

War God 411

Chapter 411 - Taking Things Too Far

Lin Zichen walked away without the two courtesans, and Lin Batian would naturally not take them back. He called for the guards to escort them out of the palace without a single hint of hesitation. He didn't care about them after what they had done to him.

The palace is a merciless place. Long Chen reminded himself to be very careful here.

They soon reached Qianwen Palace, and Lin Batian welcomed Long Chen warmly. He even gave Long Chen two beautiful courtesans, but Long Chen refused them. He then headed to the room Lin Batian had assigned him and started thinking about his next step.

"Brother Chen, we are now in the palace and met Lin Zichen. What should we do now? Kill him directly?" Ling Xi sat on the edge of the table while staring at Long Chen with her glittering eyes.

"No one can kill Lin Zichen here in the palace. Ignoring the Sword Emperor, I don't think I can confidently kill him right now," Long Chen answered with a frown.

"What should we do, then?"

"We need to think of a way to lure Lin Zichen out of the city, the further the better. Or we might not be able to escape the Sword Emperor. Remember, we had to hide ourselves for a long time after killing the Sword Demon."

"Then let me help you think of a plan." Ling Xi loved puzzles and had always fiddled with all types of seals and restrictions. She was smart, so she soon thought of a plan. "Brother Chen, do you still remember what you heard earlier today? About the beasts attacking the city."

Long Chen smiled when he heard her. He knew what she was planning.

He poked her head and praised her. "Xiao Xi, you are smart and this is an excellent plan, but that plan hinges on the Sword Emperor's decision. Let me think of something I can do now ... I need to create some chaos and kill someone first."

"Why?"

"Think about it. Lin Zichen is much stronger than Lin Batian, but the Sword Emperor still forbade him from killing Lin Batian. That means that the Sword Emperor still cares about the Eldest Prince. Remember how many people he sent to chase me down after I killed the Ninth Prince? That means he takes his sons' matters very seriously. He probably doesn't want his sons to be killed right now, but since it's a natural thing to do in order to succeed to the throne, he has no choice but to let it be. Now, what happens if Lin Batian and Lin Zichen are fighting over each other so viciously while there's a crisis to the north of the kingdom?"

“You mean you want them to fight in the palace so the Sword Emperor sends one of them to the north to save Ginger City?”

“Yes. If Lin Batian goes, Lin Zichen will be forced to stay in the palace, but since the leader of the beast stampede is too strong, the Sword Emperor will most likely send Lin Zichen instead. Without a leader, the demonic beasts will become disorganized and it will be much simpler to deal with them. We only need to force Lin Zichen to go to the north, and our objective will be complete.”

It was not a straightforward plan, but it had a high chance of succeeding. All Long Chen needed to do was stoke the fire between the two princes even more.

“Brother Chen, who are you going to kill?”

“You will see.” Long Chen smiled mysteriously and asked her to return to the sword. He then acted immediately. Since the entire palace was in the territory of the Sword Emperor, Long Chen dared not stay for too long. Since Lin Zichen and Lin Batian had a conflict today, this was a good chance to execute his plan.

The First Commander’s living area was close to Qianwen Palace. Long Chen used Sight and soon found where he was.

“Brother Chen, are you going to kill him?” Ling Xi was surprised.

“Yeah. Lin Zichen tried to set up a trap for Lin Batian today with the insults, but the First Commander prevented that from happening. Since Lin Zichen couldn’t make Lin Batian hit him first, he surely hates the First Commander. This is very logical, right? Also, since the wound inflicted by the Imperial Sword Qi is almost indistinguishable from the Demon Emperor Sword Qi, it will be easy to frame him ... Xiao Xi, don’t feel guilty about this. They are all our enemies, including the First Commander. He would’ve killed me if he knew who I was. I killed the six other commanders, so it’s time to send the final one down for them to reunite. There is no vengeance without killing! I still remember the blow inflicted by Ling Zichen clearly!”

Long Chen saw how reluctant Ling Xi was when he talked about killing a stranger, so he explained his reasoning to her calmly. They were now fifty meters away from the room of the First Commander. He had transformed into his dragon form. It was nighttime and the clouds had covered the stars, so the skies were very dim. Long Chen felt like he was moving in complete darkness.

He didn’t even need to use the first stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique. He used Sight to see that the First Commander was cultivating. Long Chen took a deep breath and took out the Demon Emperor Sword.

“Die!” he whispered. Then he became nothing but a shadow. He ran inside from the window and launched the Demon Emperor Sword Qi at point-blank range!

“Who’s there?!” the First Commander shouted in surprise, trying to block the attack with his palm.

But there was nothing he could do. He had underestimated how strong the Demon Emperor Sword Qi was, and it cut through his arm, body, and head.

The energy dispersed and the entire building collapsed.

The sound of rumbling could be heard from far away as dust flew everywhere.

“Done.” Long Chen had done it all in one move, and he didn’t stop to admire his work. While running out, he calculated how long it would take for him to get here from his room. He then hid in a safe place, and when the time was right, he ran back towards where he had killed the First Commander. When he arrived, Lin Batian was already there. The house was nothing but ruins.

All the residents of the palace slowly arrived as well.

“What’s happening?” The Eldest Prince’s face was pale when he saw which house had collapsed. The First Commander was also gone. The First Commander was not only his strongest subordinate, he was also his uncle, so Lin Batian was naturally very worried.

Lin Batian had a bad feeling and immediately ordered the guards, “Quick! Shovel out the dirt and see if he’s in there!” He then saw Long Chen and called him over.

“Your Highness, what happened?” Long Chen put on a confused look.

“I don’t know, but I can’t sense the First Commander’s aura. Did he fight someone and is now chasing them? I don’t think so. How come we only heard the sound of the building collapsing?” The Eldest Prince was confused.

“Impossible. Who would dare to assassinate him in the palace?” Long Chen acted surprised.

“I don’t know, but where did the First Commander go? He can’t be inside, right?” Right when he said that, one of the guards that was digging through the rubble shouted. All of them looked at the guard and saw a head on the ground.

The bottom part of the head was covered in blood. The first thing they noticed were the eyes, which were locked in shock.

It was as if he had died without even knowing who killed him.

As Long Chen expected, Lin Batian lost control the moment he saw the head. Even his eyes were bloodshot.

The head naturally belonged to the First Commander.

“Who would dare to kill my uncle? Who did it?!” Lin Batian shouted in a frenzy and looked at everyone with poison in his eyes before finally looking at Long Chen.

“The First Commander was already dead when I got here. That means the killer is at least ten times stronger than him. Only one person in the Cangyang Kingdom has that kind of strength.” Long Chen analyzed calmly and further instigated the conflict.

Lin Batian’s eyes were in shock when he howled, “Lin Zichen, you took this too far!”

“Your Highness, the Fourth Prince is using his strength to walk all over you! The First Commander shouldn’t have wronged him today!” Long Chen said with a frown.

“Lin Zichen is too ruthless! He always repays his grudges. He tried to trap me today, but my uncle saved me from falling into his trap. He can’t kill me, so he killed my uncle to vent his anger! Impudent bastard! I’m not someone he can walk all over. Brother Yang, do you dare follow me to Xingchen Palace?!” Lin Batian was so clouded by anger and vengeance that he would never think Long Chen was the one behind it.

“Of course! I hear he’s very popular. This is a good time to meet him!”

Chapter 412 - Weird Sword Emperor

Even though it was chaotic, everything was still within Long Chen’s control.

Lin Batian was now truly angered because of Lin Zichen. Even though he was weaker than his younger brother, he still had exact revenge for the First Commander. If he didn't, everyone would spread the news of how he was unwilling to defend his people when they were killed. His reputation would plummet and there would be no way for him to succeed the throne then.

He also had one more pillar to rely on, Long Chen. Long Chen had killed someone at the Eighth River Stage in front of Lin Batian before, so he knew that even if Long Chen could not beat Lin Zichen, he could at least stall for time.

Most of the guards stationed in Qianwen Palace were basically powerless, so Lin Batian took only Long Chen and ran towards Xingchen Palace.

Long Chen followed him. Lin Batian was like a bomb on the cusp of blowing up.

Long Chen smiled cruelly when he thought about the three members of the imperial family he had killed thus far. All three of them were related to Xiaolang’s family getting destroyed.

The Sword Demon was dead, and now Long Chen was preparing to kill Lin Zichen.

Soon, they reached the entrance of Xingchen Palace. Lin Batian ignored the guards and broke the door down before howling, “Lin Zichen you fucking coward. Come out!”

Everyone nearby heard him shouting. Some people even heard it from the remote corners of the palace, much less Lin Zichen. Lin Zichen was frustrated after his failed attempt to make Lin Batian attack him that day, so he ran over the moment he heard the shout. He saw the broken door and scoffed. “What? Did you go insane?”

“Lin Zichen, are you going to pretend you’re innocent? How deplorable. No need to put up an act. Stop being a coward and admit it!”

Lin Zichen looked down on Lin Batian. He was the only one who could’ve killed the First Commander.

“Are you stupid? Are you trying to instigate something here? Lin Batian, I won’t fight back just because you came here wanting to fight me. Fix my door and get out, or you will stay here forever.” Lin Zichen’s eyes were glowing and emitting an aura as sharp as swords.

Not only had Lin Zichen not admitted it, he even spoke more arrogantly than usual. This made Lin Batian’s killing intent grow. “I admit that I’m not as strong as you in terms of cultivation, but you are rubbish compared to me when it comes to everything else! You attacked me first, and in the palace grounds at that! I will call Father over and see how you will explain this.”

Lin Batian marched over to the Sword Emperor’s residence.

“You won’t be leaving that easily after breaking my door without an explanation.” Lin Zichen blocked Lin Batian.

Lin Batian was even angrier. But instead of shouting, he smiled and approached Lin Zichen.

“You killed one of my people and still act arrogant? I’m impressed. But if you keep standing in my way, I will make sure that Father punishes you!”

“Kill your people?” Lin Zichen was taken back. “When did I kill your people?”

“Are you still feigning innocence?!” Lin Batian skirted past him and walked towards the palace.

“Lin Batian, don’t you dare try to run away without an explanation!” Lin Zichen tried to grab Lin Batian.

“Yang Qing!” Lin Batian finally called for Long Chen, and he was not disappointed. Long Chen appeared immediately and stood between Lin Batian and Lin Zichen. Lin Zichen finally had a chance to take a closer look at Lin Batian’s newest subordinate.

