

## War God 451

Chapter 451 - Violet Savage Lion

After the middle-aged man gave the order, the cultivators of the Martial Alliance rubbed their fists and made their way towards Long Chen.

He was only at the Ninth River Stage, so they saw Long Chen as a mere weakling that they could kill at any time. Maybe they knew that he was not the one they were looking for, but it didn't matter.

It was just bad luck that Long Chen shared the same name as a wanted person.

The job of the Martial Alliance didn't stop. They had just singled Long Chen out, and the other people stared at him in fear. They lowered their heads, knowing that Long Chen was going to die soon. First was the brute and now Long Chen. They were afraid.

This was their first time at the Divine Martial Empire, and they had already received a reality check. They were the strongest people back home, but they were nothing but ants here.

This was what the Martial Alliance wanted to teach them. The first brute was an idiot, and Long Chen was just unlucky.

Everyone looked at what was unfolding with trepidation.

Long Chen was never someone who provoked others for no reason. "Everyone, I think you're mistaking me for someone else. I'm from the Cangyang Kingdom, and I'm sure the Long Chen you want to hunt down is stronger than the Ninth River Stage. You don't have to act now; why not just investigate? I am more than happy to cooperate. Think about it, isn't it better to bring me back alive?"

"Heheh. No need to waste your breath. If our leader wants you dead, then you will die no matter what your name is!" The people from the Martial Alliance laughed before they attacked Long Chen. A cultivator at the Heavenly Passage Realm was not to be trifled with. Long Chen felt the air around them shattering while the pressure of a mountain rushed towards him.

Long Chen hasn't tested how strong he was after absorbing a hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence. He was now at the peak of the Heavenly River Realm.

"Demon Emperor Sword Technique, Supreme Demon Sword!" Long Chen had no choice but to fight back. The sword appeared in front of him and he swung it. The black Sword Qi pushed everyone back and gave him a lot of space.

"He even has a good sword! It's at least at the intermediate Heaven-tier!" The people from the Martial Alliance looked at his sword greedily. The middle-aged man was surprised that Long Chen had not only pushed them back, he even had a good sword.

“Go and bring me that sword! I will give a pretty lady to whoever kills him!” The middle-aged man smiled.

“Yes, Boss!” Several people surrounded Long Chen. They thought they could easily kill him themselves and there was no need for so many people.

“Let me do it!” Someone at the Heavenly Passage Realm volunteered and ran towards Long Chen. The man was as powerful as the Sword Emperor, yet he was only a low-ranking member of the Martial Alliance.

There are two hundred of them here today but they are despicable. If I fight now, it might be difficult to live later on. Fine, I don’t have a choice since they are pushing me into a corner.

After absorbing a hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence, Long Chen’s Dragon Soul Transformation was his strongest technique. When the enemy’s fist was close to him, he transformed, and the blood-red scales covered his body. Bone spikes protruded from his elbows, knees, and back. His claws were like knives that made him look very gnarly.

The illusions of roaring dragons appeared within his scales.

The others watched the helpless outsider transform into a killing machine. The scales, claws, and spikes were so gruesome that the witnesses felt their scalps go numb. More importantly, he radiated an ancient aura that made it hard for others to go against him. Even the person at the Second Passage Stage frowned when he saw Long Chen’s transformation.

“I’ve never seen a beast like that before.”

“He looks scary. It must be a lizard or worm that is related to blood.”

“Looks like he’s not weak at all. To think someone from the boonies would have such a frightening aura. What a surprise.”

The others looked on anxiously.

The people from the Martial Alliance stayed put. They knew Beast Soul Transformation would increase someone’s strength by several times, but how strong would a Ninth River Stage cultivator become?

The person who was approaching Long Chen stopped and smiled when he saw Long Chen’s transformation. “Is that your Beast Soul Transformation? I have one too. Behold, the Category Four Heaven-tier beast, Purple Savage Lion!”

He transformed too, his body growing larger and more muscular. Purple fur sprouted from his body, and his head changed into a lion’s head. His claws were even scarier than Long Chen’s.

Soon, his body grew larger than Long Chen’s.

Long Chen chuckled when he saw the humanoid lion. Just then, the lion appeared in front of him in a flash. He swiped his large paw at Long Chen. Based on the sound, everyone was sure Long Chen would die if he got hit.

They thought Long Chen would dodge, but to their surprise, he was standing still, as if he had been scared stiff by the attack.

“He’s not dodging. Is he surprised?”

“Of course. The Purple Savage Lion is a Category Four Heaven-tier beast. I don’t know what kind of random beast the kid has, but it’s normal to despair in front of absolute strength. He can only blame himself for meeting our boss when he’s in a bad mood.”

Everyone saw the paw hitting Long Chen’s head, and they instantly envisioned the explosion of viscera. Some of the people closed their eyes.

But what shocked everyone was that a loud sound rang out, and the lion stumbled backwards before falling to the ground.

The Beast Warrior shouted in pain when he fell back. He rolled on the ground and clutched his bloody paw. Everyone saw that his hand had been broken and was bleeding from numerous puncture wounds.

No one had thought that it would happen.

It was out of their expectations.

“How can his skull be so dense? What kind of beast does he have?” The middle-aged man stood up from his stool and looked at Long Chen with surprise. The others were looking at him too.

“Why is his body so strong? How was a Beast Warrior at the Heavenly Passage Realm pushed back?!”

Everyone was surprised.

But that was just the start. Long Chen glared at the man, then he disappeared. When he appeared once more, he was already holding the Beast Warrior in one hand. He threw the man down while kicking his knee up. The strong impact caused the spike on his knee to stab through the cultivator’s body. The man struggled and his body went limp on Long Chen’s knee.

Everyone exhaled and looked at Long Chen with shock.

A Ninth River Stage cultivator had killed someone at the First Passage Stage with ease. No one else was certain of Long Chen’s strength anymore.

Long Chen didn’t want to kill everyone, nor did he want to anger the Martial Alliance. That was just a warning. Everyone was looking at him when he said to the middle-aged man, “Let me tell you one last time. This is my first time here, and I’m not the person you are looking for. I don’t like trouble, but don’t blame me for acting in self-defense if you keep pressuring me.”

He had already shown his strength, and it was time to stop. He only needed to intimidate them.

But Long Chen had underestimated them. The middle-aged man was not intimidated—he laughed instead. “What a joke. Do you think you’re strong? The Martial Alliance is a god in this land. No one has dared to attack the Martial Alliance before, but you sure are interesting. Still, you will die

very soon in the Divine Martial Empire. Let me show you what death feels like now. Everyone, attack him at once. I will give two hundred Heavenly Passage Pills to whoever kills that brat!”

Everyone from the Martial Alliance cheered. Two hundred Heavenly passage Pills was a substantial sum of money for them. All of them ran towards Long Chen and blocked his escape path.

#### Chapter 452 - Massacre

After surrounding him and cutting off his escape, a hundred Heavenly Passage Realm cultivators charged at Long Chen. This was Long Chen’s biggest fight yet, but thanks to the hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence he had absorbed, he was many times stronger than when he faced the Emperor, making him extremely sturdy.

Now he wanted to know how strong he had become.

I’ve already explained myself clearly to them and they still want to come after my life? I’m certain that they know I’m not the Long Chen they are looking for. Aren’t they being too arrogant?

He could endure certain things, but not everything. He had been frustrated about Ling Xi leaving him, so he exploded when the Martial Alliance wanted to kill him.

Hundreds of Heavenly Passage Realm cultivators ganging up on a single Ninth River Stage cultivator. The crowd already knew what was going to happen, but they were unsure if Long Chen would show them a miracle.

All of them were looking forward to the fight.

The Heavenly Passage Realm cultivators were just in front of Long Chen. To them, Long Chen was like a sheep that had run into a pack of wolves. But what happened next proved them wrong. Long Chen was the wolf while everyone else was the sheep.

Long Chen suddenly appeared behind a cultivator and punched him. The cultivator’s clothes exploded from the impact, and he slumped to the ground after spraying blood from his mouth.

Everyone knew that Long Chen had destroyed the man’s organs in one punch.

“One ...” Long Chen counted his victims. His strong body also granted him unparalleled dexterity, so he weaved around the group of people easily like a wolf. The cultivators dropped dead one by one. Even though all of them were at the Heavenly Passage Realm, none of them could survive a single punch from Long Chen as their internal organs were destroyed.

“Impossible!” In just a short breath, dozens of people had fallen to Long Chen’s fist. The others didn’t even manage to catch Long Chen thanks to his illusions from Traceless Demon Shadow. The cultivators didn’t know if they would be next.

The middle-aged man at the Second Passage Stage was stunned. Some of the others at the Second Passage Stage ran over and whispered, “Is this Long Chen the very same one on the bounty board? The one in third place. I think the reward was a hundred royal crystals, right? A single royal crystal is worth thousands of Heavenly Passage Pills.”

“Impossible! That Long Chen is beyond the Heavenly Passage Realm. He’s not that weak, but this Long Chen has a very strong body too. He must have a lot of treasures as well. Maybe he found a ruin in the borders and got stronger from there!”

