

War God 301

Chapter 301 - Sorrow Moon Lake

“There are fifty tunnels leading to the Counter Essence Realm at the bottom of Sorrow Moon Lake. Twenty of them lead to the Elementary Zone. From today onwards, we will be guarding Area Eighteen, so we will be taking the eighteenth tunnel,” Zhang Yuanteng explained to Long Chen.

Yu Tao and the other Area Eighteen guards ignored him, so Long Chen was grateful that Zhang Yuanteng was here to explain. It would have been dangerous to enter the Counter Essence Realm knowing nothing.

Long Chen started to walk into Sorrow Moon Lake. The water was cool with thick spiritual Qi mixed in it.

The water was very clear, and he could clearly see the bottom of the lake. It looked like a giant piece of emerald, emanating a deep green glow that turned the whole lake into green jade.

Fifty white crystals that were one meter wide were embedded inside the emerald crystal. A faint mist surrounded them, making them look like they were surrounded by clouds. Although they looked like crystals, they were tunnels.

Long Chen knew that they were the entrances to Counter Essence Realm.

He noticed that the nearer the crystals were to the center of the lake, the larger they were. The giant white crystal at the center was several times larger than the rest. Several elderly people sat cross-legged around the large crystals, guarding them, or more specifically, they were guarding the doors to the Counter Essence Realm.

“The nearer the crystals are to the center, the higher the zones they lead to. The one at the center leads directly to the Advanced Zone. There are not many people who are permitted to enter. As for the elderly people, they used to be Immortal Guards but have retired due to old age. But do not underestimate them! With them guarding the realm, anyone with no authorization and with low cultivation level will find it difficult to enter,” Zhang Yuanteng explained when he saw the confusion in Long Chen’s eyes.

Long Chen sensed that there was no freedom in the Immortal Realm ...

So far, he could only enter Area Eighteen according to the Sword Devil’s assignment.

Yu Tao turned around. “Everyone, follow me into tunnel number eighteen. We will brief you on the specific details of this month’s tasks,” he announced loudly. Then he stepped on a white crystal and disappeared. Everyone else imitated him and entered the Counter Essence Realm. Because Long Chen and Zhang Yuanteng were new, they were last.

When they were about to enter, another group of people arrived at Sorrow Moon Lake and walked up to the crystal next to crystal number eighteen. That was likely crystal number seventeen. Long

Chen spotted the dwarf Song Yuefeng among them, and Song Yuefeng also noticed him immediately.

Walking in front, Song Yuefeng asked Long Chen arrogantly with his nose pointed up, "You, what's your name?"

Although he looked a little creepy, he was considered one of the most talented among the dwarves. However, Long Chen found it hard to show any respect when the dwarf walked around with his nose in the air.

Long Chen ignored him and followed Zhang Yuanteng. Without even glancing at Song Yuefeng, he stepped on crystal number eighteen.

His actions made Song Yuefeng's face darken.

How dare he ignore me? You went to Area Eighteen, I see? Good! Let's see when I get to kill you!

Long Chen instantly sensed a current of cold water enveloping his body, quickly transporting him to somewhere far away. It was a pleasant sensation, and there was a gust of thick spiritual Qi blowing in his face.

This did not last long; Long Chen quickly found himself standing on a wide expanse. The Counter Essence Realm was indeed an Immortal Realm, because Yellow-tier spiritual herbs were everywhere. They were not just rumors after all, as they were right beneath Long Chen's feet. Herbal fragrances wafted from the fertile soil below.

Looking up, he saw a sapphire sky with white clouds floating by. Beneath the white clouds, the spiritual Qi of heaven and earth had condensed to form white mist. It made everything far away look blurry.

"So, this is Counter Essence Realm?" The two newcomers could not help but admire the beauty around them. To be honest, this was indeed the most beautiful place Long Chen had ever seen.

After studying his surroundings, Zhang Yuanteng sighed. "I've dreamed of coming to this place. It's amazing."

"I wonder how a Miniverse like this was formed. It's a miracle," Long Chen commented.

"Right, Long Chen, your attitude towards Song Yuefeng just now was probably too disrespectful. You don't understand what dwarves are like. If you are weak, you must be servile towards them, or they will see you as their archnemesis who must be killed. Before you can defeat them, I suggest you oblige them a little, to avoid problems ..."

"Oblige? Servile?" Long Chen smiled.

"It's only out of necessity. That's just how the dwarves are; they have no humanity in them. To save yourself, why not be servile for a while?" Zhang Yuanteng said, exasperated.

“Brother Zhang, if a dog wants to bite you, will you be servile towards it? It’s the same concept. I refuse to believe I can’t slaughter a barking dog,” Long Chen said with a laugh.

Zhang Yuanteng could not do anything about Long Chen’s blind confidence, so he neither agreed nor disagreed with him.

After entering the Counter Essence Realm, Yu Tao led them to the base in Area Eighteen. Due to the presence of newcomers, Yu Tao begrudgingly pointed at the map on the wall and gave them a brief introduction of Area Eighteen.

“You two are new and know nothing, so listen up. There are a total of eight elementary Earth-tier spiritual herbs currently yet to mature in Area Eighteen. We shall follow last month’s schedule. Long Chen, Zhang Yuanteng, you two are new, so you need to also join the patrol team with one senior leading you. Yu Chong, you and Long Chen will form one team. Jiang Shuai, you will be with Zhang Yuanteng.”

The locations of the eight elementary Earth-tier herbs were marked on the map. However, guarding the herbs was not Long Chen’s current task.

Patrol? Long Chen was privately pleased. If he were in a fixed location, it would be difficult for him to find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. Patrol meant he could move freely, so it would be easier. However, with Yu Chong, an opponent he once defeated, present, Long Chen guessed that he would likely cause him trouble.

“Can I team up with Zhang Yuanteng?” Long Chen asked.

“What nonsense is that? You two are new. Without anyone leading you guys, do you know how to patrol?” Yu Tao glared at them angrily and a blast of fierce Qi hit them.

“With someone to lead or not, it will be the same.” Long Chen clearly understood that everything he had learned since he came to the Counter Essence Realm had been explained by Zhang Yuanteng. Yu Tao had once said he would tell Long Chen the rules, but in reality, that was an empty promise.

“What did you say? Long Chen, as long as you are in Area Eighteen, you must listen to the Area Leader’s orders. If you complain again, I will kill you. Do you think I’m joking?” Yu Tao’s gaze darkened.

“Can you even kill me?” There was a cold glint in Long Chen’s eyes.

“Are you really looking for death?” Yu Tao used to be a horse thief, so he never had a good temper. Long Chen was publicly embarrassing him, so he was thoroughly angered.

Long Chen was merely at the Second River Stage with enough strength to beat someone at the Third River Stage at most. Yu Tao, on the other hand, was a Fifth River Stage cultivator.

“Area Leader, I don’t think you have the right to kill Long Chen, do you? Plus, Long Chen was only asking a question. He did not do anything wrong. What right do you have to kill him? Aren’t you afraid of Lord Sword Devil killing you?” Zhang Yuanteng said hurriedly when he saw Yu Tao fuming.

Indeed, as an Immortal Guard, Long Chen was part of the imperial family’s military power. If he did not do anything wrong, Yu Tao, who was also an Immortal Guard, did not have the right to harm Long Chen in broad daylight.

“Alright, alright!” Yu Tao chuckled coldly twice, then he swallowed his anger and ignored them to continue assigning tasks. Fifteen minutes later, the tasks were assigned, and all the people tasked with guarding herbs left. Long Chen memorized the patrol route and bade Zhang Yuanteng farewell.

“Be careful. These people don’t like you. Be careful of their traps,” whispered Zhang Yuanteng.

“Understood. I’m not oblivious.” Zhang Yuanteng treated him as one of his own, so Long Chen naturally did the same.

Long Chen understood that due to conflict over Ling Xi, it was only a matter of time before he and the Ninth Prince fought. On the other hand, Yu Tao and the rest were the claws and teeth of the Ninth Prince. Feuding with them was indirectly the same as feuding with the Ninth Prince. And in this feud, Long Chen would never surrender.

It looks like I need to quickly grow stronger in the Immortal Realm. Let’s see if I can hunt immortal beasts!

Long Chen’s teammate was Yu Chong. Both were already seething when they met, so working together was worse. Following the patrol route, Long Chen walked in front while Yu Chong glared darkly at his back.

This brat doesn’t know how pitiful he is ... I only lost to you that day because you were lucky... If it wasn’t for His Highness telling us not to attack yet, I’d make you wish you were dead!

Neither spoke as they patrolled. Long Chen saw many new things as he walked through the Immortal Realm. Occasionally, he plucked a ripened Black-tier spiritual herbs to put in his Universe Pouch. After some time, while he had obtained a lot of herbs, they still had not encountered an immortal beast.

We’ve already completed half the route. But we need to complete several rounds. Long Chen looked around him. Suddenly, the mist not far away started to thicken. In the blink of an eye, a pure white plume of mist was formed.

When Yu Chong saw the mist, his face changed. Without a word, he immediately turned and ran!

“What was that?”

Long Chen gasped!

Chapter 302 - Cloud Canine

After the sudden appearance of thick mist, Yu Chong ran off without a word.

What did that coward see? Long Chen was not an idiot. Since Yu Chong had fled, he was prepared to run too. That was when two beasts charged out of the mist. They were canine-type beasts that were not large—barely half the size of the Sun Devouring Wolf. Long, white fur covered their bodies with black patterns that looked like runes. Their eyes were black, and they had manes like lions, making them look strangely regal.

“Immortal beasts?” Long Chen halted because he sensed that the two canine-type beasts were around Category Three Earth-tier. It was rare for Earth-tier Category Four beasts to appear in the Elementary Zone.

“What a useless bastard. He ran because of only two Category Three Earth-tier beasts ... But I don’t think Yu Chong feared the beasts. He was only trying to use them to kill me. He’s manipulative but clearly only average at it.”

Despite knowing Yu Chong’s intentions, Long Chen did not flee. To him, both immortal and demonic beasts were sources of nourishment.

The damp environment of the Nine Devil Mountains bred venomous beasts that possessed strong venom. Here at the Counter Essence Realm, the spiritual Qi was abundant and even condensed to a liquid state. Being constantly immersed in spiritual Qi turned demonic beasts into beautiful and intelligent beings, and their violent tendencies were subdued with the nourishment of the spiritual Qi.

