

## War God 531

### Chapter 531 - Traitor

Dragon clan.

When Long Chen heard the name, he was puzzled. He had never heard of them before, and he did not know anyone else related to dragons. Since they called themselves the Dragon clan, were they related to dragons?

This was also the assumption of the members of the Ancient Demon Domain. Why would they be in the fourth layer of the Demon World?

Long Chen had already lost hope, certain these were his final moments, but he sensed a possible opportunity with this sudden twist. He started to study the six people in detail.

He could confirm that they were all at the Earthly Martial Realm, though he did not know the specific tiers. Based on the calm demeanor they displayed in front of the Demon Emperor, they were at least as strong as the Ancient Demon Domain.

After Demon Emperor Jiang Wuxie spoke, one of the six stepped forward. This man was about forty years old, but his youthful features made him look like he was thirty. He had a head full of long, black hair that fell like a waterfall, a slender figure, and clear features. He gave Long Chen the same feeling as Dongfang Xuanxiao—a very charismatic middle-aged man.

However, this guy was much stronger.

Long Chen noticed that the man in black clothing had features very similar to Jiang Wushang, and Jiang Wucheng too. Based on his age, he was likely related to the Demon Emperor, though Long Chen could not see the Demon Emperor's features underneath his cloak. However, since he was Jiang Wushang's father, then his features were probably similar.

All of this meant that the middle-aged man with a sorrowful expression was closely related to the Demon Emperor.

He stepped forward and said to the Demon Emperor, "Big Brother, how have you been?"

"You traitor of the Ancient Demon Domain! What right do you have to call me 'Big Brother?'" The Demon Emperor snickered coldly.

The man did not react to Jiang Wuxie's cold treatment and stepped back. Jiang Wuxie looked at the six people and said, "Tell me why you are here. The Seven Layered Demon World of the Ancient Demon Domain is not a place you can enter on a whim!"

"What are you yapping about? There's nothing special about this place! I'll tell you! We came to steal! We've already searched your whole treasury in the sixth layer!" said a pretty girl, who was wearing blue clothing.

The girl looked like she was only a little bit older than Long Chen, but in reality, she was at least five or six years older. She had a seductive look, and every movement she made could ignite the

feelings of an onlooker. Her snow-white skin, playful gaze, and bright-red lips attracted all the male disciples' attention.

She was definitely as pretty as Liu Yiyi, though she was many times more seductive.

However, Long Chen was more focused on her cultivation level. She was clearly just a little older than Jiang Wushang, but she was already an Earthly Martial Realm master. She had to be a super prodigy of the younger generation in the Divine Martial Empire!

“You came here to steal?” The Demon Emperor's tone changed and his voice turned ten times colder. There was now a hint of killing intent in his glare.

“Dragon clan, do you plan to go to war with the Ancient Demon Domain?”

The Demon Emperor was far stronger than the Demon Kings. As he spoke, he slowly raised his arms, and power condensed in his hands. The Demon Kings' gazes turned sharp too; they were prepared to fight.

If the six of them had taken something that belonged to the Ancient Demon Domain, the Demon Emperor would never let them leave.

Long Chen looked at a lady in the middle, because he sensed that she was definitely as strong as the Demon Emperor. Due to her presence, the six of them were not afraid of the Demon Emperor at all.

Long Chen could tell that the true leader of the six was not the Demon Emperor's younger brother, not the young lady in blue, but the lady in the middle.

He confirmed it from her getup. She was petite and covered in tight, black armor. Like the Demon Emperor, she was covered in a mist that made it difficult to see her features. Based on her exposed fingers, which were fair and slender, she definitely looked decent.

The more he looked at her, the more he felt like she was similar to the Demon Emperor.

More importantly, Long Chen sensed a familiar aura from her body. He felt as if he had met a sibling, and a startling thought popped into his head.

*Dragon Warrior?* Long Chen was shocked to discover that there was dragon blood aura coming from her body.

There was another Dragon Warrior in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory?

Weren't Dragon Warriors gone? Now there were two of them in the tiny Divine Martial Empire!