“You are probably quite powerful if you’re willing to stop me from grabbing him.” Lin Zichen sized Long Chen up. “But you are nothing but a bug to me. Lin Batian came to my palace, wrecked my door, and even said I killed his people. I’m the fourth prince, so I can’t just overlook this humiliation!”

Lin Zichen shouted, and his Ninth River Stage Qi exploded. He channeled it to his fist and punched Long Chen.

Long Chen was no longer the weakling he once was. He had failed to block Lin Zichen’s attacks in their previous confrontation even with the help of Blood Sacrifice, but now he didn’t even need to

transform. Now that the commotion had grown so large, the Sword Emperor would be here soon, so he expected that he would not need to fight Lin Zichen for long.

Even though it was a simple punch, any attack from a Ninth River Stage cultivator was very strong.

“Tidal Punch!” Long Chen shouted as he attacked back. He did not cower from Lin Zichen’s attack but instead launched himself forward like the tides. His fist rippled like the water and clashed with Lin Zichen’s fist.

Boom!

Lin Zichen remained motionless, while Long Chen was launched back by the impact. He turned around in the air before landing roughly on the ground. He barely managed to gain balance.

Long Chen was not acting at all—he had fought for real. Without transforming, he had more Qi than most Eighth River Stage cultivators, but he didn’t have anywhere near as much as Lin Zichen. Still, he knew he had gotten stronger after taking that attack unscathed. The Tidal Punch was an advanced Earth-tier technique that Zhao Qingyun had given him to maintain his disguise. Long Chen had cultivated it on the way here.

“You’re only at the Eighth River Stage, yet you were not injured by my punch. You are the first person to do that. It seems Lin Batian has a good eye for people. Too bad you chose the wrong owner!” Lin Zichen laughed and didn’t give Long Chen another chance.

“Brother Yang, be careful!” Lin Batian could do nothing as a Seventh River Stage cultivator.

“Stop.” A dignified voice boomed, and Long Chen stopped instinctively. He had heard the voice before—it belonged to the Sword Emperor. The last time he heard it was when the Sword Emperor howled in anger at the Sword Demon’s death.

Long Chen immediately kneeled down in the direction of the voice.

A man walked out of the darkness. He looked similar to Lin Zichen, tall and handsome and around thirty years old. He was exuding an oppressive aura that even made Long Chen lower his head. He had a feeling that all lies would be useless in front of this man.

I must not rouse suspicion! Long Chen had to warn himself multiple times against the oppressive feeling.

Even though the Sword Emperor was at the Heavenly Passage Realm, he gave off a different feeling than Zhao Qingyun. Zhao Qingyun gave off the feeling of a hermit and sage, while the Sword Emperor gave off the feeling of a conqueror. He was just like a sharp sword that penetrated everything. His jet-black eyes, sharp gaze, and cold aura were in line with the Demon Emperor Sword in Long Chen’s Universe Pouch!

The Sword Emperor looked at Long Chen after seeing that he had stopped fighting the Fourth Prince. His cold gaze exuded enough pressure to make Long Chen immobile. This was the first time Long Chen had faced an opponent at the Heavenly Passage Realm.

“A cultivator from the Western Sea Kingdom? Your Tidal Punch is good.” The Sword Emperor nodded slightly before glaring at both Lin Batian and Lin Zichen.

“Father, I did not want to fight him, but he has taken things too far. He snuck into my palace and killed the First Commander ...”

“Bullshit! When did I do that?”

Lin Batian and Lin Zichen were busy defending themselves, but the Sword Emperor was clearly tired of their squabbles. “No need to tell me. Both of you, go back now and stop embarrassing me. I will let both of you know how to succeed to the throne tomorrow. Scram!”

“Yes!” Even Lin Zichen dared not take a deep breath in front of the Sword Emperor. He rolled his eyes at Lin Batian before returning to his palace. Lin Batian was silent and said nothing as he took Long Chen back to his palace. Only the Sword Emperor remained, standing motionlessly.

Why does that man feel familiar? The Sword Emperor frowned.

Back in their residence, Ling Xi quickly asked, “Brother Chen, did our plan work?”

She wasn’t sure.

“It seems that it worked. We will see what the Sword Emperor says tomorrow.” Long Chen sighed in relief. *It seems that it’s not that simple to kill Lin Zichen.* Long Chen felt like he was a normal human facing a tiger when he met the Sword Emperor.

“Brother Chen, I feel like the Sword Emperor is a bit weird ...” Ling Xi suddenly said with uncertainty.

“How so?”

“I got the feeling that his soul was split in half, but I don’t know how it happened or what is going on. You should be able to tell if you look at him with the Soul Swallowing Gaze. But more importantly, his life was not affected even though half of his soul is gone. Rather, it seems his strength was refined ...”

Chapter 413 - Stampede

Long Chen naturally didn’t know what was wrong with the Sword Emperor with his current understanding.

The next day, Long Chen was eager to find out whether his plan had worked or not. He hoped that Lin Zichen would be sent towards the north. Long Chen waited at Qianwen Palace while Lin Batian went to the palace in the morning. Lin Batian ran back in a hurry before long.

“Your Highness, how was it?”

“We are facing a big challenge! We don’t have time, so I will talk to you while we walk. We need to prepare three thousand Ghost Horse Riders!”

Three thousand Ghost Horse Riders? Long Chen was stunned. Did the Sword Emperor make Lin Batian go to the north instead of Lin Zichen? But what about the leader of the beasts that’s rumored to be at the Category Nine Earth-tier? Lin Batian cannot deal with that beast without Lin Zichen.

“Your Highness, did the Emperor ask you to deal with the stampede?” Long Chen probed as they ran.

“No. My father announced to everyone that both me and Lin Zichen will go to Ginger City together. He will send observers to oversee our contribution in suppressing the stampede. The one who contributes the most will succeed the throne. That means I will be fighting Lin Zichen in Ginger City!” Rather than fear, Lin Batian was filled with anticipation.

Long Chen was excited when he heard the news. His plan had worked! After killing the First Commander, he had made Lin Batian and Lin Zichen quarrel with each other, and the Sword Emperor had indeed gotten so annoyed that he sent both of his sons to the north to deal with the stampede. Since no one other than Lin Zichen could kill the leader of the stampede, the Sword Emperor would naturally send him.

Which was why Long Chen was surprised when the Emperor sent Lin Batian as well. But it wouldn’t affect the next part of his plan. All Long Chen needed was to catch Lin Zichen far from the palace.

“Your Highness, don’t worry. If Lin Zichen tries to kill you, I will definitely be able to fight back! I didn’t use my full strength last night.” Long Chen patted his chest with confidence.

“Is that so? Then I will be counting on you! To be fair, Lin Zichen is very difficult to deal with. I don’t think you will be able to defeat him, so Father has ordered him not to attack me in order to maintain fairness. He will send people to oversee his movements, so rather than defending me from him, it’s much more important that you rack up contributions for me.”

Long Chen nodded in understanding.

He was well aware that this was a world where power stood above all. Lin Zichen was inferior to Lin Batian in all aspects, but he was certain that the Sword Emperor would give the throne to Lin Zichen. However, he didn’t want to leave his oldest son in the dust, as it would incur rumors in the city, so he had given Lin Batian a seemingly fair chance.

Once they are there at Ginger City, Lin Zichen could just kill the strongest beast. How could Lin Batian fight back against Lin Zichen’s strength?

“Your Highness, will Lin Zichen depart with us?”

“No. He will depart on his own. But no worries, Father had told me that the beasts up north have stopped advancing for now. We still have some time before they resume their attack. Lin Zichen might be able to reach Ginger City first, but it will be pointless since there are no beasts there yet. Father gave me a fair chance, and I must seize it!”

The two of them quickly reached the barracks. Other than the regular guards and Immortal Guards, the imperial family had another army division on their own. Each of them were almost as strong as an Immortal Guard, and they were geniuses in their own right, especially the Ghost Horse Riders.

Lin Batian was the direct commander of the army, so a group of people came out and kneeled down the moment he entered the barracks. Using a loud and stern voice, Lin Batian ordered, “Call the Eight Generals to get ready to move out! Bring the strongest Ghost Horse Riders, three thousand of them! We shall head to Ginger City in the north!”

“Yes!”

They heeded his orders and soon, the thunderous sound of thousands of hooves hitting the ground came from afar. The elite forces consisting of three thousand Ghost Horse Riders stopped in front of Long Chen.

“Brother Yang, get on the horse!”

Lin Batian was riding one of the largest Ghost Horse while holding the reins to another. Long Chen grabbed the reins, leaped onto the horse, and followed Lin Batian out. The Eight Generals as well as the rest of the troops moved out towards Ginger City!

The citizens made way when they saw the massive army moving out. Only a very high-ranking individual was capable of commanding three thousand Ghost Horse Riders. Lin Batian’s name spread out amongst the crowd when one of them recognized him.

“The man leading them is the Eldest Prince, Lin Batian! The eight people behind him must be the Eight Generals! I’ve heard that two of them are at the Eighth River Stage!”

“But who’s the young man beside the Eldest Prince? He’s only slightly behind him and seems to be even higher ranked than the Eight Generals?”

“Who knows?”

The crowd gossiped amongst themselves as the Ghost Horse Riders thundered out of the city.

They were heading north!

Long Chen looked back at the Eight Generals and saw that they were slightly stronger than the Seven Commanders, especially the two men in front. Both of them were at the Eighth River Stage, and slightly stronger than the First Commander. If he had included the First Commander, the Eldest Prince had three very powerful subordinates. However, Lin Batian thought he had four, the fourth being Long Chen.

“Brother Chen, where do you think Lin Zichen is?” Ling Xi was irritated when she remembered what Lin Zichen had done to them.

“He should be around the capital. He wants to kill Lin Batian, but he can’t do it right now, so he’s probably biding his time. We should do the same. Once he appears in Ginger City, we will kill him immediately!”

Long Chen suddenly sensed something and chuckled. “Xiaolang is following us all the way at the back. There are even two Eighth River Stage elders following us. They must be the Sword Emperor’s confidants. They are here to oversee Lin Zichen and Lin Batian as well as count their contributions.”

“Oh, I see. Since they can’t keep up with Lin Zichen, they are following Lin Batian instead. They will all gather in Ginger City.”

Long Chen nodded. “Everything is going according to plan. Once we are out of the capital and far up north, Lin Zichen will appear. If he does, I will give him a big surprise.”

