

War God 381

Chapter 381 - Massacre – He Tian

The couple liked peace and quiet, so the Little Bamboo Court was situated further from the other buildings. At this point, Dongfang Xuanxiao knew that no one would come to their rescue.

“Ming’er, I’m so sorry. I’m useless. In the end, we couldn’t escape the suffering. Perhaps I really am not suited for you. I deserve to die for wasting so many years of your youth.” The pain on Dongfang Xuanxiao’s face would make anyone’s heart ache.

“Brother Xuanxiao ...”

There were tears in her eyes. She held Xuanxiao’s hand tightly, looked at He Tian with a lump in her throat, then gritted her teeth and said, “Even after being locked up for twenty years, I’m very content with being able to see you again and spending so much time with you. Today, I will die with you before I am humiliated. It’s too bad this child will die before it’s born ...”

Her words broke Xuanxiao’s heart.

“No! He can never touch you! Ming’er, I will stop him even if I die! Even if it’s for a moment!” Dongfang Xuanxiao stared with determination in his eyes. Although he was countless times weaker than He Tian, he was equal in terms of fierceness!

He Tian was a little uncomfortable in the face of Dongfang Xuanxiao’s fearlessness in death. He smirked and spat, “Not bad! That was touching. But I’ve never believed in that sort of thing. You’re trash! Do you have the guts to fight me? Do you want to try?”

He Tian knew that he had no time to waste. He walked towards Dongfang Xuanxiao as he spoke, and a heavy weight pressed on Dongfang Xuanxiao. The blood-colored blade glinted coldly, and Dongfang Xuanxiao’s vision blurred. A threat he could not withstand was approaching! He gritted his teeth and tried to think of a way out, but he knew how weak he was in the face of such a large gap in cultivation levels!

No! I cannot let Ming’er die with me! And our child cannot die before it’s born! God, what do I do?! Why do you do this to me? You played me for twenty years, and I suffered for twenty years so I could be with Ming’er. Do I not have a say in my own life?!

Dongfang Xuanxiao breathed heavily as redness slowly spread through his eyes.

“Brother Xuanxiao ...” Xuanming’s heart ached when she saw Dongfang Xuanxiao like this. Her nails almost punctured his flesh.

“Ming’er, I only have one request. Will you promise me this?” Xuanxiao quickly said next to her ear.

“Don’t say it. I can promise you one thing—even if I die, I will remain by your side to face it all together. I am being selfish to our child, but I am sure they will understand!” Zhao Xuanming’s eyes were filled with tears ...

Dongfang Xuanxiao had lost all hope in the face of Xuanming's stubbornness and the approaching He Tian.

Strength. Everything boiled down to strength. He wasn't strong enough years ago, that was why Xuanming had been locked up in the Star Devil Prison for twenty years. This time, he wasn't strong enough, so they had no choice but to accept death!

"Ah!" Dongfang Xuanxiao slammed his fist into his own chest!

"If I am reborn, I will definitely work as hard as Chen'er!" roared Dongfang Xuanxiao, his eyes fixed dead on He Tian.

"Chen'er? You mean Long Chen, the one that has been famous in the Heavenly Demon Palace? The kid that people are talking about across the whole Cangyang Kingdom? He's indeed a prodigy. You're very lucky to have taken in a stepson like that. Unfortunately, he won't save you today!" He Tian laughed and gently raised the Blood Ocean Knife. He would split Dongfang Xuanxiao in half in the next second!

That was when a cold voice rang from behind He Tian.

"You're wrong. Today, I am saving him."

This cold voice obviously came from a teenager. He was so close, yet He Tian had not noticed him. He Tian was startled and quickly turned around in a panic, Qi exploding from his body.

When he turned around, he saw a tall teenager with elegant features and long, black hair that fluttered in the wind standing behind him! In his hand was a sword that radiated faint starlight.

"Long Chen, why would you be here?" He Tian was completely shocked. Yang Danfeng had guaranteed that no one would show up. So why was Long Chen here?

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuanming felt like they were dreaming when they saw Long Chen. Xuanming almost fainted, but fortunately, Dongfang Xuanxiao was there to catch her. Their eyes were filled with tears. They had truly survived a very close brush with death. Only they knew just how dangerous it had been.

They had paid twenty years of their lives to be together today, but everything they had built was going to be destroyed. It was truly fortunate that Long Chen had appeared. Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuanming had full confidence in him, so they knew that they would not die tonight!

The emotions running through them were indescribable.

He Tian sensed an aura that scared him from Long Chen's body. At this critical moment, he made the decision to kill Dongfang Xuanxiao as quickly as possible and then flee!

He was at the Seventh River Stage, and he had heard that Long Chen was only at the Sixth River Stage. Of course, he had heard about Long Chen defeating Yang Jun as well, which made him very nervous!

He Tian turned around again, ready to kill Dongfang Xuanxiao with one slash. However, he didn't expect the face of a large wolf to be right in front of his eyes. Powerful flames shot at him! He Tian gasped and used all the strength in his body to barely dodge the fire.

Xiaolang stood guard next to the couple and puckered his lips in contempt. If it wasn't for Long Chen's instructions, he would have killed the bastard immediately.

He Tian only had one thought: run. After dodging Xiaolang's flames, he leaped from the ground to flee, but to his dismay, the teenager rushed up to him.

Long Chen's eyes were red as he glared at He Tian and the Blood Ocean Knife. He could not imagine the tragedy that would have taken place here if Murong Yu had not informed him! He would have regretted it forever!

Had he arrived one second later, he truly would've been overcome with regret. Although He Tian had not succeeded, the hatred in Long Chen's heart did not dissipate!

"Since you're here, you might as well stay ..." Long Chen mused.

He Tian felt very uncomfortable by his tone, then madness slowly appeared in his eyes, and he roared, "Alright! Since you don't want me to leave, then I'll leave after I kill you! I refuse to believe that a Seventh River Stage cultivator like myself can't beat you at the Sixth River Stage!"

He Tian was already cornered into fighting back.

"I would've toyed with you if I were in a better mood. But today, you must die."

Then He Tian roared and swung his sword at Long Chen, its cold glint forming an arc in the air.

Long Chen was slashed in half!

After the attack, He Tian was surprised to discover that he had cut Long Chen in half! Relieved, he thought, *The father's trash; the son's trash too!*

He was about to kill Dongfang Xuanxiao and run, but a voice rang in his ear.

"Who did you cut just now?" The voice seemed to be right next to his ear, and all his hairs stood on end. He was about to turn and swing his knife behind him when the tip of a sword pierced through his chest, extending half a meter out of his body!

A drop of blood fell from the Star Sword, which was dotted with starlight.

He Tian finally realized that his heart had been pierced through.

Whoosh! Long Chen pulled the Star Sword out. He Tian had not died yet. He turned and looked at Long Chen in disbelief, stuttering, "You brat Didn't ... didn't I just cut you?"

"Don't you know about Traceless Demon Shadow?" Long Chen then sliced his throat with his sword.

He Tian finally collapsed with his eyes still open.

Even in death, he did not understand why he could not fight back when he should have been much stronger than Long Chen.

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuanming watched the scene unfold in a daze. It was only when He Tian's body threw up a cloud of dust in the air that they finally believed that Long Chen's combat abilities had far surpassed He Tian's.

After a close brush with death, Dongfang Xuanxiao was extremely emotional. He quickly said, “Chen’er, we owe you so much ...”

“Today’s matters have not come to an end yet.” Long Chen suddenly cut him off, then he disappeared right before Dongfang Xuanxiao’s eyes. Xiaolang howled, then followed him.

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuanming looked at each other, wondering what Long Chen was doing. That was when they heard an earth-shattering yell in front!

“Yang Danfeng! Do you still think you can run?!”

Dongfang Xuanxiao froze.

“Yang Danfeng?”

“Brother Xuanxiao, it must have been Yang Danfeng. I was just wondering how He Tian could’ve gotten here with how strict the Heavenly Demon Palace’s security is. Someone inside must have let him in! Chen’er received two stages of the Demon Seed Planting Technique a few days ago, and Yang Danfeng must have gotten angry. He was the one who let He Tian in!” Xuanming quickly connected the dots.

“That’s terrible! If Chen’er knows the truth, he will definitely kill Yang Danfeng!” Dongfang Xuanxiao’s face changed. He knew Long Chen’s personality well.

Chapter 382 - Black Wind Sword Technique

Dongfang Xuanxiao was right. Long Chen was indeed going after Yang Danfeng!

Long Chen had used the Soul Swallowing Gaze earlier and saw Yang Danfeng hiding three hundred meters away! This confirmed that tonight’s events had been arranged by Yang Danfeng and maybe even the three Demon Elders!

Every dragon had a reverse scale, and touching it meant death!

Long Chen would not have been this furious if Yang Danfeng had attacked Wang Xing. But he had targeted Dongfang Xuanxiao! Dongfang Xuanxiao was an elder worthy of Long Chen’s respect. Anyone who touched him, no matter who it was, would end up dead! It was only a matter of when!

The most powerful person in the Heavenly Demon Palace was Zhao Qingyun. Yang Danfeng had targeted his son-in-law and had been caught red-handed by Long Chen. Therefore, Long Chen knew that no matter what he did, Zhao Qingyun would definitely support him, which was why he decided to disregard everything and go for the kill. It didn’t matter if the sky fell—Zhao Qingyun would be there to hold it up, so Long Chen was not afraid!

That was why he had asked Wang Xing to call Zhao Qingyun over. He was not afraid of anything with a Heavenly Passage Realm master protecting him.

When Yang Danfeng realized that Long Chen was there, he was shocked. His mind raced and he instantly thought of someone. His face reddened and he clenched his teeth. “It must’ve been that bitch, Murong Yu! She must have told him my plan! Murong Yu! I can’t believe you openly

disobeyed your master! You're so dead! I can't wait to watch you die when the Demon Elders find out about this!"

By the time Yang Danfeng spoke to himself, He Tian had already been killed by Long Chen. When Yang Danfeng saw that his plan had failed, he was about to sneak off, but to his utter surprise, Long Chen knew his location and was charging over to kill him!

How the hell does he know where I am? Yang Danfeng gasped. He didn't think he could not defeat Long Chen, but didn't his presence prove that he was the one who had brought He Tian here? If Zhao Qingyun found out about this, then Yang Danfeng would be dead. With that thought, Yang Danfeng turned around to flee, but a black shadow rushed in front of him with a loud boom, blocking his way!

