

War God 511

Chapter 511 - True Martial Demon Body

“It’s not what I think it is?” The Demon General laughed. “And what else would it be? You two have set up a little love nest here. I’m sure you’ve been having fun for the past few days. You are indeed a bitch, just like your mother. To think that you are even more of a whore than her.”

Demon General Strongman’s words were vile. Liu Yiyi never thought he would say something like that, and tears pooled in her eyes. She had never been scolded like this before.

Seeing how helpless she was, Long Chen frowned. “Don’t listen to him. He’s just incapable of reasoning with himself. Plus, you did nothing wrong. Why are you afraid of him? Even if we had done something, so what? It’s your choice, so what does it have to do with him?”

Long Chen was right. She nodded and recovered.

Long Chen then looked at Demon General Strongman. “I know you’re here for me. She’s innocent, so let her go. You came here to kill me, right? Let’s settle the score right here and now.”

“Jiang Cheng, do you take me for a fool? If I let her go, she will come back with reinforcements. Since I’m already here blocking your escape, that means I don’t intend on living at the Ancient Demon Domain anymore. I will kill you and then enjoy myself with her. You think I’m an idiot? Why wouldn’t I take advantage of her since we are alone? This is the only way I can feel good after getting mistreated by that bitch the Clear Shallows King.”

Long Chen snarled. He could tell the girl behind him was already trembling, so he gently took her hand. “Don’t worry. He won’t be able to do anything with me here.”

A warm strength came from Long Chen’s hands. The helpless Liu Yiyi felt safe thanks to him. Demon General Strongman was snarling and on the verge of insanity. He looked horrifying, but Long Chen was right. Now that the situation was at its worst, being afraid would not help her. The only thing she could do was fight back. At worst, she would die with Long Chen, but she didn’t think that would be a bad way to go.

“Don’t worry. I’m not scared of him.” Liu Yiyi nodded. Long Chen’s hand gave her a lot of warmth.

“When the fight starts, find a way to escape. As long as you can escape, I will be fine.”

Long Chen didn’t want to reveal the Primordial Realm if possible, or he would’ve placed Liu Yiyi into it while he used Blood Warp to escape. Demon General Strongman would never be able to capture him like that. Still, Long Chen was certain that he could hold up against the Demon General until Liu Yiyi escaped. As long as she did, they would be safe.

“I don’t want to run away by myself. I want to stay with you ...”

“Have you forgotten my escape technique? As long as you are out of here, I will be safe!”

Liu Yiyi finally realized that it was a good plan. She had forgotten about the technique completely. As long as she could make it out, Long Chen would be able to escape too. Thankfully, they were whispering to each other, so Demon General Strongman did not hear them.

Liu Yiyi was visibly more relaxed now that they had a plan. She nodded and waited to see how Long Chen would distract the Demon General.

The Demon General smiled when he saw the two of them whispering to each other. He approached them, and the cave shook with every step.

Liu Yiyi didn't know how strong Long Chen was, so she explained, “He's called Strongman because he has a King-tier Body Tempering technique, the True Martial Demon Body! It's one of the top three strongest Body Tempering techniques in the Ancient Demon Domain. Only those above the Demon General rank are allowed to learn it, and only a few grand elders have managed to cultivate it successfully. Out of all the Demon Generals, only Strongman was successful in cultivating it, so you need to be careful!”

“True Martial Demon Body? King-tier?” Long Chen was shocked. A King-tier Body Tempering technique was far stronger than his own physical body. This was the first time he had met someone whose physical body was stronger than his after he had absorbed a hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence.

Demon General Strongman!

The Clear Shallows King was stronger than the Demon Generals, but Long Chen hadn't gotten a chance to fight them yet.

Long Chen felt an oppressive strength coming from Demon General Strongman. He felt like he was facing a tall mountain that had stood motionlessly for eons. Strongman wasn't that much smaller than demonic beasts, and his strength was comparable to theirs!

The cave trembled every time Demon General Strongman took a step.

“Have you felt how insignificant you are after sensing my strength?” Demon General Strongman was only ten meters away. He raised his head and smiled cruelly at Long Chen before ogling Liu Yiyi. Liu Yiyi was indeed a beautiful girl with snow-white skin and a curvy body. Even old men like Demon General Strongman would desire her.

Long Chen took a few steps back while he observed Demon General Strongman. He transformed as he retreated. Blood-red scales covered Long Chen's body while Demon General Strongman looked at him in surprise.

Even he sensed how strong Long Chen had become after transforming.

“What a terrifying Beast Soul Transformation. You must've absorbed a Beast Soul at the Category Nine Heaven-tier or above after you reached the Heavenly Passage Realm. It seems that you have quite the background here.”

“I do have a fairly formidable background. Still want to fight me?”

“Hmph! Even if the king of heaven wanted to protect you, I would still take your life today! I’ve always wanted to leave the Ancient Demon Domain anyway! I can become the strongest man in one of the smaller kingdoms. Once I establish a kingdom, I can become the emperor and have as many beauties as I want.” Demon General Strongman chuckled as he envisioned his future. He always wanted to leave this place, and Long Chen’s arrival had hastened his decision.

Plus, he needed to take revenge for Zhao Wuji.

“I’ve heard that your physical body is the strongest amongst the youths. Let me show you today what a truly strong physical body looks like!” Demon General Strongman took a deep breath before charging at Long Chen.

A simple punch from the Demon General was strong enough to split the seas. He did not hold back at all!

“Now!” Long Chen pushed Liu Yiyi to the side. He had already promised her that he would be safe the moment she managed to escape.

In order to give her enough time to do so, Long Chen would have to distract Demon General Strongman. That was why he charged at him right after throwing Liu Yiyi to the side. While running towards the Demon General, he took out the Demon Emperor Sword and swung it. An incredibly strong Sword Qi crashed into the Demon General’s fist.

“Haha! Too weak! You’re barely scratching my itch!” Demon General Strongman laughed. Even though Long Chen used his full strength, he couldn’t leave a scratch on Demon General Strongman’s fist. The True Martial Demon Body was indeed overpowering!

Long Chen was extremely shocked.

Thankfully, Liu Yiyi did not waste any time. She ran as fast as possible towards the exit while Long Chen was fighting. The sooner she ran out, the better the chances of Long Chen surviving.

Even though she was worried about him, she bit her lip and ran. Still, tears streamed down her cheeks. Long Chen could’ve escaped if he didn’t have her to worry about, but now he was risking his life for her!

Long Chen was watching Liu Yiyi while he was fighting. He dodged Demon General Strongman’s attacks. Demon General Strongman was proficient in melee, and Long Chen would die if he was hit by a single attack.

So Long Chen decided to use the Demon Emperor Sword and used the Sword Qi to attack him from afar.

“Are you buying time for her to escape? How magnanimous of you.” Demon General Strongman reacted when he noticed Liu Yiyi running away. Rather than continuing

his battle with Long Chen, he turned around to chase after Liu Yiyi. He could easily capture her because he was faster.

Long Chen frowned. He never thought Demon General Strongman would focus on her. That meant his plan would fail!

Long Chen used the Heavenly Sword Array and the Blood Devouring Domain at the same time. Even though he wasn't sure if he could defeat the Demon General, he was hoping that he could at least stall for time.

Sensing the large disturbance behind him, Demon General Strongman realized that danger was coming. He was on the verge of taking Liu Yiyi hostage, but he was forced to turn around to face Long Chen.

When did he get so strong!?

Chapter 512 - Blood Sacrifice Reappearance

Demon General Strongman had thought Long Chen was at the Fifth Passage Stage because he had managed to kill Zhao Wuji. He had never thought Long Chen would be able to unleash such a fearsome attack.

He's strong! He's been hiding his strength all this time! Demon General Strongman gave up on Liu Yiyi to face Long Chen's attack. The Heavenly Sword Array had been completed and was already above his head.

At the same time, the Blood Devouring Domain had covered the entire cave. The blood-red mist obscured Demon General Strongman's vision. He also felt a strange force that threatened to suck his blood out!

"What is this?!" He was shocked and immediately used a portion of his Qi to counteract the suction.

He was experiencing Long Chen's tenacity for the first time!

That brat! If I don't fight at my full strength, I will die!

He had no choice as the Heavenly Sword Array reached him. His Ninth Passage Stage Qi exploded, causing the entire cave to tremble. Wind blew everywhere as Demon General Strongman glared at Long Chen before punching him.

Roar!

A tiger illusion appeared on his fist. The tiger charged towards the Heavenly Sword Array with terrifying speed. An incredible burst of energy swept past the entire cave and shook the mountain.

Liu Yiyi was already at the entrance of the cave. She wanted to look back when she sensed the tremors, but she knew she would slow down if she did so. The longer she took, the more danger Long Chen would be in.

"Why are you doing this for me? We aren't close, so there's no reason for you to risk your life for me ..." Liu Yiyi was crying. She knew that Long Chen would only be safe if she managed to escape. So she continued to run towards the Clear Shallows King.

Long Chen and Demon General Strongman sensed that Liu Yiyi was already out of the cave. Long Chen relaxed a little, while Demon General Strongman frowned.

“Brat, you are forcing me to kill you faster!” Liu Yiyi’s escape meant that the Clear Shallows King would come here soon. When she arrived, Demon General Strongman would undoubtedly die even if he killed Long Chen. That was why his killing intent exploded.

Roar!

