

## War God 351

### Chapter 351 – Disrespecting Elders

To be honest, Zhao Qingyun had been cornered.

The Third Demon Elder was just too smart; he had attacked right at his weakest spot. If Zhao Qingyun insisted on giving Long Chen Traceless Demon Shadow, then Zhao Qingyun's reputation would fall. The image of him in the bright-eyed disciples would be completely distorted. If they felt that the Heavenly Demon Lord was a person who favored his own disciples without regard for right and wrong, wouldn't that mean that no matter how hard they worked, they would never be as strong as a person with the right relations?

Zhao Qingyun told them to get up, but no one did. The Third Demon Elder was privately smug to see this happen. He really wanted to see how Zhao Qingyun would clean this mess up.

“Palace Lord, if you don't give us an explanation for this, we aren't getting up.” These elders were all here because they had been instructed by the Third Demon Elder to come support him. Furthermore, they indeed felt that Zhao Qingyun's decision was inappropriate; therefore, they continued to kneel and refused to get up.

This made Zhao Qingyun look very bad, which achieved the Third Demon Elder's objective.

The smugness he felt was indescribable.

Even Long Chen never expected this. He looked up to see Zhao Qingyun in deep thought, trying to look for a perfect solution. Long Chen knew that Zhao Qingyun wanted to give Traceless Demon Shadow to him. The fact that he did not give up even under this much pressure moved Long Chen, which was why Long Chen had no choice but to step up.

“Everyone, let me say something.” Long Chen took a few steps forward, standing next to Zhao Qingyun. His gaze swept across the group of kneeling elders, as well as the Third Demon Elder. Then he said, “I was the one who asked my master for Traceless Demon Shadow. Coincidentally, Senior Yang Jun also wants it today. Since the beginning of time, the stronger party takes the treasure. You all seem to think that Senior Yang Jun is the stronger party and that I, Long Chen, am not fit to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow. However, how did you all come to the conclusion that Yang Jun is stronger than I am?”

“What do you mean by that?” Yang Jun asked suspiciously, glaring like a tiger.

Everyone froze and looked at Long Chen in confusion. Was the nepotism baby implying that he was stronger than Yang Jun? Was this a joke?

Even the Third Demon Elder did not know how to react.

Long Chen's gaze fell on the kneeling elders and he said coldly, “Elders, you all should get up. You are all people of status in the Heavenly Demon Palace. If you start falling on your knees and crying over such a small matter, it's hard to reconcile these actions to your lofty identities. The Palace Lord

had asked all of you to get up, and you refused. What is the meaning of that? Are you forcefully labeling the Palace Lord to be evil and unjust? I think you all should reflect on yourselves!”

The elders’ faces and ears turned red with Long Chen’s harsh words, slowly realizing that they had crossed the line.

With Zhao Qingyun’s personality, he merely did not care to argue with them. That was the only reason they were still alive. If they had a different Palace Lord, all of them would have lost their heads already.

When one person stood up hesitantly, everyone else followed.

There was pride in Zhao Qingyun’s eyes. To be honest, he really had been forced into a corner. If he used violence to suppress them, it would backfire. The most suitable person to speak up was Long Chen, and Long Chen did not disappoint him—he had resolved the awkward situation with just a few sentences.

When everyone started standing up because of Long Chen’s words, the Third Demon Elder’s mouth twitched. He demanded coldly, “Brat, what are you trying to say?”

“What are *you* trying to say? Didn’t you say that giving Traceless Demon Shadow to me is unfair? Tell me, then, what do you think is fair? I, Long Chen, will oblige,” said Long Chen without a hint of obsequiousness, staring straight into the Third Demon Elder’s eyes.

“You’re very bold, you brat! How can you speak to me with that tone? This is utterly insubordinate! Did your parents not teach you respect?” The Third Demon Elder was enraged to hear no respect in Long Chen’s tone. There was already killing intent in his glare.

“How can I speak to you with that tone? Third Demon Elder, I’d like to ask you, then, how could you speak to my master with that tone? That was even more insubordinate, right? Didn’t your parents teach you respect? Are you an animal?” Long Chen asked.

The Third Demon Elder had placed pressure on Long Chen using the insubordination excuse, but unexpectedly, Long Chen had thrown it right back at him, and he was even called an animal. The Third Demon Elder had been high above everyone for countless years, so he never expected to be insulted like this. Blood rushed into his head, and if Zhao Qingyun was not standing next to Long Chen, he would have attacked.

Long Chen had already made him lose his temper once when they were at the Demon Pavilion. Now Long Chen had done it once more. The Third Demon Elder had to swallow his flames of anger back into his belly; one could only imagine how suppressed and resentful he felt.

This would have been better if Long Chen made no sense. Unfortunately, Long Chen’s words made too much sense. The Third Demon Elder had indeed spoken rudely to Zhao Qingyun.

Zhao Qingyun was privately pleased to see the Third Demon Elder so miserable after a few words from Long Chen. He now knew why Long Chen had managed to turn his fate around in such a shocking manner. One major reason was the courage he displayed!

Everyone else was stunned. They had initially ignored this teenager, but who would have thought that he would be this bold with such a sharp tongue?

Did this person of unknown background who had become the Palace Lord's direct disciple due to nepotism have something outstanding in him?

Amidst the group's discussion, the Third Demon Elder suppressed his anger with great difficulty, then he threatened fiercely, "Your name is Long Chen, right? Are you saying that you want to compare yourself and Yang Jun to see who is stronger? To see who is more suited for Traceless Demon Shadow? Alright, I'll let Yang Jun compete against you. Do you dare take this challenge?"

"Since I'm the one who brought it up, I am obviously not going to take it back," said Long Chen with his chin up.

"Alright! Palace Lord, Long Chen has agreed. If my disciple Yang Jun proves to you that he is countless times superior to Long Chen, will Traceless Demon Shadow be given to my disciple?" The Third Demon Elder's gaze passed Long Chen and fell on Zhao Qingyun.

Long Chen turned to give Zhao Qingyun a confident look. Zhao Qingyun was initially hesitant, but he was assured by the look in Long Chen's eyes. He knew that Long Chen had killed the six royal commanders and the whole dwarf tribe. He was a vicious person who could hold up against the Ninth River Stage Lin Zichen. With such viciousness and confidence, he would be able to fight Yang Jun, the third-strongest disciple of the Heavenly Demon Palace.

"Since you all have made your decision, then we shall do it. Whoever performs better today will get to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow. All of this will depend on your own capabilities. Do not blame me for not showing mercy if anyone decides to change their minds. There are many things I let slip, but that does not mean I will avert my gaze forever."

Zhao Qingyun's glare was like a bolt of lightning. Everyone he looked at felt their scalps go numb as they regretted their actions. It was a fact that Zhao Qingyun was stronger even if all the masters of the Heavenly Demon Palace were added up. Therefore, wasn't it stupid to disobey the pillar of the Heavenly Demon Palace?

Now that Zhao Qingyun's permission had been obtained, everything would be much easier.

The Third Demon Elder sighed in relief and eyed Long Chen suspiciously. "Since the Palace Lord has agreed, then I shall set the rules. The most suitable method to compare two people is a duel, but with such a large gap in cultivation level, some people will surely say that Yang Jun had an unfair advantage. Let's put it this way. Both of them will attack me, and I will not retaliate. All I can do is dodge and block. Anyone who can launch an attack above their own level and show me the most impressive attack will be the victor. What do you guys think? Using this method, we are judging your potential, not your current strength."

The Third Demon Elder looked at them with glee.

He was implying that Long Chen was no match for Yang Jun at all. And since the master-disciple duo did not want to have an unfair advantage, he had suggested they compare their potential instead.

This put the Third Demon Elder on a moral high ground, showing that they were fair and compassionate. Long Chen did not think so, because they were both attacking the Third Demon Elder. With the Third Demon Elder's abilities, he could definitely control the performance of both sides. He could be slightly lenient with Yang Jun and easily make his disciple's attack look much more impressive.

Long Chen was impressed that the Third Demon Elder could think of such an airtight plan that even placed himself on moral high ground within such a short time.

However, all of these cheap tricks were nothing in the face of true strength. Long Chen felt no fear.

Everyone praised the Third Demon Elder's idea, then he turned to ask for Zhao Qingyun's opinion. "Palace Lord, what do you think?"

Zhao Qingyun naturally also saw through this cheap trick, but he trusted Long Chen. Also, he wanted to personally see how extraordinary Long Chen's combat abilities were for him to commit such shocking acts.

"That will do. This is your own idea. When the results are out, you must respect them fully and stop spouting nonsense. You're one of the Demon Elders; you must know that you need to uphold the Heavenly Demon Palace's image, and your own image. I can make you a Demon Elder, but I can also cripple you."

Zhao Qingyun spoke impassively, but the Third Demon Elder sensed a power strong enough to threaten him within this tone.

"I will naturally keep the promises I make. Let's not waste any more time, then. You're the senior out of the both of you, so you'll go first!" said the Third Demon Elder after taking a few steps back.

Everyone backed away to reveal a patch of empty space.

Chapter 352 - Seven Killings Demon Finger

Everyone backed away to make space for Yang Jun and the Third Demon Elder in front of the Martial Library, waiting excitedly to watch the show. They shot Long Chen occasional glances but were shocked to find that he was neither panicked nor anxious. Long Chen and Zhao Qingyun stood together and watched calmly, their expressions identical.

"They are indeed master and disciple," someone commented.

"Nonsense. He's merely mimicking the Palace Lord. His acting is quite good though. We'll see if he's only putting on an act later when he's up against the Third Demon Elder."

Zhao Qingyun turned to look at Long Chen and said, "Are you really confident you'll win?"

“No, I’m just going with the flow. At worst, he can have it. Anything that belongs to me will come eventually. Also, I’m very used to merit-based competition,” Long Chen responded with a small smile.

“You’ve changed a lot since you came to Heavenly Demon Palace.” Zhao Qingyun was pleased.

“Is that so?”

After Yang Jun and the Third Demon Elder exchanged some meaningless words, the test was finally about to begin. Zhao Qingyun and Long Chen did not speak; they merely watched quietly. Long Chen paid extra attention because he wanted to get an estimate of the Third Demon Elder’s strength and think of a strategy.

Yang Jun turned and gave Long Chen a look of challenge and viciousness. Then he looked at his master, and the power of a peak Seventh River Stage cultivator exploded within him. He pounced at the Third Demon Elder instantly at awesome speed, his agility not influenced by his large stature at all. In the blink of an eye, he arrived in front of the Third Demon Elder.

“Good!” The Third Demon Elder nodded approvingly, cheering Yang Jun on.

The people watching were mostly between the Sixth and Seventh River Stages; very few of them were at the Eighth River Stage. They were also very satisfied with Yang Jun’s performance and cheered him on.

He lived up to his reputation as the Third Demon Elder’s number one disciple. They could tell he was extraordinary from the moment he attacked!

