

## War God 491

Chapter 491 - Five Rays of Divine Light

“Huanyu!” Liu Yiyi was shocked. She had underestimated Long Chen’s speed, so he had killed Qin Huanyu before she could reach him.

Qin Huanyu’s eyes were wide open and he was still clutching the Snow Moon Knife. He looked down and stared at the blood pouring out of his chest in shock.

That was when he finally realized that he would die even though he had used his most powerful technique.

Despair. Insanity. Grief. All of these emotions clouded his mind in this very short period, though it was just for a moment. His life force was quickly vanishing, and he could not even turn around to look at Long Chen!

Behind him, Long Chen was controlling the residual energy of the Heaven Sword Array to force Liu Yiyi to back off. Then he took a few steps back and stood ten meters away from Qin Huanyu.

That was when Qin Huanyu finally collapsed. Before he died, he was able to fulfill his wish of looking at Long Chen, the one who had killed him. He did not know what to think. All he could say was that meeting a monster like Long Chen was incredibly unlucky.

In the end, he felt a pair of soft arms supporting him. The familiar fragrance told him that it was Liu Yiyi. He had dreamt of her for a very long time, so he would never mistake her for someone else. Unfortunately, he lost consciousness right when he finally experienced a hug from her.

Long Chen stood quietly while Qin Huanyu slumped into Liu Yiyi’s arms. The crowd was completely silent.

Those eyes filled with reverence and shock were exactly why Long Chen had done this. He did not feel bad at all, because he had killed many people before. Qin Huanyu intended to kill him, and if Long Chen had not killed him first, Long Chen would’ve been the one on the ground. Survival of the fittest. It was a simple concept.

As for Liu Yiyi’s response ... Who didn’t have one or two people who would grieve their death?

Everyone took a deep breath and looked at Long Chen with reverence. They understood that from today onwards, Long Chen would become number one in the Clear Shallows Pavilion. The smarter ones figured out something deeper based on the Clear Shallows King’s response. Someone as powerful as her could easily have saved Qin Huanyu before he died, but why hadn’t she done it? This meant that Long Chen was more valuable to her than Qin Huanyu was. One of the reasons was due to Long Chen’s extraordinary performance. Very few people knew of her other reason.

They all had a faint feeling that Long Chen would become the rising star of the Clear Shallows Pavilion and then compete against the other pavilions. Based on his performance, he had indeed earned the right. More importantly, they knew that he had risen from the First to the Fifth Passage Stage in just four days.

He was indeed inhuman.

His performance had successfully made the Clear Shallows King take him seriously. As for Qin Huanyu, the Clear Shallows King did not care about losing him.

Long Chen looked at Liu Yiyi. She shut Qin Huanyu's eyes, which were open even after death, with her slender hands. She then looked up at Long Chen, her gaze icy.

There was a lot of blood on her white dress, and even some on her face. This made the gentle and friendly Liu Yiyi look scary, especially due to the cold and stubborn look in her eyes.

Long Chen was a little mesmerized. He saw a shadow of Ling Xi in her. Ling Xi was also a person who hated passionately. When she hated someone, she had the same look in her eyes.

*She's not Xiao Xi*, he thought to himself sternly. He deactivated the Dragon Soul Transformation and returned to his original state.

Liu Yiyi stood up, stared straight at him, and said coldly, "I'm challenging you right now! Do you dare accept it?"

Long Chen ignored her because he knew that the Clear Shallows King would speak up. As expected, she stood up and waved at Liu Yiyi. "Yiyi, that's enough. Fists and kicks are blind in battle. Everyone knew that it would either end with Huanyu killing Jiang Cheng or Jiang Cheng killing Huanyu. If a fighter is not strong enough, he must not blame others for his death. As for the other disciples, go bury Huanyu."

"Mother!" The Clear Shallows King's cold words made Liu Yiyi and the other disciples feel miserable. The other disciples all came to Qin Huanyu's side and said in a panic, "Master, he killed your direct disciple! Are you really going to let it go?"

"Yeah! If Junior Yiyi can't do it, I will! Jiang Cheng, I'm challenging you to a fight now! Come fight me if you dare!"

"Yeah! Me too! Do you think you can get off so easily after killing Sixth Junior Brother? In your dreams!"

"How dare you kill our junior!"

All the remaining disciples of the Clear Shallows King, other than Huangfu Qi, glared at Long Chen furiously. Huangfu Qi stood next to Long Chen and made a face at them. She had known Long Chen longer, so she liked him more. Plus, Qin Huanyu had bullied Long Chen, so she did not like him anyway.

Long Chen knew he did not need to speak.

Indeed, the Clear Shallows King raged. She yelled sternly, "I told you all to leave! Did you not hear me? Get the hell out immediately! Don't embarrass me! Go back and focus on your cultivation. The examination that takes place every five years is very close, and if the Clear Shallows Pavilion takes last place once again, I'll kill all of you!"

The Clear Shallows King's scolding made all of them swallow their words. They looked at each other, knowing that she was really furious. She was right. They had lost to Long Chen, and it was their fault for being useless.

A single tear slid from Liu Yiyi's eye.

"Let's go. Don't make my mother unhappy anymore." There was hurt in her eyes too.

"Yiyi, you are my daughter. Everything I do is for your own good. Don't lead them into this nonsense," said the Clear Shallows King resignedly when she saw the pain in her daughter's eyes.

"I know ..." Liu Yiyi nodded.

Long Chen could tell that the matter was coming to a close, so he said, "They don't need to go. I think I am the one who should go. Qiqi, let's go."

Without looking at the Clear Shallows King for permission, he grabbed Huangfu Qi's hand and left. He had cemented his position in the Clear Shallows Pavilion through this duel, and this would be the day he started to flourish here. He had completed his objective, so he did not care about everything else. Leaving was the best option now.

Everyone watched as he left.

The disciples of the Clear Shallows King all clenched their fists, other than Liu Yiyi.

"Alright. Everyone may go back." Since it was the Clear Shallows King's command, everyone had no choice but to disperse.

"You may go bury Huanyu. Yiyi, follow me. I need to talk to you," the Clear Shallows King said after a while.

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Once they returned to Long Chen's quarters, Huangfu Qi started to harass Xiaolang incessantly, though Xiaolang had gotten smarter than before. It was not as easy for Huangfu Qi to catch him anymore. This continued until Long Chen knew that Huangfu Qi was tired of playing, so he grabbed her and asked, "Qi Qi, you once talked about something called the Five Emperor Seals or something like that. Do you know what that is?"

Huangfu Qi gasped at his question. She stared at him in a daze and said, "Big Brother, you know about the Black Emperor Seal in the Ancient Demon Domain too?"

Long Chen was surprised at her surprise. He initially thought the little girl didn't know anything and wanted to get her to ask around for him. How did she know about the Black Emperor Seal?

"Do you mean that you didn't come to the Ancient Demon Domain for the Emperor Flame Pearl? Are you actually here to search for the Black Emperor Seal?" Long Chen guessed her intentions immediately.

Now that her true intentions were exposed, Huangfu Qi replied shyly, "Actually, the Emperor Flame Pearl is my target ... And the Black Emperor Seal is a bigger target. But it looks like I can't get the Emperor Flame Pearl anymore, so I need to shift my focus to the Black Emperor Seal."

Long Chen knew that the little girl came from a powerful family and had already guessed her identity. Two of the great factions in the Divine Martial Empire were the Ancient Demon Domain

and the Huangfu family. It was obvious from her family name, plus the wealth she had faintly revealed proved that she was from the Huangfu family. Although there were many people with the same surname, no one else had this level of wealth. Since Long Chen had spent quite a bit of time with Huangfu Qi, he knew a lot about her.

Long Chen guessed that the Clear Shallows King and the others also knew Huangfu Qi's identity and were just letting her play in the Ancient Demon Domain. They probably had even contacted the Huangfu family to come collect her. The Clear Shallows King was only being so good to Huangfu Qi because she took her family's influence seriously. If the Clear Shallows King could form close ties with the Huangfu family, her influence would grow too.

"Huangfu Qi, how did you know that the Black Emperor Seal would be in the Ancient Demon Domain? I didn't know it before; I've only heard rumors about the Five Emperor Seals." Long Chen tried to explain, knowing that if the girl guessed that he had the Black Emperor Seal and spouted some nonsense outside, he would be dead.

"I heard my father say it! My father said that one month ago, five rays of divine light fell from the heavens. At the time, no one knew what they were, but the five divine lights were scattered across different areas of the Divine Martial Empire. My father dug up some references and learned that they were the Emperor-tier Five Emperor Seals. At the time, no one recorded where the five rays landed, but there were rumors that a black ray of divine light landed close to the Ancient Demon Domain!"

"Five divine lights from the sky?" After hearing Huangfu Qi's explanation, Long Chen was sure that he had indeed gotten the Black Emperor Seal. An Emperor-tier technique would likely trigger a bloody war involving the whole Divine Martial Empire, and it was possible that other countries would join in. He could not help but feel relieved at his luck, but at the same time, he knew that he had to guard this secret well.

"My father said that the Black Emperor Seal is with the Demon Emperor, and I heard that the Demon Emperor lives in the palace. I want to steal the Black Emperor Seal for my father, so that's why I'm here! Hehe! Big Brother, don't you ever, ever tell anyone about this!"

#### Chapter 492 - The Bet

Long Chen was speechless at the little girl's plan. The Demon Emperor was the strongest person in the Ancient Demon Domain. If he really had the Black Emperor Seal, how could the girl ever steal it? She was a mischievous child, as she had snuck out to come here. He guessed that her father would come get her very soon.

Of course, meeting the daughter of such an influential family after arriving at the Divine Martial Empire also benefited Long Chen greatly.

After he learned a bit about the Five Emperor Seals from Huangfu Qi, he saw that the sky had darkened and said, "Qi Qi, it's getting late. You should go back."

“I don’t want to! I hate the other seniors! You treat me best, so I want to stay with you,” Huangfu Qi begged.

Long Chen had his own cultivation tasks and could not be disturbed by the child, so he said sternly, “If you don’t go now, you won’t get to play with Xiaolang again!”

This was Long Chen’s killer move, and Huangfu Qi had no choice but to leave with her head hung. She wanted to get Long Chen’s pity, but Long Chen ignored her.

After she left, Long Chen was preparing to cultivate when he sensed someone approaching. He used the Soul Swallowing Gaze and saw someone standing outside his door.

“Who is it?” He opened the door gently and saw Liu Yiyi, who strongly resembled Ling Xi, standing not far away. Under the moonlight, her white dress billowed, making her look like a statue made of white jade standing before him. Her gaze was filled with coldness and hatred.