These two beasts matched the descriptions of Category Three Earth-tier Cloud Canines. They had only evolved to this current look after countless generations within the immortal realm.

Long Chen had no choice but to use maximum strength to defeat them. He quickly activated his Dragon Soul Transformation, so neat and uniform red dragon scales instantly protected his body. He radiated power, even when he was standing still.

Roar!

The two Cloud Canines were initially heading towards the center of Area Eighteen. When they saw Long Chen, they turned and roared, then they charged at him. Ever since the imperial family took control of the Counter Essence Realm countless years ago, they had been at constant war with the immortal beasts. This hatred had long seeped into their bones, so when they spotted Long Chen, they attacked.

This speed is similar to Xiaolang when he was at the Category Three Earth-tier. It was no wonder Yu Chong would run. Cloud Canines were considered one of the stronger species among the Category Three Earth-tier beasts; even Yu Chong was not sure if he could defeat one.

Yu Chong isn’t here, so I can test out my Divine Fire Clone. With that thought, Long Chen released the fire seed he had recently condensed. Five human-shaped fire clones appeared, standing behind him. After some practice, he had successfully mastered the second stage of Divine Fire Clone!

When the Cloud Canines saw the five fire clones, they were momentarily stunned, though they did not falter. One canine broke off to fight the clones.

The five clones surrounded the canine and started to attack it. Fire flew in all directions, completely restricting the canine. Long Chen used his Azure Dragon Halberd to slam it away, then pounced on it. He swung his halberd as hard as he could, attacking it again and again!

The Cloud Canine's advantage was that it was fast and agile. It could dodge Long Chen's quick attacks to a limited extent, and it forced him back with the help of its powerful claws and teeth.

“Nine Spinning Fire Shields!”

Halting his halberd attacks, Long Chen had an idea and activated the Nine Spinning Fire Shields. He used it as a weapon, pressing down on the canine. The Cloud Canine could not react in time to the giant fire spiral that had appeared out of nowhere. Plus, this was an intermediate Earth-tier combat technique, so how could it be simple?

The fire from the Nine Spinning Fire Shields caused the Cloud Canine's white fur to start erupting in flames. It let out a painful howl and wanted to run away to seek help from its friend. That was when Long Chen removed the shield and slashed it with his halberd!

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

The Azure Dragon soul soared ahead, then it blasted the canine that was about to flee up into the air. The canine crashed into the ground, eyes wide and black blood flowing out of its eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. It was dead!

When the other canine witnessed the tragic death of its friend, it went mad and destroyed two of the five clones instantly!

Long Chen did not stop. Right after killing one Cloud Canine, he pounced on the other. His Qi was definitely not weaker than the Cloud Canine's demonic power, plus he had an intermediate Earth-tier weapon and three fire clones restricting it. Using the same method, he killed the other canine too.

“Blood Transmutation!”

Long Chen completely absorbed the blood of two Cloud Canines using the divine technique from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, turning it into his own Qi. When the star Qi in his body increased, his cultivation improved a little.

“It's a pity that I'm still a distance away from the Third River Stage. It looks like only Category Four Earth-tier immortal beasts are enough for me. But I can't beat them ...”

This was indeed a dilemma to him.

After digesting the blood of the two beasts, he cremated their carcasses, which were already burnt black. Checking the time, he looked in the direction that Yu Chong had run towards, knowing he would return soon. Enough time had passed for him to return to base, report to Yu Tao, and come back to collect Long Chen's body.

As expected, Yu Tao and Yu Chong, along with several patrolling guards, rushed over soon after. From far away, they saw Long Chen standing there unscathed and were shocked. Yu Chong was in disbelief; he rubbed his eyes to check if it really was Long Chen.

“Long Chen, where are the two Cloud Canines?” Yu Tao quickly looked around. Other than traces of fire being burnt in his surroundings, there was nothing else.

“What Cloud Canines?” Long Chen looked at him with a half-smile.

“Yu Chong, didn’t you say there were two Category Three Earth-tier Cloud Canines here?” Yu Tao asked sourly.

“It’s true! It wasn’t a mistake! They were definitely two Cloud Canines! Why are they gone now?” Even if Long Chen had killed them, where were the carcasses? had he burned them? Was he that powerful? Could he kill two Category Three Earth-tier beasts despite only being at the Second River Stage?

“Since when was there a Cloud Canine? We arrived here during our patrol, but then Yu Chong rushed off. I thought you were looking for a place to poop. Haha ...” Long Chen laughed, though with some glee directed at Yu Chong.

“Long Chen, what did you say?” Yu Chong had an icy expression.

“Whatever.” Yu Tao shook his head and pressed Yu Chong down. Looking at Long Chen in puzzlement, he said, “Since there are no Cloud Canines, everyone get on with your tasks! Continue patrolling!”

“Yes!” Although everyone was confused, they did not dare believe that a country boy from a small town could kill two powerful immortal beasts in such a short time without getting hurt.

Long Chen was still mulling over the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, so he ignored these unimportant figures. Although they were stronger than him, as a Dragon Warrior, he would soon surpass them.

The days passed. During his patrols, Long Chen killed many beasts ranging from Category One to Three. At this point, he was extremely close to reaching the Third River Stage. However, he still had no information on the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, and he knew that he could not go on like this. One day, while he was resting in between patrols, he couldn’t help but ask Zhang Yuanteng about it.

“Brother Zhang, do you know of any famous treasures in the Counter Essence Realm?” he asked in a low voice.

“Treasures? I don’t know about that. The Advanced Zone is a place directly controlled by the imperial family, so everything inside is strictly confidential. But I know about a rumor of a talisman in the Advanced Zone. It is a strange talisman because it can be seen but not touched, so no one can do anything with it.”

“A talisman?” This had nothing to do with Long Chen, so he asked anxiously, “Have you heard of the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit?”

“No, I haven’t. What level is that spiritual herb?” Zhan Yuanteng asked, stunned.

Long Chen had not asked Li Xuanji what level it was. That was his mistake. However, he guessed that an herb that could help recover Ling Xi’s physical body could only be found in the Advanced Zone.

If Zhang Yuanteng did not know of it, it meant that it was a precious treasure.

“Can we enter the Advanced Zone?” Long Chen asked cautiously.

“Of course not.” Zhang Yuanteng grinned. “The Advanced Zone is directly owned by the imperial family and holds countless treasures. If we trespass, we will definitely be killed instantly. Long Chen, you’re not thinking of going, are you? It’s not a joke! You’re likely going to die!”

“No! That would be looking for death,” Long Chen said with a grin, though his heart sank. It looked like obtaining the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit would be more difficult than he anticipated ...

“There are many very powerful cultivators in the Advanced Zone who can kill you. Even if we put that aside, Category Seven Earth-tier beasts are very common there too. If you go there, a random encounter will get you killed,” Zhang Yuanteng elaborated, worried about him.

“Category Seven Earth-tier beasts? Do they live in the Advanced Zone?” he suddenly asked.

“They typically only show up in the Advanced Zone, but there have been several immortal beast stampedes before, which consists of immortal beasts moving together. During these stampedes, many powerful immortal beasts from the Advanced Zone run over to the Elementary Zone. Many people die every time there’s a stampede.”

“Immortal beast stampede?”

If it was called a stampede, then it consisted of many beasts, and that would be absolutely terrifying.

Chapter 303 - Immortal Beast Stampede

“When do stampedes usually happen?” asked Long Chen.

“I don’t know about that either. But don’t worry. During a stampede, a protected area is activated in the Elementary Zone where more powerful cultivators would remain. As long as you rush over as soon as possible, you will be protected,” Zhang Yuanteng explained with a grin, patting Long Chen’s shoulder.

“The protected area in Area Eighteen should be at the boundary between Areas Seventeen and Eighteen. If there is a stampede, all we need to do is rush there.

However, you don't have to worry. Stampedes are very rare and have only happened a few times. Immortal Guards are usually very safe."

Long Chen was only asking casually, so he did not think much of the stampedes.

Subsequently, Long Chen tried obtaining information on the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit from different sources, but to no avail. He slowly sensed that if he wanted to climb the ranks in the Counter Essence Realm to gain access to the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, his current cultivation level was far from sufficient. He needed to be at least at the Seventh River Stage.

"If I had known, I would have cultivated until that level before entering this place. But fortunately, there are endless immortal beasts in the Counter Essence Realm. I am very close to reaching the Third River Stage already."

He had made tremendous progress with the Divine Fire Clone technique, condensing more and more fire seeds to be planted in his meridian points. Long Chen had also mastered the last attack of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, which was several times stronger than Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension and was the essence of the combat technique.

There was more important progress—Long Chen realized that he could cultivate the third level of the Soul Swallowing Gaze. He was already adept at using Seduction and Soul Snatching, which were the first two levels. As for the third level, it did not have any true attacking power, but it would boost Long Chen's strength greatly.

The third level of the Soul Swallowing Gaze was called Sight.

Long Chen discovered that when he used Sight, the room, mountains, and rocks around him would disappear, or rather, seem like they had disappeared. What remained clearest in his sight would be humans. Using the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he would see people as strange gray clouds of mist, which seemed to be their souls.

This applied not just to people, but to all life forms. Even a flying insect would be clear as day when the Soul Swallowing Gaze was active. Even if he was in the darkest place, he would be able to detect the movements and locations of life forms. It was the equivalent of being able to see souls.

During a routine patrol, Long Chen got a clear look at a few beasts in the mist, and he could tell how strong they were.

With the Soul Swallowing Gaze, I will be at an advantage if I fight someone in the dark. I can prevent ambushes too. No living creature can escape my eyes ...

Long Chen was impressed that the mere third level of the Soul Swallowing Gaze was already so awesome. He wondered how much better it could get. It came from Li Xuanji, so there was no way it would be simple.

The end of the month will arrive soon. I can't rest well knowing Xiao Xi is at Yuqin Palace. There's not much time left. I must seize this chance to find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. But if I'm stuck patrolling this place every day, when will I get a chance to check out the Advanced Zone?

Long Chen thought long and hard about this problem for a few days.

On the eighteenth day after his arrival, Yu Tao arranged for Long Chen to continue patrolling with Yu Chong, a task reserved for the lowest-ranked Immortal Guards. Although he had seen many Black-tier herbs so far, he had not seen a single Earth-tier herb. All Earth-tier herbs were guarded by Yu Tao and the rest with their lives.

In the face of Yu Chong's increasingly frequent provocations and betrayals, Long Chen would have killed him if they were not in the Counter Essence Realm.