Lin Zichen had forced Ling Xi to abandon the Profound Jade Lotus and almost took Long Chen’s life. Lin Zichen probably thought Long Chen would keep a low profile, completely unaware that Long Chen was now back and far stronger than before.

The three thousand Ghost Horse Riders kicked up a massive dust cloud as they thundered up north. Time slowly passed as they traveled, and Long Chen determined that they were far enough to kill Lin Zichen, but he never showed himself.

Looks like the Sword Emperor really told Lin Zichen not to touch Lin Batian. Lin Zichen, you are hiding now, but I’m sure you will show up once we are at Ginger City in order to get the contribution points. If you do, I will kill you! Long Chen swore to himself.

Ginger City was much further from the capital than Yuanling City. It was a city at the border of the Cangyang Kingdom, but its strength was roughly the same as Yuanling City, with the strongest cultivator at the Second River Stage. There was no chance they could survive the stampede!

Lin Batian collected a lot of information about the stampede as they traveled. Most of the beasts were at the Black-tier, and there weren’t many Earth-tier beasts, but there was one very special beast. Every time it appeared, it destroyed at least one city and caused innumerable deaths.

“That beast shouldn’t be from the Snowpeak Mountains, but from outside. It must’ve realized that the people here are weaker, so it became very arrogant.”

The three thousand Ghost Horse Riders traveled with very few breaks as they didn’t need as much rest as normal people. They were able to endure the trip because all of them were the elite of elites that were at the Heavenly River Realm at least.

As for the Ghost Horses, their vitality was seemingly unending. They did not need much rest while traveling.

They finally saw a city roughly the size of Yuanling City after traveling for ten days.

Long Chen looked ahead and saw that there were numerous beasts already outside the city walls. Most of them were Black-tier beasts, and there were thousands of them! All of them were waiting outside and howling to show off their strength. There were already numerous corpses of soldiers and cultivators of Ginger City on the ground.

Thankfully, there weren't flying monsters, or the walls would've been useless.

Long Chen heard the sounds of killing and the howling of the beasts. There were corpses, broken limbs, and shattered bones all around them. There was so much blood that it flowed like a river on the ground.

"My goodness. Did the beasts go crazy?" They would've never attacked while risking their life like this unless they had a grudge with the city. If things went on, Ginger City would fall.

The mayor of Ginger City was commanding and directing the other experts on the walls as they looked down at the slaughter. Their hearts wrenched in pain every time they saw someone die.

"We are doing fine right now ... But if that beast appears, Ginger City will definitely fall ..." The mayor sighed.

"Mayor, there seems to be another Earth-tier beast." An elder spotted the beast from afar.

"We need to kill it fast, or the Black-tier beasts will rally by its side. I can't let them do that. I will kill it myself right now. Everyone, stay here and continue giving commands."

"Mayor, let me do it instead. You are the only Third River Stage cultivator in the city, so you need to preserve your strength. Let me handle the Category One Earth-tier beast instead," an elder said with conviction.

When he said that, a thunderous sound came from afar. Everyone was shocked and looked towards the south. They saw a cloud of dust coming towards them on the horizon and what looked like a troop of cavalry clad in black!

Chapter 414 - Dark Moon Tiger

Everyone on the wall was excited when they saw the dense rows of Ghost Horse Riders charging towards them, causing the ground to shake.

"It's the Ghost Horse Riders of the imperial capital! The Sword Emperor is here to save us!" someone shouted, and the rest followed. Those who were wallowing in despair immediately perked up.

Everyone saw Long Chen leading the soldiers, but a massive tiger was in his way. The tiger was at the Earth-tier and was currently surrounded by dozens of cultivators, many of them dead.

"You beast!"

Long Chen quickly approached the tiger and pulled out a sword. The sword was simple, but everyone was astonished when they saw Long Chen decapitate the tiger in a single swing.

The tiger's head flew into the air while the rest of the Ghost Horse Riders plowed into the beasts like a wolf into a herd of sheep. The beasts that had been threatening Ginger City were instantly trampled and slaughtered.

In just a short amount of time, a trail of blood was opened up by the Ghost Horse Riders.

Long Chen led them until they reached the city gate. He then turned around and pulled out a halberd. He had killed dozens of beasts during the charge, grabbing everyone's attention. Even the Ghost Horse Riders listened to him by default.

“Send the Prince into the city! The rest of you, follow me!”

It was just a small skirmish, and Lin Batian was the true leader. All he needed to do was take command; there was no reason for him to be on the battlefield. Long Chen put up an act as a diligent soldier, though he didn't mind exterminating the demonic beasts that had been killing the people of Ginger City.

Lin Batian was very satisfied with Long Chen's performance. Several generals escorted Lin Batian as they entered the city, and the leaders of Ginger City were already waiting to receive them. Long Chen led the other three thousand Ghost Horse Riders to continue their onslaught on the beasts.

“Xiao Xi, I dreamed of becoming a general when I was younger. I think I can fulfill that dream today!” Long Chen chuckled as he waved his halberd around, killing a beast with every blow. More and more warriors were saved by Long Chen, and all of them looked at him with gratitude.

“Brother Chen, why is Lin Zichen not showing his face?” Ling Xi detected nothing around her.

“The leader of the beasts hasn't appeared. He will probably only show himself when the beast appears.” Long Chen somehow had a grasp on Lin Zichen's personality and made a guess.

While Long Chen killed the demonic beasts below, the leaders of Ginger City had already welcomed the Eldest Prince into the city and were watching from the wall. The mayor sighed in admiration when he looked at Long Chen. “Your Majesty, that young general is very strong. To think he killed the beast that was at least at Category Two Earth-tier in just a single blow.”

“He's at the Eighth River Stage. What do you think of that?” Lin Batian smiled with satisfaction. Long Chen made Lin Batian look good. If things went on like this, Lin Zichen would never be able to contribute more.

“The Eighth River Stage?!” The people of Ginger City were surprised. A young man no older than thirty reaching the Eighth River Stage was beyond what they could've imagined. Even their strongest youth was only at the First River Stage.

Most of the Ghost Horse Riders were less than thirty years old, yet most of them were at the Heavenly River Realm. The difference between the capital and a border city was very clear.

The people of Ginger City thought the Eldest Prince was even stronger than Long Chen, so they finally saw a ray of hope.

Under Long Chen's leadership, most of the demonic beasts had been slaughtered and only a few had scattered. Ginger City was saved from the stampede! All of the cultivators cheered for Long

Chen. Under everyone's praising looks, Long Chen led the Ghost Horse Riders into the city before he was quickly summoned by Lin Batian.

"Good job!" Lin Batian was very satisfied.

"There was only a single Earth-tier beast. The rest were weak," Long Chen said with a smile.

The leaders of Ginger City laughed dryly at that.

"This is just a small wave. The elites of the beasts didn't come yet. I heard that someone at the Seventh River Stage came from the capital to deal with the beasts, but he was killed. There are several strong beasts staying close to the leader ..." the mayor quickly explained.

Even a Seventh River Stage cultivator was killed? Looks like the beast is stronger than I thought. Long Chen silently noted the new information.

"Don't worry. If the beasts' leader comes, we have three cultivators at the Eighth River Stage. Do you think we would lose to some beast?" Lin Batian patted the mayor's shoulder happily.

The mayor could only laugh dryly while he looked down at the battlefield with worry. "You've repelled the beasts and killed most of them. I'm certain that the leader will be here soon with some of the stronger beasts for vengeance. Yang City was destroyed just like that ..."

"It will appear soon?" Long Chen and Lin Batian smiled at each other.

After the warm welcome of the mayor, the day soon came to pass. The sun had just risen on the second day when a commotion broke out outside. Screams of fear sounded from afar, and Long Chen knew the leader of the beasts had arrived. Because most of its underlings were killed yesterday, the leader was here to exact revenge.

Long Chen walked out and saw Lin Batian's gloomy face. They soon arrived at the wall and looked down. There was a dense group of beasts just outside the city, and the one in the middle of the horde was particularly large.

"Dark Moon Tiger, a Category Nine Earth-tier beast." Long Chen looked carefully and saw that the beast was much larger than Xiaolang. It had black fur, sharp claws, and cold eyes. The pressure it emitted was similar to that of the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast Long Chen had seen in the Counter Essence Realm.

Now that the Dark Moon Tiger had appeared, Long Chen expected that Lin Zichen would show himself soon. At that point, he wouldn't have to continue his act.

He was currently standing with Lin Batian, the Eight Generals, and the leaders of Ginger City. Looking from the highest point of the wall, they had a direct line of sight on the massive tiger. The mayor's body trembled in fear as he said to the Eldest Prince, "Your Highness ... Can you men deal with it?"

Lin Batian wasn't sure. He turned around to look at Long Chen. "Can you and the other two Eighth River Stage cultivators kill it? Yang Qing, we need to kill it before Lin Zichen does. If you do, I am sure that I will succeed the throne without any problems."

"Don't worry. I think we can deal with the Dark Moon Tiger, but I think Lin Zichen is already here ..." Long Chen was using Sight, and he saw that Lin Zichen was slowly closing in. He assumed that Lin Zichen had been nearby all along, waiting for the beast to appear.

"What? Lin Zichen is here?" Lin Batian cried out in shock and looked towards where Long Chen was looking. He saw a man appear at the left side of the beast horde. The man ran at the Dark Moon Tiger with so much speed that regular people could only see a blur.

"Brother Yang, go and stop him! Kill the Dark Moon Tiger before Lin Zichen arrives! Qian Jiang, Qian He, work with Yang Qing to kill the Dark Moon Tiger! The rest of the generals, lead the Ghost Horse Riders to kill as many beasts as possible!"

"Yes!" The Eight Generals heeded their orders and quickly moved out. The two Eighth River Stage generals looked at Long Chen with no respect before they ran towards the Dark Moon Tiger.

Long Chen, on the other hand, looked at Lin Batian lazily without moving.

"Brother Yang, what are you doing?" Lin Batian shouted.

"You dare shout at me?" Long Chen didn't listen to Lin Batian's orders and even looked at him with disgust, much to the latter's confusion.

Bam!

Long Chen punched the Prince, causing the latter to lay on the ground in pain.

Lin Batian's mind went blank. Everyone else froze as well. They looked at Long Chen and Lin Batian in confusion. No one knew what was happening.

Long Chen stomped on Lin Batian's face. He only needed to use a bit of force to hurt him.

"Yang Qing, what are you doing? Are you trying to die? You dare hit me?" Lin Batian snarled.