The tiger illusion continued to crash into the Heavenly Sword Array. A strong surge of energy swept past everything, and chunks of earth fell from the cave’s ceiling. If they continued to fight here, the entire cave would collapse!

“You wouldn’t be able to defeat me even if you were ten times stronger!” Demon General Strongman’s fist broke past the Heavenly Sword Array and sent Long Chen flying deep into the wall of the cave.

Long Chen felt his blood boiling, and he almost spat out a lot of it. Demon General Strongman’s attacks were indeed horrifying. Even a simple punch was much stronger than his Heavenly Sword Array!

“Is that so?” Long Chen chuckled. He had been wounded, but Liu Yiyi had managed to escape. Escaping would be easy if he used Blood Warp right now, but he chose not to. Not only did he want her to get further away, he didn’t want his enemy to live any longer!

Since Demon General Strongman wanted to kill Long Chen, Long Chen naturally wanted to kill Demon General Strongman!

“I couldn’t kill you even if I were ten times stronger? What a joke. I haven’t used this in a long time ...”

Long Chen’s confidence confused Demon General Strongman.

Not only had he not used it in a long time, he had only used it twice in his life. Both times were when he was being chased in the Cangyang Kingdom.

It was Blood Sacrifice!

It was an incredible technique that was no weaker than Blood Transmutation and the Dragon Soul Transformation.

Blood Sacrifice had three stages. The first stage would sacrifice one stage of his cultivation to temporarily increase his cultivation level by one stage. If he used it now and paired it with his Dragon Soul Transformation, he would have as much Qi as someone at the Ninth Passage Stage! But after the duration ran out, he would drop down to the Sixth Passage Stage.

The second stage would sacrifice two stages to temporarily increase his cultivation level by two stages. After the technique expired, he would drop down to the Fifth Passage Stage.

The third stage sacrificed three stages to temporarily increase his strength by three stages. He would drop down to the Fourth Passage Stage after it was over.

Blood Sacrifice was a last resort. Not only would it cause his cultivation level to regress, it would also damage his body to a certain extent.

The first stage's backlash was minimal to non-existent. The second stage had to be used sparingly as it would inflict a moderate backlash. He had used the second stage to fight against Song Zhongcheng and Lin Zichen. The third stage would cause a considerable backlash that would cripple him for an extended period of time. He couldn't use it unless he was on the verge of death.

Long Chen actually had many different techniques to save his life. Rewind, Blood Warp, and Blood Sacrifice were extremely strong techniques that had saved his life in different ways.

It was fine for him to use the first stage, and since Liu Yiyi had escaped, he could use it to kill Demon General Strongman now!

Blood-red fire lit up on Long Chen's body. As the fire grew, Long Chen's cultivation level increased. Coupled with his transformation, he now had as much Qi as a Ninth Passage Stage cultivator!

He had used the first stage of Blood Sacrifice!

The burning fire shocked Demon General Strongman.

"What is that?" He wanted to kill Long Chen as quickly as possible, but he was completely stumped when he saw the fire.

"It's something that will take your life!" The first stage was completed. Long Chen had kept some demonic beast corpses for emergency situations, and now he could use them!

His eyes were filled with blood-red fire too.

"Die!"

Just as Demon General Strongman wanted to deal with Long Chen as soon as possible, the latter was thinking the same thing!

Due to the Blood Devouring Domain, Long Chen had never been defeated by enemies at the same cultivation level as himself. Since he was stronger now, Demon General Strongman had a hard time resisting the Blood Devouring Domain!

"What is this!?" Demon General Strongman started to lose control over his blood, so he allocated even more Qi to suppress it. It took half of his Qi to stabilize himself.

Just then, a Heavenly Sword Array ten times stronger than before landed on him.

"No!" Demon General Strongman howled and punched numerous times, but his attacks were too weak. The sharp edges of the Heavenly Sword Array tore the Demon General to shreds. Only his Universe Pouch survived Long Chen's merciless attack.

Long Chen quickly stashed it.

Blood Sacrifice's duration soon ran out, and Long Chen saw the Earth Yang meridian slowly closing itself. He quickly sat down and started to use Blood Transmutation on the Nine Wheels Ghost Fire Beast. After transforming the blood into Qi, he quickly used it along with some Heavenly Passage Pills to cultivate.

He used another 350,000 Heavenly Passage Pills to advance back into the Seventh Passage Stage, but he was not sad about it. Since Demon General Strongman intended to run away from the Ancient Demon Domain, Long Chen was certain that the Universe Pouch would be filled with many things.

Descending back to the Sixth Passage Stage and advancing back to the Seventh Passage Stage was a simple process, but it was a horrible feeling. Long Chen wouldn't have risked it if his opponent wasn't an enemy with a grudge who also had a lot of treasures.

Killing people and taking their money was the fastest way to get rich. Long Chen's true plan had been to let Liu Yiyi escape and then use Blood Sacrifice and the Blood Devouring Domain to kill the Demon General and collect his money.

It was not something he would usually do since it was risky.

When Long Chen finished cultivating, he had a feeling that Liu Yiyi would return soon. Sure enough, she ran into the cave after a few minutes. Her face was filled with worry, shock, and streaks of tears.

Long Chen knew that she wouldn't call the Clear Shallows King but instead turn back halfway. She thought Long Chen would catch up to her, but she panicked when he never showed up. This made her assume that Long Chen had been killed, and she blamed herself.

She ran back in despair because she thought it was better if she died with Long Chen since he had died for her sake.

But when she reached the cave, she was greeted by an unexpected scene.

Chapter 513 - True Martial Poison Vine

The cave was in ruins. Liu Yiyi's little house had collapsed during the fight. At the same time, rock and dirt had fallen off the walls of the cave, leaving the interior covered in dust.

But there was nothing on the ground. Liu Yiyi saw Long Chen sitting on the ground, but Demon General Strongman had completely disappeared, or rather been reduced to dust.

Liu Yiyi stared blankly at Long Chen. She saw blood coming from his mouth, so she knew that he was hurt. She also realized he had won after seeing the blood on his sword. If not, Demon General Strongman wouldn't have disappeared completely ...

Liu Yiyi slumped to the ground in shock. She didn't know how to react after seeing Long Chen, but her tears soon fell and obscured her vision.

"Jiang Cheng ..."

The man's back was ingrained deeply into her mind. She would never forget him. She didn't know how this had happened. She knew that Long Chen didn't have any feelings for her, but everything he did, including the miracle he had just performed, enamored her.

Long Chen stood up and approached Liu Yiyi after some time. “Everything is done now. Why are you crying? Demon General Strongman is dead.”

“Dead?” Long Chen confirmed her suspicions and she wiped off her tears. “Jiang Cheng, you’re strong. I can’t believe you killed a Demon General at the Ninth Passage Stage. But his death will be major news in the Ancient Demon Domain. Let my mother deal with this, alright?”

Even if Long Chen hadn’t killed the Demon General, the Clear Shallows King would’ve done so after learning what the latter was planning to do to her daughter and direct disciple. Long Chen was confident that she would handle it perfectly.

“Tell your mother about what happened today. From today onwards, I not only want to cultivate the Demonic Illusion, but also this technique. I think I will make a lot of noise when I cultivate it, so let me have the cave for now. Is that alright?” Long Chen saw that she was attracted to him. This was not good for him, because he was going to leave sooner or later and didn’t want to hurt her feelings.

So he had no choice but to be more stern.

Liu Yiyi naturally didn’t know what he was thinking. She thought he just wanted to focus on cultivating and didn’t want to be disturbed. Plus, there was nothing she could teach him other than the Demonic Illusion. That was when she looked at what he was showing her.

It was a hand-copied manual of the technique that Long Chen had taken from Demon General Strongman’s Universe Pouch.

“This is ... The True Martial Demon Body!” Liu Yiyi was shocked, but she soon recovered. Long Chen had killed him, so of course he would have Demon General Strongman’s Universe Pouch.

“What do I need to do to cultivate this? Is there a rule saying that I can’t cultivate it?”

“ ... There is, but since you are my mother’s direct disciple and Demon General Strongman is working under us, my mother has the authority to let you learn two King-tier techniques. But ... You need to cultivate both of them in just sixteen days. Are you sure you can do it?”

“We never know unless we try.”

“Alright. Let me talk to my mother first ...”

She stared at him longingly before she left.

“Tsk tsk. Brat, you sure have guts. How could you turn such a beauty away? I’m speechless. Are you sure you’re not useless in a certain aspect? I didn’t think you would get ‘defeated’ from the slightest touch.” The cat taunted him.

“And you are still a useless cat,” Long Chen retorted. “Your thoughts are too simple. She’s just a passerby in my life. I will not stay here for long. I live to fight, and she’s a good girl. I can’t ruin her life here.”

“Are you sure? I bet she would strip naked the moment you ordered her to.

“And there would be one more Clear Shallows King in the Ancient Demon Domain.”

Since she was not destined to be with him, he swore not to hurt them.

“Stop spouting nonsense. The strength in my body is unstable. I need some time to consolidate it. Blood Sacrifice is still too risky to use. Thankfully, I managed to earn back a million and a half Heavenly Passage Pills, as well as the True Martial Demon Body, a King-tier Body Tempering technique! I need to learn both the True Martial Demon Body and the Demonic Illusion in sixteen days! Only then will I have the confidence to beat Chen Feng!”

Long Chen was determined.

He resumed cultivating!