Yu Chong, who was walking behind him, asked accusingly, "Long Chen, this is clearly the path. Where are you going?"

"Is where I'm going any of your business?" Long Chen ignored him. He had suddenly noticed some movement within the mist in that direction, and he wanted to check it out. However, when Yu Chong saw that Long Chen was being rude, he immediately argued back.

"What did you just say, punk? Are you looking for death? Don't think you can be so smug just because you beat me one time. Let me tell you this: you are no match for me in a real battle," Yu Chong yelled, stepping in front of Long Chen as he glared at him.

"Idiot." Long Chen ignored him. He knew that he could not kill Yu Chong here, so he did not want to waste his efforts. He needed to be able to kill malicious people like him in one strike.

When he was about to walk around Yu Chong, he suddenly felt a vibration in the ground.

Did I imagine that? He thought he had imagined it at first, but even Yu Chong's face changed. Yu Chong quickly lay on the ground and listened. Then he paled.

Long Chen heard many beast roars that seemed to shred through space, shaking the entire Counter Essence Realm!

The ground trembled violently, and the sound of countless beings running came from all directions. Boom!

Only tens of thousands of horses charging together could create this sound.

When he looked up, Long Chen realized that the mist around him had become much thicker than before. He calmly activated his Soul Swallowing Gaze and looked far out into the mist. To his shock, a dense crowd of powerful souls were running from the depths of the mist in his direction.

Immortal beast stampede? The term Zhang Yuanteng had recently mentioned to Long Chen popped into his mind.

"Immortal beast stampede!" Yu Chong shouted in terror. He had heard of the terrifying stampedes before, and now one was unfolding right before him. Seeing as the horde of beasts would arrive soon, he did not care about arguing with Long

Chen. Everyone had likely sensed the horde coming, and the weaker Immortal Guards were already heading towards the protected area.

Without a word, Yu Chong ran. Since Yu Tao hadn't explained anything to Long Chen, he assumed Long Chen had no idea how scary an immortal beast stampede was.

That punk doesn't know a thing and is standing there like an idiot. I'll let him die. Yu Chong felt great relief thinking that Long Chen would die beneath the claws of immortal beasts.

When he saw Yu Chong running away, there was a cold flash in Long Chen's eyes.

"I can't believe an immortal beast stampede really happened. It's a good thing though—I can take advantage of the chaos and risk my life to enter the Advanced Zone. I'll try to find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit there. If I don't do it now, I might not get another chance. I can wait, but Xiao Xi cannot."

With that thought, Long Chen immediately ran with Yu Chong.

When he saw Yu Chong running, he grinned. He did not dare kill Yu Chong before, but now? The rumbling of running beasts was right behind them, and perhaps the beasts would arrive in a few breaths' time. Long Chen could use the beasts to kill Yu Chong.

To be honest, Long Chen had been holding back his anger for a very long time. Now, it was time for him to explode!

As he chased after Yu Chong, Long Chen activated his Dragon Soul Transformation and took out the Azure Dragon Halberd. It glinted coldly.

I'll let him have a taste of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique's final move. Long Chen quietly but quickly caught up to him.

"Yu Chong." A soft voice rang in the panicked Yu Chong's ear. He had been initially focused on fleeing, but he was startled to hear Long Chen's voice behind him. His shock turned to rage because Long Chen should have been waiting at the spot for the immortal beast stampede. Why was he chasing after him spouting nonsense?

"Get the fuck away!" Yu Chong yelled, turning around!

"Azure Dragon Combat Technique ..."

When Yu Chong turned around, a powerful aura suddenly pressed on him, making it hard to breathe. Amidst his confusion, he saw a white thread flying towards his head. Before he could react, he felt an agonizing, sharp pain between his brows. Then the world went dark.

"Dragon King Burial ..."

This was the last attack of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. It was clean and simple, yet it brought unparalleled destruction. When Long Chen closed in on Yu Chong's back, he released the attack. Yu Chong did not even have a chance to retaliate before he died.

He had never expected Long Chen to be this bold. Although Long Chen was not a wolf, he had a personality like one—he had the ability to bide his time, and viciousness. Yu Chong had died at the hands of his wolf-like nature.

After killing Yu Chong, Long Chen threw the body behind him. There was an endless sea of immortal beasts chasing him. Since they hated Immortal Guards to the bone, nothing would be left of Yu Chong's body in seven minutes. There would be no evidence of his death.

“There was no reason for this other than to make you understand that anyone who angers me will meet their end. It's the same for you, your older brother Yu Tao, and even the Ninth Prince.” The corners of his lips curled up as he looked at Yu Chong's body.

He stood in the same spot for a while. Using the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he could already see the approaching beasts. If he returned to the base too quickly, Yu Tao would definitely be suspicious. Now that the immortal beasts were in sight, he could say that Yu Chong had run off on his own first, but the beasts caught up and killed him. That way, Yu Tao would not have any evidence to refute his claim.

“There are so many beasts. This is definitely the immortal beast stampede that Zhang Yuanteng mentioned.”

Long Chen headed towards the protected area. The horde of beasts had caused a huge commotion, and the sounds of beast roars shook the heavens and the earth. Many other Immortal Guards were running towards the protected area as well. Since Long Chen was fast, he spotted Zhang Yuanteng just before he arrived.

Chapter 304 - Nine Heavens True Fire Beast

When Zhang Yuanteng saw Long Chen unscathed, he sighed in relief and said, “Long Chen, I jinxed it! I had only mentioned the immortal beast stampede in passing, and it actually happened. But don't worry, we can head to the protected area now.”

Long Chen did not head directly towards the Advanced Zone, because he wanted to see Zhang Yuanteng. This was a very rare friend to him. After guaranteeing his safety, Long Chen shook his head and said, “I won't. I need to leave because I have some matters to attend to. Brother Zhang, if you see me as a brother, don't ask me any questions. I know my limits. This is extremely important to me, so I hope you won't intervene. Goodbye!”

Then Long Chen did not elaborate and ran past Zhang Yuanteng, soon disappearing from sight. Zhang Yuanteng was startled by what he had said, because he seemed to be very determined. Before he could think of a way to advise against it, Long Chen had already run off.

Since he had no choice, Zhang Yuanteng went towards the protected area despite being worried. The immortal beast stampede was approaching and they were surrounded by deafening beast roars, so no one would notice Long Chen missing.

This was the boundary between Areas Seventeen and Eighteen, so the people of both areas had gathered here. When Long Chen and Zhang Yuanteng were speaking, a teenager being escorted by a group of Immortal Guards had spotted them from far away. Hatred flashed in his eyes when he identified Long Chen.

“Isn’t that teenager Long Chen, the guy who out did me in front of the Sword Devil? And that former Counter Essence soldier too! Damn it!”

When he thought about how Long Chen had stolen what was supposed to be his, jealousy and hatred rose within him. Since Long Chen had run off and disappeared, Zhang Yuanteng was hurrying towards the protected area.

You may be fast, but... this Counter Essence soldier is related to him. I hate him! Watching Zhang Yuanteng leave, Song Yuefeng sneered and followed.

I’ll kill one more as an appetizer. Long Chen will definitely go to the protected area, so that will be my main course, thought Song Yuefeng with relish.

Long Chen struck and killed another Category Three Earth-tier Cloud Canine. He looked around and saw that the thick and heavy mist had already covered the entire Counter Essence Realm. Using the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he could see many immortal beast souls approaching. There were cultivators who could not run in time fighting them.

Immortal beast stampedes were destructive events where immortal beasts from the Advanced or Intermediate Zones entered the Intermediate or Elementary Zones. The Immortal Guards from the Elementary and Intermediate Zones were no match for them at all, so they could only hide and save their strength. As long as the Advanced Zones’ Immortal Guards came to help, they would be able to suppress the stampede.

Long Chen had already passed the protected area and he soon entered the Intermediate Zone directly. There, he found that the spiritual Qi was much thicker and that the herbs were higher in level.

The Intermediate Zone was mostly occupied by guards between the Fourth and Sixth River Stages. Categories Four to Six Earth-tier beasts were common here. He would’ve run the risk of running straight into a beast or a man if he had not cultivated the third stage of the Soul Swallowing Gaze, which would’ve been a tragedy.

With the help of his Soul Swallowing Gaze, he stayed far away from beasts and cultivators. There were many Category Three Earth-tier Cloud Canines here. Avoiding high-level beasts, he killed them and hurried on quickly, at the same time using Blood Transmutation to increase his strength.

What’s going on? I’ve been using Blood Transmutation more frequently; I think it’s making me feel a little dizzy. The killing intent in me is also very intense ...

Long Chen noted the sensation of being poisoned every time he used Blood Transmutation. Although his strength was increasing and he felt more energetic, there was an icy, murderous energy in his chest that was growing gradually.

However, this was a time when Long Chen needed strength the most. Ling Xi’s life depended on him, so he dared not slack off despite all the violence and killing intent occupying his mind.

He continued traveling through the Intermediate Zone.

Only the extremely important herbs were being guarded. Yellow and Black-tier herbs were abundant in the Counter Essence Realm and would grow back if they were lost, so they did not matter.

However, every Immortal Guard was talented at their job, and if the casualties were too high, they would have to recruit more. It was difficult to recruit large numbers of trustworthy cultivators.

That was why protecting the Immortal Guards was of utmost importance during every stampede.

During this time, Long Chen saw many intermediate-Earth tier spiritual herbs, but they had not ripened. Even if he plucked them, they would be useless, so he merely looked.

The immortal beasts had conquered almost the entire Intermediate and Elementary Zones. If didn't have the Soul Swallowing Gaze, Long Chen's journey would not have been so simple. He had seen Categories Six and Seven immortal beasts along the way, which would bring him massive improvement in cultivation, but only if he could kill them.

However, killing a Category Six Earth-tier was currently a faraway dream to him.

By now, the hunting of immortal beasts by the more powerful Immortal Guards had officially begun. Long Chen secretly snuck around them, taking secluded paths, and quickly approached the Advanced Zone. Although there were no clear boundaries between the Advanced and Intermediate Zones, Long Chen could make a guess based on the changes in spiritual Qi and herbs in his surroundings.

"This place is quiet, like there are no threats from immortal beasts. Why is that?" Long Chen walked through a vast field and realized that there were few beasts here. There was a scent in the air that made him feel suffocated.

