

War God 371

Chapter 371 - The Mantis Catches The Cicada

“Is that so?” Long Chen asked solemnly.

He did not intend to kill Yang Jun, as he only wanted to get the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Since the Third Demon Elder was backing Yang Jun, it was not necessary to worsen the enmity between them. He had come to the Heavenly Demon Palace only to strengthen himself until he was strong enough to storm the Biyang Imperial Capital.

When Yang Jun saw that Long Chen had no intention to kill him, he stopped running and said in exasperation, “Just tell me if there’s something you want.” He had completely admitted defeat.

“Give me the Frost Soul Essence’s map. It’s a waste for it to end up in your hands anyway,” said Long Chen.

“You heard our conversation?” Yang Jun gasped, looking at him in shock.

“Less of that nonsense. Hand the map over,” demanded Long Chen sternly.

Yang Jun was hesitant. The Frost Soul Essence was something the three Demon Elders let their first disciples compete for, and they wanted to keep it from Zhao Qingyun. However, if Long Chen got his hands on it, Yang Jun was going to be beaten to death by the Demon Elders.

However, he had another idea, which made him feel better.

Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu had the same map. Four days had passed, and perhaps they had already found the Frost Soul Essence. Even if they hadn’t, how could Long Chen beat them if they all met? They had cultivated Traceless Demon Shadow as well, plus they had studied it for a longer time. They both had the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique too, so if he met them, he would just be abused. He would never get the Frost Soul Essence.

“This is the map. Can I leave now?” Yang Jun took out a golden scroll from his Universe Pouch, and Long Chen quickly took it. Upon closer inspection, he saw that it was indeed the map that Yang Jun was previously looking at.

Very satisfied, he said, “You may leave.”

With Long Chen’s permission, Yang Jun immediately shot off as fast as he could. After running about a kilometer, Yang Jun finally laughed. “Long Chen is an idiot! Although the Frost Soul Essence is important, the Demon Seed Planting Technique is equally important! I can’t believe he only cares about the Frost Soul Essence, and he didn’t take my Fire Essences! Haha! What an idiot! I have three hundred Fire Essences!

“Even Senior Yang Danfeng might not have as many as me! So won’t the Demon Seed Planting Technique be mine? As for the Frost Soul Essence, that originally belonged to Senior Yang Danfeng and Senior Murong anyway! It’s fine that I lost the map; it doesn’t affect me at all.”

With that thought, Yang Jun happily found a place to hide, waiting for the next day to arrive. On the next day, Zhao Qingyun and the three Demon Elders would enter the Pyro Passageways and personally collect them. Then they would stop fighting too.

That would be the moment of Yang Jun's victory.

After obtaining the map, Long Chen and Xiaolang found a spot to focus on studying it. Because he had the Soul Swallowing Gaze and he had been to more places, he was more familiar with the terrain of the riverbed than them.

"I recognize this. This shape should be the Divine Ember Beast cave. This is probably a map that the Demon Elders drew on their own. This patch is blurry, so it shows that they never discovered the cave," he suddenly said in great surprise.

After reverse engineering the map, he could confirm one landmark. As long as he could confirm that location, then it would be much easier to find the destination.

"The Frost Soul Essence doesn't seem to be far from the Divine Ember Beast cave. Let's go to the cave first, then head in this direction for about fifteen minutes, then we'll reach our destination!" Long Chen said excitedly.

"Brother Chen, you're so smart! There were eight of them and they studied the map for two days, yet they couldn't figure it out! You succeeded in just a short while!" Ling Xi praised in admiration.

"Hehe, that's because it's me. Xiaolang, let's go. I can't beat Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu, so it's up to you this time. And if they haven't found it yet, we'll surprise them!"

After that, Long Chen led Xiaolang towards the Divine Ember Beast cave. They had just come from that place, so returning was very easy as Long Chen had a good sense of direction.

They traveled quickly, and soon they arrived in front of the cave. Everything was quiet now. Long Chen confirmed his location on the map once more. After he realized that his guesses were correct, he put the map down and hurried on once more.

At this point, if they engaged in a serious battle, Long Chen was probably no match for Xiaolang. The Category Eight Earth-tier Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was too powerful, plus every divine fire clone possessed Category Seven Earth-tier combat abilities. If Long Chen were to fight him, it would end in tragedy.

When they approached, Long Chen heard the sound of fighting and said mildly, "What a coincidence. It looks like they've only just arrived, which is why they're fighting over it. No one has been able to take the Frost Soul Essence away yet."

Long Chen sighed in relief.

He traveled ahead, though he had to be cautious. As he approached, he saw that two people were fighting fiercely at the base of a basin of lava. Long Chen's eyes were not first attracted to them, but

to a blue, thumb-sized bead in the basin. The bead was clear and shiny, radiating a faint glow that created a three-meter-radius space around it.

“Is that the Frost Soul Essence? It’s the size of a thumb. It’s no wonder the three Demon Elders instructed their disciples to come retrieve it. However, Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu are at the Eighth River Stage, so it would be unfair no matter who they gave it to. That’s why they have to fight for it on their own.”

“Xiao Yu, don’t you know how true my love is for you? We’ve grown up together, and I’ve been meticulously caring for you throughout all these years. Have you not felt it all?” Yang Danfeng lamented with dramatic sorrow as he fought hard.

“Meticulously? By meticulously, do you mean fighting me for the Frost Soul Essence here? Is this what you mean by true love? I’m going to puke!” Murong Yu coldly replied.

“This is different! The Frost Soul Essence is related to my future! Don’t you like a man who works hard for his future? As long as I become strong, I will be able to protect you. Isn’t it going to be the same? Let me have the Frost Soul Essence, and I will protect you forever. Won’t that be wonderful?” Yang Danfeng said indignantly.

“Does your future entail stepping on the person you like in order to achieve greater heights? Yang Danfeng, why don’t you let me have the Frost Soul Essence? Then let me protect you? You said you liked me, and you said that you’ve meticulously cared for me. A girl like me doesn’t deserve your ‘meticulous care,’” Murong Yu responded coldly. She had zero hopes for Yang Danfeng.

“Xiao Yu, you aren’t listening to me! If you insist on fighting me, then don’t blame me for not holding back! I’ve never met a woman as stubborn as you!”

“And I’ve never met a man as disgusting as you!” yelled Murong Yu.

“Bitch!” Yang Danfeng had completely lost his cool in the face of Murong Yu’s rudeness. A person suddenly popped into his mind, then he yelled angrily, “Murong Yu! You’re so cruel to me! You haven’t fallen for Long Chen, have you?”

Murong Yu froze, and Long Chen’s face also popped into her mind. However, when she thought of Ling Xi, she immediately denied it and said coldly, “Stop with that nonsense. And I’m not wasting my time arguing with you. May the stronger cultivator get the Frost Soul Essence, then! There’s no use talking!”

Then her attacks intensified, sending a powerful blast of Qi at Yang Danfeng.

I guessed it right, and how dare she avoid the subject?! With that thought, Yang Danfeng almost fainted from anger. The woman who he had lusted after for almost twenty years had fallen into Long Chen’s arms. Hot blood rushed through him and clouded his eyes!

“Murong Yu, you bitch! Die!”

Blinded by rage, Yang Danfeng had completely gone mad. Qi exploded from him, and it was clear that he had been hiding a final trick up his sleeve. A demon shadow grew from his body, and thick, black smoke started to curl. Yang Danfeng’s aura grew stronger by the second, and in the blink of an eye, it doubled in strength!

“Do you think you’re the only one who knows the Demon Seed Planting Technique?” With a soft cry, black smoke also rose from her body, engulfing her in darkness. Her aura became fifty percent stronger.

“I know you know it, but I obtained this technique much earlier than you did. Can you use it as well as me? Let me tell you this, Murong Yu, the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique will be mine today, as well as the Frost Soul Essence. The Demon Emperor Sword will also be mine! Once I reach the Ninth River Stage, I will be the ultimate prodigy who can go up against Lin Zichen, and Long Chen will die beneath my sword! As for you, you’ll soon become a slave lying beneath me!” Yang Danfeng sneered.

Murong Yu grew intensely uncomfortable seeing Yang Danfeng like that, but she mustered her courage and said coldly, “Wait till you defeat me before spouting such declarations.”

“As you wish!” Yang Danfeng laughed out loud like a madman. Then he turned into a black tornado and charged at Murong Yu. In that instant, his body turned into a blur of illusory images!

It was Traceless Demon Shadow!

Chapter 372 - Abyssal Piercing Finger

“Do you think you’re the only one who can use Traceless Demon Shadow?” Murong Yu gathered her courage, then she also turned into infinite shadows.

“My master is the First Demon Elder, who cultivates the Abyssal Piercing Finger. Your master is the Second Demon Elder, who cultivates the Willow Soul Dispersing Palm. I want to see which technique is stronger!” A bout of laughter came from the blur of illusions.

When they fought, both sides used Traceless Demon Shadow. As an onlooker, Long Chen found it difficult to see their movements clearly, especially within the lava. However, he discovered a new use for the Soul Swallowing Gaze. The Soul Swallowing Gaze made it much easier to track their locations, which would be a huge advantage if he fought one of them.

Murong Yu and Yang Danfeng fought extremely fiercely, and Long Chen was privately shocked. Based on his estimations, he realized that he was currently no match for them, and he could only attain their level if he obtained the Frost Soul Essence.

Although I’m stronger than Yang Jun, these two are still the chosen ones of the Heavenly Demon Palace. The cultivation resources they’ve received are probably on the same level as Lin Zichen.

Plus, the Demon Seed Planting Technique effectively doubles their Qi, so they are on the same level as Sword Warriors.

After learning about other types of warriors, Long Chen finally understood how amazing his Dragon Soul Transformation was. Regular Beast Warriors experienced a one to two-times boost in Qi level, and at most, a three-times boost.

Armament Warriors and Beast Warriors weren't the only ones with techniques that boosted their strength. For example, the Blood Saints relied on bathing in the blood of virgins and using a secret technique to change the properties of their Qi. With great difficulty, they were able to achieve a two-times boost of their original Qi level. However, this was an evil technique and was not the conventional Dao, so while the short-term benefits were great, they would definitely suffer consequences in the long-term.

The Demon Seed Planting Technique was in the same category as the Blood Saints' techniques. However, it was not as lowly and evil. It was a fully formed technique that could boost its user's Qi by up to four times after cultivating the second stage. Just like Long Chen, its user could likely defeat a same-level opponent easily due to a much higher level of Qi.

However, while the Demon Seed Planting Technique gave one a stronger boost than a Sword Warrior, being a Sword Warrior offered a permanent boost. The Demon Seed Planting Technique was an elementary Heaven-tier technique that would be useless after the cultivator surpassed the first three stages of the Heavenly Passage Realm.