Long Chen didn’t have time to waste if he only had sixteen days! He consolidated the strength he obtained from Blood Transmutation while starting to cultivate the True Martial Demon Body. Since he was fairly familiar with the Demonic Illusion, he only needed to spend four hours a day practicing it!

He was certain that he could master it in sixteen days!

It was more important for him to get started on the True Martial Demon Body.

Long Chen’s comprehension had been increased thanks to the Inherited Blood Essence, and his physical body had also improved greatly. His body was even stronger than that of a King-tier beast. Therefore, his talent in cultivating Body Tempering techniques was unmatched in the entire Divine Martial Empire!

The Inherited Blood Essence would also improve his potential throughout his life. His increased physical strength was just a byproduct of it. Long Chen hadn’t even cultivated a Body Tempering technique and yet, his body was on par with that of someone who had cultivated an advanced Heaven-tier Body Tempering technique. It was clear that the potential of his physical body was unimaginable.

The True Martial Demon Body!

It was one of the three strongest Body Tempering techniques in the Ancient Demon Domain. One’s strength would increase so much that they could split mountains after successfully cultivating it.

But it was not simple to master it. Long Chen required a certain elementary King-tier spiritual herb called the True Martial Poison Vine. Even though it was poisonous, it could spur the body’s immune response to strengthen it. The manual described that one would need the poison to harden one’s body to cultivate the True Martial Demon Body.

Long Chen naturally didn't have the spiritual herb, so he had to rely on the Clear Shallows King. On the second day, the Clear Shallows King brought the herb to Long Chen along with Liu Yiyi.

"This is just a short segment of the vine, but it costs more than a million Heavenly Passage Pills. You need to be certain that you will be able to cultivate it so it's not a waste of money!" The Clear Shallows King was secretly shocked at Long Chen's improvement. She could see his potential to become stronger was several times better than the other geniuses.

"Don't worry. I will make sure that Liu Yiyi will not have to marry someone she doesn't like." Long Chen chuckled. Even though he looked relaxed, the strength hidden in his eyes assured them that he would succeed.

Clear Shallows King only gave him the vine after seeing his eyes.

"I've dealt with the matter of Demon General Strongman. No one will ask about him again. You can continue to cultivate in peace. I await your results."

"Thank you!" Long Chen was grateful for her help. Even though they were using each other, he still had to thank her. Without her help, he would never have been able to get the Demonic Illusion or the True Martial Demon Body. Part of his strength had been obtained with the help of the Clear Shallows King.

"Win in the assessment and make the Clear Shallows Pavilion famous. Only then will I thank you as well. You can cultivate now. Let's go." She then took Liu Yiyi away. Once they were gone, Long Chen focused on cultivating the True Martial Demon Body.

"The True Martial Poison Vine is a crucial part of the cultivation process. All I need to do is resist the poison. I need to use my Qi to refine it and turn the poison into my strength. Only by doing this repeatedly can I cultivate the True Martial Demon Body."

Long Chen did not hesitate to swallow the vine!

After it entered his stomach, it rapidly dissolved just like the Inherited Blood Essence. It then circulated throughout his body and turned his skin black! Long Chen looked like a human-shaped charcoal!

Pain!

Unending pain!

The poison was like little spikes that poked Long Chen's body incessantly. He felt pain all over. If his will wasn't strong enough, he would've passed out and died from the poison.

A King-tier spiritual herb's poison was not that easy to endure!

Chapter 514 - Completion

"Wake up!" The cat's shout snapped Long Chen out of the intense pain. Rather than enduring the pain from the poison, he needed to refine it!

The first step to cultivate the True Martial Demon Body was to refine the poison. He quickly recalled the technique and started the refining process.

But before he even started refining it, the pain suddenly subsided. He checked his body and saw that the poison had been forced into a small orb in the center of his chest.

His blood had suppressed the poison on its own!

“The Inherited Blood Essence of an Ancestral Dragon flows in your veins. The blood of such a creature would never allow a poison of this caliber to infiltrate your body. Even a King-tier poison would not harm you,” the cat explained.

Long Chen just realized that that was indeed the case.

Thankfully, it didn't hinder his cultivation. Since the poison has been isolated at his chest thanks to his blood, it became hundreds of times easier for him to refine it. A regular person would have to endure the pain for an entire month to completely refine it. Thanks to his unique blood, he finished it in a day.

The True Martial Demon Body was not an easy technique to cultivate due to the poison, but one would gain absolute strength if they were successful in cultivating it. Demon General Strongman had died because he hadn't cultivated it properly.

The poison soon turned into a power that Long Chen could utilize. The power enveloped his body after a day, and he could now enter the next step.

This was where the true cultivation would start!

He needed to cultivate it by training in a specific fist art. Rather than using it for attacking, it was used for cultivating. Long Chen stood up and copied the movement he had seen in the manual.

He closed his eyes and focused.

Bam!

He punched numerous times and moved around with clear intention. Long Chen danced in the cave while the poison's strength slowly merged into his muscles and skeleton to strengthen his body. As he cultivated, he was also slowly absorbing nature's spiritual energy into his body to reinforce it!

Thanks to the reinforcement of nature's spiritual energy and the poison's energy, Long Chen's fist technique became stronger. He submerged himself in the profoundness of the fist art. Time slowly passed, and Liu Yiyi visited numerous times. But Long Chen did not notice her, as if he was asleep.

She left with disappointment every time.

She told her mother about his progress, and the Clear Shallows King sighed in shock. “He already refined the poison and reached that stage? He's beyond a genius. Very few people have managed to cultivate that technique. Most that tried were tortured to death by the pain of the poison. Even though Demon General Strongman succeeded, he only managed to do it halfway. I never thought Long Chen would be so successful! And it took him so little time.”

“Mom, why did you let him cultivate something so unreliable?” Liu Yiyi scoffed.

“That's because I have faith in him. See, he's almost close to completion.”

Liu Yiyi had her own thoughts.

When she entered the cave a few days later, she saw clouds of dust flying around. She couldn't see Long Chen, but she knew he was still inside cultivating.

There was too much dust, and Long Chen's movements were too fast.

Eleven days passed.

Liu Yiyi had been standing guard outside the whole time. There were only five days left until the assessment and she was worried that Long Chen hadn't completed his cultivation yet. If that was the case, then both her and the Clear Shallows King would be in trouble.

Just then, the cave collapsed. The entire ground shook and dust covered everything. Liu Yiyi was shocked and thought Long Chen had been buried alive. Just then, a yellowish figure ran out of the cave and stood in front of her

"You look so ugly ..." Liu Yiyi laughed. Long Chen's body was covered in yellow dirt. His eyes were slightly red, but the rest of his body was caked in dirt.

This was the result of cultivating for eleven days. Long Chen hadn't even bothered taking care of himself.

Liu Yiyi laughed at him.

Boom!

Long Chen used his Qi to shake off the dirt and reveal his original self. Liu Yiyi stopped laughing.

He looked so sharp that he appeared like a sword. Liu Yiyi felt that she was being cut just by looking at him. She was like a rabbit standing in front of Long Chen; all he needed was to hit her lightly and he would kill her!

She had never felt such a dangerous aura even from Demon General Strongman.

"Have you ... succeeded?" Liu Yiyi trembled.

"Yes." He nodded, as if it was insignificant. "How many days have passed? How much time do we have left? Did we miss the assessment?"

Long Chen was worried that he had missed the assessment due to being so engrossed in cultivation. Their plans would be useless if he missed it.

"... Five more days. We have five more days." Liu Yiyi was in a daze as she stared at him. Long Chen had cultivated a King-tier martial technique in just tens of days. No one in the Divine Martial Empire could achieve that! Long Chen's secrets attracted Liu Yiyi so much.

"Phew. Thankfully,, I've finished cultivating the True Martial Demon Body. Though I still have some trouble controlling the Demonic Illusion. There are only five days left, so I need to work on that. I have a lot of questions to ask." Long Chen quickly formed a schedule for the next five days.

This had become his habit.

Liu Yiyi was happy when she thought she could spend the next five days with him and quickly nodded.

Long Chen wasn't sure what to do with her attraction towards him.

I will leave this place for the Ancient Graveyard once I get the Emperor Flame Pearl. I hope she will forget me after enough time passes.

After meeting the Clear Shallows King, Long Chen returned to his room. It hadn't even been two months since he arrived, but his status has changed so much. He was only at the First Passage Stage when he first joined and was at the bottom of the food chain, but now he was at the peak of all disciples in the Clear Shallows Pavilion!

Even Liu Yiyi could not win against him now.

Even though Long Chen was the latest one to join and was supposed to be of the lowest rank, the Clear Shallows King had designated him as the eldest disciple, so everyone else's ranks had dropped. That meant even Liu Yiyi had to call him "senior ..."

Many of the disciples still recalled how Long Chen had killed Qin Huanyu, but they had to admit that Long Chen was a monster when they saw him.

The others respected him too.

Thankfully, the Clear Shallows King had restricted information about Long Chen, so the other kings didn't know about him.

Five days passed in a flash.

In those five days, Long Chen finally cultivated the Demonic Illusion and the True Martial Demon Body close to the point of mastering them. His proficiency in the Demonic Illusion was no weaker than Liu Yiyi's.

The day of the assessment had arrived. This time, regular disciples would not have the privilege of observing it. Only higher-ranked disciples, direct disciples, elders, and grand elders could enter the fourth layer of the Demon World. The Demon Generals, on the other hand, would be in charge of maintaining order.