Long Chen remembered that Wang Chao had said that his older brother had become a Dragon Warrior, which had been earth-shattering news. That was why he believed that Dragon Warriors were mysterious and powerful. But now there was another one?

“Hey, idiot, she's not a Dragon Warrior. More specifically, one of her ancestors was one, which is why a minute trace of dragon blood remains in her bloodline. She was able to dig it out and put it to use, thereby unleashing the huge power of the dragon blood!” Little Cat explained from the Primordial Dragon Realm.

Long Chen had just survived an intense battle while the cat had been hiding like a tortoise instead of helping him. Now that beautiful women had made an appearance, he had immediately made his presence known.

Long Chen calmed down after hearing Little Cat's explanation. The lady could be considered a descendant of a Dragon Warrior, then. However, even though she was only a descendant, she could utilize more of the dragon blood's power than Long Chen.

The lady covered in black armor gently said, "I'll tell the truth. We are here to look for the Black Emperor Seal. The stuff in the sixth layer isn't good enough for us anyway."

The Demon Emperor's face changed. He knew that this lady was trustworthy. If she said they hadn't touched anything, then it was the truth.

"Black Emperor Seal? Who knows where that is? I want to know too. But do you think the Ancient Demon Domain is a place you can go in and out of as you please?"

The spirited girl in blue replied, "Of course! We initially wanted to leave because we didn't find it, but coincidentally, you were blocking the exit and slowed us down. If you weren't in our way, you would've had no idea we were here!"

The Demon Emperor's face darkened, and he confirmed that they had not taken anything. On the one hand, it would be bad for the Ancient Demon Domain's reputation if people heard that he let them go just like that. On the other hand, the main powers of the Ancient Demon Domain were here. If he chose to fight and they were lucky enough to kill the six of them, the Ancient Demon Domain would suffer heavy losses.

The Dragon clan may be the Martial Alliance's enemy, but they are not the Ancient Demon Domain's enemy. The Martial Alliance may be after them, but all the Ancient Demon Domain actually needs to do is pretend to make some noise and it will do. It won't do us any good if we fight, and I don't think we should put any effort into this ...

The Demon Emperor's mind raced.

The six members of the Dragon clan were also waiting for an answer. Their attitude was simple—since they were already here, they would fight if needed, but they were also fine with not fighting. They had always been straightforward like this; there was nothing to be scared of.

The Ancient Demon Domain had suffered enough losses today. Most people trembled when they heard the name of the Dragon clan, so Jiang Wuxie chose to let them go. However, he had to save some face, so he said coldly, "You want me to let you go? I can do that; I will just say were my guests. But how can I allow you to leave without paying a price? Send me one person. If that person can withstand one punch from me, I will let you go."

"Is that some kind of joke? You can't even stop us. We can just go if we want to! Why would we take a punch from you?" The girl in blue laughed.

She was the youngest out of the six, and likely also the weakest, but she was also the most talkative. When she finished, the man in black, who looked like he belonged to the Jiang bloodline, pulled her back and stepped forward. "Thank you, Big Brother! I was the one who brought them into the Ancient Demon Domain. I will take the punch!"

“Wuya, let me do it,” said the leading lady with Dragon Warrior blood. She was the only one who was equal to the Demon Emperor.

“I’ll do it.” The man in black, named Jiang Wuya, shook his head. He looked like the oldest out of the six of them and seemed to be the second strongest.

Seeing as he was insistent, the lady did not speak again. Her dark eyes were as tranquil as a quiet lake. She stared at Jiang Wuya for a while, and the look in her eyes remained unchanged.

When the Demon Emperor saw that Jiang Wuya had stepped forward, there was a flash of anger in his eyes. “I knew you’d be the one to step forward, you traitor!”

“Big Brother!” Jiang Wuya’s expression was also solemn. “Remember, the one I betrayed was not the Ancient Demon Domain, but the Martial Alliance! I know I am still a traitor, but I do not regret anything that I have done!”

“Including orbiting around that lady every day like a clown?” said Jiang Wuxie.

Jiang Wuya froze, then he bit his lip and said, “My business is none of your concern. Just do it!”

The Demon Emperor did not hold back at all. The moment Jiang Wuya finished speaking, he appeared right in front of him and threw a punch.