Then again, there was no one beyond the first three stages of the Heavenly Passage Realm in the Cangyang Kingdom.

That was why it was logical for the Heavenly Demon Palace to rank the Demon Seed Planting Technique above Traceless Demon Shadow. Powerful waves of Qi and fierce energy ripples radiated from Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu's battle. They were so intense that other people would find it difficult to remain near them.

When the sandpiper and the clam fought, the fisherman was the one who won in the end. That was why Long Chen did not act immediately, but waited and monitored the fight quietly.

Their battle intensified as it went on. They used one fatal strike after another, not showing mercy at all. To be honest, both sides were on the same level and their combat abilities were equal. The result of such a long fight would depend on their individual patience and viciousness, and it was obvious that Yang Danfeng was superior in both aspects. His attacks were quick and fierce, and his moves became more crazed in the latter stages of the fight. He was gaining an advantage over Murong Yu.

Murong Yu was currently enveloped in Qi and was drenched in sweat, her chest rising and falling as she breathed heavily. She was frowning hard because she knew that if this continued, she would be unable to take the Frost Soul Essence with her.

She had known that Yang Danfeng was a bad person ever since they were kids. Therefore, she had always maintained a distance from him. Due to their statuses, she understood that if she was weaker than him, she would easily be suppressed by him. And if he ever went crazy in front of the three Demon Elders, she would easily be harmed in the process.

That was why she had worked as hard as she possibly could to cultivate.

However, if Yang Danfeng reached the Ninth River Stage, the Demon Emperor Sword would be his and he would become a master who surpassed the three Demon Elders. He would then be able to force her to do whatever he wanted, and she would have no way to fight back. That was why she knew that she had to fight till the bitter end!

“Haha! Apologies, it looks like you’ve already begun to lose. If you already knew this would happen, why did you have to fight me and waste your energy? But you don’t have to worry, Xiao Yu! After I get the Frost Soul Essence, I won’t treat you poorly!” Yang Danfeng’s insane laugh rang across the cave.

“In your dreams!” Murong Yu took a few steps back. She was already at her wit’s end, and she had no choice but to use her most powerful technique. Guiding the Qi through her whole body, she made her last gamble!

“Willow Soul Dispersing Palm, Levitating Shadow!”

Murong Yu’s technique could only be used when paired with Traceless Demon Shadow. Tens of thousands of palm seals appeared above the blur of countless illusions, and they all swarmed towards Yang Danfeng! The powerful attack caused the lava around her to flow manically and boil from its vibrations. Then a gigantic space appeared around her!

“You fool! I knew you would use this move!” Yang Danfeng smirked smugly. His silhouette changed and he thrust his finger out in a precise manner. A black sword shadow shot powerfully out of his fingertip!

“Abyssal Piercing Finger, Piercing Heaven And Earth!”

From his angle, the Abyssal Piercing Finger could pierce into the side of the Willow Soul Dispersing Palm, neutralizing her attack. Yang Danfeng had used his attack in its most effective manner. Although he looked crazed, his mind was actually calm, and he knew that Murong Yu’s mind was a mess. He was just waiting for her to use this move, and indeed, due to her panic, she had done exactly as he expected.

She had fallen into his trap!

Boom!

Lava exploded and shot in all directions. Long Chen also felt a strong force acting on his body and forced himself to stay still using his Qi, so he was not sent flying. He activated the Dragon Soul Transformation, so his Sixth River Stage Qi had instantly risen to the peak of the Seventh River Stage. The Dragon Soul Transformation was much more impressive than the Demon Seed Planting Technique.

However, he knew that the Demon Seed Planting Technique could boost his Qi once more post-Dragon Soul Transformation, helping him reach an even higher level.

When Long Chen finished his preparations, the scales were already tipping in the battle between Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu. Due to Murong Yu’s distracted thoughts, she was thrown back by the attack. There was even a little blood trickling out of the corner of her mouth.

Of course, Yang Danfeng did not feel good about it. He was not actually more powerful than her; he was only relying on his advantage as a male. After the exchange, he was pale from the vibrations and his blood surged. He merely recovered from the impact faster, and when he saw that Murong Yu had successfully been sent flying, his eyes lit up. Relying on this moment of distraction, he dashed towards the Frost Soul Essence as fast as he could!

“Roar!”

A black silhouette appeared in front of him, and another shadow dashed out of the silhouette, heading towards the Frost Soul Essence. To Yang Danfeng’s shock, Long Chen put the Frost Soul Essence in his Universe Pouch!

Success!

When Long Chen’s face was revealed, both Murong Yu and Yang Danfeng froze. Murong Yu was in a state of shock while infinite rage burned within Yang Danfeng!

He had defeated Murong Yu with great difficulty in order to win the Frost Soul Essence, but Long Chen had appeared at the final moment to rob him of the fruit he had labored for!

Yang Danfeng had always been the one taking the fruits of others, not the other way round.

“Long Chen, you’re looking for death! Hand the Frost Soul Essence to me now and I will let you live. You have ten seconds! After that, if you remain stubborn, you will die!” threatened Yang Danfeng, his features contorted.

“You idiot, are you daydreaming?” Long Chen smiled faintly without fear on his face, as if the one standing before him was a normal person instead of the Eighth River Stage Yang Danfeng.

His contempt made Yang Danfeng completely lose his temper. He no longer wanted to argue, so he charged at Long Chen immediately. He attacked using the Seven Killings Demon Finger—he was aiming to kill!

However, he had forgotten about Xiaolang, who was a Sun Devouring Wolf! He was not a simple beast!

When Yang Danfeng attacked, Xiaolang instantly used Divine Fire Clone, and a large pack of Sun Devouring Wolves surrounded Yang Danfeng instantly. The insane attack stunned Yang Danfeng.

There were more than a hundred clones, each possessing the combat abilities of a Category Seven Earth-tier demonic beast. This was a threat to Yang Danfeng. Under their fervent attacks, Yang Danfeng was forced backwards multiple times. And Xiaolang had not even attacked him personally yet. Xiaolang possessed the very destructive Nine Devils Ancestral Fire and Divine Fire Clone, so even a Ninth River Stage cultivator would find it difficult to fight him, let alone Yang Danfeng.

As he suffered Xiaolang’s attacks, Yang Danfeng’s face soon became dusty and disheveled as he fought in a crazed manner. He screamed furiously with a strong unwillingness in his voice!

“What the hell is this thing?! Why is it so strong?! Long Chen, if you have the guts, come fight me directly! Don’t hide behind that beast; you’re not a fucking man at all!”

“You may not know if I’m a man, but your mother knows! Go back and ask her!” Long Chen was in a very good mood after taking the Frost Soul Essence. He knew that Yang Danfeng was extremely furious right now, and the angrier he was, the happier Long Chen became.

“You!” Yang Danfeng was almost injured severely several times amidst the clones’ attacks, especially after Xiaolang’s Nine Devils Ancestral Fire brushed past his shoulder and caused it to instantly become numb. After that, the intention to retreat arose in his mind!

“Long Chen, you took my Frost Soul Essence today! One day, I will take it back! And I will also take your life!”

Then Yang Danfeng fled.

Chapter 373 - Number One Wolf In The World

Xiaolang finally stopped his attacks and turned back into his cute, tiny form. He returned to Long Chen, and despite his cute looks, he maintained a serious expression, which made him even more adorable.

Murong Yu looked at Long Chen, then at Xiaolang. She was still in disbelief.

“Is the little wolf that powerful?” Murong Yu croaked out, biting her lip.

“Of course! Xiaolang is the number one wolf in the world!” Long Chen laughed, then he looked at Murong Yu in amusement and said, “What do you think? The Frost Soul Essence is in my hands now. Do you have a problem with that?”

“This little wolf sent Yang Danfeng running for his life, so how could I be a match for it? I’m not an idiot. Since you were able to take it, it’s yours. This outcome is much better than letting that jerk Yang Danfeng get it. However, Long Chen, how did you know we’re fighting for the Frost Soul Essence?”

“I saw Yang Jun and the others looking for it with a map, so I snatched it from them and came here. Thank goodness I arrived in time, or Yang Danfeng would have gotten it,” said Long Chen.

Murong Yu felt like her heart was a mess as she looked at his impassive expression. She was more powerful than Long Chen, but in her heart, he was still mysterious and powerful. The Frost Soul Essence was with him now, and she was willing to admit defeat.

He had the Frost Soul Essence, and there was no need to search for more Fire Essences. He only had to wait one more day to leave the Pyro Passageways. He had obtained a huge haul from this trip, and his cultivation would strengthen once more now that he had the Frost Soul Essence.

Since he and Murong Yu were not close friends, it was understandably awkward. Therefore, he nodded and said, “If that’s the case, I’ll see you tomorrow. I need to go get more Fire Essences.”

“How many do you have so far?” she asked hurriedly. When she asked the question, she realized she had overstepped. Since they were competitors, and the number of Fire Essences determined whether they would receive the Demon Seed Planting Technique, telling each other how many they had was not quite appropriate.

“Fire Essences? About two thousand,” replied Long Chen without thinking much of it. To be honest, since she had helped him before, he basically saw her as a good friend. There was no need to hide small matters like this from a friend.

“Two thousand?” Murong Yu was tongue-tied. She eyed him up and down, saw the corner of his lips curl up, then said a little angrily, “How dare you lie to me! Alright, I won’t keep you from your search for Fire Essences! But let me remind you that if you want to get the Demon Seed Planting Technique, you’d best get at least five hundred Fire Essences. It’s safer that way. There are eight of them after all. If you want the second stage, you’ll need eight hundred ...

“Right now, counting the Divine Essence Crystals, I have the equivalent of more than seven hundred Fire Essences. I don’t know how many Yang Danfeng has, but I believe he has around the same amount.” Murong Yu did not hold back and told him her number so he would be mentally prepared.

“Thank you very much!” Long Chen could tell that she was being nice to him and looked at her gratefully. He bade her farewell, then turned to leave with Xiaolang.

Murong Yu stood in the spot, dazed as she watched him leave. It was only when he disappeared that she came back to her senses ...

The day passed slowly.

Since Long Chen had an approximate knowledge of how many Fire Essences the other disciples had, and he knew that his number far surpassed theirs, he did not collect anymore but kept Ling Xi company instead. When it was time, he felt a powerful aura pressing on the Pyro Passageways. At this time, he emerged from the surface and returned to the original tunnel.

Zhao Qingyun was standing on the surface of the lava beneath the tunnel. When he saw that Long Chen was safe and sound, he sighed in relief and said, “Let’s go! Follow me back!”

Long Chen followed a hanging metal chain that ran upwards and returned to the tunnel. By this point, the three Demon Elders had probably taken the others back too. Long Chen followed Zhao Qingyun out and began their journey back.