“Follow me,” she said curtly, then she took a few steps back and looked to see Long Chen’s response.

Long Chen had the impression that she was a kind person. Since her junior had been killed by him, it was only natural that she harbored enmity towards him, though he did not bear any hatred towards her. However, she had approached him in a mysterious manner, so he decided to follow her after some hesitation.

Liu Yiyi relaxed when she saw that he was coming and focused on walking ahead. There were many gray mountains near the Clear Shallows Pavilion, so it didn’t take long to lead him to a desolate area.

Long Chen felt confused several times as he stared at the girl as if she wasn’t Liu Yiyi, but Ling Xi.

I just miss Xiao Xi too much, so much so that I can mistake someone who looks similar for her ...

Long Chen shook his head in exasperation.

Liu Yiyi stopped, then she turned and looked at him. “I can’t believe you actually dared to follow me. Aren’t you afraid I set up an ambush? You’re my enemy after all.”

“Enough with that nonsense. Just say what you want to say,” replied Long Chen, ignoring her. He had come to his senses and knew that this was not Ling Xi.

Seeing as Long Chen was being so direct, Liu Yiyi took a deep breath and said, “I am here to finish what I couldn’t during the day, which is to get some justice for my junior brother. Don’t worry, I won’t be as vicious as you were, killing someone so casually. You need to know that he had parents too. Even though you were stronger, you had no right to kill him.”

Long Chen was speechless.

“What you think is your business and what I do is my business. Do I have to fight you just because you want to fight me? Why? Are you going to bully me just because

you're at the Seventh Passage Stage and I'm at the Fifth?" Long Chen laughed coldly, then he turned to leave.

"Stop right there!" Liu Yiyi did not expect Long Chen to come here but refuse to fight, so she panicked. Her dress fluttered around her as she hurried forward. Long Chen's nonchalance had angered her, and her cheeks were red due to her ragged breathing.

"You killed someone! Why are you still so rude? There were no grudges between you and my sixth junior brother! Although there were disagreements, you didn't have to kill him, did you?" she asked weakly as she gazed at him.

"Are you stupid? If I hadn't killed him, he would have killed me. I was stronger than him, so I got to kill him. This is the law of nature. You have the protection of the elders, so of course you can pretend to be stupid here and criticize me with your righteousness. If you were me and you lived through my experiences, you would have died a long time ago with that mentality."

Long Chen felt no regret at all about killing Qin Huanyu. It was the rule of the world. People who could not think flexibly like Liu Yiyi would never survive without a powerful background.

Liu Yiyi's face turned green and then red after Long Chen's scolding. "You're being unreasonable! I'm not going to let you leave today. I promised Huanyu that I would make you admit you were in the wrong in front of his grave!" she cried angrily.

"Admit I'm in the wrong in front of his grave? You can dream on." Long Chen had no time to entertain this fool. Some women merely had huge breasts and no brains, but he opined that Liu Lan was countless times smarter than her despite being more voluptuous. He had killed Huanyu just a few hours ago; why would he ever apologize in front of his grave?

Then he was prepared to leave. With the might of his Blood Warp, not even ten Liu Yiyis could stop him.

"Jiang Cheng, are you afraid of me? Or do you feel like the stakes aren't high enough? I know you're a jerk who only cares about profit. Name your price, then. Let's make a bet. If you lose, you will apologize in front of Sixth Junior Brother's grave. If you win, I'll follow whatever condition you set!" she said coldly, clenching her teeth when she saw that Long Chen was actually going to leave.

She had to fulfill her promise to Qin Huanyu, no matter what.

Long Chen halted. Perhaps Liu Yiyi was right. He really did only care about profit right now. He was lacking Heavenly Passage Pills, so he said, "I only have one price. Five hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills or it's a no."

"Five hundred thousand? Might as well rob me." Liu Yiyi froze and glared at him in embarrassment and anger. She only had about two hundred thousand in her

Universe Pouch right now, so even if she gave all of them to him, she would not fulfill his request.

“It’s fine if you don’t want me to do it. Without five hundred thousand pills, how are you going to get me to apologize to Qin Huanyu?” Long Chen chuckled shamelessly.

To be honest, Liu Yiyi would never be able to give him five hundred thousand pills, nor could she ask the Clear Shallows King for more, because she was doing this behind her mother’s back.

“Can you lower the number? What about two hundred thousand? I only have two hundred thousand. Or you can name other conditions.” Liu Yiyi had never met such a shameless person and was extremely furious. However, she had no choice but to continue digging this hole to fulfill her promise. It was not going to be easy to make Long Chen apologize.

“Other conditions?” Long Chen eyed her up and down with a perverted look in his eyes, then he grinned. “I have made my decision. I don’t want five hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills anymore. I don’t even want one pill. I only have one condition. If I lose, I will apologize and kowtow ten times in front of Qin Huanyu’s grave. If you lose, simple. You will take off all your clothes and let me see your beautiful body. What do you think?”

“You’re shameless!” Liu Yiyi almost fainted from anger. She could not stand the smug look on his face. She had never met such a shameless person in her life.

“Shameless? It’s fine if you don’t agree to my terms. I won’t force you. Also, you’re at the Seventh Passage Stage! The strongest among all the young disciples of the Clear Shallows Pavilion! Are you worried you’ll lose to me?” Long Chen looked at her provocatively.

Liu Yiyi obviously did not think she would lose, but every time she met his eyes, she had a bad feeling. She could read him through his gaze. Although he pretended to be very interested in her body, she saw that his heart was calm. So calm that it terrified her.

His eyes were like a deep well.

“Since you won’t agree to my terms, goodbye.” Long Chen turned and quickly walked away. If she gave chase, he could easily shake her off using Blood Warp.

“Stay where you are! I accept!” Liu Yiyi said in the end, clenching her teeth as she overcame her fears. She was a Seventh Passage Stage cultivator, and she was close to reaching the Eighth! She had received an abundance of mentorship and resources in the Clear Shallows Pavilion. How could she lose to Long Chen?

She had chosen to agree to his terms in order to fulfill the promise she had made to Qin Huanyu.

Long Chen stopped and said in a strange tone, “You’re actually agreeing to it? Are you sure? You’re a sophisticated lady! How could it be worth it to show your body to a peasant like me?”

“Stop daydreaming. You can never beat me,” Liu Yiyi said decisively.

“But it’s nighttime! It’s not exactly daydreaming,” Long Chen responded shamelessly, looking up at the sky.

“Enough of your nonsense. I agree to your terms, so let’s begin! Let me see just how strong you are. If you’re only as strong as what you showed earlier today, it is far from enough to beat me!” Liu Yiyi said with a cold expression.

Long Chen was a little taken aback because he did not actually know if he could defeat this woman. In fact, it was likely that he would be tortured terribly. He had made two very unreasonable demands because he thought she would never agree. Now that she had agreed to it, he was in big trouble ...

But a man had to abide by his words. If he actually lost, he was willing to apologize in front of that brat’s grave. He would not lose anything if he did so ...

However, Long Chen did admire her personality. There were not many people who could do this just to fulfill a promise. She was indeed cute because of her stubbornness and one-track mind.

Unfortunately, Long Chen’s heart already belonged to someone else.

Chapter 493 - Universe Eight Trigrams Array

Long Chen didn’t really want to fight Liu Yiyi, but since he had agreed to it, he would fight with all his strength. Apologizing for no reason was not something a man was supposed to do.

Although Liu Yiyi was a girl, Long Chen did not dare act recklessly. After all, reaching the Seventh Passage Stage was no simple achievement.

“I have cultivated an advanced Heaven-tier body tempering technique and many advanced Heaven-tier combat techniques. You should be careful. Don’t you dare die on me,” Liu Yiyi reminded him before they fought.

Long Chen felt the weight of a mountain on his shoulders.

He felt like his opponent had everything he had, and more. How could he fight like that?

Long Chen took a deep breath, and at the same time, blood-red dragon scales slowly covered his body. He had no choice but to use his strongest form to face her attacks. This was going to be the most difficult fight of his life, and to be honest, facing Qin Huanyu had been effortless. On the other hand, he did not have much confidence in defeating Liu Yiyi. All he could do was fight the best he could. The only advantage he had was that he was more vicious than his opponent.

The Demon Emperor Sword appeared in Long Chen’s hands.

Liu Yiyi did not hold back once she saw that Long Chen was prepared. Under the night sky, she slowly revealed the strength of a Seventh Passage Stage cultivator. A powerful gust of aura blasted into Long Chen’s face, blowing dust and sand into the air as well.



Her aura was more than ten times stronger than Qin Huanyu's. As expected of the daughter of the Clear Shallows King—she was indeed extraordinary.

A technique like the Demon Emperor Sword Technique was surely insufficient against her, let alone Long Chen's other attacks. Long Chen's mind raced as he looked for a solution. All he could do was launch a storm of attacks against Liu Yiyi the moment they started so she would have no time to retaliate. If he did not do this, he would have no chance of winning.

When Liu Yiyi announced the start of the duel, Long Chen's eyes sprang open and he turned into a red line. He suddenly appeared in front of Liu Yiyi, moving the fastest he had ever moved in his life.

"You have decent speed," Liu Yiyi said. She had witnessed Long Chen's capabilities before, so his performance so far was within her expectations.

"Supreme Demon Sword!"

Once he approached her, he unleashed the Supreme Demon Sword twice, striking at her front, back, left, and right. The wind howled and trenches formed in the ground from his attacks.

Liu Yiyi's expression remained unchanged. Her white dress fluttered, making her look like a pure fairy beneath the moonlight. With a gentle gesture of her hand, she formed a seal, and invisible ripples radiated towards him.

"Space Breaking Seal ..."

Just like water ripples, the waves formed in the air gently collided with Long Chen's two Supreme Demon Sword attacks, easily neutralizing them. The invisible ripples continued to close in on Long Chen.

His eyes glinted coldly and he jumped, dodging Liu Yiyi's attack. Then an aura that seemed to stretch across heaven and earth fell on Liu Yiyi!

"It looks like you only know that one move ..." Liu Yiyi chuckled coldly. Everything he had done so far was within her expectations. She knew that he was preparing to use the Heaven Sword Array.

She had to admit that Long Chen's Heaven Sword Array was indeed powerful. Although Long Chen could not utilize it to its maximum potential, it would be difficult for even the Seventh Passage Stage Liu Yiyi to withstand it. However, victory favored the fighter who was prepared. Liu Yiyi had long thought of a solution to defeat that move.

She knew that as long as she survived his Heaven Sword Array, he would be hers to torture.