He had a bad feeling and quickly observed the souls in his surroundings using the Soul Swallowing Gaze. But there didn't seem to be anything, not even an ant.

There was not a single animal within a five-hundred-meter radius.

"What's going on? Is this the Advanced Zone?" Long Chen looked in all directions.

That was when his Soul Swallowing Gaze caught a ripple so powerful that even his soul trembled, and it was quickly approaching. Long Chen looked up and, to his terror, there was a huge beast floating in the sky above!

This gigantic beast was burning with red flames. It had a large pair of wings like those of a bat, but they looked much scarier and were filled with great power. The beast had the body of a lion with fangs and long, sharp claws. Its eyes were burning with flames. When it gazed coldly at Long Chen, the suffocating pressure made Long Chen felt like he had seen a deity!

Forget about fighting—the huge, intimidating aura had almost forced him to his knees!

"Nine Heavens True Fire Beast ..." Long Chen remembered this immortal beast's name clearly. After Xiaolang had received the Sun Devouring Wolf's body, Long Chen had tried hard to find fire elemental treasures for him. He got to know about demonic cores from demonic beasts and learned that within the Earth-tier, the most powerful fire beast was the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast. Long Chen initially thought

the Cangyang Kingdom would not have beasts of that level, so he never imagined that there would be one here.

Nine Heavens True Fire Beast, Category Nine, Earth-tier!

A beast of this scale could kill Long Chen with a sneeze!

Long Chen now knew why there were no other life forms in this area. It was the beast's territory.

Since it was a Category Nine Earth-tier beast, its sensing abilities far exceeded Long Chen's Soul Swallowing Gaze. Before he noticed it, it had long noticed him.

All the nerves in his body tightened.

How could I get so unlucky? If it really wants to kill me, I won't be able to defend myself at all ... Long Chen paled. Ling Xi and Xiaolang were waiting at Yuqing Palace! If he died here, what would happen to them?

Without Long Chen, Ling Xi would not have a future. This put a huge weight on his shoulders. This was the responsibility of a man!

Long Chen realized that due to his impatience for the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, he had been too reckless. He had trespassed on the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast's territory, and it was all his fault ...

The only thing that brought him relief was that after the beast noticed him, it did not attack immediately but rather looked at him, a bit puzzled.

Flames came out of its nostrils as it breathed.

What does it want? Long Chen dared not look up, so he could only guess.

Then, as if it had lost all patience, it flew around Long Chen in circles several times, then it let out a furious roar.

The thunder-like roar that came out of its gigantic body made the ground tremble. Long Chen knew that the beast was about to attack and activated his Dragon Soul Transformation. Then, he shot off at maximum speed towards where he came from!

He didn't have the luxury of being worried about being discovered by someone in the Intermediate Zone!

When he used the Dragon Soul Transformation, the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast froze for a moment, stopping midair. Taking advantage of that sliver of time, Long Chen widened the distance between them by a hundred meters!

Maybe it sensed my Inherited Blood Essence? And the Dragon Soul Transformation? No, I don't think it sensed them. It must have noticed something it feared in my body, or it would have rushed over to kill me instantly, he thought as he fled.

The Dragon Soul Transformation had only stopped the beast for a slight moment. With a flap of its fleshy wings, it arrived behind Long Chen and let out a furious roar. Angry flames shot out at him!

The beast was gigantic. The flames it spat were a sea of fire to Long Chen. He was about to be swallowed by fire ...

Chapter 305 - Blood Warp

Long Chen could already smell the fire. The temperature of the fire spat out by the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast was extremely high. Even though it was still far away, Long Chen could feel burning pain on his back, and steam rose from his body due to the heat!

I'm done for! Long Chen despaired. He could've fought it if it was a Category Six or Seven beast, but this was a true Category Nine Earth-tier beast. It was likely on par with the ultimate masters of the Cangyang Kingdom like the Sword Devil. This was likely the most powerful beast in the Counter Essence Realm. How could he live in the face of such a powerful beast?

"Xiao Xi!" When he felt the insane heat on his back, a fire also burned in his heart. He had difficulty breathing and several explosions were set off inside his chest. That was when blood rushed through his entire body. If he had not activated the Dragon Soul Transformation, green veins would be popping from his skin all over his body!

"How can I possibly die here?! I won't allow that!"

The fire would swallow him at any moment now. Long Chen was already at his limit. He looked up in fury and let out an angry roar!

"Die!"

Long Chen felt as if his entire body had exploded. His blood was initially flowing quickly, but now it was at its limit! His blood seemed to morph into small blood dragons, charging ahead in his blood vessels and unleashing earth-shaking roars!

The Primordial Dragons were the most powerful beings in the world, and one was hiding in his body. However, when threatened by the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast, plus Long Chen's unwillingness to die, he felt as if something was about to break free from his body to shatter the beast!

It was the blood of the dragon!

Roar!

A sonorous dragon's roar was unleashed from Long Chen's human mouth. He realized that the long-slumbering mysterious dragon pendant was active once more!

Within his sea of consciousness, the mysterious jade pendant let out a black ray of light, shining on the drop of Inherited Blood Essence. Nine hundred and ninety-ninths of the Inherited Blood Essence still remained within it.[1] A familiar scene played out once more. Under the suppression and control of the mysterious dragon jade, the drop of Inherited Blood Essence moved towards the dragon jade!

The Inherited Blood Essence seemed to be displeased about being controlled like that, but it had no choice. Long Chen faintly sensed a blood-colored divine dragon as large as the sky in the tiny blood droplet. It was currently roaring in fury, fighting back against the mysterious jade pendant's power.

But to no avail.

Just like the times when Long Chen comprehended Blood Transmutation and the Dragon Soul Transformation, a flowing line of blood appeared on the jade pendant. The blood shimmered as it flowed in the lines, just like before.

“Blood Warp ...”

Two words appeared in Long Chen’s mind. When he comprehended Blood Transmutation, the name of the technique had also appeared in his mind, which was how he knew its name.

The mysterious jade pendant had been activated due to the mortal threat imposed by the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast, and it had allowed him to comprehend Blood Warp. Since he had not used it yet, he did not know what it was.

A mere moment had passed from the activation of the pendant to Long Chen’s comprehension of Blood Warp. Seeing as the beast was about to burn him to a crisp, he took a risk and used Blood Warp!

He trusted the mysterious dragon jade pendant. This was his last chance to stay alive. If Blood Warp was useless, then certain death awaited him.

“Blood Warp, activate ...”

His whole body turned into a ray of blood-colored light, then he disappeared right before the beast’s eyes. The light looked like an animal that resembled a long snake to the beast, but it noticed that Long Chen was gone.

In reality, that was not a snake but the legendary Primordial Dragon. When he used Blood Warp, his body had turned into a fluid state and then into a blood-colored ray of light before disappearing. The ray of light merely looked like a dragon.

Even Long Chen could not describe how fast he was traveling. All he could confirm was that the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast could not catch up to him because he was faster than it! The beast did not expect him to possess such speed, so when the ant disappeared, it finally reacted and let out an earth-shattering roar and gave chase!

All the herbs on the ground were burned to crisps beneath its flaming body. They were useless now ...

Long Chen was not worried because in just a short moment, he had shaken off the beast behind him. He quickly made a turn, knowing that it was going to be impossible for it to find him after this.

He was relieved to still be alive. A wave of fatigue rushed over him, and he realized that Blood Warp exhausted a huge amount of Qi. He had only run about five kilometers, but doing so had cost him almost all his Qi. If he had not stopped in time, he would’ve been squeezed dry by Blood Warp!

The ray of blood light suddenly turned into a human standing on the ground. He hurriedly turned around. Roars of fury came from behind, but he could no longer see the beast.

He sighed in relief.

Looks like I will need to avoid being so rash and reckless in the future, or it will one day ruin everything. If I had not suddenly comprehended Blood Warp, I would have died for sure ...

And if I die, Xiao Xi ... Sigh. She's the only reason I'd act so rashly in search of the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. Long Chen was exasperated.

His focus turned to Blood Warp.

Blood Transmutation, Dragon Soul Transformation, Blood Devouring Domain, and Blood Warp. They're all awesome divine techniques, plus they strengthen as I level up. Blood Warp lets me spend my Qi to move at a speed faster than the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast. However, I can only run up to five kilometers, but five kilometers is enough to save my life. Blood Warp is amazing for fleeing life-and-death situations!

Long Chen would be safer with Blood Warp in his arsenal. Although it was not as attention-grabbing as Blood Transmutation, it was a great technique to save one's life. If he used it well, he would survive near-death scenarios that could have resulted in death if he did not have it.

The blood essence of an ancestral dragon like the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon would not go wrong. Am I like what the Burning Heaven Emperor said? The Dragon Warrior who will surpass the Sun Devouring Wolf to be number one in the world?

Long Chen grew emotional with that thought.

However, his Qi had been exhausted and he had no choice but to consume a Heavenly River Pill and cultivate. After an hour, his Qi finally recovered. He was more cautious now and hid in a secluded place. Regular immortal beasts would not find him easily.

After recovering his strength, he stood up and observed his surroundings. He found that the commotion outside had mostly died down and only a few beast roars could be heard. The immortal beast stampede was coming to an end.

It looks like it's not going to be easy to find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. I've learned my lesson. I must not be blinded by impatience, Long Chen thought to himself.

He was preparing to return, but he suddenly heard the furious roar of the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast.

It hasn't given up yet? How clingy. Long Chen planned to ignore it and leave. That was when he realized that it was fighting someone. The only ones who could fight that beast were the highest ranked individuals in the Counter Essence Realm. Since he had Blood Warp now to protect himself, he did not hesitate to run towards the beast's roars!

Who could be fighting the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast? Hiding himself, Long Chen approached cautiously. After crossing several short hills, he lay on his stomach and finally spotted the beast fighting for its life, roaring angrily. He could see wounds on its body.

That sword ...

There was a young man fighting the beast. Long Chen could not see his face, but based on his tall, muscular physique and the smoothness of his swordsmanship, the young man was a great master.

What caught Long Chen's attention was his sword. The golden sword looked like it was made completely of gold, glinting blindingly as it was swung in battle. The material used to make the sword was surely more precious than real gold if it was strong enough to withstand the insane strength of the young man.

This guy is strong enough to face the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast and uses a golden divine sword. I know who you are...