“How is it possible for this demonic beast’s aura to be so much stronger than before?” Zhao Qingyun was a little stunned when he saw Xiaolang, who was napping in Long Chen’s arms. He eyed Xiaolang carefully for a while in disbelief.

“Initially, I estimated this demonic beast to be a Category Five Earth-tier, but right now, it’s at least a Category Eight Earth-tier ...” Zhao Qingyun knew that Long Chen

was a mysterious teenager who owned many mysterious items. However, he still found it difficult to accept that the beast had risen by three tiers in five days.

Long Chen looked torn. He did not know how to explain Xiaolang's condition to Zhao Qingyun.

"So this is why you brought the demonic beast to the Pyro Passageways. This demonic wolf emits a thick fire energy, so the Pyro Passageways is the perfect place for it to live." There was only an impressed look in his eyes without any malicious intent.

"Alright, kid. There's no need to panic. I'm old. I don't ask for much when it comes to reputation, strength, and all, so I won't ask about your personal secrets. All I want to know is the name of this beast," Zhao Qingyun said with a grin, patting Long Chen's shoulder.

"Master, you must know of a Black-tier beast called the Moon Devouring Wolf, right? Xiaolang is a type of mutant that evolved from the Moon Devouring Wolf called the Sun Devouring Wolf," Long Chen answered honestly.

"I've heard of the Moon Devouring Wolf, but not the Sun Devouring Wolf. Are you sure it isn't a name you made up, kid? Hehe. Whatever. Let's put the wolf aside and discuss the main topic. Long Chen, how confident are you in winning?" There was anticipation, but also nervousness, in Zhao Qingyun's voice.

"Master, don't worry. I promise you'll be surprised," Long Chen responded with a mysterious smile.

"Surprise? Don't underestimate the rest of them, kid. Xiao Yu is the only obedient one of the bunch. The other disciples of the three Demon Elders are all wild. They're not true demons. You, Long Chen, fit my image of a demon better."

This was why Zhao Qingyun liked Long Chen so much. Long Chen worked alone and was restricted by no one. He was extraordinarily talented, and his attitude was carefree and straightforward. This was the "demon" that Zhao Qingyun had described, and Long Chen's personality fit the description perfectly.

"Nonsense. How could Zhao Qingyun's direct disciple be worse than them? Then again, your disciples have never beaten the disciples of the three Demon Elders. Today, I'll give you a taste of victory!" Although Zhao Qingyun was his master, Long Chen did not mince his words when he spoke, and Zhao Qingyun naturally did not care. Long Chen was very comfortable with a relationship like that.

No matter what Zhao Qingyun said, Long Chen refused to tell him how many Fire Essences he had gathered. They walked until they arrived at the end of the ten walkways where the metal door was, and Zhao Qingyun smiled in exasperation. The other people had begun to arrive too. First to arrive were the three Demon Elders, whose expressions were dark, while behind them were Yang Danfeng

and Yang Jun, whose faces were even darker. There were a few more disciples with them, and a few were being propped up as they walked. These were the ones whose thighs Long Chen had stabbed.

Murong Yu looked much more carefree than them, tagging along at the back.

When the three Demon Elders spotted Long Chen, they shot him cold, deathly glares, causing goosebumps to pop up all over his body. Since they had not announced the number of Fire Essences yet, the three Demon Elders were currently concerned about who had taken the Frost Soul Essence. That was something they had meticulously prepared for their number one disciples, yet Long Chen had reaped the fruit of their labor. When they heard the news, even the First Demon Elder almost fainted from rage.

At this point, the rage they felt towards Long Chen could no longer be described with words.

However, what frustrated them was that they could not rage at Long Chen in public, because the Frost Soul Essence was a secret between them and their disciples. Usually, treasures found in the Pyro Passageways belonged to the Heavenly Demon Palace, but the three Demon Elders had kept it for themselves behind Zhao Qingyun's back. This was already a wrongdoing, so they could not publicly ask Long Chen for a trade.

When they saw that their disciples had been hurt by Long Chen, they were even angrier.

Unfortunately, no matter how angry they were, they had to keep it inside.

“Since everyone has arrived, then we shall not delay any longer. Let's head to the Demon Pavilion to announce the results, then decide who shall receive the Demon Seed Planting Technique!”

Zhao Qingyun was no fool, so of course he saw their dark expressions. He knew that they were like that because Long Chen had beaten their disciples up in the Pyro Passageways.

He finally had a direct disciple who was superior to the others, so although Zhao Qingyun did not say it, he was privately smug.

He led the whole group towards the Demon Pavilion. Since the Pyro Passageways training exercise was finally over, it had caused a huge commotion in the Heavenly Demon Palace. All the disciples and elders were very concerned about who would receive the Demon Seed Planting Technique, so many disciples had already gathered outside the Demon Pavilion. Almost all the elders, Enforcers, and Pavilion Lords were already waiting inside.

When Zhao Qingyun arrived, the Heavenly Demon Palace disciples started to chatter. They looked behind him excitedly and indeed, the disciples that had gone into the Pyro Passageways were with him. But why was the atmosphere so strange?

Long Chen was next to Zhao Qingyun, both with identical expressions on their faces. On the other hand, the three Demon Elders had the same expressions as their disciples. Long Chen was naturally joyful, whereas the Demon Elders' expressions were each darker than the last. Was this indicative of something?

Did it mean ...

Had Long Chen found more Fire Essences than them? More than Yang Jun?

All faces were filled with disbelief.

“That’s impossible. He’s just pretending. Once he shows the number of Fire Essences he has, you’ll know who the victor is!” one of them said with a laugh.

Chapter 374 - Counting Fire Essences

Under the confused gazes of the crowd, the row of participants entered the Demon Pavilion. The grand entrance was tall and gigantic, but it could not fit so many disciples. As a result, only the disciples with higher cultivation levels managed to squeeze into the front. The weaker ones who were forced to the back started to panic. They could only see the inside of the hall when they jumped as hard as they could, and still, their field of vision was limited!

The disciples who squeezed to the front turned quickly and shouted, “Everyone, quiet down! When we get the news, we’ll tell you immediately!” They were more powerful, so they suppressed the disciples behind them. Most of the disciples were only fighting to be the first to hear the results. In fact, if they were all quiet, they would be able to hear the sounds from inside the hall!

Everyone else started to scold each other, making the rest simmer down. Soon, the whole crowd fell silent, trying their best to not make a sound or say a word in order to hear the conversations in the hall clearly.

Due to Long Chen, they were extra anxious to learn the results of the Pyro Passageways training exercise.

As everyone was finally silent, Zhao Qingyun took the elevated seat at the head of the room, looking down at the rest with a solemn expression. When he was serious, he looked very regal. The three Demon Elders sat down on his left and right, all their eyes fixed dead at the center of the hall. Long Chen and the ten other disciples were standing there. Long Chen looked nonchalant, while the rest occasionally shot venomous glares in his direction. From this small detail, the other elders and Enforcers had their guesses.

“Alright. We have finally come to the end of the Pyro Passageways training exercise. Our outstanding disciples now hold the results in their hands. I won’t waste any more time, so everyone, show us your Fire Essences according to your ranks. We’ll start from our tenth disciple, Ruan Cheng!”

The disciple whose name was called shuddered, then he walked up anxiously. The elders started to discuss amongst themselves when they saw him.

“Ruan Cheng is around as strong as Yang Jun! He has been at the Seventh River Stage for a year now and has entered the Pyro Passageways once before!”

“He came out with forty Fire Essences last time, I think. He should have more this time, maybe around seventy.”

The results were about to be announced, and the disciples outside were extremely excited, especially the Third Demon Elder’s disciples. Being one of the Third Demon Elder’s disciples, Ruan Cheng had a great reputation and status.

“Senior Ruan Cheng should have eighty this time! I asked him a few months ago, and he said he was confident!” said one of the disciples.

“Eighty? The top ten disciples are indeed extraordinary!”

The disciples outside the door all praised him, while the ones who were further strained their ears to listen.

With all eyes on him, Ruan Cheng looked a little timid. He knew that he had to show his results, so he decided to commit fully and shamelessly. He took out five Fire Essences from his Universe Pouch and said, “Palace Lord, I retrieved a total of five Fire Essences!”

Zhao Qingyun’s first reaction was to laugh, while the elders and Enforcers were stunned. When they saw that there were really only five Fire Essences in his hand, they looked at each other in disbelief.

“How could it just be five? Did someone rob him?” The crowd was puzzled.

“Ruan Cheng, how do you only have five? At your level, getting five is an extremely simple task! The Ember Beasts are only Category Six Earth-tier, so they are no match for you,” the elders who were more familiar with him asked.

Ruan Cheng hung his head without a word, though his face was red with shame.

When the disciples outside heard that Ruan Cheng had only obtained five Fire Essences, they erupted. Five was an embarrassing number! They were all confused at first, then upon confirmation, they started laughing one by one.

“Only five? Even I can get that! Haha ...”

“Five Fire Essences? That’s too embarrassing! I can’t believe we have the same master!”

“Silence!” Zhao Qingyun hurriedly suppressed the crowd when he saw that they had erupted in conversation. He scanned Ruan Cheng, then he said, “Ruan Cheng, Five Essences. Alright, you can go back. Next, Zhang Dongyang, ranked ninth!”

After seeing Ruan Cheng get laughed at, Zhang Dongyang was much calmer. He knew that everyone after him would also be laughed at, and he would only be one of many. Therefore, he strode forward. Long Chen had stabbed him in the thigh, but he had mostly recovered, though he still had a limp when he walked.

What’s up with his leg? Everyone was wondering the same. After they looked at Long Chen, they had a thought. Long Chen wasn’t the one who hurt him, was he?

Despite what other people thought, Zhang Dongyang showed his haul. Eight Fire Essences. Just like Ruan Cheng, the crowd laughed at him. However, after the laughter died down, everyone was confused. These people definitely were capable enough to find more, so why did they have so few?

Unless... Had someone taken their Fire Essences?

When this question arose in their minds, the third person showed his Fire Essences. This one had even fewer, only four. The crowd did not laugh, because they knew that there would be someone with a surprisingly large haul.

The next few people had no more than ten Fire Essences. Since Long Chen had defeated Yang Jun, Yang Jun had to show his haul first.

The seven people before him had fewer than ten. Everyone wondered if his number would also be lower than ten. If that was the case, then it would be very interesting. That would mean something very interesting had happened in the Pyro Passageways that caused Yang Jun and the rest to be unable to search for Fire Essences. Or someone had taken theirs.

Yang Jun shot Long Chen a furious glare in front of everyone, then he walked up to the front.

Long Chen, Long Chen. You took the Frost Soul Essence and made me have to go through a scolding from my master and my martial uncles. However, I wonder how you'll look when the Demon Seed Planting Technique that you wanted is given to me instead? Yang Jun imagined the rage and sorrow on Long Chen's face when he saw his haul, making him very excited.