If Liu Yiyi could think of this, Long Chen could too. From the moment the duel began, Long Chen knew that he was completely under her control. This girl was competent in battle, and this was terrible news to Long Chen.

If he did not break free of her control, he would never be a match for her.

While he was using the Heaven Sword Array mid-air, his mind raced for ideas as he searched through all the skills he possessed. In the end, he gritted his teeth and thought, *Looks like I need to take this risk. Even though it's risky, I cannot lose to this woman!*

With that thought, Long Chen unleashed the might of the Heaven Sword Array according to the original plan. Earlier that day, he had not used it to his full potential because he was confident against Qin Huanyu. It was different now. Although the effects of the Demon Seed Planting Technique were very weak, he used it anyway. More importantly, he had another addition—the Blood Devouring Domain!

Blood-red mist slowly surrounded Liu Yiyi. This was her first time witnessing the Blood Devouring Domain, so she was shocked. She had no choice but to use a small portion of her Qi to suppress her boiling blood; if she did not, her blood would likely burst out of her body!

“What demented technique is this?” Long Chen’s Blood Devouring Domain was the first occurrence that was out of her expectations. She realized that complete control over Long Chen was not so simple after all.

However, she quickly stabilized her emotions. Even though she had to use about one-fifth of her Qi to suppress the effects of the Blood Devouring Domain, she was still much stronger than him. The remaining Qi she had left was enough to neutralize Long Chen’s Heaven Sword Array!

Liu Yiyi forced herself to remain calm. Long Chen’s Blood Devouring Domain was terrifying, but after she understood its effects and used her Qi to suppress them, she knew she could still win!

After the Blood Devouring Domain, Long Chen used his most powerful technique, which was the Heaven Sword Array. Countless sword symbols flew quickly around his body, soon turning into a tornado that wrapped around him. The howling sword symbols each shone with millions of rays of light. The symbols formed a gigantic sword array from top to bottom, descending upon Liu Yiyi. Even a regular Seventh Passage Stage cultivator would likely succumb to such a powerful attack!

“Are you finally using it?” Liu Yiyi had long thought of a way to defeat Long Chen. After he used the Heaven Sword Array, two bright rays of light shot out of her eyes!

Beneath the Heaven Sword Array, her hands flew quickly and runes started to spin around her body. Every rune shone brightly, containing as much power as the sword symbols from the Heaven Sword Array. Her runes outnumbered his, and in a short period of time, countless shining runes appeared around her.

“Secret Technique, Universe Eight Trigrams Array!”

She gave a soft cry, and the countless runes spun into a gigantic array. The image of the eight trigrams appeared within it and flew up towards the descending Heaven Sword Array!

If the Heaven Sword Array was described as fast and sharp, then the Universe Eight Trigrams Array was stable and solid. The Universe Eight Trigrams Array contained a gigantic amount of destructive force and was the bane of sword arrays like Long Chen’s attack. When faced with the Universe Eight Trigrams Array, the Heaven Sword Array started to break down!

The Heaven Sword Array’s sharp Sword Qi also made the Universe Eight Trigrams Array to fall apart. This exchange of attacks under the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain was actually a draw since neither could completely destroy the other!

Boom!

There was a loud boom, and both attacks were pulverized at the same time. A huge amount of energy surged in all directions, turning the boulders nearby into crumbs. The momentum from the attack shredded Long Chen's body, which would have resulted in a tragedy if he weren't so hardy.

Similarly, Liu Yiyi did not fare well against Long Chen's Heaven Sword Array. The Blood Devouring Domain made her feel miserable, but she had survived the Heaven Sword Array. Knowing that Long Chen had exhausted great amounts of Qi to launch the Heaven Sword Array once, she would surely win if he had no other tricks.

Long Chen saw the easy smile on her face. This meant that she was very confident in winning.

*I wonder what this girl's final move will be.* Long Chen knew something was up when he saw her smile. She surely had a final trick up her sleeve, though he did not know what it would be.

But this would not affect Long Chen's plan. After his Heaven Sword Array was destroyed, he raised the Demon Emperor Sword without a word and charged at Liu Yiyi!

The closer he got, the more effective his final move would be.

Long Chen had already made his brazen promise, and there was no chance he would ever kowtow to Qin Huanyu, nor was he willing to lose to Liu Yiyi. He was ready to risk it all.

*Whoosh!* Long Chen was merely ten meters away from Liu Yiyi. That was when he sensed a threat behind him. Startled, he thought, *Is this what she's been hiding up her sleeve?*

Liu Yiyi was clearly standing in front of him; how could there be a threat coming from the back?

Long Chen could not figure it out. All he could do was turn around as quickly as possible, to which he gasped in surprise, "Divine Fire Clone?"

Of course, what had appeared in front of him was not a Divine Fire Clone, but a divine technique that used the same concept. A black shadow was charging at him. Although he had only taken a glance, he was sure that some sort of clone was attacking him!

The shadow even possessed more than half of Liu Yiyi's strength!

#### Chapter 494 - King-tier Combat Technique

The clone possessed more than half of Liu Yiyi's strength, which meant that it was close to the Seventh Passage Stage. This also meant that it was about as strong as Long Chen in his current state, and this was terrifying. Long Chen's Divine Fire Clones only possessed one-fifth of the owner's strength, and these clones' strength was capped at the Eighth River Stage. He could not believe that this shadow clone was at the Seventh Passage Stage!

This was Liu Yiyi's trump card. With the shadow clone, Long Chen would be no match for her if this fight went on. She had already withstood his strongest attack after all.

Of course, there were many other factors that could affect the result of a battle.

"King-tier combat technique, Demonic Illusion. What do you think?" Liu Yiyi asked in a gentle voice.

If she was saying that her clone was this strong because it was a King-tier combat technique, Long Chen fully believed her. As the daughter of the Clear Shallows King, how was it possible for her not to have a King-tier technique?

After she used the Universe Eight Trigrams Array to block his most powerful attack, she immediately used the Demonic Illusion to strike Long Chen. He was only ten meters away from her, but the Demonic Illusion had arrived!

It threw a powerful punch at Long Chen. While Liu Yiyi had never used this technique before, it was clearly an advanced Heaven-tier technique! Paired with the Universe Eight Trigrams Array, it was clear that Liu Yiyi had mastered more than two advanced Heaven-tier techniques. Her strength had far surpassed Long Chen's imagination.

Liu Yiyi attacked at the same time as the Demonic Illusion. Long Chen was stronger than she expected, so it would be difficult to defeat him with just an advanced Heaven-tier technique. She could only guarantee success by trapping him like this

She had given it her all this time, so there was no way she would lose. If she lost, she would have to show him her body, and that would be worse than death!

Although she did not want to kill him, the fear he instilled in her caused Liu Yiyi to launch heavy-handed attacks. Since Long Chen was strong, her victory wasn't certain yet!

Of course, Long Chen could launch the Heaven Sword Array again, though he was not certain if he could block the attacks from both sides, as both were advanced Heaven-tier techniques.

“Demon Suppression Punch!”

This was a punch technique that had spread across the whole Ancient Demon Domain. It carried a huge suppression force that made Long Chen feel his strength being suppressed, similar to the effect of the Blood Devouring Domain. A Demon Suppression Punch from two opponents was indeed enough to defeat Long Chen.

This was Liu Yiyi's plan from the beginning. As long as she blocked Long Chen's Heaven Sword Array, she would be able to defeat him!

She had great instincts in battle and Long Chen was tightly under her control. Long Chen was sure that if he did not beg for mercy and used all his strength to defend himself, he would likely get hurt! Defeat was certain.

Of course, Long Chen had a plan too. The difference was that his plan was much crazier than hers! When the two advanced Heaven-tier Demon Suppression Punches trapped him in the middle, he moved. Ignoring her attack, he turned to face her clone and released a mini Heaven Sword Array in the shortest time possible. The Heaven Sword Array chopped the clone up to pieces, so he succeeded in knocking back its attack!

Long Chen's choice stunned Liu Yiyi. She had not expected him to be this stupid. Usually, in the face of a two-sided attack, a person would only stand a chance if he fended off both sides at the same time. But Long Chen had only dealt with one side, allowing his opponent to attack him from the other side unimpeded. Did he have a death wish?

Liu Yiyi had not expected this at all. Long Chen had neutralized the clone's attack, but her punch fully landed on his back!

If Long Chen had just defended himself a little, Liu Yiyi would have been able to show him mercy at the final moment. However, the way he had left himself open had come as a complete surprise, so it would be very difficult for her to retract her punch!

“Careful!” Liu Yiyi cried. This was not the result she wanted! All she wanted was for him to apologize to Qin Huanyu; she did not want to kill Long Chen!

But she was too late. Long Chen turned his head woodenly, as if stupefied, and took her attack with his chest. Although she had tried her best to retract her attack, the remaining momentum still sent the defenseless Long Chen flying through the air. Liu Yiyi clearly heard his bones shattering, then blood sprayed out of his mouth and his whole chest sank inwards!

His blood sprayed onto her long dress.

Long Chen collapsed on the ground, rolled several times, and then stopped moving.

Liu Yiyi turned as pale as a sheet.

“Jiang Cheng ...” she cried, then she rushed over to Long Chen. Self-blame and guilt drowned her heart. She only wanted him to apologize! But who would have guessed that he would react this way to her final attack!

No! He must have done that because he had no way of withstanding that attack! It’s all my fault! He’s only at the Fifth Passage Stage, yet I attacked him so viciously! It’s all my fault! I said he was vicious, but I was the vicious one all along!

With that thought, tears poured down her face. She felt like she had been stabbed in the heart as she looked at the blood on the ground. She fell by his side and propped up his body.

She had some healing herbs, so all she could do was hope that he was not dead. That was the only way she could save him, or she would live for the rest of her life with self-blame.

“I’m sorry! I’m so sorry! I was wrong ... I deserve to die ...” She knew she had to calm down in moments like this, but she could not stop the flow of her tears. She had never panicked this much in her life.

If Long Chen was dead, then he would be the first person she ever killed. Plus, she never intended to kill him, as he had never even done anything wrong in the first place.

Liu Yiyi’s heart was tortured with grief.

She supported him, ready to check if he really was dead. Suddenly, there was a blade pressing against her throat. Liu Yiyi was paralyzed with fear.

“Tell me. If I apply a little bit of strength, will you die?” A familiar voice rang in her ear. Liu Yiyi’s eyes widened in disbelief when she saw that Long Chen, who was lying in her arms, was fine. All the blood was gone and he had returned to an unharmed state, as if nothing had ever happened.

Liu Yiyi thought she was dreaming, but the cold feeling on her throat reminded her that this was reality.

