

War God 41

Chapter 41 - Dragon Soul Transformation

Yang Xueqing grew even more anxious when she saw her son's eyes turn blood red after Bai Zhanxiong spoke to him.

But Bai Zhanfeng was shamelessly keeping her occupied. Since they were equal in ability and Yang Xueqing was distracted because she was worried for Long Chen, it was impossible for her to break free.

There was a surprised cry. "Look at the kid!"

Everyone turned to look at Long Chen. Even Bai Zhanxiong realized something was amiss and his face paled. He knew something would happen if he didn't kill Long Chen right away!

Long Chen had no defenses against the Dark Universal Finger unleashed at such a short distance. The entire Yang family was heartbroken!

But suddenly, a layer of glowing red light appeared next to Long Chen and Bai Zhanxiong's finger attack deflected off the light's surface. Bai Zhanxiong was caught unawares and blasted backwards with a comically shocked expression.

Long Chen's mind sank back into his sea of consciousness. He saw in his mind's eye that the dragon jade and Inherited Blood Essence had merged once again!

Very quickly, the dragon jade pendant turned blood red and a design of a blood-red dragon containing nine dragon veins appeared once more. A current of red energy flowed through the dragon veins!

Long Chen was ecstatic. It was the same as when he'd mastered the powerful Blood Transmutation. This time, the Qi's path was different. It meant that he was going to learn something different, something surely as powerful as the previous one!

Long Chen mobilized his pale red Qi when he watched the dragon vein pulse. Although he was still in his sea of consciousness, he was connected to his body's senses. He heard the commotion outside, along with the gasps of the crowd.

When all the patterns on the dragon jade were filled with the red energy, and it separated from the Inherited Blood Essence once more, Long Chen felt that the new skill was nearing completion!

A stream of ancient knowledge flowed into Long Chen's mind. When he learned the skill's name, his mind retreated from his sea consciousness and he looked at his body.

It was covered in blood-red dragon scales and sharp bony spines, and his body was now ten times more powerful. His pale red Qi had completely darkened into a blood-red color!

The crowd gawked in awe. Even the Yang patriarch and the others slowly ceased their fighting as they watched the dramatic changes to Long Chen's body. *Everything's changing just like that night but what's different is that I can control this transformation ...*

"That's the Dragon Soul Transformation!"

As he sensed the immense strength he had gained, Long Chen smirked. He knew everyone was shocked by his transformation. The hall was completely silent. After a few breaths, someone

mumbled, “ ... This looks like the transformation of a Beast Warrior. Since when did he become a legendary Beast Warrior?”

Everyone else was thinking of Beast Warriors too once they sensed that Long Chen had become much stronger. There were mixed reactions; some were happy and some sad.

The now-panicking Bai Zhanxiong remained in front of Long Chen but Long Chen’s terrifyingly bloody aura was enough to make him turn ghostly pale!

Before anyone realized it, Long Chen’s eyes locked on Bai Zhanxiong and under everyone’s shocked gaze, he turned into a blood-red shadow and lunged towards Bai Zhanxiong!

As he moved, he made seals at lightning speed and nine furious, blood-red dragon images—which were clearer than ever—twisted around his hands. They let out frightening roars as the rippling energy vibrating between his hands chilled everyone’s hearts!

With such a powerful body and this peculiar but immense Qi, when Long Chen unleashed his most powerful attack, the Primordial Dragon Seal, even an Eighth Draconic Stage warrior would feel suffocated from his aura alone!

“Even an Eighth Draconic Stage warrior would find it difficult to unleash such an attack at this level!” cried an Eighth Draconic Stage warrior from one of Baiyang Town’s second-tier families.

The Bai patriarch, being a more experienced cultivator, knew that the power of the attack was beyond imagination. His expression changed and he yelled, “Xiong’er, move!”

But it was too late. Bai Zhanxiong’s eyes were filled with disbelief when he saw Long Chen’s abrupt increase in strength. A blood-red light membrane had blocked his attack when he tried to kill Long Chen. Now, he could sense the membrane had disappeared. He had another chance to kill Long Chen so why would he move?

“You brat! Your father died because of me; you will die because of me too! This is the fate of your family. There’s no use fighting it! My Nine Yellow Rivers didn’t kill you so let me try again!”

“Dark Universal Finger, Nine Yellow Rivers!”

“Is that so?”

Long Chen moved at high speed, his Primordial Dragon Seal almost complete. The immense energy brought with it a powerful aura that shot to the heavens. It was as if Long Chen had turned into nine roaring, blood-red dragons charging towards Bai Zhanxiong. The stone tiles beneath him exploded into chips that flew into the air!

“Father, I guess you felt humiliated because a nobody like Bai Zhanxiong killed you. That’s why you didn’t tell me about it. But today, I will avenge you!”

Nine blood-red dragons shot out, causing the ground to vibrate. Bai Zhanxiong’s Nine Yellow Rivers attack shot at Long Chen to block his attack. This technique had injured Long Chen before but this time, the tables had turned. The blood red Primordial Dragon Seal shattered the Nine

Yellow Rivers into pieces. Then, the seal hit Bai Zhanxiong's body squarely, and his expression turned to utter disbelief. Bai Zhanxiong's clothes and personal belongings shattered into pieces!

“Xiong'er!”

“Third Brother!”

“Third Brother!”

The stronger Bai family members were about to rush to Bai Zhanxiong's aid when the Yang patriarch and the others smirked and shot out in formation, blocking them!

However, they were truly shaken to see Long Chen suddenly growing so strong, especially Yang Xueqing. All she could think about was Long Chen's glorious form; the bloody, perfect Dragon Soul Transformation filled her with pride! “Was I really so wrong before? What was I thinking? No matter what, he's still my son ...”

After Long Chen defeated Bai Zhanxiong, everyone else fell completely silent.

The presence of a monster so powerful he broke the laws of nature in the Yang family made it clear that the status quo of the Bai family being number one and the Yang family number two would no longer apply after today.

They all stared at the blood-red figure and gulped. “Is this ... still the same spoiled brat from before?”

The difference was just too startling. Everyone felt their mouths go dry.

It was a twist worthy of a stage play. Initially, the Bai family had suppressed the Yang family, and Bai Zhanxiong had been about to kill Long Chen. Now, the scales had tipped to the other side so the Yang family was suppressing the Bai family and Long Chen was going to kill Bai Zhanxiong. The crowd was curious to see what would happen now that Long Chen had severely injured Bai Zhanxiong with just one move of the Primordial Dragon Seal.

Yang Yuntian watched the blood-red figure and squatted in grief. He knew he would never get to avenge his son in this lifetime.

Long Chen flew high up in the sky like a bird where Yang Yuntian could never touch him!

As Yang Lingqing watched her protector, tears welled up in her eyes. In her heart, Long Chen had become an invincible god.

“Let my son go!” screamed the Bai patriarch in grief. He panicked when he saw Long Chen grab the severely injured Bai Zhanxiong.

Long Chen smirked at his suffering. “Suffering due to fate is forgivable but suffering due to stupidity isn't!”

Then, he looked at Bai Zhanxiong, who looked like Bai Shiji had that morning. His face was sickly pale, and he was spitting out black blood as his frightened eyes looked at Long Chen. Their expression turned from disbelief into hopeless pleading. “M-mercy, I beg you! I don't want to die ...”

Long Chen felt even more contempt when he saw how cowardly Bai Zhanxiong was. He said flatly, “It’s too late for regret. It would’ve been fine if you didn’t say you’d killed my father. But now that I know the truth, I won’t let you die an easy death!”

Long Chen’s voice rose to a crescendo at the end of his sentence so everyone heard him. *Bai Zhanxiong murdered Long Qinglan!*

So that’s why Long Chen looked at him with so much hatred! “It’s your own fault for not killing me immediately. Instead, you told me the truth and made me angry! But I won’t make the same mistake!”

Bai Zhanxiong had a bad feeling when he met Long Chen’s icy gaze; Long Chen’s blood-red eyes made Bai Zhanxiong tremble uncontrollably. Bai Zhanxiong started to scream in agony because he could feel every drop of blood in his body turn into blades piercing through his muscles and skin. Long Chen’s peculiar scales were sucking out his blood!

It was Long Chen’s first time using Blood Transmutation on a human, much less a living human! “You killed my father! Naturally, you will receive special treatment. Bai Zhanxiong, enjoy this while it lasts!”

Bai Zhanxiong’s shrill screams and pleas for mercy chilled the spectators’ hearts. They all retreated a few steps, watching Long Chen.

The Bai patriarch’s eyes had grown bloodshot when he heard his son screaming in such a bone-chilling manner. He roared in rage, “Yang Cangqiong! Move! Let my son go! The Yang family shall die for this!”

The Yang patriarch’s face did not change as he continued to fight. “Now it’s my turn to ask you. How are you so naïve at this age? If Bai Zhanxiong had defeated Chen’er, would you have stopped there?”

The Yang patriarch fed the Bai patriarch his own words, feeling smug. That night, he’d been crushed, his illusion of brotherhood shattered. He had taken a great hit to his dignity, even if he remained silent!

Bai Zhanxiong’s agonized screams were forever branded into everyone’s minds. The spectators drew a sharp breath and their scalps went numb when they watched fresh blood piercing through Bai Zhanxiong’s skin, flowing quickly into Long Chen’s body. They were completely gripped with fear at such gruesome tactics!

Bai Zhanxiong’s blood contained a huge amount of energy. The Qi extracted from a cultivator was much more effective to Long Chen than spirit jades or beast cores. Long Chen’s body refined all of Bai Zhanxiong’s blood essence. A surge of energy rolled through Long Chen’s body and his face lit up. “It’s time to break through the seventh dragon vein—the Human Dragon Vein!”

Chapter 42 - Massacre King

When Bai Zhanxiong’s shriveled body crashed weakly to the ground, the hall grew silent.

Then the Bai patriarch’s maddening screams followed. However, with the Yang patriarch—whose heart was filled with hate—blocking him, it was impossible for him to move forward.

With Bai Zhanxiong’s death, the Bai family’s goal was officially a failure.

As they had been fighting, someone from the Yang family had leaked the Bai family's schemes to the public, which was how the various powers of Baiyang Town got to know the whole story.

If the Bai family's plans had succeeded and they became the sole ruler of Baiyang Town, no one would have dared to condemn them for their actions. However, they had failed and an important leader of the Bai family, Bai Zhanxiong, had died. The Bai family's reputation was now at rock bottom. At the same time, a surprising prodigy had emerged from the Yang family. At this point, everyone knew whose side they should take in this conflict!

When they saw Long Chen in the process of breaking through the Human Dragon Vein, they grew more determined in their decision.

The blood-red dragon charged within Long Chen's body, refining the energy in Bai Zhanxiong's blood, which had as much Qi as Long Chen had started with. With this huge input of power, a breakthrough was inevitable even though the Human Dragon Vein was longer and thicker than the typical dragon vein!

The blood-red dragon-like Qi was unstoppable. Fifteen minutes later, the dragon vein broke and a dragon roared!

Long Chen was still in his post-transformation form. His Qi was rising quickly because his body contained ten times the power of normal Qi. Although he was only at the Seventh Draconic Stage, the destructive force he held was almost on par with that of an Eighth Draconic Stage warrior!

With the support of the Dragon Soul Transformation, Long Chen's combat powers skyrocketed. Only Long Chen could truly feel the power he held.

Long Chen had been able to kill Bai Zhanxiong even though he had only been at the Sixth Draconic Stage. Now, he was over ten times stronger! The bloodlust and killing intent radiating from him made cold sweat drip from everyone.

Long Chen had completely surpassed the younger generation and was now on par with the best of Baiyang Town. Although the Bai patriarch's bloodshot eyes continued to glare, he accepted his fate when he saw Long Chen's glowing red eyes.

When Long Chen stood up, there was no longer a need for the fight to continue.

