

War God 321

Chapter 321 - Divine Thunder Bird

The sun rose and sank. A day had passed, and Long Chen finally arrived at the patch of forest marked on the map. After four days and four nights of traveling at top speed, they still had two-thirds of the journey left to reach the Western Sea Kingdom in the west.

The trees were tall and densely packed in this forest. Long Chen could run even faster here, so he continued to carry Ling Xi. However, after being carried for a whole day, Ling Xi's body was feeling very sore. Long Chen's heart ached when she refused to tell him that she was not feeling well.

There were many demonic beasts lurking in the wild forests, so caves with beast nests were common. However, the beasts all ran for their lives the moment Xiaolang appeared. Therefore, Long Chen was able to take over a cave, and after cleaning the place up, he took out his blanket and cooking utensils.

"It's getting late. We will rest here tonight, then continue tomorrow morning." Long Chen held Ling Xi in his arms, wrapping her in blankets. It was spring, so the nights were very cold. This was the only way she would feel better.

Xiaolang had already collected firewood from outside. He lit them with his flames and soon, they had a fire within the cave, providing them with light and heat.

Long Chen moved a huge boulder to prevent the firelight from leaving the cave, though he left some space for air ventilation. The forest was so huge, it was almost borderless; he refused to believe that the imperial family could find him here after such careful preparation.

After all the preparations were done, Xiaolang lay at the entrance and cultivated while simultaneously being the lookout. Long Chen set up a mini kitchen using the wok, basin, bowls, and other utensils he had bought that morning. He had prepared everything a kitchen had to have.

It had been a long time since he had cooked.

The fire was lit, the vegetables were cut and stir-fried, and the meat was barbecued. After an hour, plates of delicious-smelling food were served.

While Long Chen was busy, Ling Xi was bundled up in blankets, only revealing her small head as she watched him cook. Her heart was warm as she watched him focus intently on food preparation. Every girl had dreamed at least once that they would be cared for like this, and Ling Xi was no exception.

Although they were running for their lives, the atmosphere he carefully created made Ling Xi wish that time would stop here forever. It was a warm and beautiful moment without worry for the future, and without their enemies after them.

But that was impossible. All beautiful moments would eventually pass.

Calling Xiaolang over to eat, the trio ate their dinner in silence. Since Long Chen had not cooked in a long time and this was a makeshift kitchen, the food was only mediocre. However, Ling Xi was very satisfied.

Although nothing dramatic happened, this was the happiest meal she ever had.

After dinner, it was time to sleep. Xiaolang did not want to disturb them, and he was very bored, so he went out of the cave to keep a lookout for the night. Most beasts would not dare approach with him guarding the cave.

It had been an exhausting day for Ling Xi, as they had been running nonstop. Soon after dinner, she gradually fell into a deep sleep in Long Chen's arms. The extremely beautiful girl's eyebrows were still slightly furrowed even in sleep; one could tell that she was very anxious for what the future held, yet she dared not show it in front of Long Chen. She was worried that he would worry about her.

Her lashes trembled in her sleep.

Long Chen sighed. This would be the most memorable time of his life, fleeing to avoid death. It was memorable not because the enemy was too powerful, but because he had Ling Xi by his side, as well as Xiaolang, his loyal brother who silently stood by him.

Xiaolang was a man of few words, and ever since he became a Sun Devouring Wolf, he had not communicated much with Long Chen. However, they did not need to converse, because Xiaolang would automatically do anything that required his help without complaint.

They shared this burden even during such devastating times. Long Chen knew that this was the sign of a true brother.

With his beloved and a brother who supported him by his side, he was content.

Night soon fell.

She had fair skin and delicate curves, and he could faintly see more skin peeking out of her collar. All of this made Long Chen very tempted, but he knew that Ling Xi was exhausted and severely sleep-deprived, so she could not be disturbed.

At midnight, she woke up in a daze. Her eyes half-open, she looked at him shyly and stuttered, "Brother Chen, I-I want to go outside ..."

"Outside?" Long Chen naturally had not slept. He asked, confused, "It's cold outside. Why do you want to go out?"

She didn't speak. After hesitating for a long time, she said, "I ... I need to pee ..."

"Oh." Long Chen grinned. "Silly girl, what is there to be shy about? I'll take you outside."

It was the wilderness, so Long Chen obviously would never let her out alone. After carrying her out of the cave, they found a random spot and he said to her, "Here is fine."

Ling Xi didn't move. Her neck was about to retract completely into her body.

"What is it?" Long Chen asked.

"Go away," she said, blushing. She was embarrassed with Long Chen standing there. After becoming a normal person, Ling Xi could not avoid all these human problems.

“Oh, alright.” Long Chen walked ten-plus steps away and stood with his back to her. Smirking, he said, “Xiao Xi, are you still shy in front of me? I saw everything when you used the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus.”

“Shut up! Shut up!” Ling Xi’s face and ears turned red when she recalled the awkwardness and embarrassment from that moment. If he ever talked about it again, she would get angry.

It was cold outside. It was better for them to quickly finish this business and return, so Long Chen shut his mouth. Soon, he heard water trickling. He recalled the time Ling Xi was reborn through the lotus. Picturing her body made his heartbeat quicken.

“I’m done.” Soon, Ling Xi came up to him. It was difficult for her to do this so close to a guy, so even now, her ears were red. “Brother Chen, why are you staring at me?” She panicked a little when she saw his intense stare. She could guess the intention in his burning gaze. It was as if he wanted to eat her up. Blushing, eyes swooning, she whispered, “Brother Chen ... No ...”

By this point, Long Chen was not able to hear her.

That was when a shrill bird call echoed across the skies, shaking the whole forest!

Long Chen, initially immersed in a drunken haze, woke up completely. He stopped touching her and held her to his chest.

He looked up.

Streaks of lightning appeared in the sky not far away, and a net made of lightning shot towards their direction. His eyes widened, and when he activated the Soul Swallowing Gaze, to his shock, he saw several cores within the lightning web. The bolts seemed to originate from the cores.

The cores looked like Divine Thunder Birds!

“This is bad! Those are Category Three Earth-tier Thunder Birds! If anyone could tame those birds as steeds, it’s the imperial family! They’re the only ones rich enough!”

Long Chen said solemnly.

The enemy had finally caught up.

Xiaolang rushed over; his panicked look confirmed Long Chen’s suspicions!

The army sent by the imperial family was here, and Ling Xi too was fully awake now. “Xiaolang says that if the Thunder Birds are out, then they must be the commanders of the imperial guards! The imperial guards have seven commanders in total, and only the seventh commander can’t ride Thunder Birds. Since there are five in the sky right now, that means at least five commanders are here!” Ling Xi said in a panic.

Chapter 322 - First Round of Pursuit

The Thunder Birds were lightning-type avian beasts. They were best at speed, and despite their levels not being as high as Xiaolang's, they flew as quick as lightning in the sky. They were definitely as fast as him.

It only took them a few moments to fly from the horizon to right above Long Chen. If they ran now, they might attract the attention of the people in the sky above, so Long Chen scooped Ling Xi up and quickly rushed into the cave!

When they had just entered the cave, the five birds released a huge lightning web that swooped past Long Chen's head. The crackle of electricity was loud wherever the web touched!

The birds flew low in the air. When they swooped by, small fires were set off in the forest. If not for the high humidity and damp wood, the whole forest would have been set ablaze.

As they flew past, Long Chen kept looking at Ling Xi in his arms, who was also staring at him. Just as they were having a romantic moment, the enemy had unexpectedly caught up. Ling Xi felt awkward, but mostly worried.

"Brother Chen ..."

The imperial commanders were here. Long Chen did not know how they knew the direction he had been traveling in, but that was no longer important. The most important thing was figuring out a way to escape.

"Xiaolang, what are the cultivation levels of the commanders?" whispered Long Chen when the Thunder Birds had just passed them.

Ling Xi passed the information on to Long Chen. He learned that the royal guards had seven commanders. One was at the Eighth River Stage, the second and third were at the Seventh River Stage, and the other four were at the Sixth River Stage. This included the Seventh Commander, who had brought Long Chen into the Biyang Imperial Capital.

They were not opponents he could defeat at all. He could not even defeat an opponent at the Seventh River Stage, let alone the Eighth.

"Don't worry. The First Commander is actually an imperial family member, so he holds aristocratic status. He's responsible for guarding the imperial capital, so he should not be here. The five Thunder Birds must be from the other five commanders," Ling Xi said, passing Xiaolang's message to Long Chen.

Long Chen sighed in relief and nodded.

"Brother Chen, do we stay here?" Ling Xi asked anxiously. Since it was midnight and she was not wearing much, she was already shivering from the cold.

"Since they already know that we are nearby, then there is only one thing to do: run. Xiao Xi, put on more layers. I'll pack up!"