Everyone was certain that Yang Jun would win the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture.

“Seven Killings Demon Finger!” Yang Jun roared as Qi exploded from inside him. A faint cloud of black Qi flew towards the Third Demon Elder. The finger seal was activated, and seven consecutive finger attacks were launched. Every attack carried formidable power, attacking the Third Demon Elder from all directions. This attack targeted the seven most important meridians of the human body. Only one attack hitting its target was needed to kill the opponent instantly!

The Seven Killings Demon Finger was an advanced Earth-tier combat technique. It only took one glance for Long Chen to know how powerful it was. Each of the seven consecutive attacks was more powerful than the last. Cultivators of the same level would find it hard to withstand this attack!

“Not bad!” praised the Third Demon Elder. He moved his feet, then he blurred into countless afterimages that surrounded where he initially was. Once Yang Jun’s attack had passed through, everyone saw that the Third Demon Elder was actually still standing on the same spot. Yang Jun’s seven consecutive attacks had all passed the Third Demon Elder without hitting their target even once!

“Yang Jun, again!”

He was very pleased with Yang Jun's performance, so he called out to Yang Jun again to let him show off his skills.

"Yes, Master!"

Yang Jun was filled with battle spirit under the encouragement of his master. He moved on the tips of his toes and charged at the Third Demon Elder once more. This time, he used an even more powerful attack, coupled with a body combat technique!

"Long Chen, did you see that? The body combat technique that the Third Demon Elder used was the Heaven-tier Traceless Demon Shadow," Zhao Qingyun whispered.

Long Chen had already guessed this himself. When the Third Demon Elder used the technique, illusory images of himself were everywhere, so no one could tell which one was the real him. And just like that, Yang Jun's attacks passed through without hitting him.

A technique like that could be used to dodge an enemy's attack, as well as boost one's own attacks to become unimaginably more destructive. Long Chen privately swore to get Traceless Demon Shadow no matter what!

Of course, Yang Jun was doing his very best. There were many people watching, so the Third Demon Elder would embarrass himself if he was too lenient. Plus, would Yang Jun even need him to be lenient?

"Seventy-Two Paths True Demon Fist!" Yang Jun successfully charged right up to the Third Demon Elder. His body shook and he let out a terrifying roar like a wild beast. Tan, solid muscles bulged from his body, and he threw heavy punches at the Third Demon Elder. The wind howled at every move!

"First Path!"

This was clearly an even higher-level Earth-tier combat technique. The Seven Killings Demon Finger only had seven moves, but this one had seventy-two, which was ten times more. As the attacks stacked up, the force they generated grew stronger and stronger. The final destructive force was much more powerful than the Seven Killings Demon Finger!

Combat techniques of the same tier could vary in power. The Seven Killings Demon Finger was considered a more elementary technique within the advanced Earth-tier, while the Seventy-Two Paths True Demon Fist was one of the more powerful ones.

The Seventy-Two Paths True Demon Fist caused a huge commotion. Yang Jun turned into a powerful gust of wind that forced the Third Demon Elder, who could not retaliate, backwards. He roared hysterically and threw increasingly heavy punches. Everyone was privately shaken by the crazed look on his face.

Yang Jun had a nickname, "Crazy Demon," because he was crazy both when he cultivated and fought. This was why he had managed to become the Third Demon Elder's number one disciple.

To be honest, the two prodigies who were at the Eighth River Stage were not feared by the younger disciples; they were most afraid of provoking Yang Jun because that meant never-ending trouble in the future. Long Chen had clearly invited a lot of trouble on this day.

Boom, boom, boom!

The Third Demon Elder had a heavy expression, but he did not move his feet. Instead, he used a simple fist technique to neutralize Yang Jun's attack. This was actually an indirect show of leniency. If he had used Traceless Demon Shadow since the beginning, Yang Jun would not have been able to force him back. Therefore, the Third Demon Elder now looked like he was using all his energy to defend himself.

“Not bad! Not bad!”

The Third Demon Elder's precise punch interrupted Yang Jun's attack, even forcing his next punch back. However, Yang Jun did not lose his focus because of this. With a fierce grimace, he roared once more, and Qi erupted from his body. He charged once more and threw another punch towards the Third Demon Elder's abdomen, leaving a black demonic shadow in his wake!

Slam!

The Third Demon Elder used his arm to block this punch. However, Yang Jun had used all his strength in this punch, so the vibration from its momentum shattered the Third Demon Elder's sleeve. Even part of the Third Demon Elder's arm was reddened from the vibrations!

By then, the Third Demon Elder knew that it was enough. The moment Yang Jun hit him, he moved his arms quickly and gripped Yang Jun's neck, so he was in a tight chokehold. If he wanted to, he could kill Yang Jun whenever he wanted.

This meant that Yang Jun had lost.

But Yang Jun was happy because shattering a Ninth River Stage cultivator's sleeve while being at the Seventh River Stage himself was the best he had ever done. Of course, the Third Demon Elder had been lenient.

I have managed to shatter Master's sleeve, while Long Chen probably won't even be able to touch Master. Looks like Traceless Demon Shadow will surely be mine today.

Yang Jun was very happy. Under the Third Demon Elder's instruction, he silently stepped away to let Long Chen have the space.

Although you did not get to beat me, how dare you try to fight me? While I can't kill you in public, there are countless ways to kill someone. Long Chen, today is your unlucky day. It's your fault for provoking us and wasting my time.

Yang Jun thought he would get his hands on Traceless Demon Shadow with no issues, but then Long Chen. If not for the Third Demon Elder for pressuring the Palace Lord, Yang Jun would've been the one with the unhappy ending.

He was the chosen one. If he could not even beat a newly recruited disciple, Yang Jun would not be able to live with himself.

“Long Chen, do well,” Zhao Qingyun said to Long Chen.

Long Chen nodded and walked into the battlefield. The Third Demon Elder, who was now missing a sleeve, stood with his hands behind his back. He watched Long Chen with amusement.

“Third Demon Elder, it looks like your arm was itchy because you reached out to let your disciple scratch it! I wonder, is it still itchy now? Your arm isn’t the only place I can scratch; I can do other things too.”

Long Chen’s mocking words made the Third Demon Elder’s face turn dark red. He glared at Long Chen coldly and said, “You brat, don’t you twist the truth with your slippery words! Time waits for no one. Be quick and get on with it. I have many matters to attend to in the clan, and I don’t have time to waste with you here.”

Long Chen smiled, preparing to attack. At the same time, he was thinking of a perfect strategy. *It looks like I will need to use that technique. I’ll pretend to be a pig, then eat the tiger.*

With that thought, Long Chen charged lazily at the Third Demon Elder without even using his Azure Dragon Halberd or Dragon Soul Transformation. He used the Sword Devil Finger instead!

“Such a low-level combat technique! It can’t even scratch my itch!” When the Third Demon Elder saw how weak Long Chen’s attack was, he burst into laughter. Although the Sword Devil Finger was a decent attack, it was easily shattered with a flick of his hand. It could not even break through the Third Demon Elder’s defenses.

Long Chen put on a shocked expression and cried in disappointment, “That’s impossible! My advanced Black-tier combat technique is very powerful! It didn’t even touch him, why?!”

His panicked reaction was within everyone’s expectations.

Chapter 353 - Pretend

Zhao Qingyun was laughing internally. That brat Long Chen was just too cunning. Everyone thought that he was pretending to be Long Chen while using his connections to get close to Zhao Qingyun. He was playing into this impression and making everyone think that he was weak. His acting was convincing enough, and the crowd erupted into laughter. Even the Third Demon Elder was completely relaxed. He decided he would toy with Long Chen for a while, then wrap this up.

Naturally, he did not dare overdo it, because Long Chen’s master, the Heavenly Demon Lord, was present. It would be bad if he became upset. After Zhao Qingyun’s warning just now, the Third Demon Elder knew that he had to give the Palace Lord face.

“Hey, kid, I’ll play with you. I’ll show you what the true Martial Dao is! Don’t worry, attack me with all you have!” The Third Demon Elder smiled.

“That’s impossible!” Long Chen gave a look of disbelief. He accelerated and arrived quickly in front of the Third Demon Elder. This time, he took out the Azure Dragon Halberd and attacked using Starsweep Dragon. Countless stars turned into dragons and flew right at the Third Demon Elder!

The Third Demon Elder dodged Long Chen’s attacks easily and laughed as he said, “That technique is not bad at all! However, I’m guessing that it’s only an elementary Earth-tier technique, right? This isn’t your most powerful move, is it, kid? It’s no wonder you’d dream of getting the Heaven-tier techniques. Your current skills are weak! Too weak! They can’t even be shown in public!”



When he finished speaking, he had already dodged Long Chen's Starsweep Dragon. The Third Demon Elder did not even need to use Traceless Demon Shadow, because he knew that the more carefree he seemed, the lower Long Chen's potential value would look.

"Even Starsweep Dragon can't touch you? That's impossible! Have a taste of this, then! I refuse to believe that even this can't beat you! Attack!"

"Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Nine Heavens Dragon Ascension!" He waved the Azure Dragon Halberd, and a large, illusory dragon image flew from near the Third Demon Elder's crotch upwards. If it struck him, he would not be able to make more children. Then again, at his age, that thing was probably not useful anymore.

"This move is good too, but it's far from being good enough ..."

The Third Demon Elder laughed coldly, then, before the halberd arrived, he reached into the halberd's range of motion and punched its side. Long Chen was thrown back, tumbling several times on the ground before stopping.

Everyone burst into laughter at his pathetic reaction. They all knew that the Heavenly Demon Lord had not only recruited a useless direct disciple, but this disciple was also an idiot.

"He's like his stepfather, only good for looks but is actually useless trash. You were bragging so much just now; I thought you actually had some talent. Unfortunately, this is the best you can do." Yang Jun smirked coldly.

"The Palace Lord's decision to recruit him is just too funny. I bet Long Chen will become a joke to everyone in the Heavenly Demon Palace."

"Hehe, he is already a joke."

The Third Demon Elder was secretly enjoying himself as he listened to the comments.

He sounded like he thought he could defeat Yang Jun, but he turned out to actually be useless trash. Though this brat really knows how to act, because it even convinced me.

The Third Demon Elder was a little speechless about Long Chen's abilities. He had only gently pushed Long Chen's halberd away, but Long Chen had been sent rolling away. If he truly wanted to attack him, Long Chen would have been dead.

Whatever. I need to finish him quickly. Based on his current performance, it's not enough to defeat Yang Jun at all.

The Third Demon Elder arrived in front of Long Chen in the blink of an eye and asked sternly, "You brat, are you able to stand?"

Long Chen's face was pale, and there was a hint of fear in his eyes as he peered at the Third Demon Elder. He struggled to crawl up on his feet, then gritted his teeth and said, "I haven't lost! I am a Beast Warrior! I still have my Beast Soul Transformation!"