The Yang patriarch and the others finally abandoned their opponents and reunited with Yang Qingxuan and Yang Xueqing. They all watched Long Chen in a daze.

Despite knowing that Long Chen would only get stronger, they were still hugely emotional.

The Yang family had no desire to continue fighting. Since the formidable Long Chen was present, a fight would only cause more casualties for the Bai family. The Bai family was furious but they did not dare act when the Bai patriarch stopped them.

The Yang patriarch looked at Long Chen and said, "Chen'er, let's go home."

Long Chen had thought they would kill the whole Bai family but when he saw the old man's cold expression, he knew there was no need.

The two patriarchs had been friends for a long time. The old man was devastated after the day's events.

The Bai family had betrayed them but the Yang family killed Bai Zhanxiong and Zhanyun, even severely injuring Bai Shichen and Bai Shiji in retaliation. There was no further need to kill.

Long Chen finally reverted back to his human form. The Qi throughout his body returned to a pale red that was only four times stronger than regular Qi.

Long Chen's handsome looks and intelligent demeanor were completely different from the appearance of the Massacre King they'd seen earlier.

However, the Yang family felt closer to him in this form. When he walked into the circle of family members, the reverence in their gazes didn't abate. He wasn't used to this flattery at all.

Long Chen suddenly spotted Yang Xueqing in the middle of the group. She was watching him with a smile. When he looked at her, she lowered her head awkwardly, filled with regret. Next to her, Yang Yuntian did not speak a word. There was only pain on his face.

Yang Wu and Yang Lingyue walked up to Long Chen and Lingyue said a bit awkwardly, "Thank you so much for today. You didn't just save us, you saved the entire Yang family. Every single one of us owes you so much. I want to apologize for all the times I hurt or humiliated you in the past. I'm so sorry. I hope we can still be close cousins like you and Lingqing! Is that okay?"

Yang Wu nodded. "I truly apologize. We all misjudged you and thought you were a blot on the Yang family's reputation. I didn't know you were the true hero. You taught us not to judge a book by its cover. Thank you so much!"

To be honest, Long Chen was embarrassed to be the center of attention. He had always been like this. Kindness was repaid twofold, hatred the same. "Alright, that's enough! No need to thank me! I just wanted to take my revenge and happened to help you guys along the way."

Long Chen's tone and expression were comical. Yang Wu, Yang Lingyue, and the other younger relatives finally relaxed and burst into laughter.

Long Chen looked up and saw Yang Qingxuan smiling at him. He knew that Yang Wu and Yang Lingyue had approached him with his encouragement.

Long Chen had no opinions about his eldest uncle. Yang Qingxuan had always been neutral towards him. Long Chen wasn't the type to hate anyone if they didn't treat him unkindly.

Long Chen suddenly realized how warm his family was now that he was surrounded by such kindness. It was only his previous behavior as a spoiled brat that disappointed them.

He looked at the Yang patriarch walking in front. The old man was walking alone. Yang Qingxuan had tried a few times to comfort him but the old man rejected him. Since Yang Qingxuan's words were ineffective, he wanted Long Chen to approach the old man. Long Chen's position in the Yang family had risen quickly to the top of his generation.

When he walked next to the patriarch, Long Chen noticed that the old man's eyes were red. He had just been betrayed by his lifelong brother and almost got his entire family killed. The Yang patriarch had taken a massive hit.

When the Yang patriarch saw Long Chen walking up to him, he looked at Long Chen and then at the Yang residence close ahead. The patriarch mumbled, "You don't have to say anything. I know what to do next time. But I'll give you a warning, kid, if you make a good friend when you're out

there on your own, you must know his heart well. You must know whether his heart is filled with poison or passion ...”

Long Chen mused, “I know your heart is filled with passion. And Old Man Bai is filled with poison.”

When they returned home, the Yang patriarch sat at the head of the table and pulled Long Chen over to sit next to him. Everyone took their seats accordingly. They saw Long Chen’s special position but no one objected.

The Yang patriarch took a sip of tea and said, “I am at fault for what happened today. For that, I apologize. I am your patriarch, but I almost got you all killed!”

Yang Qingxuan gripped his hand and said solemnly, “Father, you don’t have to blame yourself. We all know we cannot blame you. The only person to blame is Bai Sheng! He’s evil and vicious!”

“Yeah, Grandfather. We understand.”

The Yang patriarch was slightly relieved to see his family’s compassion. His eyes swept across his progeny. What made him happiest was that the Yang family had suffered such a huge ordeal and yet did not lose anyone. Everyone knew this was all because of one very important contributor!

The Yang patriarch’s gaze finally fell on Yang Yuntian, whose head was lowered. The patriarch’s gaze turned cold and he commanded, “Yuntian, stand up.”

Yang Qingxuan knew his father would be furious with Yuntian the moment they returned home. The old man’s face was a stony green, and it was not a good time to speak. If Yang Yuntian hadn’t attacked Long Chen, their ordeal would have ended much sooner. It was because of Yuntian that the huge battle between the two families happened. He also almost got the day’s largest contributor killed. “Yuntian. What do you have to say for yourself?”

Yang Yuntian looked up. He was extremely calm. He sighed, looked at Long Chen and the Yang patriarch and said, “I have nothing to say, Father. Today, all I wanted to do was to avenge my son but I failed. And I’ll never get another chance again.”

Slam! The patriarch banged the table and the whole room trembled in fear. “Aren’t you ashamed of yourself? We resolve conflict within the family! Since when do we use our enemies to kill our own kin?”

Yang Yuntian bit his lip. He did not speak.

The Yang patriarch’s temper hit the roof when he saw his son’s cowardliness. He raged, “Chen’er may be the catalyst for what happened to Zhan’er, but it was also due to the boy not having strong self-esteem. With such a weak heart, he would still die in someone else’s hands. As a father, you bear the responsibility of raising him. How could you push the blame to another person? Is that what we Yangs do?”

The Yang patriarch’s words snapped Yang Yuntian out of his haze. His eyes filled with pain as he clenched his fist. *Father’s right. I spoiled Zhan’er all these years. If I hadn’t let him have his way all the time and hadn’t protected him over every minor matter, he wouldn’t have such a weak self-esteem ... Yang Yuntian, in the end, the person who killed your son ... was you ...*”

This thought pushed Yang Yuntian into an abyss of grief and self-blame.

The patriarch was a father himself, so he understood Yang Yuntian's pain. He sighed and turned to Long Chen. "He tried to hurt you today. You get to decide his punishment."

Some of them were surprised that the patriarch would let Long Chen decide the punishment but they realized it made sense. They looked at Long Chen expectantly. After so much suffering today, they didn't want to see anyone punished. However, Long Chen's personality was an enigma to them and it would be natural to be resentful of Yang Yuntian.

Long Chen saw that everyone was looking at him, including Yang Lingqing. The pleading look in her eyes made his heart ache. He knew that if he wanted to live well in the Yang Residence, he had to settle this matter with Yang Yuntian once and for all.

Under everyone's nervous gaze, Long Chen stood in front of Yang Yuntian. "I indirectly caused your son's death. But you also almost got me killed today. We're both family and I don't want this enmity to continue. We'll just call it even. what do you think?"

Chapter 43 - Dragon-Type

From what Yang Yuntian knew of Long Chen's personality and how he treated the Bai family, he knew that Long Chen was a person who always sought revenge.

Since Yang Yuntian had almost gotten him killed and the patriarch had given Long Chen the power to decide his punishment, Yang Yuntian knew that he was in trouble.

Yang Yuntian knew that a person like Long Chen would not keep a potential threat so close to him.

But Long Chen's reply completely overturned his expectations.

When the Yang family heard Long Chen's words, they all sighed in relief. Yang Lingqing smiled, gazing sweetly at Long Chen.

Long Chen let Yang Yuntian go because of three simple reasons. First, although Long Chen hadn't expected Yang Zhan to kill himself, it was true that he was the catalyst for Yang Zhan's death. He had caused the death of someone's son; it was only natural that Yang Yuntian would want revenge.

That was why Yang Yuntian's behavior wasn't exactly unexpected.

Second, Yang Yuntian was Yang Lingqing's father. Long Chen and Yang Lingqing were very close now and he loved her very much as a cousin. Naturally, he wouldn't want to punish Yang Yuntian.

Third and the most important reason was that Yang Yuntian would never be a match for him after today.

Yang Yuntian looked up at Long Chen in disbelief. "Are you sure? You want to call it even?"

Long Chen nodded and said, "I hope you'll live by your word. I don't want to be on guard against you all the time while living with the Yang family. Otherwise, I might as well kill you."

Yang Yuntian looked at the teenager and thought about the insane speed of his improvement. He couldn't believe his eyes.

Long Chen's stellar talent had exceeded his imagination so he nodded woodenly. "I will live by the promises I've made today."

The Yang patriarch looked at his grandson with quiet approval and a hint of pride. "Alright, then the matter is closed. From today onwards, the Yang family must stick together to fight the Bai family as one! Anyone who stands in the way of our unity will not be forgiven!"

He looked around again and sighed. "I'm a little tired. Go and have a good rest. No one is to leave the house without my permission, understood?"

Everyone nodded. They were about to excuse themselves when Long Chen spoke up suddenly, "Grandfather, wait. I have something to say."

He looked at Yang Xueqing for a second. However, Yang Xueqing was probably feeling awkward and regretful so she had kept her head lowered all night.

The Yang patriarch replied solemnly, "Chen'er, speak. We're listening."

"Grandfather, my father told me before he died that he wanted my surname to be Long. From today on, please call me Long Chen. I hope you can help me fulfill my father's last wish."

Everyone was a little nervous because of his words, especially Yang Xueqing, who shuddered but still did not look up.

Without skill and position, Long Chen could not publicly announce Long Qinglan's last wish. But after tonight's incident and his fast-improving capabilities, he knew it was time. The Yang patriarch looked at him anxiously, "Chen'er, are you leaving the Yang family? Is it because we didn't treat you well enough?"

Long Chen shook his head. "No, I am still half Yang. Nothing will change for me with the Yang family. I only wish to take my father's surname."

Since it had been Long Qinglan's dying wish and Long Chen was so determined, the Yang patriarch had no reason to deny him. Long Chen was not leaving the Yang family over this anyway. Hence, the patriarch nodded and said, "Since it's Long Qinglan's last wish, it's up to you."

Now that he had fulfilled one of Long Qinglan's final wishes, Long Chen nodded excitedly. Everyone slowly bade the Yang patriarch a good night before leaving. Yang Qingxuan was the last to leave. He turned and said, "Father, you must be tired. Get some rest. There's still the appointment tomorrow with the mayor and the Bai family might cause trouble."

The patriarch shook his head. "Let me sit alone for a while and gather my thoughts. Xuan'er, get some rest."

Yang Qingxuan could only nod in exasperation.

It was going to be a sleepless night.

After saying goodnight to the others, Long Chen headed to his quarters. After a short walk, he noticed Yang Xueqing climbing over a wall and leaving her compound. The patriarch had just forbidden everyone from leaving without his permission; had Yang Xueqing forgotten already?

Long Chen's greatest achievement today had been changing this woman's impression of him.

After sixteen years, Long Chen finally felt the familial bond between them. It was great news to him. When he saw Yang Xueqing leave the compound, he was naturally worried for her safety and followed her. “Xiao Xi, where do you think she’s going?”

“You bastard, I’m not talking to you!”

Long Chen instantly dripped with cold sweat. He had indeed said some mean words to her in fear that she would be in mortal danger for helping him. He hadn’t expected the girl to bear a grudge. So he tried to soothe her, “Hey, I made a mistake and I admit I was unintentionally mean. Just treat me like I’m a dumb donkey, alright? Woof woof woof!”

Ling Xi burst into laughter and corrected him. “That’s the sound of a dog, stupid! A donkey says ‘hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw!’”

“Ah? So you’re the donkey.”

“... Shut up, shut up!”

“Please, have mercy!”