Yang Danfeng had been tortured by Xiaolang once in the Pyro Passageways. Xiaolang had the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire and Divine Fire Clone, which had left Yang Danfeng traumatized. He thought of running off in a different direction, but Long Chen appeared behind him with his Star Sword in hand!

"Long Chen, why are you blocking me? Do you think it's that easy to bully me? Let me tell you this. Get this demon wolf out of my way, or there will be casualties!" Yang Danfeng knew he could not run, so he opted to dish out threats!

Long Chen's expression was so dark, it was scary. Without a word, he raised the Star Sword and pointed it directly at Yang Danfeng. Even Yang Danfeng felt a little scared when he saw Long Chen in this state.

"Xiaolang, this is a duel to the death. Do not intervene," Long Chen said coldly as blood-red scales covered his body. His transformation was instant, and his sharp, bony spikes made Yang Danfeng's scalp go numb!

Long Chen's Qi was boosted by ten times thanks to the Dragon Soul Transformation, so he was now on par with Yang Danfeng! Both of them had Eighth River Stage strength!

When he fought Song Zhongcheng, Long Chen used Blood Sacrifice to force his Qi to level up to the Eighth River Stage. Right now, however, he truly had the combat ability of an Eighth River Stage cultivator!

Yang Danfeng was startled to find that the aura that exploded from Long Chen's body was as strong as his. He felt very irritated at Long Chen's arrogance, so he glared and said, "Does this mean that you've decided to fight me? Long Chen, I don't want to fight you. Don't pick a fight you're sure to lose. If I hurt you, I don't know how I'll explain myself to the Palace Lord."

"A fight I'm sure to lose? You sent someone to kill my stepfather. This is a blood grudge. If I had been just a second slower, I would have regretted this all my life. The only way to cleanse this grudge is with your blood!" Long Chen's eyes glinted fiercely.

"What do you mean by that? What evidence do you have?" Although both parties knew, Yang Danfeng would never be stupid enough to admit it. Long Chen had no evidence, so he could stubbornly refuse!

“Evidence? The evidence is in my sword. Yang Danfeng, I will take your life today!” Long Chen stepped off the ground. With a *whoosh*, he turned into a blood-red shadow that shot towards Yang Danfeng and swung the Star Sword straight at his head!

“Do you think you’re the only one with a sword?” Yang Danfeng smirked and took out a huge sword from his Universe Pouch. It was heavy, all black, and well over a meter long. He gripped it with both hands and brought it down on Long Chen!

“While I am best at the Abyssal Piercing Finger, I’m also good with the Black Wind Sword Technique!” Yang Danfeng knew that Long Chen was not holding back. Since he had never been one to willingly be trampled on by another person, he had no choice but to react, and he slashed with all his strength!

When the swords collided, a deafening sound of friction rang out! Their Qi levels were equal, so both of them were sent flying!

When Long Chen was thrown back, there was a cold glint in his eyes and he gently stepped on a bamboo behind him, then he shot right at Yang Danfeng!

Yang Danfeng was startled. In a direct collision, Long Chen’s Star Sword was actually the inferior weapon compared to his. However, Long Chen was not hurt at all, and he bounced back instantly!

“It looks like you’re not going to give up until you die. Black Wind Sword Technique, Manic Wind Storm!” Yang Danfeng’s face darkened. His sword vibrated hard, then turned into a shadow that rained attacks on Long Chen like a manic storm!

No wonder he’s an Eighth River Stage prodigy. He’s definitely no average cultivator!

Although Long Chen looked like he had lost his mind, he was calm. When Yang Danfeng’s Black Wind Sword Technique arrived, he used Traceless Demon Shadow to dodge the attack instantly. At the same time, his Divine Fire Clones exploded from him, and 125 clones instantly pounced on Yang Danfeng, who was now trapped in a very small area!

He knows this bizarre technique too! Yang Danfeng had seen Xiaolang’s Divine Fire Clone, but didn’t expect Long Chen to know it as well. However, Long Chen’s Divine Fire Clones only possessed Sixth River Stage strength, so they were easier to fight!

“Do you think you’re the only one who knows Traceless Demon Shadow? I do too!” Yang Danfeng used Traceless Demon Shadow. After countless years of study, his mastery of the technique was only almost on par with Long Chen!

When the technique was activated, the clones could no longer find his location. He wove through them like a black shadow, and every time he slashed with his sword, he killed one clone. Long Chen knew that the clones were no longer effective, so he retracted them.

“Have you admitted defeat?” Yang Danfeng stopped and smiled. “Then this matter has come to a close. Nothing happened anyway. I won’t hold a grudge against you for stopping me today. Farewell!”

“Do you think you’re dreaming?” Long Chen appeared in front of him in a flash.

“Long Chen, I admit that you’re decent, but if I fought you with my full strength, you would be no match for me even if you used every ounce of your strength! I’m holding back because of your master, but a dog can jump over the wall when it’s cornered[1], so don’t blame me!” The corner of his mouth curled up into a smirk.

“Oh? Then let’s see how you, the dog, will jump over this wall!” Long Chen mocked him.

“You’re looking for death!” Yang Danfeng felt like he was showing Long Chen mercy for not engaging in battle. However, the brat was not intelligent enough to see it and had even insulted him! Yang Danfeng was furious!

“You’re the one looking for death, so you cannot blame me for this! Long Chen, let me show you what the Demon Seed Planting Technique is like! You’ll die when I double my strength!” Black smoke rose from Yang Danfeng’s body, which was a sign that his Demon Seed had merged with his Qi!

Yang Danfeng’s aura intensified until it was double the previous level. Thick, black mist swirled in his eyes, making him look demonic.

“Do you think you can defeat me when I am in this state?” Yang Danfeng chuckled coldly. His speed had doubled, and he instantly appeared in front of Long Chen and swung his sword!

Long Chen laughed coldly and slashed the Star Sword horizontally. His opponent’s enhanced strength sent him flying backwards, knocking down many bamboos before he finally stopped.

“What’s the matter? Do you finally understand how strong I am?” Yang Danfeng asked smugly.

“Is that the best you can do?!” Long Chen was not hurt at all. He chuckled coldly, then, to Yang Danfeng’s shock, the same thick, black smoke rose from Long Chen’s body and his aura also intensified. An instant later, he reached Yang Danfeng’s level!

“I’m so sorry. I’m not very familiar with the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique yet. However, it’s enough for me to take your life!” Long Chen said with a faint smile.

“What?” Yang Danfeng took a step back in disbelief. Had Long Chen mastered the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique in three days?

Was Long Chen a monster?

Yang Danfeng was shocked that Long Chen had mastered Traceless Demon Shadow in twenty days. He himself had taken five times as long to master it, and he was a rare prodigy in the Heavenly Demon Palace. This meant that Long Chen was the prodigy of prodigies.

When he found out that Long Chen had completed the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique in only three days, he could only say that Long Chen was nonhuman.

However, Yang Danfeng would never accept this!

That's impossible! He must have used some kind of trick! Maybe Zhao Qingyun has been mentoring him in secret for a long time and only introduced him to the public when Long Chen mastered them!

Both of them were in their strongest forms.

“Good, good! Not bad! This is not bad at all! However, you have successfully made me angry!” As he spoke, Yang Danfeng put away his sword. He was best at finger techniques, so when Long Chen used the Demon Seed Planting Technique, he truly felt threatened and was forced to use his true combat abilities.

“Abyssal Piercing Finger Technique! This is an extremely powerful technique ranked just below the Demon Emperor Sword Technique. Out of all the advanced Earth-tier techniques, this is one of the best! My master has complete mastery over it, and while I have only scratched the surface, it's enough to kill you, Long Chen! Since you won't let me leave, then enjoy this!” Yang Danfeng sneered.

“Idiot,” Long Chen said gently.

“What did you say?” Yang Danfeng had always been a favored disciple with a high rank, and he had never been afraid of anyone other than the three Demon Elders and Zhao Qingyun. A line was crossed when a newcomer like Long Chen insulted him. He flew into a rage and his Qi exploded to its maximum level, preparing his finger attack directed at Long Chen!

“Abyssal Piercing Finger, Moving Starry River!”

This was the most powerful Abyssal Piercing Finger technique. Usually, only Ninth River Stage cultivators were able to use this move, but Yang Danfeng was exceptional! Rays of light shot out of his finger and flew at Long Chen like swords flying through space. It was so powerful that even the stars in the sky seemed to tremble!

“Son of trash! Will you be able to withstand this?” Yang Danfeng let out a bout of manic laughter as he launched the attack. With the boost from the Demon Seed Planting Technique, the intensity of his attack rose. His aura took the shape of a large finger and shot directly at Long Chen!

Long Chen chuckled and his eyes flashed coldly!

“Blood Devouring Domain ...”

This was Long Chen's final attack. Under Long Chen's control, blood-red mist spread across the area. Being at the same level as Long Chen, Yang Danfeng needed to use at least half of his Qi to suppress his boiling blood or his blood would be sucked away and he would die!

"What the hell is this?" This was Yang Danfeng's first time seeing the Blood Devouring Domain, so he was terrified. The mist swirled around him and turned into dragons, sticking onto his body. Then the strong sucking force made his face go pale!

He felt as if his blood was boiling as it surged chaotically. Moments ago, he had been guiding most of his Qi to launch his most powerful attack, but now he was being forced to use part of it to suppress the effects of the Blood Devouring Domain. If not, blood would spray out of his body and he would die in a grotesque manner!

When Yang Danfeng had to weaken his final attack because he had to re-distribute part of his Qi, Long Chen knew that his opportunity had come. His body exploded using Traceless Demon Shadow, and he dashed, thrusting his Star Sword forward. Then he disappeared!

"Shadow Sword Technique!"

This was Long Chen's first time using the Shadow Sword Technique. And how could a technique that Ling Xi taught him be simple? Yang Danfeng instantly felt an energy that suffocated him. He looked up fearfully, and multiple sword shadows appeared in front of him, along with Long Chen's Traceless Demon Shadow! Yang Danfeng lost his mind when he saw how dense the attack was!

He was in mortal danger!

At that moment, Dongfang Xuanxiao had led Xuanming over, and they were shocked to see this. From the other end, the three Demon Elders rushed over and also saw them!

"No!" They were too far away, so it was impossible for them to save Yang Danfeng. They roared so loudly that their voices shook the heavens, but it was useless. Long Chen's eyes were cold and his sword, as intended, slid across Yang Danfeng's neck. He retracted his Blood Devouring Domain when he succeeded.

