

War God 331

Chapter 331 - The Second Pursuer

They had completed one-third of their journey, but the dwarves were hot on their heels! Long Chen had to take many detours to head westward. Even though the journey was longer, it gave them a lot of safety.

Long Chen's body was also abnormally tough. Thanks to the White Lotus Core, his body completely recovered in three days. The effect of the advanced Earth-tier spiritual herb was amazing!

Unfortunately, he had used Blood Transmutation so much that the tendency for slaughter was affecting him heavily. He kept thirsting for battle and massacre. If it wasn't for the fact that Ling Xi was by his side, he would've let himself loose and killed everyone.

Three days passed. Both Long Chen and Xiaolang had completely recovered, but Ling Xi fell ill. Her illness worsened as time went by. Long Chen did everything he could, but nothing changed. He had a lot of spiritual herbs, but Ling Xi didn't have Qi to refine them!

Ling Xi's body slowly weakened, and Long Chen panicked. Ling Xi needed a doctor that treated normal people, but how could they find one? They were wanted criminals!

"Brother Chen, don't worry. I will be fine ..." Ling Xi held his hands and pretended to be strong.

"You are suffering because of me. I'm sorry." If he had never killed the Ninth Prince and just defeated him, they wouldn't have had to run for their lives.

"Brother Chen ... Cough, cough ..." Ling Xi coughed and looked at him. "I don't know how to explain this, but it feels so blissful to be able to spend time with you like this despite what we are doing. I feel so blessed to be able to lie in your embrace like this. These few days have been the most lovely days of my life ... I won't have any regrets if I die now ..."

"Bullshit."

Long Chen held her pale face. "Don't talk nonsense like that. I worked so hard to protect you. How can I protect you if you don't treasure your life?"

"I know ... Cough, cough ..." Long Chen's words had moved her, though she coughed again when she spoke too fast.

This time, Long Chen felt his heart hurt when he heard her coughing so badly. Ling Xi was his darling, and she resembled a white lotus. Some of the petals were wilting and yellowing, so he was naturally worried.

"Your fever has gotten worse." Long Chen frowned when he touched her forehead.

"Don't worry. It will be fine soon. I refuse to be baggage, so I will recover soon." Ling Xi weakly clenched her fists and cheered herself up.

Long Chen looked at her.

“Xiaolang, find a small town nearby. We can disguise ourselves and take Xiao Xi to a doctor.”

If they kept running like this, Ling Xi’s body would not be able to tolerate the cold wind. If she ended up dying, there would be no meaning to their struggle.

“No! We will get caught!” Ling Xi said hurriedly, but then she coughed even louder.

“No. I’ve made up my mind. I will kill whoever comes to catch us.”

There was a river cutting through a large bamboo forest. Near the river was a city called Clear Water City. It wasn’t big, roughly the same size as Crescent City. But Clear Water City was famous for producing divine jades as well as their rich reserves of resources.

Long Chen was just outside the city.

But he would never enter through the gates—that was suicide. He carried Ling Xi and scaled the wall. He was so fast that no one noticed him.

Long Chen had gone inside once already. He had scouted out an alley and found a deserted home on the first trip. He now took Ling Xi into the deserted home. Even though it was simple and ugly, it had everything they needed. It was also warmer and remote enough that no one usually passed by. It was a good place for her to recover.

Long Chen tidied up the place a bit and told Xiaolang to protect her. “Wait here. I will go find a doctor.”

“Okay.” Ling Xi nodded.

Long Chen exited the house. After the incident in Crescent City, he now stuck to the shadows and ran around with the speed of a Fifth River Stage Cultivator. No one noticed him because the strongest person in the city was only at the First or Second River Stage.

He looked around the city for half a day before he found a middle-aged doctor. The doctor had dozens of years of experience, so he would be able to cure Ling Xi easily. Ling Xi’s body had been steadily getting weaker, and she wouldn’t be able to recover while they were traveling due to fatigue and the cold.

Long Chen followed the doctor back to his office. It was only when there was no one around that Long Chen made his presence known. “Doctor, treat someone for me and I will give you a thousand divine jades.”

The doctor had never received more than a single divine jade as payment, so he was stunned by Long Chen’s offer. Long Chen was worried that the doctor wouldn’t believe him and paid him upfront, pouring out a thousand divine jades onto the table.

“These are all yours. I just need you to cure someone. Grab your medicine and equipment and follow me.”

The doctor had met many people throughout the years, so he knew that Long Chen was a powerful individual. When Long Chen poured out the divine jades in front of him, he accepted them reluctantly. He knew that Long Chen was the kind of person that would give a huge reward but would kill others if they didn't follow his orders.

The doctor accepted the divine jades and said, "Lead the way."

Long Chen said nothing and grabbed the doctor's arms. He ran as fast as he could while shielding the doctor from the wind. A normal person would be able to feel the wind rushing past them, but they wouldn't be able to see them.

Soon, they arrived at the deserted house.

Long Chen stopped, and the doctor had to steady himself after moving at high speed. He didn't know where he was as he didn't recognize the houses.

"Ask questions only when it's necessary and cure the person inside. You can leave peacefully afterwards. If not, both the divine jades and your life will be forfeited."

The doctor, afraid of Long Chen's threat, walked inside without a word.

When Long Chen returned, Ling Xi's face brightened up.

The doctor had never seen someone so beautiful before. To him, Long Chen was the demon while the girl was like a pure white lotus. She was pure and kind, and the doctor was much happier to see her.

"Hmm ... She's infected with the flu. There's not really an effective cure, and it only became this bad because she hasn't had time to rest. Don't worry. I've been a doctor for twenty years, so I can easily cure it."

The doctor gave them medicine after inspecting her. Long Chen had told the doctor to bring the medicine with him so he could make it on the spot. Before Universe Pouches were common, doctors had to rent a space to store their medicines. Nowadays, though, they just carry all of their medicine in their Universe Pouch.

Long Chen requested that the doctor not only prepare the medicine, but also cook it so that Ling Xi could get cured as soon as possible. Long Chen sat beside her and looked at her with pain in his heart. "Are you feeling better after resting a bit?"

"Mhm! Much better!" Ling Xi nodded. She then looked at the doctor who was preparing the medicine and whispered to Long Chen worriedly, "Brother Chen, are you going to kill him?"

Long Chen didn't know if the doctor had recognized him, but for Ling Xi's sake, he could not risk it. He had already prepared to kill the doctor after Ling Xi was cured.

"Yes," Long Chen whispered.

"No. Brother Chen, he's a kind doctor. You mustn't kill him." Ling Xi didn't want the man to die because of her.

“Fine. I will let him stay here for a few days. I will release him once we leave the city.”

Thanks to the medicine and the doctor taking care of her around the clock, Ling Xi managed to recover. In just one day, her fever was almost gone and her face was looking much better.

“She will recover in two more days,” the doctor said in fear as he looked at Long Chen.

“You can leave afterwards,” Long Chen said.

The doctor sighed in relief. He felt like he had been dancing on the edge of a blade today.

The second day came, and Long Chen carefully hugged Ling Xi. They were lying on the bed and resting when Long Chen sensed something that made him get up.

He carefully covered Ling Xi with the blanket and kissed her forehead. Ling Xi mumbled in her sleep and gently pushed him away.

Long Chen smiled and opened the door before walking out of the house.

There was a group of dwarves waiting outside for him. It was the Harmony family!

Chapter 332 - Birth of a Legend

Long Chen felt numerous strong presences nearby. Some of them were so strong that even he was unsure if he could defeat them. They were undoubtedly the experts of the dwarves.

He was surrounded by ten experts at the Seventh River Stage and hundreds of cultivators at the Fifth and Sixth River Stages. They were being led by the Eighth River Stage Song Zhongcheng. This was the entirety of the strength of the Harmony family.

Long Chen had not only killed Song Zhongcheng’s beloved son, he had also killed the Ninth Prince. If they took out Long Chen, not only could they take revenge for Song Yuefeng, they could also earn merits from the Emperor himself. This was an excellent mission, and the dwarves were more than happy to do it.

That was why the dwarves and the palace guards have been competing against each other to find Long Chen. But they were shocked to learn that the palace guards had ended up being defeated. They also learned new information, including how they could track Long Chen using the Lotus Weasel. That was why many of the dwarves had Lotus Weasels in their possession right now.

It’s thanks to the numerous Lotus Weasels that they managed to find him and Ling Xi in the rural Clear Water City. It was impossible for Ling Xi to scrub off the scent of the lotus, so the dwarves had found them the moment Long Chen stopped.

Long Chen had been extra careful throughout their escape, but he had lost to the Lotus Weasel, which was barely a Category One Yellow-tier.

Xiaolang was ready to fight while he stood beside Long Chen. The doctor, on the other hand, was cowering in the face of all the fearsome warriors surrounding them. He knew that the people were here for Long Chen and not for Clear Water City.

“You can leave.” Long Chen didn’t want to drag the doctor into his mess. Not only had the doctor helped Ling Xi recover, the dwarves had also found their location, so there

was no reason to kill the doctor to keep it a secret anymore. Even if Long Chen hadn't let the doctor go, the others would have been able to find Ling Xi using the Lotus Weasel.

The doctor sighed in relief and slowly approached a side where there were fewer dwarves. Just then, one of the youths killed the doctor in one blow.

“Idiot. How dare you walk away in front of the patriarch of the Harmony family, you piece of trash.”

The youth was arrogant and did not even think Long Chen was worth his time.

Long Chen clenched his fists tightly behind his back.

Song Zhongcheng looked at Long Chen and chuckled dryly. “Long Chen, your name has shocked the entire nation. I had to remind myself not to underestimate you, but it seems I actually did in the end. It's commendable that you managed to kill the six commanders, but we are the Harmony family! We have sacred blood in our veins! Everything is useless in front of us, including you! Hahaha! The Lotus Weasel is indeed a useful creature. We used it to track you down!”

The dwarves laughed in unison. The Third Commander was the one who had thought to use a Lotus Weasel to track down Long Chen, but now the dwarves had taken advantage of it. That was how they had located him.