After arriving in the Biyang Imperial Capital and talking to Xiaolang, Long Chen had some understanding of the young masters of the capital. Almost all of the youths from the royal family were extremely talented. Some of them were average at cultivation but had made stellar military and administrative contributions. Some of them strictly focused on cultivation and achieved extraordinary results. One of the best among them was this young man.

Long Chen remembered his name—Lin Zichen. He was the Fourth Prince, and his weapon was the number one divine weapon in the Cangyang Kingdom: the Imperial Sword! He was at the formidable Ninth River Stage!

Chapter 306 - Fourth River Stage

The highest-ranked person in the entire Cangyang Kingdom was the Sword Emperor. Fourth Prince Lin Zichen hadn't spent much time or effort on politics, but he had received the Sword Emperor's acknowledgment and was referred to as the Young Sword Emperor.

As a Ninth River Stage cultivator, he was the most terrifying prodigy Long Chen had ever laid eyes on. Lin Zichen had been a legend in the Cangyang Kingdom since he was young. There wasn't even an Eighth River Stage cultivator among the imperial youths, so the next strongest prince was only at the Seventh River Stage, and there was no guarantee that any of them would reach the Ninth River Stage in their lifetimes.

That was why Lin Zichen was a peerless prodigy in the Biyang Imperial Capital. He was just like Long Chen when he left the Burning Heaven Secret Realm in Yuanling City without an equal in his generation. Many older masters were also no match for him.

Even the strongest cultivator in the Harmony family, one of the three noble families, was only at the Eighth River Stage, Song Zhongcheng!

There were even rumors that Lin Zichen, having received the Imperial Sword passed down in the imperial family, had already caught up to his uncle, the Sword Devil, who had been at the Ninth River Stage for more than twenty years. He was one of the top three masters of the imperial family!

That prodigy was right in front of Long Chen!

Long Chen had to admit that even just watching the sword-bearing teenager made him feel immense pressure. Every slash of the Imperial Sword released a huge ripple as it glinted with light that penetrated the heavens. The Nine Heavens True Fire Beast let out furious roars, fighting with its fire, sharp claws, and all sorts of divine abilities. Although it was powerful, it could not hit the agile Lin Zichen!

Lin Zichen was an Armament Warrior. His Armament Soul had been injected into the Imperial Sword, so they were intimately connected to each other. This allowed him to use a hundred and twenty percent of his combat abilities. An Armament Soul offered a larger boost than a Beast Warrior's Beast Soul. Since the Imperial Sword was a formidable divine weapon that was the most well-known across the Cangyang Kingdom, paired with all the powerful techniques he possessed, even the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast was no match for Lin Zichen.

Long Chen was left in a daze as he watched him. Lin Zichen was just too powerful! The beast could easily kill Long Chen, but Lin Zichen could kill it so casually!

Every time he swung the Imperial Sword, a shower of blood would spray from the beast's body and fall on the ground. The clean ground was slowly dyed red from its blood.

Long Chen was initially captivated by the battle, immersed in the immense pressure. But when he saw the rain of blood, his eyes lit up.

The blood of a Category Nine Earth-tier beast? Even just a little bit would be enough for me to get stronger, right? Long Chen's excitement grew. He desperately needed to grow stronger, but was frustrated because he could not kill stronger beasts. But if he consumed the blood now ...

Long Chen wanted to leave so he wouldn't run into trouble later, but when he saw the blood, he decided to stay.

Time passed as they fought. Lin Zichen's impressive combat abilities and vicious techniques expanded Long Chen's horizons. It was no wonder he was the number one prodigy in the Cangyang Kingdom. He knew that the beast was powerful, so he did not let it touch him. Instead, he kept weaving between attacks. In the end, the beast died from exhaustion!

The gigantic carcass crashed into the ground, throwing dust up into the air.

To be honest, Long Chen was drooling over the carcass. If this Category Nine Earth-tier beast could be his, his cultivation level would increase by several tiers. Of course, that was impossible because it was also very important to Lin Zichen, who quickly stored it in his Universe Pouch. He cleaned up the place a little, then he left contentedly.

He had no idea that a teenager had been lying on his stomach on a faraway hill, observing his battle against the beast.

I must admit that he is powerful. Compared to the Ninth Prince, he is much stronger in terms of mind and strength. Long Chen waited until Lin Zichen disappeared. He lamented, not because he admired Lin Zichen, but because Lin Zichen was too hard to defeat.

I must not provoke that psycho before I become strong enough. Long Chen was currently at the Second River Stage, so he knew how to act.

With Lin Zichen gone, Long Chen sprinted as fast as he could to the battlefield. The place was a mess due to the fire. There was black, burnt soil everywhere, and the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast's blood covering the soil. Because some time had passed, a lot of blood had dried up and become useless. However, there were still some that could be salvaged.

Long Chen wasted no time. He quickly activated the Blood Devouring Domain, and all the blood that could still move flowed towards him and was absorbed by his black hole-like body. Finally, it turned into blood-red Qi flowing swiftly through his star veins.

The blood was a great source of nourishment. Although there was not much, it was of great quality. Long Chen had just absorbed blood from a beast seven tiers above himself. Each small drop of blood, after being condensed and filtered by Blood Transmutation, had been turned into huge quantities of blood-red Qi!

It's time to work towards the Third River Stage ...

Long Chen suddenly noticed that the sky of Counter Essence Realm did not have stars. Without stars, he would not be able to connect to the power of the stars. And without star power and only relying on Heavenly River Pills, the star river he condensed would be unstable and could break down at any time.

But perhaps that was not such a bad thing.

Long Chen had no time to think about it. He slowly refined the beast's blood; if he did not use this Qi to condense a star river within his body, the sheer volume of it would soon make him explode!

I can condense a star river even without stars in the sky!

Long Chen gritted his teeth and sat down cross-legged, vigorously steering the Qi to move through his body. The volume of Qi he had absorbed was especially large, so it was a little hard to control. However, this was not his limit. His excellent dragon body was not particularly hardy, but it had great abilities.

Whoosh!

He sensed that if he did not condense a star vein right now, his body could not hold on any longer. He quickly took out a hundred Heavenly River Pills and stuffed them into his mouth. Although his heart ached, he would not be able to enter the Third River Stage without them!

The hundred pills turned into star power and helped him condense a star river. Because there were no Heavenly Rivers in the Counter Essence Realm's sky, Long Chen decided to condense both Yin and Yang Rivers for the third stage. He would figure out the rest later!

He had enough Heavenly River Pills and a giant amount of Qi, so he easily finished condensing the Yin and Yang Rivers and reached the Third River Stage, becoming considerably stronger. The only unexpected thing was that a hundred pills was not enough—he had to consume more than three hundred pills to finally condense the Yin and Yang Rivers!

It was because there was just too much Qi in the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast's blood. Even after attaining the Third River Stage, there was still a lot of Qi accumulated in his body. Although he was still unstable, he had no choice but to start working towards the Fourth River Stage!

Blood? Killing? Long Chen sensed a cold aura spreading in his mind. He suddenly felt like blood would make him excited. Of course, killing too.

I've probably used Blood Transmutation too much. My mind has started to be influenced by the Inherited Blood Essence. Long Chen had no choice, and this tiny influence would not be a huge problem.

He started to work towards the Fourth River Stage. It was much more difficult than the previous stage and used up more pills. He only had about two thousand Heavenly River Pills to begin with, and they were being spent very quickly. When he condensed the star river, he had to consume more than a thousand Heavenly River Pills to truly succeed. By the time he had used up all his Qi to condense the fourth pair of star rivers, only about one to two hundred pills remained.

Due to the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast's blood, Long Chen had consecutively leveled up from the Second to the Fourth River Stage, two levels in total. He believed that with his current strength, the Dragon Soul Transformation, and Divine Fire Clone, he could defeat the people who had been targeting him like Yu Tao and Song Yuefeng!

What a powerful feeling. My body is filled with power ... Long Chen smirked as he felt the power in his body. His eyes were faintly glowing red.

What's the matter? Although he felt powerful, he felt as if he could not control his body, like there was a force inside him commanding him. Long Chen thought about what it was commanding him to do and realized that it was to kill.

My body is hot. Why do I yearn for someone to come fight me? Long Chen was puzzled. He guessed that it was a symptom of Blood Transmutation overuse. It would not be a problem if he waited a while, so he controlled himself a little until he felt okay again.

Next, I should return to the Elementary Zone and see if there are any other opportunities I can take advantage of.

Chapter 307 - Dragon King Burial

A long time had passed, so the immortal beast stampede was completely over. The Immortal Guards from the Intermediate Zone had left the protected area to deal with the mess the beasts had left behind. Relying on the Soul Swallowing Gaze, Long Chen avoided many of them. After about two hours, he finally returned to Area Eighteen.

The place was a mess. Over ten Earth-tier herbs that required protection had gone missing. They had likely been uprooted by the immortal beasts.

After reaching the Fourth River Stage, Long Chen's gaze grew more reserved despite being stronger. Although there were no heavenly rivers in the Counter Essence Realm, he had managed to make two breakthroughs by force. And the condensed star rivers within his star vein did not show any signs of instability.

Long Chen had killed Yu Chong as soon as the immortal beast stampede arrived. At the time, they were both on the same team. Now that he was back, he was afraid of having conflict with Yu Tao. Long Chen had made a solid decision, and he believed that as long as he stubbornly denied it, Yu Tao could not do anything to him in public.

Long Chen returned to base in broad daylight. Some people were shocked to see that he was still alive and quickly called more people over. Most of the guards in Area Eighteen were tall, muscular men from the Heavenly Wolf Gang. They gathered around and stared at him watchfully. When Yu Tao arrived, they moved aside to let him enter.

Yu Tao's face was extremely dark. He stood in front of Long Chen, a blast of killing intent hitting Long Chen in the face. Looking at the fearless teenager, he was about to question him when Long Chen beat him to it. "Why don't I see Zhang Yuanteng? Where is Zhang Yuanteng?"

Previously, Zhang Yuanteng had returned to the protected area and Long Chen had only left for the Advanced Zone after ensuring his safety. Now that he was back here, he noticed that everyone was present except Zhang Yuanteng.

Yu Tao smirked and did not reply to him. He merely asked coldly, "Long Chen, forget about Zhang Yuanteng. I'm asking you now: where is my brother Yu Chong?"

“Yu Chong?” Long Chen smiled. “When the immortal stampede came, he ran off and disappeared. He hasn’t returned? Maybe he was eaten by the beasts because he was too weak?”