Even so, there were close to three thousand spectators. They made up the main strength of the Ancient Demon Domain. None of them were lower than the Sixth Passage Stage.

The Clear Shallows King Pavilion was going to send out five contestants, including Long Chen and Liu Yiyi. All of them were at the Seventh Passage Stage. Approximately sixty contestants were registered from all seven pavilions. Out of the sixty, some of them were beyond the Seventh Passage Stage. It was clear that the Clear Shallows Pavilion was weaker than the others.

On this day, Long Chen and the others were standing in front of the Clear Shallows King.

Chapter 515 - Demon Emperor's Return

Long Chen had grown very familiar with his two King-tier techniques. Even though they weren't combat techniques, they had increased his strength by a lot.

Long Chen, Liu Yiyi, and the other three were standing in front of the Clear Shallows King. The passage to the fourth layer of the Demon World has opened. Those who were qualified to enter were already inside. The Clear Shallows King was waiting for the arrival of her disciples.

She focused on Long Chen and called for him the moment she saw him. “Are you certain you can achieve victory?”

“Relax. You’ve given me so much. I will do what I need to do.”

“Have you really cultivated the Demonic Illusion and the True Martial Demon Body?”
She was stunned.

Long Chen nodded.

“Monster.” She shook her head.

Seeing the Clear Shallows King completely focused on Long Chen made the other disciples visibly upset. They were older than him, but they had to obey the Clear Shallows King’s orders to call him “senior.”

They were the strongest in the pavilion except for Liu Yiyi, so they were naturally unwilling to call Long Chen “senior.”

“Master really does not care about our feelings ...”

“She didn’t even look at us. I fear that we are only here to make up the numbers in the assessment.”

“I think she’s only focused on Jiang Cheng. She even ignored Senior Liu Yiyi.”

“I wonder how strong Jiang Cheng is? I think his cultivation level increased very fast, but isn’t he at the same stage as us? We can do the things that he can do too!”

The three of them hated Long Chen because they were being ignored by the Clear Shallows King.

“Stop it. He’s definitely stronger than all of us. We wouldn’t be able to win against him even if we fought him at the same time,” Liu Yiyi warned them after seeing how agitated they were.

“Junior Liu Yiyi, you must be joking. Even someone at the Eighth Passage Stage might not be able to handle all four of us at the same time!” the previous eldest disciple retorted.

“You will find out how strong he is during the assessment.” Liu Yiyi decided to stop arguing with them.

She knew Long Chen had cultivated the True Martial Demon Body. Their attacks would be useless against his physical body. In fact, his physical body was even stronger than that of Demon General Strongman.

After finishing their discussion, the Clear Shallows King waved to let them know to follow her.

“The Demon Emperor is back! He will most likely make an appearance during the assessment, so you must do your best! Do not embarrass my pavilion!” the Clear Shallows King shouted.

“Yes!” Everyone nodded.

Outside of the Clear Shallows Pavilion were three Demon Generals and some elders who worked at the pavilion. They followed the Clear Shallows King Pavilion when she walked out. They then made their way towards Demon World Mountain. The regular disciples looked at them in awe.

There was quite a distance from their pavilion to the fourth layer of the Demon World.

“Mom, why did the Demon Emperor come back? I thought he rarely made an appearance?” Liu Yiyi asked.

The Clear Shallows King whispered, “Don’t spread this, but I’ve heard that his useless son was killed, so the Demon Emperor stopped cultivating to come back and find the killer.”

“Huh? He’s dead? No wonder I haven’t heard of him for so long. Haven’t seen him in two months too.” Liu Yiyi was shocked.

“We have arrived. Let’s stop talking about it.” Demon World Mountain was in front of them, and they soon scaled to the top. The guards let them pass and the Clear Shallows King led everyone into the Demon World.

“I’ve heard that the Clear Shallows King sent out five people, but none of them are at the Eighth Passage Stage?” one of the guards whispered after the Clear Shallows King left.

“Yeah. I think they will come in last this time for sure. I will bet ten thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.”

“Only an idiot would take that bet!”

They moved towards the second layer after passing the first. Because they didn’t take the shortcut, it took them half a day to get there. Long Chen and the others stopped in front of the entrance because someone was blocking the path. The people in front turned around. They were from the Red Ghost Pavilion! The Red Ghost King and Ying Shaotian were standing at the forefront.

“Clear Shallows King?” The Red Ghost King chuckled and counted the number of her representatives. “What a grand army you have here. Five contestants! So scary.”

Ying Shaotian was at the Eighth Passage Stage and there were seven more at the Seventh Passage Stage representing the Red Ghost King. In terms of group strength, their strength far exceeded the Clear Shallows King’s representatives. Thankfully, the assessment revolved around individual matches instead of group matches.

Everyone from the Red Ghost Pavilion laughed too.

“A group of cowards brought up by a woman!” The Red Ghost King continued to taunt them.

His group laughed again. Their laughter angered everyone from the Clear Shallows Pavilion. They were not the kind of people who would argue with scoundrels like the Red Ghost King, but Long Chen was. He approached the Red Ghost King and said, “It’s a blessing for us to be brought up by the beautiful Clear Shallows King. We have so many beautiful ladies here. I think you guys are jealous because your leader is a bulbous red toad. Regular men like me want to vomit the moment we see someone so hideous.”

Long Chen’s words were like cold water that extinguished the Red Ghost King’s arrogance. Everyone from the Clear Shallows Pavilion cheered for Long Chen.

Even the Clear Shallows King laughed at that. She thought that Long Chen was strangely cute. Thankfully, he was on her side, or he would look more like a devil if he was her enemy.

The already red face of the Red Ghost King became even redder. Blood almost sprang forth from his eyes and white steam gushed out of his nose. It was clear that he was angry.

It was one thing to be insulted by the Clear Shallows King since they had the same rank, but Long Chen was a disciple! He would not tolerate such disrespect.

“Bastard! Die!”

He approached Long Chen to kill him, but the Clear Shallows King intercepted him. “Red Ghost King, you taunted us first, so it’s courtesy we taunt back. Are you really so disgraceful that you would use physical force here? Are you a man? Since the Demon Emperor is back, the Ancient Demon Domain is not a place where you can do as you please. The Demon Emperor is very angry right now, so just try touching me.”

The Red Ghost King stopped out of fear. She was right. The Demon Emperor was in a bad mood. If they fought here and tarnished the reputation of the Demon Emperor, there was a chance that he would be killed.

The Red Ghost King glared at both the Clear Shallows King and Long Chen. “I will stop this today on account of the Demon Emperor. Let us meet at the fourth layer. Clear Shallows King, even though I’m not Ying Shaotian’s father, I am technically his stepfather. Once the assessment is over, you and I will become family, so we cannot fight here.”

He then looked at Liu Yiyi. “Yiyi is becoming prettier each day. Hehehe. I’m so happy Ying Shaotian is going to marry her! Hahaha!”

The Red Ghost King patted Ying Shaotian’s shoulder. “Let’s go!”

Under his command, the rest of them entered the second layer. The Clear Shallows King turned around and looked at her followers. “The Red Ghost King slandered us just now, so it’s up to the five of you to return the favor at the assessment! Show them your strength!”

Long Chen and the others nodded.

Since the Clear Shallows King had done so much to help him, it was time to uphold his end of the deal. He needed to win!

They followed the Red Ghost King and soon reached the fourth layer after traversing through the second and third. This time, Demon General Typhoon was not standing guard; it was another Demon General. This was Long Chen's first time at the fourth layer.

The ground was similar to that of the third layer, but there was not a hint of demonic beasts here. There were only people, and thousands of them. All of them were extremely strong. Most of the people joining the assessment were already here.

Long Chen followed the Clear Shallows King to reach their designated spot. Each of the pavilions was standing in an arc facing a large, black arena!

Chapter 516 - Jiang Wushang

The fourth layer of the Demon World was very noisy today.

Only seven people had their own seats here, and they were the Seven Demon Kings. Currently, they were seated in a circle around the arena and were roughly thirty meters away from each other.

Each pavilion had its own elders and disciples. Most of them had close to three hundred people. The Clear Shallows King had fewer people at around two hundred, but some of the pavilions had five hundred!

Everyone had arrived and congregated around the arena. At this time, several people walked onto it. Long Chen could feel how strong they were. There were fifty of them, and all of them were grand elders at the Ninth Passage Stage. They were as strong as the Demon Generals and were close to the peak of the hierarchy in the Ancient Demon Domain.

But their positions were slightly higher than the Demon Generals because they served the Demon Emperor. That was why all of them had their own seats. Still, their seats were smaller than those of the Seven Demon King to signify the difference in their positions.

But some of them had seats larger than those of the Demon Kings. One of the men walked to the seat and sat down, attracting everyone's attention.

Long Chen looked at the man and saw that he had a soft face, was around twenty years old, and was very handsome. He had a similar vibe to Xiaolang, but underneath that soft demeanor was a strong and passionate heart. Long Chen could see it in his eyes.

Long Chen had a strange feeling. He thought the man looked familiar.

That should be impossible. I've come straight to the Ancient Demon Domain after reaching the Divine Martial Empire. I never went anywhere else. How could I have seen him?

He had a feeling that the man was as strong as the Clear Shallows King. Even though the man was quiet, his actions exuded strength. Long Chen had a feeling that he was at the Earthly Martial Realm, which meant that he was none other than the genius, Jiang Wushang!

That was Demon Emperor Jiang Wuxie's son and successor.

