

## War God 271

Chapter 271 - Mother & Son Flame Crystal

The Ninth Prince's words were vague, but Long Chen knew what he meant. He didn't want to recruit Long Chen into his fold; all he wanted was a loyal subordinate.

How could someone as prideful as Long Chen submit to someone else? Even though the Ninth Prince was powerful, Long Chen would never truly become his underling. Still, that didn't mean that he didn't know how to hide his talons.

Fine. I will just follow him for now. Once I become stronger, I will ignore him completely.

Long Chen waited till the Ninth Prince finished talking before pledging, "I, Long Chen, swear that I will be of service to you. I would personally run into a sea of fire to thank you for your generosity ..."

"Good, good." Seeing that Long Chen was on the same page made the Ninth Prince happy. He took out a Universe Pouch and gave it to Long Chen. "Since you are working for me, I will have to give you a welcome gift. There are a hundred Heavenly River Pills inside the pouch. It will be enough for you to enter the Heavenly River Realm. Also, I will give you an advanced Earth-tier martial technique to cultivate! It's called Divine Fire Clone."

Long Chen had to act very surprised and grateful when he saw what the Ninth Prince had given him. It was clear that the Ninth Prince had his own way of rewarding his subordinates. If Long Chen wasn't smart, he would've fallen for it. A hundred Heavenly River Pills was an extraordinary amount of wealth; not even a typical cultivator at the Second River Stage would have that much. The Divine Fire Clone technique was even rarer.

But thankfully, both of the rewards were nothing to Long Chen.

*If you want me to be indebted to you, at least bring out half of your assets,* Long Chen silently thought, but he maintained his act. The Ninth Prince was convinced that Long Chen would actually run into a sea of fire for him.

"Divine Fire Clone is a marvelous martial technique, and there are two stages to it. Cultivate it well; I hope to see you use five clones at the same time one day. At that time, your strength will improve drastically!"

The Ninth Prince was satisfied with Long Chen.

"Thank you, my Lord!"

Long Chen knew that the version in the Ninth Prince's hands had three stages, but he had only given him two ...

It seems that this bastard's generosity is nothing but a facade. He would never give me the important stuff. I wonder how he would feel if he knew I had the real Divine Fire Clone with four stages.

Long Chen had been worried about coming up with a convincing explanation if he used Divine Fire Clone in the future, but that issue had solved itself. He could even explain where he got the Heavenly River Pills from. Now he could cultivate in peace for a while.

“No need to thank me. Since you’ve agreed to work for me, I have to give you a reward. As long as I am satisfied with your performance, you will get numerous other rewards, but that will depend on how well you do in the future. Long Chen, you will come to the imperial capital with me in three days. Make sure to bid farewell to your family before then.”

“Three days? That soon? Alright.” Long Chen nodded. “My Lord, do you have any other instructions? If not, I will leave now. I will return in three days.”

“I have nothing else. Go.” The Ninth Prince nodded with satisfaction.

Long Chen finally left.

Once he did, the silent butler in black said, “My Lord, I think Long Chen is weird.”

“Weird? How?” The Ninth Prince was confused.

“He did not announce that he obtained the Nine Spinning Fire Shields until he used it today. I think that if he truly wanted to become an Immortal Guard, he would’ve used it earlier.”

“Do you mean Long Chen might’ve obtained some other treasure in the ruins but is keeping it a secret?” The Ninth Prince chuckled.

“It’s just a guess.”

“No need to think about it too much. According to the map I obtained, that old man Chutian didn’t leave any other inheritance. Plus, Long Chen is now working under me. If he has other treasures, I will find them eventually.”

“As you say …” The butler in black smiled.

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Long Chen kept to the alleys when he came down from the wall. If not, he would’ve been easily recognized and would be surrounded by people.

*I’m leaving in three days. Who should I say farewell to?* Long Chen was actually a bit sad to leave the place he had been living in for some time.

*I need to go back to Baiyang Town, as well as the Turquoise family. I also need to find Sister Mengyao. I guess that’s about it?* Long Chen thought back and realized that the only people he had good relationships with were Yin Mengyao and Mo Xiaolang.

He was thinking about how to attract as little attention as possible when he remembered he had a hat with a veil to cover his face. Liu Lan had given it to him when she took him to the auction a

long time ago. He took it out and put it on, then he carried Mo Xiaolang near his chest, under the veil. Only then did he dare to walk on the main street.

“Let’s go find Sister Mengyao first,” Long Chen said to Mo Xiaolang.

No one recognized him while he wore the veil. He was very happy with it.

Hehe, luckily, no one recognizes me now.

Just as he thought about it, a child suddenly ran up to him. “Are you brother Long Chen?”

Long Chen almost fainted and shook his head rapidly. “I’m not!”

But the child ignored him and placed a letter in his hand. “Brother, this is for you. Someone told me to give it to you.”

The child then ran away.

Long Chen frowned, his instincts telling him that there was trouble. He opened the letter and saw there was only a single sentence and a hastily drawn map.

Long Chen, come to this location if you want to save Yin Mengyao.

The map was crude, but the major landmarks were easy to distinguish. Long Chen assumed that it would lead him to an abandoned street in the Northern Ling District. He would be able to find the place as long as he followed the map.

But ...

He clenched his fist, his eyes filled with killing intent.

Long Chen hated weaklings that held his family and friends hostage. He had dealt with this exact issue numerous times. Many of his friends and family had been used as hostages before.

His hatred for this tactic was deep.

Never had he thought that someone would come and cause him trouble just as he was about to leave Yuanling City.

This time, Yin Mengyao was the hostage. She was a stepsister to both Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang, so not only did Long Chen care for her, even Mo Xiaolang treated her as if she was his real sister. In just a single move, the enemy had provoked both of them!

Mo Xiaolang’s dark eyes slowly became bloodshot when he read the letter, and his body gradually grew colder. It was most likely the effect of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

“Xiaolang, let’s go kill them.”

There were only two factions who would dare to provoke Long Chen after what had happened earlier. He wanted to see whether it was the Lingwu family or the Beast Soul Palace!

Mo Xiaolang could run faster, especially over long distances. He transformed into a large wolf, and Long Chen sat on his back before he started running. Mo Xiaolang was a blur of shadow that zipped past the roofs and approached the Northern Ling District rapidly!

With his speed, the people below felt a gust of wind but saw nothing. Mo Xiaolang ran on the rooftops, so he didn’t crash into people; his speed was extraordinary!

Mo Xiaolang had already committed the location indicated on the map to memory.

As long as they are sane, neither the Lingwu family nor the Beast Soul Palace would try to provoke me now. This means that the perpetrator is someone who let their emotions get a hold of them. I don't think there's anyone who would do that in the Lingwu family, though the Beast Soul Palace ... I think Yan Danqing would actually be crazy enough to do that!

Long Chen had a feeling that Yan Danqing was behind this!

He knew how much Yan Danqing hated him from when he saw the look in his eyes before he left the tower.

Both Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang were fueled by the fire of hatred and revenge. No matter who it was, they had to kill them!

With Mo Xiaolang's speed, they arrived at the Northern Ling District within minutes. They found the exact location in just ten minutes. When they arrived at the silent, abandoned street, Long Chen saw Yin Mengyao tied to a stone chair. Thankfully, she was not injured. Long Chen had just left the wall, so the perpetrator had probably just finished setting everything up.

Yin Mengyao, however, was not glad to see them. Instead, she panicked and tried to shout, but she was gagged. All she could do was look at Long Chen, her eyes tearing up.

Long Chen knew she wanted them to leave.

But it was impossible.

He then saw why Yin Mengyao was so anxious for them to leave. On Yin Mengyao's lap was a green crystal the size of a fist. It was half-translucent, but Long Chen saw that there was a fire trapped within the crystal!

"You guys must be wondering what that is." Yan Danqing smiled menacingly as he appeared twenty meters behind Yin Mengyao. His face was vicious and he laughed maniacally. "This is the Mother & Son Flame Crystal!"

He was holding another crystal roughly the size of a thumb. It was identical to the crystal on Yin Mengyao's lap.

"If the smaller crystal breaks, the main crystal will break too. If it does, the explosion will kill anyone below the Heavenly River Realm! Long Chen, I wonder how much anguish you will be in if I break the smaller crystal right now?"

Chapter 272 - Soul Token

Yan Danqing had lost all rationality from the moment he decided to use the Mother & Son Flame Crystal. He was now a crazy bastard who was hellbent on making Long Chen pay.

Yan Danqing smiled maniacally as he held the smaller crystal, pinching it lightly with his index finger and thumb. All he had to do was to crush it, and the larger crystal on Yin Mengyao's lap would explode, blowing her into oblivion.

At that critical moment, both Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang did not hesitate to run towards Yin Mengyao. It was what Yan Danqing had hoped for! He wanted Long Chen to die, and Yin Mengyao

was just a means to achieve that. Long Chen was going to try to save Yin Mengyao, but he would die in the explosion.

Seeing Yin Mengyao's panicked face, Long Chen felt his heart rate increase. He was angry because if the situation didn't change, he would not be able to rescue her.

Just then, Mo Xiaolang, who had been slightly ahead of him, exuded a strange aura. Long Chen recalled that he had felt it once when Mo Xiaolang was consuming the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

*Is Mo Xiaolang using the Sun Devouring Wolf's unique technique?* Long Chen realized what Mo Xiaolang was doing and was ecstatic!

The Mother & Son Flame Crystal was technically a type of fire, so Mo Xiaolang could consume it!

Long Chen sighed in relief, but his anger did not dissipate. Yin Mengyao would've died today without Mo Xiaolang's technique. Both Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang would've regretted this forever if that happened.

"Yan Danqing ..." Long Chen took out the Azure Dragon Halberd. While Mo Xiaolang was saving Yin Mengyao, Long Chen ran towards Yan Danqing, his halberd pointed directly at him!

"You want to kill me? Die!"

Yan Danqing laughed and crushed the smaller crystal between his fingers. A wave of energy spread towards the larger crystal, and everyone tensed up.

When Yan Danqing crushed the smaller crystal, the larger crystal was already being sucked into Mo Xiaolang's maw. Long Chen was happy to see that the larger crystal had not exploded. It was clear that the Sun Devouring Wolf's technique was extremely powerful.

"Yan Danqing, this time you touched my bottom line ..." Long Chen exploded with strength. He swung his halberd up, and an Azure Dragon illusion roared before lunging at Yan Danqing.

"Azure Dragon Technique, Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension!"

It was clear that Long Chen was very pissed off at Yan Danqing for using such a despicable method to get back at him.

Yan Danqing was bracing for the explosion and seeing Long Chen getting blown up, but what he saw was instead the larger crystal being sucked into the maw of the wolf. To him, it was an impossible scenario. That was why he was still stunned when Long Chen launched a technique at him.