“What did you say?!” Yu Tao raised his eyebrows, killing intent radiating from him. He approached Long Chen and asked coldly, “Long Chen, don’t you dare act stupid! Yu Chong was with you when the stampede began. Why did you return but not him?”

Long Chen’s grin widened when he heard this. His fearless grin made Yu Tao’s gaze darken.

“Yu Tao, it’s not like you don’t know your younger brother. When we encountered merely two Cloud Canines, he was so afraid that he immediately ran off to you. This was a whole stampede! I’d absolutely believe it if someone said that a weak coward like him was eaten by the beasts along the way!” Long Chen refused to budge.

“Nonsense! You killed him and put the blame on the beasts, didn’t you?” Yu Tao asked with a cold flash in his eyes.

Long Chen had long known that he would make this accusation. If his mind were a mess right now, Yu Tao would have spotted his lie immediately. That was why he had already planned his performance.

With an icy expression, he asked, “Following your logic, where is Zhang Yuanteng? Did you kill him?”

He had not seen Zhang Yuanteng yet and was getting worried. Although their bond was not that deep, Zhang Yuanteng had helped him greatly, and Long Chen had always repaid those who showed him kindness. When he thought that Zhang Yuanteng could be in danger, blood Qi rushed into his brain, his blood boiled, and his eyes slowly became red.

When Yu Tao saw the vicious look in Long Chen’s eyes without a hint of guilt, he started to believe that Yu Chong’s disappearance was unrelated to Long Chen. He was naturally concerned about the safety of his younger brother, and now that the stampede had just passed, they could finally go search for Yu Chong. He instructed the others, “Search Area Eighteen and see if you can find Yu Chong. As for Long Chen, you’d better stay here. If I find out that you were the one who harmed Yu Chong, I will make you wish you were dead!”

Under Yu Tao’s instructions, the people who had just returned from the chaos left to search for Yu Chong once more. Only Yu Tao and Long Chen remained in the base.

“Now, can you tell me where the hell Zhang Yuanteng is? When he was rushing back to the protected area, you went there too. I refuse to believe that you don’t know what happened!”

Long Chen clenched his fists tightly. He realized that ever since he reached the Fourth River Stage, his desire to kill had gotten oddly strong. Just as Ling Xi had said, the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was the legendary dragon of slaughter and massacre, and his personality would gradually be influenced since he had inherited its blood. Furthermore, since he had used Blood Transmutation a

few consecutive times, it became more obvious that his personality had become violent and difficult to control.

“Zhang Yuanteng? He’s a nobody; I have no time to pay him any attention. Long Chen, tell me honestly. What the hell happened to my brother?” Yu Tao refused to yield.

From Yu Tao’s words, Long Chen sensed that something had indeed happened to Zhang Yuanteng. It was likely because of Long Chen that Yu Tao hated Zhang Yuanteng, bringing him harm.

With that thought, Long Chen felt anger rush into his brain, slowly muddling his mind.

“Yu Tao, I’m asking you again! Did you kill Zhang Yuanteng?!” Taking three steps toward Yu Tao, Long Chen’s eyes turned blood-red and the vein on his neck popped out.

Yu Chong had gone missing, but Yu Tao had not threatened Long Chen yet. Now that Long Chen had threatened him instead, how could a former bandit swallow his anger? How dare Long Chen make such rude accusations in front of him? It did not matter what—he was looking for death!

“Get the fuck out!” Yu Tao bellowed and slammed his palm at Long Chen! If Long Chen had not leveled up, he would not have been able to dodge the slap that contained Fifth River Stage Qi. And if he were struck, half of his face would have been swollen!

“Wanna hit me?” Long Chen was now a hundred percent sure that Zhang Yuanteng had been harmed because of himself. He still clearly remembered Zhang Yuanteng telling him about his dreams, saying he wanted to kiss the boring army life goodbye and truly start living. He had said that his goal was to reach the Seventh River Stage and become one of the core Immortal Guards! But all his dreams had turned to dust!

How could Long Chen not blame himself? How could he not rage?

After using Blood Transmutation to attain the Fourth River Stage, the violence in him had grown. Blood rushing to his brain, he glared at Yu Tao, hostility filling his body!

With a simple flash, Long Chen dodged Yu Tao’s slap. Blood Qi erupted from his body, and his eyes were fully red!

“So what if I want to hit you? As an Area Leader, although I can’t kill you, Long Chen, I can at least cripple you! I was not going to hurt you today, but you decided to point a finger at me! That’s a death wish! Even if I disobey His Highness, I must teach you a lesson!”

“You think you have the right to teach me a lesson when you’re so weak?” After Long Chen dodged his slap, he looked up. Even though he had not activated the Dragon Soul Transformation, there were countless blood-red dragons roaring inside his red eyes.

Kill him!

How dare he provoke you when you are so high up above him? Kill him!

Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!

Voices echoed continuously in his mind. Without another word, he pounced on Yu Tao. He had already taken out the Azure Dragon Halberd, and he accelerated and turned into a blood arrow shooting toward Yu Tao!

This time, he did not even use the Dragon Soul Transformation!

The Dragon Soul Transformation was Long Chen's biggest insurance when fighting against people above his level. He had not used it because he believed he could kill Yu Tao without it!

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Dragon King Burial!”

A blood-colored line shot towards the nearby Yu Tao!

Yu Tao was shocked that Long Chen dared to attack him. He remembered that Long Chen was only at the Second River Stage. How could a measly Second River Stage cultivator dare to attack him, someone at the Fifth River Stage? Wasn't that suicide?

Long Chen was the first to act, so it would be much easier for Yu Tao. This way, if Long Chen was heavily injured or even died, the blame would not fall on Yu Tao. After all, insubordination was a serious crime among the Immortal Guards.

A place with strict ranks had no space for stubborn subordinates.

Yu Tao did not take the sudden red line seriously. From his perspective, a Second River Stage cultivator's attack was at most an elementary Earth-tier technique. He punched, thinking of throwing Long Chen in the air!

Any Second River Stage cultivator, even if they were using an intermediate Earth-tier technique, would be thrown back in the air by this punch, but Long Chen was different! He was at the Fourth River Stage, not the Second! Also, Dragon King Burial was the strongest attack of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique! It was no simple technique!

Clean, simple, straightforward—that was Dragon King Burial.

One explosive attack. One careless victim. Due to the close distance, the winner was quickly determined. Although Yu Tao did his best to block it, Long Chen's weapon cut deep into half of his neck!

Fresh blood sprayed out of his wound!

Chapter 308 - Killing Yu Tao

Experts at the Heavenly River Realm were incredibly resilient. Although the halberd had cut into half of his neck, Yu Tao was not dead. His eyes widened, filled with infinite despair and fear. Humans feared death after all, and in this state, Yu Tao was not far from it.

His mind went black at this sudden death. The teenager standing in front of him with violence in his eyes forced Yu Tao to believe that it was reality.

He was going to die by Long Chen's hand.

Was this a dream? He had not even attacked yet, but his head had been chopped off by Long Chen! Long Chen's move was fast and precise, meant to kill in one move. He had spent massive effort building all his skills over the decades, yet he had been eliminated so quickly!

That was Dragon King Burial.

"Since you're not completely dead yet, tell me about Zhang Yuanteng. Is he dead or alive?" Long Chen had not taken the halberd away—it was still lodged in Yu Tao's neck. He knew that if he took it out, Yu Tao's head would fall on the ground.

Then he would be completely dead.

Yu Tao's provocation, the self-blame due to Zhang Yuanteng's death, and the growing killing intent in his mind all made Long Chen realize that he had started to lose control of his body.

The Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon is terrifying ...

After a momentary rush of blood to his brain, he had ended Yu Tao's life. Now that Long Chen had calmed down to think, chills ran down his spine.

Yu Tao moved his lips with great difficulty. He clearly had something to say. Long Chen listened carefully and finally understood that the dying Yu Tao said two things. First: you will die. Second: Song Yuefeng.

Then his head slumped over, and when Long Chen pulled his halberd away, Yu Tao's head fell on the ground.

He looked at Yu Tao's eyes. Even in death, his eyes were wide open, staring at Long Chen unwillingly. But there was also some anticipation in them after he had said Song Yuefeng's name. Song Yuefeng was a treasured child of the Harmony family. If Long Chen had a conflict with him, he would definitely die, and Yu Tao would be avenged.

This was why Yu Tao had uttered Song Yuefeng's name in the end.

Long Chen did not care about the problems that would come after killing Yu Tao. The Ninth Prince would definitely make him suffer. Right now, his heart was filled with self-blame for Zhang Yuanteng's death and enmity towards Song Yuefeng.

Of course, it was possible that what Yu Tao had said was a lie, though Long Chen could easily find out if he went to Area Seventeen to ask around. Yu Tao was not likely to lie just before he died. If it was true, then Song Yuefeng deserved to be killed.

Long Chen had no idea what to make of that guy's personality. He had merely outdone him a little in front of the Sword Devil, and he had killed Zhang Yuanteng over that? Violent, unreasonable and arrogant. These were the traits of the dwarves. Song Yuefeng was an example.

Dwarves ... Dwarves again ...

Long Chen recovered from his violent state after killing Yu Tao, but the killing intent rose again when he thought of Song Yuefeng. And the guilt within him made him feel torn.

I refuse to let you die for nothing! He might be part of the three noble families, but so what? It's impossible to get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit with my current strength anyway! Why don't I

just take Ling Xi far from here? When I reach the Ninth River Stage and no one in the Counter Essence Realm can beat me, I can come take the fruit again! he roared in his heart.

Long Chen had felt suffocated during his days in the Counter Essence Realm! More importantly, Ling Xi was still in Yuqin Palace, and this made him constantly worried. Killing both Yu Chong and Yu Tao was a sign of explosive growth in his strength, and the growing killing intent in him was related to the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon and himself!

After killing Yu Tao, Long Chen made his decision.

I'm not staying in this damn place anymore! Fuck this! Zhang Yuanteng's death made it difficult for Long Chen to calm his violence-filled heart. Without a word, he left Yu Tao's body there and went straight for Area Seventeen. If Song Yuefeng had truly done something, he did not mind avenging Zhang Yuanteng!

After advancing to the Fourth River Stage, Long Chen traveled like a gust of wind, quickly arriving at Area Seventeen and heading towards the base. Due to the stampede, most of the Immortal Guards were outside cleaning up the mess. Song Yuefeng, being a young master of the great Harmony family, was sure to be in the base enjoying himself!