“What should we do?”

“What else? There’s no way he can beat all two hundred of us. Think about it. He has a technique that allows him to kill cultivators at the Heavenly Passage Realm in one blow; how much stronger would we become if we stole it from him?”

“You are right!”

The people were eager to fight Long Chen. One of them even shouted, “Martial Alliance, stop your work. Come and capture this guy. Whoever kills him will be given a thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.”

A thousand Heavenly Passage Pills were enough for them to reach the Fourth Passage Stage. Most of the time, cultivators didn’t have an issue gathering enough Qi to advance to the next stage, but they had no choice but to stagnate because they lacked Heavenly Passage Pills. That was why everyone went crazy at the prospect of a thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.

“Kill him!” Everyone ran at Long Chen, causing immense pressure to be exerted on the latter’s side. Even though he wouldn’t die to their attacks, it would still hurt since they were using Heaven-tier techniques.

But more than forty people had already died at Long Chen’s hands.

“You are the ones forcing me to commit a massacre …” Long Chen shook his hand and his eyes turned red. He took out the Demon Emperor Sword and started killing people. His killing speed doubled with it.

He ran past the enemies with the sword. Every time he swung it, he cut a person’s neck or heart and killed them in one go.

A shadow weaved amongst the group of gold, and everyone shouted when they were hit by him. All of them crumpled to the ground without fail. Some of the ones who discovered that something was wrong managed to stay alive by fleeing.

Splat!

The Demon Emperor Sword stabbed through a cultivator’s heart from the back. Blood sprayed like fresh petals when Long Chen pulled his sword out. He then swung it at another cultivator’s neck, killing him.

More and more people died to him, and everyone started realizing how strong Long Chen was. Many of them started running away. Even though a thousand Heavenly Passage Pills was a large reward, it was not worth it to gamble their lives.

“Everyone, retreat! We will take over now!” Several leaders showed up. They were all at the Second Passage Stage. They saw that too many people had died and knew it

would be difficult to report back. That was why all five of them surrounded Long Chen while the rest ran off.

This was when Long Chen noticed that the ground was littered with corpses and blood. The other cultivators were running away, and many others escaped through the Universal Transporter. He was now surrounded by only Second Passage Stage cultivators, including the middle-aged man who had ordered the men to kill him.

“I haven’t killed enough.” Long Chen licked his lips and taunted the man. “Are you planning to let me go, or will you die like them?”

Long Chen pointed at the corpses.

The leaders looked at each other and said nothing as they ran at Long Chen. All five of them launched powerful attacks. Even though they were even more powerful than the Sword Emperor, Long Chen had also grown stronger.

“Floating Fist!”

They all released their Heaven-tier martial techniques as they surrounded Long Chen. Even he had to frown when the air trembled from the attacks.

But now that he was stronger, the attacks were nothing but cheap tricks. Even though Long Chen was only at the Heavenly River Realm, he had an advanced Heaven-tier Body Tempering Technique to deal with these enemies.

He held up the Demon Emperor Sword and fought valiantly. He didn’t use any techniques but instead danced with the sword as he advanced towards one of the cultivators. He decided to focus on that man and allowed the others to attack him.

“Die!” The Second Passage Stage cultivators’ attacks were stronger than the hits he had easily tanked from the previous crowd, but Long Chen could endure them. He ran at full speed and appeared in front of the cultivator like lightning. Then he swung the Demon Emperor Sword at his opponent’s neck at a speed that tore through the wind.

At the last moment, the cultivator's eyes were wide with shock, despair, and regret. He tried to block the sword with his arm, but Long Chen cut through it and reached his neck.

Half an arm and a head flew into the air, and blood sprayed everywhere.

The other four were shocked. They had attacked Long Chen after being promised that they would get a reward. They thought there was a limit to how strong Long Chen was, but apparently, enemies at the Second Passage Stage were nothing to him!

“It’s too late to realize this.” Long Chen didn’t stop after he killed the first one. His body was a blur until he appeared behind another cultivator and stabbed him in his heart without any warning.

The second one died instantly.

“Run!” The other three were shocked and overcome with fear. They ran in three different directions in hopes that Long Chen would only be able to chase one of them.

Long Chen’s eyes became even colder when he saw them running. He disappeared and chased after one of them. Ignoring the guy’s shouts, Long Chen covered the man’s eyes and slit his throat. Blood sprayed into the air as the cultivator fell to the ground and died.

Chapter 453 - Legend of the Martial Overlord

Everyone watching the fight gasped in awe.

Long Chen was a miracle to them. Two hundred cultivators at the Heavenly Passage Realm and five at the Second Passage Stage were nothing but lambs to Long Chen. All of them had died without being able to fight back.

And now half of the cultivators were dead while the remaining two at the Second Passage Stage were busy running away. But Long Chen would not let them go—he ran like a killing machine towards the other two. His body was a blur of red when he caught the second one and cut off the cultivator’s head!

“What a strong body and incredible speed! He was born for combat!” Everyone was shocked by what they had witnessed.

Now there was only one more person at the Second Passage Stage left. It was the middle-aged man who had ordered the people to kill Long Chen. The man’s face was pale and he was running with all his might.

Who is he? Why is he so strong? Curse my mouth! I should’ve kept quiet instead of provoking people without any reason. I need to change my habits if I get out alive!

Just then, he heard people shouting.

Long Chen had just killed the fourth person when he saw that the man was already quite a distance away. Rather than chasing that man, Long Chen threw the Demon Emperor Sword with all his might towards the man’s back.

The sound of the air getting torn apart came from behind the man. Long Chen’s immense strength sent the sword flying through the air at an incredible speed. No one could see where the sword was until the man’s back exploded. Blood and flesh scattered the area before the man fell down. Long Chen ran over and picked up the sword.

He wiped off the blood and put the sword back in his Primordial Realm. He then looked around and saw that the people from the Martial Alliance were mostly gone. Many of the newcomers had fled back home using the Universal Transporter as well. The remaining few realized that running was the best option as well.

Long Chen sighed when he looked at the corpses on the ground.

I have been stressed out since Ling Xi left me. That’s why I decided to kill them today. Even though I felt relieved after releasing some stress, will I truly become a killing machine one day?

Long Chen pondered about his future.

But he didn't want to stay here for long, or the experts of the Martial Realm would reach this place. He quickly left and only undid his transformation once he was far enough, which was also when he let Xiaolang out. It was quite boring to stay inside the Primordial Realm, and Xiaolang wanted to see what kind of place the Divine Martial Empire was.

"This place is so desolate. Even the Cangyang Kingdom is better," Xiaolang said after looking around.

"But nature's spiritual energy is dense here. Maybe that's why there are so many strong cultivators." Long Chen sighed. If he hadn't absorbed the hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence, he would've been dead. Two hundred experts at the Heavenly Passage Realm. He didn't dare to think what would happen if they all showed up in the Cangyang Kingdom.

This place was only a small corner of the Divine Martial Empire. There were places where stronger martial artists gathered.

"Strong? Hehehe. Do you think they are strong at the Heavenly Passage Realm? What a joke!" The little cat laughed and rolled on the ground in the Primordial Realm to showcase his exceptional origin. Long Chen and Xiaolang ignored him.

"Brother, what should we do next?" Xiaolang asked.

"I still don't know a lot about this place. Let's find a city and learn more about the Divine Martial Empire. I should also find where the Ancient Devil Region is located. I've killed a lot of people from the Martial Alliance, so they might come and find me in the future. It's best if I have someone to back me up."

"Good idea." Xiaolang nodded.

Long Chen looked around and chose a random direction before heading that way. They had traveled for quite some time when the little cat piped up. "Hey, you two idiots. Someone is following you."

Long Chen was surprised. They had been traversing on open plains, so they never even thought to check. He used the Soul Swallowing Gaze and found that the person tailing after them was only a hundred meters away. Long Chen turned around and said coldly, "No need to hide anymore. Come out or I won't be friendly."

A young man, roughly twenty years old, walked out. He wore elegant white robes with black borders and had numerous pieces of jewelry hanging from his body. He smiled and approached Long Chen in a surprisingly feminine gait.

Is he the young master of a family in the Divine Martial Empire?

Long Chen didn't want to act rashly, especially when he didn't know the person's background and strength. "Who are you? Why are you following me?"



“Please don’t misunderstand. I meant no harm. I was thinking about how to approach you without offending you, but you unexpectedly found me first,” the man said politely.

“What do you want?” Long Chen did not let his guard down.

“My name is Jiang Cheng. I bear no ill will and just want to be your friend. May I know your name?”

“No. Just tell me what you want.” It was not a good thing to be tailed by someone, so Long Chen was extra careful. He took a few steps back and distanced himself from Jiang Cheng.

Jiang Cheng smiled bitterly upon seeing that Long Chen was distancing himself. “I heard the sounds of fighting and went over to the Universal Teleporter. I saw how you massacred the people and was impressed by your strength. That’s why I wanted to befriend you. I’m sorry if it was very abrupt.”

