

War God 461

Chapter 461 - Day of the Nine Suns

Long Chen looked over and saw that she was a ten-year-old girl. She was merely a child with pink cheeks and large eyes. Her skin was fair, and she wore a little yellow coat. There was one shiny silver bracelet on each of her wrists and pink cloth shoes on her feet. When she walked, the bells on her bracelets tinkled just like her melodious giggles, attracting a lot of attention.

This girl is the seedling of a pretty woman! She's so adorable at such a young age; she'll definitely be a beauty when she's older. This was Long Chen's first thought.

Little Cat was mesmerized the moment it saw the girl, drooling out of its mouth. It cried emotionally, "What ... what a pretty girl! She's exactly my type! Oh no, my mind has been muddled by her beauty! Long Chen, save me! I can't take it anymore!"

The panicked look on Little Cat's face made Long Chen speechless.

"You perverted cat! I can't believe you're interested in a child! You're creepy ..." Long Chen smiled in exasperation.

Little Cat was so emotional that it stuttered and could not stand on its legs. Its eyes peeked out of Long Chen's chest as it stared at the girl without even blinking. It chuckled, saying, "She's top-tier! Top-tier! The heavens are generous to me for giving me such a top-tier gift! My life finally has a purpose."

"Get out of here. You don't even have a body, and the girl isn't even ten yet. Fat Cat, I didn't know you were a pervert," said Long Chen.

"You don't understand! Do you know that love that comes from the soul is forever? She's not even ten, so nothing is formed yet. She's like a statue that I can carve. She's the symbol of purity!" Little Cat still kept on talking.

The girl was walking towards Long Chen, and as she giggled, her canine teeth showed as well as her dimples, making her look extra adorable.

When she arrived by Long Chen's side, she sat down on the stool next to him and rested her chin on the table. She then placed her small hands on the table, and her large, twinkling eyes stared at Xiaolang on Long Chen's chest.

"You little black dog! Get out of my way! My goddess is looking at me! You're blocking her view!" roared Little Cat in the Primordial Realm.

The girl looked pitifully at Long Chen and said cautiously, "Big Brother, Qi Qi wants to hug the puppy ... Can I?"

The moment Long Chen heard her sweet, soft voice, he knew that she was an expert at asking for what she wanted.

"What?" Little Cat felt like it had been struck by lightning. The goddess was interested in the dog! Little Cat was grief-stricken!

“It makes no sense! She’s such a beautiful girl, but her judgment of beauty is problematic. It makes no sense at all! The dog is black and tries to act cool; how could his handsomeness compare to mine?”

Long Chen ignored Little Cat’s cries. He knew that Xiaolang’s look was killer for little girls. If she wanted to carry Xiaolang, she had to get his permission. It had nothing to do with Long Chen.

“You want to carry him? You’ll have to ask Brother Wolf if he agrees,” said Long Chen, amused.

The girl was overjoyed. With a mischievous sparkle in her eyes, she turned to Xiaolang and asked sweetly, “Little puppy! Could you let Sister Qi carry you? If you agree, blink once!”

The girl was very smart. Animals usually blinked, including demonic beasts.

However, to her shock, Xiaolang’s eyes widened. His golden eyes did not blink even once. The little girl waited until she broke down.

Long Chen knew that Xiaolang would not entertain the girl.

“Little girl, what is your name?” asked Long Chen when he saw her pitiful look.

“I’m Huangfu Qi,” she answered sadly.

Long Chen was interested in her because she was just too powerful. He could tell that Huangfu Qi was stronger than all the teenagers present. She was clearly barely ten years old, yet she was at the Third Passage Stage and was likely as strong as someone one stage higher. Long Chen was utterly shocked by her talent!

“And what is your name, Big Brother?” Huangfu Qi’s eyes lit up. She had not succeeded with Xiaolang, but now that Long Chen was speaking to her, and he looked like Xiaolang’s owner, wouldn’t she get to touch Xiaolang if she made Long Chen happy?

“My name is Jiang Cheng,” Long Chen answered without hesitation.

“Jiang Cheng? What a horrible name. I think I’ll just call you ‘Big Brother.’ Sounds friendlier, right? Hehe. Big Brother?” Huangfu Qi leaned closer to Long Chen, looking up at him in an ingratiating manner, though her eyes occasionally darted toward Xiaolang. It seemed she *really* liked Xiaolang.

“Qi Qi? Do you live in this town?” Long Chen was very curious about the girl.

“Nope. I’m here to participate in the Ancient Demon Domain’s recruitment qualifiers! Big Brother, I’m very strong, you know? When I fight... Bam! Bam! Bam! No one is a match for me! Previously, an uncle tried to bully me, but I beat his butt and tossed him into the river!” As she grew more excited, Huangfu Qi burst into giggles.

Little Cat felt a cold draft on his butt and smiled shyly as he continued to stare at Huangfu Qi in a daze. He demanded, “Brother, you must make my goddess stay! If you do, I will let you call me ‘fat cat!’ What do you think?”

Long Chen pretended not to hear him. He looked at Huangfu Qi with surprise and said, “You’re here for the Ancient Demon Domain qualifiers too? You didn’t come here alone, did you?!”

“Of course I did. I’m very smart! It was a very long journey, and I got lost many times!” said Huangfu Qi smugly.

“Where are your parents?” Long Chen was speechless.

“Shh!” Huangfu Qi quickly placed a finger on her lips and leaned close to Long Chen’s ear. She whispered, “Big Brother, I ran out here alone. Don’t tell my parents, or I’ll toss you into the river too! Hehe!”

Long Chen was speechless.

“Big Brother, I really want to hug the puppy ...” Huangfu Qi stared at him with longing eyes and grabbed his sleeve. There were already tears sparkling in her eyes.

“I’ll ask you a few questions. If you answer them, I’ll let you hug him. Alright?” Long Chen said sternly. He wanted to learn more about the Ancient Demon Domain, and since the girl had approached him, he did not need to find someone else.

As for Xiaolang, he would have to take one for the team ...

“Alright.” Huangfu Qi nodded obediently.

“What is your current cultivation level?” he asked.

“Fourth Passage Stage ...”

Indeed, she was strong.

In order to attain the Fourth Passage Stage at such a young age, she had to be a prodigy from a large faction. If she was from a large faction, why would she come to the Ancient Demon Domain?

“What do your parents do?” asked Long Chen.

Huangfu Qi panicked and said hurriedly, “Big Brother, I can’t tell you that, or my father will give me a beating! Can I have another question?”

Long Chen was only asking casually and did not intend to make her suffer. He wanted to know more about the Ancient Demon Domain, so he asked, “Do you know who the strongest people of the Ancient Demon Domain are? How strong are they?”

“I know this one!” Huangfu Qi answered excitedly. “The most powerful person is the Demon Emperor, Jiang Wuxie. He is at the Earthly Martial Realm, at the Second or Third Earthly Martial Stage. He has seven Demon Kings beneath him, who are the Pavilion Lords of the Seven Pavilions in the Ancient Demon Domain. Each of them is

at the First Earthly Martial Stage. Of course, there are some hidden masters too. I've heard that there are also Earthly Martial experts in the younger generation."

"That's powerful!" Long Chen was tongue-tied, mainly shocked that there were Earthly Martial experts in the younger generation. They had to be the best prodigies of the Divine Martial Empire.

"The Ancient Demon Domain isn't considered a strong faction in the Divine Martial Empire; it's just one of the Martial Alliance's members. The Martial Alliance is the strongest, and there are even more masters in Martial Imperial City!"

The Ancient Demon Domain isn't considered strong?

To Long Chen, they were very extraordinary.

He had worked himself halfway to death to grow stronger, yet he was only at the First Passage Stage. Who knew what unfathomable heights cultivators of the Earthly Martial Realm had reached? And people from Ling Xi's hometown were likely at least at the Divine Martial Realm. He did not even know if he could fulfill his promise of ten years. And ten years was a long time.

Huangfu Qi was bursting with impatience. When she saw that Long Chen had suddenly fallen silent, she asked hurriedly, "Big Brother, are you done asking questions?"

"Not yet." Long Chen returned to his senses. He could tell that the little girl's family was quite powerful, yet she had chosen to run away to come here. There had to be a reason, so he asked, "Qi Qi, could you tell me why you want to enter the Ancient Demon Domain?"

This question also left Huangfu Qi torn. She hesitated for a bit before agreeing to tell Long Chen. She sneakily leaned up to his ear and said, "Big Brother, I'll tell you, but don't tell anyone else!"

"Of course not. I can keep secrets," Long Chen said solemnly.

"That's good. I'll tell you, then. While I was playing at home, I heard my father say that two months from now, nine suns will appear in the sky. That only happens once every ten thousand years, and it is known as the Day of the Nine Suns. The earth will turn into an oven, and to the people of the Divine Martial Empire, especially the ones with weaker cultivation that do not live in the city, it will be a catastrophe!"

Long Chen was alarmed. He blurted in a hushed tone, "Nine suns appearing at the same time?! Everyone will die!"

Chapter 462 - Apocalyptic Golden Crow

"Big Brother, it's not as terrifying as you think it is! Only one of them is the real sun. I don't know what the others are, but they look similar to suns. However, they should be almost as hot. To some people, the Day of the Nine Suns is a disaster, but it's a lucky day to others," Huangfu Qi continued, still speaking into Long Chen's ear.

“Why?” asked Long Chen.

“That’s exactly why I’m going to the Ancient Demon Domain. I heard that in one month’s time, the Ancient Demon Domain will hold the annual examination for their disciples of the younger generation. The champion of the event will be rewarded with one Emperor Flame Pearl. Although its effects are not pronounced, it is extremely rare. I heard from my father that on the Day of the Nine Suns, any Heavenly Passage Realm cultivator can boost their cultivation level directly to the Ninth Passage Stage using the Emperor Flame Pearl! Even you can do it!”

Long Chen was completely stunned.

Progressing from the First Passage Stage directly to the Ninth was the most unbelievable thing Long Chen had ever heard. Before this, he would not have even dared to imagine something like that. But if it really was true, then he had to strive with everything he had. What he lacked most was time after all. Ten years was too long, and no one knew what would happen in between. If something happened to Ling Xi during that time, he would never forgive himself.

“Actually, it’s not exactly a coincidence. All the disciples below the Ninth Passage Stage in the Ancient Demon Domain have spent years preparing to get the Emperor Flame Pearl. After we enter the Ancient Demon Domain, we will only have two months to prepare. There are countless experts in the Ancient Demon Domain, and the odds may be slim, but I really wish to reach the Ninth Passage Stage immediately so that my father will never call me useless again.” Huangfu Qi sounded a little sad when she said this, and her eyes shimmered. It seemed like she was about to cry again.

