary.

After getting his reply, Long Chen jumped down from Mo Xiaolang’s back. His gaze reflected his strong will to battle and killing intent.

He then shouted, “Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch! Get down here!”

His shout was powered by the Qi of a late Heavenly Core Realm cultivator. The walls shook and everyone felt their heads spinning from the sound. They thought Long Chen was weak due to his age, but now they knew he wasn’t.

Long Chen was indeed rude. To think he would shout at the two Patriarchs in such a crude manner! But he had guts; not many people would dare to speak to the Patriarchs of the Lingwu family like that.

“You shitty brat!” Dongfang Xuanfeng and the others were angered by Long Chen’s rudeness and were about to jump down the wall when the Patriarch stopped them. “This is a fight to the death. I don’t care about his taunts. I will hurt him as much as he humiliated me.”

“Yes, Father!” Dongfang Xuanfeng had always looked up to his father.

The two Patriarchs looked at each other, then they nodded at the Ninth Prince and jumped down. They stood just thirty meters from Long Chen.

“Brat, if you have nothing else to say, come and die.” The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch was solemn.

“Of course I have something to say!” Long Chen smiled and shouted, “I want to clarify that the fight today is to settle all of the grudges I have with the Lingwu family. After today, neither party will harm the loser’s side. My friends, family, and town will never seek revenge on the Lingwu family, and the Lingwu family should do the same. Do you agree?”

This was not important to the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. He was absolutely certain he would win, and he knew Long Chen’s family could never hope to harm the Lingwu family.

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch knew that Long Chen was worried that the Lingwu family would harm the Yang family after the fight, so he had mentioned them in advance. The Patriarch’s grudge was with Long Chen, not his useless family, so there was no harm in agreeing.

“I agree. Regardless of who wins, our families will not harm each other. But this is a fight to the death. Both parties agree that they can die during the fight, so the loser’s family must not seek revenge!” the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch shouted.

“Since the Patriarch has agreed, may the Ninth Prince be our witness!” Long Chen looked at the tower.

“I’ve noted this down. If anyone secretly takes revenge, I will kill them personally. Go ahead and fight,” the Ninth Prince said

Long Chen relaxed after he saw that the Ninth Prince and numerous others had become his witnesses.

“Xiaolang, be careful. Don’t underestimate them. The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire is your last resort, so make sure not to use it if you don’t have to. I’m afraid some people will get jealous.”

Xiaolang nodded in understanding.

Long Chen raised his head and shouted at the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, “Since we have come to an agreement, let’s fight, you old dog! Come here!”

He left Mo Xiaolang and ran to the left, giving each other space to fight.

The Patriarch was angered after being called a dog by Long Chen. He ran towards the youth without a word, fully utilizing the speed of a Heavenly River Realm cultivator. Everyone gasped when they saw how fast he was.

Meanwhile, Mo Xiaolang had the attention of the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch.

“You look similar to the Moon Devouring Wolf, but you are much stronger. I admit that I haven’t read much and don’t know what kind of beast you are.”

The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch naturally didn’t know about the extinct Sun Devouring Wolf. On the contrary, Mo Xiaolang was very interested in wolf-type demonic beasts, so he had read a lot about them. It was a coincidence that he had learned about the Sun Devouring Wolf in an ancient book. Even the Ninth Prince didn’t know about the Sun Devouring Wolf; he just assumed it was a mutated Moon Devouring Wolf.

Mo Xiaolang could not speak, so he glared at the Patriarch. He then howled and ran towards his opponent like a black whirlwind.

“You are indeed an Earth-tier demonic beast, but you cannot win without the intelligence of a human!” The Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch brandished the Black Tortoise Axe and attacked.

He was stronger than the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, but he and Mo Xiaolang were not the main characters in today’s event. Everyone was looking at Long Chen and the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch.

When Mo Xiaolang and the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch started their battle, Long Chen transformed, his Qi reaching the level of the Heavenly River Realm.

But without the power of the stars, his strength was lacking.

The Azure Dragon Halberd was the weapon the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch had used for dozens of years, but now it was in Long Chen’s hands. When the Patriarch saw Long Chen using his own weapon against him, his eyes filled with murderous intent.

His substitute weapon merely contained an advanced Black-tier technique. As one of the heads of the Lingwu family, it was humiliating to be using such a shabby weapon.