Ling Xi finally stopped torturing his ear after he placated her with much effort. Now that Ling Xi had turned the sword into a stud on his ear, she could torture him whenever she wanted.

But Long Chen saw that Yang Xueqing had already reached outside of town and quickly followed her.

After walking a long time, he realized the route was familiar and tried to recall. *Isn’t this the path towards Long Qinglan’s grave?*

Long Chen had never brought her there so he didn’t expect her to know. But thanks to her power in the Yang family, looking for a grave outside town was a simple task.

Very soon, Yang Xueqing was standing in front of Long Qinglan’s grave. She stood in a daze, staring down as Long Chen watched her from afar.

He didn’t know what the woman was doing either.

Yang Xueqing didn’t say a word. She sat on the ground and leaned on the tombstone, staring at the stars in the sky, deep in thought. She looked beautiful beneath the stars as starlight lit up her eyes and pale cheeks.

Long Chen was suddenly emotional watching his mother lean on his father’s tombstone, staring at the stars. He had never seen such a sweet scene. “She’s mumbling to herself,” said Ling Xi suddenly.

“What is she saying?” he asked anxiously.

Ling Xi listened for a while, then repeated Yang Xueqing’s words while imitating her tone. “... If you hadn’t treated me like that years ago, I wouldn’t have hated you this much. And I wouldn’t have hated my own son so much. Long Qinglan, to me, you’re just a madman ...”

Long Chen froze. Long Qinglan was a madman in Yang Xueqing’s eyes? Why did she think so? He always thought Yang Xueqing abandoned Long Qinglan and him because Long Qinglan had lost all his abilities. Did she have other reasons?

Long Chen stared at Yang Xueqing's pained expression in a daze. Ling Xi continued to imitate her, "... You searched the entire Ten Thousand Nations Territory to find a girl like me with a suitable body just to produce a child that fulfilled your standards. I know you're high up there with cultivation beyond my imagination. But you still don't have the right to trample on my feelings like that ...

"Today, Chen'er finally said he wanted to be a Long. You've won. I've never been your match. Perhaps to you, I'm just a peasant girl who doesn't deserve a man like you, a man far beyond my reach."

Yang Xueqing's words shook Long Chen to the core.

Long Chen finally knew why Yang Xueqing treated him so coldly. Not because she was a cold person at heart but because Long Qinglan had indeed caused her great pain.

Long Chen knew that Long Qinglan came from an extremely powerful location and naturally had a lofty position. His abilities were definitely not limited to the Eighth Draconic Stage that he displayed. That was only what he showed everyone when he arrived at Baiyang Town.

Long Chen could guess the sequence of events: Long Qinglan's cultivation had been destroyed by the dragon jade but he refused to disappear from the world like that. And so, he wanted to have a child whose body could withstand the dragon jade. That's why he found Yang Xueqing.

What happened next was exactly as Yang Xueqing said. When she found out the truth, she could not accept the fact that she was just a vessel for reproduction to him.

Long Chen was a product of Long Qinglan's efforts but to Yang Xueqing, Long Chen had robbed her of love and a happy marriage. The more importance Long Qinglan placed on this matter, the more hatred she felt.

In the past, Long Chen had lived the life of a scoundrel, but now that he was starting to shine, Yang Xueqing knew she had lost. In the end, she was just a pitiful woman.

Long Chen's hatred towards Yang Xueqing finally dispersed.

Long Chen felt his entire being truly relaxed for the first time. He had dissolved the enmity between himself and his two greatest nemeses in the Yang family, Yang Yuntian and Yang Xueqing. They didn't have to be cold towards one another like before. Long Chen had always wanted a sense of belonging and to face the world with his family. "Father, I know why you did this but there were some things you did wrong. You let her down.

"But, it's fine. I, Long Chen, will right your wrongs."

Long Chen's eyes grew red as he thought about Yang Xueqing's life. It was pitiful indeed. When she first thought she'd met her true love, she didn't know he only saw her as a reproductive vessel. And the next time she thought she would finally get a happy life, she was betrayed and almost got her father and brothers killed.

As he recalled the way he used to treat her, Long Chen felt like he too was at fault. "She looks so sad crying there ... I ... I'm going to cry too ..."

Beneath the moonlight, Yang Xueqing sobbed in great grief. Ling Xi felt terrible listening to her soft sobs while Long Chen clenched his fist tight and sighed. "It's time for me to stop hating her ..."

Chapter 44 – Red-tailed Fox Demonic Core

Baiyang Town's Demon Hunting Tournament had occurred the day before, and today was the day of the announcement of the new Baiyang Town mayor and the right to rule would be handed over to him.

All of the minor powers and families had to attend an important ceremony like this. The sky had only just lightened and there were already more than 10,000 people gathered in the plaza of Baiyang Town.

These people were all famous and had high positions, and they all lived within a five-kilometer radius of Baiyang Town.

The right to rule had been decided by the participation of the younger generation of the Bai and Yang families in the Demon Hunting Tournament. Participation was proof that the Lingwu family took a family's potential seriously.

The Bai and Yang families hadn't arrived yet. The crowd was busy discussing the huge incident that had happened the night before.

The stories had already spread like wildfire.

Everyone had been shocked by two pieces of news: the viciousness of the Bai family's betrayal, and the emergence of an extraordinarily powerful teenager in the Yang family. "You just had to be there. His whole body was covered in blood-red scales and bony spines sharper than your sword. Bai Zhanxiong couldn't even withstand one attack from him. The Nine Yellow Rivers of the Abyssal Heaven Fingers completely lost to the Yang family's Primordial Dragon Seal. Everyone's talking about how that teenager is already number three in the whole of Baiyang Town."

"Number three? At just sixteen years old? He's a monster indeed. That's even more shocking than Long Qinglan years ago."

"The two prodigies of the Bai family pale in comparison to this teenage prodigy ..."

"Alright, that's enough. The Bai family is here."

The crowd parted to make way. The Bai patriarch led his family, his face solemn as he strode into the gigantic plaza.

The minor powers of Baiyang Town kept quiet out of fear when they saw the fierce expressions of the Bai family. But in private, they were cursing them.

They only admired warriors who fought with honor after all. People who betrayed their close friends were greeted with disgust.

The atmosphere darkened with the Bai family's arrival. Then, someone shouted, "The Yang family is here."

The crowd parted for them too, showering the Yang family with smiles and friendly greetings. The Yang patriarch and his family returned their greetings politely. Most eyes were on the legendary monster genius, Long Chen. "He does look like he's about sixteen. Yet he's achieved so much ..."

“My son has been acting arrogantly since attaining the Fourth Draconic Stage. He needs to see this young man to know that there’s always someone better. This is how a true prodigy should act.”

The Bai family had noticed how the crowd fell silent when they arrived but erupted in greetings and compliments when the Yang family appeared.

This glory should have been theirs but it had been taken from them. The expressions of each member of the Bai family darkened even more, as if they had turned into black iron.

The “Bai” family had turned into the “Black” family! [1]

Long Chen stared at the Bai family. Not many Bai family members showed up today; only Bai Sheng, Bai Zhanlong, Bai Zhanfeng and an old man with a sharp gaze were present. Long Chen gasped in surprise while Ling Xi asked in confusion, “Hey, isn’t that the old man who was guarding the Ascension Fruit?”

Although Long Chen had only taken a quick look, he was confident that he had recognized the right person.

Long Chen suddenly noticed that there was a red dot between his brows!

Long Chen also had a red dot between his brows. It was the Inherited Blood Essence, which had retreated to the space between his brows. It was very faint and difficult to spot unless one observed closely. However, the old man’s red dot was painted on with a special pigment that was especially bright in the sunlight!

Long Chen had seen Bai Zhanxiong trafficking the ladies from Jade Palace Brothel to a group of people with a red dot between their brows—just like this old man’s red dot!

Last night, Long Chen had heard Bai Zhanxiong mention his second uncle and the Blood Saints. This old man’s eyes and brows resembled those of the Bai patriarch so he had to be the Second Uncle Bai Zhanxiong had spoken of. And he was guarding the Ascension Fruit ...

When Long Chen connected all the dots, he finally understood the big picture. *A phenomenon will occur before the Ascension Fruit ripens. When that happens, only the Bai and Yang family will be there to fight for it. This fruit is important to both families. Maybe that’s why the Bai family tried to wipe us out last night; they’re worried that Grandfather will get the fruit or spread the news that the Bai family has gotten the fruit!*

Long Chen had thought that the Bai family betrayed them because of the right to rule but that never seemed to be accurate. Now, he finally realized the truth.

When the Bai patriarch pointed Long Chen out, the old man looked over and seemed to be trying to recall his face. His expression turned to shock immediately and he fixed an icy gaze on Long Chen.

Long Chen knew that the old man had recognized him as the person who had seen the Ascension Fruit. And since Long Chen knew of the fruit, he would tell the Yang family. The old man’s eyes instantly filled with killing intent!

He spoke to the Bai patriarch, Bai Sheng, in a low voice, and Bai Sheng’s expression changed instantly!

They never could have expected that Long Chen would wander to that area during the Demon Hunting Tournament. The Yang family probably knew of the Ascension Fruit already!

They had planned to kill the Yang family after discovering this fruit, but Long Chen's appearance had been a surprise. And now Long Chen had told the Yang family about the Ascension Fruit!

The fruit that was theirs had suddenly become vulnerable. How could the two brothers not hate Long Chen?

The Yang patriarch also saw the old man and his brows furrowed. "This is bad. This man ... Bai Sheng has a stepbrother from a different mother whose name is Bai Li. He was always in Yuanling City and never contacted Bai Sheng much. Yet he's here in Baiyang Town today ... Two Ninth Draconic Stage masters ..."

He could fight Bai Sheng alone but with an equally powerful Bai Li added to the mix, the Yang patriarch was no longer so confident. But when he thought of the monster genius Long Chen, he was somewhat relieved.

He didn't know how powerful Long Chen was, but if he could defeat Bai Zhanxiong, that meant he would be able to fend Bai Li off for a while.

The Yang patriarch still didn't know about the Ascension Fruit and didn't understand why Bai Li was present. Additionally, he still didn't know why the Bai family wanted to hurt the Yang family.

Long Chen's brows knitted together. With Lord Wolf present, the Bai family would not dare cause trouble but Long Chen knew that they would definitely fight Bai Sheng and Bai Li in the struggle for the Ascension Fruit!

Long Chen had some confidence in defeating those two but the Blood Saints that Bai Zhanxiong mentioned made him worry.

Lord Wolf was so powerful despite his young age. This meant that the people of Yuanling City were far more powerful than the people of Baiyang Town. Since Bai Li lived in Yuanling City, he had to know many masters too. If they were involved in the fight for the Ascension Fruit, the Yang family would be ...

The burden that had previously been lifted now returned to Long Chen.

He knew that there would be a battle after the Ascension Fruit ripened. The Bai family were creative schemers, and now, Long Chen had a few more people he wanted to protect. He had more to lose than ever. If there really was a fight between the Yang and Bai families, Long Chen knew that he wasn't strong enough to protect so many people.

At the very least, he had to protect Yang Xueqing. After yesterday's incident, although Long Chen hadn't completely forgiven her, he wouldn't allow anyone to hurt her.

Long Chen had killed so many people in the Bai family. They would never show mercy to the Yang family now. A heavy weight sat on Long Chen's shoulders ...

The Ascension Fruit will ripen in about eight days. Eight days. How can I attain complete victory within this time ...

As the two Bai brothers glared daggers at Long Chen, who did not back down, the crowd erupted suddenly into noise. A person had materialized on the empty stage!

It was the representative sent by the Lingwu family of Yuanling City, the mysterious Lord Wolf. He was still wearing a hooded cloak that hid his features.

Everyone in Baiyang Town knew that Lord Wolf had to be quite young due to the youthfulness of his voice. He was a prodigy amongst prodigies.