Long Chen comforted her slightly, then he asked Little Cat, “Little Cat, can you tell me if the Emperor Flame Pearl and the Day of the Nine Suns are real?”

“They are.” Little Cat nodded, and when he saw that Long Chen was serious, he explained, “There actually is only one sun during the Day of the Nine Suns. The other eight are the manifestations of my old rival, the Apocalyptic Golden Crow’s soul. That crow has long gone missing; maybe it’s dead. Only nine pieces of its soul remain in the sun. On the Day of the Nine Suns, eight of the nine pieces are flung out of the sun, forming this anomaly.”

“To me, it’s just an anomaly. Humans have a very different experience because what you see are nine identical suns. The temperature on that day will indeed be very high, but the phenomenon will disappear after a day. The phenomenon can only be spotted in very few places, and probably only in an area the size of the Divine Martial Empire. It won’t affect other places.”

Little Cat said this because it guessed that Long Chen was worried about his friends and family in the Cangyang Kingdom.

Indeed, his explanation cleared Long Chen's worries.

"What about the Emperor Flame Pearl?" Long Chen asked again.

"It's a good item to have, so you should try to get it. The Emperor Flame Pearl has no tier and doesn't actually have any uses. It's actually just a crystallization of the sweat that dripped from the Golden Crow's body. It's not exactly a precious treasure, but it does contain some traces of the Golden Crow's aura. If you use the Emperor Flame Pearl on that day, the nine meridian points in your body will match with the nine suns in the sky. When the energy of the nine suns enters the Emperor Flame Pearl, it will indeed clear all your meridian points so you can reach the Ninth Passage Stage immediately. And ..."

Little Cat smiled mysteriously. "As long as you keep this girl by your side so I can watch her, I will promise to help you steal the Golden Crow's soul piece on the Day of the Nine Suns and inject it into your nine meridian points so they will be filled with the power of the Golden Crow. Imagine—your meridian points will be filled not with meridian pills, but with the ancient Apocalyptic Golden Crow's soul! It will be as if your body has nine suns within it; you'll be a terrifying presence!"

Long Chen was utterly shaken.

He had previously been doubtful of Little Cat's identity and felt that it was not that strong, but now he started to believe it. Regular demonic beasts did not know this much; they probably did not even know what the Golden Crow was.

"Little Cat, is the Golden Crow powerful?" asked Long Chen.

The cat shrugged. "The Golden Crow is only average. About my level. At its peak, it could directly turn into the sun and levitate in the sky. As long as it was willing, it could turn itself into a forever entity like the sun just by changing its energy."

"... That's average?" Long Chen was speechless. If the Little Cat was not lying, a beast like that would have been at the peak of the world. Even Ling Xi's family would just be a colony of ants in front of a presence like that.

"How do you and the Golden Crow compare with the ancestral dragons?" Long Chen asked the most crucial question.

"Ancestral dragons?" Little Cat smiled in exasperation. "The ancestral dragons were the rulers of the Dragon Continent. Ancient apex beasts like us only appeared when the ancient dragon race started to disappear. I won't lie; I'm in my current state because of an ancestral dragon. Due to laws relating to ancient secrets, I cannot tell you more, and it's best if you don't ask. However, I can tell you one thing—the divine beasts are not as strong as the ancestors."

The divine beasts weren't as strong as the ancestors.

This meant that both the Apocalyptic Golden Crow and the Reincarnation Beast were no match for the ancestral dragons. The ancestral dragons were the true beasts of the world.

When Little Cat spoke of the ancestral dragons, it instinctively glanced at Long Chen's head with reverence. That was where Long Chen's sea of consciousness was.

Long Chen quietened his mind. He put the matter of ancestral dragons and ancient divine beasts aside, and instead shifted his focus to the Emperor Flame Pearl and the Day of the Nine Suns.

This means that in order to reach the Ninth Passage Stage immediately and at the same time possess the Golden Crow soul's power in my body, I must get the Emperor Flame Pearl ...

The Emperor Flame Pearl was a gigantic opportunity for Long Chen!

If a cultivator at the Eighth Passage Stage received the Emperor Flame Pearl, he would only ascend one stage at most. But it was different for Long Chen. With Little Cat's help, he would undergo a major metamorphosis!

Only a small portion of the soul remained in the sun, and what Little Cat could steal was a tiny bit of that small portion. Even so, Long Chen would completely change.

"Big Brother, why are you staring into space?! I'm asking if you're done asking questions?!" the little girl screamed into Long Chen's ear.

Due to the Primordial Dragon Talisman, Long Chen did not need to speak out loud to communicate with Little Cat. From Huangfu Qi's perspective, Long Chen was merely staring into space after he asked about the Emperor Flame Pearl, which frustrated her.

Ignoring looks from other people, Long Chen bent down to whisper in her ear, "Qi Qi, are you sure the things you said about the Emperor Flame Pearl are true?"

Huangfu Qi thought it was very fun that Long Chen was acting as sneaky as she was and forgot all about how he had been staring off into space. She also leaned to his ear and whispered, "It's true! My father said so himself. The things my father says are true. I've tested this countless times."

"Alright, then. I'm done asking. Xiaolang, take one for the team." Long Chen smiled, then he looked at Xiaolang with schadenfreude.

Seeing as Long Chen's expression was solemn while he communicated with Little Cat, Xiaolang knew that he was asking about something very important. Since they had made a promise to the little girl, as men, they had to fulfill that promise. Xiaolang walked up to Huangfu Qi with a sour expression, at the same time glaring at her with widened eyes.

"Wow! So cute!" squealed Huangfu Qi ...

Xiaolang was speechless.

Soon after, Long Chen left the restaurant, and Huangfu Qi followed him contently, her eyes shining with joy. Xiaolang endured her gentle pats while she carried him in her arms.

Within the Primordial Dragon Realm, Little Cat was rolling on the ground, screaming ...

Huangfu Qi quickened her footsteps and walked up to him. "Big Brother, where are you going?"

“I want to buy something, then I’ll join the Ancient Demon Domain’s qualifiers immediately.” Long Chen had made his decision.

He kept Huangfu Qi by his side, as per Little Cat’s request. Of course, that was through using Xiaolang as bait.

“You’re going to buy something? I want food! I want to feed the puppy some bones!” Huangfu Qi gazed lovingly at Xiaolang. She was already so nurturing at such a young age; who knew what she would be like when she grew older?

Long Chen ignored her. He went to a small shop and bought an empty notebook, as well as a brush and ink.

“Big Brother, why did you buy a book and a brush?” Huangfu Qi asked, confused.

“I’m practicing calligraphy to train my mind,” Long Chen answered mysteriously.

“Oh!” Huangfu Qi nodded, then she turned her attention back to Xiaolang and patted his head with her small hand.

After making his purchase, Long Chen was prepared to head to the Ancient Demon Domain. He gazed at the gray mountain range far away, as well as the ten pillars of yellow gas shooting up into the sky, piercing through the clouds.

“The Earthly Qi here really is very thick ...” commented Long Chen.

Then he stored the book and the brush in the Primordial Realm.

Xiao Xi, from now on, I will record everything that happens along my journey. When we meet again, you will only need to read my records to know what I went through in our time apart. I hope you haven’t forgotten about me when that day comes ...

Ten years. Could the memory of one person survive this long?

Chapter 463 - One Hundred Thousand Heavenly Pills

The small town was certainly not this busy on a normal day. Perhaps due to the Ancient Demon Domain qualifiers, it had grown crowded in recent times. Long Chen stood on the main street and felt like there was a sea of people around him.

He looked down and asked, “Let’s go. Qi Qi, do you want to follow me?”

“Of course! I want to be with the puppy!” Huangfu Qi was startled and hurriedly hugged Xiaolang tighter. Xiaolang begged Long Chen for help with his eyes.

Through the language of beasts, Long Chen told Xiaolang, “Just hold on a little longer. Haha. I really need to repay the girl for giving me such a good piece of information, so just keep her company ...”

Xiaolang could only bear it for the moment. To be honest, the girl was adorable, and he did not hate her. However, it was frustrating that he was almost an adult, yet this young girl was treating him like a puppy.

Long Chen had already explained the Day of the Nine Suns to Xiaolang, so if they succeeded, it would benefit Long Chen greatly. That was why he had to endure it ...

Long Chen led Huangfu Qi through the crowd, and soon, they approached the edge of town. Suddenly, a teenager with a small mouth and large cheeks, like a monkey, stood in front of Long Chen. This teenager was dressed like a servant, but he was at the Eighth River Stage. In the Cangyang Kingdom, he would have been considered a high-ranked master.

“Stop!” he commanded haughtily.

“What do you want?” Long Chen asked. He wasn’t even aware that the brat was talking to him at first.

“I’m not talking to you. Get out of the way.” The boy glanced at Long Chen in disgust, then he turned his gaze to Huangfu Qi. His expression suddenly became very friendly, and he asked gently, “Little girl, what is your name?”

“You’re a bad person! I’m not telling you my name!” Huangfu Qi glared at him, annoyed, then continued playing with Xiaolang in her arms.

“Bad person? I’m not a bad person. I’m a very good person.” The boy smiled, then he continued, “Little girl, you’re so cute; my young master would be very happy to meet you. Why don’t you come with me? If my young master likes you, he’ll reward you with at least a thousand Heavenly Passage Pills! What do you think?”

Huangfu Qi counted for a while, then glared at him in contempt. “A thousand Heavenly Passage Pills? That’s not even enough for me to spend in a day!”

She turned to Long Chen and asked, “Big Brother, is he trying to block us?”

“I guess so.” Long Chen was laughing to himself. This guy had to have a death wish for provoking this young lady. Being at the Fourth Passage Stage, almost no one in this town was a match for her.

“You bad man! I’ll teach you a lesson.” It looked very strange when Huangfu Qi attacked, but the brat was rolling on the ground seconds later.

Long Chen grinned, not dwelling on this matter. Huangfu Qi indeed looked adorable, and many guys did like girls of her type.

She had likely encountered many inconveniences such as this along her journey here.

Very soon, they exited the small town and traveled towards the Ancient Demon Domain. The closer they got, the more shocked Long Chen was at the thickness of the Earthly Qi in the region.

“Although the Ancient Demon Domain has a lot of Earthly Qi, it’s so ugly! The Earthly Qi at my home is white, like mist! It’s very pretty!” said Huangfu Qi.