How could a Fifth River Stage cultivator fight against such a large force? Song Zhongcheng and the others knew this, so they were very relaxed. Even though Long Chen could make miracles, Song Zhongcheng was at the Eighth River Stage and was very close to the peak of martial arts. It was impossible for him to lose.

If he did, Long Chen would be a living legend!

But legends were not real.

Ling Xi was sleeping soundly in the room. Long Chen wanted to protect her peace, and he would need to pay a terrible price to do so. His heart was heavy. While the dwarves were taunting him, he was silently gauging the battle strength between them and him. But all of his plans would end in failure. He and Xiaolang could fight against two Seventh River Stage cultivators at most, so how could they possibly overcome this?

The answer was through intelligence.

Because the dwarves were short, Long Chen looked down on them and snorted. “So what if you've found me? What can you do? I was afraid of the palace guards, but I was never afraid of you. You are all ants that fight in numbers. You don't have the guts to fight me one-on-one.”

Long Chen's taunt set off waves among the dwarves. Even though Song Zhongcheng knew that this was a mere taunt, he could not turn it down because of how the other dwarves were looking at him. “Who says the dwarves rely on numbers to win? Long Chen, let me fight you one-on-one. I want to see what kind of person managed to kill the Second Commander!”

“What a fair fight. An Eighth River Stage fighting against a Fifth River Stage? Aren't you afraid of being humiliated?” Long Chen taunted.

“Idiot! The Patriarch is doing you a favor!”

“It’s an honor to die in the hands of the Harmony family!”

“Stop talking!” Song Zhongcheng waved his hands. He had a lot of strong men with him now, and he knew that if he were to fight Long Chen head-on, the others might laugh at him once they were back in the palace. He ordered one of the stronger-looking dwarves that looked like a beast, “Bendao, you fight him. Kill him!”

A stout-looking dwarf revealed a devilish grin when Song Zhongcheng called on him. “Yes! I will take his head!”

The man then walked out from the crowd and stood in front of Long Chen.

“You are the first one!” Long Chen was not afraid. This was the best-case scenario for him—he could fight the dwarves one at a time. He knew the dwarves had massive egos, so he only needed to taunt them slightly.

Still, the situation was grim.

Those at the Seventh River Stage usually used advanced Earth-tier techniques, and Long Chen lacked the tools to fight someone on that level. His strongest attack, Dragon King Burial, was only an intermediate Earth-tier technique. The only thing he had was Divine Fire Clone.

Long Chen jumped onto a roof and looked down at the dwarves. “I will stand here and the trash can come up one by one. Let’s see how many of you it will take to defeat me. Or maybe none of you can?”

“Shit!” The dwarves were angered by his words and wanted to rush him together to tear him apart.

“He’s cocky! But no matter how cocky he is, he will die in the hands of the Harmony family!”

“Every dwarf warrior in the Harmony family has the power to change the heavens and earth! Song Bendao, go and take his head! If you do, you can have my wife for a night!” Song Zhongcheng’s eyes were cold.

Song Bendao, the dwarf who looked like a beast, was immediately enticed by the reward. He recalled how voluptuous the Patriarch’s wife was, and blood started converging on one spot of his body. He wanted to defeat Long Chen as soon as possible to sleep with the Patriarch’s wife!

“What a bunch of savages.” Long Chen shook his head. *They even give each other their wives.* Long Chen could never understand the savages.

While the dwarves were cheering, Song Bendao rushed up the roof and roared. There were very few people around the area in the first place, and the remaining few had run away when they saw the dwarves, so the area was now empty.

Long Chen sighed when he looked at the beast-like dwarves. He didn’t know the name of the doctor, but he felt that it was a shame for him to die at the hands of dwarves.

“Nevermind. I will kill as many dwarves as possible to avenge you.” Long Chen’s eyes were resolute. He looked at the house where Ling Xi was in, and Xiaolang was guarding the entrance. Xiaolang looked at Long Chen with readiness in his eyes.

“Protect Ling Xi ...” Long Chen whispered. Xiaolang understood, so he nodded! To him, this was an important mission that he absolutely could not fail!

Xiaolang’s heart was beating rapidly as he swore to himself, *I must not let Ling Xi get captured again! I must protect her even if it costs my life!*

I will just burn the flames of life if I need to fight. I don’t believe I’ll lose if I use it to fight them!

Long Chen naturally didn’t know what Xiaolang was thinking, but he knew that Xiaolang would do his best. Long Chen only needed to taunt them one by one to kill them!

“So your name is Song Bendao? Good. You will be the first animal to die by my hand today.”

“What? You idiot! Did you bang your head against a door? I heard that you have the prettiest lady in the Cangyang Kingdom by your side. Once I’ve defeated you, I will ask the Patriarch to let me sleep with her for a night!”

Long Chen was angered.

“You savages!”

In that instant, the Blood Devouring Domain and Divine Fire Clones engulfed Song Bendao.

Chapter 333 - You Are All Trash

The Blood Devouring Domain and Divine Fire Clone were two of Long Chen’s most powerful techniques. Song Bendao, looking furious, was very close to him, so when more than a hundred Fourth River Stage fire clones appeared, he drowned in them instantly!

“Damn it! What are these stupid things?” Song Bendao thought he would win for sure, but the fire clones had a big advantage in numbers. And what was that red mist that seemed to control his blood and decrease his combat abilities?

“Dragon King Burial!” In between the crowd of clones, a red line shot towards Song Bendao’s back at lightning speed. He was busy fighting the clones, so he couldn’t put up any sort of defense against the sudden attack behind him!

Furthermore, under the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain, he had to use a third of his Qi to suppress his boiling blood, which caused his combat abilities to weaken and senses to dull!

After shattering a clone with a punch, he finally sensed the threat closing in behind him. He went pale with terror. All he could do was use his Body Combat Technique to dodge it, but the fire clones had surrounded him, limiting his movement!

The Azure Dragon Halberd pierced through his shoulder armor!

“AHHH!” Song Bendao let out an earth-shattering scream. Although he had dodged, his whole shoulder had been slashed off by Long Chen. Fresh blood sprayed out and flew towards Long Chen due to the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain!

“Fuck!” Although Song Bendao was hurt, he was still vicious. He grabbed Long Chen’s halberd and then turned around, ready to punch him. With an icy expression, Long Chen thrust out a finger. A bright sword light appeared and shone right into Song Bendao’s eye, piercing through his head!

Sword Devil Finger.

Although it was only an advanced Black-tier combat technique, it had been used at point-blank range, so it pierced right through his eye and was enough to kill him!

The fire clones returned to his body, and he stopped the Blood Devouring Domain. Due to the fire clones surrounding them, very few people could see the battle. Now that the clones were gone, Long Chen kicked Song Bendao’s body at the dwarves!

Long Chen had absorbed all the blood from his opponent’s body with Blood Transmutation. When he had completely taken in the Seventh River Stage cultivator’s blood, his Qi reserves expanded!

He had used Blood Transmutation on a person again. He had no choice, because he knew that he would not survive today if he didn't!

Challenging the masters of the dwarf tribe one by one and gradually increasing his strength was Long Chen’s strategy for the day!

“The dwarves are indeed trash! He was at the Seventh River Stage, yet he still lost to me, someone at the Fifth River Stage. He was the trashiest of trash! Now, let’s see which trash dwarf is next!” Long Chen laughed manically, looking down at them arrogantly. He pointed at another Seventh River Stage dwarf with his halberd and roared, “You! That’s right, you! Trash! Do you dare come up here!?”

The dwarves exploded with rage, roaring with threats. If Song Zhongcheng were not standing there, they would have charged at him!

“Shut your mouth!”

“Dumbass!”

“Hey! That’s enough!” Song Zhongcheng stopped the crowd. He looked at Long Chen, his brows deeply furrowed.

Long Chen ignored him and pointed at one of the Seventh River Stage dwarves, snickering. “The dwarves are cowards indeed. I asked you to come up here! Are you too afraid? And you call yourselves the Harmony family? You’re more like piles of shit!”

The only person who could confidently beat Long Chen in his current state was Song Zhongchen. But Long Chen was trying to provoke the other Seventh River Stage dwarves!

The dwarf who was insulted by Long Chen, due to the pressure from behind, roared and charged at him!

“You brat! You’ll die today! Patriarch, if I kill this brat, will I be able to enjoy your wife tonight?” This one was thinner than Song Bendao, and he looked like he was faster!

“Alright! Don’t be like Song Bendao! Don’t embarrass the dwarves!” Song Zhongchen gritted his teeth, his eyes fixed on Long Chen.

“Heh!” The thin dwarf rushed up to Long Chen, eyes bloodshot, and roared, “You brat! Die! I will drink your blood and feast on your flesh!”

“Drink my blood?” Long Chen laughed manically. He was the one drinking other people’s blood. No one could drink his. Just like before, he used the Blood Devouring Domain and Divine Fire Clone once again. This dwarf was as strong as Song Bendao, so soon after, with despair in his eyes, Long Chen slashed him in half with his halberd!

His blood became Long Chen’s Qi.

Long Chen tossed the two halves in front of Song Zhongcheng. The dwarves gulped at the dried-up, grotesque body and quickly backed away. They were now looking at Long Chen in fear!

“Trash! All trash! Are Seventh River Stage dwarves all useless? I refuse to believe it! Let’s do it again then! You! You animal, do you dare come up here?”

Long Chen looked like the god of war standing regally on the roof with his halberd in hand. The morning sun shone on his back, immersing him in light. The dwarves backed away in panic again!

The battle between Long Chen and the dwarves had caused a huge commotion, so many people were watching. Everyone looked at each other. They had a feeling that this battle would lead to even bigger things!

“Dwarf trash!”

Long Chen’s gaze swept around the crowd, but no one dared to fight him!

“Patriarch, maybe you go?” said an elder with a trembling voice. They had underestimated Long Chen. He was indeed too scary.

If the Patriarch went, then he would become the laughingstock of his equals at the imperial city. If he didn’t, then more dwarves would die. Song Zhongcheng weighed his options and said, “Alright, I shall exterminate this brat. He’s getting ahead of himself! He’s powerful, much stronger than the average cultivator. He’s at least at the Seventh River Stage! Regular cultivators are no match for him; that’s why I’ll go!”