Long Chen was impressed by how the young man had reached the Earthly Martial Realm at such a young age. Even though he himself had sped through the Heavenly Passage Stage, he still didn't know how to cultivate at the Three Martial Realms. Even Zhao Qingyun didn't know.

The moment Jiang Wushang made his appearance, everyone became quiet. They stopped talking and stared at him in awe. Not only was he a son of the Demon Emperor, he was the strongest son.

The other children of the Demon Emperor were at the Ninth Passage Stage at most. It was clear Jiang Wushang's talent was superior.

The Demon Emperor was showing how much he cared about him by allowing him to preside over the assessment.

Jiang Wushang had been the object of worship for the disciples over the past few years.

Cultivating the Three Martial Realm was different from the Four Basic Realm. People had always commented that it was easy to reach the Ninth Passage Stage, but difficult to reach the Earthly Martial Realm. It was an incredible feat to reach the Earthly Martial Realm at an age close to Long Chen's!

"Jiang Wushang managed to leave a handprint on a Heavenly Passage Pillar when he was at the Ninth Passage Stage. He could probably destroy them now!"

The disciples started discussing again.

"That's nothing! I've heard that he once faced off against eight cultivators at the Ninth Passage Stage even though he himself was at the same stage. He killed all of them! The eight cultivators were none other than the Fearsome Eight of the North Seas! Each of them was famous on the bounty board, but all of them were killed by Jiang Wushang!"

"That's just a regular training session for Prince Wushang. I've heard that he killed a King-tier beast at the Immortal Sea!"

"A King-tier beast at the Immortal Sea? I heard that that was the nest of the exceedingly strong Divine Phoenix. To think that he would venture there!"

Long Chen realized that disciples like Ying Shaotian and Chen Feng were nothing compared to Jiang Wushang. They were like specks of dust, while Jiang Wushang was like a star.

It was a legendary feat to reach the Earthly Martial Realm at that age even in the Divine Martial Empire.

Also, leaving a handprint on the Heavenly Passage Pillars, killing eight cultivators at the Ninth Passage Stage at the same time, and even defeating a King-tier beast all at the Ninth Passage Stage were monstrous feats that regular people would never achieve, excluding Long Chen.

Long Chen had to reevaluate his understanding of Jiang Wushang. It was the first time he had met such a genius.

Everyone was focused on Jiang Wushang. He suddenly stood up and bowed to the Seven Demon Kings. "Seven Demon Kings, my father has matters to attend to, so I apologize for having to take his place here today."

"Prince Wushang, there is no need to be so courteous. Your strength and position make you more than qualified. We only need to watch." The Red Ghost King chuckled.

The other Demon Kings agreed.

Jiang Wushang nodded. "Since everyone is here, then let the assessment start. I am only here to oversee. Demon General Typhoon, please start the assessment."

He returned to his seat after that.

Everyone then focused on the black arena instead of Jiang Wushang. Typhoon was clad in black armor in the middle of the arena. Long Chen almost laughed when he saw Demon General Typhoon.

I suppose he's the expert when it comes to being the emcee. He's been doing it every time.

Demon General Typhoon didn't fly this time because there were several people above him, one being the Prince. He looked around and said in a cheerful voice, "I am Typhoon! Greetings, Seven Demon Kings and Prince Wushang! Now let me explain the rules! There are two rounds to the assessment! This way, we can not only determine the winner to obtain the Emperor Flame Pearl, but also let the grand elders evaluate the disciples of each pavilion. The rankings of the pavilions will depend on their scoring! The grand elders work for the Demon Emperor, so they will be absolutely fair! They will record their evaluations with their true names, so don't worry about any shady things going on during the assessment! As experts at the Ninth Passage Stage, they will naturally be able to spot all extraordinary feats from the disciples!"

It was a good rule. The assessment was for both the disciples and their respective pavilions. Since the grand elders worked directly for the Demon Emperor and would be using their real names to score the assessment, this was a very fair process.

"Now let me explain the first stage!"

Demon General Typhoon looked around before stomping, causing the entire arena to tremble.

What incredible strength! Even Long Chen was surprised.

The entire arena started to rumble, and the disciples saw twelve black pillars rise up.

Rumble!

Several breaths later, the pillars stopped moving. All of them looked like the Heavenly Passage Pillars, but they were replicas. They were seven meters tall and surrounded the arena to form a circle.

Long Chen looked at the top of each pillar and saw a fiery, red orb. The orbs were exuding great power, so he first thought they were Emperor Flame Pearls. However, he quickly judged that that was not the case because there was only one of those. Still, even though the orbs were not Emperor Flame Pearls, he knew the pillars were extraordinary too.

"These are regular Flame Pearls, not Emperor Flame Pearl. I'm sure most of you are aware of their properties. You can obtain some strength when you use one during the Day of the Nine Suns. You might even advance to the next stage if you are lucky. The Flame Pearls are the rewards for the first stage. The rules are simple. All of you will stand on the same starting line and attempt to grab the pearls when I say 'go.' Those who have a pearl in their possession by the end of the time limit will advance into the next stage. That means that out of the sixty contestants, only twelve will

move on! You need to move as fast possible to grab one the moment we start! Once you obtain a Flame Pearl, you cannot keep it in your Universe Pouch! You must hold it in your hand and protect it until time is up. Only then will you earn the right to enter the second stage. The round will last twenty breaths. It's up to you to decide how to defend yourselves!"

Chapter 517 - Shocking Everyone

"Do you understand the rules?" the Clear Shallows King asked her representatives.

Long Chen and the others nodded.

"You need to work together when you obtain a Flame Pearl. Help others secure them too. There are seven pavilions and twelve pearls. As long as we have two people entering the next stage, our pavilion will not be in last place."

"Two spots? There are so many strong contestants from the other pavilions. We didn't even manage to get one last time ..." One of the disciples was pessimistic about the assessment.

"That was last time. This time is different ..." The Clear Shallows King smiled and said nothing else.

After the announcement of Demon General Typhoon, the first stage officially started. Long Chen and the others entered the arena. The sixty contestants formed a large circle surrounding the twelve pillars. Everyone was an equal distance away from at least one of the pillars.

Naturally, the contestants were separated from their own teams. Long Chen, Liu Yiyi, and the others were placed in different spots around the circle. Long Chen looked around and took note of where Liu Yiyi was so that he could help her. He ignored the other three.

When he looked at Liu Yiyi, she looked at him too. Liu Yiyi was feeling pressured because she was surrounded by disciples at the Seventh Passage Stage. It was very hard to secure a Flame Pearl when surrounded by so many strong disciples. The Clear Shallows King had told them that they needed to get at least two Flame Pearls to not be placed last. She could only rely on Long Chen and herself for that; the other three on her team were not reliable.

But Long Chen's gaze calmed her down.

I need to do this and win for my mother! Liu Yiyi was focused on victory.

There were thousands of spectators, but most of them weren't focused on Long Chen. Instead, they were looking at the contestants at the Eighth Passage Stage. Demon General Typhoon separated them and placed them at different locations on the circle to ensure that they wouldn't fight each other the moment the first stage started.

There was also Chen Feng at the Ninth Passage Stage, as well as Ying Shaotian and the others from the Red Ghost Pavilion. All of them were highly regarded by the others. They stood in the circle and waited for the signal from Demon General Typhoon. They were ready to grab a Flame Pearl the moment the stage started.

Jiang Wushang was staring at Chen Feng. He looked at the grand elder beside him and said, “Chen Feng is young, but he’s already at the Ninth Passage Stage. He’s similar to my fifth brother. Once the assessment is over, let him become my subordinate and work for me.”

“Understood! It would be his honor to work for you, Prince Wushang!”

Jiang Wushang nodded and said nothing else.

Even though he was of similar age to Chen Feng and the others, his status and strength were on another level.

Of course, he hadn’t noticed someone called Jiang Cheng among the sixty contestants. In fact, most people don’t know that there was a Jiang Cheng in the Clear Shallows Pavilion.

Jiang Cheng was just a fake name Long Chen was using. He only recognized two contestants outside the disciples of the Clear Shallows Pavilion: Ying Shaotian and Chen Feng. Ying Shaotian was standing at the opposite end of Liu Yiyi. He was looking at her boldly, but Liu Yiyi wasn’t looking at him. Chen Feng, on the other hand, looked at Long Chen and smiled for a short moment before ignoring him.

Chen Feng thought that Long Chen was destined to embarrass himself today. Long Chen had the ability to escape extremely quickly, but that was useless here in the assessment. How could he win by just running and hiding?

Time slowly passed. When the contestants and everyone else started losing their patience, Demon General Typhoon gave the signal to start. Everyone watched in anticipation of the grand fight.

“Three, two, one, start!”

Everyone tensed up when they heard “three.” Strong energy swirled in their bodies and compressed, ready to be released like a powerful spring. The moment the first stage started, everyone shot forward like an arrow towards the pillar closest to them.

Even though they were all roughly a hundred meters away from a pillar, the power gap between each disciple was soon revealed. Chen Feng was naturally the fastest, followed by the several disciples at the Eighth Passage Stage. He was so dazzling that no one noticed that the second fastest contestant was Long Chen instead of an Eighth Passage Stage cultivator.

Long Chen had not transformed but relied on his Qi. Thanks to his Qi’s innate quality of being four times better than regular Qi, as well as being the only one with a King-tier Body Tempering technique, his leg muscles were extremely powerful. When Demon General Typhoon announced the start of the stage, Long Chen was the first one to run past the group of Seventh Passage Stage disciples around him.