“Haha, show me your Beast Soul Transformation, then! I want to see how much it’ll boost your strength. Ten percent? One percent?” The Third Demon Elder stood lazily in front of Long Chen with a look of contempt.

“You’ll see!” Long Chen cried, as if mustering up his courage. Then he activated his Dragon Soul Transformation. Dense, red scales and spines gradually covered his whole body.

“Oh! Your Beast Soul Transformation looks good,” the Third Demon Elder said in an overly dramatic tone. He was in a great mood.

“Let me give you a taste of my most powerful move!” Long Chen declared indignantly.

He was still acting, and it was very convincing. It was an airtight performance. Not only had the Third Demon Elder let down his guard, even the audience was relaxed. They wanted to see how comical Long Chen’s most powerful attack would be.

Long Chen had them in the palm of his hand.

Zhao Qingyun was watching the duel unfold. Since he knew Long Chen well, he understood Long Chen’s plan.

So this is why this kid has managed to accomplish so many things that ordinary people cannot at such a young age. Based on how well he’s playing their minds, there’ll be a good show soon.

Just as Zhao Qingyun finished this thought, Long Chen, whose cultivation level had risen to the Seventh River Stage after the Dragon Soul Transformation, launched his most powerful attack at the defenseless Third Demon Elder standing at arm’s length!

Divine Fire Clone!

Blood Devouring Domain!

Soul Swallowing Gaze!

Dragon King’s Burial!

Long Chen used all four techniques at the same time. He used the Blood Devouring Domain to suppress the Third Demon Elder, restricting his movement, then surrounded him with 125 clones to block off his escape route in all directions. Surrounded by so many clones, the Third Demon Elder did not have enough space to use Traceless Demon Shadow! Then Long Chen used the Soul Swallowing Gaze to influence the Third Demon Elder’s mind. Although its effect was subtle, it was better than nothing!

Long Chen then unleashed Dragon’s King Burial, which was his most powerful attack!

Long Chen’s performance had made the Third Demon Elder completely let his guard down, but then Long Chen unexpectedly exploded with such a tight and terrifying setup. Not only was the audience shocked, even the Third Demon Elder froze. When he woke up, Long Chen had already sealed off his escape route using the Divine Fire Clones!

The 125 clones surrounded him tightly, looking like a giant flaming egg with the Third Demon Elder as the yolk in the center!

“What is this?!” The Third Demon Elder’s face changed. Under normal circumstances, Long Chen’s Dragon’s King Burial would not have been a threat to him. However, they were very close to each other, and Long Chen had suddenly exploded with a fatal attack. The Third Demon Elder believed that if he did not use a combat technique, he would be injured!

It was not unheard of for a master to be killed by a weaker opponent due to carelessness.

The Third Demon Elder had no time to think at such a critical juncture. In the face of this almost life-threatening attack, he instinctively unleashed his own attack, which was the Seven Killings Demon Finger. Seven consecutive attacks were launched, bringing with them a gust of wind. He was using an attack as defense against Dragon King’s Burial!

When the Third Demon Elder used the Seven Killings Demon Finger, it was not on a scale that Long Chen could withstand. However, using this attack meant that he had broken the rules he had set. At the very last moment, Zhao Qingyun appeared in front of the Third Demon Elder and caught the attack in his palm. Then he let go without even sustaining a single scratch.

The sudden twist in events caused the entire crowd to fall silent.

Long Chen put away all his clones and disabled the Blood Devouring Domain. He stood next to Zhao Qingyun and looked at the Third Demon Elder with a smile. The calmness he displayed made him seem like he was a completely different person from moments ago. The crowd now knew that Long Chen had been pretending to be a pig to eat the tiger.

Long Chen had to have considerable talent to be able to trick the Third Demon Elder and everyone else with his acting. They all felt a cocktail of emotions as they stared at the smiling teenager.

“Third Demon Elder, didn’t you say just now that you could only defend and dodge without attacking? May I ask why you decided to use the Seven Killings Demon Finger? Can I interpret it as this: dodging and defending were no longer enough to withstand my attack, and you had to use your advanced Earth-tier combat technique to survive? You must know that I did not even use an advanced Earth-tier technique!” Long Chen said, staring at the reddened Third Demon Elder.

A huge wave of shock crashed through the Third Demon Elder. He stared at Long Chen with great uncertainty, his heart torn. He knew that he had been tricked, and he never would have expected Long Chen to be able to unleash power on par with a Seventh River Stage cultivator.

*What if ... he really is Long Chen from the rumors?* This question slowly popped into everyone’s minds. They recalled that since his arrival, the attitude he displayed did not belong to a useless idiot. His ability to withstand humiliation and trick them just now was further proof. That trick showed that he had more patience than the average person and had mastered human psychology.

It was not a surprise for a person like that to evade the fate of death and kill an opponent much stronger than he was.

“Third Demon Elder, between Yang Jun and I, who do you think the winner is?” Long Chen asked with a grin as they all watched in shock.

## Chapter 354 - Twenty-Day Promise

Who won?

The answer was clear. After Long Chen deactivated his Dragon Soul Transformation, everyone estimated that he was at the Sixth River Stage. His cultivation level was lower than Yang Jun's, yet he had forced the Ninth River Stage Third Demon Elder to use a combat technique to save his own life. All Yang Jun has managed to do was shatter the Third Demon Elder's sleeve. The victor was clear.

Even though the Third Demon Elder wanted to talk Yang Jun up, he had no choice with Zhao Qingyun present. His face turned increasingly green as his eyes were fixed on Long Chen. Finally, he said, "Your performance was slightly better."

Even the Third Demon Elder had to admit that the victor had been determined. Initially, they could have let Yang Jun and Long Chen duel to decide who would receive the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture, but the Third Demon Elder was too smart for his own good. Since he was the one who had set the rules, then he had no choice but to admit defeat.

This meant that Long Chen would receive the scripture.

The other people thought that this was unbelievable because before the battle, no one would have dared to imagine that the useless Long Chen could win. They were familiar with Yang Jun's combat abilities, so they thought this was just a wild dream.

"No! I refuse to accept this!" Yang Jun breathed heavily and his eyes slowly turned red. He glared at Long Chen and announced through gritted teeth, "Everyone! Long Chen forced my master to retaliate not because he is strong, but because he is more cunning and tricked my master! If we are talking in terms of true strength, he is no match for me. Palace Lord, I sincerely beg for you to let me fight him so we can decide who will get to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow!"

There was great dissatisfaction in Yang Jun's heart, even hatred. However, Long Chen had already gotten Traceless Demon Shadow and was no idiot, so he said, "Why are you acting like this? These were the rules of the test, and they were set by your master. You also agreed to it just now. Now that you've lost, you're refusing to admit it. Are you even a man? Also, combat requires intelligence. A dumb donkey like you shouldn't throw a tantrum here if you don't even know what the art of intelligence is." Long Chen naturally did not hold back when talking to him.

"You! What did you say? I'm going to kill you!" Yang Jun threatened viciously.

"Enough!" The Third Demon Elder gasped and quickly held the enraged Yang Jun back. He said to Zhao Qingyun, "Palace Lord, young people are unwilling to accept defeat sometimes, so please do not take it to heart. Yang Jun, come with me. Don't embarrass me here." He spoke darkly to Yang Jun towards the end.

Yang Jun still looked unwilling to relent, and his venomous glare never left Long Chen. He had been dreaming of the Three Great Secret Scriptures of the Heavenly Demon Palace since he started cultivating, but when one was almost in his grasp, Long Chen suddenly popped up and snatched away what belonged to him! How could he not hate Long Chen?

“The more skillful person gets it. That’s what you all said,” Long Chen said mildly.

The show was ending. The Third Demon Elder and Yang Jun were about to leave shamefully, and everyone’s impressions of Long Chen had changed drastically. Long Chen’s performance had helped Zhao Qingyun gain some face, making him very happy internally. Zhao Qingyun said with a smile, “Let’s go. I’ll take you to get Traceless Demon Shadow.”

“Wait!”

An elderly voice rang. Long Chen turned to look and realized that the two other Demon Elders had noticed the commotion and were walking over. After watching for a bit, they had figured out what was happening.

“Greetings, Palace Lord!”

The two Demon Elders stood fairly close to Zhao Qingyun, both eyeing Long Chen secretly. They were at least smarter than the Third Demon Elder, so they fully understood that Zhao Qingyun’s newly recruited direct disciple was indeed the Long Chen from the stories.

“What is it?” Zhao Qingyun’s brows were slightly furrowed. It was clear that these two were here to cause trouble.

“Palace Lord, I only would like to say that Traceless Demon Shadow has always been given to outstanding disciples beyond the Seventh River Stage. These are the ancestors’ rules. May I ask if Long Chen has reached the Seventh River Stage yet?” the First Demon Elder asked solemnly. He was not as rash as the Third Demon Elder.

“He is now at the Sixth River Stage,” Zhao Qingyun answered mildly.

“Then he doesn’t qualify. Ancestral rules aside, the Sixth River Stage is two whole steps away from the Heaven-tier techniques’ requirements. He wouldn’t be able to successfully cultivate it at all. In comparison, Yang Jun is about to break through to the Eighth River Stage. It is my humble opinion that Long Chen won’t be able to comprehend Traceless Demon Shadow within even half a year. Why not let Yang Jun learn it first? Once Long Chen attains the Seventh River Stage, Yang Jun will have comprehended it already. Wouldn’t that be perfect timing?” said the First Demon Elder.

The Second Demon Elder chimed in as well. “Big Brother is right. That way, Long Chen will be able to focus on raising his cultivation level without any distractions. Also, the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture will be in the hands of someone who can actually utilize it, rather than letting someone who shouldn’t cultivate it hog it. Most important of all, we won’t be breaking the ancestral rules.”

Their points were all based on logic, so most of the people present agreed.

Yang Jun himself had said that he would attain the Eighth River Stage in less than a month. Based on his comprehension abilities, he could probably begin to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow in a month’s time. Soon after, he would no longer need the secret scripture. If Long Chen reached the

required cultivation level by then, it would be just in time to hand it over to him. That way, everyone would be happy.

However, Long Chen would never allow that to happen.

He knew that he had to resolve this issue on his own.

Therefore, he took a step forward and said, "Indeed, you two have presented valid points. However, what if I am confident that I will completely comprehend Traceless Demon Shadow within twenty days?"

"What?"

Long Chen's words stunned the crowd for a while. Then they erupted in disagreement.

Did he say he could finish cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow within twenty days? Did the brat think Traceless Demon Shadow was one of his low-grade techniques? One that could be mastered so casually?

"This is a Heaven-tier combat technique! He said he's going to master it in twenty days? What kind of joke is that?"

"I think he got hit in the head. He's gone mad because he's so desperate for a Heaven-tier technique."

Long Chen's confident words made the First and Second Demon Elders look at each other.