I heard that Long Chen has cultivated Starsweep Dragon, but that’s nothing against my secret technique!

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch could tell that Long Chen was already close to the Heavenly River Realm. The red scales also made him look terrifying.

No wonder this brat managed to beat Yan Danqing and became the strongest youth.

The blood-red Long Chen rushed towards the Patriarch. In that instant, the Patriarch thought he was seeing a world-ending red dragon.

Impossible! It’s an illusion!

Dragons existed only in legends, and the Patriarch shook his head to get rid of that thought. He focused on deflecting Long Chen’s attack.



The sun was extremely strong today—glaring, in fact. With Long Chen’s back facing the sun, the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch had to squint to look at his opponent.

“Sword Devil Finger!”

While running, Long Chen launched two Sword Devil Fingers towards the Patriarch. At the same time, he swept the Azure Dragon Halberd across the sky and launched another set of attacks.

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

The Sword Devil Fingers were merely serving as distractions; Long Chen’s main attack was the Azure Dragon Technique. The Patriarch would have to fight off an unrelenting attack.

Everyone on the walls was excited. They had thought Long Chen was weak and cowardly, but he was fighting like a true warrior!

On the other hand, the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch smiled coldly.

“Do you think you’re the only one who knows how to use the Azure Dragon Technique?”

Chapter 268 - Nine Spinning Fire Shields

When Long Chen used the Azure Dragon Technique to attack the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, the latter swung his halberd wildly and his Heavenly River Realm Qi exploded. The power belonging to the constellations washed over Long Chen and almost tossed him away.

*Shit! I’ve underestimated how strong someone at the Heavenly River Realm is!* The Patriarch’s Qi had the strength to move worlds. It was both sharp and mighty, and a single shockwave from it made Long Chen lose his footing; even his attacks were affected.

Fighting someone one realm above was completely different from fighting someone one stage above. Even though Long Chen and the Patriarch had an equal amount of Qi, the difference between them was immense.

“Azure Dragon Technique, Split Yellow River, Shattered Skies!” The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch used the same techniques, and the power of the stars filled his halberd before the attacks were launched at Long Chen.

“Die!”

Bam!

Their weapons collided, creating an explosion from the sheer force of the impact. A dust storm kicked up outside of Yuanling city. The people on the city walls could hear the sound of fighting, but none of them could see what was happening.

“Did someone die? Is Long Chen dead?”

“No! Stop squeezing, you bastard! Hey, who stole my Universe Pouch?!”

“What? Long Chen is dead? That’s too fast!”

The sounds on the walls were much more intense than the battle.

Long Chen was facing the Patriarch's unrelenting attacks, and he had to admit that it was a hard battle. Even though Long Chen was using the Azure Dragon Technique, he was being pushed back instead of defeating the Patriarch.

"You brat. You think you understand how strong the Heavenly River Realm is?"

Everyone chuckled in the tower. Even Dongfang Xuanfeng was smiling. This was within his expectations.

Even though Long Chen was being pushed back, he was not afraid. This was just the beginning.

He kept using the Nine Dragon Flashes, though he had actually used it twice in a row, so it was actually eighteen flashes. Being able to use it that skillfully was proof of his talent!

With a final flash, Long Chen redirected the Patriarch's attack and attacked from the side. He was once again seizing the initiative.

"Useless tricks!" The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch's martial technique was simple, but the power of the stars that his Qi carried made his weapon slightly stronger than the Azure Dragon Halberd. Every time their weapons clashed, the Patriarch knocked away the Azure Dragon Halberd.

"The victor has yet to be decided! Stop bullshitting!" Long Chen roared as the Azure Dragon Halberd danced in his hands. He kept using the Nine Dragon Flashes to change his location, so even the Patriarch had to fight seriously.

Time slowly passed, and everyone was shocked to see Long Chen hold his ground for so long. They thought everything would've ended in a flash.

Long Chen was merely seventeen, yet he had endured every single blow from the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch! He could even fight back too. That was enough to show how much of a monster Long Chen was. Yan Danqing was indeed a genius, but he was nothing to Long Chen.

"Long Chen is amazing! How long has it been since Yuanling City saw this kind of genius?" From today onwards, Long Chen's name would spread throughout the county. He would replace Yan Danqing as the strongest youth and would be remembered by everyone.