When Long Chen first met Lord Wolf, he hadn't been able to figure out whether Lord Wolf was male or female. He also discovered that Lord Wolf was a great person who was very friendly and a little shy. However, perhaps because he was here on official matters, Lord Wolf had deliberately made himself more distant and formal when they'd met the day before.

Towards the end of the Demon Hunting Tournament, when Long Chen dragged the Bai youths out of the Desolate Mountains, he had actually appeared before time was up. However, Lord Wolf favored Long Chen and ended the tournament earlier than usual.

Long Chen was very grateful for this.

Although Lord Wolf might not feel the same, Long Chen saw him as a very important person in his life, and he was certain about his gut feeling.

The crowd's gazes were focused on Lord Wolf, who spoke in a flat tone beneath his hood. "Bai Sheng, patriarch of the Bai family. Yang Cangqiong, patriarch of the Yang family. Come up to the stage."

Bai Sheng and Yang Cangqiong did not dare disobey Lord Wolf. They went up the stage obediently and stood in front of Lord Wolf without looking at each other. "I shall now announce the results of the Demon Hunting Tournament, as completed by the progeny of both families."

Lord Wolf opened his right palm. The crowd looked at it anxiously. They saw a demonic core as big as a soybean and burst into laughter. "Yang family ... One demonic core from a Category 1 Yellow-tiered Red-tailed Fox!"

Everyone froze. They had believed the tiny core belonged to the Bai family, considering how badly their youths had done in the tournament. But it belonged to the Yang family! The spectators looked at each other, thinking, *Will the right to rule Baiyang Town go to the Bai family after all? This is ...*

When they thought about how the vicious Bai family would be as rulers, they felt a chill in their hearts. Life would not be good.

But Lord Wolf was about to speak again so everyone quickly halted their conversations.

Lord Wolf's gaze swept across the crowd and he opened his left palm. The crowd looked anxiously, only to realize that it was empty. "Bai family ... Zero demonic cores!"

The expressions of the spectators were beyond entertaining.

There had been speculations over the results of the tournament. Everyone had guessed that the Bai family would get at least one Category 8 Yellow-tier demonic core. The Yang family would be able to get at least a Category 7 Yellow-tier demonic core. No one expected the final outcome of the tournament to be a single Category 1 Yellow-tier demonic core from the Yang family and the Bai family leaving empty-handed.

Long Chen made a small smile. They weren't hunting demons at the tournament! Long Chen only caught the Red-tailed Fox along the way out of the Desolate Mountains.

1. The Chinese character for the surname Bai (白) also refers to the color white ?

Chapter 45 – I'm Passionate!

The Yang family won the right to rule Baiyang Town with just one Red-tailed Fox's demonic core. This was a hot topic over dinner tables across town.

They all felt like they were in a dream.

If the kids from my family were allowed to participate in the Demon Hunting Tournament, as long as they avoided these two families, my family could have won. Many people were thinking the same thing.

Although the Bai family already knew the results, their faces were still ashen when Lord Wolf formally announced the tournament results.

Bai Sheng left the stage without a word and returned to his family. He stared coldly at the Yang patriarch standing in front of Lord Wolf.

Lord Wolf announced, "The Yang family will receive the right to rule Baiyang Town and will be the mayors of Baiyang Town. Yang Cangqiong shall be Baiyang Town's first mayor under the supervision of my family, the Lingwu family. They shall represent the Lingwu power; anyone who challenges the mayor will be challenging the Lingwu family!"

With the protection of the Lingwu family, the Yang family had absolute power.

Although Lord Wolf wore a hood, his cold gaze sent chills running up and down the spines of Bai Sheng and his family.

They knew that Lord Wolf was mostly speaking to Bai Sheng. *Is he warning me? But if the Bai family has two or three Divine Core Realm cultivators, this mayor will just be a puppet ruler! Also, if I killed Yang Cangqiong, would the Lingwu family even remember a small town like Baiyang Town?*

It's good that you guys know of the Ascension Fruit anyway. Come get it if you want. If you die in the Desolate Mountains, how will the Lingwu family know I killed you?

When he thought of this, Bai Sheng's gaze sharpened with hatred. Bai Li stood next to him, smirking maliciously at the Yang patriarch.

Lord Wolf took a little dark-yellow fabric pouch. There was a blood-red rune radiating strange spiritual energy etched on the pouch.

The pupils of those watching constricted. Some spectators even had greedy looks on their faces. "It's the Universe Pouch!"

Yang Qingxuan, who was next to Long Chen, looked equally shaken. When he saw Long Chen's puzzled expression, he explained, "There's a saying 'a seed that can fit a mountain within' that applies to the Universe Pouch. It may look small but it can fit a whole building inside; it's a necessity for traveling warriors! All of the main assets of the Yang family can fit inside that pouch."

Long Chen finally recalled the existence of such an object after Yang Qingxuan's explanation.

Having a Universe Pouch would be so much more convenient while traveling. Long Chen remembered how inconvenient it was lugging around 500 spirit jade pieces the last time.

Everyone eyed the pouch greedily as Lord Wolf announced, “With the appointment of the Yang family as town mayor, these are the gifts of appreciation from the Lingwu family. If the Yang family can rule Baiyang Town with great success, the Lingwu family will reward you further!”

The Lingwu family was known for their generous gifts. Although many people accepted and supported the Yang family as town mayors, they were still jealous of the gifts. When Bai Sheng saw the Yang patriarch receiving a gift that should have belonged to him, he squeezed the wooden armrest on his chair so hard that it broke!

Now that the mayor had been announced and the reward given, Lord Wolf turned to the Yang patriarch and said, “Do your best and you will be rewarded well! I will come to Baiyang Town again in the future.”

When the Yang patriarch saw that Lord Wolf was about to leave, he bade hurriedly, “Farewell, Lord Wolf.”

Surprisingly, Lord Wolf’s gaze turned towards Long Chen and he said, “Follow me.”

Long Chen froze, then followed Lord Wolf to the back of the plaza into a small alley. The spectators stared stupidly at Long Chen, wondering what Lord Wolf wanted. *Did Lord Wolf want to bring him back to Yuanling City for further training after seeing how talented he was?* That was what most people thought.

Even the Yang patriarch thought the same. However, he was happy at the thought that Long Chen could get even better training.

Bai Sheng and Bai Li both looked at each other and frowned. “Second Brother, do you think Lord Wolf is going to take him away?”

Bai Li smirked and mocked him, “You’re thinking too much. A measly Seventh Draconic Stage is nothing in Yuanling City. There are many people his age who are at the Eighth or Ninth Draconic Stage there. Plus, Lord Wolf himself is a super genius in the Lingwu family. To Lord Wolf, Long Chen’s just a clown.”

After hearing Bai Li’s words, Bai Sheng sighed in relief. But he was still extremely bitter when he thought about how Lord Wolf had rewarded Yang Cangqiong and named him the mayor of Baiyang Town.

Since Lord Wolf hadn’t given the cue for them to leave, no one dared to move, and they all waited awkwardly.

When Lord Wolf reached the alley, he finally took off his hood to reveal his beautifully delicate face. As soon as the hood was off, his feigned sternness and solemnness evaporated instantly and instead, he radiated an aura of youthfulness.

Long Chen struggled with his reaction to this abrupt change and his imagination ran wild. Now that he was more familiar with Lord Wolf, he didn’t hold back and joked, “Lord Wolf, may I ask why you brought a lowly peasant like me here? You haven’t fallen in love with me, have you?”

Lord Wolf’s face froze and he laughed wryly, “Have you always been this unserious? Don’t call me ‘Lord Wolf.’ Everyone’s called me that for the past few days and it’s just been so awkward for me. I’m Mo Xiaolang. You can call me Xiaolang.”

Mo Xiaolang?

Long Chen repeated the name back to himself and felt a hundred times closer to Lord Wolf. Long Chen regarded the teenager for a while, then noticed that Xiaolang was also staring at himself and asked, "Why are you looking at me like that?"

Mo Xiaolang replied shyly, "I saw that you've become a Beast Warrior. I'm a little surprised you received the technique to cultivate the Beast Soul in a small place like Baiyang Town. However, this is your secret and I won't press further. You're very talented, rising from the Second to Seventh Draconic Stage in just over a month. That's why I wanted to ask if you're willing to come to the Lingwu family with me. I think your talents will be nurtured better there."

Long Chen knew that Mo Xiaolang valued his talents, and he had been expecting Mo Xiaolang's proposal.

Long Chen truly wanted to venture to better places to train but since there were unresolved matters in Baiyang Town so he could only apologize, "I'm grateful that you're treating me so well but I still have matters to attend to in Baiyang Town so ..."

Mo Xiaolang pursed his lips and asked, "Is it because of the Ascension Fruit? It's unfortunate that I need to rush back to Yuanling City to attend to urgent matters or I would've stayed to get you the fruit."

Long Chen was stunned. The teenager was treating him too well. Was all of this because he once rescued a child or was this a person with ... strange preferences?

Goosebumps instantly rose on his skin, and he looked at Mo Xiaolang in a different manner.

Mo Xiaolang was baffled by Long Chen's sudden change in expression. "Are you afraid I'll steal your Ascension Fruit? The fruits are useless to me at this point so you don't have to worry about it. But if you want to get the fruit first, you can always head to Yuanling City later. That fruit will indeed help you greatly." When Long Chen met the teenager's clear and pure eyes, he knew his mind was just too perverted.

In response to Mo Xiaolang's kindness, Long Chen replied hurriedly, "I'll likely come to Yuanling City if I can resolve the matters in Baiyang Town."

Mo Xiaolang nodded, "That's good too." But then he frowned and said, "The two old men from the Bai family are strong enough that it would be inconvenient for me to harm them. You must be careful. Do your best to attain at least the Human Core Realm before coming to Yuanling City, it'll be much better for you."

To Long Chen's surprise, Mo Xiaolang took out another Universe Pouch and said, "Consider this a small gift from me. It's more convenient if you take this along when you travel."

Long Chen was extremely touched by the teenager's sincerity and the concern that accompanied his words.

Long Chen took the Universe Pouch and looked at Mo Xiaolang sincerely. "You've already given me so much. I wouldn't be here today if you hadn't given me the Constellation Body. Xiao Lang, thank you so much."

Mo Xiaolang grinned shyly and replied, "That was a long time ago to me. You did right by it, utilizing it to its full potential. Alright, I'll head back to Yuanling City first then. There's my seal on the Universe Pouch. If you bring this to the Lingwu family, they'll take you to me."

Long Chen nodded.

Mo Xiaolang looked at him for a while. "I don't know your name yet."

Long Chen froze and said, "I'm Long Chen."

"Why is your surname Long if you're from the Yang family?"

"... My mother's from the Yang family. My father's surname is Long."

Mo Xiaolang nodded. "I see."

Long Chen was internally struggling. Why was Mo Xiaolang so nice to him? Seeing as Mo Xiaolang was about to go, he blurted, "You gave me the Constellation Body, then the Universe Pouch. Why are you so nice to me?"

As if he'd expected Long Chen to ask this question, Mo Xiaolang smiled and replied softly, "I don't really know either but sometimes, you remind me of my older brother a lot with your stupid jokes. When we were very young, he used to convince me to get into all sorts of trouble like peeping at the handmaidens in the baths, lying to my father that he had been kidnapped ..."

A dreamy look came on Mo Xiaolang's face as he spoke but he suddenly realized it was a little inappropriate to talk about these things and smiled awkwardly.

I see ...

Long Chen grinned. "You're so powerful; your older brother's probably very powerful too?"

Mo Xiaolang's face darkened and his eyes narrowed with hatred. He clenched his fist and shook his head. "He used to be better than me. But he's dead, they're all dead ..."

Long Chen froze. The sudden pain in Mo Xiaolang's eyes reminded Long Chen of himself when Long Qinglan passed away. Biting his lip, Long Chen sighed and said, "I'm sorry for bringing that up."