"Yang Jun, show us all the Fire Essences you've managed to gather. Let us see what the former third-strongest disciple of the Heavenly Demon Palace achieved. Will you, like the rest before you, show us something unbelievable?"

Zhao Qingyun's words were filled with subtle insults, causing the other disciples to turn red with shame.

"Yes, Palace Lord!"

The Frost Soul Essence had been taken from him, but thankfully, the Demon Seed Planting Technique was still his. Yang Jun's mood lifted. He had spent two days searching for the Frost Soul Essence, and on the day Long Chen took the map, his group had obtained more than a hundred Fire Essences, so they had a total of approximately five hundred of them!

When Yang Jun placed the hot Fire Essences on the ground, everyone's anxious looks finally relaxed. They looked at each other and said, "Yang Jun is indeed extraordinarily talented. When everyone else could not even get ten Fire Essences, he managed to gather so many, even more than what I expected of him!"

"More than five hundred Fire Essences! That's shocking."

"Five hundred. That means he had to kill more than fifty Ember Beasts a day. Yang Jun is too powerful! The Demon Seed Planting Technique is definitely his!"

"Palace Lord, I have already counted them. I have a total of 522 Fire Essences." It was finally Yang Jun's turn to be proud. He glanced smugly at Long Chen, then he started to put away his Fire Essences. Although they had no direct use for cultivation, he could sell them for a good price somewhere else.

When the number spread through the crowd, the disciples at the door were all shocked. They all looked at Yang Jun, praising his talent!

Jaws also dropped when the other disciples, who could not see what was happening, heard that he had come out with 522 Fire Essences.

“Senior Yang Jun is definitely going to get the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Even the previous champion only had around four hundred Fire Essences, right? He probably took all the Fire Essences in the Pyro Passageways!”

“Yeah! When it’s our turn to go in, there might be no Ember Beasts and Fire Essences left!”

They all looked impressed.

Everyone changed their minds about Yang Jun, who had previously been defeated by Long Chen after he showed them so many Fire Essences. Everyone knew that after he received the Demon Seed Planting Technique, he would likely surpass Long Chen! When that happened, it would be uncertain who would win in a fight! Yang Jun was only a step away from the Eighth River Stage after all!

Even the three Demon Elders were extremely pleased with Yang Jun’s performance. This was the only thing they were relieved about. Long Chen had taken from the Frost Soul Essence, and if he also received the Demon Seed Planting Technique, the three of them would lose their cool.

“Alright, 522 Fire Essences! That’s not bad at all! Yang Jun, you have performed well. Continue working hard so you can reach the Eighth River Stage. Then you will be able to cultivate Traceless Demon Shadow!” Zhao Qingyun said. He glanced at Long Chen, but he was suspicious when he saw that Long Chen still looked very calm. How many Fire Essences did Long Chen have if he was this calm?

“Alright, Yang Jun. You may go back. Next, Long Chen. Show us your Fire Essences!” said Zhao Qingyun with a smile.

Everyone watched as Long Chen took a step forward and said, “Palace Lord, before I show my Fire Essences, I must say something!”

Chapter 375 - Demon Seed Planting Technique: First Stage

“What would you like to say?” Zhao Qingyun asked with great interest.

Long Chen had not taken out his Fire Essences, but rather asked to say something. Everyone was on the edge of their metaphorical seats. Long Chen and Yang Jun were competing for the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique, so his haul was extremely important. Everyone craned their necks, trying to see the results.

Long Chen glanced at Yang Jun with some contempt and suddenly said loudly, “Everyone here is smart, so I am sure you all have figured it out already. The seven disciples all had under ten Fire Essences, yet Yang Jun exceeded expectations and gathered 522 Fire Essences. This must seem suspicious to you. They are all working together. I saw it with my own eyes and heard it with my own ears. I can confirm that Yang Jun has so many Fire Essences only because his juniors gave him theirs. Yang Jun, tell me, am I right or wrong?”

Long Chen's accusation set the crowd into a flurry. The elders and Enforcers were relatively calm because they had already made some guesses. However, to the disciples, this was clearly a case of cheating! It was a clear disrespect of the merit-based system of the Heavenly Demon Palace! If every disciple who was popular enough could do this, then they would only be at a disadvantage in future training exercises. Then what were they working so hard for?

"How could he do this? That's so unfair. Didn't they all agree on the rules? They can fight each other for Fire Essences, but I don't think this is allowed!"

"Yeah! How would this be fair to the other competitors?"

"I'm working so hard all because of the Three Great Secret Scriptures. If the recipients are already internally determined, then why am I cultivating for?"

The crowd grew noisy, and most of them were glaring furiously at Yang Jun with contempt and blame.

"Everyone, shut your mouths!" The Third Demon Elder could not stand this any longer. Of course, he knew that this was the truth, but they could never admit it. Therefore, he stood up, looked down at Long Chen, and asked, "You brat, what evidence do you have? I think you're just trying to frame Yang Jun because you don't have enough Fire Essences! Yang Jun, tell Long Chen how you got your Fire Essences!"

Yang Jun went from being one of the most respected disciples to the object of criticism, so he was filled with resentment. He glared venomously at Long Chen, unable to face anyone else.

In reality, they knew that Long Chen had learned of their *modus operandi* and had already thought of a method to counter his accusations. Yang Jun stepped forward and said, "Long Chen, let me tell you this. Out of the five hundred-plus Fire Essences, I only found half of them on my own, through my own efforts! I won the other half after fighting my juniors! Who in their right mind would simply hand me their Fire Essences? I only received their Fire Essences because I defeated them. You can ask them if you don't believe me!"

Then, after he spoke, a disciple stepped forward. "Palace Lord, we indeed dueled many times at the Pyro Passageways. In the end, because Senior Yang Jun was stronger than us, he basically won all our Fire Essences. We didn't say anything only because it's difficult to admit that out of the seven of us, no one could defeat Senior Yang Jun. However, I swear to the heavens that Senior Yang Jun won the Fire Essences fair and square!"

After this disciple spearheaded the support, everyone else started to promise that this was what happened.

"Long Chen, in future Pyro Passageways training exercises, I'd advise you to focus on searching for Fire Essences honestly. Do not spend your time coming up with dirty tricks, trying to frame other people!" the Third Demon Elder stated in the end. He looked at Yang Jun approvingly, then he sat down.

After hearing Yang Jun's explanation and the other disciples' promises, the disciples outside the Demon Pavilion felt better. However, they were still uncertain of who to believe, though it looked like Long Chen had completely lost to Yang Jun this time.

Everyone looked at Long Chen, but found that he did not look dejected at all after being refuted. Instead, he looked calm. What was up with that?

Zhao Qingyun was also looking for a change in Long Chen's face, but when he saw that Long Chen's expression did not change, he thought to himself, *What is this brat hiding up his sleeve?*

After that, Long Chen looked around him and said loudly, "I guess I can't do much about Yang Jun's matter. However, I believe that using cheap tricks to get the Demon Seed Planting Technique is something only cowardly trash would do. Trash would never understand the pride of a true prodigy. Now, let me show you all what a true prodigy is!"

Long Chen's words were insane, but he had the right to be crazy. Under everyone's stunned looks, Fire Essences poured out of his Universe Pouch and quickly formed a large pile in front of him. The searing pile of Fire Essences caused a huge rise in temperature within the Demon Pavilion, and the air became as hot as lava.

All eyes were glued to the large pile of Fire Essences. Everyone could see that there were many more Fire Essences compared to Yang Jun.

When the three Demon Elders and their disciples saw them, their eyeballs almost fell out of their sockets. The other elders and Enforcers were completely stunned.

"One thousand Fire Essences in total. If you do not believe me, you may count them. But the number will not be lower than a thousand," Long Chen said mildly as he gazed proudly at the crowd.

For a long time, no one responded because they were all in disbelief.

One thousand.

This number spread like wildfire among the disciples. When Long Chen revealed the truth but was refuted, they all assumed that he had no hope left. It was too unexpected for Long Chen to suddenly produce such results.

One thousand Fire Essences made everyone's hearts soar. They swarmed forward manically, trying to see if it was true.

"How could he have gathered a thousand? I don't believe it! I must see it for myself! Stop pushing!"

"Stop pushing! The people in front already said it! It's one thousand! I also saw it myself. It was a large pile! My goodness!"

"A thousand Fire Essences! Good heavens, Long Chen is a monster!"

Zhao Qingyun was stunned by the number of Fire Essences. Even an Eighth River Stage disciple would find it difficult to achieve this figure on their first trip to the Pyro Passageways!

Everyone was in disbelief, especially the Third Demon Elder, whose looked like he had been hit in the face with a wad of poop. Zhao Qingyun felt very cheerful because Long Chen had given him so much face today! He was even happier about taking Long Chen as a disciple now!

“It’s correct. Long Chen did retrieve one thousand Fire Essences, surpassing Yang Jun’s number. I believe everyone now knows who the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique belongs to. It belongs to my direct disciple, Long Chen!” Zhao Qingyun laughed loudly as he announced the winner.

Even the most common disciple could hear the smugness in his tone.

When Long Chen heard him, he smiled to himself and quickly put the Fire Essences away. These were all treasures to Xiaolang, so it was best that he keep them in his pouch.

Zhao Qingyun’s announcement almost made Yang Jun break down. He looked at Long Chen in disbelief, then he screamed, “Impossible! That’s impossible! Palace Lord, Long Chen must have used some shady trick to obtain that many Fire Essences! We cannot give the Demon Seed Planting Technique to an outsider from who-knows-where!”

“Shut your mouth!” roared Zhao Qingyun, creating a boom. Blood sprayed out of Yang Jun’s mouth and he fell to his knees. Everyone else felt like they had been hit by a heavy hammer and felt pain spread through their whole bodies!

Zhao Qingyun glared coldly at Yang Jun and said, “Kid, I am not going to investigate your case, but Long Chen used his own strength to get more Fire Essences than you. Yet you’re still trying to tell lies? This is only a light punishment today. Remember this: Long Chen is my direct disciple. Even though he entered our clan late, he is definitely not an outsider! Everyone, do you understand me?”

Zhao Qingyun’s bout of rage startled everyone. He was usually a very calm person, so they had never seen this side of him. They were all terrified and felt terrible, so naturally they did not dare to say a word. However, they now knew that they could never see Long Chen as an outsider again.

Even the three Demon Elders could only swallow their anger at this moment. Zhao Qingyun’s rage was only targeted at four people. It was normal that blood sprayed out of Yang Jun’s mouth since he was not strong enough, but the three Demon Elders also suffered different levels of damage. It was clear that Zhao Qingyun was showing them what he was capable of.

Outsider.

Long Chen committed Zhao Qingyun’s words to memory. Anyone who treated him like their own, like Dongfang Xuanxiao had, would receive great treatment from Long Chen.