Everyone had a small doubt in their mind. Would Long Chen be able to defeat the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch? Things weren't looking great, as the black demonic wolf had almost been killed by the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch and his Black Tortoise Axe.

But that was because Mo Xiaolang had allowed it to happen. He hadn't used the powerful Nine Devils Ancestral Fire yet; he was merely using his demonic energy and the battle sense of the Sun Devouring Wolf. He had been chipping away at the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch's stamina. He was one stage higher than his opponent, so it was easy for him to do so.

Long Chen's fight was much more interesting.

"Starsweep Dragon!" Long Chen swung the Azure Dragon Halberd, aiming the Earth-tier martial technique at the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. An instant later, the

halberd's tip became thousands of dragon illusions that enveloped the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch.

"I've been using Starsweep Dragon for more than ten years, and you dare to use it half-heartedly in front of me?" The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch laughed and used the same technique. Everyone could see that the Patriarch's Starsweep Dragon was much more deadly!

The weapons clashed, resulting in horrible screeching sounds. Everyone closed their ears and frowned as they spectated the battle.

"Long Chen is losing!" someone shouted when they saw Long Chen get blown backwards. Everyone on the city walls cheered.

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch smiled when he heard the crowd's reaction. He lifted his halberd and ran towards Long Chen. "Brat, time to die!"

The Patriarch gathered all of his Qi. His body was like a glowing torch.

His body was a blur as he stabbed his halberd onto the ground. Then he dragged it across the ground, sending sparks flying as his Heavenly River Realm Qi coursed through the halberd.

"Let me show you the strongest technique contained within the Azure Dragon Halberd, and also the secret technique known only to the Patriarchs of each generation."

He swung the halberd upwards, and the sound of dragon roaring was heard. A massive Azure Dragon illusion soared skyward and launched itself at Long Chen.

"Azure Dragon Technique, Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension."

Long Chen was familiar with the technique and had used it once himself, but the Patriarch's version was several times stronger than his. It was just like the difference between their Starsweep Dragon.

When the Patriarch used the technique, everyone shouted and felt sad, assuming that Long Chen would be killed.

The strength of the technique made everyone on the walls feel their scalps go numb.

*You think the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension is the strongest technique?* Long Chen knew there was one more technique, but he wasn't sure if he could use it. That particular technique was the true strongest technique of the Azure Dragon Technique.

But the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension of the Patriarch was right in front of him. Would he die from that?

When the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch used that technique, those who had gone into the ruins knew that Long Chen had cultivated it too. They thought Long Chen would use the same technique to counter it, but he chose to retreat instead!

Long Chen knew that if he took it head-on, he would be blown back and would probably get his internal organs crushed. Instead, he let go of the Azure Dragon Halberd when the attack closed in.

“He’s committing suicide!”

Everyone was shocked. Even though he could not fight back, he should at least try, right?

But the spectators knew something was wrong when they saw the Ninth Prince sit up and look at the fight in puzzlement. The Ninth Prince knew that Long Chen had one more trick up his sleeve by looking at Long Chen’s fierce eyes.

When everyone thought Long Chen was seeking death, Long Chen placed both hands in front of his chest and started spinning it in a circle. It was initially slow, but Long Chen’s arms sped up and were soon a blur. Qi poured out of his hands, and under his control, the Qi spun and slowly formed a whirlpool.

“Nine Spinning Fire Shields, first rotation!” Long Chen whispered, his eyes lighting up.

The whirlpool made from Qi was completed and then exploded, forming a blazing shield two meters in diameter, completely blocking his front.

“Second rotation!”

It spun rapidly, and once it completed another rotation, the color of the flames became darker! When the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension was just in front of him, Long Chen poured all the power he could into it.

“Nine Spinning Fire Shields, sixth rotation!”

Long Chen had only managed to cultivate up to the sixth rotation within ten days, but since it was an intermediate Earth-tier martial technique—and an excellent one at that—it was more than enough to defend against the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension.

But his technique caught the Ninth Prince’s eyes, and the latter stood up. When he saw that it was clearly the Nine Spinning Fire Shields, he squinted and thought about something. At the same time, Yan Danqing was also shocked and looked at the Ninth Prince. But the Ninth Prince completely ignored him, and there was nothing he could do. Even though he had reattached his arm, his trauma was still there.