There were many people going to the Ancient Demon Domain. These people likely came from different parts of the Divine Martial Empire, and no one knew each other, so they did not talk much.

Long Chen followed the crowd so he would not need to worry about whether he was heading in the right direction. It would be bad if he missed the deadline.

The Ancient Demon Domain consisted of a gray mountain range.

After about four hours, Long Chen and the rest of the people finally arrived at the foot of a mountain. The entrance to the Ancient Demon Domain was just ahead, though it was shut. A sea of people crowded in front of the entrance, and with one glance, Long Chen guessed that there were tens of thousands of people present.

All he could see was a sea of black that was the tops of peoples' heads. The scary part was that most of the people here were experts who were at least at the Heavenly Passage Realm, so everyone was at least as strong as the Sword Emperor. If Long Chen had not experienced huge improvements after Ling Xi left, he would have been very stressed.

Most of them are at the First Passage Stage, a small portion at the Second Passage Stage, and an even smaller number at the Third Passage Stage. Hardly anyone is at the Fourth Passage Stage, but there are probably a few. Huangfu Qi is one of them. Long Chen roughly figured out his competitors.

In order to get the Emperor Flame Pearl, the first step is to enter the Ancient Demon Domain. Any plans to strive hard will only come after that ... Long Chen thought to himself.

"There's one day left until registration begins. We'll stay here for one night first," Huangfu Qi said next to him.

"Mhm." Long Chen nodded, then he found a quiet place to sit down. Huangfu Qi trotted over hurriedly to follow him. She squatted down with Xiaolang still in her arms, patting him gently as she whispered, "There are many bad people here. Be a good dog; don't be scared. I'll keep you company."

More and more people gathered at the entrance of the Ancient Demon Domain. Long Chen quickly entered his cultivation state, and the day passed quickly. When he opened his eyes and stopped his cultivation, there were about a hundred thousand people gathered there.

About seventy to eighty thousand were there to participate in the qualifiers, while the rest were accompanying family or friends. Everyone present had an anxious or excited expression.

Eighty thousand people competing for seventy spots—entering would be no simple feat.

However, the journey of cultivation was a competition against hundreds of millions of people. Only the best of them could continue the journey upwards and reach the peak.

A few hundred people emerged from the Ancient Demon Domain. They were all wearing black clothes that were identical and strange. Like the people of the Martial Alliance, the character for "demon" was embroidered on their chests, and it radiated an evil and intimidating energy.

"Those people must be the disciples of the Ancient Demon Domain. Their cultivation levels are between the Third and Sixth Passage Stages." Little Cat could clearly tell their cultivation levels.

“Sixth Passage Stage? That’s an expert who has cleared six of his meridian points.” This was nothing to Little Cat, but Long Chen knew that while he could kill a Third Passage Stage cultivator and barely hold up against someone at the Fourth Passage Stage, he stood no chance against anyone of the Fifth Passage Stage and above.

Although his physical body was tough, the boost it brought to his overall strength was not unlimited. Even if he used the Dragon Soul Transformation, a Fifth Passage Stage cultivator had a hundred times more Qi than him. With such a gigantic gap between them, his body’s toughness, which was equivalent to the best body tempering technique of the Heaven tier, was not enough to give him the advantage.

When the black-clothed people fanned out into a row, they all took out documents from their Universe Pouches to start registering the attendees. Every person who wanted to participate in the qualifiers had to prove their identity first.

Long Chen was prepared with his identity token.

Very soon, under the instruction of the black-clothed people, the large crowd of seventy thousand formed several hundred lines. They all lined up obediently because they knew that if they caused trouble at a time like this, they would likely be killed instantly.

Long Chen and Huangfu Qi lined up at almost the tail end of one of the lines.

The lines moved in an orderly manner. The disciples of the Ancient Demon Domain worked efficiently, and after just two hours, most of the people had been registered. The people who had completed their registrations waited for the event to truly begin.

“I can’t believe I’m really participating in the Ancient Demon Domain’s qualifiers! Now that I’ve thought about it, it’s basically like a dream.”

“It’s not even a good dream. You’re only at the First Passage Stage! It’s already a very rare chance to participate in the qualifiers, and based on past events, only Third or Fourth Passage Stage cultivators can pass. It’s stressful.”

“Less than twenty years old, but already at the Fourth Passage Stage? How much of a psycho would that person be? If I’m unlucky enough to encounter a Third Passage Stage cultivator, it will be an instant kill.”

There were many discussions happening around Long Chen.

That was when someone said, “Did you guys hear? There are three rounds this time, with each round eliminating ninety percent of participants. For every round you pass, you’ll be rewarded with Heavenly Passage Pills. The amount will increase with every round. I heard that if you’re one of the seventy who pass all three rounds, every person will receive at least ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills!

“That’s not all. The top ten, top three, and champion of each round will get much more than that. There was once someone who was the champion for all three rounds, and I heard he received a hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills!”

“A hundred thousand!” Long Chen initially only wanted to pass the qualifiers and did not think about the ranking. But when he heard about a hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, he was very tempted. He had consumed three hundred Heavenly Passage Pills just to enter the First Passage Stage. Advancing to the Second Passage Stage would likely take more than a thousand. If he had a hundred thousand pills, then he wouldn’t have to worry about Heavenly Passage Pills until he reached the Sixth Passage Stage.

Without Heavenly Passage Pills, he could not become strong. If he could not become strong, he would not get the Emperor Flame Pearl.

It looks like I will have to work hard for the one hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. I don’t have a person like my master protecting me anymore, so I need to get Heavenly Passage Pills on my own. I don’t think I’ll get many chances to receive large lump sums of Heavenly Passage Pills in the Ancient Demon Domain, thought Long Chen.

It was Huangfu Qi’s turn to register.

Chapter 464 - Zhao Wuji

When the disciples of the Ancient Demon Domain saw Huangfu Qi, they were all shocked because she was just too young. She was likely the youngest among the eighty thousand people present, yet she was stronger than the average participant too.

“Little girl, are ... are you here to register?” the disciple asked, his voice trembling.

“Yes. My name is Huangfu Qi,” said Huangfu Qi with a killer smile. Her eyes turned into crescents.

“Oh ...” The disciples recorded her personal information while in a state of shock.

She had attracted many people’s attention too. Many started to point and talk about the little girl in shocked tones. During registration, Huangfu Qi had said that she was at the Fourth Passage Stage, and this news spread like wildfire among the crowd.

She was not even ten, yet she was already at the Fourth Passage Stage. She was likely the most prodigious participant there. Since she was with Long Chen, everyone had assumed that she was his family member. They had not expected her to be here for registration, or that she would be at the terrifying Fourth Passage Stage.

The further one progressed on the path of cultivation, the larger the distance between each stage. Therefore, defeating an opponent beyond your own tier was almost impossible. Almost no one was like Long Chen, who possessed advanced Heaven-tier body toughness at the Ninth River Stage. It was Long Chen’s tough body that allowed him to challenge opponents beyond his level.

Participants at the First Passage Stage could easily be disqualified in the qualifiers, while Fourth Passage Stage cultivators could progress far without difficulty.

That was why everyone was so impressed. To them, Huangfu Qi would likely become a celebrity in the Ancient Demon Domain in the near future.

While Huangfu Qi attracted everyone's attention, Long Chen attracted none despite standing behind her.

Huangfu Qi stood aside and said sweetly, "Big Brother, I'm done. I'll wait for you."

Everyone suddenly looked at Long Chen with jealousy and admiration. They guessed that Long Chen and Huangfu Qi were merely acquaintances, yet he had managed to earn her affection. He was likely going to pass the qualifiers just by relying on Huangfu Qi.

Long Chen walked up to the front.

This was a crucial test for whether the Jiang Cheng identity could be used. Long Chen took out the important golden identity token and gave it to the Ancient Demon Domain disciple.

The disciple was about to inspect it when a loud rumbling came from behind Long Chen. He turned and saw a large stallion-type beast on the horizon. Two people were riding on it, and they were rushing over. This stallion beast was likely at the Heaven-tier, so it was very fast. In just a moment, it stopped behind Long Chen and the riders dismounted.

The first to dismount was a teenager dressed as a servant. After he leaped off the horse's back, he immediately bent over in an ingratiating manner so that the teenager on the horse could step on his back and dismount.

The teenager was about fourteen years old, which was younger than Xiaolang was when Long Chen met him. His features were clean and he was thin. The thick fragrance of makeup powder wafted off his body. However, it was undeniable that he was very powerful. Long Chen guessed that he was at the Fourth River Stage.

Fourteen years old, Fourth River Stage. Although he was not as good as Huangfu Qi, he was much, much better than Long Chen.

Long Chen noticed the servant first, because that servant was the one who had received a beating from Huangfu Qi. At the time, he wanted to bring Huangfu Qi back to his young master, meaning the teenager was the young master.

Huangfu Qi had already caused a commotion, but when the teenager appeared, it caused an even larger commotion.

"That teenager is Zhao Wuji of Clear Lotus County! He's a legendary prodigy who once killed a Fifth Passage Stage opponent!"

"I've long heard that he would participate in the qualifiers; I can't believe he actually came! I've heard of him before, and now that I've seen him, he is indeed extraordinary. I heard the person he killed was on the bounty board. He really is a teenage hero if he can kill someone on the bounty board at just fourteen years old!"

"He's surely going to enter the Ancient Demon Domain. I heard that Zhao Wuji has an uncle who is a Demon General. There are twenty-eight Demon Generals, and each of them can fly! They are all Ninth Passage Stage cultivators who have cleared the heavenly meridian point!"

“Even if he didn’t have his Demon General uncle, someone as powerful as him is certain to qualify. He’s probably the favored candidate to become the three-time champion of the event! The one hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills will likely belong to him!”

“A hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills? That guy comes from a powerful clan. There are probably more than a hundred thousand pills in his pocket right now.”

Similar discussions sounded.

“Right, that girl from just now called Huangfu Qi is probably even more talented, right?”

“Indeed. However, the problem is that Huangfu Qi is still very young and has almost no combat experience. How could she compare to a teenage prodigy who has killed a Fifth Passage Stage cultivator?”

Long Chen eyed the teenager slowly. Other people were saying he was very strong,

Then he would be Long Chen’s main opponent. Long Chen really needed to progress fast, so he had to get the one hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. He also wanted the Emperor Flame Pearl, as it could take him to the Ninth Passage Stage immediately. With Little Cat’s help, he would also get the Golden Crow’s energy in his body.

Zhao Wuji was clearly late, but no one dared to say anything. Long Chen noticed that Zhao Wuji was walking towards him.