Long Chen had sensed the arrival of the three Demon Elders. He called Xiaolang over, then, without a word, stood in front of Dongfang Xuanxiao.

Dongfang Xuanxiao stared at the teenager, who stood tall with the Star Sword in hand. Fresh blood dripped slowly from it.

The three Demon Elders finally arrived. Their eyes widened as they stared at Yang Danfeng in shock and discovered a line of blood on his neck. Yang Danfeng stared back at them with horror in his eyes, unmoving.

"Danfeng!" the First Demon Elder screamed before rushing towards Yang Danfeng. When he touched Yang Danfeng's body, the latter's head came loose and tumbled to the ground, leaving a trail of blood as it rolled several times.

The First Demon Elder clutched the headless corpse, which started to spray out a large amount of blood, leaving him drenched!

Twenty years of mentorship. All that was left was this cold corpse.

Long Chen had already been mentally prepared to kill Yang Danfeng. He guessed that Yang Danfeng was behind this and that he would be nearby. His guess had been proven correct.

Although he had killed Yang Danfeng, he remained calm. He stared at the three Demon Elders coldly without any intention of retreating. He had already planned this by telling Wang Xing to find Zhao Qingyun. Before he fought Yang Danfeng, he had already spotted Zhao Qingyun using the Soul Swallowing Gaze, but Zhao Qingyun never showed himself; he merely watched from the dark.

Long Chen knew in his heart that this was Zhao Qingyun's way of giving him permission to do this. That was why he had intensified his attack and killed Yang Danfeng before the three Demon Elders arrived, even beheading him using the Shadow Sword Technique.

Zhao Qingyun was hiding not far away from Long Chen's left side.

The First Demon Elder stared at his disciple in a daze with disbelief in his eyes, then regret, anger, and finally killing intent. He placed Yang Danfeng's body and head in his Universe Pouch, then glared at Long Chen with blood-red eyes!

The other two Demon Elders were filled with grief! Yang Danfeng was the most outstanding disciple, and because he was male, they focused more on him than on Murong Yu. They had spent a lot of effort on him, but it had all amounted to nothing because of Long Chen!

They had already wanted to kill Long Chen, so why wouldn't they act now? They looked at each other, and then the youngest of the trio, the Third Demon Elder, took a step forward and said, "Big Brother, I'll do it! He killed Yang Danfeng! Even the Palace Lord's disciple can't escape death after this. Let me kill him! Big Brother, I'm begging you!"

"Don't let him die too quickly ..." the elderly First Demon Elder said in a hoarse voice. It was clear that he was trying his best to control his emotions!

"I understand!" The Third Demon Elder approached Long Chen with a sneer on his face and was in front of him in a flash. He was ready to attack when a middle-aged-looking man with white hair appeared between them. It was Zhao Qingyun!

"Palace Lord!" The Third Demon Elder gasped and quickly retreated to the side of the other two Demon Elders. He knew that he could easily kill Long Chen, but the three of them could not defeat Zhao Qingyun even if they fought him together.

There was a momentary quiet. Zhao Qingyun's cold gaze met the First Demon Elder's violent glare. The elderly First Demon Elder suddenly turned into an awakened beast, radiating a terrifying, wild aura.

"Palace Lord! I spent the last twenty years of my life mentoring my disciple! And he's gone, just like that! If you don't settle this appropriately, I'm afraid this will not end peacefully," said the First Demon Elder after a moment of silence.

This meant that if Zhao Qingyun did not hand Long Chen over, then he would never give up.

“First Demon Elder, actually, there are a few things that do not need to be said out loud,” Zhao Qingyun suddenly said. He had actually arrived not long after Long Chen, so he was clear about everything that had happened.

The First Demon Elder was startled by Zhao Qingyun’s words. He knew that it was very likely that Zhao Qingyun already knew of their plan.

Long Chen then said loudly, “I don’t think you know what just happened. Yang Danfeng conspired with an outsider and let him sneak into the Heavenly Demon Palace in order to kill my stepfather. What kind of cruel and ungrateful person would target the Palace Lord’s son-in-law? Say, do you think he deserved to live? As my stepfather’s stepson, should I have spared him?”

“Nonsense! You have no evidence to make such accusations!” The Third Demon Elder laughed coldly. “Do you think we should just take your word for it? Where’s your proof? Where are your witnesses? Also, Long Chen, even if Danfeng had committed an error, what right do you have to kill him? We are the ones who enforce punishment! I think you have committed a huge sin, and you are the one who deserves to die!”

Chapter 384 - Brush With Death

“Someone conspired to murder my stepfather, so I killed him. That is a very reasonable course of action. If you want to blame someone, then blame that useless coward. He even called himself the number one disciple of the Heavenly Demon Palace! He wasn’t good enough for that,” Long Chen said in a mocking tone as he put his Star Sword away.

“Who did you call a coward?!” The Third Demon Elder lost his temper. Yang Danfeng was dead, and he had to make Long Chen pay. He was about to speak, but the First Demon Elder stopped him. The Third Demon Elder froze and followed his senior’s gaze to look at Zhao Qingyun. At this moment, Zhao Qingyun’s gaze was darker than ever.

“He’s angry?” The Third Demon Elder gasped.

“Let’s go,” the First Demon Elder said curtly, then he turned to leave. The Second Demon Elder hurried after him. Only the Third Demon Elder froze for a while, then he glared at Long Chen and left.

“Big Brother, why did you give up so easily?” asked the Third Demon Elder hurriedly after they were some distance away.

The First Demon Elder stared ahead without a word, though only the Second Demon Elder explained, “Third Brother, didn’t you hear what Zhao Qingyun said? He probably arrived long ago and maybe even witnessed our scheming. If we argue, will it be of any use? Arguing will only make him more contemptuous towards us. We are publicly going against him here, and if it wasn’t for the

fact that he cares about the big picture, and that we have worked hard to manage the Heavenly Demon Palace for so many years, we probably would have been killed a long time ago.”

The Second Demon Elder’s words made the Third Demon Elder understand. His gaze darkened.

“Danfeng died, and I’m not willing to accept this. Twenty years of mentorship! I prepared him as a candidate for the next Palace Lord. Gone, just like that! My heart aches!”

“What’s the use of that? Who knows what will happen, seeing as Long Chen is already this powerful? But I have a question. How did Long Chen know that something would happen to Dongfang Xuanxiao?” The Second Demon Elder was frustrated.

The First Demon Elder, who was walking ahead, answered, “There must be a mole among us who told Long Chen.”

“A mole? Who? There were only the six of us present that night. There’s no way it was one of us, and Yang Jun hates Long Chen to the bone, so that’s impossible. As for Xiao Yu ... Big Brother, are you talking about Xiao Yu?” The Second Demon Elder had a bad feeling. After the First Demon Elder’s mention, her guess was confirmed, and her expression turned sour.

“As her master, you must be familiar with Xiao Yu’s intentions. She has never liked Danfeng, and it looks like us forcing her to marry him put her in a difficult spot.” The First Demon Elder halted and looked up at the starry night outside.

“It was Xiao Yu! That brat! How dare she betray her own kin? She deserves to die! I’m going to kill her now!” The Third Demon Elder’s features contorted, and he was ready to leave.

“Stay where you are!” the First Demon Elder yelled sternly. “Third Brother, could you use your brain? You’re a grown man! Now that Danfeng is dead and Yang Jun is not performing well, Xiao Yu is our only trump card! Without her, the Demon Emperor Sword will end up in Long Chen’s hands! Not only can we not touch her, we also need to raise her well!”

“But how about revenge for Danfeng?” The Third Demon Elder did not understand.

“Who said raising her means not torturing her? It looks like that girl has feelings for Long Chen. She’s a young girl and easily gets distracted by these fake dreams. It’s time to teach Xiao Yu what is most important! Let’s go back!”

The three of them head towards Three Demons City.

Yang Danfeng’s death was a huge blow to them, but this did not mean that they would stop. Instead, they would become worse!

Long Chen, Zhao Qingyun, and the rest all followed Dongfang Xuanxiao to the Little Bamboo Court. Zhao Qingyun did not want news of this to spread, so Long Chen personally dealt with the body. However, it would be difficult to restore the broken bamboo in a short time.

“I pity these bamboo plants,” said Zhao Xuanming, shaking her head.

“As long as no one is hurt, all is well. Ming’er, I really thought we were dead. It’s all thanks to Chen’er ...” Dongfang Xuanxiao looked at Long Chen gratefully. He was here, unharmed, all because of Long Chen. He never thought that that outer family brat he had met on Nine Devils Mountain would grow to this level.

Even Zhao Qingyun was impressed that Long Chen could defeat Yang Danfeng. He said, “So that’s how you beat Song Zhongcheng! This is excellent. If you maintain this progress, it’s very likely you’ll get the Demon Emperor Sword!”

Long Chen’s objective was to get the Three Great Secret Scriptures and reach at least the Eighth River Stage. Now he was just one step away. After completing these steps, he would be strong enough to storm the Biyang Imperial Capital.

“They probably won’t tell anyone about what happened tonight, so you guys shouldn’t either. As for Yang Danfeng, just say he’s gone missing.” To be honest, Zhao Qingyun was extremely furious; if Long Chen had not killed Yang Danfeng, he might have done it himself. He was a lion in the Heavenly Demon Palace, and he did not care when the tiny cats and dogs caused trouble. However, when they targeted his family, how could he not be furious?

If he had not considered the overall situation of the Heavenly Demon Palace, he would have beaten the three Demon Elders up. He refused to believe that the three Demon Elders were not involved in such a vicious scheme!

“Chen’er, Yang Danfeng and I had no grudges. Why would he want to attack us?” asked Dongfang Xuanxiao.

Long Chen chuckled bitterly and said, “Stepfather, it was my fault. I snatched the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique from Yang Danfeng, and he couldn’t target me, so he decided to kill you to vent his anger.”

“It’s not that simple.” Zhao Qingyun shook his head. “I think this was decided by the three Demon Elders. They are probably worried about the Demon Emperor Sword, so they want to distract you, Long Chen, before the fight for the sword begins. When you weakened, you would lose to their disciples during the fight. The Demon Emperor Sword is just too important to the Heavenly Demon Palace, and seeing as you’ve only recently arrived, it’s normal for them to see you as an outsider.”

“That’s probably the case. However, this is a low blow. They did not show you any respect at all, Master,” said Long Chen with a nod.

“If they took a risk like that, they probably intended for one of their own disciples to become the next Palace Lord,” Zhao Qingyun said with a tired smile.