At such a critical moment, Ling Xi did not dare slow down. She quickly wrapped herself up warm. Once Long Chen had packed up, he put her on his back, gave Xiaolang a look, then hurried outside and started to hurry through the vast, hilly terrain.

Long Chen and Xiaolang managed not to make a sound.

They had not run for long when Long Chen heard a thunderous sound, like countless war horses running together. It did not sound like they were low-tier horses either. Based on the dense sound, it meant that there were many chasing after them.

“No! The horses are surrounding us!” The Thunder Birds were currently patrolling the skies. They had excellent eyesight, so if they fought now, the slightest movement would lead to the birds swooping over immediately with their riders.

If that happened, Long Chen would be dead.

Long Chen quickly instructed, “Xiaolang, they haven’t found us yet. If they do, I’ll pass Xiao Xi to you, and I will clear a path! Xiao Xi, you’re unwell, but please hold on! We’ll take care of you when we’ve escaped!”

Since they had not been found, they ran as fast as they could through darker regions, choosing places with the densest tree cover.

The wind blew relentlessly as he dashed through the trees as fast as he could. The Thunder Birds were still flying everywhere, swooping above their heads several times. Long Chen had to stop and hold his breath to avoid being discovered!

Thankfully, with the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he could quickly notice when the enemy was nearby!

While they fled, he realized that the Sight function of this technique was very useful.

This situation continued for about an hour. The Thunder Birds were still in the skies, and the sound of ten thousand horses charging at them was still constant.

By now, Long Chen knew what they were. They were a powerful branch of the imperial capital’s military, known as the Ghost Horse Riders! The Ghost Horse Riders consisted of two thousand Heavenly River Realm cultivators riding Crimson Ghost Horses, which were Category Nine Black-tier demonic beasts. Based on their names, it was obvious that these riders were lavishly equipped. They did not know how many Ghost Horse Riders had been mobilized to catch them!

Man and beast worked as a team here, and with such a large crowd of them, the Ghost Horse Riders were formidable. The commander of the Ghost Horse Riders was the Seventh Commander, while the rest of the commanders were on the Thunder Birds!

There are at least two hundred Ghost Horse Riders and many more royal guards behind them ... This is bad! On top of the riders, there seem to be many guards behind. They seem to know I’m in this forest, that’s why they sent so many people! Long Chen’s face changed.

The imperial military was surrounding him, so they definitely knew his approximate location. But how did they know? His mind raced, and he finally recalled a person!

Long Chen had bought many goods at Crescent City and even took a map from the shop owner. That middle-aged fat man!

Long Chen did not expect the imperial capital to launch such an impressive operation. Even a random shop owner in a small city could guess his identity when he was cloaked!

It looks like the imperial family is determined to catch and kill me! Long Chen's heart was heavy at the vicious determination of his enemies. As he was responsible for protecting someone, he did not show a panicked expression.

We'll cross that bridge when we get to it. It looks like I'll have to kill my way through this! At the depths of Long Chen's personality, the viciousness and violence belonging to the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon were triggered once more. Very soon, a faint killing intent radiated from his body and his eyes turned a faint blood-red.

"Brother Chen, are you alright?" Ling Xi was worried when she saw him in this state.

"I'm fine. Don't worry. I'll get you out of here. All you need to do is listen to me," he said in a low voice. His voice had turned hoarse, and his thick killing intent showed even when speaking to Ling Xi.

"Why don't I ... abandon this body now? Then I won't slow you down. Without me slowing you down, you can run away with Xiaolang ..." Tears welled up in her eyes. She did not want to return to the Ling Xi Sword, but if she didn't, Long Chen and Xiaolang could possibly die here today.

"Shut your mouth! Don't ever mention that again, or I won't forgive you!" Long Chen naturally forbade her. Since it was a critical moment, he had done it with a threat. After the reprimand, Ling Xi bit her lip innocently, tears about to flow from her eyes.

Brother Chen, I'm useless and I'm even slowing you down. I feel miserable.

Long Chen halted. After rushing to this place, he realized there was a valley ahead with two tall mountains by its side. The only way was to go through the valley, but there were already many guards there. There were even many Ghost Horse Riders!

Turning back was impossible. There were more soldiers behind, so if he turned around, he would likely have to fight!

He had only one minute to analyze the pros and cons of each path. Turning around was impossible and hiding meant imminent discovery. The only way was to kill his way out!

"Xiaolang, I'll pass Xiao Xi to you!" Long Chen did not let Ling Xi argue and placed her on Xiaolang. With Xiaolang's demonic power, he could fix Ling Xi on his back while fighting. Long Chen and Xiaolang had already cultivated Divine Fire Clone to the highest level, so with such large numbers of clones, they were not worried that someone would attack her amidst the chaos!

After putting her on Xiaolang's back, Long Chen shot off like an arrow towards the front. Xiaolang followed behind him, knowing that Long Chen was trying to break free at top speed. All he had to do was protect Ling Xi and catch up. He'd leave the attacking to Long Chen!

In the blink of an eye, he arrived at the valley!

Since he was too quick and his arrival was too sudden, most of the guards in the valley could not even react to the large cloud of blood-colored mist that covered their surroundings. The mist expanded throughout their field of vision, and a terrifying increase in gravity acted on their bodies!

“Blood Devouring Domain!”

The Blood Devouring Domain covered the whole army!

“Who are you?!” one of the guards bellowed!

Chapter 323 - Ghost Horse Riders

The trees in the valley trembled from the bellow. The imperial guards in the red Blood Devouring Domain forced themselves to remain calm. However, the guards at lower cultivation levels exploded under its influence. The moment it spread, one-tenth of the people died. Blood mist was everywhere, and everyone’s minds went blank at the gory sight!

The Blood Devouring Domain was undeniably the bloodiest way to commit massacre. It also proved that the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon truly was the dragon of massacre and violence. Since Long Chen had received the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon’s Inherited Blood Essence, he was fated to step on the path of killing. This was unrelated to good and evil; in his mind, there was only one metric: his values. Anyone who threatened him and his loved ones would face his wrath, no matter how kind they were!

The guards who could barely survive the terrifying domain were mostly paralyzed with fear. They controlled their Qi with great difficulty, suppressing the blood boiling in their bodies. Only the Heavenly River Realm experts could withstand the force, though also with great difficulty!

A path was slowly cleared through the crowd, and a thunderous boom came from far away, then something arrived in the blink of an eye. Ten-plus large, black stallions appeared. They were muscular and powerful, their eyes fully red, and even the thick air they exhaled was blood-colored!

They were Crimson Ghost Horses, Category Nine Earth-tier!

The horses were covered in thick black armor, making them look regal and dangerous. A tall warrior in similar black armor sat on top of every horse, radiating cold violence. Every warrior held a vicious-looking weapon!

When the riders rushed over, a thick scent of blood emanated from them. They were undeniably the famous Ghost Horse Riders! The Category Nine Earth-tier horses paired with Heavenly River Realm warriors gave them the ability to annihilate most military forces! Even at a ratio of one to one hundred!

However, their enemy was Long Chen, who was even more vicious than they were! The nearer the horses got to Long Chen, the more anxious they felt due to the Blood Devouring Domain. When they were twenty meters away from him, all the horses lifted their front legs, let out earth-shattering neighs, and then turned around in terror!

Long Chen, like a gust of wind, dashed at the Ghost Horse Riders! There were many obstacles in this valley, and he would only be able to truly scare everyone enough after he killed the riders. Then he would be able to dash through the valley as fast as possible!

“Damn it!” When the horses became disobedient, the riders cursed angrily. They quickly turned around and charged at him with blood-red eyes!

“Long Chen, it is indeed you! It took no effort at all to find you when you came to us! You killed an imperial family member, so even if you grow wings, you’ll find it difficult to escape!”

The warrior at the very front was the Seventh Commander, who was at the Sixth River Stage! Leading the group of Ghost Horse Riders, they roared as they charged at him. All of them were tall and muscular, so even the guards were stunned by the fierceness of the charging horde!

Long Chen was alone. Waving his Azure Dragon Halberd, he lowered his head. There was a glint in his eye, then he accelerated and appeared in front of the Seventh Commander in an instant!

“Die!” The Seventh Commander charged at him furiously! He was confident he could flatten Long Chen with just one punch. However, he underestimated Long Chen too much. And underestimating Long Chen, who was in his almost-insane state, was a terrifying thing to do!

A red line flew out of the Azure Dragon Halberd, and at that moment, the Seventh Commander saw the coldness in his blood-red eyes, as if he was ready to swallow his soul!

In that brief pause, Long Chen used his most powerful attack, Dragon King Burial, to neutralize his attack, then slammed his halberd on the commander’s arm so it shattered. Blood, flesh, and bone exploded, flying in all directions!

The Seventh Commander let out a scream that shook the skies, and it made everyone’s scalps go numb, instinctively stepping back!