"Yang Jun can't attain the Eighth River Stage in twenty days anyway. Going by your logic, since the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture is just sitting there, might as well let me take it back to cultivate it! If I am not successful, I will return it." Long Chen's impassive tone showed everyone his self-confidence.

"Long Chen, are you being serious?" the First Demon Elder asked cautiously.

"A gentleman does not swallow his words," Long Chen responded with a smile.

"If that is the case, Palace Lord, I shall not say anything more. If Long Chen is unable to comprehend Traceless Demon Shadow by then, I hope that you will give the scripture to Yang Jun. I have witnessed Yang Jun's hard work all these years. If we focus on training him, he will definitely become a pillar of the Heavenly Demon Palace in the future," said the First Demon Elder, looking at Zhao Qingyun.

"Since it has been decided, you all may leave." Zhao Qingyun was getting annoyed at this point.

However, there was a sudden cry of dissent.

"You say you can finish cultivating it in twenty days? Long Chen! Do you have the guts to make a bet with me?!" Yang Jun yelled through gritted teeth, standing next to the Third Demon Elder.

“How can anyone know if you will actually do it in twenty days? You need to show it off, am I right? Why don’t we have a duel in twenty days? That’s coincidentally right before the Pyro Passageways training exercise. If you have successfully cultivated Traceless Demon Shadow by then, you’ll get your chance to show it off and I’ll learn from it too. Do you dare take this challenge?” This was completely Yang Jun’s idea, but he was confident that the Third Demon Elder would support him. As expected, after he made this declaration, the Third Demon Elder privately nodded.

*Twenty days? Long Chen’s declaration is just too ambitious. We’ll let Yang Jun test him when the time comes, and we’ll watch him embarrass himself. Yang Jun lost to him today; if he doesn’t get to fight Long Chen again to undo this knot in his heart, he might not even be able to reach the Eighth River Stage,* the Third Demon Elder thought to himself.

All eyes fell on Long Chen.

Since Long Chen dared to make such an ambitious statement, then surely he was aware that he risked embarrassing himself.

Long Chen thought of the Pyro Passageways training exercise.

“Master, didn’t you say I could enter the Pyro Passageways if I defeated Yang Jun?” Long Chen asked Zhao Qingyun next to him.

“If you defeat Yang Jun, you will be ranked third among the young disciples of the Heavenly Demon Palace. Anyone in the top ten can participate in the Pyro Passageways training session,” Zhao Qingyun responded.

The audience listened to their conversation, though they thought that Long Chen was merely dreaming.

“Long Chen, do you dare take the challenge?” Yang Jun asked again.

“Of course I do. When you lose again, I hope you won’t continue being a sore loser,” said Long Chen without hesitation.

News of their duel spread like wildfire across the entire Heavenly Demon Palace!

This was officially the day Long Chen truly became famous within the clan. Everyone now learned that Long Chen had some capabilities, seeing as he had put on such a shocking performance in front of the Martial Library. However, his dramatic declaration that he would master Traceless Demon Shadow within twenty days spread across the whole clan too.

Everyone thought that he was just a dreamer who did not know his own strength.

After the promise was made, everyone left.

“Are you really confident that you can finish cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow within twenty days and defeat Yang Jun?” To be honest, even Zhao Qingyun did not think that Long Chen could complete this task. It was just too difficult. Even Zhao Qingyun could not have done it at his age.

“I don’t know either, but the larger the pressure, the more I grow. Twenty days will be enough!” Long Chen grinned.

#### Chapter 355 - Traceless Demon Shadow

At the topmost floor of the Martial Library, Long Chen received his first Heaven-tier combat technique: Traceless Demon Shadow. He finally felt more assured when he put the scripture, made of an unknown paper-like material, into his Universe Pouch.

This would be his task for the next twenty days. Since he had already made such a huge promise, then he had to master Traceless Demon Shadow before then! There were three Great Secret Scriptures in the Heavenly Demon Palace, and his goal was to obtain them all while simultaneously raising his cultivation level.

He had completed his first step. Of course, it was not actually complete—it only counted if he mastered Traceless Demon Shadow. If not, the scripture would have to be given to Yang Jun and he would become the joke of the clan.

“Take some time to familiarize yourself with it. If you don’t understand anything, you can ask me,” Zhao Qingyun said.

Long Chen nodded. However, he knew that he would always understand the theory because the mysterious dragon jade gave him strong comprehension abilities. What he lacked was the ability to execute, so he would need twenty days to practice.

After bidding Zhao Qingyun farewell, he returned to the place where he frequently cultivated, which was the peak of Demon Emperor Mountain. There, he sat on his usual boulder and started to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow.

“Traceless Demon Shadow. Heaven-tier techniques are indeed extraordinary ...”

As Long Chen read through the scripture, he felt that regular techniques could not compare to its ingenuity and power. The most complicated technique he had cultivated so far was the advanced Earth-tier Divine Fire Clone. However, this was ten times more subtle than Divine Fire Clone.

With his supernatural comprehension abilities, he easily understood the scripture. The next step was cultivation.

Ling Xi sat next to him, watching the process. She had a lot of knowledge about Heaven-tier techniques, which was of great help to him.

Understanding was easy. Cultivating was not. He faced great difficulty in the practical usage of the theories as every step of the process was very different from the last. Each step had to be performed consecutively before he could complete Traceless Demon Shadow. It was indeed not easy to utilize the full Traceless Demon Shadow and achieve a “traceless” effect.

However, if one could master it, then the user would be able to instantly create tens of thousands of split-images of himself like the Third Demon Elder had done. The opponent would find it difficult to distinguish the real person and his images; even a same-level opponent would struggle to track his movement.



“Traceless Demon Shadow really isn’t easy. My speed gets out of control very easily. Xiao Xi, what do you think I’m lacking?” Long Chen stopped his practice. This was already his fifth day cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow, but he knew that he had not made much progress. At least he had not truly felt the essence of Traceless Demon Shadow yet.

“I feel like you’re lacking something,” said Ling Xi, cocking her head to the side.

But she could not place a finger on what it was.

“I’ll practice for a while more, then go visit Stepfather and the rest, and also Wang Xing. It’s time I give him the stuff I previously promised him.”

Long Chen practiced for a while, then he packed up and quickly descended the mountain with Xiaolang and Ling Xi. It took him fifteen minutes to arrive at Xuanxiao’s place. After spending some time with Xuanxiao, he headed to the Azure Cloud Residence.

The other direct disciples were chatting. When they saw him arrive, they all took a few steps back and no one dared talk to him. They knew that he was very likely the Long Chen from the rumors. That Long Chen had killed way too many people, so they were instinctively a little scared of him.

However, they did think that he had overestimated himself after his dramatic declaration in front of the Martial Library. They knew that he was strong, but at his current cultivation level, he wasn’t *that* strong.

Long Chen did not care about the odd looks he received. These people were mere passersby to him, and there was no need to fret over their opinions. He returned to his own quarters to find Wang Xing cleaning his room.

“Wang Xing,” Long Chen called gently.

“Brother Chen? You’re finally back! I’ve waited for a long time!” He looked like he was cleaning, but he was mostly waiting for Long Chen’s return. He was overjoyed to see Long Chen and scurried over to look at him expectantly.

Wang Xing was currently at the Heavenly Core Realm, but his strongest combat technique was only an intermediate Black-tier combat technique. Long Chen wrote down some notes about the Sword Devil Finger, then he handed them to Wang Xing and even gave him some divine jades, Heavenly River Pills, and a large number of spiritual herbs he had taken from others.

“Thank you, Brother Chen!” Wang Xing was so overwhelmed that he almost knelt in front of Long Chen. Fortunately, Long Chen grabbed him, so he did not kneel.

“Work hard on your cultivation. Take a look at it now; you may ask me if you don’t understand anything. I need to resume my cultivation soon,” Long Chen said, sitting on a stone stool.

The teenager looked at him with fire and worship in his eyes, as well as battle spirit. That was why Long Chen did not mind helping him. This could end up changing his life.

After studying the Sword Devil Finger for a while, Wang Xing told him nervously, “Brother Chen, could you go out with me once? I’ve been too scared to go out these few days. I want to buy something from the Treasure Pavilion.”

“Why are you too scared to go out?” Long Chen was stunned.

“I ... Do you remember the people who bullied me last time? They are the Third Demon Elder’s disciples, which is why they’ve always been very arrogant. I’m just an errand boy, so I’m inferior both in terms of status and strength. That’s why I’m too afraid to go out. However, if I have you with me, I’ll go! You’re much stronger than them!”

“Are they still bullying you?” Long Chen frowned.

“Mhm.” Wang Xing nodded. “But last time, I escaped on my own. They threatened to beat me up every time they see me.”

Wang Xing was actually still a little scared.

“What do you want to buy?” Long Chen wanted to see if he had it in his Universe Pouch. If he did, he could give it to him directly.

“Red Heart Grass,” Wang Xing answered.

Long Chen did not have that. It was probably a Black-tier item. Although he had collected many Black-tier items, he did not have everything. In fact, he felt that as his cultivation level increased, such things became more and more useless to him.

“Alright. I’ll go with you.” Long Chen nodded and stood up.

He knew that within every faction, the marketplace where the exchange of goods happened was the busiest place in the area. Long Chen was now a celebrity in the Heavenly Demon Palace, so he would be watched like a monkey. However, he had no fear in his heart and naturally was not afraid of the odd looks.

“Thank you, Brother Chen! I’ll lead the way!” Wang Xing packed up excitedly and stood aside for Long Chen to exit. Then he ran up happily to Long Chen to lead the way.

Long Chen had not been to the Treasure Pavilion. The Demon Pavilion and the Martial Library were iconic landmarks in the Heavenly Demon Palace. From the outside, the Treasure Pavilion looked like a gigantic tortoise laying on the ground, taking up a large piece of land.

He could feel its lavishness only when he approached. A thick medicinal fragrance could be detected even from far away. This place held many shockingly precious treasures, and Long Chen guessed that everything the disciples needed could be found there.

Purchases were usually made using Heavenly River Pills. Prices were only stated in divine jades if their values were too low.

When he was just about to enter, Xiaolang turned around and walked to the wall of the mountain and lay down. He closed his eyes, waiting for Long Chen. Xiaolang did not need to cultivate these days; he was waiting for Long Chen to master Traceless Demon Shadow and defeat Yang Jun because only then would he get the chance to enter the Pyro Passageways. Then it would be his time to shine. If he had enough resources, he would surpass Long Chen in the blink of an eye.

Xiaolang did not want to enter a crowded place, and Long Chen did not mind. He followed Wang Xing into the Treasure Pavilion. The people within the bustling crowd recognized him.

“Look! Isn’t that Long Chen? The Palace Lord’s ninth direct disciple?”

“I heard he’s already received Traceless Demon Shadow! He even announced that he would master it in twenty days! Do you guys believe him?”