Long Chen was shocked!

He had been watching Jiang Wuxie’s attack closely. There were no frills to it, just a simple punch. He did not see any eruption of Qi, but this punch terrified Long Chen.

Not much Qi leaked out of his punch; all his energy was concentrated in his fist. Although it doesn’t look powerful, if he punched me, all my bones would’ve shattered many times over. Is this why it’s called the ‘Martial’ Realm?

Chapter 532 – Past Affairs

Long Chen quickly looked towards Jiang Wuya to see the result of the punch. To his amazement, Jiang Wuya had not defended himself at all, letting the Demon Emperor’s punch blast him into the air!

Blood sprayed out of his mouth.

Mid-air, the leading lady caught Jiang Wuya. His face was pale and his chest was sunken in, though Long Chen observed that it was puffing back up at a speed visible to the naked eye.

It had to be some Life Combat Technique.

“You didn’t defend yourself? It’s your fault, then.” The Demon Emperor had no idea that the other party wouldn’t defend himself at all.

Jiang Wuya coughed up some blood clots. A few moments later, he managed to get out of the lady’s arms and stand mid-air, proving that his body had a shocking regenerative ability. He looked at the Demon Emperor and said, “Brother, after that punch, I no longer have any connection to the Ancient Demon Domain. This place has never given me anything. If we meet again in the future, I will not hold back then.”

“Big declarations like that should wait until you have reached the Third Earthly Martial Stage. If I had not held back, would you still be alive?” asked the Demon Emperor.

“Let’s go,” the lady commanded before Jiang Wuya could come up with a reply. What had happened was Jiang Wuya’s own choice. Although the other five wanted to stop him, it was useless to speak when he was this stubborn.

Considering how powerful they were, if they really wanted to leave, the Demon Emperor could not stop them. However, they had given the Demon Emperor some face because Jiang Wuya was once part of the Ancient Demon Domain.

Under the trembling gazes of the crowd, the six members of the Dragon clan started moving towards the exit. Halfway, Jiang Wuya suddenly halted and turned around to look at the Clear Shallows King, who was tearing up.

When he saw the look in the Clear Shallows King’s eyes, his chest tightened. The other five also stopped when he did and looked at him with concern. The girl in blue asked, “Second Brother, what’s the matter?”

“Wait for me. I need to chat with an old friend.” Then Jiang Wuya went towards the Clear Shallows King. Everyone around the Clear Shallows King backed away in fear when they saw him approaching. Only Liu Yiyi remained, though she was puzzled. She held the Clear Shallows King’s arm and hid behind her back, eyeing this strange but familiar man timidly.

“Clear Shallows, it’s been over ten years since we last saw each other, hasn’t it? I’ve come to the Ancient Demon Domain a few times since, but I never saw you. Have you been well?” Jiang Wuya was a little reserved.

“I’ve been very well.” The Clear Shallows King hurriedly wiped her tears and gave a faint smile.

Jiang Wuya sighed in relief and said, “Our identities have changed. Old friends like us can’t meet anymore. I heard you had a daughter; I’m guessing it’s her. She’s ...”

When Jiang Wuya finally gave Liu Yiyi a good look, he froze. The feeling of bloodlines connecting suddenly overwhelmed him.

His face made Jiang Wuxie and the others give a knowing smirk.

“Yes, she’s my daughter.” The Clear Shallows King quickly pulled Liu Yiyi behind her. Pain flashed in her eyes, but soon, she buried it and looked at him bravely.

Shock crashed through Jiang Wuya’s heart. When he finally stabilized his emotions after great difficulty, the Clear Shallows King said coldly, “Wuya, since you decided to betray us, you should leave as soon as possible. This is no place for you. We haven’t been friends for a long time. You should leave.”

“What is her name ...” asked Jiang Wuya, as if talking in his sleep.

“I am Liu Yiyi.” Liu Yiyi didn’t know how her mother was related to this man. Growing up, she had heard stories about this person. He used to be a prodigy in the Ancient Demon Domain, but after that, he killed countless Martial Alliance members for a woman and betrayed the Ancient Demon Domain. Thus, he became one of the top ten on the Bounty Board!