"It's fine, I've been useless; I still haven't been able to avenge them till this day.

Alright, I really need to head back to Yuanling City. Remember to come visit!"

"Definitely!"

As he watched Mo Xiaolang leave, Long Chen suddenly recalled the Yang patriarch's words. *But I'll give you a warning, kid, if you make a good friend when you're out there on your own, you must know his heart well. You must know whether his heart is filled with poison or passion ...*

Long Chen grinned. "I'm filled with passion. What about you, Xiaolang?"

Chapter 46 - Illusory Glass Sword

The Yang patriarch looked disappointed when Long Chen reappeared. Perhaps Lord Wolf wasn't going to reward Long Chen after all.

The Bai family sighed in relief. If Long Chen had followed Lord Wolf to Yuanling City and they killed the Yang family, they'd have to worry about a much-improved Long Chen returning for revenge. "The Lingwu family didn't take him in despite his talents. You can see how high their standards are!"

The Yang patriarch had already reunited with his family. Now that he was the mayor of Baiyang Town, all the powerful people of the town congregated with him. The Bai family, on the other hand, was all alone. "Chen'er, where's Lord Wolf?"

"He has returned to Yuanling City."

When they heard that Lord Wolf had left, everyone congratulated the Yang patriarch once again and excused themselves.

The spectators started to leave the plaza but the Bai family approached the Yang family instead. Leading them were Bai Sheng and Bai Li, whose stern glares were fixed on the Yang patriarch and Long Chen. Their eyes were filled with fury and reluctance to surrender.

Based on their hostile demeanor, they were clearly there to cause trouble.

As the two approached, Long Chen could sense the strength of two Ninth Draconic Stage warriors.

The Bai family stopped when they were still some distance away from the Yang Residence.

Bai Sheng's and Bai Li's solemn gazes met the Yang patriarch's own. He was not afraid even though they had two masters on their side.

Bai Sheng snickered. "Yang family? Mayor? In your dreams."

The Yang patriarch couldn't care less about engaging in conversation. But Long Chen despised the two old men and smirked, "You were just two dogs sitting on your tails with Lord Wolf around. And when he's gone, you're out to bite?"

The people around them burst into laughter because Long Chen's description of their behavior was too accurate. The Bai masters' faces darkened in response to being humiliated.

They both looked at each other. Then, Bai Li looked at Long Chen and said, "You think you're so smart but you don't know what true power looks like. Lord Wolf didn't take you in; that's just unfortunate for you. Eight days. You have only eight days left to live."

He smirked coldly when he said "eight."

Long Chen knew he was talking about their conflict over the Ascension Fruit.

However, he pretended to be confused and said, "I don't know what the dog's saying. I'm a human, I can't understand dog language."

Bai Li raged but Bai Sheng pulled him back and reminded him in a low voice, "Second Brother, the kid's very cunning, and arguing will just make us angrier. The entire Yang family will die very soon, why should we argue now?"

Bai Li sneered coldly and said, "You're right. We'll let them be happy for a few days, then ..."

"Right. Second Brother, are your friends from the Blood Saints reliable? With his ability, it's difficult for us to destroy them and if ..."

“Big Brother, don’t worry. My friend is reliable. He has attained the Human Core Realm so it doesn’t matter if it’s Yang Cangqiong or the so-called prodigy, they’re clowns to him.”

Bai Sheng stared coldly at the Yang patriarch and Long Chen. When he thought about how they both would be dead soon, he grinned to himself. *You guys enjoy while you can. When the time comes, and you watch your family members die one by one, you’ll regret being born into this world.*

The crowd was nervous when they realized the two families were about to break into a fight but then they started laughing when they saw the Bai family slipping away after just a few words. The Bai people were too cowardly.

Only Long Chen’s brows remained deeply furrowed. He had a feeling that the fight over the Ascension Fruit was going to be furious. One wrong move and the entire Yang family would be in mortal danger!

Two months ago, Long Chen wouldn’t have cared if anything happened to the Yang family but now he had people he wanted to protect. The life and death of this family were now closely tied to his own life. *Therefore ... the whole Bai family must die for me to live in peace.*

.....

Back at the Yang Residence, the patriarch called everyone together once again to talk about the administrative roles of the family and also the rewards they had received.

The Yang patriarch only kept Yang Qingxuan, Yang Xueqing, Yang Yuntian, Yang Wu and Long Chen in the room. He took out the Universe Pouch and said, “I’ve looked through the rewards from the Lingwu family. They gave us 20,000 spirit jades and three divine jades. There’s also one Advanced Yellow-tier spirit sword and an Advanced Yellow-tier sword technique.” The patriarch was clearly excited as he spoke.

Twenty thousand spirit jades alone was almost the equivalent of the Yang family’s entire wealth. As for the three divine jades, each of them was made out of countless spirit jades at its core so one divine jade contained the Qi of 10,000 spirit jades. This meant that they had been given approximately spirit jades in 50,000 total.

Usually, only warriors in the Divine Core Realm could use divine jades.

One divine jade could be exchanged for 10,000 spirit jades but 10,000 spirit jades did not guarantee that one could get a divine jade. They were simply much rarer.

With three divine jades in hand, the Yang family’s cultivation would rise quickly. Everyone was overjoyed to hear about them.

When they heard about the Advanced Yellow-tier spirit sword and sword technique, they broke into grins.

The Yang family only possessed one advanced fighting technique, which was the Dragon Seal. Now, the Yang family had doubled its wealth and cultivation. The Advanced Yellow-tier was just icing on the cake.

There were few spirit swords in the entire Baiyang Town, much less one in the Advanced Yellow-tier. Anyone who possessed this sword and used the Advanced Yellow-tier sword techniques would be insanely powerful!

The Yang patriarch took out the sword technique and sword at the same time. The sword looked like it was made of pale green glass. It had an extraordinary aura of sharpness!

A sword like this could cut a hair blown onto its blade. “This sword is called the Illusory Glass Sword!”

The Yang family eyed the Illusory Glass Sword with approval. It contained powerful ripples of energy and it would definitely raise a person’s capabilities in battle!

“And the advanced Yellow tier sword technique is called the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Scripture!

The name alone told them that this was no ordinary technique. It was definitely at least as powerful as the Abyssal Heaven Fingers and Dragon Seal. If paired with the Illusory Glass Sword, the results would be terrifying!

The Yang patriarch looked at everyone and said, “I brought you all together today to decide together who would get the scripture and the Illusory Glass Sword. Naturally, anyone can cultivate the sword technique but there’s only one sword so ... I’m getting busier these days and the Dragon Seal has already taken up my entire life. I need to focus on breaking through to the Divine Core Realm so this sword will go to one of you.”

He then looked at Long Chen and said to them, “Chen’er has helped the Yang family immensely this time. I’ll give this sword to him, what do you all think?”

Everyone was amenable to Long Chen getting the sword. Yang Qingxuan and the others nodded. However, Long Chen said, “Grandfather, the Dragon Seal is enough for me. I’m not planning to take up a sword technique anyway. You can give this to someone else.”

Long Chen already had the Dragon Seal, which was at the same level as the Illusory Glass Sword. Secondly, Ling Xi was the true sword master here. With her, Long Chen had no plans to pick up the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Scripture.

What he needed were higher-level techniques. There were people who needed the sword more than him in the Yang family.

The Yang patriarch heard the determination in Long Chen’s voice and knew that if Long Chen learned the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Scripture, it might not be as powerful as the Dragon Seal anyway. So he nodded and looked at the others. Yang Qingxuan smiled bitterly, “Father, I’m the same as you. The Dragon Seal is enough. It’ll only be a distraction if I study the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Scripture.”

Yang Xueqing nodded too. Only Yang Wu and Yang Yuntian remained. After seeing his siblings express their opinions, Yang Yuntian said, “I haven’t even attained the Eighth Draconic Stage and haven’t mastered the Dragon Seal. I can’t even consider the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Scripture.”

Yang Wu said too, "I'm in a similar situation as Second Uncle. I'll think about it again after I've mastered the Primordial Dragon Seal."

Long Chen then suggested, "Only Lingyue and Lingqing haven't learned the Dragon Seal. They're both at the Sixth Draconic Stage as well. We can let them cultivate the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Scripture first and whoever succeeds first will get the sword. What do you think?"

The Yang family were aware that Long Chen and Lingqing were close, yet he didn't favor Lingqing but rather let the two girls compete for the sword on their own merits. It was a fair fight.

The Yang family nodded. "Then it is decided. As for the spirit jades and divine jades, I will keep them and distribute them according to merit. Chen'er has helped us greatly so I'll give him one divine jade first."

There were naturally no objections.

Long Chen had never seen a divine jade before. He didn't object and took it from the patriarch's palm. A potent wave of earthly Qi rushed over him. He took a gentle inhale and felt energized.

The patriarch smiled and turned to everyone. "Now that we have become the rulers of the town, I need Qingxuan and Yuntian to stay behind to help me deal with the paraphernalia. Everyone else can leave."

Yang Xueqing and Yang Wu nodded, about to leave when Long Chen said suddenly, "Wait."

Everyone looked at him, puzzled. He took a deep breath and asked, "Grandfather, do you know of the Ascension Fruit?"

When he heard the name, the Yang patriarch trembled and asked with great emotion, "You know of one?"

Chapter 47 - Three-Time Pants-Wetter

Long Chen told the family everything about the Ascension Fruit tree. The Yang patriarch first looked pleasantly surprised but when he heard that the Bai family had discovered it, he frowned deeply.

Long Chen didn't tell them about the Blood Saints, worried that it would cause chaos in the Yang family.

The Yang patriarch sighed. "So Bai Sheng wanted to kill the Yang family because of this Ascension Fruit. It makes sense now. People die for money, birds die for food. It has always been like that since the beginning of time."

Then his face turned ice cold. "The Bai family has sown the seeds of hatred among us. If we let them get the Ascension Fruit and Bai Sheng advances into the Human Core realm, the Yang family will be destroyed and die corpseless deaths. I must fight him for this Ascension Fruit!"

Yang Qingxuan nodded. "There are three Ascension Fruits. Even if the Bai family only received one, the Yang family would forever lose its place in Baiyang Town. This battle is unavoidable. The Bai family now has two Ninth Draconic Stage cultivators and two Eighth Draconic Stage cultivators. Meanwhile, our family ..."

Everyone turned to look at Long Chen. The Yang patriarch asked anxiously, "Long Chen, how strong are you now?"

The Bai family had already been one man stronger than the Yang family, and now they had Bai Li. Long Chen was the Yang family's largest variable so they were all very invested in Long Chen's capabilities.

Long Chen thought for a moment then said, "Grandfather, if we do fight, just focus on Bai Sheng. I'll deal with everyone and everything else!"

This meant that he was already strong enough to fight Bai Li. The Yang patriarch sighed in relief and said, "If that's the case, we can say that we're almost equal to our opponent. However, there are many variables in battle. We all must prepare well over these next few days. I won't be able to live in peace until the Bai family is destroyed."

If the Blood Saints appeared, then there wouldn't be any equal strength at all. The scales would tip heavily to one side instead. Long Chen looked at the old man's weathered face and couldn't bear to tell him about it. "It's fine, I'll work harder. If something truly unexpected happens, I'll die before I let the Yang family suffer any casualties!"

Long Chen was lying in bed. "Hey. Still thinking about the fight over the Ascension Fruit?"

Ling Xi flew out of the Ling Xi Sword and looked curiously at Long Chen, who was deep in thought. "There's nothing to think about, really. I'm now at the Seventh Draconic Stage. My body is powerful after the Dragon Soul Transformation, and my Qi is ten times more powerful than usual so I'm not afraid of Bai Li. But if the Blood Saints come—even if they send some random Ninth Draconic Stage guy—the Yang family will be in danger."

Ling Xi stood on his chest, looked at him for a while, then said helplessly, "Look at you. You used to hate your mother so much, but now you're ready to risk your life for her. You're a strange guy. Like I said, is there a mother who doesn't love her child? You were overthinking it."