“Nonsense! Only an idiot would believe him. I don’t really believe he’s Long Chen in the first place. That legendary brute not only killed the six commanders of the royal guard, he also even killed the dwarf patriarch, who was at the Eighth River Stage! Does he look like he can do that?”

“Nope. This brat looks like a pretty boy.”

Similar discussions erupted.

“All these idiots! Once Brother Chen beats all of you up, you’ll learn of his power!” Ling Xi was angry at the insults directed at Long Chen.

“Ignore them. When the time comes, they will change their minds about me. It’ll be useless for me to explain now. Might as well go with the flow,” Long Chen said with a chuckle.

“Ever since that old man became your master, your personality slowly started changing. The old you would have beat them up if they said anything that made you unhappy,” said Ling Xi, pursing her lips.

“That just means I have matured! I’m filled with the irresistible maturity of a man!”

They traveled towards the source of the medicinal fragrance ...

Chapter 356 - Heavenly Sacred Rain

Wang Xing was unlikely to be bullied after he had arrived at the Treasure Pavilion. After they agreed on their gathering point, Long Chen let him shop on his own while he went towards the spiritual herb area.

“Brother Chen, what are you doing here?” Ling Xi asked expectantly.

“I don’t think I’ve bought you any more soul-nourishing herbs since I bought you the Sky Soul Fruit, right? How are you doing now?” Long Chen asked caringly.

“My soul has received sufficient nourishment during my stay in the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus and has recovered greatly. However, it has not reached satiation yet. Higher-level Earth-tier spiritual medicine should help. At least I will be able to assist you if you encounter a sticky situation,” Ling Xi said in a serious tone.

“What sort of sticky situations are you talking about?” Long Chen asked.

“At a minimum, I can hold off a Ninth River Stage cultivator for you and still preserve a third of my current soul power afterwards.” Ling Xi grew excited, knowing that she could help Long Chen again.

“That’s great! But remember this. Do not act rashly without my instruction,” Long Chen warned. He would never let Ling Xi use her abilities unless it was the last resort and his life was in danger. This was because Ling Xi would easily lose sight of her limits in order to save him, just like what happened at the Star Devil Prison. Thankfully, they had a perfect ending, or she and Long Chen would have forever disappeared from this world.

“Mhm!” Ling Xi stared at him timidly with widened eyes, then she nodded.

Soon, she could smell the fragrance and remarked in surprise, “There are many soul-nourishing herbs here! There are six in total, but there’s something odd!”

“What’s odd?” Long Chen asked hurriedly.

“Soul Nourishing Seeds are advanced Earth-tier spiritual medicine, but they’re selling them as initial Earth-tier herbs. One Soul Nourishing Seed is only going for twenty Heavenly River Pills,” she said, puzzled.

“Let’s go check it out,” he said.

Ling Xi led Long Chen through the crowd. After making a few turns, they arrived in a secluded section of the Treasure Pavilion. Many of the shops in the Treasure Pavilion were owned by Heavenly Demon Palace disciples, so the owner of the shop in front of him was a thin man of about thirty years old. He was currently reading a book intently.

When he sensed that someone was in front of him, he looked up at Long Chen weakly and said, “What do you want?”

Long Chen looked around, and his gaze fell on a small basket. There were indeed six thumb-sized black seeds inside that radiated a powerful but subtle energy. If one was not sensitive enough, it would have been difficult to identify them.

“I’ve never seen these black beans before. What are they?” Long Chen asked casually. They were priced at twenty Heavenly River Pills, but if he rushed to buy them, the owner could sense that they were special and raise the price.

“This is called an Energy Fruit. After eating one, you’ll be filled with energy and you’ll be able to cultivate for ten days and ten nights in a row. It’s an initial Earth-tier spiritual medicine! What do you think? Would you like to buy one?” the shop owner explained passionately, seeing as Long Chen had shown interest in an item he had been struggling to sell.

“It’s that special?” Long Chen gave him an impressed look, though he quickly frowned. “I want to buy them all, but they’re a little expensive.”

“All of them?” Everything totaled to a hundred and twenty Heavenly River Pills. Seeing as Long Chen was genuinely interested, the shop owner said hurriedly, “If that’s the case, they’re yours for a hundred Heavenly River Pills. What do you think?”

“Alright.” Long Chen looked as if he was unwilling to part with a hundred Heavenly River Pills. After the purchase, he put the six Soul Nourishing Seeds in his Universe Pouch and left.

“Finally tricked an idiot to sell those stupid things off. The heavens never disappoint a person who works hard ...” The thin man smirked creepily. He did not know that he was the actual idiot. The Soul Nourishing Seeds were actually advanced Earth-tier spiritual medicine that boosted one’s comprehension abilities and also nourished the soul. It was normally impossible to purchase one for less than twenty Heavenly River Pills.

Ling Xi could not stop grinning in the Ling Xi Sword.

“Brother Chen, you’re so mean!” Ling Xi said, a little bit disgusted.

“Mean? If I was mean, I would have eaten you up when you were sleeping. Sigh. Every time I think about how the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus was wasted just like that, my heart aches,” Long Chen said with a grin.

“Nonsense. I’m not talking to you anymore.” Ling Xi blushed when she recalled previous times.

Then he heard a commotion outside.

*Xiaolang is outside. He should be fine, right? I’d better get over there quickly.* With that thought, Long Chen quickly rushed out.

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Moments after Long Chen entered the Treasure Pavilion.

Xiaolang had picked a cool, shady spot next to the wall of the mountain. He lay on the ground and closed his eyes to rest. Behind him was a fake cliff that could be easily climbed.

Soon after, a group of noisy teenagers passed by. One of them spotted Xiaolang and cried, “Everyone, look! Isn’t that demonic wolf the one that follows Long Chen around?”

“Long Chen?” One of the teenagers had a fair face with clear skin. His eyes were filled with arrogance and rudeness that only the young possessed. When someone mentioned Xiaolang, he turned quickly and asked, “This Long Chen you speak of, is he the one who defeated my elder brother at the Martial Library? Is he the one who said he’s going to fight my brother?”

“Yes, Young Master Bing. This is the demonic beast who follows Long Chen around. It’s a Category Five Earth-tier wolf, and a strong one too. It even bullied us once before. It was terrible! If we hadn’t fled in time, we would have been killed by it already!” one of the other teenagers explained indignantly. If Long Chen were here, he would have recognized them as the teenagers who had bullied Wang Xing.

Young Master Bing was Yang Jun’s younger brother, Yang Bing.

“How ridiculous! It’s fine if he’s arrogant, at least he has the talent to be arrogant. But if this animal is also arrogant, then that’s crossing the line. Do they think they own the place?” Chen Bing said darkly.

“Yeah! Young Master Bing, not only is Long Chen arrogant enough to declare that he will master Traceless Demon Shadow in twenty days, even this animal is arrogant! How dare a demonic beast act like this in human territory? Young Master Bing, you can easily kill it with your Sixth River Stage strength!”

After being provoked by this declaration, Chen Bing nodded and said, “If I can’t teach this animal a lesson, I will not be able to face my brothers.”

He eyed the sleeping Xiaolang for a while, then he spotted the small cliff behind Xiaolang and had an idea. He laughed and said, “My brothers. Since this demon wolf dared to humiliate you all, then I shall humiliate it too! Just watch me!”

Yang Bing stepped away from the group and walked up to the cliff as the others watched expectantly. He then climbed up the cliff like an orangutan and was soon standing at the top. He looked down and saw Xiaolang directly below.

“What is Young Master Bing doing?” Everyone looked at each other, puzzled but excited.

When they saw that he had started to undo his pants string, they finally understood and tried their best to suppress their laughter, because they knew what he was going to do next. Xiaolang had picked a pretty secluded area, so not many people passed by.

“Young Master is going to use his fatal strike technique, Heavenly Sacred Rain! Hehe ...”

“That animal is lucky enough to enjoy the Heavenly Sacred Rain, haha ...”

“Lucky? Why don’t you take its place?”

“No way! My weak body could not withstand Young Master Bing’s Heavenly Sacred Rain!”

By this point, Yang Bing had completely undone his pants string. He grinned smugly at everyone, then dug out his little guy.

“Yang Bing’s little brother is large, as expected! I’m jealous!”

“Of course, or would he dare show it to us? I heard Yang Master Bing is already very experienced in bed, unlike us. We haven’t even touched a woman’s hand!”

“Don’t you guys know? Young Master Bing has agreed to sneak us down Demon Emperor Mountain tomorrow to have some fun! He says that the women he recommends will all be super hot!”

“Really?” They were all extremely excited.

They all watched in anticipation as Yang Bing took out his little guy and aimed it at Xiaolang. He then smirked and mouthed the words, “Fatal strike, Heavenly Sacred Rain!”

Liquid trickled down.

The group of teenagers watched intently and burst into laughter.

The cloudy flow of water was about to touch Xiaolang, who was speechless at their behavior. He had long noticed the group of brats, but was just too lazy to care. He had not expected the one guy to cross the line. Angered, Xiaolang looked up, and the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire shot from his mouth. The flames immediately wrapped around Yang Bing’s “sacred rain.”

Then the trickle of urine started to freeze into hard, black ice. In the blink of an eye, the ice grew from Xiaolang upwards to Yang Bing’s crotch, reaching his little guy. Everything was turned into black ice.

Xiaolang looked up and privately sighed in relief because the black ice was less than half a meter away from the top of his head. If he had reacted slightly slower, it would have reached him.

Xiaolang shook his head in exasperation, then he left with a bored shake of his tail.

Everyone stared in shock.

Half a breath’s time passed. Blood rushed into Yang Bing’s swollen face, and he let out a scream that shook the earth. All the black ice turned to dust. His crotch had become completely flat. Nothing was there.

Everyone guessed that he would never be able to unleash the Heavenly Sacred Rain again.

Chapter 357 - Murong Yu

The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire had destroyed Yang Bing’s lineage.

Yang Bing screamed and fell from the cliff, twitching all over. In reality, Xiaolang knew how far he could go and only caused Yang Bing to lose one organ. That was the only injury he had received.

Everyone surrounded him, looking at each other in panic.

“Young Master Bing’s older brother is nearby! We need to tell him quickly!” When one of the teenagers saw that Xiaolang had not left, but rather found another spot to rest, he quickly ran off. They soon found Yang Jun.

At this time, Long Chen had already bought the Soul Nourishing Seeds and was running out after hearing the commotion.

His gaze met Yang Jun’s cold eyes once more.

“What’s going on?” Long Chen asked.

Xiaolang nodded pointedly so Long Chen’s gaze was directed towards the unconscious Yang Bing. Following everyone’s eyes, he soon saw Yang Bing’s smooth crotch.

“You did that?” Long Chen did not know whether to laugh or cry. He thought he was the only one who would do something like that.

Xiaolang nodded in exasperation.