Sensing the razor-sharp energy reaching him, Yan Danqing finally reacted, but it was too late. He was weaker than Long Chen, so after being hit by the Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension, Yan Danqing shouted in despair before falling. His eyes were glazed over when he hit the ground.

Yan Danqing was dead.

Long Chen sighed after killing Yan Danqing in one blow, but he was wary of Emperor Yuan. The latter's threat to him was still fresh in his mind.

Still, Long Chen did not regret killing Yan Danqing for taking Yin Mengyao hostage. If he hadn't killed Yan Danqing himself, Mo Xiaolang would have.

Long Chen was checking on Yin Mengyao when a white light flew up from Yan Danqing's corpse towards Yuandi City.

"Oh no!" Mo Xiaolang had just torn off Yin Mengyao's restraints when she saw the light. "That's a soul token! With Yan Danqing dead, the soul token will fly back to its owner with information about the place where he died, including the people who were in the vicinity! Emperor Yuan will be here soon! We need to run now!"

Long Chen didn't even get to speak to Yin Mengyao before another crisis fell upon them. It was possible that Emperor Yuan would hold himself back due to Long Chen's status as an Immortal Guard, but Long Chen wasn't sure if Emperor Yuan would be rational after learning that he had killed both of his grandsons.

"Mengyao, go back to the Lingwu family. I'm an Immortal Guard now, so I can take refuge at the Jade Royal Palace. I will come find you once everything is over!" Long Chen put the Azure Dragon Halberd away and started running.

"Alright, be careful!" Yin Mengyao knew that this was serious and didn't hesitate to run. They separated immediately.

Riding Mo Xiaolang's large back, Long Chen carefully thought about his plan. *Emperor Yuan is at the Second River Stage and has the Peak Essence Beast as his Primary Beast Soul. I cannot fight him. Mo Xiaolang is still learning to control the Sun Devouring Wolf's body, and his only technique that can hurt Emperor Yuan is the Nine Devil Ancestral Fire. If we fight for real, we might not be able to beat him. He's much more difficult to deal with than the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch. Will he really risk his life to take mine?*

Mo Xiaolang and Long Chen were still in the Northern Ling District, though the Jade Royal Palace was closer to the Eastern Ling District. They had to travel a long distance, but they would be safe if they managed to reach the palace.

But at the same time, a roar exploded from the west. "Long Chen, stop right there!"

The hoarse and ancient voice belonged to Emperor Yuan.

*He actually is chasing after us!* Long Chen felt his heart beat rapidly when he turned around. Emperor Yuan's strong aura explosion meant that he was about to attack!

"Xiaolang, careful!" Long Chen transformed into his strongest form. He could not be killed by Emperor Yuan when he was so close to leaving Yuanling City!

"Why are you looking for me?"

Emperor Yuan's speed was not to be scoffed at. Even though Mo Xiaolang was fast and could run long distances, he could not shake off Emperor Yuan.

“Why? Long Chen, you killed two of my grandsons. Yan Cixue and Yan Danqing! I don’t care if you’re an Immortal Guard—I will take revenge for my grandsons!” Emperor Yuan’s body flickered before instantly appearing in front of Long Chen.

In terms of strength, he was almost as strong as all four patriarchs of the Lingwu family with their Earth-tier Divine Weapons. Even Mo Xiaolang, with the power of the Sun Devouring Wolf’s body, wasn’t his match!

“Aren’t you afraid that the Ninth Prince will take your life?” Long Chen asked.

“My life? You think I care? Long Chen, I warned you not to underestimate an old man’s method, and yet you still killed my grandson? If I let you off today, how could I face my disciples in the Beast Soul Palace? The Ninth Prince is only interested in your potential, not your current strength. There are plenty of people with as much talent as you in the capital. Do you really think the Ninth Prince would destroy my Beast Soul Palace just because I killed you? You are delusional!”

Long Chen frowned at his words. He knew that Emperor Yuan had lost all rationality. The old man’s breathing was ragged and veins bulged all over his body, both being clear signs. There was no way Emperor Yuan would be calm after Long Chen stole the position of Immortal Guard and killed Yan Danqing!

Yan Danqing was an extremely talented individual that Emperor Yuan had spent a lot of effort raising. He had reached the late Heavenly Core Realm at such a young age, would likely enter the Heavenly River Realm in the next few years, and even had the potential to surpass Emperor Yuan! Such a talented individual had been killed by Long Chen!

Even if Emperor Yuan needed to put his life at stake today, he had to kill Long Chen at all costs! As long as Long Chen died, he could think about how to deal with the Ninth Prince later. But Emperor Yuan had underestimated how much faith the Ninth Prince had placed in Long Chen, to not only give him the Divine Fire Clone technique but also the hundreds of Heavenly River Pills.

No, the only things in Emperor Yuan’s heart were rage and killing intent.

Long Chen understood that he had to fight here. He thought the fight with the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch would be the last battle at Yuanling City, but to think it would be with Emperor Yuan instead. Long Chen was facing the man he once aspired to be when he first entered Yuanling City.

But he was not on Emperor Yuan’s level, so he had no choice but to rely on Mo Xiaolang.

“Xiaolang, careful. I will assist you.” Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang had an unbreakable bond as sworn brothers. Mo Xiaolang did not think killing Yan Danqing was wrong, but now they were about to fight against the strongest cultivator in Yuanling City.

Mo Xiaolang was ready.

“A Category Two Earth-tier demonic beast. Hmph! Transform!” Emperor Yuan shouted.

He swiftly transformed into a half-human and half-white-haired ape, similar to Yan Danqing. But Emperor Yuan was now four meters tall! Even his arm was as thick as Long Chen's torso!

The sharp fangs, the claws, as well as the bulging muscles made Emperor Yuan look intimidating. His strong and agile look was a stark difference from his normal form.

The aura emanating from him was extremely vicious too!

Chapter 273 - Fight Against Emperor Yuan

This was the first time Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang had to team up. Emperor Yuan was a fearsome opponent that required both of them to fight together!

Emperor Yuan's gaze was cold and he said nothing. He launched himself with his powerful legs, becoming a mountain that moved with unbelievable speed.

Long Chen was at a loss for what to do when he felt the incredible pressure.

He knew that he could not fight Emperor Yuan directly; only Mo Xiaolang could do so. Long Chen's role was to harass Emperor Yuan from the side.

Long Chen immediately dodged sideways while Mo Xiaolang crashed into Emperor Yuan head-on. A demonic beast's body was very strong even when compared with cultivators with Body Tempering Techniques, especially a demonic beast with a legendary bloodline like the Sun Devouring Wolf.

As for Emperor Yuan, he could only use half the power of a demonic beast. He was inferior to Mo Xiaolang in terms of physical strength and size. Thanks to that, he was blown back by Mo Xiaolang in the first clash.

"Blood Devouring Domain!" Long Chen used his strongest technique instantly. Thankfully, it was not a technique that attacked indiscriminately; he could target specific people with it. Even though Mo Xiaolang was inside the range of the Blood Devouring Domain, it did not affect him at all. But it was different for Emperor Yuan. Facing the strong suction power, he felt his blood running wild in his body.

*Is this the technique that killed the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch?!* Emperor Yuan was shocked. Still, Long Chen's Qi was inferior to Emperor Yuan's, so the Blood Devouring Domain wasn't that effective.

Still, it was not a pleasant feeling to have countless blades cutting up his body during battle.

Mo Xiaolang used the chance to pounce at Emperor Yuan. At the same time, black flames sprouted from Mo Xiaolang's mouth. The black flames took on the shape of a wolf that ran towards Emperor Yuan! The temperature around the flames plummeted drastically.

"What is that?" Emperor Yuan was shocked. The fire gave him a bone-chilling sensation. Under the effect of Long Chen's Blood Devouring Domain, he felt like his Body Combat Technique was somewhat affected, so he had no choice but to use a martial technique!

"Clear Water Shield!"



A shield made of water appeared in front of Emperor Yuan. The shield flowed in a rhythm as faint runes flickered on its surface.

When the technique was complete, Emperor Yuan threw the shield forward while stepping back. The shield exploded the moment it came into contact with the Nine Devil Ancestral Fire. Some of the fire fell to the ground.

The sound of explosions could be heard as black ice appeared on the ground. When Emperor Yuan landed on the ice, he was shocked to see the ice disintegrate into dust. The mud and debris on the ground was gone!

*What kind of fire is that?!* Emperor Yuan was shocked and felt relieved that he had made the right decision. If he had taken that attack head-on, he would be nothing but dust!

Long Chen's Blood Devouring Domain and Mo Xiaolang's Nine Devils Ancestral Fire were clear indications that they were unique. If they had time to improve, Emperor Yuan knew that they would become absolute beings that could dominate others. Therefore, he couldn't let them live knowing that they had a grudge now.

Seeing that they had failed to kill Emperor Yuan with their strongest techniques, the sworn brothers felt the pressure intensify. It would be even more difficult to kill Emperor Yuan with the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire now that he was wary of it.

Long Chen knew that even though Mo Xiaolang had consumed the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, he had not refined it yet. Unlike the Mother & Son Flame Crystal, the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire hadn't been fully absorbed, so he could only control a part of it. However, as his demonic energy became stronger, Mo Xiaolang could potentially control all of it in the future.

Once they revealed the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, Emperor Yuan was even more determined to kill Long Chen. If he let Long Chen live, the latter would get stronger one day and would come back for revenge in the future!

"Ninth Stage Shattered Void!" Emperor Yuan roared and punched.

He positioned himself between Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang before swinging his fist.

Mo Xiaolang had to focus on fighting a foe at the Second River Stage. Since he could only control a small portion of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, he couldn't attack with it as he pleased. He had missed once already, so he had to be certain that the next shot would hit.

Thankfully, the Sun Devouring Wolf's body was strong enough to face off against Emperor Yuan. At the very least, he could avoid getting injured!

Emperor Yuan's fist and Mo Xiaolang's claws crashed into each other, resulting in both of them being blown back by the impact. Mo Xiaolang realized too late what Emperor Yuan's true goal was.

Emperor Yuan had positioned himself between the brothers! When he was blown back, he used the momentum to quickly launch himself towards Long Chen! He turned at the last moment and quickly launched an attack!

His real target was Long Chen all along!

Long Chen had failed to realize it too. He had underestimated Emperor Yuan's hatred towards him. Even though Long Chen was weaker, he was the owner of the wolf! Emperor Yuan thought that as long as Long Chen died, he wouldn't need to worry about the wolf.

"Did you never think that you would be my main target, you brat? Let's see how you escape this!" Emperor Yuan snarled. His attack was even stronger than his previous one. It was also the strongest attack that Yan Danqing had shown before!

"Die! Peak Essence Shredding Punch!"

The Earth-tier martial technique was simple but unbelievably powerful! The attack was like an electric drill that closed in on Long Chen!