Long Chen suddenly sat up and said to her, "Go back inside the sword. I'm heading out."

Ling Xi had barely gotten the chance to leave the sword that day so she pouted reluctantly, "Why aren't you cultivating? What are you going out for?"

Long Chen ignored her and walked out of his room. Ling Xi glared at him, but she had no choice and had to return to the sword. "Ling Xi, how much longer will the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom last you?"

When she heard his question, Ling Xi replied bitterly, "I don't know. Probably around ten days I guess."

Long Chen nodded. Now that he was at the Seventh Draconic Stage, he was a peerless presence even without the Dragon Soul Transformation. He exited the Yang Residence and immediately headed towards the Bai estate, careful to stay hidden. Ling Xi panicked, "Hey, why are you going to the Bai family estate?"

"I'm getting things done! You don't need to know, woman!"

Furious, Ling Xi decided to let him do what he wanted.

They arrived at the Bai estate quickly. Long Chen hid in an obscure corner and said, "Xiao Xi, when I enter, you must alert me if any Bai cultivators at the Eighth Draconic Stage are approaching."

"No. I don't care if you die."

"..."

Long Chen spent a long time soothing the little princess to finally make her change her mind and promise to help. Long Chen was privately riddled with guilt and decided he would never be so rude to Ling Xi again.

After he slipped into the Bai estate, he moved cautiously. Ling Xi finally couldn't help herself and asked, "Hey, what are you looking for, anyway?"

"I'm looking for Bai Shidong."

Ling Xi laughed when she recalled the odd man who'd peed himself twice but she didn't know why Long Chen was looking for him. After a while, Ling Xi said suddenly, "Found him. He's alone in that room. He's sleeping soundly."

It was almost noon at this point. Long Chen was impressed that Bai Shidong could still be sleeping at this hour. He followed Ling Xi's instructions and entered Bai Shidong's room. Indeed, Bai Shidong was sleeping soundly and he drooled over half his pillow, his blanket kicked to the ground.

Without a word, Long Chen gripped his neck. Bai Shidong finally woke up after a few vigorous shakes and when he opened his sleepy eyes, he suddenly saw the nightmarish Long Chen choking him. Startled, he wanted to scream but he couldn't make a sound with Long Chen's hands around his neck. "Don't move. Don't make a sound. Or you die."

Bai Shidong was instantly awake, and he didn't dare to move. Tears welled up in his eyes as he looked at Long Chen.

When Long Chen saw his cowardly expression, he raged, "What the fuck are you crying for? I'm going to ask you one question and you'd better answer me or I'll kill you. If you play any games, you'll end up like Bai Shichen and the others!"

When Bai Shichen thought of Bai Shichen's agonized condition, fear crept into his face. Long Chen knew this guy had no courage in him. He couldn't be bothered to waste any more time so he asked, "Tell me. How did you get the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom?"

When he mentioned the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom, Ling Xi finally knew Long Chen's objective. When she realized that Long Chen had risked his life to enter the Bai estate for her, she was extremely touched. "You idiot, why didn't you say so earlier? If you did, I wouldn't be angry ..."

Ling Xi's heart was filled with sweetness.

After hearing Long Chen's question, Bai Shidong rushed to answer, "I'll tell you, I'll tell! The Liang patriarch sold it to me. Liang Cheng. You know him, right?"

Liang Cheng? Long Chen had some recollection of him. He was a patriarch of a small family in Baiyang Town and at the Seventh Draconic Stage.

Now that he had his answer, Long Chen prepared to leave. But if he didn't take any precautions, Bai Shidong would call for help and cause more trouble. He had to knock Bai Shidong out first.

Bai Shidong had thought Long Chen wouldn't touch him but his soul flew out of his body when he saw the sudden fierce glint in Long Chen's eyes. Then Long Chen knocked him out with one punch.

As Long Chen turned to leave, the stench of urine attacked from behind. He felt utter exasperation. "I've met you three times and you've peed three times. I'm flattered by such valuable gifts ..."

Inside the Ling Xi Sword, Ling Xi was giggling nonstop.

They exited the Bai estate quickly, then Long Chen headed for the Liang family home. It was in a corner of Baiyang Town so it took him some time to get there.

The Liang patriarch, Liang Cheng, was a tall, muscular man. He had been present when Long Chen killed Bai Zhanxiong and was deeply shaken by Long Chen's strength. When he saw that Long Chen was looking for him, he panicked and invited Long Chen into his home, warmly welcoming him with some alcohol.

Long Chen did not beat around the bush. "Patriarch Liang, I'm here because of the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom. I heard Bai Shidong bought one from you so may I ask if you still have any more? As for the price, I promise I will not underpay you."

When Long Chen mentioned the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom, the Liang patriarch said bitterly, "I'm so sorry. I only got the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom once and sold it to Bai Shidong. I have no way of getting more."

Long Chen wasn't one to give up easily so he pressed on, "May I ask where you got it from?"

The Liang patriarch saw that Long Chen seemed to desperately need the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom and now that the Yang family was powerful in Baiyang Town, the Liang patriarch naturally also wanted to get closer to them. He said, "In the Desolate Beastlands. I can draw a map to show you the approximate place I got the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom but Young Master Chen, the Desolate Beastlands are very dangerous ..."

Long Chen cut him off. "Just draw the map for me. I'll reward you generously!"

The Liang patriarch nodded and let his second brother entertain Long Chen while he left to prepare a simple map.

Fifteen minutes later, Long Chen walked out of the Liang home with the map in his hand and headed towards the Yang residence. "Hey. There are only a few days left till the Ascension Fruit ripens. The Yang family really needs you now, are you sure you still want to go to the Desolate Beastlands to search for the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom?"

"There's still about eight days till the ripening. I want to take this opportunity to find more soul-nourishing herbs for you as I don't know what's going to happen during the fight for the Ascension Fruit. If I die, at least you have more herbs for you to hold on a little longer ... And you'll have some hope of living on."

When Ling Xi saw how much he cared for her, she started getting choked up. Although she had no physical tears, she sobbed intensely.

Long Chen was dripping with cold sweat and exclaimed, “Hey girl, why are you crying? All I’m saying is that I might die! I haven’t died yet!”

He was heading back home to bid the Yang family farewell. However, Yang Xueqing was not home and the Yang patriarch was busy with his work as a mayor. Long Chen only found Yang Lingqing, who was focused on cultivating the Illusory Seven Killings sword technique.

Long Chen’s arrival startled her. “What are you looking at? Why did you hide it? Unless you’re looking at nudes?” Long Chen looked at her, amused.

Yang Lingqing’s face darkened and took out the Illusory Seven Killings scripture. “Look at it yourself and tell me if it’s a nude picture. Are you even older than I am? You’re not serious at all.”

Long Chen flipped through casually. When he recalled that Lingqing was competing against Lingyue for the Illusory Glass Sword, he was about to give her some guidance but she snatched the scripture away and said, “Don’t give me any pointers. I want to fight Sister Lingyue fair and square. If you help me, it won’t be an honorable victory and it won’t prove that I deserve the sword more than her.”

When he saw her stubborn temper, Long Chen suddenly felt that her personality was similar to his in some ways. “Fine, I won’t. I’m too lazy to teach you anyway. Hey, Lingqing, I’ll be away for a few days. Remember to tell Grandfather and the others when they return. Just say that I will definitely be back for the most important moment.”

Yang Lingqing looked at him, puzzled. “What’s the important moment? Where are you going? Why are you being so mysterious? You aren’t going to the Jade Palace Brothel, are you?”

Chapter 48 – Burning Heaven Mountain Range!

It was Long Chen’s first time entering the Desolate Beastlands from the Desolate Mountains. On his last trip here, he wasn’t sure from which direction he had entered because of Ling Xi’s frantic flying.

Back then, he had only been strong enough to defeat a Fourth Draconic Stage cultivator. Now his capabilities had skyrocketed and after the Dragon Soul Transformation, he could catch up to the Ninth Draconic Stage.

With his strength now, as long as he didn’t encounter any extraordinary beasts like the Moon Devouring Wolf, he would not be in danger.

The strongest demonic beasts in the Desolate Mountains were only at the Category 8 Yellow tier but it was different in the Desolate Beastlands. The beasts were stronger the more deeply one ventured into the area. There was also the possibility of stronger beasts wandering out of the area.

After all, the Moon Devouring Wolf definitely did not belong to the area of the forest Long Chen had been in.

Despite having strength on his side, Long Chen moved extremely cautiously.

The deeper parts of the Desolate Beastlands were shrouded in white, dense mist. There were grey-brown hills and strange withered trees as far as the eye could see. A creepy chill greeted every visitor and the scent of blood wafted through the air. The bones of unknown beasts were scattered around the place, some of them so ancient that they turned to dust at the slightest touch.

Ling Xi was afraid to enter the place again. She had been resting on Long Chen's shoulder but when she saw such a creepy sight, she returned to her sword in a hurry. "Based on the map, the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom is located in the outer ring of the Desolate Beastlands. It's not as deep as the part we were in the last time. It's called the Burning Heaven Mountain Range and if we hurry, it'll only take us half a day at most to arrive."

Now that he'd confirmed his destination and direction and with Ling Xi's powerful senses guiding him, they could avoid stronger beasts or attack weaker beasts. That was why their journey went smoothly.

Half a day passed slowly. "Although the Burning Heaven Mountain Range is considered the outer part of the Desolate Beastlands, it still takes up a huge area. I don't know if there's Dream Lingzhi Mushroom there so we must look carefully."

"If we don't find it, let's go home. The Ascension Fruit ..." said Ling Xi worriedly.

"Hey, we haven't even started looking and you're saying we won't find it. You're so pessimistic."

Although the skies were already dark in the Desolate Beastlands, there was still a contrast between night and day. It would be more dangerous to travel at night since it was harder to see.

Long Chen could see a black patch of hills far away. It was too bad that it was already late and they couldn't continue traveling. "Whatever. It's going to be hard to spot the Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms even if they're there. We'll search tomorrow when there's light outside."

Ling Xi had been using her senses to survey their surroundings, which depleted her soul's energy. Therefore, she was also exhausted and heaved a sigh of relief when Long Chen said they could rest.

"There are many caves used by beasts as nesting spots in the Desolate Beastlands. I need to find one, and kill the beasts inside. It'll be safer that way."

Long Chen started searching for nests. Since it was a mountainous region, caves were easy to find. When he found one, he killed a few of the Category 5 and 6 Yellow-tier beasts inside, cleaned up, and started a fire to cook food.

At this point, Ling Xi was already sound asleep.

When he just started the fire, there was a rustling sound outside and Long Chen stood up immediately. Two muscular men felt their way into the cave. When they saw that the person inside was such a young teenager, they froze. One of the men, who was clad in animal skin, sneered maliciously and spoke with a hint of mockery, "You're so young to be coming to the Desolate Beastlands. What a brave boy indeed."

The other man was thin and scholarly. He regarded Long Chen for a while, then grinned at his partner. "I think he's already at the Seventh Draconic Stage. If only he wasn't so stupid, he would've become a prominent figure one day. It's too bad ..."

Neither of them looked at Long Chen and acted as if he weren't there. They walked casually into the cave and sat next to the fire that Long Chen started.

Long Chen eyed both of them closely, putting on a fearful expression on his face. These two men must've noticed Long Chen's presence and entered to check if Long Chen was a threat to them. And when they saw that he was only at the Seventh Draconic Stage, they relaxed completely and decided to stay in the cave.

These two are merely at the Eighth Draconic Stage, neither is a match for me. But it's obvious that they come to the Desolate Beastlands often and must be quite familiar with the place. It would be best if I could learn a bit more about the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom from them. These two aren't Bai Shidong so violence might not make them comply. Since they're underestimating me now, I think pretending to be a kiss-ass will work ...