Long Chen lowered his tone after seeing how straightforward the man was. “You could’ve just come up to me if you wanted to befriend me. It’s not a good thing to tail someone for so long.”

“That’s why I apologize, but may I ask if you are familiar with this place? I’m sure that you are not since this is your first time here. I saw that you didn’t get a golden identity plate from the Martial Alliance and still decided to travel within the Divine Martial Empire. I’ve come to warn you that it’s dangerous if you don’t have one.”

Long Chen was taken back. He was indeed clueless about the palace. Since Jiang Cheng was a resident of the Divine Martial Empire, Long Chen decided to ask some questions.

“My name is Yang Qing. You can call me ‘Brother Yang.’ Brother Jiang, I don’t understand what you just said. Can you explain it to me?” Even though he appeared friendly, Long Chen was still wary of Jiang Cheng.

“Brother Yang, don’t you know that the Martial Alliance controls everything in the Divine Martial Empire? Even the Ancient Devil Region and the Huangfu family are part of the Martial Alliance. If you don’t have a golden identity plate issued by the Martial Alliance, everyone will treat you as one of the fugitives wanted on the bounty board. Normally, every city has a gate to check if you have an identity plate. If you can’t show one, you are an enemy! You will be killed. That’s why I came here to warn you of the danger.”

Long Chen saw that he wasn’t lying and his guard lowered a bit. Maybe Jiang Cheng wasn’t an enemy.

“Is the Martial Alliance that strong? If that’s the case, can you help me get one?”

Jiang Cheng smiled. "That's why I approached you. I know many people in the Martial Alliance. I know some of them are stationed in Yellow Martial City just up ahead. If we get there, I can get you one."

Jiang Cheng's laughter was very cheerful, and Long Chen just thought he was the type of person who liked helping others. It was good that Jiang Cheng was happy to get him a golden identity plate. If he didn't get one, Long Chen might've been hunted down by the Martial Alliance.

"If that's the case, thank you for your help, Brother Jiang!"

"No worries. We should rely on our friends when we need them. This is not a big deal for me at all. Since it's important for you, there's no reason for me not to help. I was very impressed with how you fought and couldn't peel my eyes off your battle just now."

Jiang Cheng looked at Xiaolang. A strange desire clouded his eyes, but they returned normal. "What is this beast? There's a large, golden sun on its forehead. I don't think it's a normal beast."

"This is just a normal Category Nine Earth-tier beast from my hometown. It's very strong in my hometown, but here it's just a weak demonic beast." Long Chen chuckled.

"Of course. There are numerous experts in the Divine Martial Empire, and the demonic beasts here are equally scary too. There's a legend that an exceedingly strong Divine Phoenix residing in the Immortal Sea is capable of fighting on equal grounds against the strongest cultivator in the Divine Martial Empire, the Martial Overlord!"

Chapter 454 - Three Martial Realms

*Immortal Sea, Divine Phoenix, Martial Overlord...* Long Chen committed these names to memory and asked nothing else. He started walking towards Yellow Martial City with Jiang Cheng. "Brother Jiang, do you know anything about the Martial Alliance's bounty board?"

"The Martial Alliance is the largest organization in the Divine Martial Empire. It leads all of the other organizations as well. They are the core of the Divine Martial Empire, and everyone listens to them. Of course, there are people who refuse to submit to them. Some of them even commit all kinds of atrocities, so the Martial Alliance came up with the bounty board. Those with their names on it are the enemies of the Martial Alliance and must be killed on sight!

"You will get a reward for killing the cultivators on the bounty board. Those in the top ten spots provide a reward of more than ten million Heavenly Passage Pills. If you kill anyone in the top three, they will even reward you with royal crystals! The royal crystal is an important resource for those at the Three Martial Realms to cultivate. It's even more rare than Heavenly Passage Pills!"

“Ten million Heavenly Passage Pills?” Long Chen was shocked. He never knew that the Martial Alliance was that big and influential. To think that they would put out a reward of tens of millions of Heavenly Passage Pills just to kill a single cultivator.

Long Chen also never heard anything about royal crystals and the Three Martial Realms.

Jiang Cheng knew how shocked Long Chen was after seeing his expression. “You probably don’t know what royal crystals and the Three Martial Realms are, don’t you?”

Long Chen shook his head. He wasn’t even at the Heavenly Passage Realm, so he naturally didn’t know about the Three Martial Realms.

Jiang Cheng smiled and explained, “Then let me explain it to you. You have Four Basic Realms: Dragon Vein, Divine Core, Heavenly River, and Heavenly Passage. Above that are the Three Martial Realms: the Earthly Martial Realm, the Heavenly Martial Realm, and the Divine Martial Realm! Each realm is separated into nine stages. So the Four Basic Realms and the Three Martial Realms encompass all of the cultivation realms. You are still considered a junior if you are at the Heavenly Passage Realm. You are only considered an expert once you reach the Three Martial Realms.”

Long Chen was shocked to learn that. “How many people in the Divine Martial Empire are at the Three Martial Realms?”

“Do you think those stronger cultivators are so easy to find?” Jiang Cheng smiled helplessly.

He excitedly explained, “The Demon Emperor of the Ancient Demon Domain, the Huangfu family, and even the Martial Overlord are only at the Earthly Martial Realm. Of the Ten Great Empires, only the strongest one has two cultivators at the Heavenly Martial Realm! No one is at the Divine Martial Realm here. We’ve only heard of their legends in the past!”

Long Chen was putting on an excited face, but he was secretly calm as he noted what Jiang Cheng had explained to him. He soon had a better picture of the world here. He knew that the Heavenly Passage Realm was the basic strength of those at the Divine Martial Empire, while those at the Earthly Martial Realm were the strong cultivators. The Heavenly Martial Realm were probably people at the highest echelons of the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, and there were no Divine Martial Realm cultivators there.

Jiang Cheng thought Long Chen was from the boonies, but Long Chen had actually encountered a lot of strong people.

That means Ling Xi’s grandmother, father, and mother are probably at the Divine Martial Realm, or maybe even stronger?

“Brother Yang, you might be the strongest in your birthplace, but you are nothing here. Once you get your identity token, you have to keep a low profile and increase your strength. You might have a chance to become strong one day. It’s best if you join a good sect, as they can support you in your cultivation.” Jiang Cheng looked at Long Chen earnestly.

“You are right. I’ve heard of the Ancient Demon Domain and wanted to go there.”

“Ancient Demon Domain?” Jiang Cheng’s expression changed subtly.

“What’s wrong?” Long Chen was confused.

“Nothing ... The Ancient Demon Domain is good, and the Demon Emperor Jiang Wuxie is not only strong, but he also has the same surname as me ...” Jiang Cheng chuckled.

Long Chen nodded. He knew something was wrong, but he said nothing as they traveled to the city.

“Brother Jiang, what is a royal crystal?”

“The royal crystal is a special crystal that contains martial essence. You can only absorb it once you are at the Three Martial Realm. It accelerates your cultivation speed. If you have a lot of them, your strength will increase at a rapid rate. Royal crystals, emperor crystals, and divine crystals are the treasures of cultivators at the Three Martial Realms. They each correspond to what realm they are best suited to use, with the royal crystal at the Earthly Martial Realm, the emperor crystal at the Heavenly Martial Realm, and the divine crystal at the Divine Martial Realm. But there are not a lot of emperor crystals here in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. They have only been recorded to exist in ancient times.”

“The royal crystal is also used as a currency, right?” Long Chen knew that items that could help with one’s cultivation were almost always used as currency.

“Of course. A single royal crystal is equivalent to ten million Heavenly Passage Pills! That is an incredible amount of wealth. Killing someone at the top ten spots on the bounty board would set you up for life!”

Long Chen smiled. “Some of the people in the top ten spots are at the Earthly Martial Realm, right?”

“Yes. The top three are all at the Earthly Martial Realm. Even the elusive Long Chen at the third spot is at the Earthly Martial Realm! Long Chen only reached the third spot on the bounty board in the past few months. He killed someone important in the Martial Alliance to achieve that. The Martial Overlord got so angry that he swore to give a hundred royal crystals to those that killed Long Chen!” Jiang Cheng’s eyes were filled with admiration and greed.

Long Chen was stunned. He thought the middle-aged cultivator from before was just toying with him. How could his cultivation match with the Long Chen on the bounty board? To think that the man was serious about it.

“Brother Jiang, what about demonic beasts, spiritual herbs, and Divine Arms? How are they categorized here?”

“Heaven-tier demonic beasts, techniques, and spiritual herbs are the most common. They are everywhere here. Anything above the Heaven-tier is considered a treasure. Demonic beasts that surpass the Heaven-tier are considered to be at the top of the ecosystem. The Divine Phoenix is one of them. Just like cultivation, the spiritual herbs, demonic beasts, Divine Arms, and techniques are separated into three categories: king, emperor, and divine. Similar to the crystals, we don't have any Divine-tier items in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, while most of the Emperor-tier items are controlled by the few strongest individuals. Emperor-tier demonic beasts can destroy their surroundings with ease! As for King-tier ones, most of them are considered treasures that people covet. The Divine Phoenix is a King-tier demonic beast.”