Did Long Chen just defeat the Seventh Commander with just one strike? Everyone was shaken by this question!

But that was not all. After shattering his arm, Long Chen rushed up to him and, before his opponent’s terrified gaze, punched the commander’s head, which exploded, scattering red and white goo on the ground!

“Ah!”

Everyone’s hearts sank when they saw the violent scene, hurriedly retreating. The most powerful amongst them, the Seventh Commander, had been killed in a second; who else would be a match for him? Who would risk facing Long Chen, who seemed to be massacring everyone around him?

Long Chen did not stop there. Only the remaining Ghost Horse Riders dared stand in front of him. They were all Heavenly River Realm warriors, but their hearts were trembling after seeing Long Chen’s devil-like killing!

Not even one breath after killing the commander, his halberd had already pierced through a warrior’s chest. And in the next breath, the halberd sliced another person’s head off. The head flew very far, and the other guards who dared not move all screamed, avoiding the head. Even more people started to retreat!

Long Chen was now drenched in blood, and like a meat-grinding machine, he rushed into the crowd and killed one person with every move. The commander was the only one who could've withstood a strike from him, so they all died instantly!

Ten-plus Heavenly River Realm masters were killed by him in a tragic manner. Long Chen cleared a bloody path while Xiaolang rushed out behind him!

Other than the Ghost Horse Riders, the rest of the people watched as Long Chen ran off. It was not that they did not want to stop him, it was that the Blood Devouring Domain and Long Chen's terrifying violence had made them lose the ability to move!

When he was long gone, everyone stared at the dead Heavenly River Realm cultivators in shock, and some of the ones who were new to battle started to vomit!

"Indeed ... Only a vicious character like that would dare to kill the Ninth Prince..."

There was only silence in the valley!

Of course, the Thunder Birds in the sky noticed the commotion, including their riders, who were at the Seventh River Stage! Long Chen had successfully broken free extremely quickly, but it had attracted the birds' attention. They screeched furiously as a gigantic web of electricity shot towards Long Chen!

While they fled, Long Chen sat on Xiaolang's back. Since he had full control over blood, there was not even a drop of blood on him even after the bloody massacre.

Right now, he was covered in shining, red dragon scales, along with awesome bony spines. Ling Xi felt genuine awe when she saw him like this. Faint images of ancient dragons appeared on his dragon scales, roaring and twisting. The hysterical violence that radiated from him came from the images!

Ling Xi had witnessed the extremely gory killing, which Long Chen had done to truly shock the enemy, but also due to the killing instinct from his Inherited Blood Essence. That was why Ling Xi did not blame him for the violence. With tears in her eyes, she looked at the teenager who was risking his life for her and touched his perfect, uniform scales. She sobbed.

The proud teenager who refused to surrender would be the man she gave her heart to for the rest of her life.

However, with so many obstacles ahead, would she be able to stay with him forever?

This was Ling Xi's most tragic memory, but it was also one of the most memorable events of her life.

"Ling Xi, I'm so sorry. I can't control myself when I'm slaughtering anymore. My body can only achieve its most satisfied state after shattering my enemies to pieces ..."

After the killing, Long Chen was briefly awake once more. However, he knew that due to the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's influence, he would turn into a killing monster!

"I won't blame you. Brother Chen, I'm just worried ... Will you forget everyone in the future? Will you turn into a killing machine who can't differentiate between good and evil? Who only kills ..." Ling Xi asked sadly, biting her lip.

“Don’t worry.” Long Chen stood up on Xiaolang’s back, looking at the web of electricity quickly approaching them, and a sudden surge of battle spirit rose through him!

“Xiao Xi, I promise that even if I destroy the whole world, I will never harm you! Of course, I won’t destroy the world either! Because I am Long Chen, and no one decides my fate! Even they cannot!”

He pointed at the Thunder Birds and the commanders on them! The Seventh Commander was the weakest of them, so these five were Long Chen’s largest obstacles. Two were at the Seventh River Stage, and one at the Sixth River Stage. They were a huge threat!

The insane web of electricity, along with the shrill calls of the Thunder Birds approached!

The light from the electricity slowly covered his vision!

Long Chen did not feel the slightest hint of fear despite the fact that there were powerful enemies approaching. He was the manifestation of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, the apex predator of countless beings. Not a single living being could make him feel fear!

Chapter 324 - Misty Valley

Because there were no obstacles in the skies, the Thunder Birds flew effortlessly and covered a lot of ground in no time. If Xiaolang continued to run on the open plains, they would get caught and Long Chen would undoubtedly die if there were that many experts surrounding him.

So he needed to adapt.

Long Chen looked around. He was trying to get his bearings and remember the terrain he had seen on the map. They had just exited the wilderness and were currently in the plains. He remembered that there was a valley covered in mist towards the left of the plains! Since the mist was so thick there, normal cultivators would have a hard time navigating the area, much less the Thunder Birds soaring in the sky. There was a sliver of hope to escape from the people chasing after him!

“Go to the left!” Long Chen shouted to Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen was busy thinking about what to do, and Xiaolang was playing his role perfectly. It was just that he hadn’t managed to come up with a plan yet. If Long Chen wanted him to go left, there was no reason not to do so. The Sun Devouring Wolf’s massive frame suddenly turned and ran towards the left. Dust trailed behind him as he ran as fast as he could. A normal person would’ve just seen a blur running past them.

The Thunder Birds in the skies changed direction too and followed Long Chen. The net made of lightning crackled ominously in the sky.

Xiaolang was running at max speed!

A grand chase occurred on the endless plains.

Long Chen hugged Ling Xi tightly and felt how anxious she was. He knew what she wanted to say, but he covered her mouth.

“Don’t say anything until the victor has been decided.”

He was calm, but the sense of authority he was exuding was absolute. Ling Xi knew that Long Chen was like a volcano waiting to erupt. The influence of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was slowly turning him into a killing machine! There was only a single word in his mind: kill!

The Thunder Birds chased after Xiaolang for more than an hour. They almost caught up a few times, but Xiaolang managed to shake them off when he increased his speed at the last moment. Long Chen smiled when he saw the valley shrouded in mist in front of them.

“The Thunder Birds cannot fly in the mist, so their speed will be drastically slower! Xiaolang, however, can navigate it easily!”

Xiaolang realized what Long Chen was planning and agreed that the Misty Valley was their best chance to escape.

The commanders knew what Long Chen was planning when they saw the Misty Valley, but they never once thought that he would be able to escape. There were five of them, and two of them were extremely strong. The two of them, one male and the other female, had starlight twinkling in their eyes.

“Is he planning to run into the Misty Valley? What a naive brat. Does he think we won’t be able to chase with the Thunder Birds if he runs inside?”

The other strong cultivator, the woman, said, “Haha, Second Brother, he’s not just a brat, he killed Song Yuefeng, the Ninth Prince, and even our Seventh Brother. I don’t think a brat can do all that.”

The two of them were stronger than the other commanders. It was unbelievable that the imperial family had dispatched the Second Commander all the way down to the Seventh Commander to capture Long Chen. It was clear that they really wanted Long Chen’s head.

Xiaolang managed to enter the Misty Valley! But the commanders were confused as to why Long Chen had jumped down from the Sun Devouring Wolf. He was glaring at the commanders descending with the Thunder Birds.

With their speed, they would be able to catch up to him with ease. There was no need for them to use the Thunder Birds anymore.

“Why is he staying back?”

Everyone was wondering the same.

They couldn’t see through Long Chen’s thoughts.

But it was a good thing to be able to capture him sooner. They laughed at his bravado as they expanded the lightning net to capture Long Chen.

Long Chen moved at that exact moment. He had told Xiaolang to enter the valley while he would distract the enemies. The moment some of the Thunder Birds descended, he shouted and threw his Azure Dragon Halberd upwards. It shot up like an arrow.

“What the fuck!?” None of them had expected Long Chen to be targeting the Thunder Birds of all things. Because they were landing, the Thunder Birds were not as swift as before. The Azure Dragon Halberd pierced into one of their chests.

The Thunder Bird cried out in pain from having its heart punctured. It then fell onto the ground, dead.

Seeing that his objective had been completed, immediately ran into the Misty Valley with Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen had another advantage when it came to navigating the Misty Valley, and that was his Soul Swallowing Gaze! The third stage, Sight, granted him the ability to see through the mist and look at living creatures. Even though Xiaolang was ahead of him, he managed to find them easily.

Long Chen only wanted to delay the commanders by killing one of the Thunder Birds, but he never thought it would work that well.

The five Thunder Birds used the lightning net to increase their speed. While descending, Long Chen had killed the one that carried the Sixth Commander. Even though he wouldn't die even after falling a hundred meters or so, his bones would be fractured from the impact.

The remaining five Thunder Birds could not maintain their formation and lost control of their lightning net. They hovered around for a while more before landing.