Did that servant convince him to take revenge? Long Chen wondered.

Long Chen was wrong. Zhao Wuji completely ignored him and walked past him. The disciple who was about to record Long Chen’s personal details quickly stood up and said, “Are you Zhao Wuji? Demon General Strongman’s nephew?”

The disciple was all smiles.

Zhao Wuji nodded mildly and said, “Apologies for keeping you waiting. You may register me now!”

“Of course,” said the disciple with a smile.

Long Chen’s identity token was put aside and completely forgotten. When Zhao Wuji’s registration was complete, they made small talk with him for a while until they remembered that there was one person left who had not completed his registration. They finally called Long Chen over and said, “Come, come, come! You’re the only one left, kid.”

Long Chen was too lazy to argue.

That Jiang Cheng identity token was usable after all. Long Chen privately reminded himself that he was now Jiang Cheng.

In the Ancient Demon Domain, where masters were as common as clouds, the name “Jiang Cheng” was destined to shine even brighter than Zhao Wuji!

Just as Long Chen was registering, Zhao Wuji's servant finally spotted Long Chen and Huangfu Qi. His expression turned malicious, and he whispered a few words into Zhao Wuji's ear.

After Zhao Wuji heard him, he slapped the servant so hard that he spun a full circle. Even his teeth almost fell out.

Zhao Wuji did not even look at Long Chen, but instead turned towards the Ancient Demon Domain while waiting for the qualifiers to begin.

After he told on us, he was slapped? Probably a punishment for embarrassing him. However, Zhao Wuji has likely made a mental note about me, thought Long Chen.

Someone announced that the qualifiers would begin in an hour's time.

It was the qualifiers of the Ancient Demon Domain after all, so it was especially grand!

"An hour?" Long Chen estimated that just moving the whole crowd of eighty thousand people would take almost one hour. There were just too many people. All he could see was a sea of people.

Huangfu Qi was the only person he knew. No one dared get close to them, mainly because Huangfu Qi shone too brightly. Standing next to her would merely make them look pathetic.

With the disciples at the head of the crowd, Long Chen followed everyone towards the Ancient Demon Domain's entrance. The entrance was actually two mountains that looked like sharp, gray swords. Between them was a large, black door that opened to a pitch-black whirlpool. The gravity inside was capable of sucking them in.

"Qi Qi, do you know anything about the qualifiers of the Ancient Demon Domain?" Long Chen's brows were deeply furrowed as he stared at the door.

He felt a strange but terrifying aura coming from within the door. It seemed familiar, yet much stronger than what he could recall.

"Of course I do. The first round is meant to test the toughness of the body and mind. The cultivation techniques of the Ancient Demon Domain usually have high requirements for the body, hence the reason why they designed this round. After we pass through this entrance, we will arrive in a place called the Black Prison. The deeper you go, the stronger the gravity. We will travel through the Black Prison while the cultivators of the Ancient Demon Domain watch, and you cannot use even a trace of Qi for this! If you use your Qi, you will be disqualified immediately!"

"Gravity?" That was why he thought it was so familiar. It was gravity similar to the Star Devil Prison, though this prison gave him a suffocating feeling even from far away. The gravity was likely very strong there.

After she spoke, a person at the entrance shot up into the sky and stopped mid-air. The crowd gasped, impressed.

Long Chen looked at him in awe too. He was a man who was about thirty years old with pencil-straight posture and handsome features. His expression was cold, and he wore a suit of pitch-black

armor. Even his head was covered with a black helmet, and he wore long, black boots. He radiated the aura of heroism.

“Demon General!” cried the crowd.

Chapter 465 - Demon General Typhoon

Is this a master who has cleared the heavenly meridian point and reached the Ninth Passage Stage? A master who can fly? Long Chen was in awe. The cold and stern gaze from the black-armored warrior gave him a suffocating feeling. Other than Ling Xi’s family, this was the most powerful person Long Chen had ever met.

The strongest person in the Ancient Demon Domain was the Demon Emperor, and the people at the top of the faction also included the seven Devil Kings and twenty-eight Demon Generals! One of these people from the top brass had appeared in front of the crowd.

“Ladies and gentlemen, good day to you! I am one of the twenty-eight Demon Generals of the Ancient Demon Domain, whom people call Demon General Typhoon! I am the one in charge of the qualifiers today! No one’s performance will escape my eyes, so you must work hard! After you pass three rounds, Ancient Demon Domain will become your home. Combat techniques, Heavenly Passage Pills, spiritual medicines, divine weapons, and even beautiful ladies are all waiting for you! All you need to do is strive as hard as you can! Strive for your lives!”

Demon General Typhoon’s voice was booming loud. His short monologue was enough to ignite the battle spirit within the crowd of almost one hundred thousand. In a world ruled by the strongest, masters were the most respected individuals. Demon General Typhoon was one of the few who invited respect.

Since he could fly, he was like a deity who was far from their reach. He stopped in the air above the crowd.

“Alright, I will not waste your time. I’ll now introduce the first round—Black Prison! I believe you all must have learned a lot about the Black Prison before the qualifiers. In summary, the gravity within the Black Prison is much stronger than it is outside, and the deeper you go, the stronger it will be! How deep is the Black Prison? I don’t know, and none of you will find out. What you need to do is simple: do your best to walk forward!

“Listen closely. The rules of the Black Prison are simple! After you enter, you are forbidden from using your Qi. You must rely on the strength of your body only. Walk as far as you can! There are eighty thousand people here, but we will only choose the seven thousand who have walked the furthest for the next round! Everyone else will be disqualified!”

When he finished, Demon Typhoon General’s gaze swept coldly across the crowd. “I believe many of you came from far away, and many of you are carrying the weight of your parents’ expectations too. That is why you must do your best to squeeze into the top seven thousand even if you need to

risk your life. Opportunity belongs to people who work hard. You may only be a few steps away from success at any given time. That is why no one should give up until the very last moment!”

The crowd clenched their fists tight, as if they were all filled with power.

Indeed, many people had suffered a lot in order to reach the Heavenly Passage Realm before the age of twenty. Some had suffered even more in order to come to the Ancient Demon Domain. They were all here to do their best. If they could enter the Ancient Demon Domain, then their lives would change drastically. Who wouldn't want to change their fate?

Everyone was filled with excitement!

Looking at the excited smiles of the young men and women, Demon General Typhoon's lips curled upwards into a faint smile. He looked around and said, “Don't worry. Do your best to win! Now, I will explain the reward system! All cultivators who pass the first round will be awarded twenty Heavenly Passage Pills! The top thousand will receive fifty, and the top one hundred will receive two hundred each! The top ten will receive five hundred Heavenly Passage Pills!

“Of course, if you enter the top three, you will receive even more Heavenly Passage Pills. Third place will be awarded two thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, second place four thousand! Finally, the champion will be awarded ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills!”

Ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills! That was the average Fifth Passage Stage cultivator's life savings.

Also, that was only the first round. The next two rounds would likely have greater rewards!

With so many people receiving Heavenly Passage Pills, the Ancient Demon Domain was likely going to give away almost a million Heavenly Passage Pills today. It was clearly an affluent faction.

After hearing the good news, even the people who already knew about the reward system grew excited. As long as they could pass the first round, even if they were only one of the seven thousand, they would still receive twenty Heavenly Passage Pills. This was enough motivation for them!

Demon General Typhoon gave a proud smile when he saw the excitement in the crowd. He thought, *I wonder who will win the ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills? Will it be Demon General Strongman's nephew, Zhao Wuji? Or will it be that little ten-year-old girl from just now? Zhao Wuji has killed a Fifth Passage Stage cultivator, so he stands a higher chance.*

Now that he had successfully hyped the crowd up, he added, “Also, all rewards will be distributed on the spot, immediately! Therefore, do your best! Now, I will arrange for you all to enter the Black Prison. Everyone will start on the same starting line, so you don't need to worry!”

With Demon General Typhoon present, order was easily maintained. Plus, there were hundreds of black-clothed disciples watching too.

Under their instructions, Long Chen followed the crowd and entered the pitch-black Black Prison. It was a very wide expanse, and upon entry, a red line appeared in front. All the participants were arranged to stand on the same starting line.

From this alone, one could imagine just how big the Black Prison was!

Demon General Typhoon was floating up in the air.

“There will be strong gravity starting from this red line, which will get stronger the further you go. Walk ahead, and remember two things: do not ever use Qi and do not attack anyone, or you will be disqualified!”

“Yes!” the crowd replied in unison. The crowd’s voices echoed like thunder through the whole Black Prison.

“We shall begin, then.”

Everyone came to their senses and started sprinting instantly, fighting to be in front. Some people believed that maintaining endurance was key, while others felt like starting slow would only make them fall behind.

Brash people often met tragic ends. Ten thousand out of the eighty thousand participants sprinted head-first into the grounds. Because they had underestimated the gravitational pull, many of them fell flat on the ground the moment they crossed the red line.

The powerful gravity yanked their bodies towards the ground, and due to the strong impact, some hit the ground hard enough to spit out blood.

Such a tragic scene made the rest who wanted to sprint inside halt immediately. At least three thousand of the ten thousand people had collapsed.

The crowd looked at each other in horror.

“The gravity is so strong!” A wave of shock ran through them.

However, the ones who survived and were not squashed marched ahead. Everyone’s chests tightened, and they reminded themselves that they could not use their Qi here. They started to head deeper inside. Since they were all prepared, they fared much better. The first batch were only unprepared because they were in a rush.

As more and more people started to enter, Long Chen and Huangfu Qi looked at each other. Huangfu Qi said, “Big Brother, don’t collapse the moment you enter, or I’ll laugh at you! Hehe!”

“Well, let’s see who collapses first,” said Long Chen with a smile.

He was pleasantly surprised with this round, as they were testing his strongest quality. In terms of body toughness, he was likely the strongest of all eighty thousand people.

The one hundredth fraction of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon’s Inherited Blood Essence was no joke.

The duo followed the crowd into the grounds. Usually, everyone slouched slightly even if they were strong until they slowly acclimatized and could stand up straight again.

Huangfu Qi felt the immense pressure on her body and was not used to it at first. After some adjustments, she finally acclimatized.

Big Brother hasn’t collapsed, has he? After stabilizing himself, she hurriedly turned around. She expected the First Passage Stage Long Chen to have collapsed.

However, her eyes widened because she saw him walk effortlessly. He glanced at her and smiled. "Let's go! Why are you standing there?"

Can't Big Brother feel the gravity? Huangfu Qi was stunned because Long Chen looked like he was walking on normal ground. His footsteps were light and his expression was relaxed.