“So above the Four Basic Realms are the Three Martial Realms? Demonic beasts, Divine Arms, spiritual herbs, and techniques can be separated into the king, emperor, and divine tiers. Is that correct? There's also the royal crystals, emperor crystal, and divine crystal.” Long Chen felt his head pounding from all the information.

“That's correct.”

Long Chen nodded because he had learned a lot from him. He also had a framework of how the world worked from here onwards.

“Thank you very much.”

“No need to thank me. That said, where did you get your demonic wolf?” Jiang Cheng looked at Xiaolang, revealing a hint of greed in his eyes.

“It's from my hometown.” Long Chen wasn't sure why Jiang Cheng kept talking about the wolf.

“I wonder, where is your hometown?” Jiang Cheng wanted to know.

“I can't say. We've just met.” Long Chen couldn't fully trust Jiang Cheng yet. He was afraid that Jiang Cheng would bully the Cangyang Kingdom with his superior strength. He had already realized the problem when he was fighting earlier, so Long Chen had killed those who had heard him say that he came from the Cangyang Kingdom.

“Sorry, I was too rash,” Jiang Cheng said.

“It's alright. Do you know the name of the demonic beast?” Long Chen turned the question around.

Jiang Cheng smiled bitterly and shook his head. “I was interested in it because I had never seen it before. I'm actually very interested in demonic beasts and read a lot about them, but I never saw one with an engraving of the sun on the forehead. I do know the weaker Moon Devouring Wolf though.”

Jiang Cheng didn't sound like he was lying, but Long Chen still raised his guard. *I still need to keep my guard up around him because this is not my home. He might be kind enough to explain so much to me while even preparing a golden identity token for me, but there's no harm in being careful.*

Jiang Cheng looked up and said excitedly, "Brother Yang, look! We've arrived at Yellow Martial City!"

#### Chapter 455 - Earthly Qi

Long Chen looked up and saw a city on the horizon. It looked like a giant laying down on the ground. A massive, yellow plume of Qi floated from the city center to the sky. Long Chen sensed a strong surge of Earthly Qi from the yellow plume.

"The Earthly Qi is so thick here!" Long Chen realized that the nature's spiritual energy in the area was tens of times denser than in the Counter Essence Realm.

"Of course. The cities of the Divine Martial Empire are built on Earth Veins. It might look barren, but the ground beneath us is actually the Earth Vein where liquid nature's spiritual energy flows through. If you look at Yellow Martial City, the yellow plume comes from a hole on the ground that allows nature's spiritual energy to flow upwards. That's why nature's spiritual energy here is so dense."

"No wonder those at the Divine Martial Empire are so much stronger. The dense nature's spiritual energy makes them much stronger from birth." Long Chen was speechless.

"You are correct. Yellow Martial City is just a normal city, but even those born in a smaller city would be able to unlock all of their Dragon Veins and reach the Ninth Dragon Stage. They can also form their Human Core at the age of one!"

Long Chen was speechless. His grandfather had spent his entire life cultivating to reach the Ninth Dragon Stage, but those born here could reach it just by being born!

"Yellow Martial City is one of the more populous cities in the region. The yellow plume that's shooting up towards the sky is the Earthly Qi. Thanks to its nourishment, those who live in the city can easily reach the Heavenly Core Realm without any issue," Jiang Cheng explained as they ran towards the city.

Long Chen was indeed shocked.

After seeing how grand the Divine Martial Territory was, he felt that the gap between him and Ling Xi was getting wider. If the Divine Martial Territory was this strong, Ling Xi's family was definitely leagues above that; it was possible that there were Divine Martial Realm cultivators in her family. There was no way Ling Xi's parents would approve of their marriage with his current strength.

*Time to start working even harder,* Long Chen swore to himself. He didn't lack the resources nor talent. He only needed time.

Jiang Cheng suddenly asked, "Didn't you want to go to the Ancient Demon Domain? Yellow Martial City is the largest city next to the Ancient Demon Domain. Just pass through the city and you will be able to reach it."

Long Chen nodded. "Thank you for explaining it to me. I will repay you one day."

"No need. We were brought together by fate. I should do what I can to help you."

Jiang Cheng flashed a smile.

His smile was innocent enough, but he was wearing an attire that suspiciously resembled that of a young master.

Long Chen soon reached the city and saw that it was roughly the same size as the Biyang Imperial Capital, but it was much more grand. While the Biyang Imperial Capital was exquisite, Yellow Martial City was gnarly like a beast waiting to kill something.

When he got close, Jiang Cheng gave him a golden identity token. "Brother Yang, this is mine. You can just enter the city with it and use the name 'Jiang Cheng.'"

"Then what will you use?"

"My family is somewhat influential, so I have another, but mine is a fake name."

Long Chen nodded. Being able to forge an identity token and using it meant that his family was nowhere as weak as he had thought. They soon reached the gate, and Long Chen saw thousands of Martial Alliance members wearing golden-yellow robes guarding the entrance.

Long Chen lined up with Jiang Cheng at the back of the line. They soon moved forward without any issues as no one dared to cause trouble here. The Martial Alliance was here, and everyone knew that offending them was a bad idea.

Soon, it was Jiang Cheng's turn. Jiang Cheng took out another golden identity token and presented it to the guards. Long Chen failed to see the name on it, but the guards were visibly shaken and bowed a little before letting him enter the city.

Long Chen noticed what was happening.

Who is he?

"Jiang Cheng, come quick," the real Jiang Cheng said to Long Chen.

Long Chen nodded and gave the golden identity token to the guard. He examined the token, looked at Long Chen, and then gave him the permission to enter.

The guards didn't react when they saw the name on mine, but they did when Jiang Cheng showed his golden identity token. That meant that Jiang Cheng's real identity token was the one in his hands and mine's a fake. He's tricking me!

"Brother Yang, what's wrong?"

"Nothing. I'm just shocked at how dense nature's spiritual energy is here." Long Chen smiled. The spiritual energy in this city was indeed stronger than in the Counter

Essence Realm. The gas coming out of the cracks on the ground made the place feel like a furnace.

But it was very comfortable to be in the city.

“Yellow Martial City is just a regular city. You might have a chance to go to the headquarters of the Martial Alliance at Martial Overlord City one day. Then you will know what dense nature's spiritual energy really feels like.” Jiang Cheng's eyes revealed a look of admiration.

“You haven't been there before?”

“Of course not. Only important members of the Martial Alliance are allowed to enter. I am nowhere near qualified.”

They continued walking and talking to each other. Long Chen looked at the crowd around him and found that indeed everyone here was very strong. He never spotted anyone below the Earthly Martial Realm.

“Jiang Cheng, are you taking me to get an identity token?”

He initially trusted Jiang Cheng somewhat, but based on the reaction of the guards outside the city just now, Jiang Cheng likely was not as kind as he had thought. Long Chen wanted to know what his goal was.

Xiaolang was currently in Long Chen's robes. He looked at the city with curiosity.

“My friends in the Martial Alliance are at the western side of the city. We are at the eastern side right now. We can get there soon, but I want to get something at the auction today. It's starting soon, so I was hoping that you could wait for me a bit.” Jiang Cheng revealed a bitter expression at the mention of the delay.

Long Chen thought about it. He had Blood Warp, and Jiang Cheng was only roughly at the Third Passage Stage, so he wasn't a huge threat. Long Chen nodded. “You've helped me quite a bit, so I don't mind the small delay. Please show me the way.”

“Thank you, Brother Yang.” Jiang Cheng nodded and took Long Chen around the city. They arrived at a building that resembled the Dawn Trading Alliance's headquarters. Under the guidance of the guard, Jiang Cheng led Long Chen into the auction hall. It was starting soon, and Jiang Cheng entered the VIP booth.

Long Chen looked down from the window and saw that it was dark down there. After waiting for a moment, the stage lit up. A beautiful girl wearing revealing clothes walked to the center of the stage and interacted with the guests.

The girl's voice was sweet, so the guests were quickly enamored. She smiled and started the auction.

“Yang Qing, don't worry. I'm only here for one item, but then again, it would be a waste to let the other treasures go. I should probably get twenty items or so. If you



need anything, just let me know and I will help you if I can. Just think of it as a gift. How does that sound?" Jiang Cheng smiled.

"Thank you, Brother Jiang." Long Chen smiled. If Jiang Cheng wanted to harm him later on, there would be no harm in taking advantage of him while he could.

Soon, items started being presented. The first few were various elementary Heaven-tier items. A small auction house in Yellow Martial City would normally have several intermediate Heaven-tier items.

There were various items being auctioned off, such as spiritual herbs on the level of the Bloodseal Lotus, Heaven-tier techniques, and Divine Arms. But Long Chen didn't need anything at the elementary Heaven-tier right now. Jiang Cheng was waiting for the latter half of the auction, so they waited without talking.

After dozens of items had been auctioned off, Xiaolang suddenly moved excitedly in Long Chen's robes. He stared at the item on display, and Long Chen knew that it was incredible.