Even then, the amount of time bought by Long Chen was enough for him to shake them off.

“Sixth Brother, command the others to surround the Misty Valley! I will lead the others inside to find Long Chen!” the Second Commander grumbled after realizing they had been tricked by Long Chen. He took the other commanders and ran into the Misty Valley.

Long Chen led the way using Sight, and Xiaolang followed him. There were many beasts in the valley, and some of them were very strong. Long Chen did his best to avoid all of the stronger beasts.

There were various stone formations in the valley, but not a single strand of grass grew here. It was very desolate.

Even though they didn't notice anyone chasing after them, Long Chen dared not slow down. He was still trying to come up with a plan. The Misty Valley was not a huge place, so if the five commanders mobilized an army of ten thousand people to surround the area, they would not be able to escape undetected. Even if he broke through the encirclement, they would not be able to shake off the commanders. He needed to use the terrain here to kill the commanders one by one!

“I have to risk my life again for a chance to survive!” Long Chen searched for a place to hide Ling Xi amidst the rocks.

As long as she could be hidden away, Xiaolang could guard her while Long Chen fought the five commanders in guerilla warfare. He had three big advantages here: the Soul Swallowing Gaze, Blood Warp, and Divine Fire Clone.

No one could stop him as long as he used Blood Warp!

This was Long Chen's plan!

He suddenly saw the ground sinking lower and heard the sound of water. It sounded like a waterfall! Long Chen was going in that direction already, so he went ahead and investigated.

He soon saw the waterfall. It was not large, but it looked magnificent. The water fell thirty meters before splashing into a deep pool. Water sprayed everywhere from the impact.

Long Chen wanted to go past the waterfall to find a place to hide when he suddenly saw a massive beast hiding inside it. More accurately, there was a cave behind the waterfall, and he saw that the beast was resting inside of it.

The beast was roughly a Category Seven Earth-tier based on the pressure it exuded.

Long Chen speculated that it used to be a normal cave until a river diverted and covered it with the waterfall. It would've been a perfect place to hide, but the beast was occupying it!

He suddenly saw that the beast's aura was slowly weakening. The aura's strength didn't match that of a Category Seven demonic beast.

Is it injured?

Chapter 325 - Devil Earth Dragon

Long Chen sighed. He knew that for a genius to grow, the resources and background of their family was very important. The other important factor was luck. He had to admit that his luck has been great ever since he obtained the Dragon Jade Pendant. He had successfully managed to survive all the perilous situations so far.

For example, the Misty Valley was somehow tailored for him since he had the Soul Swallowing Gaze. He could navigate the place easily without worries. Other people would've had a hard time walking around here.

And now there was an injured Category Seven Earth-tier beast hiding inside the cave behind the waterfall. He didn't know how strong it was originally, but he knew that this was his only chance.

Once he told her about the cave, Long Chen decided to risk it. "Xiaolang, I will enter the cave first and attract the beast. You bring Ling Xi in and don't come out unless it's an emergency!"

"But ... Brother Chen, won't you be in danger?" Ling Xi was worried.

"No. This is an injured Category Seven Earth-tier beast. If I'm lucky, I will be able to kill it and become stronger. Even if I can't win against it, I can run with Blood Warp. Xiao Xi, don't worry."

"I'm so sorry, Brother Chen ... I'm just dragging you down." Tears sprung up in her eyes and her body trembled. "I've decided that I'm just luggage at this point. I should just give up on my body so you and Xiaolang can escape."

"No!" Long Chen said to her. "Don't say anything like that again, or I won't forgive you."

"Why?" Ling Xi was puzzled. "If you manage to find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit for me, I will still get a physical body."

"That's if I manage to get it. I can't guarantee it right now." Long Chen sighed. "Ling Xi, no one knows what the future holds. The Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit is still just a

possibility for now. I can't bet your future on a possibility. Don't do anything stupid before I get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. There's a chance I might not be able to get it at all."

His words calmed Ling Xi down.

"Xiao Xi, someone told me that the world is big and I'm only a genius in a small corner of it. My efforts amount to nothing to that person. They recommended that I restore your body and find a place to live our lives peacefully somewhere ..."

Those were Li Xuanji's words. Long Chen remembered them, but he had never thought about giving up.

"So I can't let you disrespect your body like that. If you waste your chance, you might lose the chance to live with me. Calm down and listen to me, alright?"

Ling Xi cried as she looked at the man in front of her. Her feelings for him could no longer be described with the word "like." The exciting and strong feeling blossoming inside of her was something she had never experienced before. She had a feeling that she wouldn't regret dying with Long Chen.

"Brother Chen ..."

"Hm?" Long Chen listened to what she had to say.

"I've decided."

"What did you decide?"

Ling Xi's pale face gradually became pink from blushing. She contemplated for a bit before she finally said, "I will never marry anyone ... but you." [ref]LET'S GOOOO[/REF]

"Huh?!" Long Chen never thought she would say something like that and was stunned. He was touched that she would say that to him.

"Ling Xi, I will never forget what you just said! I hope you remember it too! You already know how I feel about you, so I won't say anything more. I will chase the beast away, and you just need to do as I say!"

"Okay!" Ling Xi nodded.

Long Chen wasted no time; he pulled out the Azure Dragon Halberd and ran into the waterfall. Water splashed everywhere as he entered the cave. The beast roared when it sensed him and almost knocked him out.

Blood!

He noticed the stench of blood as soon as he entered the cave. There was a beast laying inside glaring at him! It was covered in black scales similar to a pangolin. There were rows of black spikes on its back, and its powerful limbs were covered in scales too. The only part of the beast that didn't

resemble a pangolin was its dragon-like head. It had a single horn growing out of its forehead, and the sharpness of the horn exceeded Long Chen's Azure Dragon Halberd!

"A Category Seven Earth-tier Devil Earth Dragon?" Long Chen was shocked to encounter this beast in the valley. It was called a dragon, and many thought that the remaining Devil Earth Dragons were descendants of the true dragons. Of course, these were just rumors. If it really had the blood of the ancient dragons, it wouldn't be this weak.

Long Chen laughed when he saw the condition of the beast.

There were various wounds on it. Some of them were so deep that he could see bone. The Earth Devil Dragon was doing its best to suppress the blood flowing outwards, but it was futile. One of its forelimbs was even missing after being chopped off. It was bleeding profusely, and the Earth Devil Dragon was doing its best to stop it.

But what if Long Chen used the Blood Devouring Domain?

Long Chen knew that someone had been hunting it. That was why the beast was so angry when it saw him. He did not hesitate to throw the Azure Dragon Halberd at it. It was embedded into the beast's other forearm like the Thunder Bird. But unlike the Thunder Bird, the halberd only inflicted a small wound. Still, the beast was sufficiently angered!

Long Chen put the halberd away and ran outside. The beast, unable to contain its anger anymore, ran after him. As its name suggested, it was definitely fierce.

Long Chen did the right thing to lure it away.

Once out of the cave, he hinted at Mo Xiaolang before running away. The massive beast shot out and chased Long Chen. Ling Xi was frightened by the sudden appearance of the beast and hid behind some boulders. She was worried about Long Chen.

She saw that the beast was strong, but it was heavily injured and missing a limb. She sighed in relief knowing that it couldn't kill him.

"Brother Chen, you will be fine!"

Ling Xi looked at Long Chen one more time before entering the cave with Xiaolang.

"If I make this much noise here, it will definitely attract the commanders!" Long Chen decided to run away from the waterfall. After he decided that he was far enough, he stopped and got ready to fight the beast.

"Luckily, I didn't waste the blood ..." Long Chen had been absorbing the blood that the beast was shedding. He had activated the Blood Devouring Domain but at its weakest strength, so the beast hadn't realized its blood was being absorbed by Long Chen.

It's bleeding so much that it would've left a trail of blood to the waterfall. The commanders would be able to find the waterfall if they followed the blood, and Ling Xi would be in danger.

This was why Long Chen had been absorbing all the blood while running.

He looked back, already in his transformed state. He didn't even frown when he looked at the Devil Earth Dragon and pulled out his halberd.

“You want to fight me when you're bleeding that badly? What an idiot. Blood Devouring Domain!” The Devil Earth Dragon was enveloped in red mist. The entire area was covered by the technique, and the illusions of a blood-red dragon flickered in its range. This was a true dragon! Long Chen never expected the Blood Devouring Domain to scare the Devil Earth Dragon so badly.

The Category Seven Earth-tier beast started howling in fear. Its blood was continuously being sucked and it couldn't control it any longer. Anytime Long Chen attacked him, it would lose control of itself and more blood would surge out of its body.

Long Chen decided to end things swiftly when he saw that the beast was no longer a threat. All it took was an attack to the neck!