The atmosphere in the fourth layer of the Demon World flared up as everyone cheered excitedly. Since most were focused on Chen Feng, only a few hundred spectators noticed Long Chen’s speed.

The grand elders, the twenty-eight Demon Generals, the seven Demon Kings, and Jiang Wushang all noticed Long Chen’s speed!

“Chen Feng is so fast! He’s indeed at the Ninth Passage Stage! I think he will manage to grab two Flame Pearls!”

“The others at the Eighth Passage Stage are strong too!”

The crowd discussed amongst themselves.

The members of the Clear Shallows Pavilion were focused on Long Chen and Liu Yiyi. Liu Yiyi’s performance was good; she was within the top three in terms of speed amongst those at the Seventh Passage Stage. But Long Chen was monstrous—his speed was close to Chen Feng’s!

How did Jiang Cheng achieve that speed without transforming?! Even the Clear Shallows King was shocked. But this was good news to her since it was almost certain that Long Chen would be able to secure a Flame Pearl.

Jiang Wushang noticed Long Chen and asked the grand elder beside him, “Who is that man? Is he from the Clear Shallows Pavilion?”

The grand elder was shocked too. “I only know that he’s from the Clear Shallows Pavilion. I do not know his name.”

“Go and check. Give me his name immediately!”

“Yes!”

At the same time, Chen Feng was laughing because he was already in front of a pillar. The others hadn’t even reached the halfway mark yet! Long Chen ran up a pillar and grabbed a Flame Pearl. The crowd admired and worshiped him.

“Chen Feng has obtained a Flame Pearl!” Demon General Typhoon was excited and riled up the crowd again.

The other disciples were only halfway to the pillars. All of them ran faster when they heard that Chen Feng had obtained a Flame Pearl.

No one dared to fight Chen Feng for his Flame Pearl. The people from the Azure Purgatory Pavilion cheered wildly.

But a surprise unfolded when they cheered. Long Chen ran up a pillar to grab a Flame Pearl of his own. The other disciples at the Seventh Passage Stage around him were also halfway to the pillar. They looked up and saw that the closest Flame Pearl was gone!

“Jiang ... Jiang Cheng got a Flame Pearl as well!” Demon General Typhoon was shocked to see someone almost as fast as Chen Feng, and surprisingly enough, it was someone he knew. He had seen how quickly Long Chen had grown, but he never thought Long Chen would catch up to Chen Feng!

Everyone shouted wildly too as they focused on Long Chen. Chen Feng’s glory vanished in an instant, and the disciples at the Eighth Passage Stage were also ignored.

This time, it was the Clear Shallow King’s turn to cheer.

She looked at the Red Ghost King and saw that he had stood up. “That brat is fast, but do you think he will be able to hold it until the end with just speed?”

The Clear Shallows King's haughty gaze angered him, but he thought Long Chen only had his speed going for him, so he consoled himself.

Jiang Cheng's name spread into everyone's ears.

Many of them had seen Long Chen back when he entered the Ancient Demon Domain. When they confirmed that it was the same person, everyone's excitement bubbled over. It was unheard of for someone to grow so fast in two months, from the First Passage Stage to the seventh!

What monstrous talent!

Even the Seven Demon Kings were shocked.

While they were shocked at Long Chen's talent, all of them were also looking at the Red Ghost King provokingly. They remembered how the Red Ghost King had abandoned Long Chen in the beginning, and now such a talented individual was the Clear Shallows King's disciple instead. They thought the Red Ghost King was blind.

The discussions and taunting looks made the Red Ghost King's face go green from anger. He really wanted to kill Long Chen.

But he couldn't do so here.

Jiang Wushang stared at Long Chen. He's called Jiang Cheng? The name is familiar, and he has the same surname as us. Is he from our family? He is much more talented than me if he got to this point from the First Passage Stage in just two months. But why hasn't he reached the Three Martial Realms yet with his talent? Did he start cultivating too late in life?

Chapter 518 - Amazing Everyone

Long Chen knew that he had become the focus of everyone's attention when he heard resounding cheers coming from everywhere. He had amazed everyone with just his speed.

But that was not enough. It took him five breaths to do this, and there were fifteen breaths left. The others were already reaching him and the pillars.

"Jiang Cheng is fast, but he doesn't have a lot of combat strength!" No one knew who shouted that. Many of the contestants were running towards the other Flame Pearls, but some of them heard the shout. They knew that Long Chen had taken one of the Flame Pearls, so they focused on him instead!

Almost all sixty contestants were close to the twelve pillars now. It was time for the most exciting part of the stage! Numerous battles started in the small arena. Not too long after Long Chen obtained his Flame Pearl, the Eighth Passage Stage disciples grabbed theirs!

Even those at the Eighth Passage Stage would have a hard time fighting against several people at the Seventh Passage Stage, much less someone at the Seventh Passage Stage. Many who obtained their Flame Pearls immediately ran to the borders of the arena. There were fewer people there, so it would be easier for them to defend themselves for the remaining time.

Long Chen did not run away after getting his Flame Pearl. Instead, he looked for Liu Yiyi and saw that she was not far away. She was fighting two other contestants at the Seventh Passage Stage. Because she was surrounded, she had to use the Demonic Illusion.

Long Chen knew that the two contestants were on the same team. They wanted to distract Liu Yiyi while the other would take the Flame Pearl closest to them. But because Liu Yiyi had the Demonic Illusion, the two of them had no choice but to fight her at the same time.

That meant the three of them had lost their chance to grab the Flame Pearl safely, and the other contestants saw the Flame Pearl sitting at the top of the pillar. Five others ran to where they were.

Liu Yiyi was horrified. She had almost gotten the Flame Pearl thanks to her Demonic Illusion, but two people had suddenly blocked her.

Both of them were from the Red Ghost Pavilion!

“Liu Yiyi, if we can’t have it, you won’t get it either! You are our senior brother’s woman! We can’t let you get a Flame Pearl!” The two of them abandoned any thoughts of getting the Flame Pearl and instead focused on dragging Liu Yiyi down. They didn’t mind if others took it.

Five contestants rushed towards the Flame Pearl and fought vehemently.

Several others approached Long Chen after hearing that he could not fight well. Long Chen didn’t even bother fighting them. He used the elementary Heaven-tier Traceless Demon Shadow and disappeared the moment the others were confused by his footwork.

“Impossible! I can’t even keep up with my intermediate Heaven-tier Body Combat technique! How did he use Traceless Demon Shadow so well?!”

The ones who wanted to fight Long Chen were speechless.

Twenty breaths was a short time, so everyone’s chances were slim. Those who chased after Long Chen and failed to get his Flame Pearl didn’t have time to run to another person anymore.

Long Chen was in the limelight right now. His every movement was even more dazzling than Chen Feng’s. Long Chen escaped the encirclement of the Seventh Passage Stage disciples and ran towards where Liu Yiyi was.

“Hah!”

Long Chen’s body was no weaker than Demon General Strongman’s. Someone tried to block him, but a single punch was enough to send that Seventh Passage Stage disciple flying. He then sent two more disciples flying with just his physical strength.

“His punches are strong!”

Some of the grand elders stood up in shock. One of them with a burly body shouted, “My eyes are not deceiving me! He has cultivated the True Martial Demon Body! I’ve cultivated it for twenty years, so I’m certain!”

An expert like the grand elder who had cultivated the True Martial Demon Body was naturally very credible. Everyone was shocked by that. Jiang Wushang was also shocked. “Didn’t you say he was only here for two months? Did he manage to cultivate it in that time frame?”

“Prince Wushang, I’m shocked too. It’s impossible, but I really think that it’s the True Martial Demon Body!” The grand elder couldn’t believe his eyes either.

Long Chen sent the remaining disciples flying with his fist and grabbed the Flame Pearl. He then ran towards the two disciples who were surrounding Liu Yiyi. When he arrived, he sent one flying and punched the other one on the nose.

I never thought that the fist art that I used to cultivate the True Martial Demon Body would be so useful in combat! It's no weaker than an intermediate Heaven-tier martial technique, and the fist technique can be chained infinitely!

Long Chen was pleasantly surprised.

With his help, Liu Yiyi was finally free from being attacked. She stopped and looked at Long Chen in a daze. She was deeply attracted by his dashing figure after seeing how he had saved her.

"Why are you standing around like that? Let's go!" Long Chen stuffed one of the Flame Pearls into her hand and pulled her towards the border of the arena. There was chaos everywhere as no one knew who had Flame Pearls. Many knew Long Chen had two, but they also understood that those at the Seventh Passage Stage would be sent flying by him!

Long Chen and Liu Yiyi soon reached the border of the arena. Long Chen shielded her and stared at the several Seventh Passage Stage disciples running towards him. He charged into the crowd and created a blur of violence. In just two breaths, three Seventh Passage Stage cultivators were lying on the ground in pain.

"He's so strong! To think that he has cultivated the True Martial Demon Body to the point that he can use the fist art in combat!" The grand elder sighed in awe.

"Does that mean Jiang Cheng is a genius unlike any we've ever seen? It seems that the Ancient Demon Domain is a very lucky place. We need to take care of such a genius and let him become a pillar of the Ancient Demon Domain." Jiang Wushang laughed happily.

Just then, the Demon General Typhoon's voice rang out. "Twenty breaths is up! Everyone, stop!"