“The next Palace Lord? Aren’t you still alive and healthy?” Long Chen asked with a grin.

“Even the strongest person gets old. I will need to give this position away eventually. You don’t know this, but we have a rule in the Heavenly Demon Palace: anyone who gets the Three Great Secret Scriptures, cultivates all of them, and successfully controls the Demon Emperor Sword will become the next Heavenly Demon Lord. Long Chen, based on the speed of your cultivation, you’ll be able to learn the Demon Emperor Sword Technique. What you lack is the Demon Emperor Sword. That’s why they’re afraid of you!”

“Huh?” Long Chen froze. To be honest, he had no intention of becoming the Heavenly Demon Lord.

“Of course, if you’re unwilling, no one will force you. However, as the Palace Lord, you’d be ranked above millions of people. I have direct control over three districts in the capital. The only person who ranks higher than the Heavenly Demon Lord is the king of the imperial family. As a Palace Lord, you could have ten thousand Heavenly Demon disciples at your disposal, as well as more than a hundred thousand disciples from other outer clans spread across the whole Cangyang Kingdom. You would directly control a small portion of crucial resources in the Cangyang Kingdom, and one day, you could even lead the Heavenly Demon Palace to overthrow the imperial family. Would you be willing to take a position like that?”

Long Chen could tell that despite Zhao Qingyun’s nonchalance, he really wanted Long Chen to be the next Palace Lord, seeing as he was his disciple, and he both liked and admired this youngster.

“Right, Chen’er, you can pave the way in the future. With you protecting us, the two of us will live comfortably here, and no one will bully us. Isn’t that right?” Xuanming cracked a rare joke.

Only Dongfang Xuanxiao did not speak, because he knew Long Chen best.

As expected, Long Chen smiled and said, “Master, I promise you that the top-ranked imperials, including the Sword Emperor, Sword Devil, and Lin Zichen, will all be killed by me. As for whether they are overthrown—that depends on your strategy afterwards. As for the position of the Palace Lord ... Do you think I’d be willing to stay here?”

Long Chen looked at Zhao Qingyun with a knowing look.

Zhao Qingyun suddenly laughed. “Haha, I knew you had sky-high ambitions, and that this position wouldn’t impress you. That’s a good thing though, and I won’t force you.” He too knew Long Chen well, and based on the speed he was growing, his future was limitless. The mere position of Heavenly Demon Lord was not his finishing line. All he needed was time.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was laughing too because this was what he had guessed.

“Today, we don’t need to talk about our master-disciple relationship. We are three men, one old, one middle-aged, and one young without any blood relations, yet we can all sit here together and call each other father and son. This is the best luck. To celebrate Xuanxiao surviving this ordeal, all three of us must drink tonight! Ming’er, prepare the wine!”

“Father-in-law, I think I’ll do it. Ming’er is pregnant; she should get some rest,” said Dongfang Xuanxiao hurriedly.

“No way. How could I miss such a joyous celebration?” Xuanming smiled mischievously and winked at Dongfang Xuanxiao.

“You’re going to be someone’s mom, and you’re still acting cute!” Xuanxiao cracked a rare joke.

“You’re so mean!” Xuanming punched his shoulder a few times sweetly.

Long Chen was suddenly touched by this scene.

He knew that he had to guard this warmth for the rest of his life.

Chapter 385 - Black Yin Worm

Three Demons City.

The sky had not brightened yet. The tall and densely packed buildings blocked out starlight, so this place looked dark and creepy. The three Demon Elders were all sitting in their respective elevated seats in the main pavilion, looking down at a trembling girl.

Murong Yu’s face was ghostly pale. She looked down, and felt her scalp go numb under the three Demon Elders’ gazes. She knew that what she had done had been exposed.

“Xiao Yu, Danfeng is dead. Have you heard?” The Second Demon Elder’s voice came from next to her. She jumped and found that the Second Demon Elder was right there, with her wrinkled face just half a meter away.

Murong Yu was tall, so she was one head taller than the Second Demon Elder.

“He’s dead?” This was a shocking piece of news to Murong Yu. She had only intended to interrupt Yang Danfeng’s plan, and the only person who was supposed to die was He Tian. So why was Yang Danfeng dead?

“Did the Palace Lord kill him?” she asked weakly.

The Second Demon Elder did not reply, but asked another question instead. “Does that mean you admit that you revealed the plan to Long Chen?” Since Murong Yu had mentioned the Palace Lord, then it meant she knew about it.

Murong Yu could only nod weakly. She knew that the three Demon Elders would only call for her this late at night if something major had happened, and they were probably certain that was the

mole. That was why she knew that the more she argued, the smaller her chance of survival, and why she had admitted it with no resistance.

“Why?” the Second Demon Elder asked painfully.

“I felt like that method was inappropriate, and I didn’t want to marry Yang Danfeng ...” Murong Yu could not think of another reply.

The Second Demon Elder was stunned.

“Master, I didn’t know this would happen! I thought Long Chen would only go there to kill He Tian! I didn’t think that Yang Danfeng would die ...” explained Murong Yu with tears in her eyes.

“Actually, let me tell you something. Yang Danfeng wasn’t killed by the Palace Lord. He was killed by Long Chen!” spat the Second Demon Elder.

“Long Chen?” Murong Yu froze, then she blurted, “That’s impossible. He’s not strong enough. It must have been the demon wolf!”

“No, it was Long Chen. He is already strong enough to defeat Yang Danfeng. This means that right now, Long Chen can also defeat you with his own strength. If this continues, then the Demon Emperor Sword is as good as his. And he will also be the next Heavenly Demon Lord. If he becomes the Palace Lord, then all three of our lineages will be done for. Xiao Yu, you will be a traitor to us forever! Your selfishness has brought harm to all of us, including your juniors. How could you do this when we raised you for so many years? You ungrateful brat!”

The Second Demon Elder’s voice grew louder and louder until she was screaming. Every sharp accusation made Murong Yu’s heart shudder, and tears flowed from her eyes. The Second Demon Elder was right. Without her, Murong Yu would not be where she was today. In fact, she was Murong Yu’s other parent.

Murong Yu fell to her knees on the ground and kowtowed to her master and the other Demon Elders, crying profusely, “Master, I was wrong! I’m so sorry! I deserve to die! Kill me and let me clear my sins with my death!”

She felt absolutely miserable and could barely breathe.

“Xiao Yu, get up. Although you have committed an error, I have no intention of killing you.” The Second Demon Elder’s voice suddenly turned gentle and she gently helped Murong Yu to her feet.

“But ... Master, I’ve made such a huge mistake, I have wronged you ...”

“Danfeng is dead, and you’re my most prized disciple. How could we also let you die? Then the three of us would not have any more successors!” the Second Demon Elder said slowly.

“Master, what do I do now? Aren’t you going to punish me?” Murong Yu’s heart was torn. She had brought harm to all her fellow disciples and her master, one of the most important people in her life, so she was indeed filled with remorse.

“Forget about the punishment. However, the three of us have discussed and we have decided to give you a task. If you can complete it, we will forgive you,” the Second Demon Elder said in a calm voice.

“Please tell me. I will definitely complete it,” said Murong Yu, nodding hurriedly.

“You need to calm down first. Big Brother, show it to her.” The Second Demon Elder turned to the First Demon Elder sitting at the head of the room.

The First Demon Elder nodded and took out a blue bead from his Universe Pouch. Upon closer inspection, Murong Yu’s jaw dropped and she gasped. “Isn’t that the Frost Soul Essence? Why is there another one?”

“We got this Frost Soul Essence a long time ago. We decided that after one of you retrieved that Frost Soul Essence, we would give this one to the other person so that both of you would enter the Ninth River Stage together. That way, the Heavenly Demon Palace would have two Ninth River Stage cultivators and suppress the imperial family. It’s too bad that it was snatched away by Long Chen, and he killed Danfeng ...” The Second Demon Elder sighed in the end.

“Master, didn’t I do something wrong? And you still want to give the Frost Soul Essence to me?” Murong Yu asked in disbelief.

“All is well for those who learn from their mistakes. As long as you can complete the task we give you, then we will feel better giving you this Frost Soul Essence,” said the Second Demon Elder as a creepy smile crept up on her wrinkly face.

“Master, what do you want me to do?” Murong Yu was determined to never disappoint the three of them again.

“It’s simple. During the coming fight for the Demon Emperor Sword, you must win and become the Palace Lord. Most importantly, during the battle for the sword, you must kill Long Chen and avenge Danfeng! That is how you will atone for your sin! If you can accomplish these tasks, you will prove that all the years of effort we have put into you have been worthwhile!” said the Second Demon Elder.

Murong Yu’s face turned pale and she hesitated. “Master, I will do my best for the Demon Emperor Sword and the position of the Heavenly Demon Lord. But must I kill Long Chen?” Thinking of the teenager, she felt like she could not do it.

“Yes. That’s the most important point. You *must* kill him!” the Second Demon Elder repeated. She walked up to Murong Yu with a cold glare and asked, “Xiao Yu, you have shown Long Chen kindness several times. Tell me, have you fallen for him?”

Murong Yu gasped, then she quickly replied, “No! Never! How could that be possible?” She panicked, and when she recalled Long Chen and Ling Xi next to him, she knew that Long Chen was destined to be a passing visitor in her life whom she would not have any relationship with.

“Very well, then. Since there are no feelings involved, then you two are purely enemies. Do you accept?” the Second Demon Elder asked, looking straight into her eyes.

When she reached the Ninth River Stage, she would indeed be able to kill him, but she could not say it out loud.

“It looks like you’re still hesitating. Xiao Yu, after all these years, I have never forced you to do anything. Today, I am ordering you to do this one thing to prove your loyalty. Don’t blame your master; I had no choice. If Long Chen lives, then the thousand people in Three Demons City might not.”

As she spoke, a black worm the size of a pinky finger appeared in the Second Demon Elder’s hand. It was a fat worm that looked harmless, yet it radiated a cold aura that evoked fear, as well as a cold, dark-green mist.

“Black Yin Worm!” Murong Yu’s face turned pale, and she took a few steps back, staring at the Second Demon Elder in disbelief. “Master, are you going to use the Black Yin Worm on me?”

“Don’t worry. As long as you complete the task well, the Black Yin Worm won’t do anything to you. But if you disobey us, tens of thousands of worms will eat your heart and you will die. As my disciple, I’m sure you know how much of a nightmare this worm is. This will definitely be extremely painful torture.