"Hit you? I could even kill you!" Long Chen stomped down harder, and Lin Batian couldn't even get up. Long Chen grinded his foot into Lin Batian's face and scraped off his skin.

"You've been ordering me around for the past few days. Let me pay you back for that. Lin Batian, I will show you something good."

Chapter 415 - Supreme Martial Sword

“A show? What are you talking about?” Lin Batian was truly confused by the sudden change in Long Chen’s behavior.

Qian Jiang and Qian He had been running towards the Dark Moon Tiger in order to obtain the credit for killing the beast. All of a sudden, they realized that Long Chen was not following them. Confused, Qian He asked, “Brother, is the kid playing with us? How can we deal with Lin Zichen and the Dark Moon Tiger without him?”

“I knew that the kid had no balls. He must’ve frozen in fear. We might not be able to beat Lin Zichen and the Dark Moon Tiger, but we can wait for both of them to get injured and swoop in.”

Both of them nodded. They ran towards the Dark Moon Tiger without waiting for Long Chen. The other Ghost Horse Riders started killing the regular beasts. There were very few Earth-tier beasts, and the strongest of them was at the Category Seven Earth-tier. There were plenty of Ghost Horse Riders who could deal with beasts of that level. Even if Lin Zichen killed the Dark Moon Tiger, Lin Batian’s contribution would be considerable. It would then be up to the Sword Emperor to decide who the winner was.

Long Chen smiled when he saw the two Eighth River Stage generals running towards the tiger. He then looked at Lin Batian and warned him, “Stay here and don’t do anything stupid, or I will kill you.”

Long Chen moved his foot, and Lin Batian stood up shakily. Lin Batian calmed down and glared at Long Chen. “Yang Qing, why?”

Lin Batian had a shoe print on his face that made him look hilarious.

“Shut up.” Long Chen shot him a look, and Lin Batian took a few steps back. He had sensed the killing intent coming from Long Chen’s eyes. While Long Chen had been discourteous, he had never been so cold. Long Chen’s killing intent made him tremble even though he was at the Seventh River Stage.

He felt like Long Chen was much scarier than before.

Lin Batian chose to keep quiet as he looked at the situation below with Long Chen.

The other people present didn’t know what to do. Lin Batian was quiet, so they chose to keep quiet too. Some of them took a few steps back with uncertainty in their eyes when they looked at Long Chen, but soon, the battle below stole their attention.

The Ghost Horse Riders had clashed with the beasts, and the same thing happened again. They cut through the stampede like a hot knife cutting through butter, slashing and trampling the beasts into a bloody pulp!

Blood sprayed everywhere like rain.

A few minutes later, everyone’s attention turned to a man who had appeared on the far side of the battlefield and the two Eighth River Stage generals. The three of them were going to reach the tiger at the same time.

“Brother Chen, are you not going to fight?” Ling Xi knew that Long Chen hated Lin Zichen with a passion, and it was possible that Xiaolang’s family had been killed by Lin Zichen personally.

“I will wait until he deals with the tiger.”

Lin Zichen was the strongest youth in the Cangyang Kingdom, and Long Chen intended to challenge this legend. Though he wanted to do it in front of an audience, which were the thousands of people of Ginger City.

While there were tens of thousands of beasts, most of them were only at the Black-tier, so the Ghost Horse Riders easily plowed through them. However, the stampede would only end when they killed the Dark Moon Tiger, so all of them were focused on the beast!

The Black Moon Tiger felt a threatening presence coming from Lin Zichen and ignored the other two. It lowered its head and roared at Lin Zichen, its black eyes revealing a cold light.

It had a feeling that Lin Zichen would be its strongest opponent ever since it came here.

Roar!

Its massive body bulked up. Even though it was huge, it did not affect its nimbleness at all. It didn’t even look at the two generals before trampling the other beasts to pounce at Lin Zichen.

“So you are the beast that has been disturbing the peace of my kingdom?” Lin Zichen’s body became a blur and his afterimages littered the battlefield. When he got close to the Dark Moon Tiger, a golden sword appeared in his hand, and he launched a deadly ray of golden Sword Qi at the beast without any hesitation.

Bam!

The Dark Moon Tiger was shocked by the speed of the attack and swiped its claws to defend itself. But the beast underestimated the strength of the Imperial Sword Qi! It lost one of its claws, leaving its paw all bloody.

“Hahaha! Do you think a creature as weak as you can stand up to me? You seek death!” Lin Zichen laughed and taunted at Long Chen’s direction before continuing his attacks on the tiger.

The two generals looked at each other when they realized that Lin Zichen was considerably stronger than the tiger. That meant that their plan to swoop in would most likely be ineffective.

“Should we do something?”

“No. We wait for an opening.” Qian Jiang took a few steps back. His face was pale as he cursed in his heart. He dared not approach Lin Zichen, nor could he retreat. They could only wait here.

Lin Zichen and the Dark Moon Tiger started fighting more seriously, and their battle got intense.

The Imperial Sword Qi was not to be trifled with. Lin Zichen's swift attacks left numerous wounds on the tiger. He was smart and chose not to fight head-to-head; he kited it around while launching ranged attacks. He also dodged the tiger's attacks with a profound movement skill.

This was how Lin Zichen slowly killed the Nine Heavens True Fire Beast. He loved using this tactic against beasts with large bodies and strong attacks. The Dark Moon Tiger was not on his level at all.

Lin Zichen would never lose to anyone beneath the Heavenly Passage Realm.

"You beast, this is my Heaven-tier Body Combat technique, the Divine Nine Palace Step. Your attacks will never land on me," Lin Zichen said out loud to taunt Lin Batian. It was too easy for him to beat the Dark Moon Tiger. Lin Batian, on the other hand, didn't have anyone on his side who could deal with the beast that easily.

Lin Zichen decided to not drag it out any longer. The Dark Moon Tiger panicked and used its strongest move. It smiled and belched out a stream of black gas. The black gas was composed of demonic energy, and its destructive potential was extraordinary!

"Is this the infamous Dark Torrent of the Dark Moon Tiger? It's too weak!" Lin Zichen smiled coldly before he raised the Imperial Sword and slashed down with full force. The attack was swift yet strong, and the Sword Qi split the Dark Torrent apart.

"Imperial Sword Technique, Supreme Martial Sword!"

It was indeed overkill to use a Heaven-tier martial technique on the Dark Moon Tiger. Lin Zichen split its body in half with ease. Afterward, blood sprayed in the air and rained down.

The bloody rain signaled the end of the battle.

All the men and beasts were shocked by the outcome. Everyone atop the city wall was holding their breath as they looked at Lin Zichen's achievement. They didn't know who Lin Zichen was; they simply assumed he was Lin Batian's underling. However, the mayor and the other leaders were confused as to why Long Chen was holding Lin Batian hostage.

But the death of the Dark Moon Tiger was good news to them because the stampede had finally been stopped. This was all they wanted, so the mayor cheered and shouted along with everyone else in Ginger City.

With the death of the Dark Moon Tiger, the smarter beasts ran back to the Snowpeak Mountains. The weaker ones followed suit after seeing the stronger ones run away. Lin Zichen had single-handedly averted the crisis with one swing of his sword.

The Ghost Horse Riders stopped when they saw what was happening. They could neither leave nor praise the Fourth Prince, so they just stood there awkwardly. They knew that the two princes were here to fight for the throne. Now that Lin Zichen had used his strength to push back all of the beasts, it was most likely that he would succeed to the throne.

This meant that the Ghost Horse Riders had chosen the wrong ruler. They didn't know what to do, so they looked at the generals with pleading eyes, but even the generals didn't know what to do.

Lin Zichen put the Dark Moon Tiger's corpse away as well as the Imperial Sword before looking at Lin Batian's direction to taunt him again.

Chapter 416 - It's You

The look in Lin Zichen's eyes made a faint smile creep onto Long Chen's face.

Using the Soul Swallowing Gaze, Long Chen looked around and indeed, the two elders who had followed Lin Batian here were hiding in a patch of trees not far away. The winner of the fight for the throne had already been determined. Lin Batian's face was ashen gray.

Lin Zichen dashed towards Lin Batian and arrived in front of him in an instant. He looked at Lin Batian in amusement and said, "Big Brother, it looks like your soldiers aren't very useful. You have lost. You should be able to accept this defeat, right?"

Lin Batian huffed coldly without saying a word. The most perplexing thing to him was still Long Chen's behavior. Even now, he had no idea what was going on with Long Chen.

Lin Batian's lack of reaction angered Lin Zichen, who had always been the ultimate prodigy since he was young. No matter how much noise Lin Batian made, Lin Zichen had never seen him as an equal. Now that the brat had officially lost to him and was still being stubborn, Lin Zichen felt irritated.

"Whatever. Father said I must not kill you, but ..."

Slap! He slapped Lin Batian's right cheek, which turned red instantly!

Lin Batian was stunned again as he felt the burning pain on his cheek. His eyes turned blood-red. "Lin Zichen, how dare you hit me!"

"Why wouldn't I? It looks like you cannot see reality for what it is. You're trash that has been eliminated. From today onwards, there is no space for you in the Imperial Capital. You're the dog that lost the fight; you'll always be trash. This is reality, Lin Batian!" Lin Zichen said with a cold smirk.

Lin Batian shuddered when he heard those words. It was true that he was not as strong as Lin Zichen, and his war contributions were lesser too. Lin Zichen's words could likely become reality! He could be trash for the rest of his life.

That was when Lin Zichen suddenly saw the footprint on Lin Batian's face, which shocked him. He asked teasingly, "Eh? What's up with the mark on your face?"

"I did that," said Long Chen, standing behind Lin Zichen.

Lin Zichen turned to look at Long Chen in confusion. He had thought it was strange that Long Chen was nowhere to be seen when he fought the Dark Moon Tiger. Though he did not care because he had never taken Long Chen seriously anyway.

Right now, Long Chen's statement attracted all eyes once more.

From their conversation, the people of Ginger City knew that Lin Zichen was a prince, and one that was stronger than Lin Batian. So why was Long Chen here to cause trouble? What was going on?

"You were the one who stepped on his face?" Lin Zichen asked again in disbelief.

"Have you gone deaf? Like I said, I did that," Long Chen answered flatly.

“You’re brave! Now I’m interested. Could you tell me why?” Lin Zichen asked with great interest.

“I will kill the royals one by one, but Lin Batian has never really offended me, so I stepped on him only as a small lesson. You’re next. Lin Zichen, if you’ve got the guts, follow me down there. It’s time to resolve the grudge between us anyway.” Then Long Chen leaped off the building and landed on the battlefield.