Now that he declared that Long Chen was a Seventh River Stage cultivator, he felt much better about fighting him.

Song Zhongcheng was the strongest member of the Harmony family, which was one of the three noble families of the imperial capital. Long Chen was not confident that he could beat him, not even a little bit. He was definitely going to lose.

Eighth River Stage. That meant he was close to being number one in the whole Cangyang Kingdom.

Long Chen knew that he could not take a single step back. Even though Song Zhongcheng was going to be next, he remained fearless. He smiled and said, "Is the Eighth River Stage master finally ignoring his rank to fight me, a Fifth River Stage cultivator? The dwarves are indeed useless, so useless that they must send someone multiple levels higher than me!"

At this point, all of Clear Water City knew what was happening. Long Chen, the name that had spread across the kingdom over the past few days, was here! And he had been surrounded by the Harmony family! The people of Clear Water City had also heard of the dwarves. The dwarves were considered outsiders, so although Long Chen was being pursued by the kingdom, the city folk favored Long Chen.

After seeing his performance, they couldn't help but stick out their thumbs and praise, "Long Chen is indeed a man of steel!"

"He's young, but he's very strong. He's fearless even in the face of a strong enemy. This guy's attitude is shocking! It's a pity that a prodigy like him has made an enemy of the imperial family!"

"Father, I heard that the Ninth Prince was eyeing his beloved woman, and that that was why Long Chen killed him. Why is he being hunted? It's so pitiful that he needs to fight so many people."

"What choice do we have? Your father is only at the Second River Stage. Any one of them can squash me easily."

The mayor of Clear Water City was sitting in a teahouse far away, observing the battle.

Long Chen had no choice. It was time for him to fight the Harmony Patriarch, Song Zhongcheng.

"You're at the Seventh River Stage, yet you want to hide your strength and claim to only be at the Fifth? Long Chen, you were insubordinate and killed the Ninth Prince! I shall be taking your life today! Enjoy your death!"

Song Zhongcheng was well aware of Long Chen's terrifying abilities. He knew that if he did not kill him quickly, something unexpected might happen!

"Dwarf Secret Technique, Shadow Killing Strike!"

Song Zhongcheng moved quickly. At the Eighth River Stage, he moved several times faster than Long Chen did!

Facing such a powerful enemy triggered Long Chen's fierce nature once more. He knew he was no match for him, but since it had come to this, what could he do? He had to fight! Fight!

"Roar!"

He let out an angry roar that sounded like a dragon. The blood-red Long Chen, who looked like the king of massacre, turned into an illusion as he charged at Song Zhongcheng! All the roof tiles in his path were pulverized!

Song Zhongcheng was even more terrifying, moving even faster. He had a pitch-black dagger in his hand, which looked simple but contained extraordinary power. He accelerated and dashed into Long Chen, thrusting his dagger right into Long Chen's abdomen!

Blood flew in all directions!

"Heh!" He struck again, and Long Chen flew, blood spraying out of his mouth!

Chapter 334 - Ancient Technique: Blood Sacrifice

"You were bragging so much just now. Is this really your best?" Song Zhongcheng laughed and slowed down as he approached Long Chen. To be honest, he was indeed shocked that Long Chen could kill two Seventh River Stage cultivators in a row. However, the gap in strength between them had been made clear after one strike.

This guy's too fast! Long Chen was not able to use Devouring Blood Domain and Divine Fire Clone. All that happened was that his vision blurred, then his abdomen was suddenly stabbed! Although the wound wasn't fatal, it was still a major wound. If he had no time to heal himself, he would not be able to fight at his normal level.

However, he did not give up. His only thought was to protect Ling Xi. That was why he could not fall, not even for a moment!

Whoosh!

With one hand pressing on his wound and the other holding the halberd, he stood up! Although he had been defeated, the fighting spirit in his eyes shocked the crowd!

"Not dead yet?" Song Zhongcheng mocked him. "Not bad. You didn't die even after I used my Shadow Killing Strike! However, will you live after my next attack? Long Chen, you're going to die. I've used this on countless people, so you're not the first, and you won't be the last!

Was this the fatal strike?

If Song Zhongcheng was so smug about it, it had to at least be an advanced Earth-tier combat technique. There was a high chance that Long Chen wouldn't survive this attack.

Long Chen swallowed the blood in his mouth. "You can't kill me," he said coldly.

"I'll try!" Song Zhongcheng prepared to attack!

Just then, there was a low wolf's howl. Xiaolang's gigantic body suddenly appeared in front of Long Chen. With a gentle flick of his tail, he swept Long Chen to the door of Ling Xi's shelter!

Xiaolang's meaning was clear: it was Long Chen's turn to protect Ling Xi. Let him deal with Song Zhongcheng!

"Xiaolang!" Long Chen was prepared to die. He was about to instruct Xiaolang to escape with Ling Xi, but Xiaolang had seen through his intentions and intervened. His meaning was simple: Long Chen could run with Ling Xi. He would fight the enemy today!

“Roar!”

Beneath the morning sun, the regal Sun Devouring Wolf’s black fur looked like countless black whirlpools, swallowing sunlight!

“Get back here! I’ll fight him!” If Xiaolang sacrificed his life for this, Long Chen would not be able to forgive himself. Killing the Ninth Prince was Long Chen and Ling Xi’s personal matter, so he would rather die than run away!

Xiaolang was, in reality, slightly weaker than Long Chen. Song Zhongcheng was an Eighth River Stage cultivator, so Xiaolang was no match for him!

Black flames suddenly rose from Xiaolang’s body. They burned fiercely, much different from the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire!

Hm ... Xiaolang’s strength skyrocketed all of a sudden... This is no ordinary strength. I think it’s the kind with a heavy price to pay! Long Chen realized that Xiaolang was risking his life for this fight! When the flames rose, Xiaolang grew much stronger. He could beat Song Zhongcheng back with every strike now!

When 125 fire clones appeared, Song Zhongcheng struggled badly to defend himself. Unfortunately, they were not enough to injure him!

“What the hell is this?” Song Zhongcheng gasped. When the flames rose, Xiaolang became as strong as he was.

It’s definitely a trick! He’s burning his life force in order to fight me. Tricks like that are extremely harmful and will likely cripple him. After the effect is over, he will no longer pose a threat. I only need to hold on a little longer until he’s fatigued! Song Zhongcheng’s mind raced with cunning. He started to avoid facing Xiaolang’s attacks, running in all directions. From an outsider’s perspective, it looked pathetic, but he knew that the beast would collapse by itself soon!

Xiaolang was burning the Sun Devouring Wolf’s life fire. Fire like that diminished according to usage, and when it was finished, he would be dead!

Long Chen’s eyes widened with grief!

“Xiaolang!”

He was completely moved. Xiaolang was doing this because of their bond. Knowing that he had found a brother that would do so much for him made Long Chen beyond happy!

How many people were willing to use up their life force to give their brother a chance to live?

Long Chen had learned a deep lesson at Baiyang Town from the relationship between the Yang and Bai patriarchs. He knew that the term “brothers” could not be thrown around casually. However, what was happening before him was confirmation that although they did not share the same blood, they were closer than biological brothers!

You treat me so well! How can I ever live with this? He watched as Xiaolang’s life fire slowly diminished. Xiaolang was doing his best to beat Song Zhongcheng just to give Long Chen a chance to live.

Long Chen's head grew hot, and he felt his blood boil. Countless blood dragons roared in his body!
Kill!

Kill! Kill! Kill!

Countless dragons appeared in his mind, each of them burning with blood-red flames. They grew stronger by the second, and their bodies lengthened quickly until they occupied his every thought!

That was when the mysterious dragon jade pendant moved again!

The Inherited Blood Essence automatically flew into the jade pendant this time. They merged and formed a divine cultivation method. Long Chen was overjoyed because every time this had happened before, he received a powerful divine technique like Blood Transmutation, Dragon Soul Transformation, Blood Devouring Domain, and Blood Warp! Each of them was shocking!

“Ancient technique, Blood Sacrifice!”

The term “Blood Sacrifice” appeared in his mind!

Long Chen felt like his body was going to explode as he watched Xiaolang's life fire slowly diminish and weaken. That was when he activated his new technique, Blood Sacrifice. A terrifying energy ripple exploded from Long Chen's body!

“Xiaolang! Stop it! I'll deal with this animal!”

His heaven-shaking voice scared the crowd enough to make them take several steps back. Even Song Zhongcheng heard him, and he stared at Long Chen in confusion.

Whoosh!

Blood-red fire emerged from his red scales, and Long Chen burned brightly. To Song Zhongcheng's surprise, Long Chen's combat abilities skyrocketed from the Fifth River Stage to the Sixth River Stage, then stopped at the peak of the Seventh River Stage!

Since using the Dragon Soul Transformation made his Qi ten times stronger than regular Qi, his Qi was at the Eighth River Stage, even stronger than Song Zhongcheng!

This terrifying advancement in strength was more awesome than Xiaolang's method of burning his life fire.

However, Long Chen knew that while both methods increased the user's strength, Blood Sacrifice was countless times more powerful. Xiaolang could only burn his life fire once in his life. If that fire finished burning, he would die. Long Chen was burning the Qi in his body, and there was a limit to the increase in strength. With his current abilities, he could only use Blood Sacrifice to advance three stages at most. Of course, there was a price. After using Blood Sacrifice, he would regress by an equal number of stages! Since he had increased his cultivation level to the Seventh River Stage, he would fall down to the Third River Stage after this fight!

But what was there to be afraid of when he could just use Blood Transmutation?

Blood Sacrifice and Blood Transmutation made the ultimate pair. Raising his strength to the Eighth River Stage would result in him dropping back down to the Second River Stage. With enough time, though, he would rise right back to the Fifth River Stage!

Of course, unless absolutely necessary, it was best not to use this technique! He felt like Blood Sacrifice was more terrifying than Blood Transmutation. Only the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, one of the ten Ancestral Dragons, could possess such terrifying techniques!