“Xiao Yu, it’s not that I’m vicious. It’s just that I need to think of your other fellow disciples too! I can’t let you be distracted anymore. Will you be able to forgive me? Don’t worry. After you have won the Demon Emperor Sword and killed Long Chen, I’ll get the Black Yin Worm out of your body. Before that, you will not feel anything. Our faction mustn’t lose again. That is why I have to do this. I hope you understand ...”

Murong Yu’s lips trembled as she retreated into a corner, staring at the Black Yin Worm in terror. The worm flipped its fat body and stopped moving, but Murong Yu knew how terrifying it was. She felt her stomach churn. If she had not forced it down, she would have vomited.

“Master, I ... I’m begging you. Don’t use the Black Yin Worm. I promise I’ll kill Long Chen! Isn’t that enough ...” Murong Yu begged weakly with tears streaming down her face.

“I can’t risk the lives and futures of so many people. That is why, Xiao Yu, I’m so sorry ...”

Under Murong Yu’s look of despair, the Second Demon Elder planted the Black Yin Worm in Murong Yu’s body. Then she stood up and said in a chiding tone, “Xiao Yu, the Frost Soul Essence is yours. Work hard; all our hopes are on you. You mustn’t die! Think about your parents in Willow Moon City. If you die, people as weak as them will be killed just a few days later! Grudges between families will forever be the most heartless.”

Chapter 386 - Avenging Danfeng

Life at the Heavenly Demon Palace was quiet once more, but a storm was brewing beneath the calm.

After returning from Dongfang Xuanxiao’s place, Long Chen was still thinking about the day’s events. Ling Xi suddenly said, “Brother Chen, Murong Yu told you their secret and caused the three Demon Elders’ plan to fail. Do you think it’ll affect her after they return? She was kind enough to help you; she must be innocent ...”

It was clear that Ling Xi was actually worried about her. Previously, Ling Xi hated Liu Lan of the Lingwu family when she had close contact with Long Chen, but Murong Yu had helped Long Chen several times without asking for anything in return. That was why Ling Xi liked her.

Long Chen’s eyebrows were furrowed. After thinking for a while, he said, “No way. Since she helped me, and can be considered the person who saved my stepfather, I cannot abandon her. I’ll go to Three Demons City right now!”

Long Chen intended to leave immediately.

“Brother Chen, are you going to go alone? Why don’t you call your master?” reminded Ling Xi.

“There’s no need. After what just happened, will the three Demon Elders dare touch me? With Xiaolang here, they couldn’t kill me even if they wanted to!” With Zhao Qingyun supporting him, Long Chen was not afraid of the three Demon Elders.

Then he called for Xiaolang and rushed towards Three Demons City. The sky was slowly brightening now, and the morning light was starting to shine upon the Heavenly Demon Palace. Being in the corner of the Heavenly Demon Palace, the location of Three Demons City was highlighted by the morning light.

Very soon, Long Chen arrived. It was actually an extra-large courtyard with some bronze doors. Right now, there were many disciples guarding them. When they saw Long Chen, they grew slightly panicked because they recognized him, and many had personally seen him show the equivalent of two thousand Fire Essences at the Demon Pavilion.

Before he approached, one of the disciples mustered up his courage to ask Long Chen in an impolite tone, “Long Chen, what are you doing at Three Demons City?” Long Chen had made the three Demon Elders lose face after all, and as the three Demon Elders’ disciples, they were also embarrassed.

“I want to see Murong Yu,” Long Chen answered mildly, standing at the door.

“Senior Murong Yu?” Everyone froze, then they eyed Long Chen up and down cautiously. Murong Yu was a goddess to the Heavenly Demon Palace disciples, and everyone drooled after her. If Long Chen said he wanted to see her, then it was obviously because he admired her.

There was a saying to not let nutritious water flow to an outsider’s paddy field. Murong Yu was not just nutritious water, she was the goddess of Three Demons City! If this outsider got her, no one would feel good about it. Therefore, they all immediately gathered their courage to refuse him by saying, “No way! Senior Murong doesn’t even want to see us, let alone you.”

“She’s not seeing anyone? Is this a lie you made up?” Long Chen said coldly with a raised eyebrow.

“Who said we made this up? Long Chen, are you trying to force yourself in? I’ll go tell the Demon Elders now! Even with the Palace Lord helping you, you’ll suffer for trying to break into Three Demons City!” the disciple yelled sternly. He stepped back as he yelled, and a few of the disciples grouped together, nervously looking at Long Chen.

“Oh? Are you guys saying that the three Demon Elders are more powerful than the Palace Lord? How dare you say such insubordinate things? Whatever. I’m too lazy to argue. I’ll give you two options: you either ask Murong Yu to come out here, or you lead me to her!” said Long Chen while closing in on the disciples. Even without using the Dragon Soul Transformation, he was at the peak of the Seventh River Stage and had surpassed Yang Jun. No one here could withstand one strike from him, so they all stumbled backwards in terror.

“Long Chen, you’re looking for death!”

“Yeah, our masters will kill you!”

They did not forget to threaten him even after they retreated in terror.

Long Chen did not care. All he wanted was to enter Three Demons City alone, and as soon as he saw that Murong Yu was safe, he would leave.

“Long Chen, that’s enough!” someone shouted. Long Chen looked up and saw the three Demon Elders walking out. The First Demon Elder and the Second Demon Elder stopped, while the Third Demon Elder walked forward and glared at Long Chen with reddened eyes. He threatened fiercely, “You brat! Don’t make me remind you again that what happened last night is not over! Even though the Palace Lord is backing you, we are still furious. If you force our hand, don’t blame me for not being able to control myself! I won’t hold back!”

He was speaking in a very low voice, so the other disciples could not hear him clearly.

“I am not here to cause trouble. All I want is to see Murong Yu. Even though she is your disciple, I do have the right to see her once, don't I?” Long Chen said without fear.

“And if we don't let you see her?” The Third Demon Elder smirked.

“It's simple. I will see her even if I have to force myself in!” Long Chen had a bad feeling. Based on how they were blocking him, had something really happened to Murong Yu?

After the Third Demon Elder heard Long Chen, he suddenly burst into laughter, which echoed across the area and shook the ground. He finally stopped and yelled in the direction of the Three Demons City. “Xiao Yu, come out here.”

Immediately after, Murong Yu appeared in front of Long Chen. He found that she was the same as last night—tall, elegant, and curvy. But he somehow felt like she was radiating a distant coldness.

“Xiao Yu, tell this brat clearly that he needs to get the hell out of here. We're watching.” The Third Demon Elder smirked, then went to stand next to the First Demon Elder, looking at Long Chen in amusement.

Murong Yu stepped forward until she was two meters away from Long Chen, then she shot him a cold look.

“Are you alright?” Long Chen was relieved when he saw that she was not hurt. However, he felt like she was acting unnatural; she was much colder than before.

“I'm fine. Why is that any of your business?” Murong Yu suddenly raised her voice. There was some hatred in her tone.

Long Chen was a little stunned, but based on Murong Yu's expression, it was as if she wanted to pick a fight with him.

“Hey, what's going on with you? Did the three old geezers force you into this? Did they do something shady?” Long Chen whispered. He felt like Murong Yu was acting a little unnatural, likely because of the three people standing behind her.

“You're thinking too much. Long Chen, let me tell you this. Yang Danfeng and I have been close friends since we were young, yet you killed him! My masters did not spread this information, but I know everything that happened! That is why you should not underestimate the hatred I feel towards you!” Murong Yu said in a low voice. The other disciples couldn't hear her, but the Demon Elders could.

What was going on?

Long Chen was momentarily stunned because Murong Yu's behavior had taken a sudden turn. Even if Long Chen was a fool, there was no way he wouldn't know how much she hated Yang Danfeng. Now she was saying that they were close friends? What nonsense was that?

“Long Chen! Listen to me! I have a hundred percent confidence in getting my cultivation level up to the Ninth River Stage before the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword. You’d better prepare yourself. When that day comes, I will kill you to avenge Danfeng!” Murong Yu said coldly, ignoring Long Chen’s reaction.

“You ...” Long Chen did not know what to say, because she was acting too strangely. He knew that she was acting this way because something had happened.

“I’ve got nothing else to say. We are now enemies, so do not look for me again. You’re ruining my reputation! Don’t blame me for treating you badly if you do!”

Then Murong Yu turned to leave without even giving Long Chen a chance to reply.

Only the disciples, who didn’t know what was going on, and the three Demon Elders remained. After Murong Yu left, they smiled approvingly and looked at Long Chen. “You brat, did you hear that? The toad can’t get the swan! Get the hell out! Once the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword arrives, you’ll have it coming! Xiao Yu will become a Ninth River Stage prodigy, and in the future, she will surely reach the Heavenly Passage Realm. You’re nothing but a clown!”

This was a rare time where Long Chen did not argue with the three Demon Elders, as his brain was filled with Murong Yu’s words. Under normal circumstances, she would never have been like this. That was why he was in deep thought.

“Hey, kid, nothing to say?” the Third Demon Elder asked rudely.

“I do not speak to animals.” Long Chen smiled, and before the Third Demon Elder understood the insult, he turned to leave. All he thought about was Murong Yu’s strange behavior.

“Did he call me an animal?” The Third Demon Elder felt as if he had eaten a fly that he would never cough up if he did not get to torture Long Chen.

“Don’t cause trouble and ruin our plan,” the First Demon Elder said gently.

The three Demon Elders were very satisfied with Murong Yu’s performance today. After Long Chen left, they left too. The remaining disciples looked at each other, and one of them said, “Did I hear that right? I think the Third Demon Elder said that Senior Murong is going to reach the Ninth River Stage?”

“Based on his tone, he seemed confident. If he’s that confident, then it must be a certainty!” said another.

“Heavens! Doesn’t that mean Senior Yang Danfeng will lose?”

“That’s right! But why didn’t I see Senior Yang Danfeng today?”

“He’s probably in a cultivation retreat and also preparing to break through to the Ninth River Stage. But with Senior Murong Yu on our side, the Demon Emperor Sword will definitely belong to Three Demons City!”

Chapter 387 - Drama Before The Battle

On the way back, Long Chen squeezed his brain dry thinking about the situation and finally had some guesses.

“Brother Chen, why do you think Murong Yu acted that way?” Ling Xi finally asked Long Chen after he left Three Demons City.