*How did Long Chen cultivate the Nine Spinning Fire Shields?* Both the Ninth Prince and Yan Danqing had the same question, but Yan Danqing was the one who was concerned the most. His eyes were bloodshot.

The Ninth Prince said that if Long Chen defeated the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, he would give him the position of Immortal Guard. It seems that the Ninth Prince is indeed protecting him and even gifted him the Nine Spinning Fire Shield! It’s clear that the Prince doesn’t want me to become an Immortal Guard. Why did Long Chen get the inheritance I fought so hard for?

Yan Danqing was resentful and was close to collapsing from jealousy. He felt like everything he had worked so hard for had been given to someone else. He wanted to kill everyone!

But he couldn’t. The Ninth Prince’s status and power were leagues above him, so he could do nothing. All he could do was hate Long Chen even more.

The crowd cheered wildly outside.

Chapter 269 - Killing the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch

The crowd was cheering because the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension and the Nine Spinning Fire Shields were clashing for the first time! Everyone thought Long Chen was dead, but now they saw that there was hope.

The Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension landed on the Nine Spinning Fire Shields.

Explosions rang out continuously and the yellow soil was blasted away, kicking up another dust cloud and obstructing the view once more.

The spectators could barely see that the Nine Spinning Fire Shields was still rotating and dispersing the power of the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension. The scattered power blasted out holes everywhere on the surrounding soil.

Long Chen was facing immense pressure; he felt like he was blocking a mountain. It was heavy, but Long Chen was very happy that the Nine Spinning Fire Shields was able to block the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension! The purpose of the Nine Spinning Fire Shields was not to block attacks head-on. Through rotation, it could disperse the power to its surroundings!

“How is this possible?!” Sensing that his attack was useless, the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch was stunned, and his eyes grew red from killing intent. “Long Chen, do you think you can stop me like that? Die!”

The Patriarch used even more of his Qi to empower his attack. The huge amount of energy made Long Chen take a few steps back.

“Die?” Long Chen gritted his teeth and blocked it vehemently. He would not allow the Patriarch to get any sort of advantage! When he felt that it was time, Long Chen suddenly lowered one of his arms and retrieved the Azure Dragon Halberd.

“You shitty bastard! Do you still not understand who will die here today?” Long Chen roared.

When the Nine Spinning Fire Shields first blocked the Patriarch’s attack, Long Chen knew that there was hope. His eyes were cold when the mysterious red whirlpools appeared on his scales, and a strong devouring energy filled the air.

“Blood Devouring Domain!”

Long Chen finally used his unique martial technique! The blood-red mist covered the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. This time, Long Chen focused on just the Patriarch, causing the effects to be magnified by several times!

“What is this?” While using all of his Qi to empower his attack, the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch’s face paled when he felt his blood going berserk after he was engulfed by the red mist. His blood was ignoring him as it thrashed wildly in his body. The internal organs were the softest part of the human body, and with them getting damaged, the Patriarch could not focus on attacking!

In fact, he felt like he lost a portion of his control over his technique and felt the backlash damaging his organs!

“What is this? Long Chen! What kind of monster are you?!” The calm Patriarch instantly panicked when he sensed what was happening. His woeful shout made the spectators who heard him go numb from fear.

They could only barely see the Patriarch inside the red mist.

“I won’t say much, but I promised myself I would kill you the moment you made my baby Ling Xi fall asleep. And now I will fulfill it!”

Long Chen scoffed and deactivated the Nine Fire Spinning Shields. He used his body to block whatever the Patriarch threw at him and lifted his halberd. The Azure Dragon Halberd roared as Long Chen dragged it across the ground and launched another Azure Dragon at the Patriarch.

“Die to your most cherished technique! Azure Dragon Technique, Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension!”

The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch had spent all of his Qi and was almost locked down by the Blood Devouring Domain. When he saw the Azure Dragon illusion approaching him, he finally felt despair.

“Impossible! How could I be killed by you?! This can’t be! I won’t allow it!  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!”

Everyone felt their heart drop when they heard the Patriarch’s final cry before his death. They saw the Patriarch get swallowed by the Azure Dragon illusion before being carried into the sky and crashing back down onto the ground.

After being struck by the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension, the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch’s skeleton was shattered, his veins were severed, and his organs were ruptured. He was dead before he even hit the ground.