"Qi Qi, catch up," Long Chen reminded her when he saw that she was not moving.

"Oh, oh!" Huangfu Qi hurriedly nodded and caught up to him. She must have cultivated an intermediate body tempering technique, which was why she was able to withstand the gravity too. Long Chen was the only person in sight who was more at ease than her.

"Big Brother, what's up with you? Don't you feel the gravity?" Huangfu Qi asked him with wide eyes.

"Of course I do, but I'm stronger than you. Do you believe me? Do you dare make a bet?" Long Chen said to the curious little girl.

"Hmph! I don't believe you. Let's make a bet, then! Do you think I'm scared?" she responded.

But she suddenly thought of something. "Big Brother, where is the puppy?"

When she wasn't paying attention, Long Chen had let Xiaolang into the Primordial Realm. It was only now that she remembered him. Long Chen said, "I hid Xiaolang. If you can beat me, I'll show him to you."

"Huh?" She froze, then her battle spirit shone in her eyes and she declared loudly, "Big Brother, let's begin!"

Then Huangfu Qi ran off.

Chapter 466 - Black Prison

Long Chen smiled in exasperation when he watched the little girl sprint off and disappear from his view. He looked around. Although the gravity was strong, there were quite a few strong individuals in the vicinity. That was why they could still hold on and walk forward, though no one was doing it as effortlessly as Long Chen.

Almost every face had an unnatural expression, as if a large boulder was sitting on the top of their heads. In some obscure corners, there were Ancient Demon Domain disciples working hard. Disciples at higher cultivation levels directly entered the gravitational area and removed all the people who had collapsed. Those disciples were not affected by the gravity like Long Chen.

Demon General Typhoon flew high up in the air within the gravitational area, his gaze sweeping across the crowd. He was doing this not only to discover candidates with great potential, but also to prevent unexpected incidents.

"There are so many great candidates this year! Cultivators at the Fourth Passage Stage can travel effortlessly in the beginning if they have cultivated body tempering

techniques. Zhao Wuji and that ten-year-old girl are both doing especially well ... The girl's surname is 'Huangfu' ... Could she be ...?"

But he shook his head. "Probably not. There are many people with the surname 'Huangfu' in the world, and not all of them are from the Huangfu clan. We'll just have to see what the Demon King thinks."

There was a large crowd, and he only paid attention to the candidates at the highest cultivation levels. Therefore, he did not notice Long Chen.

At this moment, Long Chen activated his Dragon Soul Transformation because his body was only super strong in that state. Many others had also activated their Beast Soul Transformations, and all sorts of bizarre beast forms were present, so Long Chen did not stand out.

More and more people collapsed around him, while Long Chen maintained his speed as he traveled towards the inner part of the Black Prison. He could sense the increasing gravitational pull as he walked along, and the gravitational pull here was much stronger than in the Star Devil Prison.

As for Huangfu Qi, because she was competing with Long Chen, she had long disappeared.

Fifteen minutes later, Long Chen noticed that the crowd had thinned considerably around him. Only a few hundred people were within his field of vision, and most were at the Second Passage Stage and above. He was practically the only First Passage Stage cultivator left.

He could feel that the gravity was indeed very strong, though it was not enough to endanger him.

I absolutely have to get those ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. It'll be even better if I can become champion three consecutive times. With that thought, he quickened his pace and quickly surpassed many people.

Several people around him were shocked that he could suddenly quicken his pace here. Previously, they had only thought that he looked too at ease, but they never would have guessed that he was far from his limit.

At this point, Long Chen was confident that he was already in the top seven thousand. More than thirty thousand people had already been eliminated, all of them grieving their loss of this opportunity.

"That teenager! He hasn't reached his limit yet? But isn't he only at the First Passage Stage?" Two Fifth Passage Stage disciples noticed Long Chen. They were initially dealing with their data and carrying injured people, but Long Chen had passed them easily.

"Perhaps he has cultivated an intermediate Heaven-tier body tempering technique?" suggested another.

"Probably, but it's very hard to get intermediate Heaven-tier body tempering techniques. It's admirable that the brat actually has one."

"The top one hundred will receive generous rewards, right? It looks like he's about to enter the top one hundred!"

“When I first entered the Ancient Demon Domain, I think I was in the top thousand for the first round. That brat is cooler than I was!”

Long Chen quickened his pace and surpassed more people, attracting a lot of attention. Many people stopped and stared at him in a daze.

Demon General Typhoon up in the air also noticed the red individual that stood out from the crowd. He seemed strangely arrogant and terrifying because he was sprinting like the wind, starting from the tail end of the crowd. Surpassing many people, he suddenly entered the top one hundred!

“First Passage Stage? Without using Qi?” Demon General Typhoon was shocked. Long Chen’s performance had captured his attention, and his eyes were glued to him.

Long Chen also noticed Demon General Typhoon’s eyes on himself, but he did not react. He continued to accelerate. Since the people who entered the top one hundred were usually at least at the Third Passage Stage, seeing a First Passage Stage cultivator suddenly catch up attracted more attention.

“Who is that teenager?”

“I don’t know. I’ve never seen that Beast Soul Transformation before, so it’s likely not well-known. He’s doing very well though! Look, he’s about to enter the top fifty. The other people are already starting to lose steam, but he’s still so energetic!”

Long Chen’s performance left more and more people in awe. Demon General Typhoon’s eyes were still glued to him, and his eyes widened with shock.

“This teenager’s Qi isn’t especially thick, but it is strange. More importantly, he seems to have cultivated a body tempering technique stronger than the average intermediate Heaven-tier one. Perhaps it’s one of the stronger techniques of its tier, or maybe it’s even an advanced Heaven-tier technique!

“Having the ability to skip two levels to cultivate such a formidable Heaven-tier technique shows that this young man is extraordinarily talented in cultivating body tempering techniques!”

Demon General Typhoon could not help but feel impressed.

Long Chen did not know that so many people were talking about him, because he had finally spotted the little girl. Huangfu Qi had made a bet with him. When she thought about how she would not be able to play with Xiaolang if she lost, she grew very anxious and used all her might to leave Long Chen far behind.

When Long Chen had completely disappeared, she finally sighed in relief.

Big Brother really is scary, but he’s not as strong as I am! Hmph! How dare he challenge me? He’s too naive! That puppy will be mine one day! she thought happily to herself.

There was a lone young man in front of her, who was doing his best to walk forward.

That guy must be Zhao Wuji. He has cultivated an intermediate body tempering technique, and his cultivation level is not bad at all. Huangfu Qi did not know if she was stronger than he was.

At this moment, Huangfu Qi suddenly heard a commotion behind her.

“What’s everyone shouting about?” Huangfu Qi turned around, annoyed, then her jaw dropped. She saw Long Chen approaching quickly.

“Ah!” Long Chen’s confident grin scared Huangfu Qi. She never thought he could actually catch up to her. And he seemed to be at ease, as if the gravity had no effect on him.

Seeing as he was about to pass her, she huffed with all her might and her cheeks turned red. She hurriedly looked ahead and did her best to withstand the strong gravity.

“Don’t chase me!” she cried with some panic.

“Don’t worry, silly girl. When we’re out of the Black Prison, Xiaolang will still play with you.” Long Chen suddenly appeared next to her, and she jumped in fright. Indeed, no matter how hard she tried to shake him, he still caught up to her!

Since she had short legs, she could no longer catch up once Long Chen started to stride away.

Long Chen made a face, then he passed her easily.

In the beginning, she was about to cry from panic, but Long Chen’s promise gave her huge comfort. Long Chen and Zhao Wuji were the only ones who were in front of her. She did not know how far the people behind her were.

I’m not going any further! I can’t catch up to that psycho Big Brother anyway! I don’t know where he gets his strength from, to be able to walk this far. Hmph ... But thankfully, the puppy will be mine! Thank goodness!

She had rushed ahead mainly because of the bet with Long Chen.

After Long Chen took second place when he passed Huangfu Qi, he had successfully attracted all the audience’s eyeballs. One of the viewers was a large, black horse. No one knew who this Beast Warrior was.

“I wonder who will be number one, him or Zhao Wuji?” Demon General Typhoon was very interested. He descended to the ground and watched them with great interest.

There was a huge commotion in the crowd.

“There’s still fifteen minutes left! It’s the last stand! Only the top seven thousand can progress to the next round!” Demon General Typhoon’s booming voice echoed across the space.

When the participants heard him, they fought with all their might to trek forward. Zhao Wuji, who was at the very front, also quickened his pace to maintain his rank.

Suddenly, he heard a sound coming from close behind him.

Has someone caught up? Is it that girl? Zhao Wuji quickly turned and saw a red silhouette. He knew he had never met this person before.

Who is this? Why is this person so strong? Zhao Wuji gasped. He could barely stand the gravity at this point, but he was doing his best to go on. However, Long Chen looked like he was less affected by the gravity!

Where had such a powerful person come from?

Zhao Wuji gritted his teeth. He knew that he couldn't allow Long Chen to surpass him, or his dream to be the champion in all three stages would be ruined in the very first round!

When he saw Long Chen fast approaching, he roared and trekked ahead, withstanding the heavy pressure. His body trembled with every step, and he felt like he was starting to fail against the powerful gravity!

Chapter 467 Twenty-Eight Demon Generals

Is the brat going to risk it all? Long Chen smiled in exasperation as he looked at the teenager who was moving forward in a crazed manner. It was clear that Zhao Wuji was taking the competition results very seriously.

I didn't initially want to attract problems, but for the sake of the one hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, I have no choice but to offend you. Everything depends on one's own strength, so if you lose, you lose, thought Long Chen.

The pressure he felt was large, but the current gravity was nowhere near Long Chen's limit. With his tough body, he would have to walk double the distance to reach his limit.

That was why Zhao Wuji was no match for him.

Long Chen quickened his pace once more at this critical juncture. The audience watched in awe as he quickly surpassed Zhao Wuji. Within a short period of time, the gap between them widened until it was impossible for Zhao Wuji to catch up!

Zhao Wuji's eyes reddened with rage when he saw the distance between himself and Long Chen growing.

That's impossible! He isn't even that strong! That's impossible! I must fight harder; maybe there is still a chance to surpass him! Zhao Wuji roared once more, and his features contorted. Panting heavily, he ran with all his might!

Unfortunately, he had overestimated his own strength. While he could run very fast, he was shocked to find that he was unable to withstand the gravity anymore. The large pressure felt like a mountain squashing him. He collapsed face-down, and blood sprayed out of his mouth!