Long Chen’s words left Lin Zichen and Lin Batian puzzled.

“Isn’t he a helper you found? What happened?” Lin Zichen asked coldly.

“I don’t know either, but he’s challenging you. Are you brave enough to go?” Lin Batian asked mockingly.

Lin Zichen ignored him and leaped off the wall too. Long Chen was walking ahead slowly, and Lin Zichen caught up while looking at him in confusion.

More than ten thousand citizens of Ginger City, as well as the three thousand Ghost Riders and Lin Batian, watched them walk into the center of the battlefield.

Under the gazes of the large crowd, Long Chen turned around and looked at Lin Zichen, who approached and stood twenty meters away from him.

“You say there’s a grudge between us? Do we know each other?” Lin Zichen really wanted answers.

“Of course there is. Today, only one of us will live,” said Long Chen with a small smile.

“Oh?” Lin Zichen eyed him up and down for a while, then he said, “Whatever. I don’t want to waste time speaking nonsense with you. If you want to fight, hurry up. Don’t pretend to be scary with that cultivation level of yours. You can be as mysterious as you want, but the moment we fight, everything will be revealed.

Long Chen looked in the direction of the two elders sent by the Sword Emperor and said, “You still need to wait a moment.”

Immediately after he spoke, two screams came from that direction, then two black objects were tossed into the air from the forest. A moment later, they were pulverized.

Then an excited wolf’s howl was heard. Everyone watched a black demonic wolf shoot out of the forest and stop far away. It growled once at Long Chen and then sat down. No one saw the tiny girl sitting on the wolf’s ear.

She was Ling Xi.

Long Chen had sent her to get Xiaolang and kill the two hiding elders, who were eventually going to be problems. Killing them first was best as Long Chen could have a true duel to the death with Lin Zichen!

When they saw the Sun Devouring Wolf, Lin Zichen and Lin Batian paled. Lin Zichen recalled someone from a memory and eyed Long Chen once more. However, while his figure was similar, his face was far too different from Long Chen's.

"That beast, why isn't it with Long Chen?" Lin Zichen asked solemnly with furrowed brows.

Long Chen smiled and glared coldly at Lin Zichen. He did not answer the question. Instead, he said, "I came back to take revenge. The Sword Devil in the Counter Essence Realm was only my first kill, and you, Lin Zichen, will be my second!"

"You killed Royal Uncle?! Who the hell are you?!" Lin Zichen was utterly shaken. His face changed from amusement to killing intent.

It didn't matter who Long Chen was. To him, Long Chen was dead!

"Who am I? When you cornered me at the foot of Demon Emperor Mountain, you didn't expect that I, Long Chen, would return one day, right?!" Long Chen laughed maniacally and tore the human skin mask off his face. His face was once again revealed to the world!

Lin Zichen was startled by his words, and he instinctively took a step back when Long Chen tore off his mask. Lin Batian, despite being far away, took many steps back in disbelief!

Who was Long Chen?

Although the First Prince had never met Long Chen personally, Long Chen was very famous. He had become a legendary figure in the Cangyang Kingdom despite not being at a high cultivation level. He was only at the Fourth River Stage when he killed the Sixth River Stage Ninth Prince, and when he fled, he killed the six commanders and annihilated the dwarf family, which was one of the three major clans. In the end, he even escaped from Lin Zichen after enduring his attacks! This person had returned to the Biyang Imperial Capital and killed the Sword Demon, one of the top three masters of the imperial family, taking two Heaven-tier spiritual herbs in the process.

Lin Batian now knew that he had been tricked by Long Chen. He had said that he wanted Heaven-tier spiritual medicine, but they were actually in his hands. All of it was only to trick Lin Batian, but why? Lin Batian didn't know until he squeezed his brain dry thinking of every interaction he had with Long Chen. He finally recalled a questionable event, which was the death of the First Commander. Since Long Chen was powerful enough to kill the Sword Devil, killing the First Commander wouldn't be an issue at all. It was the First Commander's death that had led to him and Lin Zichen coming to Ginger City!

His target must be Lin Zichen. Long Chen is extremely bold, and he laid out such an airtight plan. If he dared to infiltrate the palace just to lure Lin Zichen out, he must be very confident in winning! Lin Batian stumbled several steps back with a pale face as he stared at the teenager! He never would have guessed that a teenager who was younger than Lin Zichen would be this terrifying! Both his strategy and cultivation level were scary!

When he first met Long Chen, he had killed an Eighth River Stage cultivator instantly. With such strength, it wasn't at all surprising that he could withstand Lin Zichen's attack that night in the palace!

Lin Zichen was even more shocked than his brother. Unable to hide the look of astonishment on his face, he eyed Long Chen once more and drew in a sharp breath when he confirmed that it was indeed Long Chen's face. "So, it's you. Long Chen, you're bold! You're very bold! So why did you infiltrate the palace and then reveal yourself here?"

"To lure you here and kill you in a place where the Sword Emperor cannot see you. It's a simple concept; can't you figure it out?" Long Chen huffed.

"No wonder that idiot Lin Batian came to me that night. You were the one behind it. To be honest, I'm quite impressed that you chose to appear in front of me as an Eighth River Stage cultivator. However, since you've decided to make an enemy out of me, things won't turn out well for you." Lin Zichen sneered, licking his lips.

"Today, with ten thousand people as my witnesses, I will kill you. Everyone will see how people who offend me end up, and they will learn who the strongest cultivator of the Cangyang Kingdom's younger generation is!" Long Chen's voice grew louder and louder, until everyone could hear him.

Chapter 417 - Battling Lin Zichen

This was the first time the people of Ginger City had heard Long Chen's name. News of what he had done had not reached them because they were too far from Biyang Imperial Capital. However, he would be forever in their memories from this day onwards, along with the three thousand Ghost Riders and Eight Generals that had stunned them speechless.

The Imperial Capital's Pretorial Guards and Royal Guards were competing factions, but when the six commanders of the Royal Guard died, the Pretorial Guards grieved for their deaths like the fox grieving the rabbit's death[1]. Not only had the legendary Long Chen returned, he had done so in a terrifying style by first sneaking into the Counter Essence Realm, killing the Sword Demon, and stealing Heaven-tier spiritual herbs. Afterwards, he had slipped into the palace and lured Lin Zichen here. How many people in the world would dare to do the same?

The Eight Generals were especially shocked. They all looked at each other.

"Big Brother, what should we do?" one of them asked.

"If Long Chen can kill Lord Sword Demon, then he must be at least as strong as the Fourth Prince. Let's hurry over to the First Prince's side and protect him for now. Initially, I thought the First Prince was going to lose his footing forever, but it looks like there's still hope for him!" said Qian Jiang, the Eighth River Stage general, solemnly.

“How is that possible? The Fourth Prince killed a Category Nine Earth-tier demonic beast so easily just now! Not even ten Long Chens would be his match!” someone said the moment Qian Jiang finished.

“I don’t believe he can win either. The Fourth Prince is a legend! My father says that he’ll reach the Sword Emperor’s level in less than five years!”

“Now is not the time to argue. Let’s go back first, seeing as they haven’t fought yet!” said Qian Jiang hurriedly. There was no time to dawdle.

After the Ghost Riders returned to Ginger City, only Long Chen and Lin Zichen remained on the vast battlefield. Everyone stood on the city wall to watch the fight between the two most talented youths of the Cangyang Kingdom.

This was a duel of the highest level, and Long Chen was facing his most powerful enemy to date. Lin Zichen knew Heaven-tier body combat techniques, wielded the Imperial Sword, and was familiar with the Imperial Sword Combat Technique. This meant his strength was similar to Long Chen’s!

Everyone watched from the edge of their seats!

Their auras intensified quickly. Long Chen was currently at the Eighth River Stage, so his aura was weaker than Lin Zichen’s for now.

“Eighth River Stage... You don’t know how weak you are,” Lin Zichen sneered. The Qi of a Ninth River Stage cultivator erupted from his body, and a blast of energy shot out towards Long Chen. All the soil and dried blood on the ground were blasted away.

Long Chen did not speak. He activated his Dragon Soul Transformation, and the blood-red dragon scales and sharp bony spikes that covered his body made him look like a humanoid combat machine. His aura strengthened continuously, and the surrounding soil exploded. The energy that shot up into the sky was as strong as Lin Zichen’s!

“So much Qi! Have you reached the Ninth River Stage?” Lin Zichen furrowed his brows when he sensed the immense aura coming from Long Chen. However, this did not startle him, because Long Chen’s cultivation level had always been hard to pinpoint, sometimes high and sometimes low. When they previously met in front of Demon Emperor Mountain, Long Chen had displayed strength sufficient to fight Lin Zichen.

“Even though you have as much Qi as me, as a Sword Warrior, I can triple my Qi! Long Chen, your Qi reserve is nothing compared to mine!” Lin Zichen exclaimed, his laughter reaching everyone’s ears.

The spectators didn’t even blink as they listened to the conversation, deeply afraid that they would lose one detail of this historical event.

“Long Chen has about as much Qi as Lin Zichen. Does that mean he has always been at the Ninth River Stage? He’s very good at keeping it hidden! But Lin Zichen is a very talented Sword Warrior, and the Sword Soul within the Imperial Sword allows him to triple his strength. How could Long Chen be a match for him?” To be honest, Lin Batian really hoped Long Chen would kill Lin Zichen so that he could secure the Cangyang Kingdom’s throne.

Of course, that was provided Long Chen did not kill him.

Everyone looked towards Long Chen, wondering how he would respond to Lin Zichen’s remark.

“Are you saying that I have less Qi than you?” Long Chen chuckled coldly, then he raised his arm. “Demon Seed Planting Technique, activate ...” Long Chen activated the second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique, so his Qi skyrocketed and surpassed Lin Zichen to reach four times its original amount. He was now much stronger!

“What?! The second stage of the Demon Seed Planting Technique?!” Lin Zichen was truly shocked now. He had his ways to suppress Long Chen even if he was at the Ninth River Stage, but after Long Chen used the Demon Seed Planting Technique, Lin Zichen was no longer a match for him.

Lin Zichen had never been surpassed by anyone in his life. Now that he was suddenly weaker than Long Chen, it made him very irritated.