Song Yuefeng ... The thought of the arrogant young man provoked the anger in him. The closer he got to the base, the redder his eyes became and the heavier he breathed. Faint, blood-colored dragon patterns appeared in his eyes.

Other people soon saw Long Chen. Due to his fierceness, they quickly ran to inform their superiors.

Every area had one Fifth River Stage Area Leader to deal with matters of magnitude like stampedes. It was the same with Area Eighteen. Since Song Yuefeng had only just become an Immortal Guard, he had been sent to the Elementary Zone to gain experience despite being at the Fifth River Stage.

That was why there were two Fifth River Stage cultivators in Area Seventeen right now. Due to his wealthy background, Song Yuefeng was expected to be much stronger than Yu Tao.

As he approached the base, Long Chen felt the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's calls to kill start again.

Kill him! Avenge Zhang Yuanteng!

Zhang Yuanteng was innocent, but he killed him! He deserves to die!

I'm going to take Ling Xi and leave anyway! So what if I kill him? Now that I have comprehended Blood Warp, I can rush out of Counter Essence City even if I kill Song Yuefeng!

These thoughts gradually invaded Long Chen's mind.

Thick blood Qi radiated from his body, and the power of a Fourth River Stage cultivator erupted from him. There were many cultivators of the same level here, but no one's aura was as strong.

"Who are you?!" A shrill yell came from inside, then the dwarf rushed over angrily along with a group of Third and Fourth River Stage cultivators. When he saw that it was Long Chen, Song Yuefeng's eyes turned cold and he smirked. "What? Did you just hear the news? And came here to take revenge? You guessed right! I killed that pitiful little bug! But I did not kill him personally. If you tell the Sword Devil, my father will stop him!"

The moment they met, Song Yuefeng blurted out the truth without reservation, that he had killed Zhang Yuanteng. It was clear how arrogant he was.

“How did he die?” Long Chen halted, forcing his voice to be flat. If not, he might not have been able to control himself and would've attacked instantly.

“How did he die? Is that important? Haha ... Seeing as you came such a long way to ask, I'll tell you. Weren't the immortal beasts coming? Wasn't he going to enter the protected area? If I broke both his legs, wouldn't he just lay there? Wouldn't he get torn to pieces?” Surrounded by a group of people, Song Yuefeng laughed hysterically. He relished this feeling, to be able to bully Long Chen like this, making him furious but not daring to attack. The frustration Long Chen had caused him at the steel tower finally disappeared.

When the rest saw him laugh, they laughed too.

“Dwarves really are animals through and through. And you bunch of traitors, why are you laughing with him?” said Long Chen, trying to calm his emotions.

Zhang Yuanteng's legs had been broken and he had been torn to pieces. These words stabbed into Long Chen's heart like knives. What other people could not see was that drastic changes were happening inside his body. His blood was boiling and countless blood dragons were roaring within.

Even after Long Chen's accusations, the people who were laughing did not intend to stop, as if they were proud of it. Long Chen had sentenced this bunch of spineless people to death.

“You say we are traitors? Sir Song Yuefeng is the number one young master of the Harmony family, which is one of the three noble families of the Cangyang Kingdom. The dwarves are one of us! What did you mean by that, you punk?”

“Yeah, why are you so rude? Did your parents raise you that way?”

Everyone started to lecture him.

“You said you broke his legs and let him get ripped apart alive by the beasts?” Long Chen's gaze finally fell on Song Yuefeng. He lowered his head, startling violence hidden in his eyes.

“Yeah, that's right. But what will you do to me, punk? Do you dare to fight the Harmony family? You are a lowly peasant! Haha ...” Song Yuefeng was bent over laughing.

Long Chen no longer spoke. He took out the Azure Dragon Halberd. Words were useless at this point. Pointing the halberd at his target, he said with contempt, “Do you have the guts to duel me?”

Everyone was stunned for a moment, then they laughed hysterically.

“Alright, alright. If I don’t teach the brat a lesson, he will keep crying. I’ll show him what’s what, chase him off, and we’ll drink the night away. Everyone, what do you say?”

“Of course, Young Master. Once you hit him, this idiot will become an idiotic pig.”

Chapter 309 – Twenty Five Divine Fire Clones

“Come out if you dare,” Long Chen said flatly, then he turned to leave. They had more space to fight outside!

In reality, Long Chen was not oblivious to the Harmony family’s power. Song Zhongcheng was at the Eighth River Stage, and Long Chen was no match for him. However, sometimes, he would not back down even though his opponent was stronger. To him, there were more important things like dignity, loyalty, and brotherhood!

Although he had not known Zhang Yuanteng for long, he would never forgive anyone for hurting him! Especially not animals like dwarves!

Although killing Song Yuefeng meant that he would be pursued and killed tragically, humans were meant to live with self-respect. Death was nothing. Death without dignity was a tragedy!

He had thought about this before he came here. *Broken legs? Torn to pieces? Song Yuefeng, I want you to end up worse than him ...*

Long Chen slowly turned and looked back with tears welling up in his eyes. He felt like a bomb that would explode at any moment, killing all the people around him!

A group of people, with Song Yuefeng at the center, came out. They were acting like this would be a good show. Therefore, they did not think much of it and were all smiles. “Young Master, you must beat the teeth out of that arrogant brat. Some people are just too stupid these days; they think they can insult just anyone they like!”

“You’re right. He thinks he is a peerless expert despite being so weak. When he loses, he’ll run home crying to his parents.”

“Yeah. Young Master Song is number one among the youths of the Harmony family. Do you think he’s some average Joe?”

“That’s enough, everyone. If you say any more, he’s going to be scared to death. If he becomes too scared to fight and doesn’t let me scratch this itch, I’m fighting you guys instead,” Song Yuefeng said with a smile.

“Young Master Song is a prodigy from the heavens; we wouldn’t dare!” The traitors hurriedly refused obsequiously.

Then they all retreated to let Song Yuefeng face Long Chen directly. The stout Song Yuefeng looked up, his nostrils pointing towards Long Chen.

“Have you said your last words?” Long Chen asked mildly.

“Last words? You’re looking for death!” Song Yuefeng was furious that Long Chen had come to his doorstep with such demands; he just had not shown it.

You’re nothing but a dog, and yet you dare outdo me, the number one prodigy of the Harmony family! If it was not for you, I would have received Lord Sword Devil’s recognition and I would have become his disciple! Long Chen, you deserve to die ten thousand times, but out of generosity, I will let you die only once!

The aura of a Fifth River Stage cultivator erupted from his body. Song Yuefeng was now stronger than Long Chen since the latter had not activated the Dragon Soul Transformation yet. He then took out one long and one short dagger, holding one in each hand!

The long dagger was about half a meter long, which was almost like a regular shortsword. The shorter dagger was not even twenty centimeters long. They were gold and black respectively, radiating powerful energy. They were definitely not weaker than the Azure Dragon Halberd!

“Long Chen, I’m going to cut you into pieces with my intermediate Earth-tier divine weapons, the Sun and Moon Divine Daggers!”

Song Yuefeng let out a roar before they started, then he took one step forward and turned into a gust of wind, charging at Long Chen!

Song Yuefeng is just like the other dwarves. They are short, so they are more agile, but their weaknesses are in strength and defense. But he’s excellent in speed and agility! He’s so fast!

Long Chen took a few steps back, simultaneously activating his Dragon Soul Transformation!

Song Yuefeng was clearly much stronger than Yu Tao, plus he loved fighting and was vicious. Long Chen had no choice but to use the Dragon Soul Transformation so he could kill the dwarf quickly!

Brother Zhang! It was my fault that you died! I’ll avenge you right now! If I don’t kill this animal, I, Long Chen, cannot be called a man! Long Chen screamed in his heart. With a stomp, he turned into a furious dragon. His halberd brought with it an earth-trembling power as he swung it at Song Yuefeng!

This exchange of strikes allowed both sides to witness their opponent’s strength. Song Yuefeng was indeed as strong as Long Chen expected, while Long Chen’s performance was out of Song Yuefeng’s expectations. Based on his memory, Long Chen was only at the Second River Stage at the steel tower. When he was up against the Sword Devil, he had only received praise because of a lucky coincidence!

But the moment Long Chen attacked, he displayed combat abilities no weaker than himself! *That’s impossible! It must be my imagination!* Song Yuefeng roared in his heart in great disbelief! He accelerated, turning into a tornado as he charged towards Long Chen. He slashed the Sun and Moon Divine Daggers about, launching wave after wave of attacks. The beautiful glowing halo that formed was actually from the daggers’ extremely sharp blades!

“Sun and Moon Dance, Wind Shadow Strike!”

The tornado within the halo approached Long Chen in the blink of an eye! The fervent attack threw the surrounding soil into the air. Chunks of black soil flew at Long Chen, who shattered them with his halberd!

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

Long Chen made another attempt to test how he fared against Song Yuefeng in terms of pure strength. That was why he chose a direct attack!

Soil and pebbles flew in all directions.

Cling, clang!

Long Chen felt that when his halberd entered Song Yuefeng’s attack range, it was met with a huge opposing force. Song Yuefeng’s Sun and Moon Divine Daggers hit the Azure Dragon more than a hundred times to defend against the halberd’s force!

Long Chen knew what his plan was. He was planning to force the halberd out of Long Chen’s hands through the vibrations, but he had underestimated Long Chen. Although he was fast, he was not as strong as Long Chen!

“Break!” He swung his halberd and slammed Song Yuefeng into the air! The crowd gasped as they witnessed Song Yuefeng flying backwards. Startled, they rushed to catch him!

“Get the fuck away!” Song Yuefeng roared in midair, then he landed clumsily. He had gone from looking like a proud peacock to a pathetic, soaked chicken. Although he was not hurt, it felt like he had just taken a slap on the face. He felt miserable!

He had even said that he wanted to teach Long Chen a lesson, but even though he was fighting as hard as he could, he had been sent flying. Even with his thick skin, he still felt his face burn!

“Damn it!”

Blood rushed to his face. His previously decent-looking features twisted grotesquely! “Looks like you’re really asking for death! Long Chen, you were the one who came here asking for a fight. Don’t blame me when you die!” he roared hysterically. Then, like a wild beast, he charged even faster at Long Chen!

This time, he had completely lost his cool. The pride and dignity dwarves claimed to have were actually disguised insanity and wildness. At this moment, he was basically the same as an animal. Long Chen, who was a weakling in his eyes, had just offended him, and he saw this as a crime that deserved the death sentence!