Long Chen put the halberd away and deactivated his transformation. He stood in front of the Patriarch’s corpse and stared listlessly.

Everyone was silent when they saw what had happened, then an eruption of noise deafened the entire city.

Everyone’s minds were blank on the city walls. They had just witnessed a miracle, and no one could believe it. Even their voices trembled.

“Hey ... Did I see that right? Did Long Chen just defeat the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch?”

“I think so ... I don’t think my eyesight is going bad ... I saw it too!”

“Don’t be stupid! This is reality! Long Chen is a fucking monster of a genius! He’s not even twenty and he killed the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch!”

“Shit. He’s a monster ...”

Long Chen’s status in Yuanling City had just been elevated to that of a leader of the city.

Some were happy, while others were sad.

The Dawn Trading Alliance was the only one who stood to gain something from this. Both of the Dawn Trading Alliance's opposing factions were being weakened.

The Beast Soul Palace was most likely going to lose the Immortal Guard position and the right to rule the county, so they were worried.

The Lingwu family, however, was left with nothing but anger and hatred.

All of them had watched Long Chen kill the Patriarch with their own eyes. They didn't want to believe it, but it was real.

Even though the Patriarch and Long Chen had agreed that the battle was to end all of their grudges and they could not lay a hand on Long Chen or his family again, most of the Lingwu family forgot that and ran down the wall.

But the black-clothed butler blocked them. "Lingwu family, do you want your entire family to be eradicated?"

The Lingwu family froze when they heard the threat. They stopped, forced to suppress their anger.

"Don't forget your promise to Long Chen. You are the strongest family in Yuanling City and yet you can't honor such a simple promise?" the Ninth Prince asked in a calm voice.

The members of the Lingwu family felt their hair stand on end.

Even though their hearts were on the verge of bursting from hate and anger, they had no choice but to swallow it. The death of the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch was a severe blow to them.

They still could not believe it.

Even those not related to them couldn't believe it.

When the Lingwu family was blocked by the Ninth Prince, the crowd shouted something again. They saw the black wolf howling into the air. The mangled body of the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch was under Mo Xiaolang's feet. A black flash of light flew back to the Northern Black Tortoise family's mausoleum—the Black Tortoise Axe.

"Our fourth brother is also dead!"

The Lingwu family didn't know how to react to that. All of them lost hope, and many of them collapsed from the shock.

The Lingwu family had lost two of their Patriarchs. Their glory as the strongest family in Yuanling City was now gone. Everyone knew that the unknown Long Chen was the one responsible for their downfall.

Long Chen. His name would now be forever chanted in the city!

No one had ever single-handedly defeated a superpower in Yuanling City, but Long Chen had managed to do it!

“My Lord, please allow us to take our elder brother and fourth brother home,” the Western White Tiger Patriarch said, his voice hoarse and wizened.

“Go ahead,” the Ninth Prince responded calmly.

The Lingwu family had lost, and they needed to leave now. They would only embarrass themselves more if they stayed.

Everyone watched the Lingwu family carefully collect the corpses of the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and the Northern Black Tortoise Patriarch before leaving. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang took a step back to give them space.

There was no right or wrong. Long Chen and the Lingwu family had become enemies long ago, and it was either his life or theirs. It was only natural that someone would die today. If Long Chen had not worked hard, he would've been the one on the ground.

So he felt no pity. The winner taking everything was a very common occurrence.

No one from the Lingwu family dared to even take a glance at Long Chen. All of them were afraid of him.

Yin Mengyao was also hiding within the crowd. She had watched the entire fight as she tightly held onto the letter Long Chen had given her. It was the letter explaining that Mo Xiaolang was still alive.

She was not sad after hearing the news of Mo Xiaolang's death, because she had read the letter first. She was here to ask Long Chen about Mo Xiaolang, but she realized that she could not approach him, as Long Chen was far too radiant.

*Is this the same kid that I teamed up with just a few months ago to enter the inner family?* Yin Mengyao thought she was dreaming.

Just then, she looked at the Sun Devouring Wolf beside Long Chen.

*Why are the eyes of the beast so pure? Have I seen them somewhere before?* Yin Mengyao stared at the beast for a while, lost in thought.