“Long Chen will receive the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Does anyone have any questions?” Zhao Qingyun asked coldly.

No one replied.

Yang Jun was lying in Yang Danfeng’s arms, his mouth filled with blood and barely conscious.

Zhao Qingyun nodded approvingly and said, “In that case, we shall now determine the owner of the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Murong Yu and Yang Danfeng, take out your Fire Essences and tell us the number!”

Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu looked at each other, then they stood in front of Zhao Qingyun.

Long Chen watched curiously. After he had taken the Frost Soul Essence from under their noses, they had a day to search for Fire Essences. That was why he did not know how many Fire Essences they had.

Chapter 376 - Demon Seed Planting: Second Stage

There had been a bout of excitement over the fight for the first stage, but the crowd was even more excited to see who would receive the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique.

Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu had always been almost equal. Yang Danfeng had always been number one in the rankings, but most people knew that there was actually not much of a difference between first and second.

Who would win this round?

The person who won the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique today would take one step forward on their journey of cultivation, leaving the other behind to become the true number one of the Heavenly Demon Palace's younger generation.

Everyone watched as Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu placed the Fire Essences they had gathered on the ground. The Fire Essences fell from their Universe Pouches one by one and soon formed small piles. They did not exceed Long Chen's number, but these two were still competing.

After some time, they were finally done. To the crowd's excitement, the two piles looked very similar, and it was difficult to determine the winner just by looking.

"I gathered 652 Fire Essences. However, I also have Divine Essence Crystals in my Universe Pouch," said Yang Danfeng mildly.

"I have a total of 687 Fire Essences. Of course, I also have Divine Essence Crystals in my Universe Pouch," said Murong Yu. So far, she had thirty-five more Fire Essences than Yang Danfeng, but the number of Divine Essence Crystals was most important. That was why she was not very confident.

In the beginning, when everyone saw that they did not have as many Fire Essences as Long Chen, respect for Long Chen grew. But if they still had Divine Essence Crystals, then Long Chen's results were only average compared to them.

"Chen Qing, Liu Xiyang, count their Fire Essences," Zhao Qingyun instructed since their results were very similar. A small difference could affect the results, so Zhao Qingyun did not dare act recklessly. He appointed two random elders to count the Fire Essences.

However, the results were soon announced. Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu had not faked their numbers.

"If that is the case, show us your Divine Essence Crystals. Show us what the final results of the Heavenly Demon Palace's two most outstanding disciples are. Do we have a number higher than a thousand?" Zhao Qingyun said with a smile. He recalled

that before entering the Pyro Passageways, Long Chen had suggested to him that if he came out with more Fire Essences than Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu, then he would win the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique.

That was why he was very anxious for the results. If neither had more than a thousand Fire Essences even after including their Divine Essence Crystals, then Long Chen was the largest victor today.

However, a rare confidence shone in the three Demon Elders' eyes.

The first and second stages of the Demon Seed Planting Technique, as well as the Frost Soul Essence, were three presents the Demon Elders had prepared for their disciples. Out of three items, two had already gone to Long Chen. The remaining item was the only one that the Demon Elders were confident about.

Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu took out their Divine Essence Crystals, and everyone looked over.

“Let me see! Not bad! Murong Yu is holding five Divine Essence Crystals! And Yang Danfeng is holding ... six! That's right, six!” Zhao Qingyun was surprised. Six Divine Essence Crystals was an excellent result. If they only had three, then Long Chen would have been the victor. It was too bad that they had more than five, so there was no hope for Long Chen.

After Yang Danfeng took out his Divine Essence Crystals, everyone knew that the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique would belong to him. It was no surprise to everyone that Yang Danfeng was the final winner, but some of the male disciples had been rooting for Murong Yu. She had a great personality and was a pretty girl after all, so she was the ultimate goddess to many of them. And she was much more popular than Yang Danfeng.

Murong Yu bit her lip gently. She had previously told the three Demon Elders her number, but they had not told her Yang Danfeng's number. After the results were announced, and she realized she had lost, she felt dejected knowing that she would likely be bullied by Yang Danfeng in the future.

“If that is the case, then I shall announce the winner of the second stage,” Zhao Qingyun said.

Everyone already knew the results.

“Wait.” Someone interrupted Zhao Qingyun. Everyone looked over and saw that it was Long Chen, who had been defeated by Murong Yu and Yang Danfeng. They were puzzled. What was he doing?

“Long Chen, do you have something else to say?” Zhao Qingyun was surprised, but in reality, he hadn't gotten over the surprise of seeing Long Chen take out a thousand Fire Essences.

“Master and Demon Elders, before entering the Pyro Passageways, I asked if I could get the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique if I gathered more Fire

Essences than Murong Yu and Yang Danfeng. You all agreed that I could, right?" Long Chen looked up with a faint smile.

"We did agree to it, and everyone who was present witnessed it. However, you only have a thousand Fire Essences, yet they have more than a thousand when adding the Divine Essence Crystals. That is why I can't give you the second stage." Zhao Qingyun was a little puzzled. While he really wanted to fulfill Long Chen's wish, he could not show favoritism in front of everyone.

The three Demon Elders chuckled and looked at him in contempt. The Third Demon Elder said in his shrill voice, "You even called yourself a prodigy, yet can't you do simple math?"

No one knew what Long Chen was implying.

Long Chen took a step forward and looked around, then he said, "Everyone, during the first round, the Palace Lord asked us to count our Fire Essences, so I did. But I did not say that I did not have any Divine Essence Crystals! If they can exceed one thousand because of their Divine Essence Crystals, do my Divine Essence Crystals count as well?"

Long Chen had spoken loudly, and his words shook everyone. Did he really have Divine Essence Crystals? And did his final figure surpass Yang Danfeng?

Yang Danfeng, who had defeated Murong Yu, was stunned. His eyes widened as he stared at Long Chen's palm in disbelief!

Long Chen took out all his Divine Essence Crystals. There were ten in total on his palm. Everyone felt like they had been struck by a hammer.

"During the training exercise, I, Long Chen, found a thousand Fire Essences and ten Divine Essence Crystals. That makes a total of two thousand. May I ask if I have surpassed Yang Danfeng yet? Or is there an issue with my math?"

No one answered him.

That was because it was difficult to answer. It was a very obvious question, and Long Chen had won. He had obtained complete victory by far surpassing them all. Not only had he taken the Frost Soul Essence, but the first and second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique had also ended up with him!

This set off a huge wave of shock across the whole Heavenly Demon Palace!

No one had ever been able to achieve this in such a short time. Long Chen's performance was just too extraordinary. Jaws dropped among the Enforcers and elders, while the disciples fought to swarm forward, wanting to see what had just happened. The front of the Demon Pavilion was chaotic.

On top of shock, Zhao Qingyun also felt deep joy. Long Chen had made him very proud today. On the other hand, the three Demon Elders and Yang Danfeng all felt like they had been struck by lightning! Yang Danfeng finally understood why Yang Jun had lost his mind before! The resentment, misery, and rage in him had reached a point where he could not control himself!

The piece of meat had already reached his mouth, and he was drooling, waiting to have a taste of it. But then Long Chen came out of nowhere and snatched the meat away! How could the starving Yang Danfeng keep his cool?

Yang Danfeng was about to attack Long Chen—he could no longer control himself.

That was when an old man appeared in front of him, blocking his way. Yang Danfeng looked over and saw that it was his master, the First Demon Elder. The Second and Third Demon Elders were standing next to him. The First Demon Elder first looked at Long Chen, then at Zhao Qingyun.

The anger had disappeared from their eyes, and their expressions were extremely cold. Terrifyingly cold. Long Chen knew that this was only the calm before the storm. Their reactions showed how terrifying the coming storm would be!

“Palace Lord, it looks like our business here is done for today. Please excuse us!” Then they all left without even turning around. Under the watchful gazes of the crowd, they led their disciples out of the building. Long Chen saw viciousness and venom radiating from them.

It looks like the coming days will not be peaceful.

He suddenly recalled that before entering the Pyro Passageways, Yang Danfeng had warned him that if he did not let Yang Jun win, he would kill Wang Xing, the errand boy. Long Chen decided to watch Wang Xing when he got back.

After the three Demon Elders left, all eyes returned to Zhao Qingyun.

“In conclusion, I hereby declare that the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique goes to Long Chen!” Zhao Qingyun’s joy reached its peak.

Chapter 377 - Seventh River Stage

Even Long Chen himself could not remember how large his haul was. Both him and Xiaolang enjoyed a complete change in reputation after returning from the Pyro Passageways.

After the three Demon Elders left in a rage, everyone eyed this extraordinary person in awe, only accepting the truth after Zhao Qingyun had made the announcement.

Then Zhao Qingyun smiled and said, “Long Chen, to celebrate your receiving of the two stages of the Demon Seed Planting Technique, the Heavenly Demon Palace shall hold a grand feast. What do you think?”

“There’s no need for that,” Long Chen said hurriedly. “Master, I’m actually itching to cultivate the Demon Seed Planting Technique now. How could I have time for a feast?”

Zhao Qingyun genuinely approved of this and said, “You’re a good kid. You live up to the name of being my disciple with that desire to improve. If you work this hard, you’re much better than some disciples already. If that is the case, everyone, you may return!”

Under Zhao Qingyun's instructions, everyone left unwillingly. They all wanted to see Long Chen a few more times. He was the teenager who had shaken the whole Heavenly Demon Palace, the guy who had broken the Heavenly Demon Palace's records!

"The Demon Seed Planting Technique has two stages, and I have both scriptures with me. Since you have already successfully cultivated Traceless Demon Shadow, return it to me." Zhao Qingyun took out two books similar to the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture, though they were not as thick.

"Thank you, Master!" After he received the Demon Seed Planting Technique, he gave Zhao Qingyun the Traceless Demon Shadow scripture from his Universe Pouch and said, "Master, if there's nothing else, may I return?"

"Mhm!" Zhao Qingyun nodded with a smile. He was proud that Long Chen had worked hard and had not slacked off.

In reality, Long Chen was not that impatient to cultivate the Demon Seed Planting Technique. He was just worried that Yang Danfeng would attack Wang Xing, an innocent bystander. After bidding Zhao Qingyun farewell, he rushed back to the Azure Cloud Residence as fast as he could. Thankfully, Wang Xing was fine.

"Brother Chen, you've returned from the Pyro Passageways!" Wang Xing was overjoyed to see Long Chen, and quickly ran up to him.

"Brother Chen, how many Fire Essences did you get? Fifty? A hundred?" Wang Xing asked admiringly.

"I got two thousand. Do you believe me?" Long Chen said with a smile.

"Brother Chen, you and your jokes!" Wang Xing chuckled.

"It doesn't matter how many I got anymore. But I did get the Demon Seed Planting Technique," Long Chen said with a grin.