Long Chen could do nothing when he saw Emperor Yuan cutting him off from Mo Xiaolang. Thankfully, he had been prepared and used the Nine Fire Spinning Shields when Emperor Yuan used the Peak Essence Shredding Punch.

He completed the sixth rotation when Emperor Yuan's attack was nearing him. Long Chen thought he could block the attack, but he realized something at the last moment.

He had defeated the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch and killed Yan Danqing in just a single day. That meant that he had used up a lot of his Qi. When he used the Nine Fire Spinning Shields, he realized his Qi was close to depleting!

He could not stop the attack!

"Xiaolang, save me!"

The Nine Fire Spinning Shields was destroyed by Emperor Yuan. He only had to use two Peak Essence Shredding Punches to break the shield and expose Long Chen!

"You will die this time!" Emperor Yuan laughed as he launched a palm attack at Long Chen. He was more than strong enough to tear Long Chen apart with physical strength alone!

"Heaven Shaking Palm!"

Emperor Yuan's claw became a palm that came from above! Long Chen felt like the sky was crashing down on him, causing him to kneel. Emperor Yuan's technique was undoubtedly an intermediate Earth-tier martial technique!

It was his strongest attack!

*Shit!* Long Chen saw his life flashing! But experience told him that he had to remain calm no matter how dangerous the situation was. Mo Xiaolang was already at Emperor Yuan's back, but he dared not use the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, because Long Chen was just in front of Emperor Yuan.

"Azure Dragon Technique, Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension!"

Long Chen used his strongest technique, the one that had killed the Eastern Azure Dragon family patriarch! Even though his Qi was lacking, it was almost as strong as Emperor Yuan's attack!

When the two opposing forces collided, a massive shockwave burst forth.

Emperor Yuan laughed maniacally. Long Chen felt like he was hitting a large mountain, the impact causing his palms to bleed. The Azure Dragon Halberd was knocked away by intense force, and Long Chen's legs sunk into the ground from the impact.

This was the most serious injury he had taken thus far. But to his dismay, Emperor Yuan's attack did not stop even though Mo Xiaolang was about to hit him in the back. Emperor Yuan gritted his teeth and smacked Long Chen away with one last attack.

Emperor Yuan was knocked away by Mo Xiaolang at the same time. He spat out blood, his face pale. There were numerous gashes on his back, each one deep enough to reveal bone and bleeding profusely.

If Long Chen were to use the Blood Devouring Domain now, he would be able to absorb all of the blood, but he was severely injured!

Seeing Long Chen getting injured and being launched into the air, Mo Xiaolang howled angrily. He did not attack Emperor Yuan a second time, because he was more worried about Long Chen. He managed to catch Long Chen on his back before landing gracefully.

Long Chen was in a much more precarious state than he had thought. He finally understood what Emperor Yuan meant about not underestimating an old man's methods.

To think that Emperor Yuan would take the attack from Mo Xiaolang in order to cripple Long Chen!

#### Chapter 274 - Carving Out The Space Within The Body

It seemed like Emperor Yuan had taken serious damage, but it was a superficial wound. Even though it looked horrendous, it could be healed easily with spiritual herbs and a bit of time. Long Chen's injury was different.

Emperor Yuan's final hit had struck Long Chen's abdomen, right on his dantian. Even though the damage to Long Chen's body wasn't serious, the sharp Heavenly River Qi had pierced his dark-red Heavenly Core like a sword.

Emperor Yuan wanted to pierce Long Chen's Heavenly Core and cripple him! If Long Chen lost his Heavenly Core, all of his Qi would leak out. Emperor Yuan's goal was never to kill Long Chen!

The Ninth Prince is betting on Long Chen's potential? He will never accept Long Chen if Long Chen is crippled!

Mo Xiaolang didn't know what to do after seeing how bad Long Chen looked. Emperor Yuan used this time to start healing himself as he laughed maniacally. As the strongest cultivator in Yuandi City, he carried numerous spiritual herbs and treasures at all times. He was using Earth-tier spiritual herbs, so his injuries were mending themselves at a fast speed.

Long Chen was very shocked too. All he could do was watch as the sharp Heavenly River Qi penetrated his Heavenly Core and saw that it was slowly cracking. The Qi he had been cultivating painstakingly was starting to leak out and permeate throughout his body before dissipating. If this went on, he would become a cripple in less than an hour!

Emperor Yuan's laughter made him mad!

Shit! That damn old bastard is crazy! I underestimated him! I will become a cripple soon since my Heavenly Core is slowly shattering. What should I do?

Mo Xiaolang was circling Long Chen. He had sensed what had happened and was distraught too. If Long Chen hadn't been injured, Xiaolang would've continued attacking Emperor Yuan, making it much harder for him to heal.

Long Chen had a daring thought.

When I ascend to the Heavenly River Realm, I will have to shatter my own Heavenly Core as part of the process. Only then can I carve out the space within my body and expand it. Even though I was only at the late Heavenly Core Realm for a short period of time, I have an abundant supply of Heavenly River Pills to supplement the small amount of Qi that I have accumulated. This is my only chance at saving myself!

Long Chen struggled to stand up. His eyes were filled with conviction. "I'm going to try to break into the Heavenly River Realm! Go and distract him!"

Mo Xiaolang's eyes lit up. This was the only solution. Mo Xiaolang didn't hesitate to attack Emperor Yuan.

However, Emperor Yuan's injuries had healed substantially. He smiled when he saw the Sun Devouring Wolf trying to attack him recklessly.

It knows that Long Chen is doomed and wants to fight me to the death now? But a beast is a mere animal. This is my territory; how can you beat me here?

Although he didn't think highly of Mo Xiaolang, he didn't underestimate him. Emperor Yuan was certain that if he touched the fire that the wolf had spat out previously, he would die.

Thanks to the various combat techniques in the memories of the Sun Devouring Wolf, as well as the threat of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, Mo Xiaolang could fight against Emperor Yuan on equal ground.

Long Chen used this opportunity to sit down and started carving out the space inside his body with the shattered Qi.

Emperor Yuan chuckled when he saw what Long Chen was doing. "What a naive fool. Shattering your Heavenly Core to carve out the space inside your body is an extremely difficult and dangerous thing to do. And you even need eighteen Heavenly River Pills! You just entered the late Heavenly Core Realm. What right do you have to try and enter the Heavenly River Realm?"

If Long Chen shattered his Heavenly Core, his Qi would dissipate even faster.

But it was his only choice. In this dire situation, Long Chen calmed himself and accelerated the shattering of his Heavenly Core.

Under his control, the Heavenly Core shattered, and a large amount of blood-red Qi exploded outwards and filled his body. It circulated through his veins and capillaries.

But it was too much Qi for his body to contain. Numerous wisps of blood-red Qi leaked out of his skin and orifices, enveloping him in a blood-red mist.

Long Chen was in pain. If it wasn't for his Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, his body might've exploded from the sheer amount of Qi. This was the most dangerous step of advancing into the Heavenly River Realm!

Now I need to guide all of the Qi to converge through my capillaries. This way, I can carve out the eighteen Star Veins. The Star Veins are the basis of the space inside my body. I will then need to absorb the power of the constellations and merge their energy into my Qi. Once my Qi becomes a liquid, I can then use it to form the heavenly river inside the space of my body. If I succeed, I will advance into the Heavenly River Realm!

There were eighteen Star Veins in the body, corresponding with the eighteen heavenly rivers in the sky. Nine of them appeared during the day and nine appeared at night. A pair of Yang heavenly rivers and Yin heavenly rivers form the Yin and Yang heavenly rivers. It was only when the first pair was formed that a cultivator would be recognized as reaching the First River Stage.

Now that it was daytime, Long Chen's only option was to form the first Yang heavenly river.

The enormous amount of blood-red Qi pulsed in Long Chen's body. He controlled the Qi while sensing where the first Yang heavenly river was located. The sun made it difficult to spot, but Long Chen had already memorized where it was located.

The Dubhe Starry River.

This was the name of the first heavenly river. There were Yin and Yang versions of it. The Yin Dubhe Starry River and the Yang Dubhe Starry River ran parallel to each other in the sky, never intersecting. Long Chen had to carve out the space inside his body before absorbing the power of the heavenly river to merge with his Qi. Only then could he form the first Yang heavenly river inside his body.

The method to carve out the space was called the Star Consolidation Method. When he obtained the huge pile of Heavenly River Pills, Long Chen knew he would advance into the Heavenly River Realm in the near future. That was why he had sought out the Star Consolidation Method in advance. It was not a rare method, but there were very few people who needed it. With it, Long Chen could use his Qi to carve out the space inside his body. But an important ingredient was required to use the method: Heavenly River Pills!

In order to carve out the eighteen Star Veins, a normal person would need eighteen Heavenly River Pills. However, Long Chen had heard that some talented cultivators with special bodies required even more. Some of them even used up hundreds of Heavenly River Pills! A Heavenly River Pill was a rare resource. Usually, those at the First River Stage only had ten or so to their name at most. Long Chen having two thousand of them was down to pure luck. He was extremely lucky to have found the true inheritance of the Burning Heaven Emperor.

Long Chen was currently using the Star Consolidation Method, but he was surprised to see that everything was going smoothly. The only issue he had was the amount of Qi flowing through him, which prevented him from carving out all eighteen Star Veins at the same time.

Using the Star Consolidation Method, Long Chen planted eighteen Star Veins seeds into his body. The seeds spanned throughout his entire body, and there was no issue while he did so. Next, he needed to use Heavenly River Pills to carve out the true Star Veins inside his body.

When he planted the seeds into his body, Long Chen realized that his body had features belonging to dragons! He was currently in his transformed state, so he saw many inhuman features inside his body. Long Chen suddenly had a feeling that it would be extremely difficult to carve out the space inside his body.

But I have to do it, or I will be crippled!

Long Chen focused and started showing signs absorbing the power of the constellations.

He took out eighteen Heavenly River Pills and placed them on his palm. Once the Star Consolidation Method was ready, Long Chen guided his Qi towards where the seed of the Dubhe Star Vein was. He then consumed one pill.

The Heavenly River Pill's energy was soft and tame. Since the energy had been refined before, Long Chen didn't feel any discomfort, but rather a cool and powerful force inside his body. It flowed like liquid and merged into his Qi.

Time to start carving!

Using the power of the Heavenly River Pill as the primer and his Qi as the main force, Long Chen started carving out a specific path inside his body. Even though his Qi was not sufficient, the superior quality of his unique Dragon Soul Qi made up for it. Long Chen was happy to find that it might not be a hard thing to do at all.

But he suddenly met his first obstacle. Halfway through the process, the energy that came from the Heavenly River Pill met an obstacle in his body and started being consumed rapidly. Thankfully, the consumption of his Dragon Soul Qi was acceptable. After just a moment, the energy from a single pill was depleted.