Chapter 270 - Immortal Guard

Yin Mengyao saw Long Chen, but Long Chen did not see her. After defeating and killing the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, his next urgent business was about the Immortal Guard.

When the Lingwu family left, it signified the decline of one of the strongest families in Yuanling City, while Long Chen became the rising star. Of course, Long Chen had outgrown this place, so there was no chance he would stay. He needed to go somewhere else, a place where he could face more challenges and grow.

The Biyang Imperial Capital was one such place. The countries around the Cangyang Kingdom were roughly the same size and not as massive and dangerous as the Ten Great Empires. Unfortunately, the Cangyang Kingdom didn't have mountains with strong demonic beasts, so the Counter Essence Realm was the only place suitable for him to continue growing now.



Regardless of whether he became an Immortal Guard or not, Long Chen would find a way to enter the Biyang Imperial Capital. Immortal Guard was just an official title that would allow him to enter the place.

The spectators were still trying to come to terms with the fact that Long Chen had defeated the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. All of them were admiring the silent youth.

No one in Yuanling City had ever done something like this.

After the Lingwu family left, the Beast Soul Palace started to feel nervous. Emperor Yuan and his group approached the Ninth Prince, their eyes filled with anticipation. It was time for the Ninth Prince to decide. Yan Danqing was the most anxious one in the group, as he had worked hard to obtain the Immortal Guard post. How could he just relinquish it to Long Chen?

Why did he have to give something that was rightfully his to Long Chen?

Long Chen raised his head and looked at the Ninth Prince on the tower, saying, “My Lord, I’ve defeated the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. As per the agreement, the post of Immortal Guard is mine, correct?”

Before the Ninth Prince could answer, Yan Danqing yelled, “Bullshit! I obtained the inheritance, not you! Who do you think you are?”

“I’m nothing, yet you lost to me, so you are worse than nothing. You have no right to become an Immortal Guard! You’ll just make Yuanling City look bad if you become one. Everyone, am I right?” Long Chen retorted, smiling towards the end.

Long Chen had earned the respect of the people after defeating the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch, so everyone who had seen him fight agreed.

“Let Long Chen become an Immortal Guard!”

Long Chen was far stronger than Yan Danqing. If he went to the Biyang Imperial Capital, his talent would definitely flourish. On the other hand, Yan Danqing would just embarrass Yuanling City.

Everyone cheered and showed support for Long Chen. Yan Danqing trembled from anger while Emperor Yuan frowned at what was happening.

Emperor Yuan made an attempt to persuade the Ninth Prince. “Ninth Prince, you made the rules yourself, so I hope you won’t break them. As per the rules, the one who found the inheritance was Danqing—”

“Who said Yan Danqing obtained the inheritance?” the Ninth Prince interrupted, turning his head. He was interested in Long Chen. “Long Chen just used the Nine Spinning Fire Shields, one of the martial techniques belonging to the Burning Heaven Emperor. That means Long Chen has also obtained the inheritance. Since he is stronger than Yan Danqing, I hereby announce that Long Chen will become an Immortal Guard!”

Everyone cheered at the Ninth Prince’s announcement. Both the Beast Soul Palace and the Lingwu family were extremely powerful factions that sometimes bullied the weak. Therefore, the civilians naturally supported Long Chen since he was much more relatable.

Long Chen sighed when he obtained the post, but he was worried that the Ninth Prince said Long Chen also obtained the inheritance.

“Impossible. Long Chen never obtained the inheritance nor the Nine Spinning Fire Shields!” Yan Danqing was grasping at straws.

“Then where did his technique come from?”

“You ...” Yan Danqing wanted to say that the Ninth Prince had given it to Long Chen after receiving it from himself. Yan Danqing was also suspicious that the Ninth Prince and Long Chen had come to an agreement beforehand.

Emperor Yuan knew what his grandson was thinking, so he quickly pulled Yan Danqing away and looked at the Ninth Prince. “My Lord, I fear that the reasoning is too forceful.”

“Yan Zhibai, it seems that you don’t want to become the mayor,” the Ninth Prince said plainly before looking at Long Chen. “Come up here. Why are you still down there?”

Emperor Yuan shut his mouth after hearing what the Ninth Prince said. He knew that there was no room for negotiation when it came to the Immortal Guard position, but at the very least he would rule the city and found a bit of relief in that.

Emperor Yuan had lived for many years, so he knew when to lower his head.