Everyone stopped immediately.

Under his orders, everyone stopped their attacks. Those who were not holding a Flame Pearl were eliminated.

"Those who don't have a Flame Pearl, please leave the arena!"

Demon General Typhoon then ushered those who had been eliminated to get out of the arena. The three other representatives of the Clear Shallows Pavilion were sent out too. They walked past Long Chen, and the oldest disciple looked at him with gratitude. They had seen his stellar performance. "Jiang Cheng, I have to admit that I respect you. From today onwards, you are our eldest disciple!"

They then walked away from the arena.

Liu Yiyi held onto the Flame Pearl in her hand. If it wasn't for Long Chen, she wouldn't be standing here today. She knew that her mother would be very happy with the results.

The twelve remaining contestants were revealed once the others had gone down the arena. Except for Chen Feng, there were five Eighth Passage Stage disciples. Chen Feng had two Flame Pearls, and he had given one of them to another disciple from the Azure Purgatory Pavilion. The other Flame Pearls were obtained by Seventh Passage Stage disciples from the other pavilions. Some obtained theirs through luck while others secured them with their strength.

Of the twelve contestants, there was one Ninth Passage Stage disciple, five Eighth Passage Stage disciples, and six Seventh Passage Stage disciples. Only two pavilions had a single disciple getting into the next stage. One of the pavilions was none other than the Red Ghost Pavilion.

The Red Ghost King's nose became crooked from anger.

This was an embarrassment to him. The Clear Shallows Pavilion's performance far exceeded his. If this went on, his pavilion's ranking would drop below the Clear Shallows Pavilion's! That meant he would have to kneel and apologize to the Clear Shallows King.

How could he do that?!

The Red Ghost King was originally very confident, but Long Chen had screwed everything up. Long Chen alone had secured two spots for the Clear Shallows Pavilion to advance into the next stage. This was an incredible feat, and Long Chen's performance far exceeded that of Chen Feng.

The Red Ghost King was once again haunted by guilt and regret for abandoning Long Chen and giving him to the Clear Shallow King ...

He felt like he had been slapped in public.

"Red Ghost, are you prepared to kneel down?" The Clear Shallows King's voice entered the Red Ghost King's ears. He didn't even look at her, because he knew she would taunt him to no end. His face burned red from his anger.

Long Chen was undoubtedly the most dazzling of the twelve contestants.

Chen Feng had actually done a great job in getting two Flame Pearls, but Long Chen had done the same thing while being two stages lower than him.

Which was why Long Chen was getting all of the people's attention.

Demon General Typhoon descended in front of the twelve disciples.

"Congratulations! Let me announce the rules of the second stage!"

Chapter 519 - Royal Crystal

"The second stage is simple," Demon General Typhoon said slowly. His gaze swept past everyone and eventually stopped on Long Chen. He had witnessed Long Chen's growth and felt much more friendly towards him.

Of course, many others were also looking at Long Chen as the dark horse of the assessment.

He was the dark horse last time, but it had barely been more than a month since he revealed his dazzling strength. Who wouldn't focus their attention on him after such a massive improvement? Everyone thought Long Chen's talent had been exhausted and he wouldn't grow anymore, but they were surprised!

The Red Ghost King was the one who had lost them most. Because of his mistake, he was now at risk of having to apologize to the Clear Shallows King if he lost.

The Red Ghost King was currently scolding his disciples harshly, and everyone else chuckled at his misfortune.

Demon General Typhoon's voice rang out and everyone snapped out of it.

“The second stage will be the usual, an elimination match! There are twelve of you, so you will be separated into six pairs. The first half of this stage will involve you fighting your pair to determine the top six. The winners will then be separated into three pairs to determine the top three. As for the top three, the champion will be decided with a melee! The three will fight each other and the last man standing will become the champion! The one who falls first will take third place and so on! These are the rules. Are we clear?”

“Yes!” Long Chen and the others replied.

The rules were simple, but the melee at the final stage was the highlight. It would be the hardest yet the simplest stage because the third person would benefit from the fight between the other two. Not only did one's strength matter, but also their wits and experience. It was a test for the truly strong to stand at the peak!

“Good!” Demon General Typhoon smiled and looked at the crowd. “Of course, the second stage will be a much more brutal fight, but the rewards are equally good! Those in the top six will get five hundred thousand Heavenly Passage Pills, while the one in third place will get a million! Second place will get three million Heavenly Passage Pills!”

The rewards were indeed extremely good. A million Heavenly Passage Pills was usually the entire net worth of someone at the Ninth Passage Stage. Second place could even get three million! Someone at the Eighth Passage Stage would be considered wealthy the moment they obtained it. They wouldn't need to worry about advancing into the Ninth Passage Stage, and they could even use it as currency!

But the champion's rewards would be even better!

Demon General Typhoon smiled. “As for the champion, not only will they get the Emperor Flame Pearl, they will also get a single royal crystal!”

Everyone exclaimed in surprise when they heard that.

“A royal crystal! What an incredible prize! Normally, the champion only gets five million Heavenly Passage Pills!”

“A royal crystal is equivalent to ten million Heavenly Passage Pills! In fact, you might not be able to get one even if you have the pills! To think that someone who hasn't reached the Three Martial Realms would get a royal crystal! Today's champion is definitely going to earn a fortune!”

“I wonder who will win? Chen Feng? Liu Dongtian? Ying Shaotian? Or maybe Jiang Cheng?”

“I don’t think Jiang Cheng will win since he’s only at the Seventh Passage Stage. Ying Shaotian and the others will probably get second place. The champion will undoubtedly be Chen Feng! He’s at the Ninth Passage Stage and is already considered a grand elder. His combat strength must be incredible!”

“That’s true!”

Everyone shared the same thought.

Royal crystal? Long Chen was very interested. He wanted to see what item would be worth ten million Heavenly Passage Pills. Royal crystals, emperor crystals, and divine crystals were all important items for those cultivating at the Three Martial Realms. He assumed that they were similar to spirit jades and divine jades but with better quality.

Within the royal crystal is a sliver of Martial Essence, something that’s instrumental for those at the Three Martial Realms ... Long Chen was still unclear as to how the cultivation at the Three Martial Realms would go. He decided to find an expert to explain it after getting the Emperor Flame Orb and reaching the Ninth Passage Stage.

After announcing the rules, Demon General Typhoon asked them to step forward to draw lots. The twelve disciples had to be separated into six groups and naturally, there were gaps between their strengths. Those who had to fight Chen Feng were destined to lose. Long Chen only needed to fight against someone at the Seventh Passage Stage and he would be destined to win.

Long Chen’s performance in the first stage was amazing, but if that was all he had to show, then his strength was lacking compared to the others. In fact, because he was only at the Seventh Passage Stage, the others didn’t really take him as a threat. The Red Ghost Pavilion still had a chance to win against the Clear Shallows Pavilion because they had someone like Ying Shaotian, who would probably squeeze into the top three spots.

When they were drawing lots, Ying Shaotian walked past and glared at both Long Chen and Liu Yiyi. “I hope you don’t have to fight me, or I will make sure you have a bad time!”

He was clearly directing that at Long Chen.

Long Chen had stolen everyone’s attention during the first stage, leaving Ying Shaotian burning with envy.

He then went and drew his lot. The next person was Chen Feng, who hated Long Chen for stealing his limelight. He thought this would be a great chance to showcase his skills, but Long Chen had stolen everyone’s attention.

“If Ying Shaotian doesn’t beat you down, I will. I hope you don’t get matched against the two of us, or we will make sure you won’t be able to walk down the arena.” Chen Feng chuckled and grabbed his number.

Liu Yiyi looked at Long Chen with worry. “They want to hurt you. What are you going to do?”

Long Chen smiled when he saw her worried face. “Do you not trust me? I can handle them. We don’t know who the victor will be until we fight ...”

He wasn’t worried, but Liu Yiyi was.

“Focus on your fight and win for your mother. Don’t worry about me,” Long Chen whispered to her.

“I understand.” Liu Yiyi nodded and drew her lot. Long Chen did the same. His number was seven, and Liu Yiyi was ten.

Now that everyone had their numbers, Demon General Typhoon smiled. “This is easy. Numbers one and two will remain on the stage and the others will go down for now. Once they are done, I will call for the third and fourth person to come up to the stage. Also, you are not allowed to trade numbers with each other!”

Long Chen and the others got off the stage.

He and Liu Yiyi stood together while the others stood with their own groups. There were some who stood alone. Everyone was watching the contestants, so none of them dared to change their numbers.

The first and second person were both at the Eighth Passage Stage. This was normal since they had drawn their lots randomly, but unfortunately, one of them would have to lose today even though both of them would have entered the top six if they had been a bit luckier.

Long Chen didn’t know the numbers of the other contestants except for Liu Yiyi. Many of them didn’t know who had what number, so everyone was nervous.

The battle soon started and the two disciples at the Eighth Passage Stage clashed. They were similar in strength, and everyone cheered at how exciting the battle was. Both contestants were the eldest disciples of their respective pavilions, so they refused to lose!

Everyone was pleasantly surprised by how entertaining the first battle was.

It was as if two pavilions were fighting against each other, so the disciples shouted and hollered.

Half an hour later, the battle finally ended. One of them came out victorious, but he had to pay a steep price. He was immediately ushered to get treatment because he had to fight again soon.

The one who got defeated was naturally treated too, but his treatment was much simpler.

Everyone was excited to see who would go up next.