Theoretically, the energy from a single Heavenly River Pill was enough to carve out the first Star Vein. But Long Chen had barely carved out a tenth of it when the energy was depleted, so he had no choice but to consume the next pill. Thankfully, he had enough pills, or he would be dead.

If the process was interrupted in any way, his body would explode and he would die.

But this is good! That means my body's potential and quality is superior!

With the support of the Heavenly River Pills, Long Chen swiftly carved out the first Star Vein. When he was finished, he saw that he had consumed more than ten pills! There were very few left in his palm.

Wait, does that mean I need to consume almost two hundred pills just to carve out the eighteen Star Veins?

Long Chen grumbled.

[1]

The process of advancing into the Heavenly River Realm is like this:

## Chapter 275 - Advancing Into the Heavenly River Realm

*Two hundred Heavenly River Pills? Why do I need to use so many?* Long Chen was lamenting this even though his life was in danger. He only had two thousand Heavenly River Pills, and he would need two hundred of them just to carve out the space inside his body. He had a feeling that two thousand pills would not be enough for him to go past the Heavenly River Realm.

But his life was in danger and he had no choice but to consume them. He took out two hundred Heavenly River Pills and carved out the eighteen Star Veins.

The eighteen dark-blue Star Veins covered his body, from his chest to his arms, from his head to his bottom, and even down to his legs. The strong Star Veins were everywhere.

The Star Veins could be seen faintly from the outside. When all eighteen of them intertwined throughout his body, it appeared like the starry night sky. But currently, the Star Veins were empty; they lacked the power of the constellations.

There were two important steps to enter the Heavenly River Realm successfully. One could either do both of them at the same time or complete them separately. It was only when both of the steps were completed that one would be recognized as an official Heavenly River Realm cultivator. Now that Long Chen had carved out the space in his body, he had completed the first step. For the second step, he needed to draw in the power of the constellations and merge it with his Dragon Soul Qi to form a liquid. He would then need to place the liquid inside his Star Veins.

Now that it was daytime, Long Chen could only complete the first Yang heavenly river found within the Dubhe Starry River. As for the other, he could only do it at night. He was preparing to fill in the first Star Vein in his body, the Dubhe Star Vein!

The Star Consolidation Method was used to carve out the space, but to draw in the power of the constellation, he needed another method. It was time to use the Star Attraction Method! It was a formless technique that could attract the power of the constellations just by looking at them. Long Chen was preparing to use it!

This is ...

With a silent boom, Long Chen found himself in the void of space. In front of him were the grand constellations. They were boundless, and Long Chen was deeply shocked by the magnitude of the universe. He had a feeling that the constellations were calling him, and his spirit was connected to them, allowing him to hear them.

Long Chen snapped back to reality and found himself back in his original location. The only difference was that he felt a new power inside his body. It was a wild yet cohesive energy that slowly filled his first Star Vein.

This was the basis of true strength.

As the formless energy poured into his first Star Vein, Long Chen guided his Qi and merged it into the Star Vein. When his Dragon Soul Qi and the energy of the constellations met, they slowly merged. Long Chen saw that there was starlight inside the blood-red Qi, making it look like a glittery river of blood flowing in his Dubhe Star Vein.

He zoomed out and saw that his Dubhe Star Vein looked identical to the Dubhe Starry River in the sky. Compared to the pale blue Dubhe Starry River, his blood-red Dubhe Star Vein was even more glamorous with its glittering red color.

When Long Chen finished merging his Dragon Soul Qi with the power of the constellations, a beautiful, red river appeared in his body. This was only one of the Star Veins of the Dubhe Star Vein. It could be said that he had taken half a step into the First River Stage, but even so, his strength had multiplied!

Long Chen opened his eyes.

A beam of blood-red starlight pierced into the skies and parted the clouds. Long Chen stood up in his transformed state. His aura was completely different now that he was at the Heavenly River Realm.

Long Chen, having barely survived the ordeal, was now stronger than before. Mo Xiaolang was very happy to see that, but Emperor Yuan despaired. When Long Chen was carving out the space in his body, Emperor Yuan had a feeling that he might succeed. He had tried to pull away from the wolf to kill Long Chen, but he had failed to do so.

When Long Chen stood up, Emperor Yuan was already covered in wounds. If he did not run now, he would die by Long Chen's hand.

Emperor Yuan's face paled from fright when he saw that Long Chen had successfully entered the Heavenly River Realm.

Long Chen's eyes were filled with blood-red starlight. If he could kill the First River Stage Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch even before he entered the Heavenly River Realm, then he would most definitely be able to kill Emperor Yuan now after entering the Heavenly River Realm. Emperor Yuan could not even take down the wolf, much less Long Chen.

Having to pick between dignity and life, Emperor Yuan chose the latter. He tossed away his ego and arrogance and was left with nothing but despair.

This brat ... I can't believe he survived! How lucky is he? If I fight him now, I will most certainly die. Unfortunately, it's too late to turn the situation around.

Emperor Yuan was covered in wounds, but he fled with all his might. Long Chen was going to leave Yuanling City soon, so if he could escape and bide his time, he would be safe.

But Long Chen would never let him escape.

Even though he was only half a step into the First River Stage, his speed surpassed those at the Second River Stage when his transformation was active. Since Emperor Yuan was wounded, Long Chen could slowly catch up to him.

Mo Xiaolang was also chasing Emperor Yuan from another direction.

“Blood Devouring Domain!”

A blood-red mist consumed Emperor Yuan. Long Chen designated Emperor Yuan as the sole target, and the entire force of the technique completely focused on him. Thanks to Long Chen power-up, the Blood Devouring Domain's strength had also increased. It could only limit Emperor Yuan's movement last time, but now Emperor Yuan was completely trapped!

Blood flowed out of his wounds and flew towards Long Chen.

“NOOOOO!” Guttural cries came from Emperor Yuan. Under the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain, he inched forward slowly. He looked back and used all of his Qi to control his blood—he couldn't let Long Chen consume it!

“Long Chen, what kind of monster—”

Emperor Yuan felt a sharp blade flash past his neck. He didn't even finish his sentence when his world turned around. The last thing he saw was a youth smiling at him cruelly.



He then lost consciousness.

After Emperor Yuan died, Long Chen dispelled the Blood Devouring Domain. Emperor Yuan was only one stage higher than him, so his blood was not very useful. Also, thanks to the loud noises from their fight, the Ninth Prince would soon learn of what had happened. Long Chen did not want the Ninth Prince to know that he could absorb the blood of his opponents to increase his strength.

Emperor Yuan's headless body fell to the ground.

And his head was laying underneath Long Chen's foot.

When Emperor Yuan turned around, Long Chen had cut off his head with the Azure Dragon Halberd.

Long Chen felt relieved after dealing with Emperor Yuan, but the fight had been anything but easy. His life had been on thin ice from start to finish. Long Chen felt cold sweat cover his body when everything was over.

He looked back at Mo Xiaolang. Mo Xiaolang was already beside him and was very happy to see that Long Chen had become stronger again. As long as Long Chen completed the first Yin Star Vein, he would be roughly as strong as Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen's strength had once again come closer to Mo Xiaolang's after the latter became the Sun Devouring Wolf.

Mo Xiaolang was somewhat pitying the dead Emperor Yuan. The strongest man in Yuanling City was now dead, thanks to Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang.

"Let's go. Now everything is truly over. Let's say goodbye to everyone before we head to the capital. We should go to Sister Mengyao's place to say goodbye to her first."

Mo Xiaolang nodded.

As for Emperor Yuan's corpse, Long Chen was certain that someone would come and fetch it soon.

In reality, a lot of people had watched their fight from the sidelines. The news of Long Chen killing Emperor Yuan soon spread across Yuanling City. They weren't exactly fighting in a secret location, so people naturally found out very fast.

*The Ninth Prince must've heard of the fight, but he didn't show up. Maybe he came but didn't want to help me?* Long Chen thought about the problem. The Ninth Prince must have been told about their fight almost as soon as they started. If the Ninth Prince wanted to save him, he would've done so, but he had not appeared at all.

Or maybe he saw that I was about to enter the Heavenly River Realm and decided to stay put ...

They soon left the scene.

Once they were gone, more and more people gathered around the corpse of Emperor Yuan. None of them dared to approach Long Chen, the strongest person in Yuanling City.

In a dark corner, the Ninth Prince had seen everything that had happened. He gave his butler a confused look. "Elder Yan, Long Chen used almost two hundred Heavenly River Pills to carve out the space in his body. He also has the ability to devour blood."

“My Lord, you only gave him a hundred Heavenly River Pills. That means he encountered a treasure trove. It’s likely that he obtained something else in the ruins. Also, consuming almost two hundred Heavenly River Pills means that the quality of his body far exceeds that of everyone in the Cangyang Kingdom. I’ve never heard of someone of that caliber before.” The butler sighed.

“But that doesn’t mean his body is guaranteed to be superior. There was once someone who used more than a hundred Heavenly River Pill to carve out the space in their body, but after that, their achievements were close to nil. They were extremely weak. The reason why they needed so many Heavenly River Pills was because their body was extremely poor and required a lot more resources than other people to catch up. But I’m more curious about his technique that devours blood. He must've encountered something extraordinary before. I wonder if he has anything on him that would shock me?” the Ninth Prince said calmly.

“My Lord, are you planning to do something?”

“No, we can’t rush this. I can do it slowly once we are back in the capital. I don’t want to spook him.” The Ninth Prince smiled.

Chapter 276 - Farewell

Not wanting to cause a commotion, Long Chen snuck into the Silver family compound. Yin Mengyao was currently in the courtyard of her quarters, looking miserable. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang leaped into the yard.

“Sister Mengyao,” Long Chen called gently, placing Xiaolang down.

When she heard his voice, Yin Mengyao looked up hurriedly. When she saw him, she broke into a grin and asked, “Long Chen, is Emperor Yuan not trying to kill you right now?”

“He tried, but we killed him already,” said Long Chen with a smug grin.

“Nonsense! Don’t lie to me. Come sit here. It should be safe enough; Emperor Yuan can’t come in here.”

Like a true older sister, Yin Mengyao pulled Long Chen over to sit on a stone bench in the pavilion, then she served him some fruits and pastries.

With a *whoosh*, Xiaolang leaped onto the stone table and crouched, watching her with a naive, innocent gaze.

“Long Chen, did you get this powerful little wolf from the Burning Heaven Secret Realm?” Yin Mengyao peered at Mo Xiaolang curiously with love in her eyes.

“I did. You can pet him; he won’t bite.” Long Chen still felt guilty whenever Mo Xiaolang’s situation was brought up. Xiaolang was his younger stepbrother, so Long Chen should have protected him. Yet he had ended up like this.

“Really?” Yin Mengyao was tempted to try. After observing Mo Xiaolang for a long time, she only dared to reach out with her hand but not touch him. In the end, Xiaolang stood up and stuck out his pink tongue, then licked the back of her hand once.