“I’m not sure either, but I’m guessing that the three Demon Elders know that Murong Yu warned me. I thought they would punish and even kill Murong Yu for this, but now I know that they won’t. Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu were their best disciples. Now that Yang Danfeng is dead, Murong Yu is their largest bet. Therefore, there’s no way they would punish her; they’ll probably provide more resources so that she becomes even stronger!”

“What has that got to do with Murong Yu’s behavior just now?” Ling Xi still did not understand.

“Think about it. If you were the three Demon Elders, and you were placing all your hopes on one disciple, wouldn’t you use any means possible, be it threats or lures, to tie Murong Yu to your faction? Right now, Murong Yu is in this situation. Based on what they said, Murong Yu will reach the Ninth River Stage very soon. It looks like they’re going to invest heavily in her, and they are even using a very sophisticated method of controlling her. At least judging from today’s events, Murong Yu looks like she has no ability to fight back at all.”

“What do we do now?” Ling Xi cocked her head to think.

“Right now, Murong Yu completely belongs to the three Demon Elders’ side, and I am their largest competitor for the Demon Emperor Sword. If she reaches the Ninth River Stage, then she will be even more terrifying and the sword might end up in her hands. When that happens, then all that I’ve done will have been for nothing.” Long Chen paused, then continued, “However, there’s one thing that we don’t have to worry about. Now that she has become the last disciple of the three Demon Elders, and their final target is me, Murong Yu will be safe as long as she does not disobey their orders.”

His objective today was to check on Murong Yu. It did not matter what she was thinking, but as long as she reached the Ninth River Stage, the three Demon Elders would not dare to touch her.

“But I’m afraid Murong Yu won’t live well after this...” Ling Xi was still worried about her.

“We can only wait and see.” Long Chen shook his head, unable to do anything. He soon returned to the Azure Cloud Residence. Zhao Qingyun had previously said that

he had three months. He counted and found that there were about twenty days left, which he was going to spend cultivating.

Long Chen cultivated quietly while two major pieces of news spread across the whole Heavenly Demon Palace. First was obviously the case of Yang Danfeng suddenly going missing. There were even rumors of Long Chen having killed Yang Danfeng. This was a rumor that spread like wildfire, though the First Demon Elder stepped out to personally explain that Yang Danfeng had only left to train in the wilderness. The people barely believed it. With the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword so close, this explanation was a little forced. As a result, people were more willing to believe that Yang Danfeng had been killed by Long Chen, and the three Demon Elders did not dare to touch Long Chen because of Zhao Qingyun. As for the hostility between Murong Yu and Long Chen, they said it was because Murong Yu was taking revenge!

The second piece of news was related to Murong Yu. A few days after news of Long Chen's appearance at Three Demons City spread, there was an official announcement from the Three Demons City that Murong Yu had successfully attained the Ninth River Stage. The entire Heavenly Demon Palace was shaken by this news.

The Heavenly Demon Palace had never had a disciple who reached the Ninth River Stage, and therefore they always looked inferior to the imperial family. Now all was well. With Murong Yu's achievement, she would become a legendary cultivator just like Lin Zichen once she won the Demon Emperor Sword.

As for Long Chen, who had shocked the clan with his extraordinary results in the Pyro Passageways, he had disappeared from everyone's view and news about Murong Yu smothered all news about him. She was just one step away from the Heavenly Passage Realm and was likely going to become an ultimate master on a level above Long Chen.

But this was all irrelevant to Long Chen. He hid in the Azure Cloud Residence all day to cultivate quietly. Even though the outside was chaotic, the noise did not reach him.

Long Chen knew immediately who had spread the news of Yang Danfeng's death. It was unquestionably Yang Jun, as Yang Jun knew about the plan. When Yang Danfeng did not return, he sensed that something was wrong. After he connected the dots, he figured out what had happened. Shock and rage drowned his senses, but he could not do anything to Long Chen. In the end, if the three Demon Elders had not stopped him, he would have publicized this matter even more.

The Heavenly Demon Palace disciples had always thought that the extremely talented Yang Danfeng and Murong Yu were a match made in heaven. Now that Yang Danfeng was dead and Murong Yu had reached the Ninth River Stage, the battle for the Demon Emperor Sword was going to be much more interesting. Murong Yu was likely going to use this opportunity to take revenge.

This was all merely background noise to Long Chen.

Long Chen was completely immersed in cultivation as increasing his strength gave him satisfaction and motivation. He had two main tasks at hand: one was to increase his cultivation level, the other was to master the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique.

One day, Long Chen had just finished a cultivation session and was about to study the Demon Seed Planting Technique with Xiaolang when Wang Xing rushed into the yard.

“Brother Chen!” Wang Xing was huffing and puffing, his face red from exertion. He was now a direct disciple of an elder under Zhao Qingyun, so he was no longer an errand boy. However, since Long Chen was here, he still came often.

“It’s you! What news do you bring today?” Long Chen asked with a grin.

“Nothing much. But there’s only ten days left till the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword. Everyone’s been talking about you and Senior Murong Yu. Everyone’s saying that ...” Wang Xing hesitated.

“What are they saying?” Long Chen asked, amused.

“They’re saying that ... You killed Senior Yang Danfeng! That’s why Senior Murong Yu hates you to the bone and will likely take your life during the fight for the Demon Emperor Sword! I heard that the battle for the Demon Emperor Sword has been the most heartless contest between disciples since ancient times. No one cares about their opponents’ lives during it. Brother Chen, I heard that Senior Murong Yu has reached the Ninth River Stage. What are you going to do?” Wang Xing asked nervously.

So that was what Wang Xing was worried about.

Long Chen had a determined look in his eyes. “Don’t worry. No matter what happens, I will not lose.”

“Even in the face of a Ninth River Stage opponent? That’s impossible. Everyone’s counting down your remaining days ...” Wang Xing said indignantly. To him, Long Chen was a very good person. He didn’t know why almost everyone in the Heavenly Demon Palace didn’t really like Long Chen.

“Just wait and see. Go back and cultivate.” Long Chen sent him off, then he turned around to find Zhao Qingyun standing there. Long Chen had already sensed his presence.

“Master, what is it?” Long Chen saw that his expression was solemn.

“That kid said everything I wanted to say. Sigh. I thought that after you defeated Yang Danfeng, you’d get the Demon Emperor Sword smoothly. I didn’t expect this to happen,” said Zhao Qingyun with a tired smile.

“Master, do you know what happened to Murong Yu?” Zhao Qingyun had always appeared only when he wanted to. It was a rare chance to meet him, and Long Chen had been impatient to ask this question.

“Didn’t your cultivation level increase by more than one tier due to the Frost Soul Essence? I saw her a few days ago, and she has indeed reached the Ninth River Stage.

I think the Demon Elders were hiding a Frost Soul Essence. After you killed Yang Danfeng, they had to use their trump card, which was their precious Frost Soul Essence.”

“So it’s because of the Frost Soul Essence ...” Long Chen nodded.

“Don’t worry about the girl. It’s best if you think about yourself first. You haven’t reached the Eighth River Stage yet, so you are no match for her. Ninety-nine percent of people in the Heavenly Demon Palace think you’re going to lose,” said Zhao Qingyun patiently.

“Don’t worry.” Long Chen smiled mysteriously.

Zhao Qingyun was speechless to see Long Chen being so reckless in the face of death. He gave a few more reminders and left. Then Long Chen counted again and thought to himself, *Based on my current progress, ten days is enough!*

The Frost Soul Essence had brought him very close to the Eighth River Stage. After more than ten days of cultivating and solidifying his base, he had a feeling that he was going to make a breakthrough very soon.

Indeed, as he worked hard, he finally condensed the eighth pair of starry rivers in his body when there were about five days left, successfully attaining the Eighth River Stage!

At the same time, he also finished cultivating the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Now he had mastered two of the Three Great Secret Scriptures. Next, he only had to wait for the third and most powerful technique: the Demon Emperor Sword Technique!

And, of course, the Heaven-tier Demon Emperor Sword!

Long Chen felt his own strength skyrocket. He was so much stronger than when he first entered the Heavenly Demon Palace. If he was this strong before, then he would not have struggled so much when he fled!

“Xiao Xi, once this ordeal with the Demon Emperor Sword ends, I will take you back to the Biyang imperial Capital. Then I’ll get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit! And I will take revenge!”

There was a cold flash in his eyes as he gazed towards the east.

After five more days of solidifying his cultivation base, the day of the Demon Emperor Sword battle finally arrived ...

Chapter 388 - Battle For The Demon Emperor Sword

The day that everyone had been looking forward to finally arrived. The fight for the Demon Emperor Sword was also considered the fight for the Palace Lord position. In the past, the rule was that every Heavenly Demon Palace disciple had the right to fight for the Demon Emperor Sword. However, that rule had been adjusted—only disciples who had received Traceless Demon Shadow or the Demon Seed Planting Technique were qualified.

Receiving Traceless Demon Shadow meant they had received the recognition of their elders, while receiving the Demon Seed Planting Technique meant that they possessed outstanding talent. Only four people were qualified, which were Yang Danfeng, Yang Jun, Murong Yu, and Long Chen. Today, Yang Danfeng was still not present.

The people of the Heavenly Demon Palace arrived on the other side of Demon Emperor Mountain. This was a forbidden area behind the mountain, and usually no one was allowed here. This was the base of the sword.[1]

There was a vast, flat platform for the audience. All the people of status in the Heavenly Demon Palace had a seat on it, with Zhao Qingyun sitting at the top and the three Demon Elders beneath him. Thirty meters away, opposite Zhao Qingyun, was a black rock ten meters tall. This rock was tall, thin, and sharp and roughly resembled a sword. Suddenly, the runes that covered the whole rock lit up and rippled, making it look even stranger.

“The Demon Emperor Sword is hidden in this rock.” When everyone remembered this, they all gulped. It was a Heaven-tier weapon; even if the person wielding the Demon Emperor Sword was trash, they could still kill someone many tiers above them. However, taming the sword was no easy feat, and few people were confident they could.

“Yang Jun seems to have withdrawn from the competition. Only you and Xiao Yu will fight for the sword. Make me proud, kid,” said Zhao Qingyun, turning around with a smile.

Long Chen nodded, then he looked up to see Murong Yu standing behind the Second Demon Elder. There was something different about her. She looked much stronger, but also colder. It was as if no one could get close to her, and despite that, she still attracted many stares.

Especially from younger males, whose eyes lit up when they saw the goddess-like girl, wishing they could burn her image in their eyes.