To her surprise, her mother seemed to be quite familiar with Jiang Wuya. At this moment, Liu Yiyi was mostly concerned about Long Chen. When the six of them appeared, she had imagined they would rescue Long Chen, but she was left disappointed because they had not given Long Chen even one look.

When the man spoke to her mother, Liu Yiyi knew this was her chance. Especially when he even asked for her name, she knew that he cared about her, so she quickly begged him, “Can ... Can I please ask you for something? Could you do me a favor? Please?”

The Clear Shallows King quickly said, “Yiyi, don’t trouble him.”

Jiang Wuya took a deep breath. His thoughts were a mess because he knew that this teenage girl was likely related to him. He recalled the dramatic love affair years ago and knew in his heart.

“What do you want? I will do it!” he said hurriedly.

“Save him. Take him away.” Hope had returned. Liu Yiyi pointed at Long Chen in panic, as if she had found a chance for him to live. She said with tears in her eyes, “Save him and take him away, I’m begging you ...”

Seeing her heartbroken gaze was a huge blow to Jiang Wuya. He looked at Long Chen. He knew what the young man had just done, and even he had thought about rescuing the young man. However, this would cause a huge conflict with the Ancient Demon Domain!

Therefore, he had decided to simply walk away!

But now this girl, who was very likely his daughter, had begged him so sincerely. How could he refuse?

Saving the teenager was going to be complicated. Jiang Wuya knew that it would bring great trouble.

He glanced at the Clear Shallows King and saw no objection in her eyes. Although she did not speak, Jiang Wuya knew that she hoped he saved Long Chen too. He made his decision in his heart.

“I’m sorry.”

After that, he went back to his gang in the blink of an eye. Liu Yiyi had spoken quite loudly, so almost all the masters present were watching to see what Jiang Wuya would do.

“You want to save him? It looks like you guys are certainly going to fight the Ancient Demon Domain today.” The Demon Emperor smirked.

When the other five members of the Dragon clan met Jiang Wuya's eyes, they saw the determination in them. The leading lady's eyes widened the most, but she very quickly stabilized her emotions.

Since the six of them had not left yet, it showed their decision.

"We must take this young man away," said the lady.

"Nonsense! He killed a Demon King of the Ancient Demon Domain and many grand elders! Even the king of the heavens will not be able to take him away!"

The harshness of the Demon Emperor's attitude was a huge problem to the six people. A few of their brows were deeply furrowed. But when Jiang Wuya glanced at Liu Yiyi again, the hopeful look in her eyes made him decide that he would do his best no matter what.

"Yue, are you confident?" Jiang Wuya asked in a low voice.

"I will try." The black-clothed lady took a few steps forward.

Long Chen was watching the whole process. He had not expected Liu Yiyi to be his last ray of hope. He knew that Liu Yiyi had always liked him very much, but he had no choice but to let her go because he never belonged to this place, and his life goal was to meet Ling Xi.

*Could that man named Jiang Wuya be Yiyi's father?* Long Chen came to this conclusion after observing their behavior. The tension in the air was thick; it was clear that they were ready to grab him immediately.

Long Chen did not want his fate to be in another person's hands at a moment like this.

I am severely injured, so I definitely cannot use Blood Warp. Although those people are as strong as the whole Ancient Demon Domain, I am very fragile right now. Even if they manage to get me, the Demon Emperor and the rest can kill me with a casual attack. I cannot just wait like this ...

The only thing I can use is the Primordial Dragon Talisman. This talisman has its own powers, so it is unrelated to my body's condition ...

Now's the time!

Long Chen started to move!

Both sides were still in a standoff; one side was thinking about how to save Long Chen, while the other side was playing defense. The Demon Emperor was ready to instruct a Demon King to lock Long Chen up. Previously, Long Chen was not able to run even though they were not holding him. It was different now. Since they wanted to save him, the Demon Emperor had to lock Long Chen up.

Long Chen suddenly sprinted towards the six!

His movement was the hairpin trigger!

The lady moved at the same time as the Demon Emperor!