Then he turned to eat the pastries on the stone table with utmost focus.

“He’s cute! And he seems to like pastries too. This pine flower cake is Xiaolang’s favorite. Right, Long Chen, can I ask you about him? Did he actually die? Or did he merely leave to start his path of revenge?” Yin Mengyao looked up expectantly.

“I ...” Long Chen hesitated. If Yin Mengyao also knew about his intentions for revenge, that meant she was very important to him. Long Chen wanted to tell her that Mo Xiaolang was standing in front of her, but when he was about to speak, Xiaolang stopped him with a look.

“He told me that he had to go off alone to take revenge, but he will definitely come back to see you,” said Long Chen, changing his mind.

He felt a little bitter. Xiaolang must not have wanted Yin Mengyao to see him in this state, and that was why he had stopped Long Chen. He had always been a good kid who did not want people to worry.

“Alright ...” Yin Mengyao could not do anything about it. Her gaze was fixed on Mo Xiaolang, who was eating the pine flower cake.

“Right, Long Chen, now that you have become an Immortal Guard, when are you going to leave?” she asked.

“In three days. I came here today to bid you farewell,” said Long Chen.

“Three days?” She pursed her lips and lamented, “Both you and Xiaolang are outstanding. I’m your older sister, yet my cultivation level is embarrassingly low. But having you two as my younger brothers is my proudest accomplishment. You two are my biggest heroes!”

“Of course! But we’re only here because of you. You see, it’s definitely not a coincidence that two prodigies ended up becoming your younger brothers. This was all because of your efforts,” said Long Chen with a chuckle.

“Stop buttering me up.” Yin Mengyao was growing shy from his compliments.

“In three days, you’ll also be leaving me ... Sigh. I won’t say too much. As your stepsister, I wish you all the best in becoming the strongest person in the world as soon as possible, then marry a pretty wife and bring her to me!”

“Sister Mengyao, you’re not ambitious enough,” Long Chen said with a grin. “As for wives, the more the merrier. In the future, I’ll bring you an army of sister-in-laws.”

“You’re a jerk with no sense of loyalty! One day, one day ...” Yin Mengyao blushed with rage.

Time passed slowly, and the sorrow of farewell filled their conversations towards the end. Thankfully, Long Chen kept cracking jokes, so the mood was not too somber.

When it was time to go, he did not drag it out; he merely said goodbye and leaped over the wall to leave.

Xiaolang was about to follow him, but after Long Chen leaped over the wall, he backtracked and jumped into Yin Mengyao’s arms. He gazed at her with his bright, intelligent eyes, which were already shining with tears.

Yin Mengyao was speechless. She knew that this little guy had killed the Black Tortoise Patriarch and that he was extremely powerful. “Long ... Long Chen ...”

When Yin Mengyao started shouting in fear, Xiaolang quickly licked her forehead once, then leaped out of her arms and disappeared into the sunset. Yin Mengyao stood there in a daze, staring in the direction they had gone towards.

“That little black wolf ... Why does it give me such a familiar feeling? Its eyes ... Why does it feel like I’ve seen them countless times?”

Yin Mengyao sat in place for a long time but still had no answers.

When night fell, someone suddenly knocked on the wooden door of her courtyard. Yin Mengyao woke up from her daze with a start and hurried to open the door. A young girl with bright eyes and a brighter smile skipped into the yard and said happily, “Sister Mengyao, I have gigantic news!”

“What is it?”

“I’ll tell you if you promise to go out with me tonight!” teased the young girl.

“Alright, alright. You give me a headache.”

“Hehe, really? Don’t you break your promise!”

“When have I ever broken a promise?”

“That’s true.” The young girl cocked her head and exclaimed excitedly, “I just learned that the head of Yuandi City, Emperor Yuan, was defeated and killed by my idol, Brother Long Chen! His head was even chopped off! Yay, yay, yay!”

The girl skipped happily in the yard.

Yin Mengyao’s smile froze. She recalled what Long Chen had said earlier. At the time, he had casually mentioned that he had killed Emperor Yuan, but she thought he was joking.

So it was true ...

Has Long Chen grown to that level already?

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When night fell, Long Chen visited the Yang family in Baiyang Town. He had not been home for a long time, so the Yang family was very emotional. Yang Lingqing had left with Li Xuanji, and no one knew where she was. Though Long Chen, the Yang family's most terrifying prodigy, was still in Yuanling City.

At the dinner feast, Long Chen told them about the recent events and his future plans. When they heard him, they were left in a daze, not moving the chopsticks in their hands.

“Grandfather, Uncle, Mother, I am going because I want to achieve greater heights, so that I have a chance at finding Lingqing in the future. As for you guys, I will make arrangements accordingly. I will never let our enemies affect the development of the Yang family,” he said.

After a long pause, the Yang patriarch finally said, “Good! Good! Good!”

Although they were sad to see him go, it was clear that they were extremely proud that such a prodigy came from their family.

Yang Xueqing's eyes were filled with tears.

She had imagined that Long Chen would soar high, according to Long Qinglan's prediction, but she had not expected the day to arrive so quickly. She and Long Chen were distant when he was growing up, but Long Chen was the one who mattered most to her now.

Before he left, Long Chen left them many things, many of which would allow the Yang family to prosper easily in the future.

After the feast, when the Yang family was asleep, Long Chen left Baiyang Town and made his way to a vast field. The sky was filled with stars, with nine heavenly rivers crossing through the sky. Long Chen easily spotted the Dubhe Starry River, which was a Yin river.

He had condensed the Yang heavenly river during the day, but now that night had fallen, it was time to condense the Yin heavenly river.

The Yin and Yang heavenly rivers could usually be completed within a short time of each other. Since Long Chen had completed the Yang heavenly river, the Yin heavenly river was much easier. At this point, he needed to use Heavenly River Pills to generate more Qi.

He cultivated until dawn.

There were still two days left, so he decided to spend his remaining time with his family. After all, if he didn't die in the next chapter of his journey, he didn't know when he would be back again.

The whole next day was spent with his family, mostly staying with his mother, Yang Xueqing. Although they did not talk much, they had some chemistry.

He spent the next night condensing the Dubhe Starry River.

Finally, after one more night, Long Chen reached the First River Stage. When he officially entered the Heavenly River Realm, the Yin and Yang heavenly rivers flowed in tandem within his body and star power aggregated within his Dubhe Star Vein.

On the day before his departure, everyone watched Long Chen leave the Yang family. They all knew that this day would come eventually, so they were proud of him.

“The Lingwu family only has the Vermilion Bird Matriarch and the White Tiger Patriarch left, while the Beast Soul Palace will surely deteriorate without Emperor Yuan. They are not even capable of taking on the responsibilities of ruling the city. Only the cunning Dawn Trading Alliance remains with their strength intact. This time, I shall pay the Dawn Trading Alliance a visit.”

There was no deep enmity between the Dawn Trading Alliance and Long Chen, unlike the other two factions. Therefore, Long Chen was going there to ask them for a favor. He would obviously give them something in return.

When he arrived at the Dawn Trading Alliance’s headquarters, Long Chen saw a group of people rush inside to report his arrival. Soon after, the rotund Dawn Trading Alliance Chairman, Li Wudi, appeared at the entrance. With him was Li Ziling, who was now the Head Emissary of the Dawn Trading Alliance. An elderly man with a curved nose and a sharp gaze, also known as Old Eagle in the Dawn Trading Alliance, was with them as well.

“Brother Long Chen! Come, come inside!” Li Wudi said with a smile on his face.

News of Long Chen reaching the Heavenly River Realm and killing Emperor Yuan had already spread across Yuanling City. This was more shocking than him beating the Azure Dragon Patriarch.

That was why Li Wudi was terrified when Long Chen paid the Dawn Trading Alliance a visit. Long Chen was the only person in the city that Li Wudi could not afford to offend ...

#### Chapter 277 - Rebirth of Ling Xi

Li Ziling felt like she was dreaming as she stared at the calm-looking teenager. The first time they met was in the Fire Thunder Mountain Range. At the time, Long Chen had attacked her after she had exhausted her Qi suppressing the Blazing Thunder Crystal Soul. It was a shameless move, and his cultivation level at the time was nothing impressive. But Long Chen was now as powerful as her grandfather, at a position that she could only look up to ...

There was just too big of a gap between them.

Li Ziling had always based her self-esteem on her beauty and strength. She opined that there were extremely few people who were fit for her. However, Long Chen did not even take one look at her, and it made her feel resentful. Her confidence took a great hit. *You jerk! Do you think you’re the shit now that you’re stronger?*

Li Ziling had the urge to kill him, but she did not dare do anything, because she would be the dead one in the end.

Long Chen was considered an extraordinarily powerful presence in Yuanling City, and the two largest factions had been crippled by him. The Dawn Trading Alliance was celebrating because this was their opportunity to rise. But when Long Chen, also the harbinger of death, came knocking on their door, would they dare not treat him well?

Everyone made their way to the grand guest hall of the Dawn Trading Alliance, and Long Chen sat at the head of the room. Li Ziling resented this seating arrangement, but when she recalled his

current capabilities and position, she had no choice but to shut her mouth and stand obediently behind him.

“Chairman Li, I came here today for only one reason. I would like to make a trade,” Long Chen said right after he sat down.

“Trade?” Li Wudi sighed in relief. Thank goodness it was a trade. If Long Chen had decided to make a ridiculous demand, he would’ve been put in a difficult position.

“May I ask what you would like to trade?” Chairman Li asked smilingly.

“This is what I intend to pay you for it.” Long Chen took out a Universe Pouch from his clothes and placed it on the table.

Li Ziling rolled her eyes. Long Chen was a poor man from a small town; he would not be able to show them anything good. That was why she did not care about what he had.

“What is this ...?” asked Chairman Li in confusion.

“Twenty Heavenly River Pills. It’s enough for the Dawn Trading Alliance to produce one Heavenly River Realm cultivator.” When he spoke, Long Chen looked at Li Ziling. He guessed that the twenty pills would be used on her.

“What?” Li Wudi and the rest gasped. Li Ziling was the most surprised of them all. She was already at the Heavenly Core Realm and would likely reach the Heavenly River Realm in a few years to become one of the strongest in Yuanling City. However, she lacked Heavenly River Pills right now, and her problem would be solved if she received twenty of them.

She stared at him in shock and gratitude.

“Are there really twenty Heavenly River Pills inside?” Li Wudi almost dared not believe him. Although Long Chen had become an Immortal Guard, he knew it would still be difficult for him to pay so much.

“You may open it and check, Chairman Li,” Long Chen responded.

Li Wudi picked up the Universe Pouch and opened it. Lo and behold, there were twenty Heavenly River Pills inside. He was in a daze as he stared at the teenager who had grown so powerful so quickly. Without them noticing, he had amassed wealth and strength exceeding the whole Dawn Trading Alliance.