Whenever he used Blood Transmutation repeatedly, Long Chen was deeply affected by the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's killing intent. If he used Blood Sacrifice and Blood Transmutation too often, he would likely meet a terrible end. It was still best to advance along the path of cultivation using a more stable method.

But at a critical moment like this, Long Chen was forced to use Blood Sacrifice.

Xiaolang was confused by Long Chen's surge in strength. He was not a Sun Devouring Wolf, so how could he burn his life fire?

"Stop it now!" he shouted. Xiaolang had no choice but to return to his original form! A strong wave of fatigue rushed over him, and it was so painful that Xiaolang fainted on the roof and shrank to the size of a puppy. He then fell from the roof.

Long Chen caught him.

"Xiaolang ..." Looking at the unconscious and weakened Xiaolang, Long Chen's heart twitched with pain. He placed Xiaolang gently at the doorstep, then his bloodshot eyes locked onto Song Zhongcheng!

"Every dwarf here will die today!"

Chapter 335 - Annihilating the Dwarves

All eyes were on Long Chen. Although the crowd was far away, they could feel the terrifying killing intent radiating from him. Seeing Xiaolang end up unconscious just because he wanted to save him left Long Chen completely enraged.

All the dwarves stepped back in fear when his gaze swept across them.

Song Zhongcheng looked at him with uncertainty, then he snapped out of his shock and said, "What's going on today? Why are y'all too weak to fight? And you both decided to burn your lives away? That wolf did not hold up for long. Long Chen, how long do you think you can hold up?"

"Long enough to take your life," Long Chen said flatly, his eyes fixed on Song Zhongchen. The dwarves felt chills when they heard his hoarse voice.

"You're only putting on a show!" Song Zhongcheng snickered in contempt. He descended from the roof, pointed his dagger forward, and said, "Do you know? This is an advanced Earth-tier weapon, the Hell King Blade, the highest-tiered weapon we dwarves have. Just now, I was merely showing mercy, which was why I did not stab you in the heart. Very soon, this blade will be in your heart!"

"Is that so?" Long Chen's killing intent exploded when he looked at him!

His Qi was stronger than Song Zhongcheng's Qi. When it erupted, the dust on the ground flew in the air!

“These are puny tricks! Trading your life for strength will only end in tragedy! Let me give you a taste of my most powerful technique!”

Holding the Hell King Blade tightly, an aura belonging to an Eighth River Stage cultivator exploded from his body. Qi surged furiously through him, and strange images appeared on the blade.

“Hell King Illusory Killing Technique!”

The crowd heard a shrill cry, and the Hell King Blade was the source. Everyone felt like the world had stopped when countless illusions of Song Zhongcheng covered the sky above Long Chen. They then charged at him!

The world was suddenly engulfed in darkness. The only visible object was the Hell King Blade!. A fatal ray of light from the blade flew towards Long Chen’s neck!

“Is that your most powerful technique? Is that all?” The corners of Long Chen’s lips curled upwards.

“Blood Devouring Domain ...” The red mist swirled like swimming dragons, enveloping Song Zhongcheng. It distracted him momentarily; he had experienced this before, but it had never been as terrifying as this! The gravitational pull was suffocating, and he had just unleashed his most powerful attack, so he did not have any defenses. There was now a flaw in the Hell King Illusory Killing Technique!

Long Chen spotted the flaw!

“You’re too slow.”

Long Chen’s laugh rang in Song Zhongcheng’s ears, as if he was next to him. Song Zhongcheng gasped because he felt like his movements had become slower due to the Blood Devouring Domain. Then Long Chen disappeared right before his eyes!

Boom!

Long Chen restricted Song Zhongcheng’s speed using the terrifying gravity of the Blood Devouring Domain and then flashed to his right. A heavy punch landed on Song Zhongcheng’s armpit!

Crack!

The scalp-numbing sound of bones shattering rang out!

Song Zhongcheng shrieked in pain. When his armpit was hit, his Hell King Blade flew out of his hand and was caught by Long Chen!

“You’re too slow!” To Song Zhongcheng’s horror, Long Chen disappeared once more. With the Hell King Blade in hand, Long Chen was a devil in the dark!

To be honest, Long Chen was not as fast as Song Zhongcheng was. However, the Blood Devouring Domain had restricted the latter’s speed by two-thirds. The powerful pull had suppressed his Qi also by two-thirds!

And thus, there was a surprising turn of events. Long Chen was now torturing the clumsy Song Zhongcheng within the Blood Devouring Domain!

“Since you stabbed me once, I’ll stab you ten times! You damn dwarf, I hope you enjoy this!”

The Hell King Blade pierced through Song Zhongcheng’s abdomen, and he let out a piercing scream. Long Chen ignored him and pierced his lung next!

Fresh blood poured out. Song Zhongcheng’s screams from within the Blood Devouring Domain made all the dwarves collapse with fright. They had lost all ability to think. They didn’t even know if they could run!

When Song Zhongcheng screamed for the ninth time, Long Chen slashed his head off with the last cut. The fat, large head rolled over to the dwarves, who screamed!

The Eighth River Stage Song Zhongcheng had died by his hand. This shocking news would shake the whole kingdom once more!

The most powerful member of the Harmony family was dead. The dwarves were stunned, hurriedly falling to their knees. They cried and groveled in front of Long Chen!

“Mercy! Oh, God, show us mercy! I am willing to give you my wealth, my wife, and my not-yet-matured daughter as an offering!”

“Yes! Please forgive us! We are willing to follow you for the rest of our lives. All our wealth is yours! All our women are also yours!”

The cries of begging and groveling rang.

“You are all just animals ...” Standing in front of them, Long Chen snickered coldly. “Let me show you what self-respect means! What having a spine means! Wealth? Wealth must be owned! No one can take away what I have! Women? We must protect women! Everything I did today was to protect my woman. And you all are willing to offer your women in exchange for your lives? Dwarves? Haha, you have no right to call yourselves human beings! You’re all evolved beasts! Letting you roam the mortal realm will only hurt more people! So, do you think I’ll let you all go? In your dreams!”

Long Chen swung the Hell King Blade over and over, every strike killing one dwarf. Within the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain, no one could escape the fate of death! When all the kneeling people had collapsed, when a river of blood flowed, Long Chen woke up.

He had been vicious because the dwarves were evil, and he hated them to the bone. Of course, he had also been influenced by the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon!

The Harmony family had sent almost all their cultivators to catch him, but the end result was that Long Chen had annihilated the Harmony family! And he had done it single-handedly!

When the news spread, the whole Cangyang Kingdom would be utterly shaken by Long Chen. If he could kill a cultivator of the Eighth River Stage, it meant Long Chen had grown to the level of the number one young cultivator, the Young Sword Emperor, Lin Zichen!

At Clear Water City, when the crowd witnessed the horrific scene, their eyes widened and they gawked at the teenager in disbelief!

Long Chen!

This name was deeply etched in their minds.

“This boy has attained an impressive level that we peasants can only look up to ...” commented the mayor, stroking his beard in shock.

“After he fled the imperial capital, he killed six commanders of the royal guard, then he single-handedly killed the Harmony family, one of the three noble families! Those impressive achievements will make his name known for a thousand years! He will be even more famous than Lin Zichen!”

“Father.” The teenage girl next to him stared at the teenager far away with tears in her eyes. She said worriedly, “Do you think Long Chen will make it out? Didn’t you say that there’s a mysterious person involved in this matter?”

“That person ...” The mayor shook his head. “That person is much, much stronger than Long Chen. Let’s hope the kid is lucky and won’t be stopped.”

The girl’s mind raced. When she glanced at the determined Long Chen, she nodded and privately made a decision.

I need to tell him!

By now, the effects of Blood Sacrifice were starting to fade. Long Chen sensed that his strength would regress to approximately the Third River Stage.

If he were to face more enemies, he would be useless. That was why he was well prepared. He had a reason for using the Hell King Dagger!

This was a matter of life and death, so he had no time to worry about it. The dwarves’ blood would let him live on and protect Ling Xi. He had no choice but to use the Blood Devouring Domain to absorb all the fresh blood, including the Eighth River Stage Song Zhongcheng’s blood!

After using Blood Sacrifice, his strength skyrocketed by two tiers, then regressed by two tiers. The journey ahead would be difficult, so he gritted his teeth and used Blood Transmutation!

The shattered starry rivers inside Long Chen slowly took shape once more under the nourishment of the powerful cultivators’ blood. As time passed and the dwarves turned into dried-up corpses, Long Chen slowly climbed back up to the Fifth River Stage. He was even making progress towards the Sixth River Stage!

The hundred thousand Heavenly River Pills he had received from the Ninth Prince were slowly getting used up.

With so much Qi in me, it’s time to work towards the Sixth River Stage! Since he had made the decision, he had to finish the job! This was a critical time, and Long Chen didn’t mind taking more shortcuts. However, he knew that once this huge ordeal had passed, he would have to learn to cultivate in a stable, honest manner.

Chapter 336 - Sixth River Stage

Every divine technique that came from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was formidable, including Blood Sacrifice and Blood Transmutation. Long Chen was using Blood Transmutation to guide the dwarves' blood into his body, then refining it into blood-red Qi. Then, with the help of many Heavenly River Pills, a Heavenly River with red starlight slowly condensed in his sixth star vein.

Long Chen did not forget about the other Heavenly River. There was an Eighth River Stage cultivators among the dwarves, so the Qi supply was large enough for him to ascend to the Sixth River Stage. The hundred thousand Heavenly River Pills he had taken from the Ninth Prince were more than enough for this.

If ascending to the Sixth River Stage took more than ten thousand pills, how many pills will it take to reach the Ninth River Stage?

A powerful surge of energy shot in all directions.

All of Clear Water City had surrounded Long Chen by now. They were completely shaken by the mysterious teenager. He had turned the tides and annihilated the dwarves alone. They could not believe a teenager who was not even twenty years old had accomplished all of this!

He had even achieved a breakthrough after the battle, thus becoming even stronger.

To most of these people, he was on a level they could never reach. They had no idea that the shining hero before them was actually from a small town much lower-tiered than Clear Water City. He had started from the bottom!