Chapter 456 - Fate My Ass!

"We will now be auctioning off the core of a demonic beast!" The pretty lady on the stage smiled as a red plate was pushed to her side. Under the glittering light, the red plate covered in red cloth looked very alluring, and it exuded a sense of enigma and suspense for the customers.

The girl gestured at the plate with her slender fingers. "Everyone, take a guess at what this is. I'm sure that most of you have sensed the dense fire energy exuding from it. This is indeed the core of a demonic beast with the fire attribute."

She then carefully lifted the red cloth, revealing a red demonic core that was still on fire. A beast's illusion was roaring inside the core. It appeared to be a very powerful and fearsome beast.

"I'm sure most of you have guessed what it is. This is a Category Three Heaven-tier Flaming Lion's demonic core! This is an excellent demonic core for Beast Warriors. If you have enough Heavenly Passage Pills, it could help you advance into the Second Passage Stage from the first! Of course, I suggest that you refine it over time, or you might get burned! I won't say any more, so let's get the bidding started! The initial price is fifty Heavenly Passage Pills!"

Once she finished announcing that, everyone started bidding and increasing the price. Fifty-one soon became eighty. At the same time, Jiang Cheng saw that Long Chen was interested in the demonic core. "Brother Yang, do you want it? I recall that you are a Beast Warrior, so it should be useful for you. I will buy it for you if you are interested."

When he said that, he took secret glances at Xiaolang.

"I will be grateful if you do, Brother Jiang."

"No worries. It's normal for you to not have any Heavenly Passage Pills since it's your first time here. Let me get it for you."

The price was already at a hundred pills, and no one was bidding anymore. That was the regular price of a Category Three Heaven-tier demonic core.

Just then, Jiang Cheng shouted from the booth, “One hundred and twenty Heavenly Passage Pills.”

The girl below was delighted because that was above the market price! Since no one else bid further, she announced that the demonic core belonged to Jiang Cheng.

The auction continued, and soon, someone sent the demonic core to Jiang Cheng. He then gave it to Long Chen, who was more than happy to accept it.

“I hope it helps you grow stronger, Brother Yang.” Jiang Cheng smiled. Long Chen wasn’t sure why he was so happy.

*Why is he so happy even though he spent so much money buying demonic core for me? He’s probably loaded.* Long Chen was considering “taking” Jiang Cheng’s Heavenly Passage Pills if the latter showed hostility.

The auction was nearing its end. An intermediate Heaven-tier battleaxe was displayed, and everyone got excited about it. Someone bought it for two thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. The time for the final item had come. As the girl brought the suspense to the peak, everyone was squirming in their seats, waiting to catch a glimpse of the final treasure.

“This is the final item of the auction. I’m sure many of you came all the way here for a chance to obtain it. Come, bring up the final item.”

Someone pushed over a cart with a black plate on it. It was covered in a black cloth too. The girl smiled and carefully revealed the final item. On the plate was a shining collar roughly twenty centimeters in diameter. The collar wasn’t normal—it glowed and exuded an eerie aura. There were even hints of a bloodthirsty aura in it. Long Chen observed the collar and saw that there were many beast souls howling inside of it.

“This is the Soul Binder, an Intermediate Heaven-tier treasure! I’m sure almost everyone here knows how to use it! It can be used to enslave any demonic beast under the Category Six Heaven-tier! The beast will become your loyal subject, forever doing your bidding. If you capture one, you are essentially recruiting someone at the Sixth Passage Stage to your clan or family! Who would miss this opportunity? Many people are willing to trade off all of their treasures just to obtain it! Hehe, sorry, that was just a joke, but the Soul Binder is a really rare treasure. You might never see one for sale again if you miss this chance! The price will start at five thousand Heavenly Passage Pills!”

Five thousand Heavenly Passage Pills was not a small amount, but it showed how precious the item was.

To Long Chen, the price was far beyond what he could afford for now, but rather than the price, he was more concerned about the item. Jiang Cheng was itching to start the bidding, so Long Chen whispered, “Xiaolang, I think something’s wrong with Jiang Cheng.”

“I think he wants to buy the Soul Binder and then attack you. He’s probably going to act once he gets it. Big Brother, what is he trying to get from you?” Xiaolang was still clueless.

“What a stupid wolf. He’s clearly targeting you, not your big brother!” The fat cat sighed as he rolled around in the Primordial Realm.

“I see.” Long Chen nodded. “No wonder he kept mentioning you. It seems that he knows a lot about demonic beasts. He probably knows that you are a Sun Devouring Wolf and knows what kind of ability you have. Maybe that’s why he wants to buy the Soul Binder. He will use it to control you. Xiaolang, you are still a Category Nine Earth-tier beast. If he captures and feeds you, he will eventually have a Category Six Heaven-tier beast as his bodyguard!”

“Wow. He’s so devious. If we hadn’t noticed the behavior of the guards when we came into the city, we might’ve been tricked by him. What a despicable man,” Xiaolang said angrily.

“Jiang Cheng is indeed very cunning. He probably already knew what items would be in the auction, which is why he wanted to come here first. He even got me the demonic core because he was certain that you would be able to consume it and increase your strength with it. That’s why he’s so happy even though he spent so much money on it.” Long Chen was secretly shocked that rather than targeting him, Jiang Cheng was targeting Xiaolang.

If his plan succeeded, Jiang Cheng would definitely benefit greatly. Even Long Chen was secretly admiring Xiaolang’s talent. If he nurtured Xiaolang properly, his little brother would really reach the peak of all demonic beasts. Jiang Cheng would literally become the luckiest man in the world if he used the Soul Binder on Xiaolang.

*He probably came to Yellow Martial City to buy the Soul Binder but coincidentally saw me fighting the Martial Alliance and took a slight interest in me. But then he saw Xiaolang and followed me. He even tricked me into coming to Yellow Martial City!* Long Chen chuckled when he realized what was happening. He was originally very grateful for Jiang Cheng, but now that he knew the plan, all his gratitude was gone.

“Big Brother, what should we do?”

“Don’t worry. He’s only at the Third Passage Stage, so I’m stronger than him. Since he’s underestimating us, let’s just wait and see what happens to him. I might be able to obtain some Heavenly Passage Pills from him instead!” Long Chen chuckled.

Jiang Cheng was currently bidding for the collar. The Soul Binder was indeed a rare treasure. The price soon climbed up to ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.

*He’s cunning, but it seems that he comes from a rich family. He’s completely unphased by the idea of spending ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.* Long Chen was secretly surprised because he

himself only had seventy pills. It wasn't even enough for him to reach the Second Passage Stage once he entered the Heavenly Passage Realm in the future.

The bidding for the Soul Binder was nearing its end as very few people were still placing bids, but Jiang Cheng was the richest man around. He got impatient and immediately raised the price to fifteen thousand pills. Everyone else remained silent.

Jiang Cheng successfully obtained the Soul Binder.

He happily put it away once the auction was over and patted Long Chen's shoulder. "Brother Yang, the auction has finally ended. Sorry for taking up your time."

"Brother Jiang, you are too humble. You bought me the demonic core, so it was worth the wait. I, Long Chen, don't know how to repay you!"

"Long Chen?" Jiang Cheng was taken aback because his name had changed ...

"Long Chen? Brother Jiang, is something wrong?" Long Chen was too used to saying his own name, so he had accidentally blurted it out.

"Oh ... Uh ... It's nothing, then. Since the auction is over, let's go get your identity token!" Jiang Cheng just brushed it off, assuming he had misheard.

"Thank you, Brother Jiang. Once I enter the Ancient Demon Domain and become successful, I will repay you for your help today!"

"No worries. Fate is what brought us together."

*Fate my ass!* Long Chen silently cursed in his heart.

Chapter 457 - Ancient Trinity Seal

Long Chen and Jiang Cheng left the auction house. Under his guidance, they circled around Yellow Martial City.

"Brother Yang, we will reach the west side of the city soon. My friends are over there."

Long Chen said nothing and nodded.

He looked around and saw that they were indeed at the west side of the city. But the further they walked, the more desolate it was. The Earthly Qi was weaker in this area, so there were fewer people around. The Divine Martial Empire didn't have a lot of people in the first place, but most of them were strong. The population of Yellow Martial City seemed to be even smaller than Yuanling City's.

The stronger the individuals in an area, the easier it was for them to eliminate the weak.

Soon, Long Chen and Jiang Cheng arrived at a dilapidated building with a broken door. Dust covered the interior, indicating that it had been a long time since anyone lived inside.

"We are here! You're feeling nervous, right? They are in there." Jiang Cheng opened the door and led Long Chen in.

Long Chen chuckled because he knew that Jiang Cheng was clearly not trying to help him. It had been a long time since someone lived there, so how could the people from the Martial Alliance be inside? And they would never live somewhere so desolate in the first place.

He had a feeling that Jiang Cheng was going to reveal his evil side soon.

Long Chen soon reached the dining hall of the estate. The room was large, but the floor, table, and chairs were covered in dust. It was clear that no one had lived here for at least ten years.

“Brother Jiang, you said your friends are here? Why is the place covered in dust?”