But how could reality be this far-fetched? She had just killed Long Chen, and she had seen his chest sinking inwards with her own eyes! She had seen the pain in his eyes! But why was it all gone? Was it all just a hallucination?

“Pretty girl, are you going to keep holding me in your arms like that? Don’t you know that it’s inappropriate for a boy and a girl to be like this?” The corners of his lips curled upwards. In reality, his heart was twitching. Rewind really was a demented technique. Traumatized by the feeling of death every single time he used it, he swore never to use it again. The pain he felt was absolutely unbearable, plus this had only been a fight of the ego, so there was no real reason to use it.

But if he had not used Rewind, it would have been impossible for him to put the Demon Emperor Sword this close to Liu Yiyi’s neck.

Long Chen’s perverted words were not enough to snap Liu Yiyi out of her shock, making him speechless at the still-crying girl. He stood up with the Demon Emperor Sword still on her throat, then he said sternly, “Liu Yiyi, I can take your life at any time. It’s clear who the winner of this battle is. Don’t be shocked about how I won; the final result is that I won and you lost. Do you accept defeat?”

Long Chen’s words pulled Liu Yiyi back to reality. She shook her head, looked at him in disbelief, and said, “My attack almost killed you ...”

“If I said that I cannot die, would you believe me?” he asked with a small smile.

She shook her head.

“So does this mean you have accepted defeat? No one cares what tactics you use to win in battle. If we really wanted to kill each other, you would have died already. There is no question that you have lost. I think you’re a person who keeps her promises, so isn’t it time for you to fulfill that promise now?” Long Chen put the Demon Emperor Sword away and looked at her with a fire in his eyes.

“Promise ...” Liu Yiyi stood up in terror. Her face was pale. Long Chen was right. She had lost, and if they were fighting to kill, he definitely could have used that demented technique to kill her. But she could not admit defeat, because if she did, it meant she would have to ...

Liu Yiyi had only just stopped crying, but now she was on the brink of tears again. She had only agreed to the deal out of impulse, and even with such a complete plan, she had lost to him ...

This meant she had to strip in front of Long Chen.

#### Chapter 495 - Strip

When Long Chen saw Liu Yiyi kneeling on the ground with her head hung and a glassy look in her eyes, he took a few steps forward and asked coldly, “Are you breaking your promise?”

Liu Yiyi leaned away from him, trembling as she was tortured by grief and regret.

“You’re the daughter of the Clear Shallows King! How could you change your mind after making a bet? Is this what the Clear Shallows King and her direct disciples do? It’s terrible,” Long Chen said with a perverted expression.

“Nonsense! Who said I’m breaking my promise? Plus, whatever I do is unrelated to my mother ...” Liu Yiyi clenched her teeth and gently stood up. Her head was still hung, but he could faintly see traces of tears on her face.

“That’s right! Someone of your status can’t break promises, of course! Or I’d look down on you. That’s why you need to strip! I’m waiting!” Long Chen snickered with sparkling eyes.

Liu Yiyi was both embarrassed and furious at his shameless quip. It was her first time being cornered like this in her life. She was extremely torn within. Even her mother had not seen her body at this age, and now was she going to bare it all to a strange guy she had only known for a day?

Long Chen’s fiery gaze made her feel weak, as if she was already standing exposed in front of him without a shred of clothing. She had always valued her strength and relied on it. Unfortunately, these things were useless here. No matter how powerful she was, she was just a lamb in front of Long Chen, while he was the wolf.

He gave an evil sneer. “Strip, then. I’m getting impatient.”

She shuddered and took a few steps back. She bit her lip as tears fell down her face, well aware that this was all her own doing. She knew that Long Chen was not an easy person to deal with, yet she had run towards his devil claws. However, she was unwilling to be labeled as a person who broke promises.

“Jiang Cheng, you will regret this! I will make you pay for the humiliation I suffer today ...” said Liu Yiyi through clenched teeth at the last moment.

“Regret? I guess I do regret it. If I lose to you in our next fight, I’ll need to strip for you. No one has seen my pure body before! And you will get to see it for nothing,” said Long Chen with a grin.

“You ...” Liu Yiyi almost fainted from anger.

“Don’t waste any more time. What a beautiful moment ... I’ll reminisce about it for the rest of my life ...”

As if his eyes were hands, they ran up and down her body. Soon, embarrassment replaced anger.

“I will make you pay for the humiliation today!” Her finger slowly fell on her collar. She closed her eyes and tears rolled down her cheeks. She was about to gently tug her clothing off to reveal her fair skin to Long Chen.

That was when her hand was swatted away. She froze and her eyes sprang open to see a completely different Long Chen.

“Alright. We’ll stop here. You’re a good girl; you shouldn’t be punished.”

Long Chen had only been acting. Ever since Ling Xi appeared in his life, he stopped being a pervert.

Liu Yiyi was indeed a very good girl. She had been willing to use her body in a bet in order to get Long Chen to apologize to Qin Huanyu, and when she lost, she could have changed her mind. Both of them knew that Long Chen was no match for her, and if she changed her mind, he could not do anything about it.

But she hadn't.

That said enough to Long Chen.

"What do you mean?" Liu Yiyi's mouth was agape as she stared at him.

Liu Yiyi stood frozen for a while until she finally understood what he meant.

*He doesn't want to look at me anymore? Because there's nothing worth looking at?* Liu Yiyi was torn. On the one hand, she wanted to prove to him that this was not the case, but wouldn't that prove that she was being shameless?

She looked down. They weren't small ...

Then she finally understood that Long Chen was only pretending all along. He had never thought about her that way and was only scaring her so that she would not harass him again.

*Perhaps he isn't as terrible as I imagined him to be ...* Liu Yiyi came to a realization. When she turned around, he was already far away. He looked lonely and arrogant, but there was no malice. She understood that she had been wrong about him.

*He must be a good person. I was the one looking for trouble, but he let me go ...* The hatred and fury in her disappeared and were replaced with curiosity. She was curious about his personality and identity.

Suddenly, she thought of something and called out, "Jiang Cheng?"

"What the hell do you want?" he said, turning around.

"... Uh ... Didn't you disappear for three days? Zhao Wuji came looking for you twice, but you weren't there. I think he has reached the Fifth Passage Stage and wants to challenge you as payback for his defeat. I think he'll come again soon."

"Is that so? The Fifth Passage Stage is nothing to me. I couldn't care less. If he annoys me, I'll take away his ability to make babies!" Long Chen snickered, then he left. Liu Yiyi stood frozen, staring at him. For some reason, she felt like this young man had a strange magical ability to take up space in her mind. She could not wave him out of her mind if she tried.

Who is he? Just now, he looked so perverted, but his gaze was so clear and pure. I think he was just teasing me ...

But he has still defeated me. If Mother finds out about this, she will surely let him participate in the Ancient Demon Domain examination next month. His cultivation has advanced a lot in just a few short days. I wonder if he will be even stronger in one month.

Liu Yiyi left with her emotions a mess. Long Chen also returned to his quarters.



“I’ve made a huge mistake! I forgot to hound that girl for my two hundred thousand pills!” said Long Chen, frustrated.

“Tsk tsk. You brat, don’t act stupid in front of me. You gave her a taste. While you didn’t get her Heavenly Passage Pills, you got her heart! As long as you have her heart, won’t it only be a matter of time before you get the pills too?” said Little Cat, eyeing him with contempt.

“What do you mean? She’s annoying; I only intended to scare her so she won’t annoy me again,” he said, speechless.

“Don’t act stupid. Your playing-hard-to-get tactics will make that girl’s heart itch. I think she’ll come looking for you in a few days.” Little Cat snickered.

Long Chen ignored him. That was not his intention at all. Right now, the most urgent matter at hand was to increase his cultivation level. While he could cultivate, he would never reach the Sixth Passage Stage if he didn’t have enough Heavenly Passage Pills. And if he did not reach the Seventh Passage Stage, he would never get the Emperor Flame Pearl.

“I can’t get into the third layer of the Demon World at the moment. It also seems impossible to kill people for their possessions in the Ancient Demon Domain. Looks like I have to use my final tactic,” Long Chen said in a low voice.

“What final tactic?” Little Cat was curious.

“I’ll borrow!”

“Borrow from who?” Little Cat asked, speechless.

“Who else? I have a little rich woman, Huangfu Qi, by my side! If I don’t slaughter this pig, who else will I slaughter? Hahaha ...” Long Chen laughed creepily.

Of course, he did not need so many Heavenly Passage Pills right now. If he could not enter the third layer of the Demon World, he would have no choice but to cultivate earnestly like everyone else. Due to his absorption of the one-thousandth Inherited Blood Essence, he was progressing steadily. Since he had no better ideas, he chose to cultivate.

The night passed quickly as he cultivated. At dawn the next day, there was a commotion outside. Long Chen opened the door and saw that it was the idiot, Zhao Wuji, with a group of disciples from the Red Ghost Pavilion at his doorstep. Zhao Wuji had lost several times to Long Chen during the qualifiers and had been unwilling to accept it.

After he entered the Red Ghost Pavilion, he achieved a breakthrough very quickly and reached the Fifth Passage Stage. He had managed to kill a Fifth Passage Stage opponent when he was at the Fourth Passage Stage, so when he reached the Sixth Passage Stage, wouldn’t he be able to kill a Seventh Passage Stage opponent? That was why he was here to challenge Long Chen again.

“Jiang Cheng? I haven’t seen you in a while. I’ve been here several times, but I could not find you! You’re a professional coward!” Zhao Wuji said arrogantly, standing ten meters away from Long Chen.

“What are you doing here? Just spit it out.” Long Chen had no time to waste on this idiot.

“What else? I’m here for revenge, of course. Jiang Cheng, do you have the guts to fight me again? Let’s see who’s stronger now! Let’s see who is the actual newcomer king of this year!”

He was not a Clear Shallows Pavilion disciple, so if he attacked without Long Chen’s consent, this would be considered a conflict between two pavilions. If Long Chen agreed, this would just be considered a spar between two young disciples and the matter would be viewed differently. The decision was in Long Chen’s hands.

#### Chapter 496 - Huangfu Qi's Identity

Demon General Strongman had been busy training the other disciples, so Zhao Wuji likely did not know that Long Chen had defeated Qin Huanyu, who was at the Sixth Passage Stage. Long Chen was now on a completely different level. Zhao Wuji had never been his match, and now the gap between them was wider. Long Chen had no interest in dueling him at all.

Coincidentally, Huangfu Qi came skipping along. The most important thing she had to do this morning was visit Long Chen, and when she saw Zhao Wuji standing there, her face darkened. She ran up to Long Chen’s side, pointed at Zhao Wuji, and yelled, “You loser! What are you doing here again? Are you here to embarrass yourself?”