He stood up and looked at all the oddly-shaped dried-up corpses around him. He was also a little shocked that he had done all this. He had annihilated the dwarves.

Killing a person and then robbing them was the nature of life. The regular dwarves did not have much money, but as their Patriarch, Song Zhongcheng was sure to have much more. Long Chen took his Universe Pouch. The number of Heavenly River Pills inside was probably enough for him to complete the whole Heavenly River Realm.

Of course, that would be under normal circumstances.

Heaving a small sigh, Long Chen looked towards Xiaolang. Xiaolang was unconscious and looked very weak. It was likely that he had sustained critical injuries that caused his cultivation to regress.

Xiaolang, you did all of this for me. I swear I will repay you ten times for what you did. You're my brother for life! Long Chen said in his heart. He carried Xiaolang in his arms, opened the door, and entered, thus disappearing from the gazes of the crowd.

The doctor had added some herbs that aided sleep to Ling Xi's medicine. Despite the huge commotion outside that shook the whole city, Ling Xi, who was one of the main people involved, was still in a deep sleep. However, without Long Chen by her side, she seemed to be having a nightmare. Her eyebrows were furrowed and terror was written on her face.

Long Chen gently put Xiaolang down and walked to the side of the bed. He let Ling Xi's hand, which was feeling around the bed, grab his own. After sensing Long Chen's presence, Ling Xi calmed down, mumbled something, then fell into deep sleep once more. However, thanks to the herbs and getting adequate rest, she was recovering and there was already some color back in her face.

Long Chen was very happy about having someone to protect. Even if he was faced with knives and swords, he would leave a calm space for Ling Xi behind him so she could live without worry.

Only time could heal Xiaolang's injury, then he would wake. He had burned his life fire after all, and if it was used up, then nothing, not even spiritual herbs, could help him. Fortunately, Long Chen had stopped Xiaolang in time, or he would have been in a dire situation now.

After a while, there was a knock on the door. Long Chen used his Soul Swallowing Gaze to see who it was. It was a young girl at the Earthly Core Realm. She was considered a prodigy in Clear Water City.

Noting the pureness in her gaze, she looked like a kind girl, so he said, "Come in."

Creak! The wooden door opened, and a pretty teenager of thirteen or fourteen entered. She was a little afraid of him, so her head was lowered and she peered at her surroundings cautiously. When she saw Ling Xi on the bed, her eyes widened and she blurted a praise, "What a beautiful big sister!"

Her compliment was genuine.

She had heard of Long Chen and Ling Xi's story and knew that Long Chen had killed the Ninth Prince because of her. That was the beginning of them fleeing for their lives. During this journey, this teenager had killed six commanders, annihilated the dwarf tribe, and become famous.

This was a typical story of the hero and the beauty with tragic heroism, a deep bond, relentless determination, and a moving plot. Every time she recalled that these two were in front of her, she felt a fire within.

I hope to be like Big Sister one day... Even if I didn't know how to cultivate, having a man who would risk his life for me ... She's so beautiful ... The girl admired and envied Ling Xi.

"What is it?" It was rare for Long Chen to use a polite tone towards a complete stranger these days.

Qingqing was afraid of Long Chen, so she took a few steps back. "I ... I am the daughter of the Clear Water City mayor. I am Liu Qingqing ... I snuck here to tell you some news!" she said as her scalp went numb.

"What news?" He saw that the girl did not look like a malicious person and seemed like she intended to help.

"My father says that a mysterious but powerful figure from the imperial family is coming. Even that dwarf leader would be no match for him! You must leave as soon as possible!"

Long Chen's brows furrowed.

He wanted to let Ling Xi and Xiaolang rest more, but it looked like that was not possible.

"Thank you." She had snuck out to tell Long Chen this information, proving that she was kind-hearted. Long Chen smiled at her. After some thought, he recalled the

intermediate Earth-tier divine weapons he had received when he defeated Song Yuefeng, which were the Sun and Moon Daggers.

They were considered a divine weapon to be used together.

Qingqing was shocked when Long Chen placed the two shining blades in her hands. He said, "These are intermediate Earth-tier divine weapons that initially belonged to the dwarves. Be careful with them. It's best not to use them before you become strong to avoid attracting envy. Do you understand me?"

Qingqing was too emotional to speak.

She was only itching to tell him some news she had heard because she admired him a little. She hadn't expected such a huge reward in return! This was a huge surprise to her.

"Hm, you'd better head back. Don't let other people see that we were together. It'd be bad for you. I'm leaving immediately. Qingqing, thank you. We'll meet again if fate lets us!"

In the end, Liu Qingqing did not know how she even left the room as her mind had gone blank. Only Long Chen's proud and awesome figure was left in her world, and the deep emotion when he spoke.

However, Long Chen was fated to only be a shining passerby in her life.

"I have decided to focus on my cultivation, to advance as fast as possible!" Liu Qingqing dashed to the mayor's lodge.

After Liu Qingqing left, Long Chen shook Ling Xi gently.

"Xi'er, it's time to go."

"Mm..." She slowly opened her eyes and looked at him bleary-eyed. "Brother Chen, is it morning already?"

She rubbed her eyes gently with her fair hands, then stared at him sleepily. She said demurely, "I don't want to get up... Just let me sleep a bit longer ..."

"No, Xiao Xi, I'll carry you on my back. It's late." Long Chen helped her up, then he put some thick clothes on her so that she was wrapped up warmly.

"Alright ..." Ling Xi pursed her lips.

"Brother Chen, why is Xiaolang ..." Ling Xi gasped when she saw Xiaolang laying on the ground.

"There were a few thieves just now. We killed them, but Xiaolang was injured. I think it'll take some time for him to recover," said Long Chen as he searched for a piece of cloth. He wrapped it around his chest, then placed Xiaolang snugly in it.

“Thieves?” Ling Xi frowned. She knew that no ordinary thief could hurt Xiaolang. He was a Sun Devouring Wolf that could even fight a Seventh River Stage cultivator. And his injury looked bad ...

“Xi'er, get up here.” With Xiaolang in front and Ling Xi on his back, any oblivious outsider would laugh at this look, but he did not care. These two were the most important people in his life. It was imperative for him to protect them.

Ling Xi wrapped her arms around his neck, still confused.

The door opened to reveal the mess outside. Signs of the violent battle still remained. There were almost a hundred corpses there, all dead and shriveled up due to his Blood Transmutation.

“Dwarves!” Ling Xi knew who they were because they were mostly short, so they were surely dwarves.

“Brother Chen, are the dwarves here? Is that why we're running?” Ling Xi was nervous because Long Chen could not defeat an Eighth River Stage cultivator at his current state.

“The dwarves? They have already come,” he said with a grin.

“Huh?”

“Look at the ground. These are all the dwarves, but only their corpses remain,” he said as he passed them.

Ling Xi was even more confused.

“Brother Chen, are you saying that you killed all the dwarves while I was asleep?” Ling Xi asked in disbelief.

“Xiaolang and I killed them together.”

Long Chen dashed out of Clear Water City, welcoming the morning sun. Then he turned so he traveled with his back towards the rising sun ...

Chapter 337 - Young Sword Emperor

Upon leaving Clear Water City, they had only completed less than half the journey to the Western Sea Kingdom. Due to Liu Qingqing's mention of the mysterious person, plus the improvement in Ling Xi's health, Long Chen accelerated his travel. After he traveled by foot for two days in a row, Xiaolang showed no signs of waking, and Ling Xi's condition seemed to worsen due to the lack of rest.

So Long Chen had no choice but to slow down.

According to Liu Qingqing, that mysterious person was much stronger than Song Zhongcheng at the Eighth River Stage. Long Chen could guess who it was. Out of the three most powerful members of the imperial family, the Sword Emperor would not be here. That left the Sword Devil

and Lin Zichen. Since the Sword Devil was guarding the Counter Essence Realm, Lin Zichen was the most likely candidate.

If it really was Lin Zichen, Long Chen had no confidence that he could beat him. Lin Zichen was a legend in the Cangyang Kingdom after all, as he had reached the Ninth River Stage at a young age. He was a Sword Warrior with superior combat abilities, even owning a super divine weapon like the Imperial Sword.

The Imperial Sword was known as the number one divine weapon in the Cangyang Kingdom, so it was surely above the Earth-tier. Since the tier system went from Yellow, Black, Earth, to Heaven, then the Imperial Sword had to be a legendary Heaven-tier divine weapon!

Long Chen could only dream of having a Heaven-tier weapon.

Blood Sacrifice had been enough to kill Song Zhongcheng, but Lin Zichen would not be the same. He had a feeling that Lin Zichen would be his most terrifying enemy thus far!

He could only do his best for the sake of survival!

“Brother Chen, where are we going?” Ling Xi leaned her head close to his ear, giving off a pure, refined fragrance.

“We’re heading towards Demon Emperor Mountain.” Looking ahead, Long Chen quickened his footsteps.

“Why? Isn’t the other route shorter?” Ling Xi was puzzled. After traveling for two days and nights, she still felt terrible even with the nourishment of herbs.

“There is a faction in Demon Emperor Mountain that the imperials are afraid of, Heavenly Demon Palace. If we take the shorter route, we will likely be stopped, but if we’re in Heavenly Demon Palace territory, the imperials won’t dare to act recklessly,” Long Chen explained as he hurried along.

“Alright ...” Ling Xi nodded, burying her face in his back. She did not speak again. The spring breeze was still chilly, so she was only warmer when she curled up on his back. “Brother Chen, can you carry me on your back like this forever?” she suddenly asked, looking down.

“Silly girl, what are you thinking about now?” Long Chen smiled in exasperation.

“Let’s not search for the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit anymore. I just want to stay with you like this. Let’s find a place with no killing.” Ling Xi knew that her request was a little unrealistic, but she had decided to voice it out regardless.

“Hm? Don’t overthink it. We must get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. If I survive this ordeal, I will return and the imperial capital will face my wrath for what they’ve done. Xiaolang still needs to take his revenge too!” Long Chen said darkly.