“Senior Murong Yu has covered her face with a veil for many years. I heard she was very pretty, and based on her face shape now, I know she’s even more attractive. Plus, being at the Ninth River Stage, she is the chosen one ... I have personally seen a goddess with my own eyes ...”

“In the past, the only person who could compete with Senior Murong Yu was Senior Yang Danfeng. However, it seems like Senior Yang Danfeng really isn’t coming today. The rumors must be true ...”

“Shh! Keep it down! The three Demon Elders have already told us not to discuss this matter!” reminded one of the disciples.

While they discussed Murong Yu, she turned to glance at Long Chen. There was only coldness and determination in her eyes. Every trace of familiarity was long gone.

What’s the matter with Murong Yu? What the hell did the Demon Elders do to her for her to be like this? Long Chen was puzzled. It was as if she was a different person.

As he pondered about it, it was almost time for battle. Zhao Qingyun waved and said, "In the beginning, there were three candidates to compete for the Demon Emperor Sword. Yang Jun has withdrawn, so only Murong Yu and Long Chen remain. The final victory will likely belong to any one of them, but also not! The Demon Emperor Sword won't let anyone who is not strong enough control it!"

Who would get the Demon Emperor Sword? Everyone was looking forward to the battle. Long Chen was rumored to have killed Yang Danfeng, showing that he was strong. However, Murong Yu had reached the Ninth River Stage, which was unheard of. Her terrifying strength had surpassed Long Chen.

"If it all goes as expected, the winner of the Demon Emperor Sword will be Senior Murong. Do you want to bet?"

"Who would take that bet? Isn't it obvious who will lose? If you've got the guts, bet that Long Chen will win! I feel like Senior Murong will win because it hasn't been long since Long Chen received Traceless Demon Shadow and the Demon Seed Planting Technique. Murong Yu received them much earlier than him, right? Also, it's difficult to fill the large gap between their cultivation levels."

Discussions started to form, and the Demon Elders strained their ears to listen. They felt cheerful when they heard that most people thought Murong Yu would win.

"Everyone, quiet down. Chen'er, Xiao Yu, follow me," said Zhao Qingyun in a low voice. When the Palace Lord spoke, everyone fell dead silent. Zhao Qingyun stood up and walked up to the large black stone. Long Chen quickly followed him, along with Murong Yu.

Along the way, Long Chen glanced at Murong Yu next to him and said, "Hey, is there anything you want to say to me?"

Murong Yu continued walking with her head low, as if she hadn't heard him. Since he did not receive a reply, he rolled his eyes and did not talk to her anymore. Everyone watched as Long Chen and Murong Yu stopped in front of the black rock. It was actually a very normal-looking rock, but the rippling runes made it look extra mysterious and scary.

"The Demon Emperor Sword is hidden in this rock. You may not know this, but the Demon Emperor Sword and this rock are merged into one. More specifically, the rock grew out of the Demon Emperor Sword. I have not used the Demon Emperor Sword in more than five years, so that is why there is so much rock covering its surface."

How bizarre! Long Chen had never heard of rocks growing on the surface of a sword after a period of disuse. Even the stony-faced Murong Yu looked surprised.

"Hehe. The Demon Emperor Sword has always been a special weapon. Although it is classified as an elementary Heaven-tier weapon, it is likely more powerful than other divine weapons of the same tier," Zhao Qingyun explained.

“Master, is there a reason why the Demon Emperor Sword forms rocks on its own surface?” Long Chen felt like the runes on the rock were not so simple.

“Out of the two divine weapons, the Imperial Sword is filled with the Qi of emperors, and is the manifestation of justice and magnificence. On the other hand, the Demon Emperor Sword is filled with Killing Yin Qi. It is synonymous with evil and massacre. That is why when no one is using it, rock slowly forms on its surface to cover its violent aura. You can’t really feel it now, right?” Zhao Qingyun smiled faintly.

It was true. Long Chen was standing next to the Demon Emperor Sword, but it felt like a normal rock.

“I haven’t used it in five years. Right now, the Demon Emperor Sword is in a masterless state, so it is overflowing with very thick killing Qi. As long as you successfully take control of it and make it serve you willingly, you’ll be able to use and control its power. Then you’ll be able to suppress its killing Qi to its minimum, and this evil sword can be used for justice,” Zhao Qingyun explained patiently, looking at Long Chen.

When Zhao Qingyun said this, he completely ignored Murong Yu, who was slightly surprised. *It looks like Zhao Qingyun is very confident in Long Chen. He doesn’t think my Ninth River Stage strength is enough.*

She eyed Long Chen carefully and found that both Long Chen and Zhao Qingyun seemed to be cheerful and calm. They did not look worried or scared.

“Alright, now I’ll tell you two the rules of the competition,” Zhao Qingyun suddenly said. His words attracted the attention of both Long Chen and Murong Yu, who listened intently.

“In a moment, your bodies will enter the Demon Emperor Sword within the rock. There is a small miniverse within the Demon Emperor Sword, and once you enter, you will both face a mysterious opponent. If you beat the opponent, you will receive the recognition of the Demon Emperor Sword and will have the right to own it!

“... And if you both succeed, then both of you will have to battle to determine the final victor. Of course, we will not be able to see the process. We will only see the final outcome. After this black rock explodes, whoever is holding the Demon Emperor Sword will be the final victor!

“Do you guys understand what I said?” Zhao Qingyun asked.

“Master, who is the mysterious opponent?” Long Chen was puzzled.

“You’ll see when you enter. Do your best. This is a difficult obstacle. Many Eighth River Stage cultivators in history have failed!” Zhao Qingyun said mysteriously.

Murong Yu didn't look confused. Long Chen guessed that the three Demon Elders had probably told her who the opponent was a long time ago. She was probably very prepared for this.

Zhao Qingyun didn't tell Long Chen not because he was too square, but because he trusted Long Chen to face any opponent confidently.

"Do your best, kid! Remember this: if you want to be recognized by the Demon Emperor Sword, you must do something very important, which is to conquer yourself!" Zhao Qingyun patted Long Chen's shoulder with a hopeful look.

"Conquer myself?" Long Chen froze, then he committed it to memory.

"I'll take you two in now." Zhao Qingyun nodded approvingly. Then he grabbed one person's arm in each hand and jumped hard. Long Chen felt a powerful force throwing him outwards, and he was traveling at a speed similar to Blood Warp. After a second, he slammed into the black rock.

Instead of shattering to pieces, everyone watched as both Long Chen and Murong Yu sank into the rock.

Chapter 389 - Fighting Himself

Long Chen was not worried at all, as Zhao Qingyun was carrying them himself. Even though they were moving towards the black rock at high speed, he did not flinch. As expected, the moment he touched the black rock, he felt like he had jumped into a lake and easily sank into the rock.

The world spun and went dark. When his consciousness returned, he realized he was inside a vast, black room.

"This is indeed a small miniverse. It's like the Heavenly Martial Realm and the Counter Essence Realm, but it's really small." Long Chen's eyes widened as he scanned the room carefully. It was a regular cube, fifty meters long on each side. Even though it was considered a miniverse, it was tiny. However, as far as rooms went, it was a very large room.

The black room was completely empty. Every gentle step he took reverberated throughout the space.

"Murong Yu isn't here?" Long Chen looked around and realized that Murong Yu wasn't with him. However, he was sure that she was in another similar room.

"It looks like the mysterious enemy that Master mentioned will appear here ..." If Zhao Qingyun thought it was a mysterious opponent, then it was no simple entity. Basically, if Long Chen defeated it, he would have the right to control the Demon Emperor Sword. As for the final fight, it would be between him and Murong Yu and it would be unrelated to the Demon Emperor Sword. This meant that the mysterious opponent was the Demon Emperor Sword's way of filtering its master.

It was not to be underestimated.

Long Chen kept his guard up. He knew that this mysterious opponent would appear at any moment now. He didn't know if it would be an ambush or an obvious attack, but he knew he had to be prepared.

Suddenly, he heard footsteps coming from the darkness ahead. Long Chen looked up and saw a person floating out of the black wall. This person stood in front of Long Chen with a smirk on his face.

The man was wearing clean, black robes that fit him perfectly. His hair was tied up perfectly too; he had beautiful, dark blue eyes that were as dark as the ocean, yet also as cold.

“Why does this person look so familiar?” Long Chen lamented.

That was when Ling Xi suddenly cried, “Long Chen, isn't that you?!”

Long Chen jumped, and when he looked more carefully, he noticed that the boy was identical to himself! He gasped and rubbed his eyes a few times. Indeed, he was identical.

This was very creepy.

“You don't have to guess. I am you. You are Long Chen. I am also Long Chen,” said the boy as he glanced impatiently at Long Chen.

Long Chen was forced to accept this as reality, that the mysterious opponent looked identical to himself. He had made many guesses, but he didn't expect the opponent to be like this. He suddenly recalled Zhao Qingyun's reminder, which was to conquer himself.

The mysterious enemy was himself, then.

He had a bad feeling, so he asked carefully, “My techniques and my cultivation level; have you copied them all?”

The boy nodded. “Of course. Like I said, I am you, and you are me! Everything you've successfully cultivated—Divine Fire Clone, Traceless Demon Shadow, Shadow Sword, and the Demon Seed Planting Technique—I know them all! On top of that, I have ten percent more Qi than you and my techniques are ten percent more effective! You're unlucky because you have mastered two stages of the Demon Seed Planting Technique. So, while your Qi increases by fourfold, I get four and half times more!”

Long Chen was terrified. This guy knew everything he had in his arsenal and was stronger! Wasn't this going to be an unfair fight, then? What was the meaning of this?

“You look scared! Thinking of giving up? How useless,” mocked the boy.

Long Chen was silent for a while. Then he looked up and gave a small smile. “You don't know me well. Not only does this not scare or anger me, it actually makes me excited. Defeating a stronger version of myself will only make me know myself better and improve from there. Isn't that a very good thing?”

“If that is the case, have a taste of your own attacks!” There was a cold flash in the boy's eyes. Then flames shot out of his body and burned brightly. 125 burning fire clones appeared instantly!

“I’ll first let you have a taste of Divine Fire Clone!” He ordered them to attack, and all 125 of them rushed towards Long Chen from all directions!

This was Long Chen’s first time being surrounded, and he felt like he had no space to retreat to. All he could do was fight the clones directly!

Whoosh! Long Chen took out the Star Sword. He was not going to fight them with his own fire clones, because he felt like his opponents’ clones would be stronger anyway. Divine Fire Clone was still very useful to him, and he did not want to waste his Fire Seeds here for nothing.