"Ah!" No matter how hard Zhao Wuji fought, he could not stand up again. He could not believe that he had lost! And he did not even know who he had lost to!

Who the hell is that guy? How dare he rob me of my glory!? I promised my uncle I would win all three rounds! This is just the first round, and I have lost just like that? Zhao Wuji refused to believe the truth. He continued to struggle, and green veins popped out of his skin.

He suddenly saw a pair of feet appear in front of him. It was the Beast Warrior covered in red scales. Long Chen's blood-red eyes were fixed coldly on him.

And Zhao Wuji was lying face-down.

The cold glare was an endless humiliation to Zhao Wuji, and his lungs were about to explode from rage. He glared at Long Chen coldly, about to insult him, but the strong gravity stopped him from even opening his mouth to speak.

In contrast, Long Chen stood in front of him and walked effortlessly.

Long Chen looked up because he saw Demon General Typhoon, who was standing behind Zhao Wuji. Demon General Typhoon was eyeing Long Chen carefully with his black eyes and he nodded. "It looks like your body tempering technique is an advanced Heaven-tier! Not bad! Looks like you'll be the champion of the first round!"

"Thank you for your praise," said Long Chen with a smile, nodding back. His smile looked creepy in his dragon form.

Demon General Typhoon nodded, and his voice spread across the whole Black Prison.

"The first round has ended. Ancient Demon Domain disciples, record the top seven thousand participants' distance. All the disciples who have crossed the minimum threshold may enter the next round, while the rest will be eliminated!"

He declared the end of the first round.

"Cultivators who have successfully progressed, follow me into the Ancient Demon Domain. There, you will have one hour to rest. Then you will enter the second round!"

"Yes!" answered those who had qualified and still had enough strength to speak.

The arrangements were made swiftly, and everyone started to turn around. Those who could no longer walk were carried away. The Ancient Demon Domain had many disciples present, so all eighty thousand people quickly exited the Ancient Demon Domain. Over seventy thousand of them were feeling dejected because they had been disqualified!

Disqualification also meant that their dream of many years had been dashed.

"Let's go. We failed, and we won't get another chance."

"Entering the Ancient Demon Domain is just a dream after all. Normal peasants like us only belong outside."

"Yeah. Minor figures like us should not even dream of such things!"

"Seven thousand out of eighty thousand! Rules like that are too cruel!"

Of course, there were also some who were rubbing their palms or clenching their fists with determination. They were prepared to come again next year, since the Ancient Demon Domain qualifiers were an annual affair.

When Long Chen had just exited the Black Prison, he quickly became the focal point of attention. Everyone knew that he was the crazy cultivator who had surpassed Zhao Wuji. His personal data showed that he was merely at the First Passage Stage.

Being able to achieve such results meant that he truly was a prodigy.

Everyone had opinions to discuss.

“That brat is only at the First Passage Stage, but I heard he has already cultivated an advanced Heaven-tier body tempering technique! That’s insane!”

“Indeed. With such a tough body, this test was basically rigged in his favor. However, I don’t think he’s going to have it easy in the next two rounds. The second and third rounds are not tests of toughness!”

“Also, didn’t you see his age? He’s at least seventeen or eighteen, right? He’s only at the First Passage Stage, but Zhao Wuji is at the Fourth Passage Stage at just fourteen. That’s a gigantic gap. Maybe that Jiang Cheng guy can beat Zhao Wuji now in terms of physical toughness, but later, he will be left far behind.”

“That’s true!”

The people around all nodded, as they felt that it made sense.

The most outstanding people of this qualifier event were young but had high cultivation levels!

Far away, Zhao Wuji glared coldly at Long Chen.

That brat! Isn’t he the guy that Ma Liu said beat him up? When you hit a dog, you’ve got to see who the master is! Not only did he not show me respect, he humiliated me too! That’s unacceptable! He’s only at the First Passage Stage; how dare he showboat in front of me, Zhao Wuji!

The more he thought about him, the angrier he became, especially when he saw that Long Chen was chatting happily with Huangfu Qi as if nothing had happened. This made him rage even more!

Jiang Cheng? Your name is Jiang Cheng? You just wait and see! This is just the first round. You had an unfair advantage because of your body tempering technique, but after this, you’ll learn what a true master is!

Obviously, Long Chen sensed the venomous glare from Zhao Wuji.

But he did not care.

A fourteen-year-old brat was not enough to make him nervous.

“Big Brother, you were awesome just now!” Stars twinkled in Huangfu Qi’s eyes. It had taken him no effort to do something she couldn’t do. Previously, she was concerned that she would be separated from Xiaolang because Long Chen would not enter Ancient Demon Domain, but now she realized that there was no need to worry.

Long Chen smiled shyly.

The remaining seven thousand people had started to enter the Ancient Demon Domain under the disciples' instructions.

While the Black Prison took up part of the entrance, there was another path that led to the true Ancient Demon Domain. After they passed through the narrow pathway, they found themselves in a vast plaza. This plaza's ground was made out of black crystal. Although it was black, it was shiny and translucent, creating an astounding effect as it reflected the light.

The square was easily large enough to hold seven thousand people.

Long Chen looked up and saw seven gigantic pillars. Every black pillar was one and a half meters in radius, and about twenty meters tall. They looked like seven heaven-bearing pillars erected in the square.

Many carvings had been made on the surface of the pillars, and Long Chen guessed that the second test involved these pillars!

Seven thousand people stood in the center of the square.

In front, Demon General Typhoon levitated mid-air and announced loudly, "You all have forty-five minutes left to rest. During this time, we will distribute the rewards for the first round! When there are fifteen minutes left, we will tell you the second round's rules and the rewards!"

"Yes!" replied the crowd.

It was time to distribute the Heavenly Passage Pills. Every person would receive at least twenty Heavenly Passage Pills. Huangfu Qi received two thousand for being in third place, but she roughly stuffed them somewhere without even looking at them. It was clear that she did not care about Heavenly Passage Pills at all.

Drawing countless envious looks, Long Chen received ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. He felt very good about getting so many pills for doing almost nothing. After he put them away, he suddenly felt a numbing sensation on his scalp because there were many masters eyeing him up and down.

He looked up and saw that behind the seven pillars were over a dozen people dressed like Demon General Typhoon, their glares sweeping coldly across the crowd. When he received the ten thousand pills, everyone looked at him.

Those people must be the twenty-eight Demon Generals. All of them have cleared their heavenly meridian points and reached the Ninth Passage Stage. They are extremely powerful. Long Chen was privately startled. He knew that their power was far beyond his reach at his current level.

Every single one of them could easily kill him.

Masters were as common as clouds here! This was the Ancient Demon Domain!

Chapter 468 - Heaven Passage Pillars

Long Chen hung his head and did not look at them. He knew that the Demon Generals were talking about him right now.

Compared to a prodigy like Zhao Wuji, they must not think that I have as much potential. But so what? As long as I can get the one hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, I'll be able to progress

in the future without worries. Then I can enter the training grounds of the Ancient Demon Domain and my cultivation will progress quickly.

That was Long Chen's objective for entering the Ancient Demon Domain.

The other objective was the Martial Alliance.

When he had just arrived, he had killed many members of the Martial Alliance. He had no faction backing him, so he would be done for if any investigations traced him to that incident. That was why entering the Ancient Demon Domain was a good choice.

Furthermore, places with more experts were excellent for him to fully utilize his potential.

Time passed.

Very soon, it was almost time to begin the second round. Demon General Typhoon flew up to the sky once more and he announced, "The break is almost over. I'm sure your wounds from the Black Prison are mostly healed by now."

He looked around, and since no one objected, he continued, "No one has any issues; that's very good. Now, I shall begin explaining the rules of the second round. I'm sure everyone can see the seven black pillars here! They are very famous in the Ancient Demon Domain; they're called the Heaven Passage Pillars!"

"Heavenly Passage Pillars?" Long Chen had a faint feeling that they were related to the Heaven Passage Realm.

Demon General Typhoon continued, "The Heavenly Passage Pillars are targets for all Heavenly Passage Realm cultivators to test their strength! I'm sure many people have heard of their function, so I'll only give you a brief explanation. Attack the Heavenly Passage Pillars with your most powerful attack, and the louder the sound from the pillars, the stronger your attack is! That's right! This round tests your attack strength! The strongest cultivators will progress to the next round! The ability to attack is the foundation of a person's capability, because strong attacks usually determine the winner of a fight! That is why this is a true test of your capabilities! There will be no shortcuts!"

Attack the Heavenly Passage Pillars with your strongest attack? And the Heavenly Passage Pillars will make a noise? Long Chen privately made a mental note of Demon General Typhoon's words. At the same time, he eyed the Heavenly Passage Pillars. *Does that mean that even if someone is at the Ninth Passage Stage, they can't destroy the Heavenly Passage Pillars since they are at the Heavenly Passage Realm?*

This meant that the materials used to make the Heavenly Passage Pillars were terrifying too.

The crowd started to discuss as they gazed at the pillars in awe.

Demon General Typhoon continued, "After the first round in the Black Prison, seven thousand people remain out of the eighty thousand participants. In the second round with the Heavenly Passage Pillars, only ten percent will progress too. The Ancient Demon Domain will pick the seven hundred people who can generate the loudest sound to enter the third round! The rules are simple, but qualifying will not be simple because you need to beat the ten people next to you!"

Ninety percent of participants would be disqualified once more. It was a brutal process.

Although they knew the Ancient Demon Domain was a difficult faction to enter, the crowd was still pale. They all looked at each other and saw the worry in each other's eyes.

Whether they would enter Ancient Demon Domain all depended on whether they could risk it all.

“While the rules are brutal, the reward will be abundant if you progress to the next round. I will now announce the rewards!

“First, every person who qualifies will receive fifty Heavenly Passage Pills!”

This number was almost three times more than before. That meant that they would get a total of seventy Heavenly Passage Pills!

Greed ignited within them.

Heavenly Passage Pills were the most important resource for cultivators at the Heavenly Passage Realm. Many people found themselves unable to progress because they lacked Heavenly Passage Pills!

“The top one hundred people will receive three hundred Heavenly Passage Pills each, and the top ten will receive a thousand! Third place will receive six thousand, second place will receive ten thousand, and first place ...”

Demon General Typhoon glanced at Long Chen and Zhao Wuji and smiled. “The champion will receive thirty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills! Let's watch and see who gets the thirty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills!”

The temptation of Heavenly Passage Pills filled the dejected crowd with battle spirit once more. Victory all depended on this moment! Instead of feeling dejected, they had to work as hard as they could to fight! It was possible to succeed by accident, and if that happened, they would be set for life.