But Yan Danqing didn’t know how to hold back. When he heard that there was no room for negotiation, his breathing became ragged and his eyes became bloodshot. If Emperor Yuan hadn’t held him back, he might’ve gone crazy.

“Danqing, let’s go.” Emperor Yuan then looked at the Ninth Prince. “My Lord, since the matter has been finalized, we will be on our way.”

“Alright.” The Ninth Prince nodded, not even sparing him another glance. As far as the Ninth Prince was concerned, Emperor Yuan was not even worth a tenth of Long Chen.

It was only when the people from the Beast Soul Palace left the place did Emperor Yuan look back. His face was calm, but his eyes were filled with killing intent. Today was the most humiliating day of his life, and it was all because of Long Chen.

Yan Danqing and Emperor Yuan recovered slightly after they left the tower. Emperor Yuan sighed, saying, “Danqing, I’m sorry for being so useless. I couldn’t even protect your honor.”

“I’m fine, Grandfather,” Yan Danqing said plainly. Despite his calm demeanor, there was a raging fire in his heart.

“All is well as long as you are fine. I just hope that you can endure the pain from today. At least we have wrested the right to rule Yuanling City from the Lingwu family. From today onwards, the Beast Soul Palace will grow and you will be able to obtain more resources! You will be able to exceed Long Chen!”

“I know. Grandfather, let me just take a walk alone so I can calm down. You can go back without me.”

Emperor Yuan nodded. Seeing his grandson, his pride and joy, look so disappointed made him sad too. “Go and come back soon. From today onward, I will be teaching you personally. I’ve prepared enough Heavenly River Pills to help you break into the Heavenly River Realm!”

“Alright ...”

Yan Danqing left. He wanted to find a quiet place to rest for a bit so his heart would be prepared for training. Thankfully, not many people recognized him in the city, or they would have talked directly behind his back.

He suddenly saw someone familiar amidst the crowd.

*I remember checking the information we had on Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang before I entered the ruins. It seems that that woman is their stepsister, Yin Mengyao of the Silver family. Yan Danqing’s hatred towards Long Chen started to boil when he saw Yin Mengyao alone.*

Grandfather gave me the Mother & Son Flame Crystal, but I didn’t use it in the ruins. I can use it now! Long Chen, don’t blame me for being ruthless!

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Once the people from the Beast Soul Palace left, the group from the Dawn Trading Alliance knew it was rude to overstay their welcome, so they left.

Seeing that the show was over, the people on the walls slowly left as well, but their hearts were still racing. All of them were discussing Long Chen’s incredible feats. The result of the fight spread like wildfire, and the merchants leaving the city started spreading it to other places too.

Long Chen stood in front of the Ninth Prince with Mo Xiaolang.

The Ninth Prince’s status, strength, and intelligence were very high, and Long Chen knew he could not fight him yet. While Long Chen was humble, he was not afraid nor defeated.

Since he chose to make me an Immortal Guard, he must’ve recognized my potential. But the Imperial Palace is a place where people constantly plot against each other. Those who grew up there are very vicious and their way of thinking is very complicated. Thankfully, the Ninth Prince is not hostile to me.

“Long Chen, where did you learn the Nine Fire Spinning Shields?” The Ninth Prince was direct and wasted no time.

Long Chen hesitated before answering, “I learned it from an inscription on the tomb’s wall in the ancient ruins. It was just beyond the sea of fire.”

He had already thought of the excuse before he even decided to use the Nine Fire Spinning Shields during battle. Would the Ninth Prince forcefully check his Universe Pouch to verify it?

“Is that so ...” The Ninth Prince chuckled as if he believed Long Chen. He looked at Long Chen and stated matter-of-factly, “You have various good martial techniques, and your talent in learning them is excellent too. Your weapon is good and you have

an Earth-tier demonic beast as your pet. Too bad your cultivation level is a bit too low. If you were at the Heavenly River Realm, you would be a good candidate.”

Long Chen silently noted down that this was the Ninth Prince's impression of him.

“Let me give it to you straight. There’s a reason why I’m letting you become an Immortal Guard. I’m recognizing your potential here. The Immortal Guards belong to the entire royal family, so basically my father. But don’t you think it’s a good idea to have some of my men in the Immortal Guard to feed me information?” The Ninth Prince chuckled.