It took him quite some time to condense 125 True Fire Seeds after all.

Traceless Demon Shadow, activate!

With the Star Sword in hand, Long Chen used Traceless Demon Shadow and turned into a shadow as he wove through the surrounding fire clones. He slashed his sword occasionally, cutting the clones in front of him in half!

However, there were a total of 125 clones. If he had to kill them one by one, he didn’t know how long it would take. And if he exhausted too much of his Qi, he would fare even worse against his opponent.

“Traceless Demon Shadow ... I think I know that too ...” A shadow appeared behind one of the clones. Then something blue and hard slashed down towards Long Chen’s head!

Startled, Long Chen raised his Star Sword to block, and a shrill metallic friction rang across the room. Long Chen’s knees were bent from holding off the huge force, almost forcing him to a kneeling position!

At the very last moment, Long Chen gritted his teeth, forcing himself not to kneel. He roared and used all the strength in his body to push the boy away, who finally stepped backwards. However, the densely packed fire clones swarmed towards him once more, punching at him with their flaming fists. Long Chen could only hold them off with his sword frantically!

However, he did not panic. He was very happy because his opponent’s move made him realize something important.

It’s true that he is indeed very strong with Traceless Demon Shadow and that powerful sword strike. He’s much stronger than the average Eighth River Stage cultivator. However, he is not the real me!

Long Chen had only used a quarter of his strength to hold off his opponent’s strike. After he absorbed the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon’s Inherited Blood Essence, even without the Dragon Soul Transformation, the red Qi in his body was four times stronger than regular Qi. This was something a normal cultivator could achieve only after using the Demon Seed Planting Technique to its full potential.

And yet he had blocked off the boy’s strike with just a quarter of his strength. What did that say about him?

This means that the mysterious opponent can only imitate my cultivation level, Divine Fire Clone, Traceless Demon Shadow, and the Demon Seed Planting Technique! He even has my Star Sword,

but it's too bad that the Demon Emperor Sword is only a mere Heaven-tier divine weapon! It is unable to imitate my Inherited Blood Essence and its divinities such as the Blood Devouring Domain and Dragon Soul Transformation!

Long Chen had been worried about this. If his opponent knew how to use the Blood Devouring Domain, then his chances of victory would've been slim. He had gotten lucky that he could pick any one of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's divine techniques to defeat him.

Just now, he had suppressed his strength to a quarter of its usual level to test this theory. He knew that the Demon Emperor Sword could never imitate a skill as extraordinary as the Dragon Soul Transformation.

Long Chen smirked coldly, and his speed suddenly increased by fourfold. He dashed towards his opponent and slashed his sword. The opponent had not expected Long Chen to be this fast and quickly dodged using Traceless Demon Shadow. He stared at Long Chen in surprise. "Are you using the Demon Seed Planting Technique to increase your speed by fourfold this soon? I can do that too!"

He had guessed wrongly. Long Chen was only using his regular strength.

Black smoke rose from the boy. Very soon, black mist filled his eyes, and Long Chen sensed that his aura was strengthening to a level almost on par with his and then some. This was the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique.

"What do you think? Can you feel it ... No matter what you use, I'll be a little stronger than you!" The boy that looked identical to Long Chen laughed like a maniac.

"Idiot," Long Chen said with a scoff. Then black smoke also rose from his body. When the black mist fully covered his eyes, the amount of Qi in his body was increased by four times, making it a total of sixteen times more Qi than his opponent. Right now, he was as strong as someone at the Ninth River Stage. And it was definitely enough to defeat the guy in front of him.

Chapter 390 - Demon Emperor Sword

"What's wrong? Didn't you use the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique?" The boy who looked like Long Chen was shocked when he saw Long Chen's strength increasing.

"You think you understand me, but you don't know the secrets of my body. So you can die now." Long Chen chuckled and appeared in front of the boy with a blur.

"Shadow Sword Technique!"

The sword flared out and became traces of shadows. Each of them was an illusion yet real at the same time!

Long Chen was too strong for the boy. He only saw Long Chen stabbing his throat before dying. Once Long Chen killed the mysterious boy, his surroundings started to disappear.

I think I know what the test given by the Demon Emperor Sword is. It needs a successor like me that has more potential than itself. Since I have many powers that the sword cannot replicate, I beat it with ease. This trial is difficult for someone like Murong Yu since the sword can replicate Traceless Demon Shadow and the Demon Seed Planting Technique, and maybe it might be even stronger than her. Murong Yu is probably having a hard time overcoming this.

Long Chen kept thinking while his surroundings shifted. He suddenly found himself standing in an unfamiliar room. It was roughly the same size as the previous room, but there was a massive altar in this one. The black altar was surrounded by four black metal pillars. Chains coiled around the pillars, and Long Chen saw what the chains were for. They were there to seal the sword in the middle of the altar!

The sword was covered in black mist, yet it emanated an intense murderous aura. Long Chen was just standing there and he felt the aura coming towards him. He noticed various blood-red runes flickering on the black sword. The runes were twisted and resembled snarling faces.

It's the Demon Emperor Sword! Long Chen was very happy to have found it.

It was similar to the Star Sword in shape and size. It was one meter long with a thin yet sharp blade. But compared to the Star Sword, the Demon Emperor Sword was much more regal, majestic, and bloodthirsty.

The Star Sword was a dead object, while the Demon Emperor Sword was like a living being. It was like a prowling beast that couldn't stay still, roaring in rage to free itself from the chains.

A force that could cause spiritual damage swept towards Long Chen. He quickly braced himself to not get affected by it.

“The Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon had changed me to be more bloodthirsty. The Demon Emperor Sword is definitely not a benevolent weapon either. Looks like I need to prepare myself so that I don't get swayed by its murderous aura.”

The Demon Emperor Sword was just in front of him, but he wasn't in a rush to claim it because he sensed that there was an invisible barrier blocking him from doing so. He didn't know what to do, so he didn't move recklessly. He was the first one to clear the trial and also the fastest in the history of the Heavenly Demon Palace.

But one more person had entered this place with him, and that was Murong Yu.

The barrier seems harmless, but what will happen if I approach it? Long Chen retrieved a piece of divine jade and threw it towards the barrier. The divine jade disintegrated the moment it touched the barrier.

It seems that the barrier originates from the sword itself, and it's capable of turning things to dust. The sword probably has its own set of rules in choosing its successors after doing so since ancient times, or it might be a rule added in by its creator. It probably has its own thoughts too. I am not qualified to touch the sword just yet. Maybe I will be able to pass through the barrier once I defeat Murong Yu after she defeats the doppelganger?

Long Chen took a few steps back and waited patiently. If she couldn't even pass the first trial, Long Chen would be able to obtain the Demon Emperor Sword immediately.

Time slowly passed, and the barrier did not disappear. Long Chen was about to try throwing something into it again when a flash of black light exploded near him. Murong Yu appeared, and her face was ashen. Her clothes were torn, revealing her snow-white chest that moved in an alluring way while she panted.

It had been a difficult fight for her.

Long Chen was surprised that she wasn't hurt and was only tired. He was impressed since Murong Yu didn't have as many hidden techniques as he did. It was most definitely a hard battle for her.

Murong Yu was even more surprised when she saw him. It was clear that Long Chen had been waiting for her. Looking at the state he was in, she knew that he had beaten his opponent with ease.

If it wasn't for the three Demon Elders telling her what would happen in the Demon Emperor Sword and all the preparations she had made, she wouldn't be standing here right now. After all, she didn't have what Long Chen was hiding in his body.

The two of them stood there and understood that only the one who defeated the other would be able to obtain the sword. Long Chen was worried about her even though she was his opponent.

“Hey, can you tell me what happened inside? No one is here and your master can't threaten you here.”

Murong Yu bit her lip and avoided looking into his eyes. “Stop talking nonsense. I'm here to fight to the death with you. Come at me!”

Long Chen could tell from the tone of her voice that she was forcing herself to be hostile towards him.

“Why did you become like this? Don't tell me you loved Yang Danfeng and hate me for killing him? That's bullshit. Did the Demon Elders threaten you?” Murong Yu had helped Long Chen a lot before, so he was worried about her. He wouldn't have even bothered if it were someone else.

This time, she didn't answer him. She released her Ninth River Stage Qi and scoffed. “Your time is up! We will fight to the death in front of the Demon Emperor Sword today! The winner takes it and the loser will be reduced to nothing but dust!”

She started circulating her Qi furiously while she talked. Long Chen felt the pressure coming from her and remembered the feeling that Lin Zichen had given him. But he had grown stronger now—he could fight back even without using Blood Sacrifice.

“If that is the case, I will restrain you and force you to tell the truth.” Long Chen had no choice. He believed that he could learn the truth once he defeated her.

“To be fair, I'm surprised that you passed the first stage even faster than me, but, Long Chen, I'm sure you know that I'm already at the Ninth River Stage. Give up ...”

Murong Yu's voice slowly became softer, to the point where he couldn't even hear her talking. Long Chen sensed that she was struggling with something.

She must've been threatened by the three Demon Elders!

Just then, Murong Yu ran towards Long Chen. The eighteen star rivers within her body were complete and formed a closed circulation system. She was many times stronger than she was at the Eight River Stage. Even though she was far away, the ripping wind made Long Chen's scalp go numb. He needed to be even more careful.

Traceless Demon Shadow!

Murong Yu wanted to defeat Long Chen as fast as possible, so she used the Heaven-tier martial technique from the start. In an instant, she became a myriad of afterimages in front of him and launched her attacks from all directions. Even Long Chen couldn't find where the real one was.

I wonder if the Soul Swallowing Gaze works on Traceless Demon Shadow? Long Chen was calm when he secretly used it. He saw everything disappear except for the soul of Murong Yu.

Traceless Demon Shadow was a technique that combined high-speed movement and some special footwork to form illusions. The technique was completely dismantled by Long Chen the moment he used Soul Swallowing Gaze, and he was able to pinpoint where the real Murong Yu was.

The speed of a Ninth River Stage cultivator is unbelievable!

The real Murong Yu appeared behind Long Chen and extended a palm. Black mist appeared when she formed the seal, and it slowly drifted towards Long Chen's back like a falling leaf.

It was a discrete technique, but the palm technique was horrifyingly strong. If Long Chen was hit by that attack, he would be sent flying forward while spewing a lot of blood.

Thankfully he had already seen where she was. Her Traceless Demon Shadow was perfect, but it was useless against the Soul Swallowing Gaze!