“Alright ...” Ling Xi nodded, as she had no choice. She was not worried that he would be in great danger if he returned to the Biyang Imperial Capital. Since she was more knowledgeable, she trusted his strength greatly. However, she was worried that once she had recovered her true body and cultivation, her family would sense it. In that case, it would be likely that Ling Xi and Long Chen would be separated forever.

There was a huge canyon between them in terms of status. *Whatever. I shouldn't think too much and distract Brother Chen. It's a critical time now. As long as we survive this last phase and escape successfully, we will get to live in peace for a while. Brother Chen has been pushing his body hard for the past few days, so he must be tired ...* she thought to herself.

Long Chen was not the only one who was tiring out. Xiaolang was still in a comatose state after burning his life fire. Long Chen was carrying him in a cloth tied around his neck, and the journey had been bumpy and tiring. It would likely take some time before he woke up.

They hurried along for days. “Xiao Xi, do you see that black mountain that touches the sky up ahead?” Long Chen stopped to look up at the steep mountain in front of them that pierced through the clouds. It was unbelievably tall! The mountains around it were already tall, but this one stood out like a heron in a flock of chickens.

Ling Xi gasped in surprise. “That mountain looks like a sword!”

Long Chen peered closely and indeed, it looked like a sword that pierced the sky, not just physically, but also spiritually. The black mountain's peak glinted like a sharp sword, so he did not dare to look at it directly.

“That must be the tallest mountain in the Cangyang Kingdom, Demon Emperor Mountain. I've heard that Heavenly Demon Palace is located on this mountain, and they're almost as powerful as the imperial family. I'm sure they have a master on par with the Sword Emperor,” he said.

He had heard about the Heavenly Demon Palace at Yuanling City. When he rescued Xuan Ming from the Azure Dragon Planet, he heard that she was from this faction, and that she held a lofty status too. “I wonder what happened to Stepfather after they escaped the Star Devil Prison. I hope they're happy,” Long Chen said with a smile.

“I'm sure they're very happy together. To be honest, I admire them a lot,” Ling Xi said admiringly.

“Xiao Xi, let's go. As long as we pass Demon Emperor Mountain, we will arrive in the Western Sea Kingdom's territory. We'll head to their imperial capital directly. I don't think the imperial family will dare wreak havoc there.” Now that they could see their destination, Long Chen's heart relaxed a little.

Of course, he could not relax completely.

Although Lin Zichen had not arrived, his name was like a mountain on Long Chen's shoulders.

When they were about to reach the mountain, Long Chen stopped walking and the mood turned somber. He had just been joking around with Ling Xi, but when he saw an arrogant figure standing ahead, his heart sank.

This was the path leading to Demon Emperor Mountain. There was a male, whose physique was similar to Long Chen's, standing with his back towards them. He could tell that this was a tall and cold young man. With his black hair billowing in the wind, this stranger radiated an aura even sharper and scarier than Demon Emperor Mountain itself.

The young man was merely standing in place, yet it was enough to make anyone feel that it was impossible to get past him.

Long Chen placed Ling Xi down gently, then he took Xiaolang down from his neck and placed him in her arms. His expression was somber, because the person in front was the legendary Young Sword Emperor, Lin Zichen!

Long Chen thought he had managed to escape him, but he had ended up right in the palm of Lin Zichen's hand.

Lin Zichen turned slowly. Finally, Long Chen saw the legendary prodigy in such close proximity for the first time.

His ink-black hair was initially scattered on his white clothes, but he then tied it up with a white strip of cloth behind his head. He seemed to radiate an iciness similar to a sharp sword; his sharp features seemed to be carved from a blade. He stood with his thin lips pursed, and his eyes, which were unimaginably deep, glared daggers at Long Chen.

If this person could make Long Chen so guarded, Ling Xi naturally knew that this was the Lin Zichen of the legends.

Although he was also a prince, Lin Zichen was far superior to the Ninth Prince, Lin Cangtian. A thousand Lin Cangtians would still be no match for him.

Ling Xi was beside herself with panic, knowing how terrifying he was. The six commanders and dwarves required Long Chen to risk his life in order to defeat them, so how could Long Chen be lucky enough to survive this?

His presence was the equivalent of bestowing death sentences upon the duo and the wolf. Ling Xi almost broke down.

"Shh, don't worry. No matter what monster arrives, I will stand in front of you and kill them all. Close your eyes; it will all pass." Long Chen knew how scared she was, so he comforted her while letting her hug Xiaolang.

This was the final battle.

If he succeeded, Long Chen would truly turn his fate around on this path of life and death. If he failed, that meant he had reached the end of his journey. This was the most difficult battle, and also the most important.

Lin Zichen spotted Long Chen, then he nonchalantly eyed him up and down. He said with minimal movement in his lips, "I'm shocked that a person like you would appear in the Cangyang Kingdom. Unfortunately, you just had to become enemies with the imperial family ..."

“I did not want to become your enemy. You guys are the ones who refuse to let me live in peace,” Long Chen responded with a shrug.

“I heard that you’re bold. Now that I’ve seen you, it’s true ... You killed the six commanders of the royal guards and even annihilated the Harmony family. This is a huge loss to the imperial family. Even though I usually appreciate talent, I need to take you back.”

Lin Zichen arched his eyebrows, then continued, “To be honest, I’ve been lonely for too long in the Cangyang Kingdom. A person like you is hard to come by. Unfortunately, you’re just a silly hero wannabe, trying to fight the imperial family. Initially, I wanted to give you some time so you could grow further, but I’ve given up on that. What you did has thoroughly embarrassed my family. My father, the Emperor, has already commanded me to either kill you or take you to see him ...

“And that beautiful girl. All of this started because of her, so she also needs to go to the imperial capital too. I heard my Ninth Brother died because of her. What an idiot. But as an older brother, I think I will fulfil his wish in place of him ...”

Chapter 338 - Hidden Strength

Long Chen knew that his growth had been fast, and he had done it without a background like Lin Zichen’s family. Less than a year had passed since he started cultivating in Baiyang Town, and he was already at the Sixth River Stage. Lin Zichen was not the same—he had been trained by the incumbent Sword Emperor since young and received the best cultivation techniques and mentorship.

With the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon’s divine techniques and Divine Fire Clone, Long Chen was barely a match for Lin Zichen. As for everything else he owned, his most powerful combat and defense techniques were only at the intermediate Earth-tier. Although he possessed the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body, it was the same as having nothing when faced with Lin Zichen.

Lin Zichen surely had advanced Earth-tier techniques in every aspect, even ultimate techniques at the Heaven-tier.

How was Long Chen going to fight him?

A normal person would have despaired after considering the canyon of a gap between them. But Long Chen did not. When he had someone he needed to protect, it did not matter how powerful the enemy was—he would not take even one step back.

Sometimes, this stubborn refusal to give up was the only way to achieve victory. “Actually, I’ve heard the story of you two too ...” Lin Zichen eyed both Long Chen and Ling Xi and smirked with amusement. “It’s indeed very touching. The hero, the damsel, the passion, the killing of the six commanders, the annihilation of the dwarves ... After this experience, the bond between you two must be very deep, right? But I refuse to believe that a relationship can be absolutely strong. I’ll give you two a choice. One of you must die today, while the other shall follow me back to the imperial capital. I’ll give you fifteen minutes to discuss. I, Lin Zichen, always keep my promises.”

He had made himself clear. If Ling Xi died, he would take Long Chen back, and vice versa. However, it was not known how long the other person would live at the imperial capital.

“Will you keep your promise?” Ling Xi asked immediately. “As long as I die, you’ll let Brother Chen live?”

She grasped onto his promise like a drowning man grasping on a piece of floating straw.

“Xiao Xi, shut your mouth.” Long Chen’s cold glare scared Ling Xi into falling several steps back. He knew what she was thinking. Her body was only made of the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, and she was obviously willing to abandon the body so Long Chen could live.

However, Long Chen knew that if he went to the imperial capital, he would end up dead.

“But ...” Ling Xi wanted to say something, but Long Chen shut her up with a fierce glare. She knew he was doing this for her own good. Obtaining the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit was not a guarantee. Long Chen did not want to put any hope on an almost unattainable object.

“I see. Long Chen, it looks like I overestimated you. This girl is willing to die for you, and you’re too afraid to die. It looks like you’re not a good man. Let’s put it this way. If you die, I’ll let her go, so she’ll leave safely. What do you say?” Lin Zichen smirked.

He was throwing Long Chen a challenge. If Long Chen really loved her, he would naturally sacrifice his life for her safety. But Long Chen was not stupid. He only trusted a duel and his own strength, not a promise that the enemy made.

“Stop with the nonsense. Fight me if you dare. Lin Zichen, you’re going to lose my respect if you keep uttering those empty words.” Long Chen took out the Azure Dragon Halberd, then blood-red scales gradually covered his body. “Xiao Xi, get back!”

Under Long Chen’s command, Ling Xi paled. She had no choice but to back away, trying her best to stay away from the battle. However, Lin Zichen’s words made her very anxious. She was more aware than Long Chen of the gap in their strengths, so she knew that Long Chen didn’t have much of a chance ...

If he keeps his promise, Brother Chen can make a comeback as long as he stays alive. What is my life worth anyway? It’s just a Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus. I’ve been in the Ling Xi Sword all this time, so what’s stopping me from returning to it?

Ling Xi watched them both anxiously, her mind racing as she worried about Long Chen’s safety.

I’ll keep an eye on the battle. If Brother Chen really gets into trouble, this will be the only way ... She sighed.

Long Chen had long prepared himself for the battle with Lin Zichen. The tension in the air was high, and the duel was going to begin at any second.

“Your Beast Soul Transformation seems to have given you a lot of strength. You were at the Sixth River Stage, and now it looks like you’re close to the Seventh River Stage already,” Lin Zichen remarked with some surprise.

In truth, his evaluation of Long Chen was incorrect, because his Qi level had already reached the Eighth River stage. This was how powerful the Dragon Soul Transformation was.

“Unfortunately, even at the Seventh River Stage, you’re still too weak to me. You’re not even qualified to see my combat techniques,” Lin Zichen said smugly.

“Well, let’s test it out, then!” Long Chen roared. He turned into a red arrow and shot towards Lin Zichen. *Whoosh!* A blood-red line turned into a dragon and flew at his head!