Long Chen had asked a stupid question on purpose.

Jiang Cheng was standing in the middle of the hall, and he slowly turned around. His gaze had changed; he was looking at Xiaolang with greedy eyes. “Yang Qing, don’t be in such a rush. They are probably out and might come back soon. What if we take this time to discuss something?”

“What is it?”

Staring at how stupid Long Chen looked, Jiang Cheng chuckled. He looked at Xiaolang and said without any reservations, “Brother Yang, I’ve explained a lot of things about this place to you, and even gifted you the demonic core. I’m even forging a golden identity token for you. Have I treated you well?”

“Brother Jiang, you’ve indeed treated me well. I will forever remember your help, but what are you thinking about discussing?”

Jiang Cheng never took his eyes off Xiaolang. “I had a strange feeling the moment I saw your demonic beast. I really love it. I wonder, can give it to me, Brother Yang? I will pay you as many Heavenly Passage Pills as you want for it.”

“I can’t do that. Xiaolang is my sworn brother. How can I just give him to you? Even if you gave me tens of millions of Heavenly Passage Pills, I will never hand him over.” Just as he had expected, Jiang Cheng was indeed aiming to take Xiaolang. That was why he had bought the Soul Binder.

Seeing how adamant Long Chen was, Jiang Cheng was taken back. He didn’t want to fight, so he had tried using words instead, but he was more than happy to resort to violence.

Jiang Cheng growled, “Brother Yang, I really want your demonic beast. Can you really not give it to me?”

Long Chen suddenly laughed.

“Alright, Jiang Cheng, I will stop joking with you. Ever since I knew you were aiming for Xiaolang the moment I saw the Soul Binder in the auction house. You probably approached me because you saw that he was a Sun Devouring Wolf, right?”

Long Chen decided to reveal everything.

Jiang Cheng was stunned. He thought he had Long Chen in his grasp, but he was the monkey instead. He felt humiliated and got angry. “I see. But, Yang Qing, why did you come here if you knew I was trying to get your demonic beast? Are you stupid or something?”

“Why not?”

Long Chen’s nonchalant attitude invoked a strong killing intent from Jiang Cheng, and he laughed out of rage. “Good! I actually wanted to let you live, but I see that you must die today. Don’t blame me for doing this. You are actually quite a talented person, but it’s such a shame that you will die just after arriving at the Divine Martial Empire.”

Long Chen was too lazy to argue with him.

Since Jiang Cheng wanted to kill him, Long Chen had no incentive to let him live. He would never let someone like him live.

Also, Long Chen knew that Jiang Cheng came from an incredible family. Since he could spend fifteen thousand Heavenly Passage Pills on the Soul Binder with such ease, that meant that he had more in his Universe Pouch. Long Chen needed pills urgently, so there was no reason for him to not take them.

Both of them were ready to strike.

Long Chen suddenly transformed. He had to rely on his Dragon Soul Transformation because without it, he would never be able to win against Jiang Cheng.

Jiang Cheng hissed when Long Chen finished transforming. He had only seen Long Chen’s transformed state from afar, so he was shocked by how dense Long Chen’s murderous aura was. The ancient scent of blood and massacre made him feel like kneeling for forgiveness.

It’s just an illusion!

His Third Passage Stage Qi exploded outwards.

Being at the Third Passage Stage meant that he had connected three dan meridian points, which were essentially three core areas where Qi collected. His Qi surged through his meridian points and his body before exploding in power. He was several times stronger than a regular Second Passage Stage cultivator.

Jiang Cheng is from a powerful family, so he probably has a lot of secret techniques!

But that was not the only thing Long Chen noticed.

It seems that Jiang Cheng is very inept in combat, based on how he is circulating his Qi and his behavior. Even though his Qi is dense, it’s quite unstable. He probably relied on spiritual herbs and pills to increase his cultivation level!

Long Chen carefully observed his opponent and came up with a plan.

Jiang Cheng must be the son or grandson of someone from a great family, but maybe his body is too weak to go above the Third Passage Stage even after consuming so many resources.

Long Chen quickly pieced the bits of information together.

I will just end it quickly.

Long Chen became a blood-red illusion as he charged at Jiang Cheng. His speed came from his strong physical body, so it was faster than when he infused his body with Qi. He was also more agile and nimble, allowing him to fight more efficiently in such a small place.

“Your speed is good!” Jiang Cheng howled to mask his fear when he saw Long Chen approach him. Jiang Cheng slid around the battlefield and ran towards Long Chen too. At the last moment, his Qi exploded. The air rippled and the chairs were sent flying.

Long Chen was the first one to move, but Jiang Cheng was the first one to strike.

“Ancient Trinity Seal!” Halfway in the air, Jiang Cheng quickly formed a seal with his fingers. It was so fast that it rivaled the wingbeat of a dragonfly. He quickly finished the seal and threw it at Long Chen.

The air itself was pushed down, causing the floorboards to start cracking.

*It must be an elementary Heaven-tier martial technique!* Long Chen saw through the attack immediately. The true Ancient Trinity Seal was probably stronger than the Supreme Demon Sword as it was one of the stronger techniques at the elementary Heaven-tier.

However, Jiang Cheng had failed to use it to its full potential.

Long Chen leaped up towards Jiang Cheng. Halfway in the air, the Demon Emperor Sword appeared in his hands.

“Demon Emperor Sword Technique, Supreme Demon Sword!” Long Chen shot out thousands of black blades to intercept Jiang Cheng’s Ancient Trinity Seal. The Ancient Trinity Seal contained three different attacks, but Long Chen’s relentless assault made him an easy target for the technique.

“You dare take an attack from someone at the Third Passage Stage?!” Jiang Cheng was shocked because Long Chen was not acting as he had thought. Rather than fighting head-on, Long Chen was attacking from the side.

That meant that Jiang Cheng’s attack would land on Long Chen, but Long Chen’s attack would land too. Both of them would die like this!

Jiang Cheng froze in shock, but Long Chen smiled as he continued his assault.

“You crazy bastard!” At the last moment, Jiang Cheng recalled his technique and retreated to dodge Long Chen’s Supreme Demon Sword.

*He has too little experience in real combat.* Long Chen sighed and shook his head. He had noticed Jiang Cheng’s shortcomings, so he had used a method that risked both of their lives to make Jiang Cheng retreat.

Long Chen used the space created and continued his assault!

Chapter 458 - Nine Major Meridian Points

In that instant, Long Chen increased his speed and used the first stage of the Soul Swallowing Gaze, Seduction.

The Soul Swallowing Gaze was the technique that Li Xuanji had taught him. Even though Long Chen had barely scratched the surface of the technique, it had saved him multiple times, especially

the third stage, Sight. It allowed him to scan the surroundings for souls while ignoring the terrain. It had proven to be very useful.

The first stage, Seduction, could also be used in combat. Jiang Cheng was gazing at Long Chen's eyes when the character for the word "seduction" appeared in them. Jiang Cheng was planning on retreating to avoid Long Chen's attack before launching his own strike.

But Long Chen's body suddenly became hazy and even started to disappear. His surroundings were fading and turning into a whirlpool that sucked him inside.

What's going on?

While he was confused, Jiang Cheng suddenly felt like his life was in danger. Due to the sudden change in his environment, he had slowed down enough for Long Chen to reach him. When Jiang Cheng snapped out of it, Long Chen was already by his side.

"AH!" Jiang Cheng shouted out in fear, but no one was here to hear him due to how desolate the place was. Long Chen smiled and stabbed Jiang Cheng's neck with the Demon Emperor Sword.

Jiang Cheng's final shout was cut off by Long Chen's Demon Emperor Sword. Even though he was a Third Passage Stage cultivator, he had lost to Long Chen because the latter had a clear understanding of his heart. Long Chen had suppressed him from the very start.

Even so, Jiang Cheng did not die instantly. His eyes widened in shock and he started wheezing, overcome with despair. He knew that he would die the moment Long Chen pulled the sword out.

"I was actually quite grateful to you for helping me so much, but to think that you were trying to harm me all along. This is what you deserve. You shouldn't try to befriend people just to steal their stuff. Reflect on this when you go down to hell." Long Chen's voice was chilly.

Jiang Cheng couldn't even speak. His eyes grew darker as his life slowly faded.

This was the outcome of trying to harm Long Chen.

Long Chen withdrew the sword, and Jiang Cheng's body slowly slumped to the ground. When he died, a golden light flew off his body. It was a golden identity token! It shot past Long Chen and flew high up in the air. Long Chen was shocked. If he saw it right, that was Jiang Cheng's true golden identity token!

I cannot stay here for long!

Long Chen frowned and immediately took Jiang Cheng's Universe Pouch. Without even looking at its contents, he threw everything into the Primordial Realm before running out of the building.

The golden identity token with the name 'Jiang Cheng' is still here, but the one he used to enter the city has flown away. Maybe because he's from some noble family, his real token flew back to his family when he died.