Chapter 326 - Fifth River Stage

Long Chen had made a large commotion by fighting the Devil Earth Dragon. He was certain that the five commanders had noticed their fight, so he used Blood Transmutation immediately after absorbing the blood.

The blood of a Category Seven Earth-tier beast was still very useful for him since he was only at the Fourth River Stage. He had noticed that the blood of a beast one stage higher than him was practically useless, while two stages above was decent. The blood of beasts three stages higher than his was the best! The blood of the Devil Earth Dragon was enough to let him advance into the next stage!

But if the beast had not been injured that heavily, Long Chen would never have been able to defeat it. Long Chen couldn't use Blood Transmutation to advance quickly without someone helping him. Blood Transmutation was also a dangerous technique that couldn't be used too frequently. He had used it so much that the tendency for slaughtering others had been engraved in his body due to the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon. He realized that it was harder for him to stop himself from killing enemies during battles. This was bad news, as he didn't want to become a slaughtering machine that killed everyone he saw.

But there was no time to slowly cultivate while trying to escape from the Cangyang Kingdom. If he didn't use Blood Transmutation right now, he would die! He was forced to use it to survive!

The Category Seven Earth-tier beast blood flowed into his body as he used Blood Transmutation. He discarded the waste and expelled it in a spray of blood.

The blood of the Devil Earth Dragon is strong! Long Chen quickly circulated his Qi and attempted to advance into the next stage.

He needed a lot of Heavenly River Pills to do so. He finished most of the pills that he had obtained from the Burning Heaven Emperor just to get to the Fourth River Stage. Thankfully, he obtained more pills from the Ninth Prince. At the very least, he wouldn't have to worry about getting more any time soon.

He used the pills to continue carving out the Heavenly River inside his body while using Blood Transmutation to obtain more Qi. Time slowly passed, and the fifth pair of Heavenly Rivers soon formed inside him. Long Chen didn't have time to absorb the power of the constellations when he formed the fourth pair of Heavenly Rivers, but they were oddly durable, so he decided to skip the process and form the fifth pair immediately!

He was now at the Fifth River Stage!

Starlight exploded from his body. He was now halfway through the Heavenly River Realm. Ten out of the eighteen Heavenly Rivers had been completed inside of him, and his Qi flowed through them like starlight.

I have to thank the Devil Earth Dragon and the person who injured it ... I'm finally at the Fifth River Stage.

Long Chen was now stronger, and he was now capable of killing those at the Seventh River Stage. Unfortunately, the murderous tendency from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was becoming stronger too.

I need to find a way to reduce it once I've successfully escaped, he thought with a frown.

Thankfully, not much time had passed after he killed the beast, and he knew that the commanders were closing in on him. Now that Ling Xi was not beside him, they would never be able to catch him since he had Blood Warp.

Long Chen consolidated his Qi and started smashing some rocks. The sound of rocks being broken reverberated through the valley. One of the commanders was attracted by the sound and soon found Long Chen. The commander was a large middle-aged man with bulging muscles. His eyes were bloodshot when he saw Long Chen, his beard and muscles quivering from anger.

It was the same commander that Long Chen had caused to fall down from the sky after killing the Thunder Bird. He felt embarrassed by that and wanted to kill Long Chen very badly!

"Why are you alone?" Long Chen was confused, but then he understood why. The five commanders had spread out so they could find him more easily. As expected, Long Chen saw the Sixth Commander shoot a flare into the air. He knew the other commanders would be here soon!

"I want to ask you the same question. Where is the pretty lady and the wolf?" the Sixth Commander growled before slowly approaching Long Chen. He had heard that Long Chen had killed the Seventh Commander in one blow. He was only slightly stronger than the Seventh Commander, so he wasn't confident that he could bring down Long Chen, so his goal was to delay him until the others arrived.

But Long Chen would never let that happen! He now had enough strength and he had even more techniques to kill the commander!

He ran towards the Sixth Commander without uttering another word. Every commander was a threat to him, and he needed to kill as many as he could.

“Do you think I’m afraid of you?” The Sixth Commander’s muscles bulged and he charged towards Long Chen too. He was clearly a melee fighter, and he used an intermediate Earth-tier Body Tempering technique that gave his skin a dull, gray color and made him look as tough as a boulder.

“Long Chen, you think you can block a punch reinforced by my Meteorite Body? Haha! I heard that you killed the Ninth Prince and my Seventh Brother. You must’ve hit them with a cowardly attack to accomplish that! How could a Fourth River Stage cultivator like you kill them?”

The commander’s confident voice echoed around him.

“Idiot.” Long Chen used Dragon King Burial and closed in on the Sixth Commander instantly like a crimson phantom. He realized that the ultimate technique of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique complemented Li Xuanji’s Soul Swallowing Gaze well. He was able to launch a deadly attack every time!

The Sixth Commander was stunned by the crimson line on the halberd. Rather than recognizing it as the tip of the halberd, the Sixth Commander saw a massive crimson dragon that blocked out the sun. The incredible pressure stopped him from moving even though his body was very tough.

“What’s happening?” That was his only thought when he saw the incredible scene in front of him. When the dragon was inches away from him, he thought that he would die.

The dragon disappeared at that moment, and the Azure Dragon Halberd pierced into his abdomen, punching a hole through his body!

The Sixth Commander looked at the youth in front of him in disbelief. He never thought he would die so fast!

How did a Fourth River Stage cultivator have so much strength? Where was he hiding it, and where did it come from?

Before dying, the Sixth Commander knew that the chase would not be as smooth as the others had thought. The Sixth and Seventh Commanders had been eliminated!

His corpse fell to the ground.

“It seems my strength has increased tenfold again. I killed him in one blow, though the Soul Swallowing Gaze is a very handy technique. To think that I can cast illusions on others with it. I can then exploit the moment they let their guard down.

Long Chen did not relax even though he had killed the Sixth Commander.

“There are four more, and they will be here soon.”

Of the four remaining commanders, two of them were at the Seventh River Stage. Those two would probably arrive faster than the two weaker commanders, but Long Chen was wrong—the two

weaker commanders appeared first. It was the Fourth and Fifth Commander. They attacked Long Chen the moment they saw the Sixth Commander's corpse.

Wait, where did the other two commanders go? They are at the Seventh River Stage, so they should've arrived first! Why didn't they come when the flare was sent up? Long Chen realized that something was wrong.

But he had to deal with the two commanders in front of him first. He didn't delay the fight and immediately ran towards the two commanders with his Azure Dragon Halberd.

"Divine Fire Clone!" Long Chen released all 125 of his clones and quickly took out the Fourth and Fifth Commanders with their help. Each of his clones was roughly at the Fourth River Stage, and the commanders could not keep up with their suicidal attacks, so Long Chen exploited the gap between the attacks to quickly kill them!

But he was too late to realize that something was wrong.

Did they find out where Ling Xi is hiding and I got tricked by them?! Long Chen panicked.

Mo Xiaolang howled in anger at the same moment, confirming that he was right.

Chapter 327 - Second Commander

The uncontrollable urge to slaughter coming from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon made Long Chen lose his reasoning the moment he heard Xiaolang's howl. The killing intent exploded from his body at that very instant.

Mo Xiaolang was a Category Five Earth-tier beast, so he would be able to hold off someone at the Seventh River Stage With the help of Divine Fire Clone, albeit barely. But there was no way he could fight against two of them!

Their situation was extremely dangerous.

Long Chen howled and burned his Qi to use Blood Warp. His speed exploded and surpassed even that of a Category Nine Earth-tier beast. In just ten breaths, he reached the waterfall again.

How did they manage to find them? Long Chen was confused. His plan had been perfect. Lure the beast, kill it, advance to the next stage, and lure the other commanders with the loud sound. That way, Ling Xi would be safe inside the cave. He thought everything was going smoothly, so what had gone wrong?

Long Chen stopped thinking about it. He wouldn't know until he entered the cave.

This was an unforgettable lesson for him. Not everything, and everyone, would work as he intended.

"Ling Xi ..." Long Chen stopped Blood Warp. Even though he had only covered a short distance, he had burned through a tenth of his Qi. He needed to conserve his Qi to fight the two Seventh River Stage commanders!

What happened to Ling Xi? How is she? It took me some time to get here. Did they kill her? Long Chen's eyes were bloodshot and his mind was clouded.

He would never forgive himself if anything happened to Ling Xi.

He prepared himself as he approached the waterfall, where he saw Xiaolang's clones in a fierce struggle.

Long Chen saw Ling Xi being held up by a man surrounded by Xiaolang's clones while Xiaolang was fighting fiercely against a woman on his own!

Long Chen's appearance attracted their attention. The two commanders smiled.

"You finally returned. Had you been a few more moments later, she would be dead." The female commander chuckled when she saw how angry Long Chen was. Even though she was a woman, the fact that she had managed to reach the rank of Third Commander proved that she was not weak.