It was easy to become one of the enforcers of the Martial Alliance, but difficult to become a disciple of the Ancient Demon Domain. There were millions of Martial Alliance enforcers, but there were only about ten thousand Ancient Demon Domain disciples.

Thirty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills? I lack Heavenly Passage Pills right now, and due to being a Dragon Warrior, I consume ten times more pills than a regular person every time I progress one stage. Ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills won't last me very long. That is why I must be champion this time too! thought Long Chen.

The more outstanding his performance was, the more resources he would receive.

Since I'm already here, I should do my best! Long Chen was feeling optimistic.

Demon General Typhoon continued, “Everyone, line up in front of the pillar that corresponds to the first number of your serial numbers!”

During registration, Long Chen had received a serial number with seven as the first number. Therefore, he lined up in front of the seventh Heavenly Passage Pillar. Huangfu Qi stood in front of him because they had registered consecutively.

For convenience's sake, they would take their turns according to their numbers. Since Zhao Wuji had previously cut in line and registered before Long Chen, he was now arranged to stand between Huangfu Qi and Long Chen.

"Thank you for your help, Senior Liu!" Zhao Wuji smiled at the disciple who had made the arrangement.

"It's nothing. When you get number one later, you just need to treat us to a good meal," said the disciple, who left with a smile.

After Zhao Wuji's arrival, the mood turned sour quickly.

Huangfu Qi did not like him at all, and when she saw that he was now standing between her and Long Chen, she glared at him and said, "You're a bad person! You cut in line! You jerk! You asshole!"

Zhao Wuji and Long Chen choked at the last insult. Zhao Wuji's face turned a deep shade of red, and despite how adorable Huangfu Qi was, he scolded her coldly. "Shut your mouth, girl!"

"What kind of a man are you, fighting a little girl?" Long Chen stood in front of him. "If you think you're that strong, we'll see how you do against the pillar! Let's see if you can get first place." Long Chen smirked, as if trying to provoke him.

"You're Jiang Cheng, right? Are you challenging me?" Zhao Wuji stopped and stared at him darkly.

"What's the point of challenging someone like you?" Long Chen gave a small smile and comforted Huangfu Qi, completely ignoring him.

Zhao Wuji clenched his fists tightly.

The booming noise of the Heavenly Passage Pillars will make you understand what true strength really is. I've killed a Fifth Passage Stage master, so do you think I'll be weaker than you at the First Passage Stage? My uncle isn't here today, but if I don't get number one, we'll lose face ... That is why I must be number one! A bright fire burned in his eyes.

Then, according to Demon General Typhoon's arrangements, the second round began. Since Long Chen had registered late, it would be some time until his turn.

Long Chen noticed that the dozen or so Demon Generals had dispersed and were now standing next to the seven pillars. With them as the judges, the winners of the round would easily be determined. He saw that the Demon Generals each had a notebook for records. They would likely record a score based on the sound they heard, then compare all the scores to determine the top seven hundred participants!

Since these qualifiers were held every year, they likely had a perfect scoring system.

The participants began their attacks. Long Chen looked at the pillar in front of him and saw that there was a teenager standing in front of it.

Long Chen could not see his face because his back was towards him, but he could see the teenager trembling. However, the teenager knew that his success depended on his next attack, so he gritted his teeth, took several steps back, and exploded with his most powerful attack!

It was an immense fist technique unleashed with his Second Passage Stage strength. The fist seal turned into a gigantic sprinting tiger, which crashed into the pillar! Ripples radiated away from the pillars, making the black cloak of the Demon General standing behind the pillar fly up.

Long Chen heard a soft sound from the pillar, but it quickly died down.

Because this was the first strike, no one knew if it was considered loud. Though from the teenager's expression, he had not achieved his goal and he descended dejectedly. The next guy replaced him.

The Demon General recording the score never looked up. After hearing the sound created by the first person's attack, he recorded the score and then did not move.

The second teenager was also at the Second Passage Stage, though the sound he caused was only very slightly louder than the previous guy.

The subsequent participants performed on a similar level. The worst participant failed to make any sound at all, while the loudest result came from a Fourth Passage Stage Beast Warrior who exploded with his most powerful attack. The gentle cry from the pillar lasted three whole breaths!

This was the best result from Long Chen's section. The other sections also had similar results.

Very soon, the second round was coming to an end. The top three of the previous round were closing in on the pillars.

This would be the most exciting moment of the second round!

Chapter 469 - Martial Peak Finger

Even the attack from the Fourth Passage Stage Beast Warrior was not enough to make the Demon General look up. This meant that his strength had not gained the general's approval.

"Qi Qi, it's your turn. Do your best!" About a thousand people had lined up in front of each pillar, and every person took about ten breaths' time to complete their singular attack. After about two hours, it was finally Huangfu Qi's turn.

After Huangfu Qi would be Zhao Wuji, then Long Chen. They were the top three of the first round. Would they be the top three once more?

Everyone was excited.

The other groups at the six other pillars were almost done too.

Almost all seven thousand people looked in Long Chen's direction. Huangfu Qi and Zhao Wuji had been outstanding since the beginning, while Long Chen was a dark horse that had risen in the first round. Their performance was greatly anticipated.

"Big Brother, you are no match for me in this test! And you, jerk! Just wait and see how I squash you! Hmph!" Huangfu Qi rolled her eyes at Zhao Wuji, then she walked up to the pillar in front of everyone.

I can't use those moves, or my identity will be exposed. Looks like I can only use this one! thought Huangfu Qi, cocking her head to the side. *This move isn't considered my clan's attack, and there are many people who know about it. It's the best among all the intermediate Heaven-tier techniques, and it even surpasses the average advanced Heaven-tier attack. It should be enough to win first place.*

Soon after, Fourth Passage Stage Qi erupted from her body. Although she was young, her Qi was abnormally thick. It was even thicker than that of the Beast Warrior from before, as if infinite power had erupted from her tiny body.

A powerful light shot out of her eyes, and the fiery light landed on the Heavenly Passage Pillar!

Time to make the seal!

Standing in front of the Heavenly Passage Pillar, Huangfu Qi's tiny hands formed seals so quickly that they could barely be seen. A tornado appeared above her hand, which instantly grew and wrapped around her tiny body, as if turning her into a powerful tornado!

The powerful aura of this attack made everyone near her step back. Thankfully, there was no dust on the crystal floor, or it would have flown everywhere!

In just one breath's time, the tornado grew as large as the pillar.

Everyone nearby chose to create some distance, but the Demon General stood in place. He still did not look up, though the cloak behind him flew off with the wind and disappeared.

“Haargh!

“Tornado Seal!”

Then Huangfu Qi fully unleashed the attack, and the tornado was compressed into a seal technique. She controlled it with her hands, then directed it toward the pillar. The powerful attack shot through the pillar and dispersed in two directions!

The sound made by the pillar was louder than any sound before.

Everyone could clearly hear the difference, especially the Demon General.

Huangfu Qi leaped with joy and ran up to Long Chen. She hugged his leg and said, as if asking for praise, “Yay! Big Brother, I've won!”

“Qi Qi, you're awesome! You're much stronger than many people.” Long Chen smiled at her in exasperation. Indeed, her performance was impressive, and it was clear that she was number one so far.

Everyone looked at her in awe.

They felt like they had lived their lives in vain, because she had achieved this at just ten years old. To be honest, Zhao Wuji was nothing impressive compared to Huangfu Qi.

“Not bad! Not bad at all!” said Demon General Typhoon in the air, clapping for her. Then he turned to Zhao Wuji and said, “Zhao Wuji, it's your turn. We expect the most from you; don't lose to a little girl.”

“I won’t!” Zhao Wuji smiled confidently, then he glanced coldly at Long Chen. “It’ll be your turn to humiliate yourself later!”

He passed Long Chen and approached the pillar.

That girl chose to use an intermediate Heaven-tier combat technique, so it looks like I’m winning this for sure. Other than me, who here would have an advanced Heaven-tier technique? I couldn’t have killed that Fifth Passage Stage criminal without this technique. This second round suits my strengths the most!

Powerful confidence shone in his eyes!

Whoosh! Zhao Wuji stuck out his index finger and closed his eyes.

Large ripples of energy radiated from his body. Zhao Wuji started very slowly to prepare for his most powerful attack.

“Has it begun yet?”

“This is a finger technique that Zhao Wuji uses. It must be the one that he’s known for.”

“He’s only at the Fourth Passage Stage, but he’s already able to use an advanced Heaven-tier technique. That’s impressive! Zhao Wuji indeed has great potential. He has the right to become a disciple of the seven Demon Kings!”

“Then Huangfu Qi, who is only ten, has the right to become one too!”

The other Demon Generals, who now had nothing to do, started to discuss.

Zhao Wuji started to launch his most powerful attack!

His attack was not as dramatic as Huangfu Qi’s at first, but when it was launched, its power was enough to instantly destroy Huangfu Qi’s Tornado Seal. An advanced Heaven-tier technique was serious business!

“Secret Technique, Martial Peak Finger!”

He pointed one finger, then a bright burst of light shot out from it like an arrow, leaving behind a shining trail. It pierced into the Heavenly Passage Pillar!

Bright light shone and the arrow of light exploded into dots of starlight. The Heavenly Passage Pillar let out a loud vibration, and although it was not much stronger than Huangfu Qi’s shot, it lasted twice as long!

This meant that while Zhao Wuji’s attack was theoretically on the same level as hers, it was stronger in practice!

The crowd gave genuine praise and compliments when they saw the attack. The advanced Heaven-tier Martial Peak Finger had lived up to its tier as an advanced Heaven-tier technique. From the pillar’s judgment, they knew how powerful it was.

“Zhao Wuji, you have lived up to your reputation! You have cultivated the Martial Peak Finger to its very peak, and you are the only person who has mastered this technique to its peak at the Fourth Passage Stage!” said Demon General Typhoon with a laugh. His voice echoed across the plaza.

Everyone agreed.

The other Demon Generals also praised Zhao Wuji, who had a wide grin from receiving so much approval. He hurriedly said to Demon General Typhoon, “I can’t accept your praise! I am only a humble junior, and it took me two whole years to cultivate the Martial Peak Finger!”

“Two years to cultivate an advanced Heaven-tier technique is an excellent achievement. You’ll have a high chance of entering the three Martial Realms one day!” Demon General Typhoon said approvingly.

“Thank you for the praise, Demon General Typhoon!”

Being the focal point of so many people’s attention made him feel extremely good, and his grin became even wider.