"That's awesome! I knew you were stronger than Yang Jun," said Wang Xing.

"Wang Xing, it's a chaotic time in the Heavenly Demon Palace. Stay in my room for the next few days. Don't go anywhere, and you don't need to do anything else. If someone says something, just tell them that these were my instructions. If they have questions, they can ask me!"

"Huh?" Wang Xing was confused. As an errand boy, he had many chores to do every day. He was the only one dealing with daily chores for the nine direct disciples.

However, the other eight direct disciples rarely saw Zhao Qingyun. Long Chen was his favorite, and also the strongest. After some thought, he felt like he would be fine if he listened to Long Chen.

"This is for your own good. It's fine to stay here too. If you have anything you don't understand related to cultivation, I can explain it today. From today onwards, I will be

training here, and you can cultivate in this yard. If anything out of the ordinary happens, shout. Do you understand?" Long Chen did not actually have to take Wang Xing's safety this seriously, since they were merely acquaintances. However, he did not want his personal matters to bring harm to others, which was why he was being extra careful.

"Understood!" Wang Xing agreed hurriedly.

Long Chen nodded, and with a light tap of his foot, he leaped up to the roof. This was the spot nearest to the stars. Due to Wang Xing being here, he could not go to the peak of Demon Emperor Mountain.

Plus, I don't know if the three old geezers are angry enough to attack me. That's why it's best I don't go to the peak too often.

After making his decision, he prepared to start cultivating, though not before giving Xiaolang all his remaining Fire Essences and Divine Essence Crystals.

"Xiaolang, there are a lot of Fire Essences and Divine Essence Crystals here. Is this enough for you to reach Category Nine Earth-tier?" Long Chen asked expectantly.

Xiaolang shook his head.

"It takes that many fire treasures to reach Category Nine?" Long Chen was a little tongue-tied. He could not afford to keep feeding the little brat at all. He had consumed countless Ember Beast demonic cores in the Pyro Passageways, as well as Divine Ember Beast demonic cores, Fire Essences, and Divine Essence Crystals. Yet it was not enough for him to reach Category Nine Earth-tier.

After Long Chen gave him all his Fire Essences and Divine Essence Crystals, Xiaolang left happily. He would likely find a spot nearby to refine them on his own. After he left, Long Chen finally prepared for his own work.

I've gotten so many things from this trip. Both stages of the Demon Seed Planting Technique and the Frost Soul Essence. First, I should use the Frost Soul Essence to boost my cultivation level, thought Long Chen.

He was constantly thinking about becoming stronger so he could storm the Biyang Imperial Capital, so he did not waste any time.

He took out the Frost Soul Essence.

It was a cold, icy core made out of thick, condensed earthly Qi. After swallowing it, it would melt into spiritual Qi and turn into the person's Qi. Although the Frost Soul Essence was only the size of a thumb, it would give him a great boost.

Long Chen placed the Frost Soul Essence in his mouth without hesitation. It instantly turned into an icy fluid that rushed into his throat. He then felt a bone-chilling cold, as if he was in a freezer. The coldness spread from inside of his body to outside, and he could feel every blood vessel and organ in him become numb and turn into solid ice.

I need to quickly refine and cultivate it!

This was the only thought in his mind. Instant improvement was impossible. Although the Frost Soul Essence could help him, it contained a lot of cold Qi. If he did not resist or use enough Qi to cultivate, he would freeze to death.

“Ha!”

Long Chen let out a cry and exhaled a cold, blue breath. His Qi started to flow, and his frozen blood vessels were cleared by the vibrations. The ice shards that were shaken off all turned into blue Qi molecules, which were absorbed by Long Chen’s blood-red Qi.

The ice that had formed in Long Chen’s body all melted and merged with his Qi due to the powerful heat generated from the burning Qi in his body. When he was strong enough to control the cold from spreading, he would finally be able to enjoy its essence.

In the beginning, a layer of frost covered the surface of his body. Then it slowly melted and was absorbed into his body, merging with his Qi.

As time passed, more and more energy from the Frost Soul Essence turned into his own energy, and his Qi levels skyrocketed. After one night, he reached a breaking point and knew that the time for a breakthrough had arrived.

He was going to reach the Seventh River Stage.

This was a level he had not reached before, and it had long been his dream. There was a huge gap between the sixth and seventh stages, as it signified progressing from the intermediate to the advanced Heavenly River Realm.

A large amount of Qi surged through his body, almost causing his vessels to explode. What he needed to do next was use the energy harnessed from the stars to stabilize his body. Then, using his Qi, he would condense the seventh pair of Star Rivers in his body.

The Heavenly River Pills he had taken from Song Zhongcheng of the Harmony family were enough to last him until the Eighth River Stage. That was why he was not worried about the number of pills in his possession. There was enough in his Universe Pouch, and with his current status, Zhao Qingyun would surely give him many more as long as he asked.

A bright ray of starlight poured from the sky into Long Chen’s body, immersing him in dreamy starlight. The Heavenly River Pills he consumed interacted with the starlight, and ripples formed on Long Chen’s body.

He meticulously condensed the seventh pair of star rivers inside him.

Time passed slowly, and the requirements were fulfilled. This breakthrough was very quick. Soon after he consumed the Heavenly River Pills, the starlight on his body slowly faded away. His eyes sprang open and two bright rays of light shot out of them like a pair of swords flying through the sky!

The rays of light were very attention-catching in the night sky.

Whoosh! Zhao Qingyun appeared not far behind Long Chen. Long Chen had already closed his eyes and began quietly cultivating again. He sensed that he had only used half of the Frost Soul Essence’s power. There was still another half left for him to refine.

“Isn’t this ... the scent of the Frost Soul Essence?” Zhao Qingyun was very surprised. There had been instances of a Frost Soul Essence appearing in the Pyro Passageways before. He never expected Long Chen to find one ...

Chapter 378 - Three Demons City

Long Chen had not told him about the Frost Soul Essence, so he thought Long Chen had stumbled into a mysterious location in the Pyro Passageways where he found a huge amount of Fire Essences and the Frost Soul Essence. He also guessed that Long Chen had not relied merely on himself; Xiaolang might have contributed to a large part of his haul. Zhao Qingyun opined that Xiaolang was on par with Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu.

This brat is luckier than the average person. Perhaps he will actually get the Demon Emperor Sword. Even I can’t figure out the true potential of the Cangyang Kingdom’s two divine weapons, the Demon Emperor Sword and the Imperial Sword. I don’t think they’re merely at the initial Heaven-tier.

Zhao Qingyun nodded in approval, then he disappeared into the darkness while Long Chen continued to absorb the Frost Soul Essence’s power and grow his Qi. After one day, he finally completed his absorption of the Frost Soul Essence’s power.

“What a pity. Just a little bit more and I would have been able to enter the Eighth River Stage. It really is a treasure that can boost an Eighth River Stage cultivator to the Ninth River Stage.”

Long Chen stood up at last and checked his body. “I am now only a small gap away from the Eighth River Stage. The initial plan was three months, and time is almost up. I believe that I will be at the Eighth River Stage by the time the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword begins. At that point, I will no longer have any rivals in the Heavenly Demon Palace. As long as I get the Demon Emperor Sword and its sword technique, even Lin Zichen ...”

He still couldn’t bear to see Ling Xi live a lonely life in the Ling Xi Sword. That was why he hated Lin Zichen to the bone, because he was the one who had caused this.

Long Chen had enough confidence in himself now.

When Xiaolang saw that Long Chen had completely digested the Frost Soul Essence’s power, he arrived by his side. He had not reached the Category Nine Earth-tier, but he was very close. Long Chen and Xiaolang were just one opportunity away from another major breakthrough.

“Wow, Xiaolang. You ate all of them that quickly?” Long Chen laughed.

Xiaolang nodded, embarrassed.

His cultivation had been steadily improving. He was only at the Category Three Earth-tier when he first emerged from the Burning Heaven Secret Realm. Only a few months had passed, but he was already at Category Eight.

The Burning Heaven Emperor had said that Xiaolang would be a formidable beast. Based on the rate of his growth, this was likely true. Although Long Chen was still in the Cangyang Kingdom, which was a low-level place, he had some sense of the gigantic world outside from Ling Xi and Li Xuanji’s words.

There were countless masters across the Dragon Continent. The Cangyang Kingdom was merely a low-tier kingdom, which was one of ten thousand similar little kingdoms. That was why this corner of the Dragon Continent was called the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, which also included gigantic nations called the Ten Great Empires.

Long Chen was situated in the tiny Cangyang Kingdom amidst the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. He already felt like he was swimming in a lake that was unfathomably deep here, let alone the Ten Great Empires!

In fact, the Ten Thousand Nations Territory was just a corner of the Dragon Continent. Based on what he knew, both Ling Xi and Li Xuanji were not from this area, but from a place on a higher level. Long Chen had a rough inkling that if he wanted to marry Ling Xi in broad daylight, and in front of her family, he wouldn't be allowed even if he worked ten times harder.

Ling Xi never talked to him about her family, probably because she was afraid that he would lose motivation in the face of such huge pressure.

No matter what, all I can say is that the stage known as the Dragon Continent is just too gigantic. My brother, Xiaolang, will be the most formidable demonic beast of the Dragon Continent, while I am a Dragon Warrior, which has not existed in millennia. No matter how big the Dragon Continent is, it will be the stage we will walk upon as brothers! One day, we will both reach the peak of the Dragon Continent and look down upon the rest of the mortals!

A surge of pride rose through his heart!

“Xiaolang, since you could cultivate Divine Fire Clone, then it should be possible for you to cultivate the Demon Seed Planting Technique. From today onwards, let's study the Demon Seed Planting Technique together. We'll compete and see who completes it the fastest!”

After laying out his plan, Long Chen grew cheerful.

He opened the Demon Seed Planting Technique and placed Xiaolang on his chest. The boy and the wolf started to study the technique with utmost focus.

“It's no wonder this technique is said to be better than Traceless Demon Shadow! It's extraordinary ... Every nightfall, you can take the Heart of the Night and condense it into a Demon Seed, then plant it in your meridians. During battle, the Demon Seed disperses and merges with the user's Qi, causing the Qi to double! And the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique allows the Qi to increase by another fold!”

Cultivating the Demon Seed Planting Technique was easier than cultivating Traceless Demon Shadow. Since Long Chen had great comprehension abilities, he had a rough idea of what to do after reading through the scripture's instructions. Next, all he needed to do was practice over and over again until he achieved success!

There was a building in the Heavenly Demon Palace that was as magnificent as the Demon Pavilion. It was called Three Demons City, which was where the three Demon Elders usually lived and cultivated. It was also near the Martial Library, because they had to guard it. It was nighttime, so the disciples of Heavenly Demon Palace were mostly immersed in cultivation. The only room that was lit was the main pavilion of Three Demons City.[1]

At this moment, a total of six people with solemn expressions were in the main pavilion. Three were sitting, while the other three stood. The three sitting people were naturally the three Demon Elders, while their number one disciples stood.