“Xiaolang said that the brat tried to pee on him. He only wanted to scare him, but he did not manage to hold back in time ...” Ling Xi giggled.

“You did well. I would have done the same,” Long Chen said with a grin. He did not blame Xiaolang.

This statement was actually meant for Yang Jun to hear.

When he said that, Yang Jun’s face turned even greener. He took a few steps forward, and a heavy aura pressed on Long Chen.

“Long Chen, what did you just say? If you don’t offer any explanation for what happened today, don’t think you’ll get to leave alive.”

“Are you trying to scare me?” Long Chen asked nonchalantly. “Is there a need for me to explain? It’s obvious, and I’m sure many people saw it. This brat on the ground tried to pee on Xiaolang but unexpectedly ended up losing an important part of his body. It’s purely his own fault. He was the one looking for trouble.”

Long Chen’s nonchalance triggered Yang Jun’s temper.

They would meet for a duel in a couple of weeks, but Yang Jun was already unable to hold himself back.

“If that’s the case, give me the animal,” Yang Jun demanded through gritted teeth.

“You must be dreaming! Xiaolang is my brother! Would I hand my brother over to you?” Long Chen smiled.

“Brother? Long Chen, if you call an animal your brother, doesn’t that make you an animal too?” Yang Jun smirked darkly. Everyone erupted into laughter. He had finally managed to beat Long Chen with words. At least he had a small win here.



However, Long Chen was not upset at all. He glanced at Yang Bing on the ground and said, "It doesn't matter if he's an animal; at least my brother still has his knob! Not like someone's brother, who doesn't even have his ... What kind of brother is that? I think 'sister' is more fitting. How lovely."

"Long Chen! You!" Even ten Yang Juns could not beat Long Chen at banter. Yang Jun was furious, and his eyes almost shot out flames. Everyone watched with great interest.

"Remember. There are still fifteen days left till the day we agreed on. It doesn't matter how much you hate me. We'll meet in fifteen days. This is not a good time," Long Chen reminded him.

In reality, as the direct disciple of the Heavenly Demon Lord, Long Chen was ranked higher than Yang Jun. Also, Long Chen had already shown them what he was capable of, winning over the Heavenly Demon Lord. If Yang Jun attacked now and injured Long Chen, it would definitely anger Zhao Qingyun.

It was not worth it.

That was why Yang Jun could only swallow his anger. Even though his younger brother was no longer a man, he had to hold himself back. In fifteen days, all would be settled.

"Alright. You said it. In fifteen days, I will resolve today's grudge. Long Chen, remember this: I will not hold back. Fists and feet do not have eyes in battle. If I 'accidentally' kill you, you can't blame me for it."

"You can brag all you want if you're that strong," said Long Chen, pursing his lips.

He had to defeat Yang Jun, but it was more important that he completed the cultivation of Traceless Demon Shadow. He had not figured the technique out yet, so he was feeling some pressure.

*Fifteen days. Is it really enough?* At this point, even he had the same question.

Once Yang Jun left with Yang Bing, everyone else dispersed. However, everyone was looking forward to their duel, seeing as the grudge between them had worsened.

Most of them wanted to see Long Chen make a fool out of himself. Yang Jun was ranked third among the younger disciples after all. His position had never been challenged, which was already a great feat.

How was it possible for anyone to cultivate a Heaven-tier technique in twenty days? They guessed that Long Chen could not even understand the secret scripture at this point.

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During the argument between Yang Jun and Long Chen, a boy and a girl were standing not far away, watching the commotion.

Both of them were under twenty years old, but it was clear that they had extraordinary achievements.

The boy was wearing green robes. He had a handsome but expressionless face, as well as a tall, lean figure like a flagpole. He had a healthy skin tone, the color of grains, shapely eyebrows, a tall nose, and tightly pursed thin lips. His dark, ink-green eyes looked as deep as the abyss.

The girl next to him was wearing a black chiffon dress. She had a delicate figure, and in parts where her skin was shown, it was shockingly fair. Her face was covered in a black chiffon veil, but based on the shape, she was definitely gorgeous.

If Long Chen saw her, he would think that she looked familiar.

“Sister Yu, do you think this is the real Long Chen?” the boy asked softly.

“I’ve seen him before. He is Long Chen,” she replied in a canary-like voice.

“Oh? Why haven’t I heard you mention him?” The boy was surprised.

“Do I have to tell you everything that happens to me?” The girl glanced coldly at him, then she said, “I’m going back to cultivate. Goodbye.”

Then she left without even looking back.

The boy’s gaze grew lustful as he stared at her curves.

Playing hard to get? You’ll be lying under me one day! Murong Yu, is there a woman in this world that I, Yang Danfeng, cannot have?

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Long Chen led Wang Xing back to the Azure Cloud Residence, then he prepared to return to Demon Emperor Mountain’s peak to continue cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow. He felt a little pressured after today’s events.

“Brother Chen, don’t worry. There’s still a lot of time left. Take your time. The more anxious you are, the more distracted you’ll be. It’s better if you quiet your heart down,” Ling Xi said delicately.

“You’re right.” Long Chen had been focused on quietly cultivating for the past few days. Although today’s events had given him more pressure, he could quickly regulate his emotions and continue to immerse himself into the world of Traceless Demon Shadow.

“There’s a girl waiting for you out front,” Ling Xi said unhappily.

Long Chen froze. He activated the Soul Swallowing Gaze, and his surroundings slowly changed. Indeed, he saw a girl with a black veil standing on the path where he usually passed through. She was clearly waiting for him.

*Eighth River Stage. She must be one of the top two prodigies of the Heavenly Demon Palace. Since it’s a girl, she’s likely Murong Yu.* Long Chen slowly thought about it. Very soon, he arrived in front of her. Murong Yu was tall and radiated a cold elegance similar to Yin Mengyao. However, she did not show her face.

When he approached, he realized that he had actually met Murong Yu before. Right after he had killed the six commanders, Murong Yu was the one who had given him advanced Earth-tier spiritual medicine so he could recover. She was also the one who had told him about the dwarves.

At the time, Long Chen guessed that based on her strength, she had to be from a major faction like the Heavenly Demon Palace. He had not expected to be right.

She looked up and asked in a cold voice, “Long Chen, you remember me, right?”

“You showed me kindness. Of course I remember you.” Murong Yu was not an enemy to him.

She nodded, then looked around him. “Have you failed? That beautiful girl, where did she go?”

She knew about his story, so she also cared about where Ling Xi had gone. Even she had to admit that she was not as beautiful as Ling Xi, and there were not many girls in the world who were.

Murong Yu was only asking out of concern, so Long Chen replied, “Thank you for your concern. I have not failed. All I can say is that she’s in a safe place now. And she’s very happy.”

“That’s good. She’s such a pretty girl, even I could not stand to see harm come to her.”

Murong Yu nodded, then she looked at him. “I’m guessing that you came to the Heavenly Demon Palace for the Three Great Secret Scriptures and the Demon Emperor Sword, then plan to return to the Biyang Imperial Capital to take your revenge. Am I right?”

Long Chen nodded. The girl was smart, and he did not need to hide his intentions.

“If that is the case, then we are competitors. I now have one more rival! I have already mastered Traceless Demon Shadow and even received the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique. The fight for the Demon Emperor Sword will likely be coming soon. We’ll see what happens.” Murong Yu did not mince her words, but her tone was friendly. It sounded like she was very excited to have one more rival.

#### Chapter 358 - Mysterious Runes

It was no wonder she was one of the two most outstanding disciples of the Heavenly Demon Palace. She was on a completely different level than Yang Jun. Yang Jun had not even received the Traceless Demon Shadow yet, but Murong Yu had already received the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique.

“You have a good chance. Now that you have Traceless Demon Shadow, if you score first place among the disciples under the Seventh River Stage at the Pyro Passageways, you’ll receive the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique,” Murong Yu said.

“The Seventh River Stage? How is that counted?” Long Chen asked.

“Yang Danfeng and I have received the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique, so we will be competing for the second stage this time. Whoever wins will

get it, while you, Yang Jun, and the rest are competing for the first stage," she explained.

Yang Danfeng was the other young Eighth River Stage cultivator.

"Long Chen, you've been a little too bold. I came here today mainly to ask you about how you're progressing with Traceless Demon Shadow." News of his declaration to cultivate the technique in twenty days had spread like wildfire, so she obviously knew about it too.

"I've only scratched the surface," he said honestly.

"When I was cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow, I couldn't understand anything for a long time. After that, I had the idea to cultivate it in water. Water offers greater resistance and helps with controlling your speed since it slows you down. Once you have a feel of the technique, you can speed it up. You understand what I mean, right?"

Not only did he understand, he was fully enlightened by it.

"Thank you so much! If you need help in the future, just tell me!" Long Chen was genuinely grateful for her. His journey would be much smoother with her suggestion.

"You don't have to thank me. I'm leaving." Murong Yu left without dragging the conversation. After she left, Ling Xi emerged from the sword, cheeks puffed up, and stared at him.

"What is it?" Long Chen did not know whether to laugh or cry.

"Tell me, why is she so good to you?" She was a little jealous.

"It's very simple ..." Long Chen chuckled and patted his chest. "It's because I'm handsome!"

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Long Chen found a deep lake on Demon Emperor Mountain. It was about thirty meters deep, quite a bit deeper than the common lake. The lake water was dark green and slightly cloudy, but it did not affect Long Chen's vision.

Although Murong Yu's method is a little strange, it is undeniably effective.

After three days of practice, Long Chen realized that he had finally grasped the Traceless Demon Shadow technique and had solidified his base. He had already planted the seeds, so he only had to water and nourish them, and they would grow into tall trees soon.

*There are twelve days left. If this continues, I'll be able to utilize Traceless Demon Shadow very soon. Of course, I will need more time to truly master it,* Long Chen thought to himself. He continued to practice night and day, using Traceless Demon Shadow at extremely slow speeds because he discovered it was much easier to control that way.

He took half a day to complete the footwork, and it would only get easier from here. Based on the speed of his progress, he needed about ten more days to complete the Traceless Demon Shadow footwork in one second. It was a repetitive practice, but Long Chen did not feel bored, because Ling Xi remained by his side and helped him improve. Xiaolang was also not far away. With two of them by his side, he felt very motivated. The worry he initially had was completely gone.

He did not need ten days. About nine days later, Long Chen could perform a more complete version of Traceless Demon Shadow. It was a Heaven-tier combat technique, but Long Chen had figured it out in less than twenty days.

*I wonder how interesting their expressions will be when they discover that I have truly succeeded in cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow.* Long Chen smirked to himself.

*There are three days left. Let me familiarize myself with it in the water first.* Long Chen slithered through the deep lake using Traceless Demon Shadow. Although it was deep and vast, Long Chen had already been to most of the lake. Traceless Demon Shadow specialized in speed, allowing the user to move so quickly that they became a demon shadow.