“Too weak!” Lin Zichen laughed and punched casually. Long Chen’s Dragon King Burial was punched away immediately. Long Chen struggled to stabilize himself despite it being merely a light punch! He was now deeply aware of the gap between them.

However, he had expected Lin Zichen to be powerful. “And you’re nothing to shout about either!” He gritted his teeth, spun in mid-air, then charged with another storm-like attack! His attacks were extremely vicious, and could even be described as suicidal. However, every single time, Lin Lin Zichen threw him back in the air with just a simple flick, not even needing an attack technique.

“What is going on? You wouldn’t even be able to defeat a regular Seventh River Stage cultivator with this strength. How did you kill the six commanders? And that dwarf, Song Zhongcheng?” Lin Zichen was utterly disappointed by his strength. Long Chen was just a normal Sixth River Stage cultivator; there was nothing special about him.

“The rumors made you seem god-like. Looks like they aren’t true. And the rumors scared me too. I’m disappointed ...” Lin Zichen looked at him with pity and disappointment. He had heard of Long Chen’s extraordinary talent, which was why he had voluntarily joined the chase. Since he had always been an extraordinary prodigy himself, it was difficult to find a master of the same age. When he heard of Long Chen, he rushed over immediately. To his surprise, the youth that they spoke of like a god was not as strong as he thought ...

Long Chen ignored his mocking, attacking him with all he had. His eyes were red. Whenever he fought, the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon’s nature would erupt through him, and his aura would turn into one of violence.

“What is Brother Chen doing?” Ling Xi was puzzled. She was well aware of what he was capable of. He was not using the Blood Devouring Domain or Divine Fire Clone; he wasn’t even using Blood Sacrifice, which was even stronger!

Unless ...

Indeed, by now, Lin Zichen had lost his patience. When he had verified that Long Chen was only at the Sixth River Stage, he punched Long Chen’s abdomen! Long Chen flew back, blood spraying out of his mouth, and crashed!

“Trash! How could trash like that cause such a huge commotion across the Cangyang Kingdom? It’s hard to believe ...” He slowly closed in on Long Chen. It was clear that he would take Long Chen’s life with his next strike.

“It was only a light punch. Are you unable to stand up already?” Lin Zichen was speechless when he saw Long Chen struggling on the ground. He walked nonchalantly, glancing at Ling Xi. To be honest, he was tempted when he saw how beautiful she was. However, from his perspective, even the most beautiful woman was merely a distraction on the Sword Dao journey. That was how he controlled his urges.

“I can’t believe Ninth Brother died because of a woman. What a useless idiot.” Lin Zichen shook his head. He was about to bend over and end the struggling Long Chen’s life when he was enveloped in a red space!

“What is this?” Lin Zichen gasped. Since he had let his guard down, he could not react in time to the sudden change.

The red mist swirled around him like blood-colored dragons, dancing and twisting around Lin Zichen. There was a powerful pull that caused his blood to start boiling, and he was starting to lose control.

Then endless red flames rose from Long Chen’s body, and 125 Divine Fire Clones appeared instantly! They all pounced on Lin Zichen, launching a suffocating attack! In that instant, roaring flames rose and the earth shook!

Has he been hiding his strength? Lin Zichen had a sudden thought. When he glanced at Ling Xi just now, he found that while she was nervous, she did not look grief-stricken or terrified due to Long Chen’s injury. This meant that she knew Long Chen was fine!

“How dare you trick me?!” Lin Zichen raged. The fire clones were not that powerful to him. Although it was inconvenient, as he needed to use his Qi to suppress his blood, it was not enough to overwhelm him. Even though Long Chen’s attack had truly caught him off guard, he could retaliate easily.

Despite hiding his strength and launching a surprise attack, Long Chen is far too weak.

Long Chen was nothing but a weakling to the Ninth River Stage Lin Zichen.

That was when a powerful surge of energy exploded from where Long Chen was!

Chapter 339 - Imperial Sword Qi

Blood Sacrifice.

Long Chen could have used Blood Sacrifice from the beginning to increase his strength and fight with maximum power. However, he was worried that it would lead to an unexpected outcome, seeing as Lin Zichen came from a powerful background. That was why Long Chen had to hold on and only show his strength when Lin Zichen thought he was at his lowest.

At least for now, he had succeeded. After completely blocking Lin Zichen's vision with the clones, he used Blood Sacrifice to force his cultivation level up two stages, thus reaching the Eighth River Stage.

Blood-red flames rose from his body.

This increase in strength was not without a price, because it meant that he would return to the Fourth River Stage after this battle. And if Lin Zichen was not dead then, he could kill Long Chen with a casual wave of his hand.

This was the last gamble!

When his Qi rose to the Eighth River Stage, the Dragon Soul Transformation put him on equal footing with someone at the Ninth River Stage. Long Chen felt like his Qi was going out of control, as it was his first time controlling such high-level Qi. He was just too powerful, tens of times more powerful than before!

Due to the sudden rise in Qi, the Blood Devouring Domain suddenly reached a level that was strong enough to threaten Lin Zichen. Previously, Long Chen's Qi was almost on the same level as Lin Zichen. Usually, if they were at the same stage, Long Chen's opponent would need to use more than half of their Qi to suppress their blood in order to fight normally!

The Divine Fire Clones were created through the True Fire Seeds that he had stored in his meridian points, so their strength had not increased. The Fifth River Stage clones merely acted as temporary obstacles to Lin Zichen, so most of them had been dispatched with ease.

Long Chen retracted his clones when he completed Blood Sacrifice, and a storm of attacks landed on Lin Zichen. Long Chen's objective was to quickly complete Blood Sacrifice and attack immediately. Lin Zichen was forced many steps back due to Long Chen's surprising strength!

"What type of technique is that? Long Chen, why did you suddenly get so much stronger?" Lin Zichen's eyes widened when he was forced back by Long Chen's Azure Dragon Halberd. No matter how hard he thought, he would never be able to guess that Long Chen possessed incredible divine techniques like Blood Sacrifice and the Blood Devouring Domain.

When Long Chen's strength increased, his techniques became more powerful too. It was possible that if Long Chen's cultivation level reached the top of the world, he could still use Blood Sacrifice to strengthen himself by one, two, and even three tiers! That would be terrifying!

"Die!"

This was his only chance to turn his fate. Long Chen did not hold back—he attacked with all he had. While maintaining the powerful Blood Devouring Domain, he used Dragon King Burial again and again, fighting for his life!

Dragon King Burial was much more powerful than before due to his power-up. With his talent and mastery of the skill, Dragon King Burial was almost stronger than an advanced Earth-tier technique!

Boom! Boom!

Several explosions ensued. Every strike was more vicious than the previous!

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Dragon King Burial!”

Roar!

The line of blood-colored light flew right in front of Lin Zichen’s eyes at lightning speed. He gasped when he saw it!

He had been caught off guard by Long Chen’s sudden explosion in strength, and now he understood that this was Long Chen’s true strength. He had merely been pretending. Long Chen now had the right to be Lin Zichen’s opponent!

Of course, he did not know that Long Chen had to pay the price of two cultivation levels for this!

His moment of carelessness led to great danger. That terrifying sucking force made it hard for Lin Zichen to move! When Long Chen exploded with his final killing strike, Lin Zichen was immediately in mortal danger!

Long Chen’s gaze was filled with violence. He knew that this was his most important moment. If he could not kill Lin Zichen with this strike, or injure him, it would be difficult to get another chance!

“Star River Spiral!”

Bright starlight emanated from Lin Zichen’s hands. He spun both hands, and a powerful force opposed Long Chen’s Azure Dragon Halberd! Under Lin Zichen’s control, the shining spiral protected him and pushed Long Chen aside!

“Think you can change your fate? Think again!”

Lin Zichen was strong, but Long Chen’s Blood Devouring Domain and Blood Sacrifice were strong too. Lin Zichen’s Star River Spiral was powerful, but the Azure Dragon Halberd was also powerful!

The Azure Dragon Halberd pierced through Lin Zichen’s shoulder, bringing with it a chunk of flesh. Lin Zichen shrieked!

Even using an advanced Earth-tier defense technique, Lin Zichen could not completely stop Long Chen when he was under the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain and Blood Sacrifice!

The wound on his shoulder was not serious, and only five hundred grams of blood and flesh had been sliced off. However, the extraordinarily talented Lin Zichen had never been beaten in battle, nor had he ever been injured before! Long Chen was the first to ever hurt him!

How dare a person with such a poor upbringing, who started off only at the Sixth River Stage, injure him? Lin Zichen raged!

Initially, he wanted to toy with Long Chen, but he felt humiliated knowing that Long Chen had kept his strength hidden for so long, leading to this surprise attack!

“You’re looking for death! Death!”

Lin Zichen stumbled backwards and used one hand to press on the hole in his shoulder. Despite his efforts, blood still flowed!

His face turned red, then a steely green.

“Long Chen, you are the first to hurt me. I’ve decided. You must die! You must die!”

A look of insanity appeared on his face. He had always held a lofty position. It was the first time he’d been insulted like this. His heart clenched in pain as he felt the burning pain in his shoulder!

Whoosh! A long, golden sword appeared in his hand. Long Chen could feel a regal energy pressing on himself. The Imperial Sword lived up to its reputation as the sword of kings; even just looking at it made Long Chen nervous.

What can I do against such a powerful weapon?

That move from just now was meant to be Long Chen’s fatal strike, but it had only resulted in a minor injury. The fatal strike was not fatal, but the wound did make things easier for Long Chen. However, Long Chen was still not confident because of the Imperial Sword.

“Imperial Sword Qi!”

Lin Zichen made one simple slash with his sword, and a golden ray of light shot out of it. It whistled as it shot at Long Chen, bringing with it terrifying speed and fatal force. If Long Chen was slightly slow to react, he would be cut in half!

The Imperial Sword is powerful! Long Chen was privately startled. It was clearly only the most basic move, yet it far surpassed Long Chen’s most powerful attack.