“There are indeed twenty Heavenly River Pills in here. May I ask what you would like to trade them for?” Chairman Li asked solemnly. Twenty Heavenly River Pills. It looked like Long Chen’s request would not be simple.

Li Ziling was also staring at him, unsure of how to react.

“It’s actually very simple. I’m about to leave for the Biyang Imperial Capital, but I have many enemies in Yuanling City. However, my family in Baiyang Town does not have the power to fend off my enemies at all. I was hoping the Dawn Trading Alliance could send at least two cultivators at least at the late Heavenly Core Realm to guard Baiyang Town. And if any Heavenly River Realm cultivator tries to harm my family, you two must help fend them off. What do you think? But Chairman Li, you don’t actually have to worry. Now that Emperor Yuan is dead, there aren’t any Heavenly River Realm cultivators in the Beast Soul Palace. The Lingwu family is restricted due to the promise, so they are being watched by the Ninth Prince. They won’t stoop so low as to harm my family. That is why you only need to send late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators to Baiyang Town, and these twenty Heavenly River Pills will belong to the Dawn Trading Alliance!”

The Dawn Trading Alliance was set to profit greatly from this trade. With Long Chen's reputation, basically no one would want to touch Baiyang Town after he left for the Biyang Imperial Capital. All the Dawn Trading Alliance had to do was send two late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators to vacation in Baiyang Town.

“To summarize, as long as you can ensure my family’s safety in Baiyang Town, these twenty Heavenly River Pills will be yours,” he reiterated.

Li Wudi and Old Eagle looked at each other. Long Chen was currently the ultimate master, but family was the weakness of even the strongest people. Long Chen was about to embark on a journey to a place far away, so it would be very inconvenient if someone decided to target his family. That was why he had come to the Dawn Trading Alliance.

First of all, Long Chen was merely being filial. He had no other hidden intentions. Secondly, this was extremely easy for the Dawn Trading Alliance to do. Third, the Dawn Trading Alliance could stand to gain a lot from this. Fourth, they could forge a relationship with Long Chen, who was bound to become an even more powerful prodigy in the future.

This was an amazing deal delivered right to their doorstep, so the Dawn Trading Alliance had no reason to decline. Li Wudi was all smiles when he said, “I understand, Long Chen. I will ensure that this matter will be dealt with perfectly so you will not need to worry while you’re away.”

He paused to think for a while and then said, “We will send three late Heavenly Core Realm, ten mid Heavenly Core Realm, and a few Earthly Core and Human Core Realm cultivators to be stationed in Baiyang Town. They will ensure that Baiyang Town is completely protected and treat the Yang family as VIPs. If anyone more powerful appears, Old Eagle and I will assist too!”

“Thank you, Chairman Li.” Long Chen was extremely pleased with Li Wudi’s arrangement.

His lingering worries about Baiyang Town had been resolved, so now he could leave in peace. His next task was to bring Xiaolang to the Biyang Imperial Capital, then go to the Counter Essence Realm with the Ling Xi Sword to search for the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit.



*I wonder when Xiao Xi will wake up. When she does, she will be able to use the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus. And if that happens, hehe ...* If Ling Xi had a physical body, she would definitely be beautiful enough to make entire kingdoms fall, like Li Xuanji. And with their relationship, it should be normal for him to take a little advantage of her, right?

While he thought about Ling Xi, Li Wudi and the rest walked him out of the Dawn Trading Alliance, and he left.

The sky was darkening. Tomorrow morning, he would need to leave for Biyang Imperial Capital with the Ninth Prince.

“Everything is in order. Let’s go, Xiaolang. Let’s go to the Jade Royal Palace,” Long Chen said mildly.

Xiaolang gave a low growl. Since he was in the puppy form of the wolf, any noise he made sounded squeaky. His row of white teeth made him look very cute.

This would be Long Chen’s last night in Yuanling City. Tomorrow, he would set out for the central region of the Cangyang Kingdom, the Biyang Imperial Capital.

That was where the almighty royal family was located. He would also be near the mysterious but richly abundant Counter Essence Realm as well as Xiaolang’s enemies. It was also where he would find what needed to help Ling Xi recover. Of course, all the masters of the Cangyang Kingdom were aggregated there too. It would be a stepping stone for Long Chen to grow to greater heights!

When he arrived at the Jade Royal Palace, a handmaiden who served the Ninth Prince said to him, “His Highness instructed me to take you to your quarters to rest when you arrived. You will be leaving early tomorrow morning.”

Long Chen nodded.

The pretty handmaiden led him to a lavish bedroom. “Sir, His Highness said that I am a present for you.” After he entered the room, she undid the ties of her dress to reveal a huge patch of fair skin.

“Get out.” Long Chen was about to leave the city and to be honest, his thoughts were a mess.

“Yes, Sir.” The handmaiden looked as if a huge weight had been lifted. She left respectfully, leaving Long Chen to lie on the large, circular bed. He burrowed into the soft, pink cotton sheets and stared at the ceiling in a daze.

He was completely immersed in his memories when he heard a crisp, melodious voice by his ear. “I didn’t know... Brother Chen, you’re actually quite a good guy.”

Long Chen would even recognize this voice in his dreams, because it belonged to Ling Xi.

“I’m starting to hallucinate.” Long Chen sulked and changed his position, though he remained frustrated because he realized that he missed Ling Xi very much. He wondered how she was doing.

“Brother Chen, let me out! Quick!” Long Chen, who was in a daze, heard her voice again. This time, he jumped out of bed in shock, startling Xiaolang, who was crouching at the bottom of the bed.

“Xiao Xi, you’re awake?!”

This news was enough to make all the blood in his body boil. He did not care if it was a hallucination and immediately opened his Universe Pouch. A black ray of sword light instantly flew out of the pouch. He rubbed his eyes hard and, to his surprise, he saw the two-centimeter-tall Ling Xi standing on the Ling Xi sword.

Xiaolang stared at the tiny person in shock and curiosity. Although Long Chen hadn’t mentioned it, he knew that there had always been a girl more important than himself by Long Chen’s side.

“Brother Chen ...” Ling Xi’s eyes welled up with tears when she saw him.

Both of them had thought that they would die in the battle at the Star Devil Prison. Ling Xi had been willing to die for him, but Long Chen had chased after her into the abyss of the Star Devil Prison without hesitation, despite the fact that it seemed like certain death. Only the two of them knew how precious their reunion was, and how it was against all odds.

Long Chen could tell that Ling Xi had matured greatly after everything they had been through. She was no longer that odd-tempered girl who was a little spoiled. From her aura and her gaze, he slowly discovered tranquility and acceptance, as well as dignity and resilience.

“Xiao Xi ...” Staring at the silly girl, Long Chen realized that he was getting choked up too. He had thought about so many things to say to her, but he felt as if there was a boulder in his throat right now, stopping him from making a sound.

They had left each other to face death. No words could have described what they felt. All they could do was cry.

Chapter 278 - Forever In A Moment

Ling Xi’s awakening was a huge surprise. Long Chen had been waiting for this moment for a long, long time. A lot of time had passed since the battle at the Star Devil Prison; he had become much stronger since then, and fortunately he had Xiaolang for company in her absence, or he would have been very lonely.

But when she appeared, Long Chen tossed Xiaolang far out of his mind. He was very blatantly prioritizing his romantic relationship over his friendship.

Ling Xi clearly wanted to know what had happened during her absence, why he had jumped into the abyss but had not died, and how they had ended up here. Plus, she could tell that he had attained the Heavenly River Realm.

But Long Chen did not want to talk to her about any of that. All he wanted to do was tell her about the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus.

“Xiao Xi, I will tell you everything you want to know later. Right now, I want to give you a present,” he said mysteriously, carrying her in his palms when he recovered from his shock.

“What is it?”

“It’s a secret, but I’ll show it to you now.” After he spoke, he took the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus out of his pouch. Ling Xi was knowledgeable, so she recognized it immediately.

“A Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus?” Ling Xi gasped. Overrun by emotion, she stuttered, “Brother Chen, how is it possible that you have something like that? It should be impossible to find a Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus in a place like this.”

“I’ll tell you how I got it later. Hehe, Xiao Xi, do you know how this works? I hear you’ll get a temporary body ...” Long Chen grew anxious.

“That’s right. Where I’m from, the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus is fairly common. When a powerful master is slain and their soul is not completely dead but rather in a state like I am right now, they can turn into a normal mortal by using a Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus. And if they get the rare and precious Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, they can regain their body ...”

Ling Xi was very emotional when she saw the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, sobbing a little because she knew that it was surely the fruit of Long Chen’s efforts. It was a warm feeling to know that he had been working hard for her sake when she was in a deep slumber.

“I hear that if you use the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, it will be the same as having a mortal’s body. You’ll be able to feel everything a person feels—you can eat, drink, poop, pee, and sleep! But you won’t be able to cultivate. You can only be a normal human. Xiao Xi, what do you think?” he asked.

Being a normal human came with many inconveniences. Long Chen would need to care for her while he traveled, including preparing food and clothing for her.

“I don’t want it,” she said bitterly, looking at the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus.

“Why?” Long Chen thought she would be overjoyed and excited to use it. He did not expect her to decline after an internal debate.

“Brother Chen, do you know how burdensome it would be to have a normal person without any combat abilities following you around? I would be a burden and slow your growth. You might even die because of this ...”

There was a lot of sorrow in her voice towards the end. He could tell that she really wanted to feel like a live human being again but chose to give that up to avoid bringing him harm.

This was all in spite of the joy and surprise she felt when she saw the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus.

“Thank you for the present, but I really can’t accept this,” she said, crestfallen, with her head low.

“You idiot! You’re imagining me to be a weak and useless person! If I can’t even protect a woman, how can you call me Long Chen? I might as well be Dog Chen or Pig Chen!” exclaimed Long Chen, annoyed.

He could see that she actually yearned for the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, so ignoring everything else, he placed it in front of her and chided, “Use it now. Don’t blame me for making this threat, but if you don’t use it, I’ll chase you away and not let you follow me.”

“Brother Chen ...” Ling Xi knew that his threat was harmless and he was actually doing it for her own good. She was very touched by it.

“Listen. Please trust me. I will protect you,” he said sincerely.

“But I will bring you lots and lots of inconveniences.” She was still torn.

“There will be inconveniences, but I will gain many benefits too. See, if my little Ling Xi gets a body, she’ll be able to do something to repay me, right?” Long Chen peered at her drunkenly.

“You jerk! Even if I use it, you are not to touch me!” Ling Xi blushed instantly, understanding what he meant.

This indirectly implied that she had agreed.

“I won’t, I promise! Haha. Let’s not waste time. Use it now! Xiao Xi, I’m looking forward to it.”