“I was looking for Long Chen to spar with him. This is none of your business, girl.” Zhao Wuji glanced at her with contempt. They were at the same stage before, but now it was different.

“Do you think I have to agree to duel everyone who knocks on my door and demands to fight me?” Long Chen waved him off. Liu Yiyi’s challenge last night had already made him speechless. Zhao Wuji had the backing of the Red Ghost King, so he was not a person to be offended. If he beat Zhao Wuji up and lured the Red Ghost King out, he would be in deep trouble.

Although Long Chen was not afraid of trouble, he tried to avoid it if he could.

That was why he had ordered Zhao Wuji to leave and left with Huangfu Qi, leaving Zhao Wuji standing there like an idiot.

“Senior Zhao, what do we do now?” asked one of the disciples.

“We tried to fight fair, but he chose to be a coward. Now he is forcing me to fight dirty. It suits me anyway; we’ll fight dirty!” Zhao Wuji sneered darkly, then he ordered everyone to leave. With his current status and the fact that his uncle was a Demon

General under the Clear Shallows King, no one in the Clear Shallows Pavillion stopped him.

“That idiot! Why is he trying to fight Jiang Cheng? Does he not know how strong Jiang Cheng is?”

“I know! He’s only at the Fifth Passage Stage too! He’ll be humiliating himself. Jiang Cheng completely ignored him.”

Zhao Wuji heard the whispers coming from the Clear Shallows disciples, which only fanned the flames.

*I wanted to get Uncle to help me arrange a duel against Jiang Cheng, but it looks like Jiang Cheng has decided to be a coward. I’ll need to fight dirty, then. Will you be able to hide this time? Since he has chosen to do it this way, I won’t have to trouble Uncle!* With that thought, Zhao Wuji left, and a plan slowly took shape in his mind.

Zhao Wuji was only a bored, annoying child in Long Chen’s eyes. He did not care about him, and he naturally did not know what plan the brat was cooking. He was in a hurry to drag Huangfu Qi away because he had one objective—to borrow money.

“Big Brother, it’s almost time to cultivate. Aren’t you going to the training grounds?” The previous commotion was all because Long Chen had not been attending training.

“Training grounds? Isn’t that a place regular disciples go to? I can now defeat a Sixth Passage Stage direct disciple; do I still need to go to the training grounds?” he asked with a small smile.

“Oh. You don’t have to go, then. Uncle Brickhead won’t dare to scold you anymore, so you’re no longer under his control, hehe.”

Long Chen nodded.

“Right, Qi Qi. Do you have any Heavenly Passage Pills? I need to borrow some ...” To be honest, he was embarrassed about borrowing money from a young girl like her.

“Ah? I do! How many do you want? I brought one million Heavenly Passage Pills with me.” Huangfu Qi looked at him with her large eyes.

Long Chen almost fainted. One million Heavenly Passage Pills? The average Ninth Passage Stage cultivator’s net worth was one million pills, yet this ten-year-old was just carrying that many like it was pocket change. How terrifying was her background?

Long Chen thought about how Liu Yiyi, as the daughter of the Clear Shallows King, only had about two hundred thousand pills, and she was already at the Seventh Passage Stage. This meant that Huangfu Qi’s parents held a higher status than the Clear Shallows King. In the Ancient Demon Domain, only the Demon Emperor was ranked above the Clear Shallows King. This meant that her parents were some of the most powerful people in the Huangfu family!

Long Che was privately shocked.

“Big Brother, how many do you want? You can’t have them all, or my father will spank my bottom!” Huangfu Qi looked at him worriedly, afraid that he would name an astronomical figure ...

Long Chen had not planned to borrow a huge sum anyway. He only wanted to advance to the Sixth Passage Stage and then think of a method to reach the Seventh Passage Stage later.

“Qi Qi, I only need fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. I will return them to you in the future! This is my promise to you. But remember, you must not tell anyone that you have one million pills with you, or someone may try to kill you,” said Long Chen sternly.

“Only fifty thousand? Big Brother, why don’t I lend you five hundred thousand?” Huangfu Qi said.

“There’s no need, no need,” said Long Chen, sweating. He had never met such a willing lender before.

“Alright, fifty thousand, then. Big Brother, you’re the only person I’ll tell. I’d never tell other people! Not even my master! Big Brother, you’re the closest person to me!” she said with a happy grin.

Long Chen took the fifty thousand pills guiltily.

“Big Brother, are you really going to return them to me?” she suddenly looked at him with sparkling eyes.

“Of course! Why?” Long Chen saw that she seemed to have something to say.

“I just wanted to ask, if I suddenly left Ancient Demon Domain, would you look for me? To return the fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills?” she asked hopefully.

Long Chen understood that she did not care about the fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, but whether he would look for her after they separated.

“You naughty girl! You want to play with Xiaolang, don’t you?” Long Chen said with a smile.

“Hehe! You’re very smart!”

He was speechless.

Long Chen nodded and said, “Don’t worry. I will surely return the fifty thousand pills, unless I die all of a sudden.”

“You’re strong, so you won’t die,” Huangfu Qi said confidently.

Long Chen smiled drily. Now that he had borrowed fifty thousand pills, he had a hundred and twenty thousand in total. His previous breakthrough had used up thirty thousand pills, and he only needed enough to guarantee one more advancement.

Then Long Chen started to cultivate alone. Huangfu Qi finally achieved her objective and successfully grabbed Xiaolang. Xiaolang had thought nothing of the girl in the beginning, but after getting to know her, they had grown closer too ...

Time passed quickly as he cultivated. When night fell, he sent her back because she was the direct disciple of the Clear Shallows King.

After she left, Long Chen returned to his quarters to continue cultivating. Without Ling Xi here, the only thing he could do was cultivate. When he was not cultivating, he made a habit of journaling. After he bought enough notebooks and brushes in the town outside the Ancient Demon Domain, he started recording everything that happened along this journey.

Xiao Xi, I met a girl today called Liu Yiyi. She looks very much like you, but I am very clear that she is not you ...

After a simple entry, he closed his eyes and started cultivating. This was his only hope of seeing her again. He only truly understood how deep their feelings were when they separated, and while he missed her during the day, the longing that gnawed at his heart made him miserable when night fell ...

Ten years! I might become an old man or even die before I see her. I must work even harder; I mustn't keep her waiting for ten years. One day, I will stand proudly before her!

Intense longing filled his heart.

Memories of Ling Xi kept replaying in his mind.

He forced himself to calm down and continued to cultivate. The Earthly Qi within the Ancient Demon Domain was very thick, boosting the effect of cultivation. With Long Chen's extraordinary talent, regular cultivation was very effective.

More time passed.

Whoosh!

Something pierced through Long Chen's door and flew towards him. His eyes sprang open and he caught it with his hand. It was a small steel arrow. There was nothing special about it and it had not been shot with much force, so it would not have killed him.

Long Chen noticed a small strip of paper hanging on its tail, which said, *Head in the direction this arrow came from. I don't care if you're willing or not; I must fight you again to prove who is stronger! Come alone. If you inform anyone else, it will not benefit you because I have Huangfu Qi!*

It had to be Zhao Wuji.

"Oh no! He doesn't know that Huangfu Qi has a powerful background, so he might act recklessly!" Long Chen shuddered and leaped up. There was a hint of violence in his eyes.

"He's looking for death! I did not want to deal with him, and yet he resorted to such lowly tactics! How dare he kidnap Huangfu Qi! Has he been kicked in the head?!" Long Chen knew Zhao Wuji's personality well. He had been talented all his life and people thought he was a peerless prodigy. He had set his eyes on being the three-time

champion, but he had been robbed of his glory by a First Passage Stage cultivator. This became a huge regret. If Long Chen were an even greater prodigy than he was, he would have been willing to accept it. But Long Chen did not have a strong background, nor did he show any potential. This made Zhao Wuji very resentful.

That was why he had decided to make Long Chen pay as soon as he reached the Fifth Passage Stage. This was the personality of a childish brat, though since he was only about fourteen years old, it was normal for him to not think before he did things.

“How dare you provoke me like this! I don’t care how much of a prodigy you are ...” Long Chen shook his head. He opened his door and then dashed towards the direction Zhao Wuji had mentioned.

“Alright! Since you want to fight, I’ll fight! If you hurt Qi Qi, I’ll make you pay ten times over!”

Chapter 497 - The Need To Be Vicious

Long Chen ran fast in the night. He ran strictly in the direction where the small arrow had come from, at the same time searching the area using his Soul Swallowing Gaze.

To be honest, ever since he started cultivating, there had been many incidents of people around him being kidnapped because of him. It made him extremely furious. This time, due to Zhao Wuji’s idiotic behavior, Long Chen decided to teach him a brutal lesson!

Long Chen was several times stronger than Zhao Wuji, and he had already beaten him once. He was well aware that it would take him no effort to beat Zhao Wuji. In fact, if he wasn’t trying to avoid the Red Ghost King, he would have beaten Zhao Wuji up already.

Long Chen soon left the Clear Shallows Pavilion compound. The Ancient Demon Domain covered a large region, and there were only seven main pavilions, so the rest of the land consisted of barren mountains. Long Chen arrived at one of the mountains, which was not far from the Clear Shallows Pavilion.

If the location was too far, Long Chen would not have found them.

Before he reached this mountain, he had spotted a soul using the Soul Swallowing Gaze and guessed that it was Zhao Wuji. But where was Huangfu Qi? Huangfu Qi had long become a little sister to him, one that he needed to protect. His concern for her was beyond Zhao Wuji’s imagination.

*Whoosh!* Long Chen dashed into the mountain. As expected, the person standing there watching him approach was Zhao Wuji, who burst into laughter.

“I knew it was you. Zhao Wuji, I’m here now. Where is Huangfu Qi?” Long Chen suppressed the anger in him and glared at him darkly. He had to guarantee Huangfu Qi’s safety first. If it was not for that, he would have beaten Zhao Wuji up the moment he saw him.

Long Chen's words made Zhao Wuji laugh even harder. He clutched his belly and looked at him teasingly. "I thought you were smart! How did you become this stupid?"

"What do you mean?" Long Chen froze.

"Look around! Huangfu Qi isn't here! That brat is probably sleeping soundly in her bed right now. She's the darling of the Clear Shallows King; I would never touch her! Only an idiot like you would fall into this trap! You came here so obediently! Haha!" Zhao Wuji was delighted.

Long Chen's face darkened.

He thought Zhao Wuji was an idiot, but today, he had been toyed with by this idiot. It felt like he had been played by a donkey, which frustrated him.