The other commander was a middle-aged man that had a dangerous look in his eyes. He was staring at Long Chen, and he noticed the killing intent leaking out from him.

"Looks like you killed the other commanders." The man's voice was cold. He was the Second Commander.

Ling Xi was in his hand. Long Chen had to calm down even though his anger was on the verge of exploding. He had no choice if he wanted to save Ling Xi! He suppressed himself as much as he could!

Only then could he ensure her safety!

Xiaolang conveyed a sense of defeat through his eyes when he saw Long Chen. Long Chen had asked him to protect her, but he had failed to do so, so he was ashamed to see him. That was why he was recklessly attacking the Third Commander, though even the Seventh River Stage commander could do nothing against Xiaolang.

"Xiaolang, stop. Both of them are at the Seventh River Stage. I don't blame you. Focus on your fight and don't be reckless."

Long Chen looked at Ling Xi after consoling Xiaolang. He looked at her pale face and hinted at her to calm down before he looked at the two commanders in front of him. "I'm curious. How did you find this place? Shouldn't you have headed to the flare instead?"

"We have to admit that you are smart and bold, but it's too bad you are facing us. Do you know what this is?" The lady smiled and pulled a small beast from her sleeve. It took one look at Long Chen with its large eyes before retreating back into the sleeve.

"This is a Lotus Weasel. It's only a Category One Yellow-tier beast, and it can barely qualify as a demonic beast. But it has a very special ability: it is very sensitive to the scent of the lotus. It can sniff out where lotus flowers are within a radius of several Li. Your little girlfriend is exuding such a dense smell of lotus that even I envy her. Unfortunately, she's going to lose her life because of it ..."

Long Chen finally understood why. He admitted that this was an oversight. Despite how much he had planned for it, he had no way of knowing that there was a beast capable of doing that.

“So, what do you want?” Long Chen knew that they would not kill Ling Xi immediately. They were planning to use her as a hostage. Now that she was in their hands, Long Chen could do nothing as he didn't know how the situation would change. Even if he could kill both of them, Ling Xi would die in the process.

“What do we want?” The Second Commander chuckled. “You killed four of my brothers. I want you to feel the same way. The people around you will die, both her and the beast. We will then capture you and bring you back to be executed by the imperial family, Long Chen!”

Long Chen was angry, but he had to calm down. Only then could he find a way to survive today.

“You two have really opened my eyes. To think that the Second and Third Commanders would need a hostage to capture a cultivator at the Fourth River Stage. You could've killed me easily, yet you're using a hostage. Looks like you don't have the confidence to fight me head-on ...” Long Chen taunted.

The Third Commander looked at Long Chen before slowly saying, “Hehe. Long Chen, there's no point in taunting us. We won't fall for it. This is such a pretty girl; why don't we keep her alive and give her to the Emperor? Maybe we can get promoted and get a lot of treasures. But this beast is so distasteful. It must die today! Second Brother, I will kill the beast, so you deal with Long Chen.”

Everyone would've mistaken that voice for that of a regular lady, but Long Chen felt his scalp go numb. Those two would most definitely die if Long Chen failed to kill the commanders right now!

The Third Commander was about to fight Xiaolang seriously! But he was ready.

“Xiaolang, are you confident in winning?” Long Chen frowned. It would be easier if Xiaolang could distract the Third Commander so Long Chen could focus on the Second Commander.

Xiaolang nodded without hesitation. His eyes were bloodshot and he was ready to fight. He would hate himself if he couldn't do that at the very least, and he swore to himself that he would kill her even if it meant he would die!

“Go. I trust you!” Long Chen saw him as his brother, so there was no need for sappy words.

Xiaolang nodded and gave the woman a taunting look. He snarled at her before jumping away and landing in a field of stone a hundred meters away. He could fight as he pleased over there!

The Sun Devouring Wolf was a beast with immense potential, so how could he lose to her?

The Third Commander laughed even louder when she saw Xiaolang taunt her. This was the first time she had seen such a smart beast.

“Looks like you are smart. It's just that your gaze is so displeasing to look at. Fine, I will kill you first. Second Brother, kill Long Chen and show him how strong your techniques are.”

“I won’t show him mercy.” The Second Commander flashed a rare smile. His grin was cruel.

The woman said nothing more and ran after Xiaolang. She was ready to kill him.

“Hmph! You are just a beast and you dare look at me like that? You will die today.”

Their battle started immediately. Long Chen was worried about Xiaolang, but he knew his opponent was in front of him. Ling Xi was still in the Second Commander’s hands.

Ling Xi was worried about Long Chen. Her body trembled when the killing intent leaked out of the Second Commander.

Long Chen silently analyzed the Second Commander. *Looks like the Second Commander has a Body Tempering technique too. His body looks stronger than the Meteorite Body of the Sixth Commander. It must be an advanced Earth-tier Body Tempering technique!*

Chapter 328 - Five Deadly Fists

It was a tense situation.

Both Xiaolang and the Third Commander were fighting intensely, and Long Chen still had to remain calm. He looked at the Second Commander calmly, but the anger was seething out of his heart.

The Second Commander guessed what Long Chen was thinking and told him, “You are right. I do have an advanced Earth-tier Body Tempering technique. To be honest, you are indeed a monstrous brat. My intuition has always been right, and I know that if I let the girl go, you have the power to fight me. I’ve always been careful, so I will now cripple you while I continue to hold her hostage. The Emperor told me to bring you back alive, but I can cripple you. You’ve killed many of my brothers, so I can’t let you go just like that.”

Long Chen stared at him, trying to come up with a plan.

The Second Commander looked at Ling Xi. “She’s indeed a beautiful lady. No wonder you would kill the Ninth Prince for her. But your luck ends here. From now on, I will hold her while I attack you. If you retaliate, I will attack her too. You can try, but you should know I keep my promises.”

“Despicable!” Long Chen was not anxious, but Ling Xi was. How could Long Chen survive a fight against someone as powerful as the Second Commander?

“Fine!” Long Chen answered. The Second Commander had not expected him to agree.

“You are bold. Hahaha.” The Second Commander chuckled. He pulled on Ling Xi’s arm and ran towards Long Chen. With his speed, he instantly appeared in front of him.

“Let’s try something simple first!”

He punched Long Chen’s abdomen.

“Dodge it!” Ling Xi shouted, but her arm was in pain from being pulled by the Second Commander. She felt like her body was going to break, but she didn’t care; she was

more worried about Long Chen. The Second Commander's threat made Long Chen stand still. He glared at him without moving an inch.

With a dull thud, Long Chen was launched backwards and hit the wall. Numerous rocks fell from above due to the impact.

Long Chen started bleeding because of the punch, but he wiped it off. He continued to glare at the Second Commander and taunted him. "You old fart, have you not eaten yet? Or did you waste your energy on a sow in bed yesterday? Your punch was so weak, I felt nothing."

"No need to act tough in front of me." The Second Commander did not fall for the taunt. "My punches will increase in strength. They will break your body until you are crippled. That was the first punch. In five punches, you will be crippled!"

"If I endure your five punches and don't get crippled, you better stop acting like a coward and fight me head-on!" Long Chen's eyes were clouded in red. Even though he was hurt, he refused to lower his head. His voice made the Second Commander uncomfortable.

"If you can endure the five punches and can still fight, I will give you a fair chance," the Second Commander said nonchalantly.

He was actually very family with his technique. Even if Long Chen survived the fifth punch and was not crippled, his body would be so heavily wounded that the Second Commander could easily defeat him.

"The promise is set. Don't take it back like a coward. I know the dogs of the Emperor are all spineless, but you seem different. You better not be the biggest coward of them all!"

Long Chen used Recovery as he continued his taunts, but it no longer had an effect on his body.

He also didn't have time to use spiritual herbs, so he could only endure it.

"It's a deal. Don't worry about me not honoring it. You just need to endure my punches."

Ling Xi cried when she saw Long Chen refusing to back down. Long Chen had moved her heart so much, and she hated how useless she was. She was even harming him!

It's because I'm useless ...

This was the first time Ling Xi had yearned for strength in her life. No one dared to touch her back when she was with her family, so she never thought strength and power were that important to her. But she knew she had made the wrong choice when she saw the person that she loved agree to such a stupid gamble because of her. She felt like her heart was shattering.

She swore that if she had the chance again, she would cultivate properly. She would happily protect Long Chen for his entire life if she could.

But now Long Chen was going to be crippled because of her, so Ling Xi had one choice. As long as she died, she could ditch the body and Long Chen could win! They would then survive the ordeal together.

“Ling Xi, don’t do anything stupid.” Long Chen looked at her.

The cold words stopped her. Long Chen needed only one look to know what she was thinking. Ling Xi saw his eyes and knew what he wanted to say: he was a man, and he needed her to trust him.

Ling Xi decided not to kill herself.