Two people moved amidst the remaining ten, and everyone was stupefied. It was a fight involving two Seventh Passage Stage disciples! There were six Seventh Passage Stage disciples including Long Chen and Liu Yiyi, but to think two of them had to fight each other.

This was unfortunately a random chance thanks to the lots, so nothing could be done about it.

“Two Seventh Passage Stage disciples? I wonder what will happen for the next few pairings?” Demon General Typhoon smiled and started the match.

No one knew who they were going to fight, so everyone was excited to see who would go up on stage. Long Chen did a rough calculation and ascertained that there were tens of fights before the

second stage would conclude. Those who managed to endure until the final challenge were undoubtedly very strong.

The two contestants fought vehemently. One of them belonged to the Azure Purgatory Pavilion, the same pavilion as Chen Feng. His Flame Pearl had been given to him by Chen Feng, but his strength was not amazing. In just fifteen minutes, he was defeated by the other contestant.

Chen Feng scowled.

“Next! Contestants number five and six!” Demon General Typhoon announced.

Chapter 520 - Incredible Battle

Who were the fifth and sixth contestants?

Demon General Typhoon has just finished announcing when someone jumped onto the arena. Everyone saw that it was none other than Ying Shaotian. Before Chen Feng advanced into the Ninth Passage Stage, Ying Shaotian was considered the strongest disciple. Now he was in second place.

Since the Red Ghost King had always lived a high-profile life, Ying Shaotian’s appearance garnered everyone’s attention.

“Who’s number six?” Ying Shaotian asked, looking at Long Chen. He had hoped that Long Chen would be number six. Unfortunately, he was number seven, or Long Chen would’ve run up and pummeled Ying Shaotian.

Since both Liu Yiyi and I have secured a spot, the Clear Shallows Pavilion’s ranking will be higher than the Red Ghost Pavilion’s as long as I beat Ying Shaotian! Liu Yiyi won’t have to marry Ying Shaotian!

Long Chen had made a promise to the Clear Shallows King and he will achieve it no matter what!

So who was the sixth contestant?

Everyone was shocked to see who it was. To think that it was another disciple at the Eighth Passage Stage! The lots had been too coincidental. The crowd was already brimming with excitement from the previous fight, and now they would be able to spectate another fight between disciples at the same cultivation level.

“What’s happening? That means two disciples at the Eighth Passage Stage will be eliminated! Doesn’t that mean two disciples at the Seventh Passage Stage will be able to enter the top six? Isn’t this illegal?”

“How is it illegal? Luck plays a large part. When it comes to drawing lots, everything depends on luck. Plus, who cares about being in the top six? Everyone wants to reach the top three. Even though they will enter the top six due to luck, will they be able to advance into the top three with luck alone?”

Everyone started chattering and discussing.

The Red Ghost King frowned when Ying Shaotian didn't get paired with Long Chen. If Ying Shaotian lost here, the Red Ghost King would definitely have to kneel and apologize even if both Liu Yiyi and Long Chen didn't enter the final six.

Just then, an old man who was around the same age as the Red Ghost King commented, "Red Ghost King, who do you think is better, Liu Dongtian or your disciple Ying Shaotian?"

The Red Ghost King didn't even hesitate to answer, "Of course Ying Shaotian is better!"

"Is that so? Then I hope Ying Shaotian fights hard, or you will have to kneel down in front of a woman. You would become the laughingstock of the Ancient Demon Domain if that happened, hahaha!" The old man laughed without care.

"Void Flare King, don't you dare laugh at my misfortune!" The Red Ghost King's mustache curled up from anger.

Ying Shaotian and Liu Dongtian started their fight. Ying Shaotian was going to be his opponent in the end, so Long Chen observed closely.

Ying Shaotian was indeed strong. He used the Wind Riding Sword Finger the moment the battle started, but Liu Dongtian was no pushover. His techniques clashed with Ying Shaotian's repeatedly. They were almost evenly matched.

Both of them were stronger than regular Eighth Passage Stage cultivators, so their battle was intense. They sprinted across the arena and launched attacks one after another while defending against their opponent's attacks flawlessly. Their battle was nothing short of incredible.

The crowd strained their necks from trying to spectate the battle. None of them wished to miss even a single detail.

Half an hour later, the two of them were tired. At the final moment, Ying Shaotian endured and knocked his opponent off the arena to take the victory. He didn't forget to taunt Long Chen before collapsing on the arena himself.

"Shaotian!" The Red Ghost King ran down to the arena and took his disciple for treatment. Thankfully, there was some time before his next fight, enough for Ying Shaotian to recover.

Ying Shaotian had successfully entered the top six. If Long Chen and Liu Yiyi both failed to advance, the Clear Shallows Pavilion's placement would become lower than the Red Ghost Pavilion's. In that case, Liu Yiyi would have to marry Ying Shaotian.

After Ying Shaotian was transported away from the arena, Demon General Typhoon announced the fourth fight. Long Chen was number seven, so he went up to the arena. He wasn't sure who his opponent would be.

Chen Feng's face fell when he saw Long Chen walking up. It was clear that he wasn't paired with Long Chen.

"It's Jiang Cheng! He can easily defeat someone at the Seventh Passage Stage. As long as he gets paired with one, he will definitely win! But there's one person at the

Eighth Passage Stage and another at the Ninth Passage Stage amongst the remaining five ...”

“Then whether he can advance into the next half of the stage or not will depend on luck.”

“Yeah. Luck alone won’t get you into the top three, not to mention first place!”

Everyone was discussing and chatting when Long Chen entered the arena. He knew that his luck was good because one of the other Seventh Passage Stage disciples was approaching.

“Red City Pavilion, Yan Cheng!”

“Clear Shallows Pavilion, Jiang Cheng!”

Long Chen was cordial to the opponent since the other party was respectful to him. Both of them introduced themselves and started the fight the moment the signal came from Demon General Typhoon.

Someone at the Seventh Passage Stage would never be Long Chen’s opponent. As the others had expected, the disciple was defeated in just a few breaths. Long Chen didn’t hurt the disciple, so Yan Cheng was grateful for that.

“Thank you for your mercy. I, Yan Cheng, admit defeat!”

Afterwards, Yan Cheng returned to where the Red City Pavilion was stationed. He was not at all resentful about losing to Long Chen.

Even the Red Ghost King was frowning at Long Chen’s luck. The previous disciples had all fought tooth and nail against each other, but Long Chen had won with ease. The Clear Shallows King laughed happily.

“What are you happy about? Luck might be important, but you can’t win without strength. Do you think you will be the one to have the final laugh? Shaotian will definitely enter the top three. As long as he enters the top three spots, the Red Ghost Pavilion will be above yours!” Red Ghost King grunted.

But he had spoken so quietly that no one heard him.

Long Chen left the arena after the fight.

“Yiyi, if you are matched with Chen Feng, just admit defeat. But if you are matched against the Eighth Passage Stage cultivator, you can try your best. You can always admit defeat if you can’t win. But if you get paired with the Seventh Passage Stage disciple ... I will have to congratulate you,” Long Chen informed Liu Yiyi.

She nodded. “I understand.”

She felt her heart flutter from his sweetness. She knew he was looking out for her.

Demon General Typhoon announced the start of the fifth battle. The ninth contestant was a nervous-looking disciple. He stared at Chen Feng and the others in anticipation.

Both Long Chen and the Clear Shallows King smiled. Not only was Long Chen lucky, Liu Yiyi was too. She was paired against the Seventh Passage Stage disciple.

“How could this be? I can’t believe how coincidental the pairings are! They are all fighting against someone on their own level!”

“This is unfair! How did they do it?”

“It must be a scam!”

Because of the lots, three of the Eighth Passage Stage cultivators were destined to lose. They had the strength to enter the top six spots, but they had lost due to luck. The people from the losers’ pavilions were grumbling because their ranking would drop once their oldest disciples lost.

Their shouts got louder, especially after Liu Yiyi entered the stage. That meant the final Eighth Passage Stage disciple would have to fight against Chen Feng! That was certain defeat for that poor disciple. He had wanted to attain glory for his pavilion, but now he was destined to lose.

Even Demon General Typhoon was feeling helpless.

“Quiet!” Jiang Wushang stood up and scolded them. His voice generated a shockwave that shook everyone’s brains. Everyone became quiet and stared at Jiang Wushang.

“We are the Ancient Demon Domain, one of the strongest entities of the Divine Martial Empire. The assessment is naturally fair. Don’t you think you are embarrassing the Ancient Demon Domain by complaining here? Luck plays an integral role since we decided to do it through drawing lots! Luck is important because you can die if you’re unlucky! If you are not content with the results, come talk to me directly! Don’t disrupt the assessment! Typhoon, start the fight!”

Jiang Wushang’s voice was very loud, so everyone heard him clearly. They remained quiet and said nothing.

They just wanted to express their discontent since it was impossible to cheat at drawing lots. Everything that had happened today had been purely coincidental.

No one complained again after Jiang Wushang said that.

He was right. In combat, those who were unlucky would die.

Jiang Wushang was the son of the Demon Emperor, meaning he had access to resources unthinkable to most people. Wasn’t that luck too?

After that little interruption, Liu Yiyi started her fight. She was considered the strongest Seventh Passage Stage disciple because of her King-tier martial techniques. Normally, not even those at the Eighth Passage Stage had one. Her opponent soon crumbled under her Demonic Illusion.

The final six spots had been decided swiftly.