“It looks like you’ve received the Demon Seed Planting Technique after entering the Heavenly Demon Palace. Based on your cultivation level, you must be the Heavenly Demon Palace’s number one disciple, right? I heard that the Heavenly Demon Palace has the Demon Emperor Sword, a weapon as strong as my Imperial Sword. I wonder, were you qualified to receive it?” Lin Zichen asked, as if challenging him.

He assumed Long Chen was considered an outsider since he hadn’t spent much time in the Heavenly Demon Palace. It was already impressive that he had received the Demon Seed Planting Technique, but the Demon Emperor Sword was a treasure that was given to the Palace Lord, so there was no chance he could’ve gotten his hands on it.

However, Lin Zichen was dead wrong. After he took the Imperial Sword out his Universe Pouch, a black divine sword that was identical to the Imperial Sword appeared in Long Chen’s hand. He raised the Demon Emperor Sword and pointed it at Lin Zichen with a smirk. “Apologies. You didn’t expect this. I used the Demon Emperor Sword to break the Sword Demon’s Nine Heavens Sword and kill him!”

When the Imperial Sword appeared, it was impressive. But when Long Chen took out the Demon Emperor Sword, the Imperial Sword was no longer the number one divine weapon of the Cangyang Kingdom. Lin Batian and the others could tell that the divine sword in Long Chen’s hand, which was identical in appearance, was as strong as the Imperial Sword too!

Lin Zichen had initially thought that he could kill Long Chen with ease, but when Long Chen pulled out the Demon Emperor Sword, Lin Zichen's eyes grew thick with worry.

Ninth River Stage. Demon Seed Planting Technique. Demon Emperor Sword. All of this signaled that Long Chen had received the highest level of inheritance from the Heavenly Demon Palace to become the first person on his level in history.

Lin Zichen never thought that he would meet such a person. He had always stood on the peak of the mountain. Now, without him noticing, there was someone standing next to him. How could he get used to this?

A strong killing intent rose through Lin Zichen. Putting Long Chen's intent to kill him aside, Long Chen was at a level that made him nervous. If he did not kill Long Chen now, who knew what would happen in a few years' time? He could really be killed then!

Lin Zichen raised the Imperial Sword slowly.

This was the moment everyone had been waiting for. Seeing as they were about to fight, everyone craned their necks to watch. The most nervous person was Lin Batian.

That's impressive! That must be the Heavenly Demon Palace's legendary Demon Emperor Sword in his hand! If I'm right, he's the heir to the Heavenly Demon Palace. This is a duel between the two strongest youths of the Cangyang Kingdom's two strongest factions!

Lin Batian was filled with emotion.

Long Chen had waited a long time for this moment!

In fact, he had entered the Heavenly Demon Palace and cultivated fervently all for this moment! The moment to kill Lin Zichen!

Rumble!

The whole battlefield trembled even though they had just started the fight. Yellow sand flew in the air. The corpses of demonic beasts and cultivators were thrown back in all directions by the strong gust of wind, which howled and whistled through the battlefield.

Clang!

The deafening sound of a collision rang out. After so many years, the two strongest weapons of Cangyang Kingdom clashed for the first time. There was a blinding ray of light, and both Lin Zichen and Long Chen moved backwards. In the next breath, both of them moved in a flash and began utilizing their powerful attacks!

At first, no one could see much, as they could not tell the fighters apart when they looked at the flickering silhouettes moving at high speed. All they could see was a black sword and a golden sword flying across the battlefield!

“Imperial Sword Qi!”

There was a strong *whoosh*, and the attack that Lin Zichen had used against the Dark Moon Tiger shot directly at Long Chen. The Imperial Sword Qi cut a deep ditch through the ground. Everyone's hearts were in their throats when they saw the fierce attack, because Long Chen was exposed and directly in its path.

“Traceless Demon Shadow!”

Long Chen, who was already a blurry silhouette, turned into an invisible shadow. The Imperial Sword Qi did not strike him at all, charging ahead until it dispersed far away. Everyone saw a blurry shadow spinning and charging towards Lin Zichen, and blades of Sword Qi appeared out of thin air. They were as strong as his Imperial Sword Qi, and their target was Lin Zichen!

“Heaven-tier body combat technique, Traceless Demon Shadow?” Lin Zichen was shocked once more. He had a feeling that Long Chen could use Traceless Demon Shadow too, but now he actually had. Plus, when he used it, he seemed as familiar as Lin Zichen was with the Divine Nine Palace Step!

Long Chen had already mastered two of the Heavenly Demon Palace’s Three Great Secret Scriptures. Did he also know the third one?

Lin Zichen’s expression was as dark as it could be!

Chapter 418 - Supreme Demon Sword

The royal family also owned three Heaven-tier techniques, and one of them was Lin Zichen’s Divine Nine Palace Step. The other two were the Imperial Sword Technique that Lin Zichen was currently using, as well as another attack technique. However, it had been destroyed by Long Chen’s Supreme Emperor Sword technique at the Counter Essence Realm.

Since Lin Zichen had cultivated the Imperial Sword Technique, he did not need that attack. Even so, it had taken him five years to master the two Heaven-tier scriptures. He knew that only about a hundred days had passed since Long Chen entered the Heavenly Demon Palace. Had he really mastered the Three Great Secret Scriptures in just a hundred days? How strong was he? Didn’t that mean that Long Chen was far more talented than Lin Zichen?

Lin Zichen was extremely smug about his talent in cultivation, so Long Chen’s performance was a huge blow to him. It was at this moment that he truly felt like Long Chen was the most difficult obstacle in his life! This duel today would definitely be a duel to the death!

Lin Zichen was not the only one who was shocked. Long Chen had been maintaining equal footing since the battle started, so Lin Batian and the others who were more familiar with Long Chen were also surprised. In terms of cultivation, Lin Zichen had always been the ultimate prodigy in the Cangyang Kingdom. Was there now a new expert who was as strong as him?

“Your Highness, do you think it’s possible for Long Chen to kill the Fourth Prince?” Qian Jiang’s voice trembled as he leaned close to Lin Batian’s ear to ask this question.

“I don’t know either. We’ll see. This battle will definitely shake up the whole Cangyang Kingdom. If Father finds out about this, he will probably jump up in shock. Lin Zichen’s talent in cultivation has always been his biggest source of pride!”

A constant stream of voices could be heard above the wall.

Below, Long Chen and Lin Zichen were still fighting intensely. Lin Zichen was indeed a difficult opponent. Long Chen was already in his peak form, but it was still not easy!

“Divine Nine Palace Step!”

Faced with Long Chen’s Demon Emperor Sword Qi, Lin Zichen moved quickly in nine directions. This technique allowed him to move extremely quickly, almost achieving a teleportation effect that even surpassed Traceless Demon Shadow. Traceless Demon Shadow’s objective was to make the user hard to pin down, but the Divine Nine Palace Step’s purpose was to dodge attacks!

Several Demon Emperor Sword Qi blades were released, but none of them struck Lin Zichen!

“Is this the legendary Demon Emperor Sword Qi? Indeed, it’s identical to my Imperial Sword Qi!” Lin Zichen let out a roar and charged at Long Chen. He raised his sword and slashed it down, and a golden blade of Sword Qi flew towards Long Chen’s head!

While moving backwards, Long Chen slashed the Demon Emperor Sword horizontally, so the Demon Emperor Sword Qi and Imperial Sword Qi collided!

Boom!

There was an explosion, and a large crater appeared where the collision took place, throwing dirt in the air. The people on the wall were stunned by the power of their attacks.

This is a true master! The people of Ginger City thought of Long Chen and Lin Zichen as deities!

Yellow sand flew in all directions, and the wind howled hysterically. Swords collided loudly again and again. Long Chen had much more Qi than Lin Zichen, so as the fight progressed, he had the advantage. Everyone was shocked as they watched Lin Zichen get forced backwards consecutively!

“You brat! You’re not going to give up until you die, are you? Today, I, Lin Zichen, will oblige. I’ll show you what a true prodigy is!” When he finished, immense amounts of Qi exploded from his body. Lin Zichen was like a bomb charging right at Long Chen. As he ran, his power increased again, and rays of golden light shot out of the sword he was holding behind him!

A ray of light that was so fast, it was almost invisible shot towards Long Chen!

The shining ray of light flashed past him!

“Imperial Sword Technique, Supreme Martial Sword!” Lin Zichen roared and attacked with all his strength as he launched the same attack he had used to kill the Dark Moon Tiger. The Sword Qi seemed to cover the whole world as it flew towards Long Chen. A deep ditch was left in its wake!

He is indeed the Young Sword Emperor. Even other Ninth River Stage cultivators like the Sword Devil could not have withstood this attack. Even though they’re both at the Ninth River Stage, Lin Zichen is much stronger than the Sword Devil.

Long Chen’s mind was calm. Lin Zichen had used his attack to its maximum potential while Long Chen remained extremely quiet. Everyone watched as he gathered all the Qi in his body while standing in the same spot and waved the Demon Emperor Sword!

“Demon Emperor Sword Technique, Supreme Emperor Sword!” A black blade of Sword Qi as strong as Lin Zichen’s Supreme Martial Sword shot up into the air, emitting a strange, black light. Then it collided with the Supreme Martial Sword. Both of these techniques were very similar in concept, and their cultivation levels were the same. However, Long Chen had more Qi, so the Supreme Martial Sword shattered!

Boom!

More explosions sounded. The sound rippled across the whole crowd. Many of the spectators were left ghostly pale from the vibrations!

“What?!” Lin Zichen was even more shocked. Since Long Chen knew both Traceless Demon Shadow and the Demon Seed Planting Technique, Lin Zichen assumed he hadn’t cultivated the Demon Sword Technique. To his surprise, Long Chen had not only mastered it, but his attack was stronger than his own!

“How is that possible? How is it possible that you’re this strong?!” Lin Zichen roared in a manic rage. The Supreme Emperor Sword technique had shattered his attack instantly! The remaining Sword Qi threw yellow sand into the sky and charged towards Lin Zichen. His face turned pale and he hurriedly used the Divine Nine Palace Step to dodge it!

“Long Chen, you’re twisting my arm! Alright, since you’re not holding back, I won’t either!” Lin Zichen was almost pushed to madness by now. He had repeatedly used his most powerful attacks, yet Long Chen had beaten him at every turn!

Lin Zichen almost vomited blood from his frustration!

However, this time, Lin Zichen was not the first to launch an attack. Under everyone’s shocked gazes, Long Chen suddenly moved so quickly that he turned into an illusion. He rushed to a spot twenty meters away from Lin Zichen. His gaze was cold and full of killing intent, and he swung the Demon Emperor Sword!