Is it time to fight for our lives? Long Chen smirked to himself. After the Nine Dragons Heaven Ascension, he had figured out his opponent’s strengths. Song Yuefeng had cultivated an intermediate Earth-tier body tempering technique. He also had an excellent body combat technique that was close to the advanced Earth-tier. However, his attacks were still no match for Long Chen!

This time, I will avenge you for real! Dwarf ... Animal ... Die ...! He saw that Song Yuefeng was about to unleash an even more powerful attack, but that was when Long Chen’s entire body burst into roaring flames!

“What?” Song Yuefeng’s eyes widened in astonishment as fire clones emerged from Long Chen’s body. Every fire clone unleashed powerful attacks—they were almost at the Third River Stage!

More than twenty Third River Stage fire clones emerged, each as powerful as a bomb, and surrounded Song Yuefeng in the blink of an eye. Since this all happened quickly, he could only wave his daggers around in terror, trying to destroy the fire clones!

And he succeeded. The first fire clone that pounced on him was slashed to pieces, but more clones started to charge at him!

“Heavens! What are they?! Aaah!” Song Yuefeng let out chilling shouts. He slashed hysterically at the seemingly endless fire clones. Occasionally, the flames would touch his body, burning him, and he would scream!

The crowd was stunned to see that he had ended up in such a tragic state. Immediately, they looked at the icy Long Chen with shocked and trembling gazes. They gulped, forcing themselves to rush to Song Yuefeng’s rescue. Long Chen then blocked their way. “You all had the chance to be humans, but you instead chose to be dogs belonging to the dwarves. You are all an embarrassment; it’s time for a cleanup!”

Long Chen’s mind was already immersed in rage and hatred. These people treated the dwarves as gods and must have bullied their own kin. They had even verbally insulted Long Chen just now. He was a man with dignity; he would not stand for humiliation like that. He knew that the kinder he was, the more he swallowed his anger, the more his enemies would take advantage of him!

When he pointed his halberd at the remaining people, the fire clones had already broken through Song Yuefeng’s attacks. His weapons fell on the ground and endless flames pounced on his body, causing it to burn up in flames. Song Yuefeng turned into a torch, curled up as he wailed in pain. Everyone peed their pants when they heard him.

Long Chen put the Azure Dragon Halberd to work and sent them to hell one by one.

Chapter 310 - Murderer

A total of twenty-five Divine Fire Clones, each as strong as a Third River Stage cultivator, had succeeded in burning Song Yuefeng to death. Naturally, he did not die instantly; he burned alive for half an hour before finally succumbing to his injuries.

Long Chen used that time to kill the others with the Azure Dragon Halberd.

“Your parents went through the trouble of raising you, but you dared to rub shoulders with the dwarves! All of you have lost your souls and honor. You might as well as be dead at that point. I will send all of you down to hell!”

Long Chen continued his slaughter. All of them stared at him with fear before dying on the ground, their blood seeping into the earth.

I must kill them. They’ve humiliated me. All of them are pieces of shit that worked with the dwarves. They must’ve killed many others ...

These thoughts gripped Long Chen's mind. The death of Zhang Yuanteng and the influence of the Inherited Blood Essence slowly nurtured the cruelty inside of him. He realized that only through killing those that stood in his way could he finally have freedom. He refused to bow down to anyone!

Honor was found through combat!

“LET ME TEACH ALL OF YOU WHAT HONOR IS!”

Everytime he swung the halberd, another person bit the dust. It was only when Long Chen finally realized that everyone around him was dead that Song Yuefeng finally stopped crying out in pain. Song Yuefeng's body continued to burn and was reduced to ashes.

Long Chen put the Azure Dragon Halberd away and looked around him, his mind wandering.

Song Yuefeng deserved to die, and so did the rest. But when did I become so cruel? Did I go overboard?

Long Chen snapped out of it when he saw that all of them were dead. He didn't regret his actions after killing so many people since they deserved to die, but he was worried that the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's Inherited Blood Essence was affecting him.

Nevermind. All power comes with a price. Since the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon commanded over massacres, it's natural for me to be affected by its power. I hope I don't become a crazed murderer in the future though.

Long Chen knew he couldn't stay in the Counter Essence Realm any longer after killing Song Yuefeng.

“Brother Zhang, I'm sorry. I was the reason why you died. Even though I've avenged you, I still feel deeply regretful.” Long Chen couldn't get over Zhang Yuanteng's death. If he hadn't entered the Counter Essence Realm, Zhang Yuanteng would still be alive. With his talent, he would have reached the Seventh River Stage with no issue.

But now the others would soon realize what had happened, like Yu Tao's death. All of them would know that Long Chen was the killer, so he quickly ran towards the exit. Most of the Immortal Guards were busy cleaning up the aftermath of the stampede, so none of them had paid attention to Long Chen. They certainly hadn't assumed that he would kill two cultivators at the Fifth River Stage, including Song Yuefeng, who belonged to one of the three noble families and was the favorite child of the Harmony family.

Long Chen decided what to do next after locating the exit.

Since his Blood Warp would allow him to escape easily thanks to its incredible speed, all he needed to do was find a quiet place after exiting Sorrow Moon Lake and use it. Only the overwhelmingly powerful cultivators would detect his escape, so he hoped that no one of that caliber would be nearby.

Long Chen soon returned to Sorrow Moon Lake. Even though the shifts of the Immortal Guards rotated every month, they didn't have to stay inside the Counter Essence Realm throughout the duration. Their days were divided into shifts so they could have their own time to cultivate. Some of

them even used their free time to sell Immortal Beasts for points and then use those to buy cultivation resources.

That was why no one found it weird for Long Chen to come out at this point. Others were entering and exiting too.

Long Chen kept a low profile and returned to Counter Essence City. The buildings were built along the side of the wall. Long Chen used Blood Warp and jumped up to the roofs before somersaulting over the walls. He ran for two to three Li in one go, and no one discovered him.

He could even escape from the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast, so how could the Immortal Guards detect him?

Long Chen sighed after he exited the Counter Essence Realm. There were too many strong individuals inside the place. It was a very oppressive place.

Counter Essence Realm ... I will be back one day. When that day comes, no one will be able to stop me! Li Xuanji would never lie—the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit must be inside! The patriarch of the Harmony family would soon discover the death of Song Yuefeng. I need to escape the capital with Ling Xi immediately! I will come back once I'm stronger.

Long Chen ran back to the capital as fast as he could. Since the capital was not that far from Counter Essence City, he soon saw its silhouette on the horizon.

This time nothing happened when he entered the city. The guards had changed, so no one recognized him. Long Chen entered the city peacefully and ran as fast as he could towards Yuqin Palace.

He had been gone for more than twenty days, and he didn't know what had happened to Ling Xi. He was worried, so he ran as fast as he could. He soon arrived and ran into the corridor. Long Chen was the newly appointed Immortal Guard, so the workers in Yuqin Palace recognized him. None of them dared to approach him, because they knew that the Ninth Prince was paying special attention to Long Chen.

But all of them were puzzled that Long Chen would come back from the Counter Essence Realm so soon.

There were butlers other than Elder Yan inside Yuqin Palace. However, Long Chen did not know how strong Elder Yan was, so he went ahead and found another butler. He stopped the butler and asked, "I have urgent news for my lord and Miss Ling Xi. Are they in the palace?"

He would roughly find out Ling Xi's condition just by asking that.

"Our lord? You came back at the wrong time. Our lord went to Goldfish Island to settle something. Miss Ling Xi followed him there. Do you want to wait for them? They might return soon."

"Goldfish Island?" Long Chen was confused. Why would the Ninth Prince want to go there?

"Why did our lord go to Goldfish Island?"

“It appears that a branch of the Harmony family was killed by the people at Goldfish Island a month ago. The Harmony family found out and went there to deal with it. That place is not under the jurisdiction of our lord, but he went there to oversee the issue due to Miss Ling Xi’s pleas. Let me tell you this: I’ve never seen a girl as beautiful as Ling Xi—it’s as if she descended from heaven! Even our lord took extra special care of her. That said, I heard that you and Miss Ling Xi were close. You are in luck; once our Lord marries her, your position will rise too!”

“Marry?” There was no way Long Chen would stand for that. The Ninth Prince could’ve touched anyone, but he had decided to go after Ling Xi. She was Long Chen’s woman! No matter how high the Ninth Prince’s status was, Long Chen would kill him!

“Yes. Marry.” The butler smiled.

“Marry my ass!” Long Chen punched the butler and sent him flying into a lake. Water splashed everywhere, and Long Chen ran towards Goldfish Island without hesitation. Everyone who saw it didn’t know what to do.

“Ninth Prince, it’s time for you to learn how dangerous I can be. How dare you try to lay your hands on my Ling Xi. I will skin you alive! I’ve already encountered a lot of problems here in the capital, so what’s one more?”

Long Chen ran like the wind towards Goldfish Island.

The people at Goldfish Island were trembling while staring at the rows of dwarf cultivators in front of them. This attack had come without any warning, and it was too late when they spotted the dwarves landing on their island. The dwarves immediately surrounded and brought everyone at Goldfish Island to an empty field.

Chen Ping, Chen Lei, and Xiao Yu were still alive, but now all of them were in despair. Chen Feng and Chen Lei knew that these dwarves were the true Harmony family. The normal soldiers were at least at the late Heavenly Core Realm, while there were tens of Heavenly River Realm cultivators.

It was a force that Goldfish Island could not fight against.

The islanders gave up after learning of their enemies’ strength. All of them knew how ruthless the dwarves could be and were certain that everyone would die today.

The sounds of crying came from the crowd as some of them broke down. Some of them even crumpled to the ground, their bodies trembling and their faces pale from staring at the wicked dwarves.

Even Chen Feng and Chen Lei knew it was hopeless as they looked at each other. The confidence from last time was completely gone. They would all die today.

And before they did, they would be humiliated!

The dwarves always killed the men cruelly and then played with the women. There were many cases where the women would die from being “played” with even before the dwarves got sick of them.

“I will show you that the stupidest thing you can do is kill a dwarf ...”

A dwarf was sitting on a chair as he looked at the trembling villagers of Goldfish Island.

“Men, go and capture all of the girls from ages ten to age fifty. The others will dig a hole. Bury the villagers alive. Make sure to break the limbs of the cultivators before doing so!”