“Brother Chen!” When Lin Zichen unleashed the Imperial Sword Qi, Ling Xi panicked like ants on a hot wok. Since she was an expert in swordsmanship, it took only one glance at the technique for her to know that Long Chen would not be able to withstand it.

Long Chen heard Ling Xi’s reminder. Even if he used his body combat technique to dodge it, it would not be enough. But he had other ways!

“Blood Warp!” Although this technique was not as powerful as Blood Sacrifice, he moved infinitely faster! Traveling at superspeed, Long Chen could not control his direction. He turned into a blood-colored ray and disappeared. When he reappeared, he was a hundred meters away!

If Ling Xi and Xiaolang were not there, Lin Zichen would not have been able to catch Long Chen.

Although Long Chen had tried his best to control himself, he still landed quite a distance away. This was the shortest distance he could go. Ling Xi was still there, so he had no choice but to rush back.

A Ninth River Stage cultivator could cover a hundred meters in a breath’s time.

But a breath’s time was enough for Lin Zichen to kill Ling Xi. That was why Long Chen knew he could not use Blood Warp again. This time, Lin Zichen was taken by surprise and did not react in time. He wasn’t sure what would happen next time.

Indeed, Lin Zichen was stunned for a moment when Long Chen fled using Blood Warp, causing his Imperial Sword Qi to miss its mark. While he was still stunned, Long Chen returned. He was worried about Ling Xi, so he returned to a spot in front of her.

“I’ll admit, Long Chen, that you have many tricks up your sleeve that make me both shocked and jealous.” Suddenly, Lin Zichen smirked maliciously. He then squinted and said, “The method you used to escape just now was very impressive. It looks like it will be difficult for my Imperial Sword Qi to hit you. But I wonder, will you be able to run if I use it this way?”

Long Chen had a bad feeling.

Indeed, Lin Zichen shot a ray of Imperial Sword Qi at Ling Xi!

Chapter 340 - Heavenly Demon Lord

Long Chen was not far away from Ling Xi. If he truly dared, he could definitely make it before the Imperial Sword Qi arrived. But would he dare risk his life for this?

Lin Zichen was betting on this.

Long Chen’s heart clenched the moment the attack was unleashed. He knew that Ling Xi would be split in half if he wasn’t there, but if he blocked it for her, he would be split in half!

The shining, golden Imperial Sword Qi shot out and dyed Long Chen’s whole world gold!

“Brother Chen ...”

Ling Xi smiled in blissful release. She had been nothing but a burden during this whole journey, and it made her miserable all the time. Although she knew that Long Chen would not blame her, she couldn’t help but feel guilty. The Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus had allowed her to regain many human experiences, even bringing her many sensations she had never felt before. However, it had also brought her a lot of suffering and self-blame.

Ever since they were at Yuanling City, Long Chen had cared for her meticulously. She had received enough joy from that experience, so now she was truly ready to give it all up. During this journey of life and death, Long Chen had sacrificed himself the whole way. This time, it was her turn.

Long Chen’s mind went blank. All that remained in his world was the golden sword Qi. It was a simple decision to make for him. More specifically, it did not require any thought. Just like when they were at the Star Devil Prison, Long Chen moved his feet without hesitation and stood in front of her immediately!

Ling Xi knew he would do it. She knew him too well. Once he made a decision, nothing would ever change it. Since he had decided to protect Ling Xi, he had long tossed the notion of survival out of his mind!

The Imperial Sword Qi instantaneously arrived in front of Long Chen, along with Lin Zichen’s cold laughter. Long Chen felt a painful prickling on his skin before the powerful sword light even touched him!

Long Chen’s mind raced for an idea. He scoured through everything he had, and the only thing he could use right now was the Hell King Blade he had taken from Song Zhongcheng. It was an advanced Earth-tier divine weapon that was one tier higher than the Azure Dragon Halberd!

Boom!

Long Chen released all his Qi, focusing all of it on the Hell King Blade to block the Imperial Sword Qi.

Clang!

There was a deafening clang, and Long Chen flew back from the impact with blood spraying out of his mouth and a ghostly pale face. Yet he held on with a death grip. The Imperial Sword Qi did not dissipate upon impact. It had blasted Long Chen backwards, then the sharp sword light flew in all directions and cut Long Chen's skin, leaving him covered in cuts!

Long Chen felt the Imperial Sword Qi pressing on his head through the Hell King Blade, bearing the weight of a mountain!

Even though he had used all the strength he could possibly muster, he had been pushed back. His arms, still gripping the dagger tightly, were about to be permanently injured!

“You actually blocked it? I'm touched! Unfortunately, I don't believe in touching moments like that. If you're so willing to die for her, I'll fulfill your wish! Let's crank it up!”

Lin Zichen raised his sword high. “Imperial Sword Qi!”

Yet another bout of Imperial Sword Qi shot out at Long Chen!

Long Chen was already injured all over from the first Imperial Sword Qi and cracks started to appear on the Hell King Blade. It was going to shatter soon! If it did, then Long Chen would die instantly!

Long Chen finally understood just how terrifying this guy was. The Imperial Sword Qi was merely one of Lin Zichen's simpler techniques too. The Young Sword Emperor was possibly even stronger than his uncle, the Sword Devil!

Till the very end, all Long Chen could do was put his life on the line to fight against the threat of death! Thick blood and tears filled his eyes!

If Lin Zichen had not attacked Ling Xi, Long Chen could have relied on Blood Warp to fight him. He was confident Lin Zichen would be unable to kill him that way. Unfortunately, Lin Zichen was an unpredictable opponent, and he was willing to stoop so low too!

Whether he lived or died would be determined at this moment!

“Brother Chen! I'm saving you!”

Long Chen suddenly heard Ling Xi's voice, but she sounded different! What he heard was the voice from a long time ago, when she was in the Ling Xi Sword!

Does this mean that ...

Lin Zichen's face changed. Ignoring the Imperial Sword Qi, he turned around to see a pure-white sword Qi shoot over and shatter the Imperial Sword Qi in front of him!

“Xiao Xi!”

When the light was gone, he realized that Ling Xi had taken on a spirit-like form enveloped in white mist. The Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus slowly shrank and finally turned into a black lotus root. It was now useless.

This meant that Ling Xi had abandoned her Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus body to return to her spirit state. She was holding the Ling Xi Sword.

“I’m sorry, Brother Chen! I cannot watch you die! Forgive me for not listening to you, but I’ve had enough of being useless, okay? I trust that you’ll find me something better soon!”

Ling Xi had explained hurriedly, worried that Long Chen would remain stubborn.

Of course, he knew that obtaining the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit was not certain to happen ...

But Long Chen understood. He did love the idea of Ling Xi having a physical body and living happily without worry. Unfortunately, such a carefree life was impossible under current circumstances.

Finding a Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit was a giant challenge. However, he had no way of knowing what the future held. Since he wouldn’t get her body back even if he died, there was no use dwelling on it. Perhaps they could even survive this ordeal now. After he heard her, he realized that he had been acting selfishly throughout this journey. He wanted to give her a happy life, but he had also ignored her feelings.

“Brother Chen, will you forgive me?” she asked worriedly.

Previously, Long Chen had been extremely against her abandoning the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus, as it was hard to come by. That was why she was anxious, afraid that he would not want her anymore after she disobeyed him.

“I accumulated a large amount of soul power when I was in human form, so I should be able to block him for a while. Brother Chen, can you leave? I’ll hold him off for a while, then I’ll catch up to you immediately, alright?” Ling Xi asked nervously.

Now that the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus was gone, Ling Xi would have to return to the Ling Xi Sword. This was an unchangeable fact, and Long Chen had to respect her choice. Since he could not change anything, then the most important thing now was to deal with Lin Zichen!

Afterwards, he would have to cultivate even harder to find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit as soon as possible. So that she could become a true human and regain her formidable strength!

However, he would never run away on his own!

Long Chen did not blame Ling Xi for abandoning the lotus root, as she had no choice. They had been cornered! Long Chen channeled all his anger and hatred to Lin Zichen! He turned around with icy killing intent in his eyes!

“How could I ever run? Xiao Xi, if you’re up for it, let’s fight him together! I swear I will kill this dog today!”

“Dog?” Lin Zichen was still staring at Ling Xi in shock. He had seen many things in his life, but he did not know what had happened with Ling Xi. How had a normal person like her suddenly become wrapped in mist and looked so ethereal? His attacks halted too, but he finally woke up when Long Chen said he wanted to kill him.

“Although I don’t know what just happened with the girl, I’m intrigued. You two are planning to work together to kill me? That’s fine by me; I do want to take this girl back to study her. I need to know what just happened. At the same time, Long Chen, I will send you down to hell!”

Ling Xi arrived by Long Chen’s side. She had her power back now. Although it was not much, it was enough to hold off the enemy for a while!

They were about to explode into a fight when a huge energy ripple came from the direction of Demon Emperor Mountain. Long Chen and the rest were all forced several steps back from the vibrations, and an ear-piercing demonic voice poured into their ears!

“Son of the imperial family! Leave now, or do not blame me for what comes next!” The angry roar was manageable to Long Chen since it was not directed to him, but Lin Zichen felt all the blood in his body boil. He turned pale, and since he was already injured, he stumbled several steps back!

Just one sentence was enough to injure Lin Zichen with sound. Only a legendary master who had surpassed the Heavenly River Realm could do something like that! Other than the Sword Emperor of the Cangyang Kingdom, only one other person was this powerful!

The Heavenly Demon Palace’s Lord!

Lin Zichen’s face changed when he heard the voice.

“Do you think you can run, you loser?” Long Chen had not expected this at all, as they were still some distance away from Demon Emperor Mountain. He never expected the Heavenly Demon Lord to notice them!

“Long Chen, you got stupidly lucky today. Don’t you ever step out of Demon Emperor Mountain though. The moment you do, I will kill you the first chance I get!” Lin Zichen threatened fiercely.

“So I’ll just stay in Demon Emperor Mountain. What’s the big deal? Lin Zichen, remember this. I will return to the Biyang Imperial Capital very soon. That will be the day you die! I swear that this grudge will never be resolved unless I cut you to pieces!”

“We’ll see then!” Lin Zichen laughed coldly, then he sped off.