“Is he using his previous move again?” Lin Batian and the rest were frozen in shock. Their hearts rose up to their throats when they saw that Long Chen was initiating an attack. His previous move was just too terrifying. However, to their surprise, he was not using the same attack as before!

“Unless...?” Lin Zichen’s chest tightened and his pupils dilated. He used the Divine Nine Palace Step urgently to retreat thirty meters back, then he gritted his teeth and Qi erupted from his body once more. He yelled, “That’s impossible! Even I am not sure if I can use that move in a stable manner, so it’s impossible for you!”

As he shouted, he held the Imperial Sword in the same stance as Long Chen. Since both swords came from the same source, their attacks also looked similar.

The Supreme Emperor Sword Technique and the Supreme Martial Sword Technique were both the first attacks of the Demon Emperor Sword and the Imperial Sword.

Their final exchange would involve the most terrifying moves of both swords' techniques. These moves were so powerful, they were close to the intermediate Heaven-tier!

"The final moment has arrived." Long Chen closed his eyes slowly. He had waited too long for this moment. He had to hide for three whole months for this.

Three months. All to stand here today. He swung the Demon Emperor Sword as hard as he could!

The most powerful attacks from both sides caused even the clouds to swirl. A strong gust of wind howled once more, and an endless cloud of sand flew up all around them. Long Chen and Lin Zichen were wrapped in the center of the storm. It was the deciding moment, so the spectators couldn't help but hold their breath and engrave every moment into their memory.

No one knew who the victor would be. This final battle had been filled with many final battles. However, one thing that had been confirmed: Long Chen was now the strongest prodigy of the Cangyang Kingdom!

Coincidentally, both of them had the character "Chen" in their names.

"Like I said before, only one of us will survive today." Long Chen's lips moved gently, and his eyes were closed. This was the craziest moment of the battle, but he was filled with silence. He was as calm right now as he was when he was cultivating quietly at the peak of Demon Emperor Mountain.

All of this had been taught to him by Zhao Qingyun.

White clouds. Gentle breeze. Everything was just like the peak of Demon Emperor Mountain.

Long Chen thrust his sword gently.

The sky changed colors instantly!

As if the world had shattered, the sound of terrifying explosions rang out. It was as if everything beneath Long Chen's sword would wither and die. His attack flew towards Lin Zichen.

"Demon Emperor Sword Technique, Supreme Demon Sword!" Long Chen used the most powerful technique of the Demon Emperor Sword Technique. Everything in front of him exploded!

There was no question that he had used the Supreme Demon Sword to its maximum level. Even Zhao Qingyun couldn't match this amount of power!

On the other side, Lin Zichen had also completed his attack. Just like Long Chen, his attack was unquestionably powerful. However, it was nothing in front of Long Chen's almost-perfect Supreme Demon Sword!

Chapter 419 - Killing Lin Zichen

"Die! Imperial Sword Technique, Supreme Sovereign Sword!" A golden blade of Sword Qi exploded from Lin Zichen. He had used all of his strength to complete his most

powerful attack. The attack even escaped from his control, destroying everything in front of it once it broke free from the Imperial Sword! “Long Chen, let’s see if you die!”[1]

After successfully unleashing his attack, Lin Zichen finally relaxed for a moment. He previously was not sure if he could use it properly, so he was nervous. He sighed in relief when it worked out as planned. Other people did not know how powerful the Supreme Sovereign Sword technique was, but he was very clear. Even a regular Heavenly Passage Realm expert would have to fight hard to withstand this attack!

But what was up with the surprised cries from the people on the wall? Lin Zichen froze. He had a bad feeling. He quickly turned around and looked towards Long Chen’s direction. At that moment, he saw the Supreme Sovereign Sword that he was so proud of get forced backwards by Long Chen’s stronger attack. Then it shattered and turned into a large cloud of powder falling back on him. The Supreme Demon Sword carried with it the power of a fierce oceanic tide, instantly drowning Lin Zichen!

“No!” A scream full of despair that echoed across the skies above the battlefield. More than ten thousand people heard his scream; they felt goosebumps all over their bodies, and their scalps went numb.

They watched in shock as Lin Zichen’s final attack completely lost to Long Chen’s attack. Lin Zichen was swallowed by Long Chen’s Supreme Demon Sword!

While the scream of despair was still ringing in everyone’s ears, everything ended. Yellow sand fell gently, and the howling wind stopped. Everyone stared at Long Chen in a daze as he was the only person who remained standing in the whole battlefield. He put away the Demon Emperor Sword with utmost calm. His look of contempt made everyone draw in a sharp breath.

They all spotted a golden sword stabbed into the ground not far away from him—the Imperial Sword. They did not know where its owner was.

Lin Batian knew.

After Long Chen’s powerful attack, Lin Zichen was completely pulverized into dust, scattered in the air. Long Chen’s final strike was almost powerful enough to shatter Ginger City’s protective walls, let alone Lin Zichen’s tiny body.

The strongest prodigy of the Cangyang Kingdom had died in Long Chen’s hands right in front of Ginger City’s gates.

The people of Ginger City were not as emotional because all they had seen were two experts who were similar in strength dueling in an earth-shattering manner. However, the three thousand Ghost Riders, Eight Generals, and Lin Batian were overcome by a huge wave of shock. To them, this was a twist of events. They couldn’t help but rub their eyes to check several times in order to confirm that Lin Zichen really had disappeared from this world.

Lin Zichen was dead.

He had been killed by Long Chen using the Demon Emperor Sword.

This news would cause many people in the Imperial City to fall off their chairs in shock, including Lin Batian's father, who was the most powerful master of the Cangyang Kingdom—the Sword Emperor!

Lin Batian was sitting on the ground, ghostly pale. He wasn't worried that Long Chen would kill him; he was just too shocked by reality to remain in his chair.

Although he was competing against Lin Zichen, he was well aware of Lin Zichen's importance in the Cangyang Kingdom. The Fourth Prince was basically the symbol of the kingdom's cultivation world. On this day, this symbol had been stepped on. The individual behind it all had performed miracles, one after another, and his latest miracle had shaken the world.

He was Long Chen.

Everything was silent as they all stared at him.

He moved slightly, and everyone jumped in fear and quickly took several steps backwards.

At this moment, Long Chen was not as excited as he imagined he would be. He suddenly realized that Lin Zichen was only an obstacle in his path to growth. Now that he had kicked this obstacle down, he felt like his mind had opened. He knew that this battle would be the start of a new beginning, and not the end.

This was a brand new start. From today onwards, he would walk on an even wider path.

After he put away the Demon Emperor Sword, he looked up at the sky and suddenly felt as if the metaphorical clouds had opened up to reveal the moon. His heart was much brighter. He initially wanted to kill Lin Zichen to vent his anger, but now that the grudge had been resolved, he felt lighter.

He also put the Imperial Sword in his Universe Pouch.

I overdid it and everything was destroyed. If not, I would have been able to collect more stuff. Since I'm taking the Heavenly Demon Palace's Demon Emperor Sword, I'll leave the Imperial Sword with Master. There's no difference between good and evil in the minds of the Demon Emperor Sword and the Imperial Sword anyway, thought Long Chen.

Xiaolang and Ling Xi happily made their way to his side. Xiaolang had turned back into his adorable state, looking at Long Chen with some admiration. Even he had to admit that even though he was Category Nine Earth-tier, if he fought Long Chen, despite having the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, he did not know who would win.

“Brother Chen ...” Ling Xi was moved by this because she knew that Long Chen held a huge grudge against Lin Zichen. If it wasn't for him, Ling Xi would not have abandoned the Profound Heavenly Jade Lotus.

“What's the matter? I've finally taken revenge. You should be happy, right?” Long Chen asked gently, holding her carefully in his palm.

“I'm not sad. I'm just very touched.” Ling Xi looked at Long Chen. Her bright eyes shimmered with tears.

“Silly girl.” Long Chen smiled in exasperation. “Even though I’ve killed Lin Zichen, it doesn’t mean anything. I haven’t gotten you the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit yet.”

“There’s no hurry for that,” said Ling Xi hurriedly. “Brother Chen, if other people bully me in the future, will you take revenge for me like this?”

“Of course. Anyone who touches even one hair on my Xiao Xi’s head will wish they were dead,” answered Long Chen with a grin.

“A true man must stick to his word. Don’t lie to me, alright?” said Ling Xi.

“Of course. Don’t you know what kind of a person I am? I am a man through and through. However, this man has some matters to attend to first. Xiao Xi, return to the Ling Xi Sword.”

“Alright.” Ling Xi nodded and obediently returned to the Ling Xi Sword. Long Chen called for Xiaolang to follow him and then dashed to Ginger City’s wall. Everyone stared in terror as Long Chen arrived in front of Lin Batian’s eyes. He was the devil in their eyes, and they quickly stumbled backwards when he approached. Not a single person dared to stand between him and Lin Batian.

“Lin Batian, do you understand why I beat you up just now?” Long Chen asked mildly.

“... I understand. With your strength, beating me up ... is normal.” Lin Batian stared at him with a pale face. Despite trying to control himself, his legs were shaking slightly and he could not stand.

“Do you finally know to fear me?” Long Chen chuckled coldly.

“Long Chen, don’t kill me. I’m begging you. When they chased after you months ago, I was at war somewhere else. That was none of my business. Could you have lured Lin Zichen out without me?” Lin Batian explained hurriedly.

“Don’t worry, I will not kill you.” Long Chen paused, then continued, “However, you need to help me do something. Something very important!”

“Please, tell me. If I can do it, I will definitely do it!” Lin Batian was willing to risk it all at this critical juncture.

“What I want is actually very simple!” Long Chen looked up at the three thousand Ghost Riders and raised his voice, uttering every word slowly. “Lin Batian, go back and tell the Sword Emperor! Tell him that I have killed the Sword Devil and Lin Zichen. I believe that soon, I will return to the Imperial Capital once again! Ask him to clean his neck before then, because I, Long Chen, will kill him with the whole Imperial Capital as my witness! Do you all remember what I said?!”

Everyone looked at each other after they heard his dramatic declaration!

Initially, they thought he was powerful because he had killed Lin Zichen. However, announcing that his target was the Sword Emperor was a show of arrogance and insubordination. Did he say he wanted the Sword Emperor to clean his neck in preparation for a beheading?

Everyone drew in a sharp breath.

“Lin Batian, did you hear me? If you can’t do that, I’ll ask someone else. But if that happens, I won’t be able to guarantee that you’ll live,” Long Chen said coldly.