Long Chen was deeply emotional inside, knowing that the spirit who had been by his side could finally have her own body and he could care for her as a human being. It would be amazing to have such a beautiful girl by his side, listening to him, spending time with him ...

Ling Xi had become much more obedient after their various experiences, and much more adorable.

“Alright ...”

After Long Chen’s strong insistence, she buried her worries in her heart. She would cross that bridge when she reached it, and everything would be fine.

When she was prepared to use the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, Long Chen finally looked at Xiaolang, who was staring at them from below the bed.

Ling Xi also noticed him and exclaimed, “Why is there a human soul in this beast’s body!?”

“Xiao Xi, this is Mo Xiaolang. Due to an accident, he left his body and entered this beast’s body. I’ll tell you the details later,” Long Chen explained.

Indeed, Ling Xi was smart enough to spot a human soul inside the Sun Devouring Wolf's body instantly.

"I ... I can communicate with his spirit, although it's a little difficult..." Ling Xi suddenly said.

"What?" Both Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang's eyes brightened. Ever since Xiaolang became a wolf, communication had been a huge obstacle. If she really could communicate with Mo Xiaolang, then Long Chen would understand him in the future.

"Let me try." Ling Xi put the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus aside for the moment. She focused her attention and stared into Xiaolang's eyes. After a while, she exclaimed happily, "He said 'hi, my name is Mo Xiaolang' and that he saw me help you guys in the Star Devil Prison to stop the Azure Dragon Patriarch."

"Amazing!" cried Long Chen. Although this was slow and exhausting, it was better than nothing.

"This is great news! Xiao Xi, it's time for you to use the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus," he said with a grin.

With Ling Xi and Mo Xiaolang by his side, Long Chen sensed that the road ahead would be very interesting.

To be honest, after being trapped in the sword for so long, Ling Xi had yearned for a Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus for a very long time. She was incredibly emotional now that she was about to fulfill this dream, though recovering her body was her biggest dream.

Xiaolang howled, stood up, opened the door, and left the room. He closed the door on the way out.

"He said he would keep watch so no one will come near us," explained Ling Xi.

With Mo Xiaolang keeping watch, it was much safer for Ling Xi to use the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus. Long Chen was also more assured that way.

He placed it on the ground. At this moment, the tiny Ling Xi was fluttering above the lotus.

"I'll begin now! It's a quick process ..." Great emotion was hidden in her birdsong-like, melodious voice.

Long Chen's eyes were glued to her.

The Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus was actually just a pure white lotus root as thick as an arm. Ling Xi's spirit glowed white as she slowly merged into the lotus root and soon, she disappeared. The lotus root levitated, emitting a pure, white glow as if it was made of the highest quality white jade.

Lotus fragrance filled the air.

*Is it working?* Long Chen was excited to see Ling Xi in front of him as a live human being instead of her spirit form.

The lotus root glowed brighter and brighter, soon lighting up the entire room. Long Chen was bathed in the white light, feeling refreshed as he inhaled the fragrance.

The lotus root expanded and, right before his eyes, slowly morphed into an extremely beautiful girl. Long Chen was so completely mesmerized by her beauty that he could not breathe.

Her skin was delicate like jade, and she was so fair and soft that he had the urge to bite her. She had a small, red mouth that shimmered like there was a layer of honey on it; her eyebrows were like crescent moons; and her black, silky hair cascaded gracefully like a waterfall down to her waist. She had a pair of intelligent, lively eyes with wisdom and a hint of mischief in them.

Ling Xi radiated the aura of a fairy who had ascended beyond the mortal realm.

The body formed by the lotus root naturally did not have any clothes on it. This was something Long Chen and Ling Xi had not thought of.

Standing in front of him was a fairy-like naked girl, bathed in white light. Long Chen stared at her in a daze, eyeing her up and down ...

#### Chapter 279 - Sincerity

Fifteen minutes later, Long Chen was standing in front of the bed. Ling Xi was wearing his clothes and had rolled herself in the thick, heavy cotton blanket. She blushed a deep red and peered out cautiously, looking at him pitifully. Amidst her cautiousness, there was some panic, embarrassment, and other emotions mixed in.

She had not done anything with anyone before, yet she had just appeared fully naked in front of Long Chen—and it had lasted seven minutes! Ling Xi wished she could dig a hole and hide in it. Waves of emotion crashed through her, and her heart was pounding in her chest as she stared at the teenage boy.

Long Chen was shameless though. He was looking at Ling Xi with amusement in his eyes, though the fire in them made Ling Xi both afraid and embarrassed, panicking inside. She had not expected to experience so many emotions the moment she finally had a human body again after such a long time without one.

“Brother Chen, w-what do you want ...” Ling Xi clutched the pink blanket tightly, eyeing him with panic. She had none of her powers right now, so she would not be able to defend herself if Long Chen wanted to do anything.

“Me? Hehe. I want to eat you up! You’re just so tender ...” Long Chen’s gaze was filled with burning desire.

“No! No! My mother said I am not of age yet, so she forbade me from ... Brother Chen, I’m begging you not to, please?” Ling Xi said fearfully.

Long Chen was merely joking. If he started to bully her the moment she returned to a human body, it might traumatize her, which would be bad.

“I’m kidding, Xiao Xi. How do you feel now?” Long Chen sat on the edge of the bed, looking at the silly girl lovingly. Long Chen was still in a daze due to her beauty.

Ling Xi's fearfulness slowly faded after the burning desire in his eyes disappeared and was replaced with gentle warmth. She thought about how he had found her some clothes and still had not touched her even though fifteen minutes had passed. As a result, she relaxed.

"I feel like I'm dreaming. I don't have any strength in my body; I guess it's like when I was a newborn baby. This body made by the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus will surely break down if I attempt to cultivate though. But I feel good. It feels so good to be human ..."

All her senses had returned—her sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Ling Xi savored them slowly. She had previously dreamed of this moment, and because of Long Chen, her dreams had been fulfilled.

Although she was still embarrassed, she mainly felt grateful towards Long Chen.

"But ... Brother Chen, I'm so cold ..."

It was spring. Ling Xi's body was more susceptible to the cold, so although she was wrapped in a thick bundle of blankets, she was still shivering.

This is my chance ...

Long Chen thought greedily. Without a word, he lifted the blanket and slipped into bed. Ling Xi exclaimed, but to her surprise, he did not do anything. All he did was lay next to her, then he looked at her and said, "If you trust me, use me to warm yourself up."

"Really?" Ling Xi's eyes brightened. She hesitated for a while, leaning closer to Long Chen. She peered at him timidly, her cheeks turning red again. Her heart rate was increasing.

Seeing as she was still so hesitant, Long Chen reached out and pulled her in, so she lay by his side with her head on his arm. She squeaked in surprise and curled up into his chest like a small shrimp. Long Chen's warm body and strong arm radiated a thick, masculine aura, making her little heart beat faster. Blushing, she shut her eyes tightly, her lashes trembling ...

An intoxicating lotus fragrance emanated from Ling Xi's body, and her soft skin made Long Chen's thoughts run wild. However, he loved Ling Xi very much, so despite having seen her extremely attractive and tempting body, he controlled himself.

Impatience would get him nowhere. Long Chen would bide his time. If Ling Xi was not completely willing, and he acted without her consent, he would definitely leave an unerasable shadow on her young heart ...

He pulled the pink covers up to wrap around Ling Xi, then he moved his head downwards and rested his chin on her soft and fragrant hair. This bodily contact made the shrimp-like Ling Xi shudder once, and her breathing quickened.

"Just hug me. Don't overthink it. I'm not a jerk," he said gently in her ear.

Ling Xi had an especially sensitive body since it was brand new. She felt his hot breath on her ear, which in turn warmed her whole body and made her tightened muscles relax. She leaned on Long Chen, and her mind melted even more when her body touched his.

Because she was only wearing Long Chen's clothes and nothing underneath, Long Chen could easily look down her clothes to see skin. Plus, this shockingly soft girl was lying on his arm. He was like every man after all, and his body naturally burned, and little Long Chen was starting to stand up.

*No way. I must not traumatize her. Plus, she's still young.* Long Chen controlled himself. In truth, after experiencing such a tragic separation, being able to hold her in his arms, protect her, and warm her with his body heat was already enough to make him content.

"Xiao Xi, don't be afraid. We're going to the Biyang Imperial Capital tomorrow! If Brother Chen says he won't touch you, he won't," Long Chen promised.

"Really?" Ling Xi gazed at him with her large eyes, twinkling in the dark of the night.

Ling Xi was touched by the determination and righteousness in his eyes. Tears started to well up in her eyes and she choked, "Brother Chen, you're so good to me ..."

When he saw how touched she was, he knew that he had made a smart choice. Holding himself back today would be good for the long term; one day he would get what he wanted, and he would not be a prude about it.

"Be good and get some sleep. It will be a busy day tomorrow," Long Chen said mildly, patting her head.

"I don't want to sleep; I want to talk to you! Brother Chen, what are we going to do at the Biyang Imperial Capital?"

Ling Xi snuggled comfortably in his arms. With Long Chen here, she slowly let go of her worries. She did not want to leave such a warm embrace.

"I heard from someone that there is a Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit in the Biyang Imperial Capital's Counter Essence Realm. Now that I have become an Immortal Guard, I will be able to enter it. That is why we're going there," he answered with a grin.

"Huh?" This was a huge surprise to Ling Xi. Although the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus was magical, it was nothing compared to the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. With that fruit, Ling Xi would be able to recover her cultivation and gain a real human body. That was a true rebirth. Right now, she was merely borrowing the lotus root for her body.

Ling Xi had only just woken from her endless sleep, yet she discovered that Long Chen had been working hard for her all along. She was so grateful that tears fell, and she sobbed, pouting at Long Chen. She cried harder and harder, and soon, his clothes were soaked through.

"Why are you crying? Silly girl, you should be happy," he said while patting her fair cheek.

Ling Xi did not stop crying.



“I won’t want you anymore if you keep crying,” he said, feigning anger.

“No!” Ling Xi waved her arms and reached out to hug his waist tightly, her soft chest pressed tightly on his body. Blood rushed to his head...

“No, I definitely want you!” Breathing heavily, he moved her arms away because if they continued embracing this tightly, he might actually turn into a wild beast.

“Oh!” Ling Xi also realized that she was being too aggressive. Her face reddened and she buried her face into his shoulder

“Brother Chen, what are we?” she asked after a pause.

This was a question she struggled with. They had shared near-death experiences since the day they met. At the Star Devil Prison, Ling Xi had sacrificed her life for him, but Long Chen was determined to jump into the abyss with her. Even Xiaolang could tell that something was different about their relationship and left the room to keep watch without a word. Yet they had not had a direct conversation about this.

Long Chen had long wanted to talk about it, but he merely had not gotten the chance. He held her face in his hands and stared at the beautiful girl. Then, as quick as lightning, he kissed her soft lips.