Long Chen soon reached the western city gate. There were people guarding it too, so he took out the Jiang Cheng golden identity token to get out of the city. *This token is clearly not his real one. If I*



*had taken someone else's token, it's possible that the guards would detect the discrepancies. But since this token was intended for him to get around without using his real one, I should be fine.*

Soon, Long Chen got through the line and revealed his token. The guards looked at it before nodding. "Jiang Cheng. Alright, you can leave now."

Long Chen then ran out of the city. After passing the inspection, he was sure that he could use it without any issues. After killing so many people from the Martial Alliance, Long Chen wouldn't dare to get one made for himself.

*The person on the third spot of the bounty board is also called Long Chen. Even though it's a coincidence, I cannot use my real name. I will have to use this name, Jiang Cheng, instead.* Long Chen had no choice. Even though he already had a fake name, Yang Qing, he would have to use the name Jiang Cheng.

He said that the path on the other side of Yellow Martial City leads to the Ancient Demon Domain. I should be able to reach it without any issues, but I need to find a place to hide first to count what I've earned.

Xiaolang also needed a safe place to eat the demonic core of the Blazing Lion. With it, he would be able to reach the Heaven-tier.

Xiaolang was very excited. "Big Brother!"

"Let's go find a place to hide first."

Long Chen saw a mountain while running on the path. He increased his speed and ran towards the desolate mountain. The Divine Martial Empire was massive, but there were not a lot of people, so there was no one in sight outside the city.

He soon reached the mountain and used the Soul Swallowing Gaze to find a relatively quiet spot, choosing a small cave that was both quiet and safe. No one was around them either. Even if someone approached, Long Chen would easily spot them with the Soul Swallowing Gaze.

"Xiaolang, take the core and refine it. You need to become a Heaven-tier demonic beast as soon as possible." Long Chen immediately took the core out and gave it to Xiaolang.

The fat cat suddenly said, "Let the stupid dog refine it in the Primordial Realm. There might be unexpected gains."

Long Chen thought about it. The Primordial Realm did contain Primordial Qi, so it was possible Xiaolang would gain something if he refined the core there. And if something happened to Long Chen outside, Xiaolang would be safe. He nodded and sent Xiaolang into the Primordial Realm.

There were three areas inside the Primordial Realm that Long Chen had separated. The first area was where the cat was. Since he was the original resident of the place, it was normal for him to have such a big space for himself.

The remaining two areas were where Xiaolang resided and where Long Chen placed his items. Long Chen's Demon Emperor Sword and other objects were placed here, including the Heavenly Passage Pills. Jiang Cheng's items were there as well.

He didn't have as much as I thought. After paying fifteen thousand Heavenly Passage Pills for the Soul Binder, there were only five thousand left in his Universe Pouch. I think he came all the way here just to buy the Soul Binder.

But five thousand Heavenly Passage Pills was a good amount. He also had the Soul Binder. If Long Chen sold it, he could get another ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills or more. He wouldn't have to worry about progressing his cultivation anytime soon.

Since Jiang Cheng had come all this way just for the Soul Binder, he hadn't brought a lot of things. There were random personal items that Long Chen burned away. All that was left was an elementary Heaven-tier spiritual herb.

His father probably thought that there was a good chance he would be killed. If he brought any advanced Heaven-tier martial techniques with him, he might've really gotten robbed and the techniques would have been leaked. That would be a heavy blow to his family.

Except for the five thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, Long Chen's largest reward was the golden identity token. If he didn't have it, it would be difficult for him to move around.

Just as Master said, I should join a large sect. If I don't, I'll just be buzzing around like a headless fly with no knowledge of how to increase my strength; I won't even be able to get any techniques. Plus, I've become the enemy of the Martial Alliance and need a clan to protect me. I have to go to the Ancient Demon Domain!

Long Chen shook his head bitterly.

Once Xiaolang finishes refining the demonic core, I have to go to the Ancient Demon Domain as quickly as possible. But for now, it's time to advance into the Heavenly Passage Realm.

After absorbing a hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence, Long Chen's cultivation speed had increased by tenfold. It would've taken him several months to reach the Heavenly Passage Realm before, but now it would only take him ten days.

It was clear that his talent in cultivation was absurd.

I've finished condensing the eighteen starry rivers in my body. The interior of my body is just like the night sky, but for it to come alive, I need to carve out the nine meridian points in my body. There are six spiritual meridian points, two earthly meridian points, and one heavenly meridian point. The first meridian point is the dan meridian point!

The dan meridian point was located in the dantian. Ever since he reached the Heavenly River Realm, his dantian had been left untouched, but now he has to activate it once more to form the core of his Qi. This time, he had the help of the eighteen starry rivers.

Xiaolang also needed time to cultivate, so Long Chen sat down and got ready to advance into the final realm of the Four Basic Realms.

Chapter 459 - Advance into the Heavenly Passage Realm

The dan meridian point.

It was the easiest of the nine meridian points to activate. It was located at the dantian, which used to be the core of the Qi. The other meridian points were never used before, so this one was simple.

To activate it, one would need a lot of Heavenly Passage Pills to supplement the Qi. One would then need to reinforce it before letting the Qi condense and form the core. Only then would the meridian point be completed.

Long Chen had both the Heavenly Passage Pills and Qi to do so now. Soon, he took out fifty Heavenly Passage Pills from the Primordial Realm and consumed thirty of them. The Heavenly Passage Pills quickly became a white torrent that swept past his veins. Under his control, the white torrent fused with his Qi.

His Qi was now glowing white like milk. Once it was completely fused, Long Chen ate the remaining twenty. He needed more than thirty because his Qi was special.

But fifty Heavenly Passage Pills weren't enough either.

*Thankfully, I took Jiang Cheng's Heavenly Passage Pills, or this wouldn't have worked.* Long Chen kept consuming Heavenly Passage Pills until he ate three hundred of them. Only then did his Qi start to change a little and could start carving out the first meridian point.

*A regular person would've needed only thirty, but I need three hundred. If this goes on, I will need a ridiculous amount to reach the Ninth Passage Stage.* Long Chen did a rough calculation and estimated that he would need millions of them.

I never needed to worry about Heavenly River Pills when I was at the Heavenly River Stage since I somehow always managed to get a lot, but now it's different since I came here empty-handed. Looks like I need to work hard to get more Heavenly Passage Pills, or I will fall behind even if I use Blood Transmutation!

Just then, he started carving out the first meridian point with his transformed Qi. The Qi from his eighteen starry rivers also surged towards his dantian.

Qi was usually violent, but with the mellow strength of the Heavenly Passage Pills wrapping around it, he could control all eighteen branches of Qi from his eighteen starry rivers.

Everything was ready, and Long Chen was preparing to advance to the next stage using his own Qi rather than Blood Transmutation, so it was much simpler than he had thought.

The eighteen branches of Qi flowed into his dantian. Rather than destroying it, they circulated and formed a small, white whirlpool.

Long Chen felt like his dantian was about to burst.

It's never simple!

He endured it while making sure the Qi didn't harm his dantian. Time slowly passed, and a small, white core formed above the whirlpool. The core was as pretty as a gemstone.

It was the size of a bean, but it contained unimaginable power, more than the Heavenly Core Realm by tens of thousands of times. Long Chen now realized the difference in strength between the Heavenly Core Realm and the Heavenly Passage Realm.

"Success." Long Chen sighed in relief as his white Qi swirled around the white core and released his control. His dantian was now the core of the eighteen rivers, so the

Qi circulated through it before returning to the starry rivers. This way, his entire body was filled with Qi.

The power of the Heavenly Passage Pills slowly dissipated.

The main usage of Heavenly Passage Pills was to stabilize the violent Qi. Now that it was done, the effect would dissipate. Long Chen's Qi slowly returned back to its original red color.

Whenever Long Chen transformed, his Qi turned blood-red.

After the Heavenly Passage Pills' effect disappeared, his Qi started circulating through the whirlpool and starry rivers ten times faster than before. A mysterious energy radiated from the inside of his body.

The howling Qi surged through his body rapidly.

Long Chen endured it.

As he endured, the new circulation path formed and stabilized. Long Chen was now officially at the Heavenly Passage Realm.

He smiled with satisfaction when he saw the red whirlpool and the core above it.

The core should come to life when I'm in battle. It will sink into the whirlpool and radiate a lot of energy. When I'm not in battle, my Qi will be more reserved, similar to how a Heavenly River Realm cultivator is. So this is the difference between the two.

Long Chen stood up and examined his body.

Seventy percent of my Qi is in that little core, so only thirty percent of it is circulating through my body! Even so, I'm three times stronger than when I was at the Ninth River Stage. So my Qi reserves have increased by tenfold again.

Since he was at the Heavenly Passage Realm, a new path to cultivation had unfolded in front of him again. This was a good start. As long as he continued, he would have no issues growing stronger.

I've become so strong by just carving out the first meridian point. I wonder how strong I will get when I carve out all of the meridian points? With my cultivation speed, this won't be difficult. I just need more Heavenly Passage Pills. I've used up three hundred for the first stage, and five thousand of them might only be enough for me to reach the Third Passage Stage ...

Long Chen felt depressed.