While practicing Traceless Demon Shadow, Long Chen suddenly sensed that whenever he approached a specific spot, the mysterious dragon jade in his mind vibrated once! *Is something happening with the dragon jade?* Long Chen was pleasantly surprised because the dragon jade only stirred when it encountered items of a certain standard. What would it be this time?

Long Chen observed his surroundings carefully. This area was narrower; therefore, he usually did not come here to practice. Yet was there a piece of treasure here? This was a surprise to him. He quickly searched across the whole area, having to rely on himself seeing as the dragon jade did not stir again after it stirred once.

“Brother Chen, what are you doing?” Ling Xi emerged from the sword, looking around. She watched him in confusion.

“There must be something here ...” Long Chen said with his brows furrowed.

They were at the bottom of the deep lake, which was covered in cloudy, black mud. It was disgusting just to look at, and it would be even worse if they tried to dig. However, Long Chen had already checked the area and found only water. If there was something here, then it had to be in the mud.

*Is it possible that I made a mistake? That nothing actually happened with the dragon jade?* he thought to himself, dejected.

“Something? Let me look for it too.” After Long Chen searched for a while, Ling Xi helped him. Her soul power had far greater scanning abilities than Long Chen. She scanned the area slowly, but after about seven minutes, she pursed her lips. “The deeper you go through this mud, the harder the ground is. There’s a lot of rock, but nothing else. The only thing that might be a little special is a talisman shell. This talisman is probably considered one of the higher-level types. However, it seems to be ineffective because it has lost its talisman spirit.”

“A talisman shell?” Long Chen’s eyes brightened. A bit of hope was better than nothing. He asked her impatiently, “Xiao Xi, what is the approximate location of the talisman shell?”

Ling Xi flew to a spot and pointed downwards. “Here, about fifteen meters below. It’s trapped under a rock. Are you going to retrieve it?”

“Of course.” Long Chen nodded.

If it really was some precious treasure, he could not care less about the mess and dirt. Under her guidance, he started to dig downwards. He had activated his Dragon Soul Transformation, so it was very easy to dig through soil with his tough claws and spines.

Very soon, he reached a huge rock. Ling Xi had said that the talisman shell was underneath it. There was a feeling in his heart that grew stronger as he grew nearer to the talisman, as if his bloodline was being connected in a metaphorical sense. Long Chen was emotional; he guessed that the talisman was related to the dragons.

He gently flipped the rock over and started to feel around with his fingers according to her guidance. Very soon, he found a flat stone slab the size of his palm. It was a very thin slab at about five millimeters thick; it was very smooth on one side, but the other was covered in runes, so it had a jagged texture. The slab was cold to the touch. Long Chen felt a vibration in his chest and a familiar feeling flowed through his body. He did not stay there for long and hurried out of the hole. Then, bringing Ling Xi with him, he rushed out of the lake and sat on a large boulder.

As he sat there, he studied the stone slab carefully. More specifically, it was a stone talisman. The talisman was light gray all over, just like normal stone. The only difference was that there was a black dragon etched on its surface, which looked similar to the dragon in his sea of consciousness. There were also many runes etched on it. As he read them, he subtly felt his gaze being pulled in, and that it was a little difficult to pull himself away from it.

“Xiao Xi, what do you think this is?” Long Chen held up the stone talisman.

“Like I said, this should be a piece of high-level talisman-type treasure. However, the strange thing is, why does it have a dragon etched on it? Usually, if you add images to runes, like a dragon image, the runes don’t work. I don’t know why it’s like this either.” Ling Xi fluttered around on the surface of the stone talisman, frowning, but she could not figure it out.

“How do you think it could benefit me?” Long Chen asked expectantly. He knew that this item was what had caused the mysterious dragon jade to vibrate.

“It’s useless. Like I said, perhaps this used to be a talisman with powerful runes that could unleash destructive attacks. However, it lost its talisman spirit, its soul, and its power. It’s just like a human without a soul and power. Dead. This is just the body; it’s useless,” said Ling Xi.

“Useless?” Long Chen was disappointed. He studied it again and again. There was no way it was useless if it could make the dragon jade vibrate!

Since he was almost done with Traceless Demon Shadow, he decided to spend some time studying the runes.

“Brother Chen, are you not giving up yet?” Ling Xi asked. She was speechless.

“No, I’m just really bored. I’ve been cultivating too much, so I want to take a rest and fiddle with this.”

*I wonder what will happen if I inject my Qi into it?* he thought excitedly.

Chapter 359 - The Ancestral Dragon Who Controls Time

“Xiao Xi, I should be fine if I inject my Qi into it, right?” he asked before doing it.

“Don’t worry. It’s just a shell,” Ling Xi responded.

With Ling Xi’s guarantee, Long Chen was emboldened. Ling Xi did not know about the dragon jade, so she did not care about the stone talisman. However, Long Chen did not think it was a simple item at all. He guided his Qi and slowly injected it into the stone talisman.

“Hmm?” To Long Chen’s shock, the stone talisman absorbed the Qi he injected, instead of it flowing out. “Xiao Xi!” Since it was an abnormal occurrence, he had to let Ling Xi explain. After he called for her, the black dragon image on the stone talisman shone with a black light. The light was very faint, and it flickered slowly like a small candle.

“Why is it doing that?” Ling Xi was surprised too. She leaned closer to the stone talisman and said with wide eyes, “Brother Chen, I don’t know why it’s like that either. How strange...”

“If you don’t know, then it must be very strange ...” Although it was glowing, nothing else was happening. Long Chen flipped it around a few times, but the black glow did not fade. That was when he suddenly felt a strong energy that made even his soul tremble.

*What is this feeling ...* Long Chen faintly sensed that a ripple had radiated from the stone talisman and spread across all directions. The ripple was invisible, but he had definitely felt it. In fact, he sensed that due to the stone talisman, him, Ling Xi, and Xiaolang nearby were being contained in a strange space.

After the creepy feeling appeared, Ling Xi gasped. “Brother Chen, look at the sun!” Long Chen looked up and was stunned. The sun, which was initially in the center of the sky, was setting in the west very quickly. In just a breath’s time, the sky had turned dark!

“What’s happening?!” Both Long Chen and Ling Xi were completely stunned. Before they knew how to react, the sky lit up once more just two breaths later! The sun rose

quickly from the east and set in the west, so in two more breaths' time, the sky was dark once again!

“What the hell? What’s happening?!” Long Chen’s thoughts were a mess. Whatever he was witnessing was just too shocking to him. Any normal person would be completely stunned by this scenario!

Long Chen saw that one long day had been compressed into four breaths, so one day had passed within this time. The sun flew like a shooting star, rising from the east and setting in the west. This length of time was only enough for Long Chen to utter one sentence!

“Xiao Xi, why is time passing so fast?!” Long Chen started to have difficulty breathing.

“Time didn’t speed up; *our* time slowed down in here! It’s countless times slower here!” Ling Xi said in a panic.

One whole day had passed during the course of this conversation! They were completely shaken by the circumstances.

“Let’s get out of here now!”

Long Chen had just uttered this sentence and descended from the boulder when time finally stopped flowing so rapidly. He did not know how much time had passed, but the sun was still directly above them in the sky as if nothing happened.

“Xiao Xi, was that just a dream?” Long Chen asked hoarsely, looking at the unmoving sun in the sky above.

“I don’t think so. It’s impossible for us both to be in the same dream.” She looked around in disbelief. “Brother Chen, I think it’s possible that this is the noon of several days in the future ...” she said weakly.

Long Chen was shaken.

“That’s impossible. How could such a bizarre thing happen? Can the speed of time be changed?” Long Chen shook his head, his face pale.

“Brother Chen...”

“Hm?”

Ling Xi’s voice trembled when she said, “I have heard of a formidable existence from ancient times. One that could control time. I think there was an ancestral dragon who controlled the passage of time, which is why it is completely possible. We can think of it this way. Time within the space we were in just now was suddenly countless times slower than the outside world, so we felt like we were normal, but the outside was going really fast. But to the outside, perhaps we were not even moving ...”

When she mentioned the ancestral dragon, Long Chen recalled that he was still holding the stone talisman. The black glow from the dragon image was completely gone. His hands shaking, he



lamented, “Xiao Xi, if it really is like you said, that our time was slowed down, then does that mean it was because of this thing?”

“I guess so.” Ling Xi stared at the plain-looking stone talisman in astonishment. She did not understand why such a powerful stone talisman would be buried in such a low-level land. What was it, anyway? These questions floated in Long Chen’s mind too. He did not dare hold it anymore, neither could he abandon it, so he immediately put it in his Universe Pouch. At least he felt more assured that way.

“There’s a dragon on the stone talisman. Xiao Xi, what is the name of the ancestral dragon that could control time?” Long Chen felt like it was related.

“I’ve forgotten. I’ve only casually heard of it ... It’s Taixu something ... I don’t quite remember,” said Ling Xi, a little embarrassed.

Long Chen did not dwell on this matter, because it was too far from his current level.

“That bastard Xiaolang is still sleeping, even after such a huge thing happened!” Ling Xi covered her mouth, speechless. Long Chen did not know whether to laugh or cry. Xiaolang had become fond of taking naps. Every time he had nothing to do, he would lay down. Of course, he truly had nothing to do.

*I need to give him Traceless Demon Shadow one day so he can try it out,* thought Long Chen.

“Xiao Xi, if we want to check if what just happened was a hallucination, we’ll know when we return to the Heavenly Demon Palace. Oh no!”

Long Chen gasped when he recalled something.

When she saw the shock on his face, Ling Xi asked hurriedly, “What is it, Brother Chen?”

“If there really was a problem with the flow of time, then how many days passed just now? We previously had two days left until the duel with Yang Jun. It would be embarrassing if we missed it! Not only for me, but my master will lose face too! No way, I must rush back now!” Long Chen made Ling Xi return to the Ling Xi Sword, kicked Xiaolang, and yelled for him to catch up, then he dashed to the Heavenly Demon Palace.

Please don’t make me miss it ...How many days have passed? Which noon am I in right now?

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“The agreed time was noon. It is noon right now, but Palace Lord, where is Long Chen?” The Third Demon Elder’s shrill voice rang through the air, filled with smugness.

This duel had become very famous in the Heavenly Demon Palace, to the extent that every person knew about it. That was why everyone of a certain status was present today. The space around the Martial Arena was densely packed with disciples. Almost everyone was here to watch the show.

Zhao Qingyun, the three Demon Elders, Pavilion Lords, Enforcers, and Elders all had their own seats, watching from high above. Only Yang Jun was standing in the arena, arms crossed as he gazed downwards regally. There was thick contempt and pride in his eyes.

It was time, but Long Chen was not here. What did that mean?

It meant that Long Chen had gotten cold feet.

Why had he gotten cold feet?