But it made sense. Zhao Wuji had always acted on impulse, so it was logical to assume that he had actually kidnapped Huangfu Qi. Long Chen had only fallen into the trap because he cared about her.

To Long Chen, it was better to have been played than the alternative. Since Huangfu Qi was safe, he would not need to hold back.

However, if he did not beat Zhao Wuji up today, he knew the kid would never stop. At this moment, Zhao Wuji was still laughing, while Long Chen clenched his fists.

"Jiang Cheng, since you're here already, don't think of being a coward again. Come fight me fair and square. I want you to see who the true newcomer king of the year is!" Zhao Wuji's smile disappeared and his eyes flashed coldly.

"Haven't you heard about what I've done in the Clear Shallows Pavilion?" Long Chen was puzzled. If Zhao Wuji knew that he had killed Qin Huanyu, he would not do something as stupid as lure Long Chen out for a fight.

"You're a measly First Passage Stage cultivator! What can you do? Don't make me laugh," said Zhao Wuji with a contemptuous sneer.

Long Chen thought for a while. *Since Zhao Wuji doesn't know about it, then the people of the other pavilions don't know either. I think the Clear Shallows King put the incident on lockdown. Why?*

When he thought about the Clear Shallows King's attitude to himself, after some pondering, he had only one guess. The Clear Shallows King saw him as a dark horse. Her trump card.

*Qi Qi said that the other pavilions have Eight Passage Stage disciples, but the Clear Shallows Pavilion doesn't. Is the Clear Shallows King trying to raise me to be one? This was a good thing for him. This was his time to grow. If he had the Clear Shallows King guiding him, would he ever need to worry about Heavenly Passage Pills?*

When Zhao Wuji saw that Long Chen was staring into space, he felt humiliated. The Qi of a Fifth Passage Staged cultivator erupted from him, then he grinned and said, "Jiang Cheng, you don't know this, but I have reached the Fifth Passage Stage. I want you to see how powerful the Fifth Passage Stage is!"

Long Chen snapped back to reality. He knew that the most urgent matter at hand was to teach Zhao Wuji a brutal lesson! It was time to vent his anger!

Initially, he had planned not to use his Dragon Soul Transformation, because he could easily beat Zhao Wuji without it. However, he wanted Zhao Wuji to see exactly how large the gap between them was, so he quickly activated the Dragon Soul Transformation to reach his strongest form!

“Oh? I’ve got to say that your Beast Soul Transformation is quite strong! It’s just a pity that your cultivation level is too low!” Zhao Wuji chuckled.

“Die! It’ll only take one strike to take your life!” Zhao Wuji let out a roar and charged towards Long Chen. His attack was several times stronger than the last time he used it!

“**Martial Peak Finger!**”

It was a powerful attack containing all the strength he could muster! The powerful Finger Seal looked like it could put a hole in Long Chen’s chest!

Insanity filled Zhao Wuji’s eyes. He had been waiting for this moment for far too long!

But he was confused. Why was Long Chen not trying to dodge?

When he saw that Long Chen was not moving, he was puzzled, though he quickly reaffirmed his decision to kill him. *The moon is not bright and the winds are strong tonight. It’s a good time to kill someone. Right now, Jiang Cheng isn’t seen as an important person in the Ancient Demon Domain, so it will be fine to kill him!*

Not only did he not stop his attack, he charged with all his might!

“Haha! Have you gone stupid from fear? Die!” At the last moment, Zhao Wuji let out a furious roar. The Martial Peak Finger was soon going to touch Long Chen’s chest! It was going to pierce through him!

“Is that all you’ve got?” Long Chen suddenly broke into a grin. This was a very bizarre thing to Zhao Wuji.

What happened next stunned Zhao Wuji.

Long Chen gently reached out with both hands and grabbed Zhao Wuji’s arm, stopping the advanced Heaven-tier attack, which should have been strong enough to kill a Sixth Passage Stage cultivator. Zhao Wuji realized that Long Chen was gripping his arm, and he could not break free no matter how hard he tried!

What was happening?

Only a Seventh Passage Stage cultivator could do this, right? To catch a Fifth Passage Stage cultivator’s Martial Peak Finger like that?

Zhao Wuji was stunned and a surge of emotion passed through him. He stared at Long Chen with wide eyes, momentarily forgetting that they were battling.



Long Chen said coldly, "You little brat. You must remember that a measly attack like yours isn't even enough to scratch an itch on my body ..." Then, he quickly lifted his right leg, and the red spine on his knee stabbed into Zhao Wuji's crotch!

Zhao Wuji arched his back and let out an earth-shattering scream!

The spine on Long Chen's knee had shattered everything on his crotch, even piercing a hole. He was not going to be a man again, though Long Chen was kind enough to let him be a woman.

He gently pushed Zhao Wuji away, who collapsed.

Zhao Wuji's face paled as he glared at Long Chen with despair and hatred. What had happened today was a nightmare. Even though he had reached the Fifth Passage Stage, Long Chen was far stronger than he had imagined!

He felt a body-splitting pain in his crotch. He was willing to be injured in any part of his body, except that part! He felt unimaginable despair when he thought about how he would never be a man again.

Rage and hatred completely drowned Zhao Wuji as he rolled on the ground in pain. His blood-red eyes were fixed dead on Long Chen as he growled.

"You were the one who started this. Zhao Wuji, let me tell you this. You will never catch up to me, so just be a good and obedient direct disciple. I am only teaching you a lesson today. Do not annoy me again. You can't afford to annoy me!"

Then Long Chen left, though first he turned around and said, "Let me give you a suggestion. Go see the Red Ghost King as soon as you can and show him your pitiful state. Maybe he'll feel merciful and give you some high-level medicine so you can be a man again."

Men needed to be vicious sometimes.

Long Chen understood that his opponents would only submit to him completely when he was vicious, especially when dealing with ignorant people like Zhao Wuji.

However, Long Chen had underestimated him. He hadn't been vicious enough, so he was destined for a great ordeal on this night.

When Long Chen turned to leave, he did not see Zhao Wuji's beast-like glare.

"Jiang Cheng, you forced me to do this!"

Chapter 498 - Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman

The moment Long Chen turned to leave, Zhao Wuji quickly pulled out a light-purple paper talisman from his Universe Pouch. Dark purple runes were drawn all over the talisman, and every rune turned into dense tendrils of electricity. The electricity that wove around the talisman turned into runes, blending back into the paper once more.

When the talisman was pulled out, Long Chen felt a sharp rise in the surrounding temperature. He had not deactivated his Dragon Soul Transformation, yet he could feel prickling pain all over his skin.

A powerful source of energy had appeared out of thin air behind him.

*What was that?!* Long Chen was startled and sprinted away immediately. While he ran, he turned around and saw Zhao Wuji's contorted features, as well as the talisman in his hand, which was crackling with electricity!

"Jiang Cheng, this is something my master gave me. It's a talisman meant to keep me alive—the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman! Anyone beneath the Eighth Passage Stage will certainly die when faced with this. Enjoy your death!" When Long Chen turned around, Zhao Wuji was laughing like a maniac!

When Long Chen saw the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman, he knew something was wrong. It had not even been used yet, but it was already radiating such powerful energy. If Zhao Wuji used it, even an Eighth Passage Stage cultivator would end up half-dead, let alone Long Chen!

Zhao Wuji had reached the Fourth Passage Stage at a very young age, even mastering advanced Heaven-tier techniques. He was likely to become a Devil King, so the Red Ghost King liked him very much. At the same time, he knew that this direct disciple of his loved to get himself into vicious fights, so he was worried that he would suddenly be killed by a random master. That was why he had given him the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman!

Zhao Wuji had only received it two or three days ago, yet he was already using it against Long Chen. Holding back his pain, he laughed and threw the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman towards Long Chen!

Although it was merely a piece of paper, it shot out as fast as the average throwing weapon. Long Chen was very close, so he was quickly targeted by the talisman! This was why talisman attacks were powerful. Once the talisman locked onto its target, its target would never be able to escape!

It was almost as if Zhao Wuji could see what Long Chen would look like after he was burnt black by the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman. He would be reduced to charcoal, completely dead. That was what Zhao Wuji wanted to see happen.

Just as Zhao Wuji imagined, the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman flew above Long Chen's head and then exploded into a three-meter-wide lightning ball. The blinding, purple lightning lit up half the sky above the Clear Shallows Pavilion!

Fierce purple lightning wove around the purple ball of electricity, crackling loudly. The surrounding temperature rose and the whole barren mountain was lit with incredible light from the lightning. The wielder of the attack, Zhao Wuji, would remain completely safe!

"Die!" Zhao Wuji let out an evil laugh when he saw Long Chen completely trapped by the lightning ball. Then he activated the talisman, and the gigantic lightning ball exploded above Long Chen's head!

Boom!

Endless lightning shot out of the barren mountain with Long Chen as the center point. The mountain boulders around them turned into powder. When the mighty lightning swept across the area, not even a tiny mosquito would survive such an ordeal!

Bright light cut through the darkness of the night sky, lighting up the whole Clear Shallows Pavilion!

Even the deafening boom traveled very far!

Looking at the patch of purple before him, Zhao Wuji was sure that even Long Chen's ashes would not remain. When the power of the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman slowly faded, Zhao Wuji checked and realized that all the rocks around them had disappeared and a huge crater remained where Long Chen used to be. Even the soil had turned black. It was clear just how powerful the talisman was!

"He's dead! Hehe, he's finally dead! This is what happens to anyone who tries to fight me!" Zhao Wuji laughed like a madman as he struggled to stand up. However, his body kept twitching from the pain in his crotch. He looked down and saw only a blur of blood and flesh; he was unable to distinguish anything.

*You've ended my bloodline! Jiang Cheng, you may have brought me the greatest pain, but I won in the end because you have been turned into powder by my lightning!* With that thought, Zhao Wuji felt comforted.

However, he still felt tortured because he was going to be a eunuch before he had a chance to bed a woman.

*I need to go back and look for Master. He must have some type of medicine that can help me. The explosion was very loud, so people will arrive very soon. I cannot stay for long!* Then he quickly scrambled to stand up.

"Do you need me to help you up?" A familiar voice came from behind him.

"Alright ... Who are you?" Zhao Wuji replied instinctively, then when he realized who it was, his face paled. He turned around with great difficulty. The person standing behind and looking down at him was Long Chen.

Long Chen gazed at him with amusement, though he was internally a little traumatized. He had learned a huge lesson today.