“I can do it! I can do it for sure!” Lin Batian said hurriedly. Long Chen’s declaration had stunned him. Of course, he was privately speechless at Long Chen’s ignorance and arrogance.

Lin Zichen was the number one prodigy of his generation, but Long Chen killing him was nothing. How strong was the Sword Emperor? He was a master at the Heavenly Passage Realm, and it was widely agreed that he was the number one master in the Cangyang Kingdom. They had even heard that the Heavenly Demon Palace’s Zhao Qingyun was not as strong as he was.

Of course, no one knew if those two had ever fought before. Right now, since a large portion of the Cangyang Kingdom was under the control of the imperial family, it was easy for the royals to toot the Sword Emperor’s horn.

“However, Long Chen, why do you want to kill off the whole imperial family? My father hasn’t tried to kill you, has he?” Lin Batian asked in a trembling voice.

“You all want to know why?” Long Chen smiled and looked at everyone. He said loudly, “I’ll tell you all, then. First of all, when you were chasing after me, the Sword Emperor must have given the command. Now that I have killed two of his sons and his younger brother, would he ever let me go? Also, there’s one thing that is even more important!”

Long Chen’s expression darkened and he slowly continued, “I used to have a brother. He was a member of the Mo family, which was one of the four great noble families of the Imperial Capital. However, when he was six, his entire family was killed off. You guys must know where this is going, right? Only the royals have the right to kill off a whole clan. That is why the Sword Emperor must die!”

Chapter 420 - Heaven Sword Array

“The Mo family?” Lin Batian had a faint memory of this event, but it had happened many years ago. Lin Batian was similar in age to Long Chen, and at the time, he was focused on learning cultivation in the palace. That was why it had not left a deep impression; he had only occasionally heard people talking about it.

Killing off an entire family was a common occurrence in the Imperial Capital, which was why Lin Batian did not care much. However, the Mo family case had indeed been a chaotic affair since it was one of the four great families of the capital. Not even one of them remained, and a prospering clan had been sent to hell in an instant.

However, no one had expected one unassuming child to have survived. That was Mo Xiaolang.

Lin Batian could only shake his head in exasperation. Based on Long Chen's confidence just now, he knew that not only would Long Chen avenge the Mo family, he would also do it in front of the whole world.

"Don't worry. I will definitely pass your words to my father," said Lin Batian.

"That's good." Long Chen nodded. He was not a match for the Sword Emperor right now, so he needed some time to cultivate first. His goal for his first return to the Imperial Capital had been completed. Three masters of the imperial family who had not reached the Heavenly Passage Realm had been killed by him.

The only regret he had was the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit.

He also had one very important reason to kill the Sword Emperor. It was imperative for him to obtain the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit.

Everyone stared in terror as Long Chen dropped Lin Batian a final reminder, then he leaped off the building with his little wolf and disappeared towards the Snowpeak Mountains in the north. That was where Long Chen had chosen to cultivate.

He did not plan to return to the Heavenly Demon Palace.

When Long Chen first set out to get revenge on the imperial family, he did not know he would have to lay low at this point in his journey. At the time, he thought he could get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit with his current strength. It turned out to be impossible. Since what he was after was in the Sword Emperor's hands, he would have to work harder to retrieve it.

After Long Chen disappeared from sight, Lin Batian and the rest relaxed their tense bodies and slid weakly to the ground, looking at each other. Qian Jiang, who was at the Eighth River Stage, asked, "Do we need to tell His Majesty about his instructions?"

"Yes! Of course! And we must even announce it loudly!" Lin Batian answered coldly after some thought.

"Why?" Qian Jiang was surprised.

"Don't you think Long Chen is a bit too scary? Now that Lin Zichen has died, the throne will be passed down to me. Long Chen belongs to the Heavenly Demon Palace, and he is far more powerful than me. What do you think he will do to me in the future? Have you forgotten that the Imperial Sword is with him? That is the symbol of the imperial family! How could it stay with him?"

"So, are you saying that we must make His Majesty cautious and take him seriously? And make everyone else nervous? And that's the only way His Majesty will be decisive enough to kill Long Chen?"

“Naturally. However, when my father finds out that Lin Zichen is dead, no one will want to see Long Chen dead more than him ...” Lin Zichen was dead, and now Lin Batian had become the Emperor’s favorite son. He felt a little smug, to be honest.

“Your Highness, if Long Chen really storms the Imperial Capital one day, will he be a match for His Majesty?” Qian Jiang was completely stunned by Long Chen.

“What nonsense are you spouting? Do you know who my father is? I hear that he is the number one master in the whole Cangyang Kingdom. Although Long Chen is strong, he is too young. How could he compare to my father, who has experienced hundreds of battles? Has water gone into your brain?” Lin Batian scolded him in exasperation.

“Yes! Yes!” Qian Jiang quickly said in an ingratiating manner. He had no choice because Lin Batian was about to become the most powerful person in the kingdom. Now he had to put some effort into making him happy.

Lin Batian looked towards the direction where Long Chen had gone, then he commanded, “Return to the capital!”

Long Chen soon arrived at the Snowpeak Mountains. This place was far in the north, so it was very cold. He could tell that this place was covered with snow during winter. However, summer was here, so most of the snow had melted into freshwater, which flowed in large rivers that wove through the mountain range to the east.

He quickly found a beautiful meadow with birds and flowers surrounded by tall, elegant trees. There was a clear stream flowing through it with fish and prawns swimming happily within. It was a beautiful sight.

“Xiao Xi, to be honest, I want to reach the Ninth River Stage by using Blood Transmutation. However, the Cangyang Kingdom doesn’t have any powerful beasts. And if there were Heaven-tier beasts, I don’t know if we could kill one even if Xiaolang and I worked together.”

Ling Xi fluttered around the flowers, then she suddenly leaped in front of Long Chen and asked, “Does that mean you’ve got to focus on cultivating on your own?”

“That’s the only way.”

“Do you have enough Heavenly River Pills?”

“I’ve brought enough Heavenly River Pills from the Heavenly Demon Palace. Right now, I just need to gather more Qi.” Long Chen paused, then he said, “Xiao Xi, don’t worry. I will get the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit as soon as possible!”

He had brought up the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit again.

Ling Xi forced a smile. There was a hint of worry in her smile.

Long Chen had no idea what the Sword Emperor was going to do with the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit. That was why he was under a lot of pressure. After chatting with her for a while, he immersed himself in cultivation. He had already condensed sixteen out of the eighteen heavenly rivers in his body. The two remaining star veins were still empty.

Long Chen had to cultivate constantly in order to condense the last two star rivers.

At this juncture, he truly felt the difficulty of cultivation. Previously, his quick rise was largely due to the awesome power of Blood Transmutation. Right now, when there was no target to use Blood Transmutation on, it was difficult to raise his cultivation level.

It looks like the Cangyang Kingdom is no longer suitable for me. After I find the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit, I'll help Ling Xi regain her physical body and then bring her to an even larger kingdom that we'll explore together! This was the idealistic dream that Long Chen had, and he knew where he wanted to explore next.

There were ten thousand tiny nations like the Cangyang Kingdom in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. A few of those kingdoms were hundreds or thousands of times stronger than the Cangyang Kingdom. The Heavenly Passage Realm was exceedingly rare in the Cangyang Kingdom, but it was as common as stray dogs in the ten great nations.

The term given to the ten nations was the Ten Great Empires. Every empire contained more than a thousand countries under their rule, each one with a different power level. The Cangyang Kingdom was considered the weakest kind. Just from this alone, one could see how immense the legendary Dragon Continent was.

The Cangyang Kingdom was ruled by the Divine Martial Empire, which was one of the Ten Great Empires. Long Chen had heard Zhao Qingyun mention that there was a special array that led to the Divine Martial Empire. Long Chen was not thinking of leaving the Cangyang Kingdom at the time, but now that he thought of it again, he wanted to ask Zhao Qingyun about it the next time they met.

Long Chen felt great pressure within him because he knew that Ling Xi and Li Xuanji's hometowns were likely not within the Ten Thousand Nations Territory or the Ten Great Empires. Based on Ling Xi's abilities, he could tell that the people there would be much more terrifying than the people in the Ten Great Empires. It would not be easy for Long Chen to marry Ling Xi in broad daylight.

Of course, that would be much later on. He did not think much for the moment and immersed himself in cultivation.

However, reaching the Ninth River Stage was much more difficult than he anticipated. Even after cultivating nonstop for half a month, he did not make much progress. Long Chen now knew why it had taken more than ten years for a prodigy like Lin Zichen to reach the Ninth River Stage. In contrast, Long Chen had only been cultivating for less than a year.

The path of cultivation consists of cycle after cycle; it's a difficult path. It looks like I have been underestimating this path as my journey has just been too smooth. However, I've always been able to grow faster than other people. Xiaolang too.

Half a month had passed in the blink of an eye. Long Chen didn't know what chaos had ensued in the Imperial Capital after his incident. All he cared about was whether the Nine Heavens Immortal Fruit was still there.

This was the main reason he had left Yuanling City to go to the Biyang Imperial Capital.

Time passed, and his cultivation did not progress quickly. This frustrated Long Chen. He talked much less than before and spent almost every hour of every day working hard. Ling Xi felt even more timid when she saw how hard he was working, not daring to tell him about her biggest worry.

Almost a month has passed, and I've only completed about a quarter of what is needed. This means that I need three more months to reach the Ninth River Stage. To other people, I'm progressing very quickly, but to me, this is slow ...

When Ling Xi saw impatience appear in his eyes, she bit her lip and suddenly said, "Brother Chen, why don't I teach you an advanced Heaven-tier technique? I wanted to wait until you were at the Heavenly Passage Realm, but with your extraordinary comprehension abilities, you might be able to learn it now."

Long Chen was ecstatic at her offer. Advanced Heaven-tier? Even the Supreme Demon Sword of the Demon Emperor Sword Technique was only at the elementary Heaven-tier. How powerful would Ling Xi's advanced Heaven-tier technique be?

"Xiao Xi, I love you so much! Quick, tell me what it is, and what makes it advanced Heaven-tier!" Long Chen asked excitedly, stopping his cultivation.

"You still remember the Heaven Bearing Sword Prison technique that I used at the Star Devil Prison, right? This advanced Heaven-tier technique is a sword technique from the same secret scripture as the Heaven Bearing Sword Prison, but even more useful for you. It is called the Heaven Sword Array."