It seems that I need to work hard to find more Heavenly Passage Pills. Without them stabilizing my Qi, my meridian points will be destroyed since they are fragile.

Long Chen pondered as he familiarized himself with his new body.

"Why are you so easily satisfied? You're that happy when you've merely reached the Heavenly Passage Realm. I really can't help but laugh at you." The cat scoffed at Long Chen from the Primordial Realm.

"You still can't beat me," Long Chen retorted.

“What?! You brat! If I hadn’t used all my power reviving everyone at Baiyang Town, I would’ve destroyed the Divine Martial Empire with just a single sneeze.”

“What a joke.”

The fat cat remained silent.

Just then, Long Chen felt Xiaolang stirring in the Primordial Realm. Xiaolang’s body was burning with a black flame, making him look like he was resurrecting from the ashes. His body was also changing—he had shrunk from three to two meters tall. Even so, his body was now much more compact and denser.

Once the fire was gone, a horrible presence radiated off Xiaolang. It was the presence of a Heaven-tier demonic beast, and he was also emitting an incredible heat.

He opened his eyes, and two golden lights shot out of the Primordial Realm and lit up the small cave.

“What the?!” Long Chen was shocked to see that Xiaolang’s eyes had turned golden. Black flames burned in them like black suns in the skies. Long Chen closed his eyes because merely looking at them was painful.

When he opened them again, the golden light had disappeared and Xiaolang came out of the Primordial Realm. His eyes were still golden and the black flames were still lit; even his limbs were on fire. His eyes and the marking of the sun formed a triangle on his face.

“Big Brother, I think I’ve become stronger, and I think I got a new talent ...” Xiaolang’s voice was hoarse.

“Which is?”

“Blazing Lions can control flames. Their mastery over flames can be used in many ways, even increasing the strength of their fire by three times. It’s an incredible talent!”

“So what does that have to do with you?” Long Chen wasn’t sure why Xiaolang was explaining this.

“I have obtained that talent.”

Chapter 460 - Pyrokinesis

Xiaolang breathed out some regular fire and controlled it. He then changed the shape of the fire and made it dance around the cave with a surprising degree of accuracy and speed.

“Is this your new talent? Pyrokinesis?” Long Chen was admiring it.

“No, you are wrong. It’s not my talent, but the Blazing Lion’s.”

“Huh?” Long Chen wasn’t sure what Xiaolang meant.

Xiaolang excitedly answered, “I did unlock a new talent once I reached the Heaven-tier. My talent is that I can plunder the talents of other beasts by consuming their demonic cores as long as they are of the fire attribute. Since I’ve devoured the core of a Blazing Lion, I managed to copy its talent in Pyrokinesis. My talent, however, is not absolute. I won’t always be able to take the talents of other beasts, roughly only one-third of the time.”

Even the cat was impressed by Xiaolang’s talent, so he interjected and explained, “Your talent is indeed incredible. You have only consumed the demonic cores of weaker beasts so far, but when you get stronger, the beasts around you will be powerful enough to threaten the very lands themselves. All of them have incredible talents on their own. If you copy them, you will become the most powerful of all beasts.”

His new talent was much more important than his breakthrough to the Heaven-tier.

“Congratulations, Xiaolang!” Long Chen was happy.

“And you have reached the Heavenly Passage Realm. Before that, you could kill someone at the Third Passage Stage, but now that you are at the Heavenly Passage Realm, you can now fight against stronger people. I’m still too weak to help you. Back when we first met in Baiyang Town, I was stronger than you, but now the roles have been reversed after just one year.” Xiaolang sighed.

“Don’t worry. Who knows where we will stand in another year? Now that everything is over, we should head to the Ancient Demon Domain. We need to go there to find the entrance of the Ancient Graveyard. They should know where it is!”

Long Chen then took Xiaolang and returned to the path. Since Xiaolang’s speed had grown, Long Chen sat on his back and they ran across the plains. Initially, they met no one, but they soon saw more and more people as they approached the Ancient Demon Domain.

“The skies are darker up ahead, and there are several gray mountains. Wait, there are dozens of pillars of Earthly Qi shooting up into the skies at the mountain ranges. Each one has more Earthly Qis than the one at Yellow Martial City. That must be the Ancient Demon Domain. To think that the Earthly Qi is so dense there. But why is there so little vegetation even though there’s so much Earthly Qi? Cat, do you know why?”

The fat cat rolled his eyes in the Primordial Realm. “How would I know? I’ve wasted so much energy just to save you that my senses are already dull, but ... I think I know the reason why. There’s no Life Qi in the ground. Nothing can grow with just Earthly Qi.”

“Life Qi? What is that?” Long Chen never heard of it before.

“Idiot. There are different kinds of Qis and energies in this world. For example, Earthly Qi is suitable for cultivation. The Qi here is much higher quality than in the Cangyang Kingdom. Of course, there are several other types of Qi that are stronger. Life Qi is one of them. For some strange reason, it’s spread out evenly on the Dragon

Continent. Usually, most places have the same amount of Life Qi since it's so evenly distributed even though it's the key to life. This place here ... has even less Life Qi than the Cangyang Kingdom. Something's probably consuming it."

Long Chen had to admit that the cat was more informed of the world than Ling Xi, or at least he had never heard Ling Xi talk about it.

"Life Qi is needed to replenish life, but you don't really need it since you have Rewind. It's the ultimate technique to save your life."

*Something is consuming the Life Qi here? What kind of strange being is in the Ancient Demon Domain?* Long Chen had a fleeting thought, but he soon pushed it to the back of his mind. It didn't matter to him because he was here to cultivate.

He would reach the Ancient Demon Domain soon, so Xiaolang became small again and Long Chen hid him in his clothes. Long Chen would never keep him in the Primordial Realm if Xiaolang didn't want to.

"Big Brother, we're approaching a town. There are a lot of people too. It's probably because we are close to the Ancient Demon Domain."

Long Chen saw a lot of young cultivators riding their mounts towards the small town.

"Are they all entering the Ancient Demon Domain to cultivate? I need more information." Long Chen didn't know anything about the place.

Since he had just entered the First Passage Stage, no one paid him any attention. Long Chen soon brought Xiaolang close to the town. Other than the occasional gaze of the people looking at Xiaolang, no one paid them any attention.

When he reached the entrance, he saw several Martial Alliance guards. He used his fake golden identity token to enter the town.

A lot of young cultivators were rushing around the streets. Some of them were being escorted by their parents and masters.

It might be too weird if I just ask someone on the street. Let's find an inn or a restaurant to get some information.

After some time, Long Chen found the largest inn in the town, the Ten Thousand Floating Inn. Under the guidance of the waiter, he sat inside and ordered some food with wine. He enjoyed his meal while listening around.

There were many young cultivators below the age of twenty here, but everyone was already at the First or Second Passage Stage. Some of them were even at the Third Passage Stage. All of them would've been the strongest people in the Cangyang Kingdom, but they were nothing here.

Long Chen soon learned why the town was buzzing. All of them were here to join the qualifiers to enter the Ancient Demon Domain. The Ancient Demon Domain conducted it once a year, and Long Chen had coincidentally arrived just in time for it. The qualifiers had been ongoing for a couple of days, so those arriving today were technically late. That was why most people were panicking as they ran across the town to reach the Ancient Demon Domain.

“I heard that there are even more people this year. I think there are eighty thousand participants, but only seventy will pass, and only seven of them will become the direct disciples of the seven Demon Kings. The competition is fierce!”

“It’s alright. The Ancient Demon Domain is one of the largest superpowers. There’s nothing but benefits if you manage to join them. That’s why I’ve been working on entering for the past few years ever since I reached the Heavenly Passage Realm at sixteen. I’ve failed three times, and this is my last chance!”

“I hope you succeed, but I fear that your chances are slim since you’re only at the Second Passage Stage.”

“I have no choice but to test my luck.”

Long Chen learned a lot from them.

*Another qualifier?* Long Chen had joined two strong factions in the past before, the Lingwu family and the Heavenly Demon Palace. He became Zhao Qingyun’s direct disciple without any hassle, while it had required luck and skills to enter the Lingwu family. The qualifiers of the Ancient Demon Domain were most likely similar to the latter.

But as one of the strongest factions, their rules were probably very strict. Eighty thousand people and only seventy could join them. That was a one-in-a-thousand chance. Those below a certain cultivation level and those who lacked battle experience would have a hard time qualifying.

“Don’t worry. Even if you fail, you can still join the Martial Alliance. If your performance is good, you might get called to cultivate in Martial Overlord City. You might even become one of the top managers of the Martial Alliance! That’s even better!”

“You are right, but we still need to work hard to enter the Ancient Demon Domain. The people you talk of are all super geniuses who were recruited immediately by them. They are nothing like us ...”

Long Chen continued eating while listening to the news. The more he heard, the more he wanted to join the qualifiers. The inn was packed, so he heard a lot of information. He was preparing to find someone to talk about the Martial Alliance when the door to the inn suddenly slammed open and a small girl ran in.

Her eyes lit up the moment she saw Xiaolang sitting beside Long Chen.