If Blood Warp weren't fast enough to break free from the talisman, he would not have survived. Although Long Chen rarely used Blood Warp and Blood Sacrifice, the techniques of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon were admittedly powerful. Regular people could not hide once they were targeted by a talisman, but Long Chen could!

Of course, Long Chen could also use Rewind, but it was too painful. Using Blood Warp was more direct, and Rewind had to be avoided since it was only supposed to be used in painful situations.

Zhao Wuji had truly taught him a lesson—no matter how weak his opponent was, he had to take them seriously. He had severely underestimated Zhao Wuji, and due to the contempt in his heart, he had not taken him seriously. That was how he had been tricked into coming here in the first place, even almost getting himself killed!

The Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman was definitely powerful enough to kill Long Chen.

Thankfully, he had survived due to the extremely fast Blood Warp.

Long Chen understood that he could not keep enemies who wanted to kill him alive. If he let Zhao Wuji go now, he would try his best to kill Long Chen again.

Zhao Wuji saw the coldness in Long Chen's eyes.

"That's impossible! How did you survive?! With such a powerful explosion, you should be very dead!" Zhao Wuji scrambled backwards with terror. This time, he was truly afraid.

"There are many things that you do not know," said Long Chen, shaking his head. "Zhao Wuji, you taught me a huge lesson. To be honest, I'm very thankful, but now you need a taste of your own medicine ..."

"No! I'm begging you!" Zhao Wuji screamed in fear as he gazed at Long Chen in despair. Long Chen's intentions were clear—he wanted to kill Zhao Wuji!

His despair and begging did not make Long Chen's heart soften.

Sharp claws pierced into Zhao Wuji's chest and crushed his heart. Zhao Wuji's eyes widened, still filled with despair. Unfortunately, it was too late. He was the one who had made Long Chen decide to kill him. There was no one else to blame.

Long Chen sighed and said, "Xiaolang, lend me your fire."

He used the Soul Swallowing Gaze to survey his surroundings. After such a huge commotion, people would be arriving soon.

Xiaolang hurried out of the Primordial Realm. His Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was perfect for burning corpses and destroying evidence.

But it was too late. Two people were present when he used the Soul Swallowing Gaze—Demon General Strongman and the Clear Shallows King. Since this was right next to the Clear Shallows Pavilion, they were the first ones to check on the commotion. Unfortunately, what greeted them was Zhao Wuji's bloody corpse while Long Chen was standing next to him, unharmed.

He was one step too late. Long Chen had planned to burn the corpse to destroy all evidence, then he would flee the scene, but he had no choice now.

After seeing Zhao Wuji's body, the Clear Shallows King's pupils constricted. She knew that the commotion had been caused by a Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman, and it was something that belonged to the Red Ghost King. Since Zhao Wuji was the Red Ghost King's disciple, he was the only one who could have possibly used it. But using it should have meant certain death for Long Chen. So why was Long Chen alive while Zhao Wuji was dead even after he used the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman?

To the Clear Shallows King, this was a little hard to believe. She knew exactly how destructive the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman was, and very few disciples of the younger generation would have been able to survive it. The Red Ghost King must have really liked Zhao Wuji if he had given him a Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman!

Long Chen's position in the Clear Shallows King's heart rose once more.

Most importantly, the Clear Shallows King had heard from Liu Yiyi a few hours ago that she had lost to him too.

This meant that Long Chen was an extraordinary prodigy, and he surely had many secrets. The Clear Shallows King needed talent more than anything, especially dark horses like Long Chen.

Long Chen knew this too. Based on the fire in her eyes, he knew that he was safe, even though Demon General Strongman's eyes had gone red when he saw Zhao Wuji's body.

Chapter 499 - Not Related at All

Previously, Long Chen was worried that Demon General Strongman would kill him after he failed to destroy the evidence on time. But that worry was gone as he knew that the Clear Shallows King needed him for something, or she would not have allowed him to kill Qin Huanyu, nor would she have set up an information lockdown to stop the news of him killing Qin Huanyu from spreading.

Demon General Strongman's eyes were blood-red. After seeing Zhao Wuji's pitiful state, he roared, "Jiang Cheng, you motherfucker! You killed my nephew! You must have a death wish!"

The aura of a Ninth Passage Stage cultivator erupted from his body, and a mountain of force pressed on Long Chen, pushing him several steps back. Then Demon General Strongman roared furiously and stomped his muscular leg on the ground before sprinting towards Long Chen!

If he attacked, Long Chen would surely die in one strike!

"Stop!" The Clear Shallows King stopped him immediately, pulling Demon General Strongman back. She said with a cold expression, "Strongman, you'd better calm down. This is the Clear Shallows Pavilion; I am the one who makes decisions here, not you!"

The Clear Shallows King was an Earthly Martial Realm master, so she was much stronger than he was. After she pulled him back, he could not move at all. Even her voice had scared him. Demon General Strongman finally snapped out of his rage; he had acted on impulse due to the rage caused by Zhao Wuji's death.

"Jiang Cheng, explain what happened!" said the Clear Shallows King, looking at him coldly.

"It's simple. I'm sure you both know that Zhao Wuji has been looking to fight me ever since he reached the Fifth Passage Stage to get revenge for the humiliation he experienced during the qualifiers. I did not agree to his request this morning, so tonight, he used manipulative tactics to lure me here. I defeated him but let him live. Unfortunately, he was unwilling to accept defeat and took out the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman to kill me. I was lucky enough to survive it, and I had to kill him afterwards."

Demon General Strongman and the Clear Shallows King indeed knew that Zhao Wuji had been looking to harass Long Chen for several days now. Due to the Clear Shallows King, news of Long Chen's true strength had not been leaked out, and Demon General Strongman had not found the time to tell Zhao Wuji about Long Chen. He had not expected this to happen tonight.

The Clear Shallows King nodded. What Long Chen had said was the same as what the situation looked like, so it was clear that he was telling the truth. Demon General Strongman was even more

familiar with Zhao Wuji's combative personality, so he also knew that Long Chen was telling the truth. However, Zhao Wuji was his nephew; how could he let Zhao Wuji die just like that?

"Jiang Cheng, you still killed Zhao Wuji. You are only a regular disciple, and yet you dared to kill the Red Ghost King's direct disciple! Plus, Zhao Wuji is my nephew. If you kill someone, you pay for it with your life. It doesn't matter what the reason was; you need to pay!" growled Demon General Strongman.

If Long Chen was truly just a regular disciple, Demon General Strongman could have easily killed him to avenge Zhao Wuji. There was a clear rule forbidding private duels in the Ancient Demon Domain, but as one of the twenty-eight Demon Generals, Demon General Strongman had the right to kill regular disciples. He had killed many regular disciples before, and the Clear Shallows King had never intervened!

That was why Demon General Strongman did not think much into it. After Long Chen had described what happened, he immediately prepared to launch an attack!

"Stop it!" roared the Clear Shallows King, and she shoved Demon General Strongman several steps back. Her stern glare completely stunned Demon General Strongman, who looked at her in confusion.

"Lord Clear Shallows, he is merely a regular disciple, yet he killed my nephew! Can't I avenge my nephew?"

The Clear Shallows King had never intervened before, so why was she stopping him now? He was one of the four great Demon Generals of the Clear Shallows Pavilion; how could he not outrank the puny Long Chen?

The Clear Shallows King's strange behavior drove Demon General Strongman up the wall.

"Enough with your nonsense. The disciple of the Red Ghost Pavilion was the instigator. Jiang Cheng was only defending himself. We belong to the Clear Shallows Pavilion. Strongman, you cannot be taking the wrong side," the Clear Shallows King said coldly.

Demon General Strongman froze. He knew that if the Clear Shallows King was taking this angle as her explanation, it meant that there was no room for discussion. He was no idiot, so the true reason was not hard to figure out. Why was the Clear Shallows King using all sorts of methods to protect Long Chen? It was because of his potential. Plus, Demon General Strongman knew some things that even Long Chen did not.

"I'll let you handle Zhao Wuji's matters. Jiang Cheng, follow me back to the Clear Shallows Pavilion." The Clear Shallows King did not give Demon General Strongman room to negotiate at all and left promptly. Long Chen calmed himself and quickly followed the Clear Shallows King.

He did not look at Demon General Strongman, but he could feel the venomous glare from him. In this world, everyone needed strength to survive. Long Chen was no match for a Ninth Passage Stage cultivator, so all he could do was follow the Clear Shallows King without a sound.

With the Clear Shallows King protecting him, he would not need to worry about Demon General Strongman in the near future, unless Strongman went mad and decided he no longer wanted to stay in the Ancient Demon Domain.

Only the people of the Clear Shallows Pavilion could see what had happened in the mountains, while the other pavilions were not as clear. Under the instruction of the Clear Shallows King, the information was temporarily suppressed, and no one knew what had happened for now. As for Long Chen, he was led to the place where the Clear Shallows King lived, which was the core of the Clear Shallows Pavilion. He had not been here before.

Long Chen and the Clear Shallows King were the only ones in the royal pavilion. She sat on her luxurious throne on the dais, looking down at him. As an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator, she had gained Long Chen's respect.

"Jiang Cheng, I don't think you're an idiot, so you must know that I am keeping you alive," the Clear Shallows King said after a while.

"Thank you so much for your graciousness, Clear Shallows King. I understand that if it were not for you, Demon General Strongman would have killed me." Long Chen knew this very well. He only dared to kill Zhao Wuji because he had guessed her stance after observing her actions. It looked like a huge risk, but Long Chen was very confident in his decision. Plus, Zhao Wuji had wanted to kill Long Chen on multiple occasions, so how could Long Chen let him live?

"It's good that you know. We are not related at all, and you are not a direct disciple of mine. Yet I helped you. I'm sure you know that there is a reason," she continued.

"What can I do for you?" Long Chen had his guesses, but this confirmed his suspicions.

The Clear Shallows King was silent for a while, then she smiled bitterly. "Five years ago, during the examination of the seven pavilions' disciples, the Clear Shallows Pavilion placed last. There was a large gap between our disciples and the others too. I'm sure you know the current situation. The Clear Shallows Pavilion does not have any Eighth Passage Stage disciples in the younger generation, but the other six pavilions do. This means it is almost certain that we will end up in last place again. The Clear Shallows Pavilion has not achieved anything throughout my leadership, and the disciples are getting worse by the year. Perhaps when I retire, the Clear Shallows Pavilion will no longer exist."

When she spoke, her mood was somber.

Long Chen listened to every word she said.

*Last place, twice in a row? That's quite a tragedy. But Liu Yiyi is almost at the Eighth Passage Stage. Looking at her abilities, it's just a matter of one or two months. I think the Clear Shallows King is being a little heavy-handed with her declaration that the Clear Shallows Pavilion will not exist.* Long Chen pondered the topic. If Liu Yiyi were someone else, the Clear Shallows King might have forgotten about her. But Long Chen was clear about Liu Yiyi's strength, so he was puzzled.