She froze as if struck by lightning, her eyes wide as she stared at him in shock. It was just one kiss, but her entire body stiffened.

He stopped kissing her after a lingering moment, then patted her shocked face. His burning gaze met hers. He then lowered his voice and said, enunciating every word slowly, “Ling Xi, I will protect you. No one can hurt you, and no one will take you away from me! You may wonder why I treat you so well, but I’m telling you this—it’s because you are my woman! The love of my life, the love of every lifetime of mine! Ling Xi, you are Long Chen’s woman!”

Ling Xi’s chest tightened at such passionate words. Her heart melted as she gazed into his burning eyes.

The memory of this man was etched deeply into her soul. A memory that would never fade away.

She was filled with sweetness, warmth, and joy, and everything else faded away. Neither of them could have imagined how difficult the road ahead would be, despite such noble promises. They did not know how many farewells they would have to bid before earning a lifetime of being by each other’s sides.

These two people who should not have met in the first place had found each other. If they wanted to be together, they were destined to face far more opposition than regular people.

But did Long Chen fear anything in the world?

He did not think too much. All he did was pull Ling Xi’s body tighter into his arms. He stared out at the starry sky outside the window, then started to tell her stories about his time in her absence, starting from how he woke up in the abyss of the Star Devil Prison, until he killed Emperor Yuan to become the most powerful person in Yuanling City.

Chapter 280 - Biyang Imperial Capital

Luck had played a part in Long Chen's growth since the Star Devil Prison incident. The special qualities of a Dragon Warrior played an even larger role, while his own resilience and intelligence were other reasons.

Ling Xi was enamored by the stories he told of his recent experiences. She said she was not going to sleep, but she had a mortal's body, so it was impossible for her to not rest. As she listened to his stories, she fell into a deep sleep.

Before dawn the next day, Long Chen ran to the Jade Royal Palace's handmaiden quarters to find sets of female clothing. He did not care how much Ling Xi actually needed; he took a huge pile so she could pick from them.

No girl would be able to resist pretty clothing. Ling Xi was excited because she no longer had to wear his loose male clothes. She mustered up her courage and gave him a peck on his cheek, like a dragonfly touching the water surface.

Long Chen and Xiaolang waited outside.

After a while, the door opened gently. Long Chen's eyes brightened when he saw the well-dressed Ling Xi. The clothes belonged to the handmaidens, so they were not very luxurious, but it was different because they were now on Ling Xi. She wore a long, pale pink and white silk dress with yellow flowers embroidered around the edges of the skirt and sleeves. Large hydrangeas covered the beautiful dress; there was a white ribbon densely embroidered with strange patterns tied around her waist, accentuating her balanced proportions. Her shoes were embroidered with lilies and lined with soft fox fur, with a jade accessory hanging on each shoe.

She wore two silver bangles on her jade-like wrists, which clinked melodiously whenever she lifted her hand, and tassel earrings hung from her ears. Her silk-like, ink-black hair floated gracefully at waist height with only a few milk-white pearl hair accessories in it that contrasted with her shiny hair.

Long Chen felt like she was a fairy who had mistakenly entered the mortal realm and was absolutely mesmerized, falling for her all over again.

"Brother Chen ..." This was her first time dressing up for him, so she was not confident. She walked up to him and looked at him. "How do I look?"

"As beautiful as a fairy from the heavens," Long Chen answered instinctively.

"Really?" Ling Xi was as happy as a butterfly, spinning and letting her dress flutter. "So, this is sunlight ..." She looked up and squinted at the sky.

"Don't be silly. Also, keep the clothes; they're all yours now. Let's go meet the Ninth Prince." Long Chen smiled and grabbed her hand to head to the Ninth Prince's pavilion while she peered around her. She looked like a little princess under Long Chen's protection.

Xiaolang followed them a little miserably. From today onwards, he would officially be forgotten. Ling Xi observed the wolf behind them. From Long Chen's explanation, she understood that the Sun Devouring Wolf was indeed terrifying, and Mo Xiaolang's spirit was currently in its body. She

had seen Mo Xiaolang in Baiyang Town previously, and when she heard that he had been through near-death experiences with Long Chen, she already saw him as a little brother.

“Brother Chen, he called me ‘sister-in-law,’” Ling Xi said with a giggle, blushing slightly.

Long Chen looked at Ling Xi and Xiaolang. After Yang Lingqing left with Li Xuanji, these two were the most important people in his life. He privately swore to protect them well for the rest of his life. Naturally, with the Sun Devouring Wolf’s body, Xiaolang was likely to go far in the future too.

From an outsider’s perspective, it looked like there were only two people present. Mo Xiaolang now played the role of a pet, walking by Long Chen’s side. It was likely that he would remain in this state for a while.

When they were walking, the Ninth Prince had already sent someone to greet him. The guard was startled when he saw Ling Xi next to Long Chen, because she looked like a fairy from the legends—innocent but sophisticated, invoking an onlooker’s shame when they laid their eyes on her. No impure thoughts would be roused by such an innocent presence.

Very soon, Long Chen arrived at the Jade Royal Palace’s main building and saw the Ninth Prince’s mount, the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon. When the Category Nine beast smelled Mo Xiaolang’s dark and terrifying aura, it quickly stumbled a few steps back and whined, showing that it was submissive.

Tamed beasts were usually not as fierce as wild ones, so how would it dare rebel in the face of a wickedly powerful beast like the Sun Devouring Wolf?

The Ninth Prince was already waiting in the palace. His arrival in Yuanling City had previously required all the human and wealth resources of the three factions, but his departure only involved himself and Old Yan.

When the Ninth Prince was about to declare their departure, he spotted the extremely beautiful girl next to Long Chen and froze, his eyes fixed on her.

“She’s one of my people, Ling Xi. She wants to go with me to the Biyang Imperial Capital; that’s not a problem, right?” asked Long Chen. Ling Xi was just too beautiful, and he had an odd feeling about the Ninth Prince’s gaze, so he had no choice but to speak up.

“She’s the beauty of the century, the kind of beauty that can crumble a kingdom. You’re lucky! I was mesmerized,” said the Ninth Prince with a smile after Long Chen’s words woke him up.

The Ninth Prince’s gaze made Ling Xi uncomfortable. Grabbing Long Chen’s arm, she hid behind him.

“You’ll be settling down in the Biyang Imperial Capital from now on, so of course you need to bring her. There’s no time to waste; let’s go now.” The Ninth Prince nodded and no longer looked at them, walking in front. Long Chen grabbed Ling Xi’s hand and mounted the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon’s wide back.

There were many tall mountains and deep valleys along the journey to the Biyang Imperial Capital. Since the Dragon Falcon could fly, it was not affected by the terrain. However, it would greatly affect Xiaolang, so even though he could run faster than the Dragon Falcon could fly, he had no choice but to ride the Dragon Falcon together with Long Chen.

The Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon was terrified of Xiaolang, and its whole body trembled. Old Yan comforted it for a while, and the beast eventually realized that the Sun Devouring Wolf was not going to hurt it. It finally unfolded its gigantic wings and they departed.

There was a gust of wind, and in the blink of an eye, Long Chen was up in the sky above Yuanling City. Because Ling Xi was afraid of the cold, he had to take a blanket from his Universe Pouch to wrap her tightly, then he used his body to block the wind with her in his arms.

Ling Xi felt much better in this state. Long Chen looked down and whispered, "Hold on for a little longer. We'll reach the Biyang Imperial Capital very soon."

"I'm fine, Brother Chen. I'm very warm with your arms around me," she said with a smile.

Xiaolang was a boundless heat source, so Long Chen grabbed him and thrust him into Ling Xi's arms to keep her warm, outside the thick cotton blanket.

Poor Mo Xiaolang stared at Long Chen innocently, causing Ling Xi to burst into giggles.

As the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon flew ahead, the Ninth Prince turned, saw them talking, then turned back around silently. He stared straight ahead, his gaze cold and quiet.

"Your Highness?" Old Yan could guess his thoughts.

"There's no need to hurry. Anything that is mine will always be mine. No one can take anything from me," said the Ninth Prince maliciously.

Time passed slowly. Although Ling Xi's body was weak, she did not fall sick under Long Chen's meticulous care. Xiaolang's body heat was extremely useful too. The Sun Devouring Wolf was a fire elemental beast, so if he did not release the peculiar Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, his body was hot.

Sunlight constantly poured in Xiaolang's direction.

"Brother Chen, I have a feeling that our trip to the Biyang Imperial Capital will be treacherous. It will be difficult to get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit in the Counter Essence Realm," Ling Xi said worriedly.

Powerful cultivators were as common as clouds there. Long Chen was nothing compared to them, so of course it would be dangerous for him.

"Don't worry. Pressure also means growth. When I first went to Yuanling City, my cultivation was not even stabilized yet. However, in the capital, although my cultivation level is lower than theirs, I am as good as they are in all other aspects," he said with determination.

Indeed, in terms of Earth-tier techniques, he already had the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, the intermediate Earth-tier Azure Dragon Combat Technique, the intermediate Earth-tier defensive technique Nine Spinning Fire Shields, as well as the advanced Earth-tier Divine Fire Clone. Furthermore, he had skills unique to a Dragon Warrior such as Blood Transmutation, which strengthened as he did. Even the Soul Swallowing Gaze, the technique he received from Li Xuanji, was starting to become useful to him.

Long Chen also had Xiaolang with him now, who was the ultimate demonic beast, as his sidekick.

“It doesn’t matter how deep the waters are in the Biyang Imperial Capital; we will do our best! Let’s take risks while we’re young!” said Long Chen with a chuckle.

There were super powerful factions in the Biyang Imperial Capital. Long Chen could peer at the tip of this iceberg based on the Ninth Prince’s strength. He estimated that he was no match for the Ninth Prince, even if he fought him together with Xiaolang.

Ling Xi suddenly looked up and said nervously, “Brother Chen, Xiaolang told me just now that he noticed malicious intent in the Ninth Prince’s gaze.”

She knew that Long Chen was still too weak to fight the Ninth Prince, and this made her anxious.

Long Chen had noticed it too. One simple look was enough for a person to reveal their true intentions. The Ninth Prince, Lin Cangtian, treated their relationship more like a business exchange, and he intended to use Long Chen. It was not friendship.

“Don’t worry, I have my methods,” Long Chen said, patting her head.

The Ninth Prince had mentioned that with the Dragon Falcon’s speed, their journey would be five days long. After almost five whole days, the Piercing Wind Dragon Falcon started to slow down and started its slow descent. Long Chen could now see the landscape below clearly, which was a patch of lush, green forest. Rivers criss-crossed through the forest, and he saw a mirror-like lake.

“We’re arriving soon,” said the Ninth Prince.

That was when a black ray of light shot up into the air from their flank, heading straight for the Dragon Falcon!