All three disciples had lost to Long Chen. They hung their heads, filled with shame and self-blame as they did not dare face the Demon Elders' stern glares.

“Actually, you all performed decently. It's just that Long Chen exceeded our expectations. If we were you guys, the results would have been similar,” said the First Demon Elder with a sigh.

There was no blame in his tone, so Yang Danfeng and the rest sighed in relief. The three Demon Elders had always been very strict with them. Every time there was a small mistake, they would be punished severely. That was why they did not even dare to breathe until they saw that the First Demon Elder was not going to take things any further. They felt as if they had survived the ordeal.

“Long Chen dared to kill the Ninth Prince in the Imperial Capital when his cultivation was not even one tenth of their level! He even fled more than a thousand kilometers, and along the way, he killed the Harmony Patriarch, who belonged to one of the three largest clans of the capital. Even you, Danfeng, could not have done this. It's only expected that you all lost to him due to your own carelessness. However, now that we know his strength, I hope this will not happen a second time! After all, he is not truly strong yet!”

“Understood!” The three disciples nodded hurriedly.

Yang Danfeng and Yang Jun naturally only felt infinite hatred towards Long Chen, while Murong Yu did not. She was only going along with whatever they said, looking very obedient.

“Big Brother! Long Chen is a huge inconvenience. He already has the complete Traceless Demon Shadow and the Demon Seed Planting Technique, as well as the Frost Soul Essence. If we let him grow, he might even get the Demon Sword Emperor. And I'm afraid he'll even become the next Heavenly Demon Lord. How could an outsider who suddenly showed up inherit and rule the Heavenly Demon Palace, the place we managed with our blood, sweat, and tears for decades?!” the Third Demon Elder exclaimed. There was a thick killing intent in his voice.

“That's right, Big Brother. I have a bad feeling too. If we let him continue growing, we will only be suppressed completely. I'm afraid our disciples will also be completely suppressed by him. The boy must be eliminated ...” The Second Demon Elder also had a look of exasperation.

Must be eliminated?

Murong Yu shuddered. To her, Long Chen was not a bad person. He had merely won by relying on his own strength. That was not a crime.

Since even the Second Demon Elder had voiced her concerns, then the First Demon Elder had no choice but to nod and say, "It looks like we can't hold back any longer. If we do, the Demon Emperor Sword will end up in an outsider's hands, then all three of us will be thought of as criminals for the rest of time."

"Martial Uncle, Master, I think all three of us are confident we will get the Demon Emperor Sword. What happened at the Pyro Passageways was only because we were not paying attention to him, so he snuck up on us. This time, the three of us will work hard. I don't think we'll lose to him again. Plus, if we attack Long Chen, the Palace Lord will be able to figure out who did it, right? The Palace Lord favors Long Chen so much, I'm afraid ..." Murong Yu explained hurriedly.

Half of her explanation was for the three Demon Elders' own good, while the other half was to discourage them from harming Long Chen.

"Xiao Yu, what makes you think we haven't thought of that? Right now, we are looking for a method to settle this perfectly. Also, it's not that we look down on you all, but Long Chen is a psycho, and we can't afford to take this risk. If things don't go according to plan, we can choose to eliminate Long Chen without anyone knowing," explained the Second Demon Elder.

"Long Chen stays in the Azure Cloud Residence all day with Zhao Qingyun watching nearby. When will we ever have a chance?!" asked the Third Demon Elder weakly.

"I have an idea," Yang Danfeng suddenly said with a sneer.

Chapter 379 - Schemes

Yang Danfeng's remark attracted everyone's attention. "What is it? Tell us," said the First Demon Elder, looking at his favorite disciple.

"Actually, we don't have to keep thinking about attacking Long Chen directly. We can use an indirect method," Yang Danfeng explained confidently.

"What indirect method?" the Third Demon Elder, who was more impatient, asked hurriedly.

Yang Danfeng continued, "You may relate this to another matter. Didn't the Palace Lord's only daughter return to the Heavenly Demon Palace a few months ago? And that caused a huge commotion? At the time, she said she had gotten married and brought back that piece of trash, Dongfang Xuanxiao. The Palace Lord personally approved of the marriage, but do you remember someone else? The Seventh River Stage elder, He Tian!"

“Elder He Tian? The guy who was in love with Xuanming for a long time? He was absolutely infatuated with her, but after she went missing, he had no choice but to settle for another woman and ended up having a son with her. That Elder He Tian?” The Third Demon Elder recalled this person.

“Yes! I’m sure everyone knows of the major incident that took place after Xuanming returned. To prove that his love was true, Elder He Tian killed his wife and son, then he pursued Xuanming. However, she had already made her decision to be with Dongfang Xuanxiao, and who would want to be with that psycho? After he got rejected, Elder He Tian went mad and went into a rage, then tried to kill Dongfang Xuanxiao. The Palace Lord found out in time and then beat him up severely. However, the Palace Lord showed mercy and let him live ...”

“Danfeng, I get what you mean. Do you know where He Tian is?” asked the First Demon Elder with a twinkle in his eye.

Yang Danfeng had been interrupted, but he was not irritated by it. He nodded and said, “I know where he is. You probably know what I was going to say, Master. If we give him some incentive and make arrangements on our end so he can enter the Heavenly Demon Palace with ease, will he pass up a chance to kill his romantic rival? Dongfang Xuanxiao is Long Chen’s stepfather. If he dies, Long Chen will definitely be distracted, and he will be unable to focus on cultivating.”

“That’s right!” The First Demon Elder nodded in approval. “No matter what action we take against Long Chen, the Palace Lord will surely suspect us. If we take action against Dongfang Xuanxiao, then as long as he dies, Long Chen will definitely become distracted. If there’s something else occupying his mind, there’s no chance he will surpass Danfeng and Xiao Yu to get the Demon Emperor Sword. Also, we’ll get more opportunities to kill him!”

Even the First Demon Elder grew excited towards the end.

After Yang Danfeng told them the plan, five of them agreed immediately. The only person who had no reaction was Murong Yu. She was extremely torn inside. There were two sides—one side was the masters who had mentored her and helped her get to where she was, but the other side was her conscience and sense of justice, as well as some strange emotions.

When Yang Danfeng mentioned the plan, Murong Yu knew this was trouble. She knew Long Chen well, and if Dongfang Xuanxiao really was murdered because of this scheme, then Long Chen would fall into madness. At the time, the three Demon Elders could even find a chance to kill him!

No way! I mustn’t let that happen! That’s unfair to Long Chen! But my master taught me for many years. If I disobey her, won’t I seem ungrateful for her mentorship all these years? Won’t I be unfilial? Murong Yu’s heart was filled with chaotic thoughts.

The three Demon Elders and Yang Danfeng started to plan while Murong Yu stood there in a daze. The Second Demon Elder looked over kindly at Murong Yu and said, “Xiao Yu, don’t stand there alone. Tell us if you’ve got any good ideas. We’ve got a very difficult brat to deal with. He took the

second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique, which belonged to you guys. That is why you must take revenge!”

“Yes, Master, but I’m a little slow today. I can’t really think of any good ideas. You guys can make the decision.” This was all she could say for the moment.

The Second Demon Elder nodded and did not speak to her again. She looked at Yang Danfeng approvingly, who had given them the idea and was helping them complete the plan. Very soon, details including the time and location had been arranged.

“We must not delay this; this plan begins in three days’ time. I will pay Elder He Tian a visit before that, and I believe that based on his madman-like tendencies, there’s no chance he will let this amazing opportunity go. When I have confirmed with him, we’ll let him slip into the Heavenly Demon Palace at midnight in three days’ time to kill Dongfang Xuanxiao! Dongfang Xuanxiao will definitely be with Xuanming. As long as Xuanming remains alive to tell other people that it was He Tian, who would suspect us?” said Yang Danfeng smugly.

“Amazing! This is amazing!” The First Demon Elder looked cheerful.

Thank goodness Yang Danfeng had come up with this plan. If not, the First Demon Elder would still be sulking and struggling to think of a plan to defeat Long Chen.

“In that case, everyone, you may leave.” The plan was complete. Now they had to execute it, so it was time to disperse.

That was when Yang Danfeng suddenly turned to the Second Demon Elder and said, “Martial Aunt, I have something to say.”

“What is it, Danfeng?” The more the Second Demon Elder looked at her Senior Brother’s disciple, the more she liked him.

“It’s like this. I’m sure everyone can tell, but I’ve had feelings for Xiao Yu since I was young. It’s just that Xiao Yu’s cultivation level has always been the same as mine. As a man, I have not been able to become stronger than her, so I dared not confess to her despite my feelings. Today, in front of my master and my Martial Uncle, I was hoping you could agree to one request of mine, Martial Aunt!” Yang Danfeng made an aggressive move, borrowing from the momentum he had gained just now.

“What is your request?” the Second Demon Elder asked, amused.

A wave of disgust surged through Murong Yu when Yang Danfeng brought this up. However, with her elders present, she could not show it. She glared at him coldly as a warning, but Yang Danfeng ignored it and said to the Second Demon Elder, “Martial Aunt, I swear my feelings for Xiao Yu are true! I’m sure all three of you can see it. That is why I would like to take this chance to ask you. If I get the Demon Emperor Sword and surpass Junior Xiao Yu, will you let me marry her, Martial Aunt? That way, I will be able to protect Junior Xiao Yu!”

After he finished, all three Demon Elders looked at each other and burst into laughter. They laughed so hard that even Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu thought it was strange. The Second Demon Elder was the first to stop laughing and said, “Danfeng, you don’t know this, but we have always thought of you and Xiao Yu as a pair. You two are not young anymore, and you’re of age to get married. You’re right, the man should be a little stronger than his woman to have face. That is why I accept your request. If you get the Demon Emperor Sword, I’ll let Xiao Yu marry you!”

“Thank you, Martial Aunt!” Yang Danfeng looked overjoyed.

“Master!” Murong Yu did not give Yang Danfeng face at all. She said hurriedly in a panic, “Marriage is a huge thing, how could we be so casual about it? I—”

“Xiao Yu, that’s enough. You don’t know how lucky you are,” the First Demon Elder interrupted with a smile. “Out of the Cangyang Kingdom’s younger generation, the only people who surpass you are Danfeng and Lin Zichen. If you don’t marry Danfeng, are you going to marry Lin Zichen? You’re young and your achievements are extraordinary. You also have a man whose cultivation is soon going to surpass yours, who has loved you for twenty years. What else is there to say? Today, your Martial Uncle will make the decision for Danfeng. If he gets the Demon Sword Emperor, you’re marrying him, or there’s going to be a case of bride kidnapping!”