It meant he had bragged too much. Twenty days to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow? It was a joke. A huge joke. Long Chen knew that he could not do it, so he did not want to show up and embarrass himself. In reality, many people had expected this to happen. No matter how talented Long Chen was, it was impossible for him to master it in twenty days.

After the Third Demon Elder's very loud question, all eyes fell on Zhao Qingyun, waiting for his answer. Zhao Qingyun was initially filled with confidence in Long Chen, so he never went to look for him before this. Long Chen's absence today was also out of his expectations.

"Why are you so impatient? Perhaps he has been delayed by something. Since everyone is already here, what's the problem with waiting just a little longer?" Zhao Qingyun said mildly. To be honest, he did not have much confidence either, because he did not know if Long Chen would show up.

Many people had opinions about what he said.

"Is this a joke? How could so many of us wait for one person? Is he being stupid? Or is he just too afraid to show up?"

"Let's not wait anymore. That cowardly tortoise has probably left Demon Emperor Mountain. He's probably run off somewhere. Let's go back! We'll be waiting for nothing."

Similar complaints rang across the crowd.

Next to Zhao Qingyun, Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuanming were also sitting with deeply furrowed brows. Dongfang Xuanxiao looked around. He knew that if Long Chen did not come today, he would lose even more face than Zhao Qingyun.

"What's the matter with Chen'er? He would never do something like this. Father-in-law, let me go search for him," said Dongfang Xuanxiao.

"There's no need. If he's supposed to come, he will come." Zhao Qingyun shook his head.

After the Third Demon Elder heard Zhao Qingyun, he mocked him, "'Will come?' Who knows? We can wait, but not forever. I think we should call it off. He isn't even here now; will he ever come?"

Chapter 360 - Brother Chen Appears

Many people agreed with the Third Demon Elder.

Zhao Qingyun frowned slightly. Long Chen was not here, and that was a fact. He did not know what to say, so he let them be.

“When did that little brat Long Chen become this unreliable? With his personality, even if he did not complete the technique, he wouldn’t get cold feet.” Zhao Qingyun was very confused.

“Palace Lord, I think we should call it off. Long Chen has probably taken the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture and slipped out of Demon Emperor Mountain. The Heavenly Demon Palace probably only has Two Great Secret Scriptures left!” the Third Demon Elder mocked.

“Shut your mouth!” Zhao Qingyun was already slightly angry. The rage of a Heavenly Passage Realm master was the equivalent of a storm slamming into the Third Demon Elder. The Third Demon Elder let out a grunt and stumbled a few steps backwards, almost falling on his bottom.

“Let me tell you this: I am the Heavenly Demon Lord, not you! Long Chen is a disciple I took in! You say he’s a traitor; doesn’t that mean you’re calling me blind? Third Demon Elder, you’re bold!”

Zhao Qingyun was usually mild-tempered, but the moment he raged, the whole crowd fell completely silent. They were initially prepared to cheer in support of the Third Demon Elder, but when they saw Zhao Qingyun rage, they recalled that Long Chen was his favorite disciple and realized that they had indeed crossed the line.

The Third Demon Elder was very unwilling to be suppressed by Zhao Qingyun, but with Zhao Qingyun’s status and strength, the Third Demon Elder was completely helpless.

“Old Three, why are you so impatient? Why don’t we wait two more hours? After that, you won’t need to do anything. The Palace Lord will know how to deal with it.” The First Demon Elder’s hoarse voice woke the Third Demon Elder up. He nodded solemnly.

Standing behind the First Demon Elder was his number one disciple, Yang Danfeng, at the Eighth River Stage. And standing behind the Second Demon Elder was also her disciple, Murong Yu at the Eighth River Stage.

Murong Yu said gently, “I think he will come. I told him the trick to cultivate the technique. Then again, he wouldn’t succeed even if he had forty days to practice. Twenty days is just too short. However, based on his personality, I don’t think he ran with the scriptures. If he wasn’t held up by something else, he will definitely come.”

Murong Yu’s words stunned the people around her. They all gave her strange looks, especially Yang Danfeng, who did not understand why she had spoken up.

“Xiao Yu, do you know Long Chen? And you two have an amicable relationship?” the Second Demon Elder asked sternly.

Murong Yu nodded and told her about the time they had met at the misty valley.

“All I saw is that he works very hard and is a man who can shoulder responsibility. He seemed like a good person, which is why I helped him,” said Murong Yu, slightly embarrassed.

“Nonsense!” the Second Demon Elder snapped, suppressing her voice.

Murong Yu was stunned.

“Xiao Yu, listen to me. Try not to interact with Long Chen in the future, or I will punish you,” the Second Demon Elder said in a low voice. The three Demon Elders held strong contempt for Long Chen, yet as the number one disciple of the Second Demon Elder, Murong Yu had given Long Chen so much help, which infuriated the trio.

“You should not have helped him at the time; you should have let him die. That way, your Third Martial Uncle would not have suffered so much with Yang Jun!” The Second Demon Elder looked at her blamefully.

After some hesitation, Murong Yu finally voiced her confusion. “Master, I don’t understand. Isn’t Long Chen quite a good person? He holds huge potential, and now that he has entered the Heavenly Demon Palace, he will definitely strengthen the clan. He might even reach the Heavenly Passage Realm. Plus, he and the imperials are enemies. Isn’t that in alignment with our objectives?”

“Xiao Yu, are you actually an idiot?” The Second Demon Elder shook her head. “Have you forgotten? According to the ancestral rules, the person who possesses the three secret scriptures, successfully cultivates them, and is recognized as master by the Demon Emperor Sword has the right to become the next Palace Lord. Do you want the ruling seat of the Heavenly Demon Palace to end up with an outsider, whose background is unknown?”

Murong Yu understood her logic and finally understood the reason why the three Demon Elders were so nervous about Long Chen. After they confirmed that Long Chen was indeed the infamous Long Chen from the outside world, they were not relieved at all. Their mockery had turned into caution. They had long planned for one of their own disciples to become the next Heavenly Demon Lord, but Long Chen had suddenly appeared. Who would feel good about this?

Murong Yu could only smile in exasperation. In reality, she did not really care for the position of Palace Lord. The person who really cared about it was next to her—Yang Danfeng. At this moment, he was staring at Murong Yu with an inexplicable light in his eyes.

Zhao Qingyun had suppressed the three Demon Elders, but after waiting for a long time, the disciples lost their patience. They started to discuss in whispers.

“Whatever, let’s go back. It’s definitely going to be a no-show.”

“Damn it, I was looking forward to this! Long Chen is a coward!”

Not far away from them was the young Wang Xing. He had come here with infinite admiration and respect for Long Chen. However, Long Chen had not shown up, and he felt very uncomfortable listening to other people insulting him. Finally, he could not stand it any longer and turned around to yell, "Shut up! How could Brother Chen be afraid of Yang Jun? He must have been delayed by something important! You all just wait! Very soon, he will get here and use Traceless Demon Shadow to defeat Yang Jun!"

"You bratty kid! What did you say? Are you looking for death?" Wang Xing's outfit showed that he was just an errand boy. It was insubordinate for an errand boy to speak so rudely to them.

When Wang Xing saw that the others looked like they wanted to beat him up, he stumbled a few steps back in fear. However, when he thought of Long Chen, he gained courage and said, "I'm just telling the truth. Brother Chen will be here very soon. All you people speaking ill of him are looking for death!"

"Heh, he's actually fighting back! My brothers, let's beat him up!" The whole group raised their fists and surrounded him. They were about to attack when a person stood in front of them. It was Yang Danfeng. The First Demon Elder had spotted the fight brewing and was growing worried that it would throw the whole crowd into chaos, so he sent Yang Danfeng as a control measure.

The bullies were disciples under the First Demon Elder, as well as an errand boy.

"You fools! Slap each other a hundred times when you get back home! I will check later, and if I see that your faces are not swollen, I will slap you myself!" Yang Danfeng's cold voice made them feel as if they had fallen into a freezer. They would undeniably pick to slap each other themselves. If Yang Danfeng did it, would they survive?

The disciples fled pathetically.

Yang Danfeng turned around and glanced at the timid Wang Xing. "Do you even know Long Chen?"

"Yeah! Brother Chen is very good to me!" Wang Xing said proudly.

Yang Danfeng smiled and returned to stand behind the First Demon Elder without another word. This small conflict was just a minor interruption in comparison to the whole event.

One more hour passed. The crowd had completely lost their patience, and even Zhao Qingyun could no longer suppress their resentment. If he continued to force everyone to remain, as a Palace Lord, his reputation would be the worst it had ever been.

"Father-in-law, perhaps Chen'er really isn't coming. Maybe we should let them all go back?" suggested Dongfang Xuanxiao, worried that Zhao Qingyun's ratings would fall greatly.

Zhao Qingyun could only nod tiredly. He was ready to announce it when the crowd suddenly erupted. Zhao Qingyun's heart trembled when he looked to the left. Indeed, there was a figure rushing over at extremely high speed. *Boom!* The person broke through the crowd and stood on the Martial Arena!

It was none other than Long Chen.

Everyone's minds went blank for a while when they stared at the panting but determined teenager. They all thought that if Long Chen showed up, he would be scolded to death. But looking at how hard he was panting, it looked like he had truly been held up by something...?

"He finally came." Zhao Qingyun smiled approvingly. If he did not come, no matter how the day ended, it would've been difficult for Zhao Qingyun to pick up the pieces.

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Zhao Xuanming both heaved a sigh in relief.

The only person on the side of the three Demon Elders who sighed in relief was Murong Yu. She knew she had not made a mistake. Long Chen had killed Song Zhongcheng, so there was no way he was afraid of a Seventh River-Stage cultivator like Yang Jun.

The three Demon Elders had very interesting expressions, though the Third Demon Elder was the most furious. He yelled, "Long Chen, if you were afraid, you should not have even come! How dare you even agree to a duel against Yang Jun?! You left ten thousand members of the Heavenly Demon Palace here waiting for you! What is the meaning of this?!"

Long Chen was also very frustrated internally. He had excavated the stone talisman and then time slowed down. Two days had passed in just the blink of an eye! And even after he rushed over as fast as he could, the crowd had already been waiting for almost an hour.

"Everyone, I apologize. I was held up by some important matters. However, there is no need to be resentful because soon, you will witness a very exciting duel! I believe every person here will think that this show was worth their time!" Long Chen looked around him. His words were filled with confidence.

*Did he succeed?* Murong Yu had a feeling.

Yang Jun slowly looked up and said darkly, "That important matter of yours made ten thousand members of the Heavenly Demon Palace wait an hour for you. Long Chen, you think too highly of yourself!"

"That's right! Who do you think you are? That I have to wait here for you?"

"Thinking you can cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow in twenty days is the joke of all jokes! Long Chen, if you can really do it, why don't you show us your Traceless Demon Shadow?"

The people watching below were furious.

"Since I have already caused a delay, then I shall not waste more time on nonsense. Yang Jun, talk is meaningless. Shall we begin?"