“Stop talking nonsense. You two won’t be able to live for long anyway.” The Second Commander smiled at Long Chen. “That was the first punch. Are you ready for the second?”

“Stop trying to scratch my itch and come at me seriously.” Long Chen raised his head fearlessly.

“What a stubborn brat.” The Second Commander laughed and accelerated. He punched Long Chen in the abdomen again.

Crack!

This time, everyone heard the sound of bones cracking. Blood sprayed out of Long Chen’s mouth, and he rolled on the ground several times before he stood up without even wincing from the pain.

“Brother Chen!” Ling Xi shouted in shock. She thought Long Chen was dead this time, but she sighed when she saw him stand up again. Her heart ached when she saw his face covered in blood.

He stood up quickly, and they saw that Long Chen’s abdomen was slightly caved in. He didn’t even wince as he forced himself to stand up. “You really are weak, you old fart. How did the sow feel? I guess she was pretty good if you woke up this weak.”

This time, the Second Commander was quiet. He knew that Long Chen was injured, but he was surprised to see that he could still stand up. Long Chen had not frowned even though he was bleeding and his abdomen was caved in with broken ribs. Long Chen’s mental strength was his strongest advantage, and the Second Commander knew that if Long Chen lived today, he would pose a threat to the imperial family!

I must capture him! The Second Commander punched a third time. He needed to deal with Long Chen as soon as possible. He saw that his sister was having some trouble in her fight against the beast. The wolf was not as easy to deal with as he had thought. He wanted to help her after dealing with Long Chen.

The third punch landed squarely on Long Chen’s abdomen again. This time, it was even stronger and Long Chen was injured further. Qi penetrated into his body and injured his organs. He coughed up blood while laying on the ground before he stood up shakily. He didn’t even wince and chuckled. “How did you thrust into the sow? Up and down? Left and right? Or front to back?”

“You stubborn brat. I will make sure you can’t stand up again after the next punch.” The Second Commander’s mouth twitched. Long Chen’s taunts were surprisingly deadly, and even he was getting angry.

“What are you crying for?” the Second Commander said to the crying Ling Xi. “I have to say, the person you love really has guts. But reality is always very disappointing. You are beautiful, but you are weak, so you will face many dangers in the future, and you don’t have time to cry. Just consider this brat a memory for the future.”

Even though the Second Commander was his enemy, he had to admit that Long Chen’s mental strength was one in a million. His gaze, his behavior, and even his intent to battle were very rare to find in a normal person.

“Xiao Xi ...” Long Chen grit his teeth when he saw her crying. His heart was aching for her. The commander was still standing in front of him, so there was nothing he could do yet. He endured the pain and looked at the Second Commander. “Two more punches. If you don’t think you can do it, we can just fight now.”

“No ... Brother Chen ... Don’t die. I don’t want you to die ...” Having the body of a normal person had brought Ling Xi so much pain. She wanted to block the Second Commander with her body, but she couldn’t move an inch!

“Stop delaying. I don’t have time to waste. Come and scratch my back for me again!” Long Chen decided not to look at Ling Xi again. He was afraid that his heart wouldn’t be able to handle her crying for him.

“Idiot. I will honor your wish, then.” The Second Commander laughed and punched Long Chen again. This time, Long Chen fell into the deep pool at the bottom of the waterfall.

Chapter 329 - Origin Fist

Splash!

The water splashed upwards, and Long Chen sank into the pool. His blood dyed the water red, and the scent of blood came from the surface.

“Is he dead?” The Second Commander frowned. The Emperor had told him to bring Long Chen back alive. If Long Chen died, he would probably be punished for it.

Ling Xi felt her mind go blank when she saw Long Chen sinking into the pool. She kneeled on the ground and looked at the red water.

She couldn’t control her tears.

Panic, powerlessness, fear, and despair forced her to almost lose her will to live. She never realized that she had secretly dedicated her life to Long Chen ever since he jumped down into the abyss for her. They were linked together by an invisible thread. If Long Chen died, she would lose the will to live too.

It was an easy matter for Ling Xi to die; she could just jump into the pool and choose not to enter the sword. As long as she didn't enter the sword, her spiritual powers would diminish rapidly and her life would be snuffed out in a few days.

Ling Xi prepared herself to jump into the pool.

The Second Commander thought Long Chen was dead and had already let go of her. He had never thought she would want to jump down and chase after Long Chen even in death.

He was shocked and was about to pull her back when Long Chen's head appeared on the surface of the water. He also saw Ling Xi's head poking out from the cave.

"Go back," Long Chen told her.

Ling Xi cried harder. She felt like she had gone down to hell before ascending to heaven. Even though he was scolding her, she felt blissful.

Long Chen swam to the bank of the pond. When he touched land, he wobbled several times before he steadied himself. He didn't look as terrible as before because the water had washed off his blood, but his face was pale. He knew how heavily injured he was after the four punches.

He gritted his teeth and endured it. His organs had been rearranged and his bones were broken, but he remained standing. Anyone who saw him could tell that his body was twisted.

"Stop it!" Ling Xi cried. Even though there was only one punch left, she knew the Second Commander would muster all his strength to cripple Long Chen with the final punch, and maybe even kill him!

"Brother Chen, I beg you, stop it, please. I will die anyway, so just do as I say. I will be able to stay you later anyway," Ling Xi begged.

"Stop whining. There's only one punch left. You think he can cripple me?" Long Chen pointed at the Second Commander. "The Second Commander of the imperial family, a Seventh River Stage cultivator, could not even kill me with four punches. Looks like the commander is so busy fucking the sows in his house that he didn't have the time to practice his punches."

"Enough! I will kill you this time!" the Second Commander roared. He was finally angered by Long Chen's taunts. He grabbed Ling Xi and looked at Long Chen. "The Revolving Punch gets stronger with each attack. My fifth punch can kill a cultivator at the Seventh River Stage! If you can take it, I will call you 'father!'"

The Second Commander gave Long Chen no chance and increased his Qi. Ling Xi cried when she saw the Second Commander punch Long Chen with all his strength once more!

The Second Commander had to admit that Long Chen was the scariest youth he had ever seen. He had a feeling that he might not be able to win against Long Chen in a fight. Using Ling Xi as a hostage was the correct method!

"Revolving Punch, Origin Fist!"

Boom!

Long Chen was blown into the wall. The massive impact sent his body flying into the stone wall and embedded him in it, creating a human-shaped crater!

Blood spilled out of the hole.

The fifth punch was numerous times stronger than the fourth! The Second Commander had used all of his strength to attack Long Chen, and he knew Long Chen was dead the moment his fist made contact with him. He didn't believe that Long Chen would survive having his bones broken and veins torn apart.

"It seems that the youths of today are too rash. To think he would give up his life for a pretty girl." The Second Commander shook his head and looked at Ling Xi, who appeared lifeless. There was a sliver of hope when the fourth punch was unleashed, but that hope was completely gone after the fifth punch. She sank into despair.

Her heart had died the moment Long Chen died. She didn't have tears anymore, only resignation. Ling Xi was satisfied with her life knowing that she had found someone who would sacrifice his life for her sake, so she was happy enough.

It wasn't a long life, but it was an eventful one. She had experienced many things that normal people would never think of. It was enough.

Her only regret was that she was the one responsible for Long Chen's death.

No matter how much laughter and help Long Chen had given her, she believed that he would be living peacefully right now if she had never flown over his head. Long Chen wouldn't have had to die so young, and he would have a great future ahead of him ...

Xiaolang's howl of anger and despair cut into Ling Xi's heart like a blade.

"Think carefully. The Emperor wanted me to bring you back to see what kind of woman caused the death of his son. Your life won't be easy from here onwards. Today will just be another insignificant day for you in the future."

He had wanted to cripple Long Chen, but he was so afraid of Long Chen that he had killed him instead.

The Second Commander shook his head and released her before walking towards where Long Chen was. "Brat, I can't take you back alive, so I will just retrieve your corpse. You killed four of my brothers, and I can't give their parents an explanation without your body."

It would be a miracle if Long Chen survived the strongest attack from a Seventh River Stage Cultivator that had an advanced Earth-tier Body Tempering technique. The Second Commander was an incredible cultivator who was confident in his technique, so he extended his arm into the cavity to pull Long Chen's body out without putting much thought into it.

Long Chen was motionless.

The Second Commander smiled. "Everything is over. The dwarves sent out more people than us, but they are not as smart as Third Sister, or we would've had a hard time tracking the girl down ..."

He was happy that he had accomplished the mission before the dwarves.

He touched Long Chen's clothes, which were sticky with blood.

Xiaolang was launching reckless attacks again and again. At the moment, he managed to burn off the Third Commander's hair. Her hair was like her life, so she shrieked when she realized that it had been singed off!

"What's happening?" The Second Commander frowned. He looked away while trying to pull Long Chen out.

Splurt!