“He’s such a jerk! Big Brother, you must beat him! Make his face stinkier than his butt!” said Huangfu Qi.

Seeing as the crowd did not plan to continue, Huangfu Qi screamed with fury, “Stop talking! My Big Brother is next!”

Due to her young age, her voice was shrill, and it startled everyone. They all recovered from their awe of Zhao Wuji’s performance, and Demon General Typhoon smiled awkwardly. “In that case, uh ... Jiang Cheng, it’s your turn.”

Everyone suddenly remembered that Long Chen had not had his turn yet.

They knew that he was only at the First Passage Stage, and he had only gotten first place before because his body was tough. The second round did not rely on body toughness!

That was why after Zhao Wuji’s result, which was the best, everyone temporarily forgot about Long Chen.

After Huangfu Qi’s tantrum, they finally looked at him to see how he would perform. Huangfu Qi’s scream had drawn a lot of attention, so if he did not perform well, it would be very embarrassing.

Long Chen was sure he was at least on par with a Third Passage Stage cultivator, which was nowhere near bad enough to be considered embarrassing.

He finally strode towards the Heavenly Passage Pillars, and Zhao Wuji stepped back.

When they passed each other, Zhao Wuji’s mocking voice rang in Long Chen’s ears. “Do your best! If the pillar doesn’t even make a sound, it’ll be very embarrassing for you.”

Long Chen ignored him.

He only needed to use his strength to prove himself.

Long Chen approached the pillar to inspect it up close.

Suddenly, he noticed a handprint on the pillar. It was obvious that someone had hit it with their palm, and it was three centimeters deep.

Zhao Wuji's most powerful attack did not even leave a scratch on the pillar. Who did this? This person left behind a handprint! That's powerful ... Long Chen thought to himself.

“That handprint was stamped by the Demon Emperor's favorite son, Jiang Wushang, when he was at the Ninth Passage Stage. Right now, Jiang Wushang is at the three Martial Realms. No one else has been able to leave a handprint on the Heavenly Passage Pillars before attaining the Martial Realms,” said the Demon General who was Long Chen's examiner with his head lowered.

Chapter 470 - High Score

Jiang Wushang?

He was able to defy common belief and left a handprint on the Heavenly Passage Pillar at the Ninth Passage Stage? I wonder what I will achieve when I reach the Ninth Passage Stage. If I can get the Emperor Flame Pearl, I will leave a much bigger mark than this three-centimeter-deep handprint!

Long Chen was filled with confidence.

“Alright, Jiang Cheng. You may begin,” said Demon General Typhoon.

Long Chen nodded and slowly activated his Dragon Soul Transformation before everyone's anxious gazes. Blood-red scales covered his whole body, making him look extremely impressive.

“Huh? What's this transformation?” The Demon Generals were puzzled because they could not identify what type his beast origin was. And why did this tiny form radiate such an ancient regalness? That powerful aura of violence did not belong to Long Chen; it was brought about by his Beast Soul Transformation!

However, while they were still confused, he had already taken out his Demon Emperor Sword.

“An intermediate Heaven-tier divine weapon. Not bad. Looks like Jiang Cheng comes from a solid background,” said the Demon Generals, nodding.

Long Chen took a deep breath and looked at the pillar.

In reality, he did not know what attack he would have to use in order to become a three-time champion. Right now, he had no way to hide his true capabilities.

Of course, Huangfu Qi and Zhao Wuji had used intermediate and advanced Heaven-tier techniques. If he used the Demon Emperor Sword Technique, he would be no match for them. That was why he had to use his most powerful technique instead.

Long Chen's expression was solemn, and he slowly started to wave the Demon Emperor Sword. Strange sword symbols started to orbit around him in a sporadic manner similar to Huangfu Qi's tornado.

The Demon Generals were shaken when he started to use this attack. Demon General Typhoon blurted, “Isn't that a sword array?”

Sword arrays were usually much stronger than normal sword techniques, and they were more sophisticated too. Even in the Divine Martial Empire, sword array techniques were not common. They had not expected Long Chen to have one.

“It’s not just a sword array, it’s an advanced Heaven-tier sword array!” The Demon Generals were even more shocked now. The other people did not know the power of sword arrays, so all they thought was that Long Chen’s attack seemed very powerful.

What happened next was even more dramatic than they could imagine. The wind and clouds swirled while he wielded the Demon Emperor Sword, and the wind howled loudly. He roared, and the Heaven Sword Array exploded. Sword symbols with unimaginable amounts of Sword Qi hidden within each one shot out and collided with the pillar!

If the pillar were a person, it would have crumbled!

From this alone, one could tell how powerful the Heaven Sword Array was!

Long Chen knew that the Heaven Sword Array was a top-tier technique even among advanced Heaven-tier techniques. Normal techniques of this tier, like Zhao Wuji’s Martial Peak Finger, were far beneath the Heaven Sword Array, seeing as this was something Ling Xi had taught him.

Boom!

When the Heaven Sword Array hit, a deafening boom came from the Heavenly Passage Pillar. Although it was a short burst, it was far louder than Zhao Wuji’s result!

The sound ripples radiated across space!

When the Demon General, who had kept his head down the entire time, heard the deafening boom, he looked up for the first time. He stared at Long Chen in shock, and Long Chen realized that “he” was actually a beautiful woman! Though Long Chen did not pay her any attention.

No one could believe their ears, so even after Long Chen had stopped, they had not realized that the champion had been determined.

Long Chen’s attack was unquestionably stronger than Zhao Wuji’s.

“Woah! Big Brother is awesome!” Huangfu Qi snapped out of it first, and her large eyes were filled with stars of adoration. She did not think Long Chen was strong before, but his performance had shocked her!

Champion!

Long Chen deactivated his Dragon Soul Transformation and put the Demon Emperor Sword away. Then there was a tidal surge of shocked cries and all jaws dropped. They thought Zhao Wuji’s performance was an insurmountable peak, but Long Chen had made the next record!

Even the Demon Generals looked at each other and shook their heads with bitter smiles. “The kid’s body is very strong and provides a great boost to his attacks. He has even cultivated an advanced Heaven-tier combat technique. Cultivating one at merely the First Passage Stage is no simple task!”

“You can say that this kid is more talented than Zhao Wuji in terms of combat techniques! It’s too bad that he doesn’t have much talent for cultivation, or he would be the perfect prodigy.

“Cultivation is the foundation for everything.” Demon General Typhoon smiled and announced, “Jiang Chen’s performance was not bad at all!”

This was genuine praise.

Thousands of people started to clap for Long Chen.

He had surprised everyone by taking first place in the first round, then he turned the tides in the second round to win first place once more. In everyone’s hearts, he was already a master. The second round tested their attacking abilities, and no participant felt like they could withstand that attack of his.

The situation was clear—Long Chen had beaten Zhao Wuji once more.

The person in the most disbelief was Zhao Wuji.

He glared with wide eyes as he watched Long Chen turn around after finishing his attack. His face turned pale, but very soon, blood crept into his eyes. A trace of killing intent surfaced and ate into his heart.

Long Chen spotted his glare. He walked over, and when he passed Zhao Wuji, he smiled. “Tell me, who was the one who embarrassed themselves?”

Then Long Chen laughed.

Zhao Wuji’s face turned green from the humiliation.

Those were the words he had directed at Long Chen, but Long Chen ended up using them to humiliate him. This was ten times worse than just an insult from Long Chen! It was a complete mockery!

“No way! Lord Demon General Typhoon, I beg you to let me try again!” he cried furiously. Zhao Wuji could never let the chance to win first place go, and he had already lost his chance in the first round.

“Of course not. The qualifiers are fair. If everyone got to try again, then wouldn’t the qualifiers be meaningless?” Demon General Typhoon was privately speechless at Zhao Wuji’s childish behavior, so his tone was harsher than before.

Having hit a wall, Zhao Wuji was even more humiliated. His childish words had made many people burst into laughter. Their laughs were like slaps across Zhao Wuji’s face!

Jiang Cheng! It’s your fault! It’s all your fault! The third round is a battle royale, and killing is allowed! I’ll kill you then! he roared in his heart.

The second round of the qualifiers ended. Demon General Typhoon saw that it was time and soared up into the air once more. He said loudly, “The second round has ended! Everyone has received a score, and now we will compile your scores and rank you all. Out of seven thousand people, the top

seven hundred will qualify for the next round! And you will be rewarded too! Take a break first. In fifteen minutes, I will announce the qualified participants' numbers and names!"

"Yes!" everyone said with great anticipation.

Of course, there were also many who knew that they had no hope, so they were dejected.

Long Chen was also waiting.

He had two objectives in the Divine Martial Empire. One was to find the way to the Ancient Graveyard, and the second was to increase his strength. After he learned about the Emperor Flame Pearl in the Ancient Demon Domain, he knew that he had to join the Ancient Demon Domain with stellar results.

So far, his results were indeed stellar.

Very soon, Demon General Typhoon started to announce the results. He first announced the hundredth to seventh hundredth names, and everyone whose name was called was given fifty Heavenly Passage Pills. Most people were feeling dejected because they had been banking on entering the top seven hundred. When their names were not called, they felt like there was no more hope.

"Next, I will announce the eleventh to one hundredth place. Each person will receive three hundred Heavenly Passage Pills!" Demon General Typhoon's voice boomed.

Everyone listened anxiously.

Those whose names were called automatically stepped out of the crowd with excitement on their faces while the others stared with admiration.

Only ninety names were called this time, so it was faster.

"Next, only the top ten names are left. Everyone who made it to the top ten is at the Fourth Passage Stage except for one person! And that exception is at the First Passage Stage!"

Demon General Typhoon's statement killed many cultivators' dreams, specifically the ones who were at the Third Passage Stage.

The First Passage Stage cultivator is definitely Jiang Cheng, they thought. With so many people watching, the Demon Generals could not tamper with the results anyway.

"I shall announce who came in fourth to tenth place now!"

The Fourth Passage Stage cultivators all stepped out excitedly. They had earned a thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.

"Now, I shall announce the much-anticipated top three names! I'm sure everyone has already guessed it. The top three of the second round are the same as the first round. First, in third place ... Huangfu Qi!"

It was no surprise that Huangfu Qi was third.

In the beginning, they thought that she would be first, but she had fallen to second place after Zhao Wuji's turn. And when Long Chen had his turn, Huangfu Qi could only take third place.

“Next, the top two winners! Between Jiang Cheng and Zhao Wuji, who will win thirty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills? Everyone, take your guesses!”

“Jiang Cheng!” Long Chen's fake name rumbled across the crowd.