Long Chen quickly put on an ingratiating expression and sashayed over to the two men, speaking with full reverence, "I'm Long Chen, nice to meet you two big brothers. I can tell that you're both very powerful and I'm so in awe of you. My karma has led me to meet you two in the Desolate Beastlands, and I'm extremely honored. May I know your names?"

The two men had initially thought Long Chen was one of those arrogant young masters who looked down on others just because they had gained a small achievement. Yet, Long Chen was being as humble as a servant and they weren't the kind to kill someone who treated them well. If Long Chen had been angry when they took over the cave, they would've killed him but they suddenly weren't so sure of what to do when Long Chen welcomed them with smiles.

They looked at the admiration in Long Chen's eyes and then at each other. The tall muscular man said flatly, "My name is Chen Xiongzhou and this is Feng Mingyang. We're from Yuanling City."

So they're from Yuanling City! Long Chen had always revered Yuanling City. This meant he could also learn something about Yuanling City. "Ah, so you're Brother Chen and Brother Feng! Looking at you two, I know you must've explored the Desolate Beastlands for a long time already. I'm sincerely in awe that you can stay so long in a place like this. I've always liked exploring all my life so, I challenged myself to come to the Desolate Beastlands. I didn't know how dangerous it would be; if I hadn't met you two, I don't know how I would have survived tonight."

Long Chen was expressive, and he lathered on a thick layer of sincerity with a dash of flattery. The two men immediately felt respected and their contemptuous expressions relaxed slightly.

"You know, I think you're just looking for death coming to the Desolate Beastlands at your age and cultivation level."

After Chen Xiongzhou finished, Feng Mingyang stroked his beard and scolded Long Chen like an old man, "You're a smart one, kid. But smarts isn't enough to survive in this world. If you hadn't met us—a young kid like you sitting alone here, anyone else would've robbed and killed you!" Long Chen nodded hurriedly, openly cursing himself for being stupid, saying if he hadn't met these two kind men, he would've died in this desolate place!

Long Chen was aware that these two were clearly there to kill him. If it weren't for his quick acting, they would've attacked already.

Long Chen continued to shower them with compliments. After about an hour, the two men were completely at ease from the flattery. All they thought was that Long Chen was an obedient kid who knew how to respect his elders. "Right, Brother Long Chen, did you stop here because you want to enter the Burning Heaven Mountain Range?"

Long Chen nodded. “Yes.”

Feng Mingyang nodded and said, “I didn’t expect you to notice the abnormalities in Burning Heaven too. Brother Chen and I have also been observing them outside the Burning Heaven Mountain Range for a few days now. The temperature has risen so high; there’s something strange going on indeed. Neither of us dared to enter recklessly and you’re already here to investigate despite being at the Seventh Draconic Stage. You’re a bit too brave.”

Long Chen froze, then smiled bitterly after a long pause. “To be honest, I haven’t noticed anything strange since entering the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. I’m actually here looking for the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom. I wonder if you two know if there’s Dream Lingzhi Mushroom in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range?”

When the two men realized that Long Chen hadn’t known about the strange phenomenon and they had accidentally revealed more information to him, they grew slightly frustrated. But then they recalled that Long Chen was only at the Seventh Draconic Stage and even if there were any treasures in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range, Long Chen wouldn’t be able to get them. They relaxed with that thought.

These two men are clearly hunting for treasure in Burning Heaven Valley. When they saw a stranger like me, naturally they were cautious and wanted to kill me ...

Long Chen’s objective was obtaining the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom so to prevent further misunderstandings, he quickly told them his objective. When Feng Mingyang heard about the mushroom, he nodded, “The Burning Heaven Mountain Range indeed produces the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom and we’ve gone there to collect them before. We do know the approximate locations where you might find them ...”

Long Chen was ecstatic. Acting like a kiss-ass worked! He said hurriedly, “Is it possible for you two to bring me to the place?”

The two men looked at each other. They knew about the strange phenomenon in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range but Long Chen was a surprise. They had planned to kill Long Chen to prevent any unexpected events but when they saw that Long Chen was so young, they guessed he had a powerful family, and they didn’t dare act recklessly. After discovering that Long Chen hadn’t known about the strange phenomenon and feeling comforted by his flattery, they said, “Sure. We want to investigate tomorrow; I don’t think it’ll be a problem to bring you. But the Burning Heaven Mountain Range is a dangerous place. Once you find the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom, you must leave quickly or you’ll be risking your life here!”

Long Chen heard the implied threat but pretended not to. He thanked them gratefully, “Thank you so much! If I find the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom, I will definitely return the favor greatly.”

Long Chen knew what these two were thinking. He was a sly fellow himself after mixing around in the streets all his life. “Since you’re from Yuanling City, could you tell me about the Lingwu family?”

Feng Mingyang saw that there was still a long time until daylight and he had nothing to do so he replied, “Do you also want to enter the Lingwu family? With your age and capabilities, you’ll have a chance in a few years’ time when you enter the Ninth Draconic Stage.”

“Do you both want to enter the Lingwu family too?”

Chen Xiongzhou nodded but sighed. “You must pass an examination if you want to enter the Lingwu family. One of the requirements is that you must be thirty years old or under, yet you must possess the cultivation of at least the Ninth Draconic Stage. Both of us are turning thirty so this will be our last chance. If we still can’t reach the Ninth Draconic Stage, we won’t be eligible anymore.”

Long Chen was shocked. In Baiyang Town, you were considered the ultimate master if you were at the Ninth Draconic Stage. But this was the bare minimum to enter the Lingwu family, in addition to their age limit of thirty. The gap between his town and Yuanling City was huge.

When Chen Xiongzhou saw Long Chen’s shocked expression, he said, “I’m guessing you haven’t been to Yuanling City, have you? You won’t be able to imagine how big Yuanling City is. It’s practically a small country on its own with a radius of 250 kilometers. It’s around 500 kilometers from the east end to the west end of the city. There are two smaller cities in Yuanling City which each cover a fifth of Yuanling City. One of them is the Lingwu family’s base, Lingwu City!

“There are about 20,000 recognized members of the Lingwu family and all of them are above the Ninth Draconic Stage. The family is divided into the inner and outer family. When people like us pass the examination, we can only enter the outer family while the true masters of the Lingwu family are all inner family members who are part of the blood lineage extending a thousand years back. In fact, that inner family is the true Lingwu family and people like us are just mercenaries. But even being a mercenary is a proud status to have.”

The two men were filled with admiration when they talked about the Lingwu family.

Long Chen was also deeply in awe. *Twenty thousand people ... All of them above the Ninth Draconic Stage? I can’t believe the Lingwu family is this huge. Yuanling City is just a county city in Cangyang Kingdom but it’s already gigantic. Then how big is the Ten Thousand Nations Territory that Father and Ling Xi speak of and the Dragon Continent?*

Long Chen felt helpless when he thought about the vastness of the world.

He suddenly thought about Xiaolang, who was also in the Lingwu family. *I wonder if he’s part of the inner or outer family ... Based on his talents, he should be an inner family member.*

Then Chen Xiongzhou spoke in a low voice, “My family will get the Lingwu family’s protection only if I become part of their outer family. This isn’t the kind of protection a mayor provides but true protection. They’ll send masters to clean up every possible enemy I have! If I perform well, the sky’s the limit!”

Long Chen committed his words to memory.

The helplessness within him disappeared. When he thought about the dragon pendant and the mysterious Inherited Blood Essence, he was filled with confidence. *If that blood essence truly belongs to the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, what’s there for me to be afraid of? That’s literally one of the Ten Ancient Dragon Ancestors ...*”

Chapter 49 - Purple Illusory Rat

“Although we both know the approximate area where the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom is usually found, the Desolate Mountains is a vast area and the Burning Heaven

Mountain Range is also huge. Even if we know that it's there, we might not be able to find the mushroom immediately," Feng Mingyang, who was walking in front, suddenly turned to Long Chen.

The muscular Chen Xiongzhou also turned and said, "But we are planning to explore the Burning Heaven Mountain Range today so we can take you along with us. There are countless dangers there and it'll be too dangerous for you to search alone. It's best if you follow us closely."

Long Chen quickly nodded. "Both of you are extraordinarily talented. It's my honor to be able to enter Burning Heaven Mountain Range with you."

Long Chen knew what they were thinking. They didn't want to kill Long Chen, but if Long Chen went alone to search for the mushroom, he might get lucky and find the treasure they were looking for in the Burning Heaven Mountain Range. It was best to keep Long Chen with them and quickly find the Dream Mushroom before sending him off.

"Long Chen, these two guys are so nice to you," said Ling Xi excitedly, not able to read between the lines. Long Chen was going to get her the soul-nourishing herb she needed after all.

You silly woman, you don't know anything, cursed Long Chen privately. Then, he followed the two men into the Burning Heaven Mountain Range, which was covered in what looked like coal.

The ground and rocks covering the Burning Heaven Mountain Range were completely black and as hard as iron pieces. Long Chen was surprised that the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom could grow in a place like this.

As they approached the Mountain Range, Long Chen sensed that the temperature was indeed high. When he stepped into the area, he realized it was hotter than a summer day in Baiyang Town. A regular person probably would die not long after arriving.

"Based on what we remember, there should be Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms over there. We'll head there first." The three of them walked carefully. Although Chen Xiongzhou and Feng Mingyang said they were looking for the mushroom, most of their attention was on the peculiar phenomenon. Feng Mingyang picked up some black soil and sniffed. He frowned and said, "There's a burnt smell in the soil. Although we call it 'Burning Heaven Mountain Range,' there's no fire here. So where did the burning smell come from?"

Chen Xiongzhou was equally puzzled.

They couldn't figure it out so they continued to trek forward. It was more important to get rid of their burden, Long Chen, first.

Long Chen also hoped to be done quickly. He needed to rush back to Baiyang Town after getting the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom.

Almost half the day had gone by. They encountered a Category 7 Yellow-tier demonic beast along the way but Chen Xiongzhou killed it easily. After Long Chen saw him do it, he realized that people

from big cities had great hidden strength. Chen Xiongzhou had used an advanced Yellow-tier combat technique, which was powerful!

“In the past, many people found Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms in this area so let’s start searching here. Do your best to keep the other two within sight so we can come to each other’s rescue if anything happens. Long Chen, you’re still young and you’re inexperienced in combat. You don’t know how dangerous the Desolate Beastlands can be. If you encounter danger, just shout loudly.”

The three of them started searching. However, Long Chen could tell that the others were mostly investigating the Burning Heaven Mountain Range.

He didn’t have high hopes for them to help. “Hurry, hurry! I want more Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms!” Ling Xi pushed him on.

But treasures were rare after all. Usually, people got it through cunning or luck. Although there were indeed Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms in this area, they were extremely difficult to find.

The three of them trekked towards the mountainous area but after four days, they still didn’t find anything. By this point, Long Chen was deeply anxious.

He would need to rush home in half a day. Getting the Ascension Fruit was extremely important to the Yang family and Long Chen was their main fighter. Without him, the Yang family would lose badly. At this moment, he should’ve been guarding the Yang residence. Heading out to search for the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom for Ling Xi was already taking a huge risk. Five days had passed and it would take one more day to get home. They were very close to the ripening of the fruit.

All Ling Xi could do was comfort him. “Hey, I’m really not afraid of death. It’s about time anyway. I’m happy to have lived this long.”

Long Chen didn’t reply and continued searching among the black hills.

With her powerful senses, she would be the first to notice any Dream Lingzhi Mushroom present.

Chen Xiongzhou and Feng Mingyang looked at the teenager searching far away to the left of them, then looked at each other. Feng Mingyang said, “It’s been so long. I thought we’d find the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom easily and send him away but I didn’t expect it to take this long ...”

Chen Xiongzhou looked at the black soil and said, “The Burning Heaven Mountain Range’s temperature has gotten higher these few days. I have a feeling that something important is going to happen. I guess the treasure’s going to show itself soon. And with Long Chen still here, I’m afraid things aren’t going to go as planned.”