All of a sudden, the Azure Dragon Halberd pierced through his chest and rotated wildly, instantly drilling a hole in his chest.

"Ack!" The Second Commander was shocked to see the hole in his chest. He looked up and saw a blood-covered person slowly walking out of the cavity in the wall. It was Long Chen with the Azure Dragon Halberd!

"Am I dreaming?" The Second Commander's consciousness started to fade when he saw Long Chen standing in front of him. Long Chen's eyes were blood-red, and dragon illusions howled inside of them.

Long Chen was battered; not a single part of his body was free of damage. But he managed to stand up straight even with the wounds. He looked at the Second Commander and scoffed.

The Second Commander realized he was not dreaming.

"Long Chen ... You are a demon ..." His voice trailed off. He shivered uncontrollably out of fear when he looked at Long Chen. Long Chen's unyielding will made him the scariest person the Second Commander had ever seen!

It made Long Chen unstoppable!

"Too bad you're just a piece of trash that fucks sows!" Long Chen smiled and pulled the halberd out of the Second Commander's chest. He then looked at Ling Xi.

"Xiao Xi, close your eyes," he said in a soft and gentle voice.

Ling Xi looked at the bloody youth. She didn't know how to react to the rollercoaster of emotions in her heart. The only thing she could do was listen to him.

"Okay!" She nodded.

Chapter 330 - White Lotus Core

"Good girl."

When Ling Xi closed her eyes, Long Chen raised the halberd and pointed it at the Second Commander. The Second Commander was already close to dying and could barely stand. He looked at Long Chen with fear in his eyes. He knew Long Chen was going to kill him, but he didn't know how.

“You punched me five times.”

Long Chen spoke softly as he approached the man. “I don’t like to get treated badly. You punched me five times, so I will cut you six times. You’ve already received the first one on your chest. Now it’s time for the second one.”

He swung the Azure Dragon Halberd at the Second Commander and cut off his arm. The arm flew towards where Xiaolang was fighting, and the Third Commander cried out in shock when she saw the twitching limb.

She wanted to save the Second Commander, but Xiaolan stopped her.

Long Chen’s revival gave Xiaolang a boost of energy to continue the fight. Xiaolang knew that if he couldn’t even delay the woman, he would be so ashamed that he would never be able to face Long Chen again.

“Awooooo!”

The Third Commander was pushed back by his attacks.

“Now it’s your turn to tell me that I’m weak, you old fart. Go ahead.” Long Chen chuckled.

The Second Commander was just inches away from death. The pain coming from his chest was so intense that losing an arm meant nothing to him.

Unable to form any words, he slowly slid onto the ground and looked at the sky in despair.

Long Chen swung his halberd at the commander again and cut off his other arm.

The Second Commander’s body twitched.

“The fourth and the fifth.” Long Chen cut off the commander’s legs, whose eyes rolled upwards and he slowly lost consciousness.

“Fine, I will just send you off.” Long Chen cut off the head and looked at the dismembered body of the Second Commander, smiling weakly.

“No one can belittle and defeat me.”

His voice was faint, but it was nothing short of domineering.

The Third Commander cried out in pain. She was completely surrounded by Xiaolang’s clones. She was never his opponent to begin with, and she cried out in despair after getting surrounded. She soon burned from the clones engulfing her and became a lump of charcoal.

Xiaolang panted and turned smaller. He lay on the ground, exhausted. Long Chen took a few steps and approached Ling Xi. The three of them looked at each other and smiled. They had survived!

Long Chen fell to the ground.

“Brother Chen!” Ling Xi was scared and quickly propped him up. She looked at his bloody body and almost cried when she saw his wounds. The blood covered her and made her look like she was wounded too.

Xiaolang quickly came over. He knew that Long Chen was heavily injured after the Second Commander's attacks.

"I'm fine." Long Chen rested his head on Ling Xi's soft thighs and smiled. He was worried that both of them would do something stupid because of him. But in reality, he had come very close to death. He had only survived thanks to his unique body. Even without Recovery, his body was slowly mending the wounds with the help of the blood. Long Chen knew that the Inherited Blood Essence was the reason he had survived today.

"You bastard. You are almost dead, yet you say you are fine ..." Ling Xi wiped her tears and snot away before wiping the blood off Long Chen's face. His face would forever be imprinted in her soul. She knew Long Chen had been aiming for something by enduring those attacks.

It was only when the opponent let his guard down after the fifth punch that he had a chance to launch a deadly attack.

It was an insane gamble, but he had won. Now he was alive and the six commanders were dead. The strongest people who were chasing after them were dead!

There was no doubt that Long Chen's name would spread far and wide after today.

"Spiritual herb ..." Their situation was still dire though, and this was not a safe place. Long Chen needed to recover as quickly as possible.

He had taken a large number of spiritual herbs from the Ninth Prince's Universe Pouch, many of them being intermediate Earth-tier spiritual herbs. Long Chen took one and refined it immediately. The medicinal properties entered his body and helped him recover.

Even though the wounds were too severe to be healed by a single herb, it brought him back from the edge of death.

"We need to leave now. There are still many people looking for us. We need to run even further to escape, and we shouldn't delay this any longer."

"But Brother Chen ... Your wounds ..." Ling Xi was worried.

"No worries. I can refine the spiritual herbs while sitting on Xiaolang ..." Long Chen patted her head and forced a smile.

He gradually stood up with Ling Xi's help.

Just then, Xiaolang detected something and raised his head. He stared at a boulder. Long Chen looked in that direction and saw a person walking out from behind it. The person was dressed completely in black and wore a heavy veil. They couldn't see who it was, but her figure was clearly that of a lady.

"Don't worry. I'm not an enemy," the girl said cautiously. Judging from her voice, Long Chen thought that she was roughly his age. But the girl sounded a bit more mature.

“What's going on?” Long Chen guessed that she had been waiting behind the boulder for a long time. The reason why he had never noticed her was because he had been focused on the Second Commander. Still, he didn't know why she was here.

“I know you are suspicious of me, but there's no reason to be wary. I was the one who injured the Devil Earth Dragon. I chased after it, though you were the one who benefited from it.” The girl stopped ten meters away from Long Chen.

Long Chen was surprised. She looked young, yet she had emerged unscathed from fighting the Devil Earth Dragon! Didn't that mean that she was at least at the Eighth River Stage? Only Lin Zichen of the imperial family was at that level!

“I know who you are. You are Long Chen, correct? News of you has been spreading throughout the Cangyang Kingdom. I don't want to meddle into your affairs, but I need to tell you that a hidden wound will remain in your body if you don't have an advanced Earth-tier spiritual herb. It will affect your cultivation later on. I have one, but I want to trade it for the Beast Soul of the Devil Earth Dragon.”

Long Chen sighed.

The trade favored him a lot. She could've just taken it from him, and he wouldn't have been able to fight back. The Beast Soul belonged to her originally too, since Long Chen had stolen her prey.

He took out the Soul Collecting Bead from his Universe Pouch and threw it to her.

The girl took it and passed Long Chen a jade box. “Refine it as soon as possible. The dwarves are already preparing to move against you. They swore that they will capture you before the army does. I remember there being an Eighth River Stage cultivator amongst them. You better prepare yourself.”

The girl left afterwards.

“Thank you.”

It was clear that the girl was helping them. Not only had she given him the spiritual herb, she had even given him important information. Her identity was not important for now, because they had a bigger problem.

“Brother Chen, what should we do?” Ling Xi shivered in the night wind.

“Let's continue our escape. Xiaolang, we still have to rely on you.” Long Chen eyes were unyielding. He never feared the dwarves.

Xiaolang was somewhat ashamed because he had failed to protect Ling Xi properly, resulting in Long Chen being injured. Now that he saw he could be useful, he transformed back into his battle form and allowed both Long Chen and Ling Xi onto his back.

Long Chen recalled the map in his mind and pointed in a direction. Xiaolang started to run again.

While they were escaping, Long Chen opened the jade box and saw what spiritual herb it was.

“Advanced Earth-tier, White Lotus Core.” The faint scent of lotus surrounded them.

“Xiao Xi, the spiritual herb smells just like you.” Long Chen chuckled.

Ling Xi lowered her head sadly.

“It’s because of this stupid scent that we were attacked by them today.” Ling Xi bit her lips, hating herself.

“What are you thinking, you idiot?” Long Chen patted her head and looked up at the sky. After fighting throughout the night, the sun was slowly rising, painting the sky red. He looked back and saw the golden sunlight covering the land.

“Xiao Xi, remember this ...” Long Chen smiled. His face was illuminated by the sunlight, making him look radiant.

“All of the enemies and difficulties I will face in the future will be my driving forces to become stronger. One day, I will step on everyone and destroy all obstacles. You will then see that the person you love is the strongest person in the world!”

Ling Xi looked at him with adoration and awe.

She took care of his wounds while they escaped.