Of course, no matter how tragic the Clear Shallows Pavilion's trajectory was, it had nothing to do with Long Chen. He understood what she meant.

"Are you saying that you want me to represent the Clear Shallows Pavilion at the examination in a month's time?"

He was privately delighted because this was going according to plan. He had been wondering how he could participate in the examination to get the Emperor Flame Pearl, and now the Clear Shallows King was giving him an opportunity.

"You're very smart. That's exactly what I was thinking. From today onwards, I will mentor you so that you will make huge progress within one month. Are you confident you can defeat an Eighth Passage Stage cultivator and enter the top three in a month's time? Maybe even become champion?" she asked solemnly with her eyes fixed on him.

Long Chen knew that because she had kept him alive today, he had no right to refuse, or Demon General Strongman would tear him to pieces.

"If you are willing to mentor me and give me the things I need, I'm sure we will not be ranked last at the very least. Even getting into the top three won't be difficult," he said decisively with determination in his eyes.

From the outside, he looked like he was being cornered by the Clear Shallows King's demands, but Long Chen was actually ecstatic inside. His objective was already to become as strong as he could before the examination and get the Emperor Flame Pearl. She was now offering huge benefits, and Long Chen would now no longer need to worry about resources because he would get everything he needed.

Long Chen's confident answer satisfied the Clear Shallows King. She said with a smile, "You seem confident. It looks like you've got a plan, right? What do you need? Just tell me."

Long Chen thought for a while and said, "I want a million Heavenly Passage Pills and the crystal used during our Demon Light Bath."

One million Heavenly Passage Pills. That was the total sum of an average Ninth Passage Stage cultivator's assets. Furthermore, that crystal was a treasure of the Clear Shallows Pavilion, and she only had five of them.

Long Chen's demands made the Clear Shallows King's brows furrow slightly. She thought for a while and said, "If I give you these things, you're confident that you can defeat an Eighth Passage Stage cultivator in a month? How can you guarantee this?"

"If I do not achieve it, my head will be yours."

Chapter 500 - Sixth Passage Stage

If Long Chen really could defeat an Eighth Passage Stage cultivator, then one million Heavenly Passage Pills and the crystal would be nothing. The Clear Shallows King thought about it for a while. She knew that she had to pay a price in order to keep Long Chen, plus the fact that he had progressed so quickly from the First Passage Stage showed that he would likely succeed. Therefore,



she nodded and said, "Alright. One million Heavenly Passage Pills and the crystal. I will give them to you tonight. I hope you fulfill your end of the bargain and succeed."

"A man must keep his promises," said Long Chen.

She looked at him approvingly and said, "You've got courage. But what do you want the crystal for? The energy in the crystal has a seal belonging to an ancient master. If you absorb too much, you will not experience any benefits."

Long Chen nodded. "I know that. You just need to give it to me."

The Clear Shallows King did not ask any more questions. She told him to wait and walked off.

About fifteen minutes later, she returned and handed him a Universe Pouch. "The one million Heavenly Passage Pills and the crystal are inside. You may return. I have temporarily suppressed the news about Zhao Wuji's death, but I'm sure the Red Ghost King will learn of it very soon, and he will come looking for trouble. Of course, I will cover for you, but you need to be smart about it."

Long Chen understood that the Red Ghost King favored Zhao Wuji greatly, seeing as how he had given him the Nine Heavens Thunder Talisman. Now that Zhao Wuji had died here, he would definitely come knocking the moment he found out. When that happened, Long Chen would have to be strong enough, or he would not be able to survive!

Of course, the crystal and one million Heavenly Passage Pills would guarantee his success. Long Chen was impatient to get back, because Little Cat could remove the seal in the crystal. With the crystal and the pills, he would at least reach the Seventh Passage Stage.

Only at the Seventh Passage Stage could he possibly defeat an Eighth Passage Stage cultivator.

Of course, there was one thing he had to do before he left, which was to return the pills he had borrowed. Previously, he had borrowed Heavenly Passage Pills from Huangfu Qi only as a backup. Now that he had more than a million, he no longer needed the fifty thousand pills she had lent him. After all, it was very awkward to borrow from a little girl.

When he left, he asked, "I'd like to see Huangfu Qi. Where does she stay?" It was evening, so she would have only just returned.

"Qi Qi? Her father came to get her two hours ago," said the Clear Shallows King a little sourly. To her, the longer Huangfu Qi stayed, the deeper their bond would become. Since the girl had only stayed for a few days, it would be impossible for her to form a relationship with the powerful figures of the Huangfu clan.

"She left?" Long Chen gasped. It hadn't been all that long since they saw each other, and her father had already come to pick her up? And poor old Long Chen had even believed that Zhao Wuji had kidnapped her.

Her father must have been very angry, or Huangfu Qi surely would've come to bid him farewell. Then this whole ordeal would not have happened tonight.

*Oh no! I promised her that I would return the fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills to her even if she left! Did I just shoot myself in the foot?* Long Chen privately lamented.

“Qi Qi’s father is on the level of the Demon Emperor,” the Clear Shallows King said with a sigh.

Long Chen had already guessed this too. Since he urgently needed to become strong, he bade her farewell and returned to his quarters. The moment he arrived, he said to Little Cat, “Fat Cat, you said that the crystal has enough power to get me to the Seventh Passage Stage, right?”

“Of course. I said it, so it is true,” Little Cat said haughtily, raising a paw to rub his round belly. He had long grown accustomed to Long Chen’s nickname.

“Alright, then I won’t waste any time. Let’s begin. I want to reach the Seventh Passage Stage directly!” Reaching the Seventh Passage Stage was his most important task before the examination.

“Wait! Do you think I’d help you just because you asked?” Little Cat pretended to be unwilling.

“Don’t waste my time, or I’ll ask Xiaolang to burn your little brother off!” Long Chen said, then he took out the crystal. He knew that Little Cat was afraid of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, and it could easily hurt him.

Little Cat was so terrified that he arched his back and retracted something. He recalled the terrible state Zhao Wuji was in when he was turned from a man to a woman; it was a violent tactic.

“Whatever, whatever. Seeing as you are young and ignorant, and quite pitiful, I will go out of my way to help you out.” Little Cat shook his head and helped Long Chen extract the seal power in the crystal, leaving behind pure power for Long Chen to absorb.

The crystal contained the power of a past master. Most of it had dispersed with time, so only less than a thousandth remained in the crystal. Even so, it was enough for Long Chen to reach the Seventh Passage Stage.

He had to level up by two stages.

Little Cat used some unknown, devilish technique to keep the crystal’s energy output under his control. Long Chen’s cultivation progressed with his help; he absorbed the crystal’s power just like before, but he absorbed much, much more this time.

A flood of energy flowed into Long Chen’s body. He absorbed and refined it until the energy became a part of his body!

Under Little Cat’s control, the energy flowed in an orderly manner while Long Chen absorbed it without complications. His body was adequately strong, so there was no danger of death from overexertion. With steady progress, Long Chen soon reached the edge of the Fifth Passage Stage. Little Cat stopped the energy flow, knowing that Long Chen was likely going to attempt his breakthrough to the Sixth Passage Stage.

Out of the nine meridian points, there were six main points to be cleared in the Heavenly Passage Realm. Long Chen had cleared five of them, so there were five energy cores in his body. Only the

last one remained, and the meridian points in his body would be completely cleared once he reached the Sixth Passage Stage.

The six energy cores of the body formed a perfect cycle.

With his prior experience of five breakthroughs, he easily reached the Sixth Passage Stage. Even he was shocked at the speed at which his strength was growing. Ever since he absorbed the one-hundredth Inherited Blood Essence, his body was like a black hole that required copious amounts of energy.

It did not matter if he was performing Blood Transmutation or directly absorbing energy from a crystal like this—he did not feel any discomfort and he had a feeling that he could complete the whole Heavenly Passage Realm in this manner. This was the extraordinary effect brought about by the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's Inherited Blood Essence.

The Sixth Passage Stage was far from the heights he would reach.

“Carry on, then. You have the insane powers of the ancestral dragon blood! If other people absorbed energy at your rate, their bodies would have exploded many times by now. Only you can hold on for this long!” Little Cat was very impressed.

He continued the release of energy from the crystal, and Long Chen made steady progress towards the Seventh Passage Stage without another word. Based on his current progress, he would surely reach the Seventh Passage Stage today.

However, he had already used up about a hundred and ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills to reach the Sixth Passage Stage. He had a feeling that he would need at least three hundred thousand to reach the Seventh Passage Stage. This meant that the one million pills he had received would not be enough for him to reach the Eighth Passage Stage!

Other people required a million pills only when they were clearing the last meridian point, which was the heavenly meridian. However, Long Chen would need a million pills at only the Eighth Passage Stage. While the Dragon Qi he possessed was ten times stronger than regular Qi, it made it ten times more difficult for him to progress because he could not succeed without enough Heavenly Passage Pills.

Based on this, it was obvious that coming to the Ancient Demon Domain was the right choice. If he were out there on his own, where would he have gotten this many Heavenly Passage Pills? If he had not come here, he guessed that he would only be at the Third or Fourth Passage Stage right now. Without the Heavenly Passage Pills, even Blood Transmutation would be useless.

By the time he had absorbed enough Qi, Long Chen had exhausted 350,000 Heavenly Passage Pills. His Qi finally stabilized and it was time to clear the sixth meridian point.

Out of his 1,100,000 pills, only 850,000 remained. It was not enough for him to reach the Eighth Passage Stage, and he knew that it was likely he would not be able to advance any more before the examination. The further along one was on the cultivation path, the harder it would be to level up. The amount of resources required increased, and Long Chen did not have that much.

When he was at the First Passage Stage, he could rely on his super-strong advanced Heaven-tier combat body to defeat a Category Four Heaven-tier beast. However, now some Category Nine

beasts had bodies tougher than his, so he no longer held an advantage. This meant that advancing to the next tier would be very difficult.

Unless he received the Emperor Flame Pearl.

That was something that would help him achieve great heights instantly.

If he reached the Seventh Passage Stage, he was certain he would receive the Emperor Flame Pearl. Therefore, he did not dare relax at this stage. He carefully guided all of his Qi towards his head.

The two Earthly meridian points were called the Earth Yin and Earth Yang meridian points respectively. They were in the right and left brains. Clearing them was much more difficult than clearing the previous six main meridian points and required much more focus. A slight mistake could kill Long Chen.