“Thank you, Master!” Yang Danfeng said hurriedly.

The three Demon Elders had been planning this for years. Yang Danfeng had merely said it out loud.

Murong Yu’s reaction was within their expectations since every girl would be confused and doubtful before marriage. The three Demon Elders thought that it was normal, and she would get used to it soon.

“Alright, then it is set. Meeting adjourned.” The fog in the First Demon Elder’s heart was cleared.

After Murong Yu returned to her quarters, she kept thinking about the two things that had been discussed. First, they wanted to kill Long Chen’s stepfather, Dongfang Xuanxiao. Second, if Yang Danfeng received the Demon Emperor Sword, she would have to marry him and live a miserable life forever ...

Initially, she had not been so sure, but her repulsion towards the second matter was just too strong. She sat in front of the window and stared out in a daze. Her beautiful face was hidden beneath a black chiffon veil.

“Murong Yu, what are you going to do?”

The Demon Seed Planting Technique.

Time passed as they cultivated the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Three days later, Long Chen and Xiaolang had achieved a certain level of progress. With Ling Xi as a translator, all three of them

studied the secret scripture together. When they discussed its contents together, the Demon Seed Planting Technique became much simpler.

“Brother Chen, you need to thank me properly! Without me, you would have no way of knowing what Xiaolang is thinking!” Ling Xi said smugly.

“No way! On that note, Xiao Xi, do you have a method for Xiaolang and I to communicate directly?” This was something that frustrated Long Chen.

“Hmm?” Ling Xi cocked her tiny head and said, “You can’t learn my current method for now, but I do remember a secret technique. If a demonic beast has enough intelligence to cultivate it, it can make human sounds. Xiaolang is definitely intelligent enough; he just lacks the technique!”

“Isn’t that obvious?” Long Chen was a little speechless. He looked down at Wang Xing, who was cultivating quietly, and said, “Wang Xing is definitely much safer staying here. Yang Danfeng will not show mercy if he sees him!”

Chapter 380 - Blood Ocean Knife

Based on Yang Danfeng’s personality and the three Demon Elders’ expressions when they left the Demon Pavilion, Long Chen knew they would never let him cultivate in peace. That was why he hid Wang Xing away.

Just like that. I’ll increase my cultivation level during the day, and at night, I’ll cultivate the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Based on my current speed, I should be able to complete the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique before the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword and even reach the Eighth River Stage.

Long Chen was confident he could do this.

It was almost night once again. Long Chen and Xiaolang came together to start cultivating the Demon Seed Planting Technique, and very soon, it was almost midnight.

Wang Xing had fallen asleep while cultivating.

Suddenly, Long Chen heard something, and his eyes sprang open. A black ray of light shot towards the yard’s door, which opened with a creak. Long Chen focused his eyes and saw that the beautiful Murong Yu was standing right at the doorway. There was still a veil covering her face, only revealing a bright pair of eyes staring at him. From her gaze, Long Chen saw a painful dilemma as well as solid determination. After she opened Long Chen’s door, her determination had defeated the dilemma.

“Why are you here?” Long Chen asked softly. He saw her as a true friend, so he was not hostile.

“I’m here to tell you something ...” Murong Yu looked up. “Long Chen, you haven’t seen your stepfather in a few days, have you?”

After that, Murong Yu immediately fled in a flash. She traveled quickly and disappeared into the night.

“Stepfather?” Long Chen’s gaze turned cold. He was no fool—he knew that Murong Yu was coming to give him a hint. He realized that he had been careless! He had been so focused on protecting Wang Xing that he had forgotten about Dongfang Xuanxiao. He had subconsciously thought that they would not dare touch Dongfang Xuanxiao because he was Zhao Qingyun’s son-in-law, but it looked like he had underestimated their viciousness!

Long Chen was furious, but he did not panic. He knew that Murong Yu was his friend, and since she had gone out of her way to inform him, then there was definitely time to get to Dongfang Xuanxiao’s place. He rushed down without hesitation, shook Wang Xing awake, and cried, “Wang Xing, here’s a task for you! It doesn’t matter where my master is, you must find him, then ask him to rush to Dongfang Xuanxiao’s place!”

Long Chen did not care if Wang Xing was fully awake. He called for Xiaolang and shot out like an arrow. Xiaolang quickly assumed his combat form, and because he could run much faster than Long Chen, he soon passed him and let him sit on his back. The boy and the wolf turned into a black shadow and shot towards Dongfang Xuanxiao’s quarters.

During this time, Long Chen’s eyes turned red. It had been two months; this time, his killing nature had been awakened once more.

He could tolerate anything, but not when they attacked his family because they could not beat him in battle!

Every dragon had a reverse scale, and death would come to anyone who dared touch it.[1] Dongfang Xuanxiao was Long Chen’s reverse scale. Despite not being his biological father, Dongfang Xuanxiao had given him many things. In fact, Long Chen would not be where he was today without his stepfather!

Killing intent slowly clouded his mind!

“Yang Danfeng, Demon Elders! You will not get away with this!”

Starlight shone upon the Little Bamboo Court.

This was a small piece of land filled with green bamboo. Xuanming loved bamboo, so Zhao Qingyun built an elegant house in this bamboo forest and called it Little Bamboo Court. After Long Chen arrived in the Heavenly Demon Palace, he had spent more time here than at the Azure Cloud Residence.

Xuanming, whose belly was starting to swell, was sound asleep. She needed more rest now that she was pregnant. Ever since Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuanming returned to the Heavenly Demon Palace, they rarely cultivated. They had fallen behind too much, so they could not catch up even if they wanted to. Plus, the Heavenly Demon Palace was a good place to rest and meditate. It was much more important for them to be with each other for the rest of their lives than to cultivate.

Of course, that was provided that no outsiders disturbed them.

Dongfang Xuanxiao kissed her forehead gently, then he stood up and went to the courtyard. He looked up at the bright starry river above him in the sky, then smiled weakly.

In my youth, with my infinite courage and determination, I wanted to conquer this starry river. But now, all I want to do is live a happy life with Ming'er. Xuanxiao, Xuanxiao, you've gotten old ...

When he thought about Xuanming, he smiled again. *Ming'er likes this lifestyle, so I do too. I'm actually fine with living like this forever. This is the result of twenty years of waiting, and it was difficult. Just like Chen'er. I don't know how long he and Miss Ling Xi will have to suffer before being able to live like me ...*

To Dongfang Xuanxiao, his current life was much happier than Long Chen's good days.

What Dongfang Xuanxiao couldn't see was that just three hundred meters away, two people were sneaking in the dark. One of them was Yang Danfeng and the other was a disheveled-looking middle-aged man. He was bare-chested and covered in wounds all over. Beneath his disheveled hair were fierce, beast-like eyes.

"Yang Danfeng, thank you so much for this opportunity. Can you give me the Heavenly River Pills you promised me now?" He Tian asked in a hoarse voice as he turned around.

"As long as you can complete the task, I will keep my word." Yang Danfeng was too lazy to play mind games with him. He tossed a Universe Pouch to He Tian and said, "Catch. Two hundred thousand Heavenly Pills. It's enough for you to reach the Eighth River Stage. Remember this: kill Dongfang Xuanxiao and let Xuanming see your face. Then you can run. The further, the better. Don't blame me if Zhao Qingyun chases after you and kills you!"

"I'm being paid to help solve a problem. I understand. Say no more!" He Tian checked the Universe Pouch in his hand and found that it indeed contained two hundred thousand Heavenly River Pills. He put it away, then he took out a large, blood-red knife and said emotionally, "Blood Ocean Knife! Today, you'll finally have a chance to feast on some blood!"

"You're useless! Do you really need an advanced Earth-tier knife to kill a First River Stage cultivator?" Yang Danfeng scoffed after glancing at the knife.

"Yang Danfeng, you don't understand. When I kill someone, I always use the Blood Ocean Knife to cut them into pieces. Dongfang Xuanxiao deserves it more than anyone for bedding the woman I wanted! I must chop his body up so I can finally rest!" He Tian said.

"Alright. Go ahead, then! Hurry up and get it done quickly! Don't waste my time, or you'll be the dead one!" said Yang Danfeng coldly.

He Tian glanced at him coldly, pursed his lips, then charged towards the Little Bamboo Court like a gust of wind. Along the way, bamboo was cut in half with level cross sections, and they tumbled in swaths to the ground!

Before he arrived, Dongfang Xuanxiao sensed the manic killing intent. He was initially immersed in the glow of love, but this sudden change made him panic, and he quickly shouted, “Ming’er, run!”

At this critical moment, the first thought he had was to save the pregnant Zhao Xuanming!

Since Dongfang Xuanxiao had reached the Heavenly River Realm, this shout was enough to wake her up immediately. Her first response was not to run, but to rush to his side. She looked afraid and pale, but there was determination in her eyes.

Dongfang Xuanxiao knew she would be like this. He sighed in exasperation, then stood in front of her. They waited to see who would emerge from the bamboo forest.

The man was muscular, his chest was bare, and he was wearing a pair of tattered pants. His face was dirty and disheveled, and he held a large, blood-colored knife that he rested on his shoulder. He walked up to them with insanity in his eyes.

“You two lovebirds! Do you remember me?” He Tian sneered as he walked up to them.

“He Tian!” Xuanming would remember him even if she was dead. When she was younger, he had pursued her like a madman, and when she returned much later, he killed his own wife and son in order to win her heart. But how could she like a madman like that? Therefore, He Tian was chased out of the Heavenly Demon Palace by Zhao Qingyun.

Zhao Xuanming had not expected him to return today. Previously, Zhao Qingyun had shown mercy and let him go, yet now he was here and clearly intended to attack. Did he not know remorse?

“He Tian, my father let you live, yet you dare return to the Heavenly Demon Palace. What is the meaning of that knife? Don’t you know what gratitude is?” Xuanming asked nervously.

“That’s the funniest joke ever! What even is gratitude? He’s the idiot who didn’t kill me. What’s that got to do with me?” He Tian burst into laughter.

“I’m going to leave the Cangyang Kingdom immediately, but today, I slipped into the Heavenly Demon Palace mainly to fulfill my last wish. Xuan Ming, I have truly loved you for many years, yet you decided to be with a useless prettyboy. That won’t do. I’m a true man! How could I lose to trash? Today, I will take his life. If you’re afraid of blood, don’t look. After I kill him, I’ll reward you, okay? You’re even pregnant! The trash’s child will probably also be trash. And trash has no right to remain in this world. Ming’er, tell me what I should do so I can kill this trash’s child without hurting you, haha ...”

Dongfang Xuanxiao drew in a sharp breath.

He Tian was at the Seventh River Stage, while he was only at the First River Stage. He Tian could kill him in one casual move! Under such circumstances, it was impossible for him to live!