When Feng Mingyang saw a flash of determination in the other person’s eyes, he probed, “Why don’t we end him now? Then we can finally move on in peace. There’s something about Long Chen that makes me very uncomfortable.”

Chen Xiongzhou looked at Long Chen and his eyes flashed with violence. Finally, he nodded. “Do you want me to do it, or you?”

Feng Mingyang was about to say “I’ll do it” but suddenly, he saw a faint flickering purple glow and pursed his lips. “Whatever, I see the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom. Let’s send him off.”

They rushed over and indeed there was a Dream Lingzhi Mushroom growing in a crack beneath a boulder. “Long Chen, you don’t realize that this Dream Lingzhi Mushroom just saved your life.”

Long Chen was still searching when Ling Xi suddenly smelled the scent of the mushroom. Long Chen turned excitedly towards the direction she pointed and saw that the two men were holding the mushroom, approaching with smiles. Feng Mingyang said, “Brother Long Chen, we’ve finally found the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom. Seeing as you need it so badly, I’ll give this to you. Come have a drink with me at Yuanling City someday!”

Long Chen took the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom and thanked them even though he didn’t really like the two men. “Thank you Brother Chen and Brother Feng. I will definitely return your kindness in the future!”

Chen Xiongzhou waved and said, “There’s no need for that. Long Chen, do you know how to exit the Burning Heaven Mountain Range?”

He was very obviously shooing Long Chen away and Long Chen understood it well. Although he still had a bit of time to find more mushrooms, it was clear that the two men would not allow it and he said gratefully, “I do. Now that I have the mushroom, I must rush home to deal with some urgent matters. Farewell, my two brothers!” As he spoke, he put away the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom and bade them farewell. *Seeing as you two gave me the mushroom, I’m not going to dwell on this matter. But the Burning Heaven Mountain Range is huge, I can go explore on my own too.*

One Dream Lingzhi Mushroom couldn’t keep Ling Xi alive for long. Long Chen needed as many mushrooms as possible for the girl to live a good life.

Along the way, Long Chen let Ling Xi cultivate the mushroom. It was soon refined and entered her system. Ling Xi emerged from the sword and stared at him pitifully, as if unsatiated, and said wistfully, “I ... I want more.”

Long Chen’s mind ran wild when he heard such an enticing sentence coming from Ling Xi, in addition to her ethereal looks but then he remembered that she was only two centimeters tall.

“We’ll search for half a day more. If we still can’t find any, we’ll have to head back.”

“Alright.”

Long Chen walked in a different direction to avoid meeting the two men but he kept his attention on the ground. “The soil gets hotter when I walk in this direction ...”

Long Chen knew that the two men were investigating the mountain range’s strange phenomenon but he was focused on the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom. Since it felt like he was heading in the right direction, he continued walking. “Hey, hey. Wait a minute ...”

Ling Xi had been flying along with him but she suddenly flew in front of his face and said mysteriously, “There’s something small over there, we must be careful. Listen to my guidance.”

Ling Xi’s discoveries were usually good things like the demonic ginseng that helped Long Chen greatly.

Long Chen held his breath and crept in the direction Ling Xi pointed. She had returned to her sword and he could hear her faint but excited voice. “I think it’s a Purple Illusory Rat. It’s just a small

Category 1 Yellow-tier beast but it's great at illusory magic with spiritual energy stronger than all the other beasts in the Yellow tier. Usually, this powerful spiritual energy is nourished by spiritual medicine ...”

“So this Purple Illusory Rat can lead us to a place with more soul-nourishing medicine?”

Under Ling Xi's guidance, Long Chen soon saw the Purple Illusory Rat. It was a pale purple rodent as large as a kitten. It glowed a faint purple as if it was wrapped in a veil of mist so no one could see its true form clearly. However, it had a bright pair of purple eyes that made it adorable. “Scare it, then follow as it runs home.”

They might find more spiritual herbs. Although Ling Xi was usually ditzy, at least she was smart about this.

When Long Chen approached, the Purple Illusory Rat noticed him and let out a shrill cry. It exploded in a cloud of mist and turned into a ferocious Moon Devouring Wolf!

Chapter 50 – Burning Heaven Ablaze

“A party trick! How dare you pull such a thing in front of me? Long Chen, it's fake!”

Without Ling Xi, the sudden change would have likely scared Long Chen. The Moon Devouring Wolf had traumatized him greatly after all. But now that he knew it was just the small Purple Illusory Rat, he ignored the wolf he was seeing and lunged forward!

When the Purple Illusory Rat saw that Long Chen wasn't even afraid of the Moon Devouring Wolf, it ran off with its tail between its legs. It had only taken a few strides before it returned to its original form, its fat bottom swaying in front of Long Chen as it ran. If Ling Xi hadn't told Long Chen to follow from afar, he would've caught up and kicked the rodent in a breath's time.

Now that they had the Purple Illusory Rat leading them, in just about fifteen minutes, Ling Xi cried excitedly, “Long Chen, Long Chen! I can feel it! It's a strong smell! There are a lot of Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms ahead!”

Long Chen observed his surroundings as he chased after the Purple Illusory Rat. The black valley was slowly changing color. *Whatever, the changes in the valley are none of my business as long as I find the Dream Lingzhi Mushroom!* Ling Xi suddenly gasped and Long Chen looked up. There was a small depression in front of him that looked like a crater made by an asteroid. The rat had slipped into the crater!

Most importantly, there was a strong medicinal fragrance from the deepest part of the crater that almost knocked Long Chen over. He squinted and saw that it was full of Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms that formed a sea of purple. There had to be more than a hundred mushrooms growing there.

If Long Chen was knocked over by the scent, Ling Xi definitely was too. “I ... I want them. Hurry, take them!” Ling Xi stuttered with excitement when she saw so many mushrooms, imagining how much more powerful she would become.

Long Chen had only expected to find a few more mushrooms, and the sheer number of them left him in such shock that he couldn't even move quickly. When Ling Xi reminded him anxiously, he ran like the wind towards the deepest parts of the crater!

The stalks of mushrooms made Long Chen forget about the rising temperature. The air was almost filled with firelight now. A black steel token as large as a palm was vibrating violently in the center of the mushrooms, glowing with firelight!

As he sprinted, Long Chen sensed that something was wrong. He spotted fire suddenly bursting out of the center of the mushroom patch. The flames rose angrily, spreading quickly towards the mushrooms around it and in an instant, the fire swallowed the mushrooms!

Ling Xi paled and cried in a panic, "Long Chen, there's something very strange at the center of the fire. It's very destructive, run!"

But the Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms were right in front of him. Although the fire was quickly approaching, Long Chen didn't want to leave after all the effort of getting there. He clenched his jaw. When he saw that the fire was burning brighter and about to swallow all the mushrooms, he roared and activated the Dragon Soul Transformation!

As he sprinted forward, blood-red dragon scales appeared on his body and within a breath, he transformed!

He now ran ten times faster than before. *Whoosh!* He appeared at the patch of mushrooms but in the next moment, the exploding fire swallowed him! "Long Chen!"

Within the sword, Ling Xi paled instantly.

By the time she'd cried out, Long Chen had already been swallowed by the flames. She was extremely anxious because she didn't know how powerful the fire was.

Long Chen was now cemented deep in her heart because she knew he could have escaped but instead, he had run into the fire despite the danger just to get her the herb she needed to live!

She had never met anyone not part of her family who would sacrifice themselves like that for her. Grief washed through her, and her heart ached when she thought that Long Chen might be injured or dead.

Suddenly, she felt Long Chen move. The flames were fast, and they headed in all directions. Long Chen had just rushed in and crouched down when the flames crashed into him!

But his Dragon Soul Transformation ultimately saved him. Long Chen ran out of the fire quickly and when he finally got out, he realized that he was hurting all over despite being in his transformed state!

Thank goodness his beautiful red scales weren't damaged. However, the tall flames behind him were still chasing after him, so he was forced to run. He shielded the mushrooms tightly with his body and arms as he ran, then stuffed them into the Universe Pouch.

"Long Chen ..."

Ling Xi felt like crying again when she saw Long Chen using his body to protect the five mushrooms he'd snatched. She felt a sense of warmth at being protected and loved like this, even though she had lost her physical body. "Hey, thank you so much ..."

“Whatever. If you get rich next time, just remember to spoil me with your money!”

She'd thought he was adorable but his words exposed his shamelessness once more.

The fire spread in all directions behind him. By the time he escaped out of the crater, it had turned into a sea of fire. He turned to see tall flames burning fiercely and spreading like a plague!

“Ling Xi, I think I saw a steel token just now. The flames exploded from it, I think. Do you know what it is?”

Long Chen had kept the mushrooms safe. Based on Ling Xi's consumption rate, five mushrooms could last her a while. At least, she wasn't on the brink of death and he could focus on other matters.

However, he was still extremely reluctant to leave when he thought about the hundred mushrooms he'd seen.

If he had run faster, he would've gotten more! “I sensed a powerful Yang energy from that part of the crater too. It's very powerful to you, at least. But I couldn't see clearly because of the chaos just now ...”

Ling Xi was also disappointed when she thought about the vast number of mushrooms. If she got all of them, her soul would probably stabilize enough to return to her strength level at the moment of losing her body.

Long Chen had run a long way by now so he could afford to turn to look. He saw the sea of fire spreading across the entire Burning Heaven Valley. Countless demonic beasts were escaping from the fire. It was a gruesome scene. “I wonder what that steel token is to cause such a powerful fire. If this continues, the entire Burning Heaven Valley is going to be filled with fire. Then the flames will literally burn the heavens!”

He had only stopped to turn and look for a few moments but the fire was about to catch up soon. Since he had gotten the Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms, there was no need to stay any longer.

That steel token is obviously a piece of treasure. If only I could control it, I'm sure it'll be extremely useful. It's a pity that the fire's so strong and has already covered a five-kilometer radius. If the fire continues to intensify, the whole Burning Heaven Valley will be on fire and I won't get the steel token. It'll just be a waste of time. Long Chen finally gave up on getting the token. He was frustrated because he should've gotten a lot more mushrooms but his plans had been foiled by a steel token that he also couldn't get.

As they were leaving, Ling Xi suddenly called out, “Look, the fire's retreating!” Long Chen turned and saw that the sky-high flames were starting to retreat. “We still have some time. Long Chen, why don't you go check it out? We might even find out what the steel token is.”

Ling Xi said exactly what was Long Chen's mind. There was still enough time to rush back to the Yang family, so he was not in a hurry and returned to the site.

The sea of fire had shrunk into the crater. Long Chen remained hidden as he headed towards the place where he found the Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms.

The sea of fire had spread over the course of approximately half an hour; it took the same amount of time to shrink too and quickly returned to the location where Long Chen had been. He was extremely anxious.

“Quick, hide. The two men from before are here too.”

Long Chen was still in his transformed state. He knew whom Ling Xi was referring to. How could Chen Xiongzhou and Feng Mingyang not notice such a huge commotion?

They were in Burning Heaven Valley for treasure, and when the sea of fire appeared, they knew it was there.

Long Chen still didn't know if the steel token was dangerous. Now that he had two people to be his lab rats, Long Chen was very pleased. If it turned out to be a real treasure, he would not hesitate to steal it from them.

By the time the fire shrank, they all were already at the edge of the crater. Although Long Chen had noticed them, they hadn't noticed Long Chen. When the fire completely disappeared, the two rushed into the crater immediately!

Long Chen peeked a little and was surprised to see Chen Xiongzhou and Feng Mingyang fighting viciously. Both of them glared at the other with a violent look in their eyes, as if they were willing to kill each other.

Long Chen froze, thinking how the two of them called each other brothers. “Is this treasure that valuable? If Bai Sheng could harm the Yang patriarch, then these two brothers can kill each other over a treasure ...”