Since the Demon Emperor was closer to Long Chen, he appeared next to him in a flash. The Demon Emperor watched the fast-approaching lady with a smirk and said, "You want to save him? Let's see how you'll save him when he's dead!"

He had been trying to come up with an appropriate way to kill Long Chen to make him pay for the losses, but since these masters wanted to save Long Chen, he obviously could not let them get away with him. Therefore, he had decided to kill Long Chen directly!

Killing Long Chen was a simple task for the Demon Emperor!

Another punch!

Sparks flew!

The Demon Emperor was closer to Long Chen, so he arrived first. Just because of this slight advantage, his fist hit Long Chen. It was a simple punch, but it was enough for Long Chen's life force to fade very quickly!

Now! Primordial Dragon Talisman, Rewind!

At the very last moment, Long Chen used Rewind!

Time flowed backwards and his body returned to the state it was in ten breaths ago!

The Demon Emperor had assumed that a casual punch would be enough to kill Long Chen. After he confirmed that Long Chen would die, he was about to laugh, but Long Chen merely tumbled once on the ground and looked exactly the same. Most bizarrely, he was somehow caught and guarded by the Dragon clan.

This was the most intense moment of Long Chen's life.

And he had succeeded.

Chapter 533 – Reborn

The crowd was momentarily stunned. The Demon Emperor was the one who had gotten to Long Chen first, so how had Long Chen survived?

They could only describe it as a supernatural phenomenon.

It was a very short moment, so the crowd hadn't seen exactly what had happened.

Even the Dragon clan did not know what had happened when they helped Long Chen up. They thought they had failed to save him, but they succeeded in the end. Somehow, Long Chen was theirs.

The whole area was silent.

The Demon Emperor was frozen in place.

After a while, the crowd had no choice but to believe that this was reality. Long Chen was saved. Now that he was with the six masters, even the Demon Emperor could not kill him.

When Liu Yiyi saw this, she smiled through her tears.

Long Chen looked at the teenage girl with a bitter smile, not knowing what to say. He had been on the brink of death, but he had survived because of her.

Although the six did not know why Long Chen hadn't been killed, they did not ask questions. They were still in the Ancient Demon Domain after all, and they needed to get out fast.



The most shocked and confused person was definitely the Demon Emperor. He had punched Long Chen, and he was confident in his own abilities. Long Chen's survival was out of his expectations, causing him to first feel shocked, then defeated.

"Do you really think you can take him away just like that? Do you guys think you can save someone the Ancient Demon Domain wants to kill?" asked the Demon Emperor, shaking his head.

"What do you mean by that? He's already in our hands, and you're still arguing about it?" asked the girl in blue.

Admittedly, this was a very complex issue, and the Demon Emperor was struggling to solve it. He frowned and pointed a finger in the direction of the Clear Shallows King and Liu Yiyi. He said mildly, "You guys are too naive. Do you think you can save him just like that? Clear Shallows King, Liu Yiyi, you two conspired with the enemy! This is a punishable act!"

Jiang Wuya had only decided to rescue Long Chen because of Liu Yiyi's words. Liu Yiyi and the Clear Shallows King were still members of the Ancient Demon Domain, so the Demon Emperor could hold them hostage in order to blackmail the Dragon clan. He was very sure that Jiang Wuya cared about their safety. Compared to them, Long Chen was nothing.

The Demon Emperor's eyes fell on Jiang Wuya. "Wuya, you choose! Either they die, or he dies!"

He had successfully struck Jiang Wuya's Achilles' heel.

Helplessness flashed in the Clear Shallows King's eyes as she said, "Yiyi, we have tried our best, so ..."

Liu Yiyi thought they had succeeded, but was it all for nothing?

Long Chen was the main character of the day, and he had escaped the Demon Emperor's claws, but he would have to go straight back into them. He would never let the Clear Shallows King and Liu Yiyi sacrifice themselves for him.

"You're the mighty Demon Emperor of the Ancient Demon Domain! And yet you are afraid of a puny figure like me, afraid enough to stoop to a lowly threat?" Long Chen broke free of the person supporting him and walked up to the front while he mocked the Demon Emperor.

His words were sharp, catching the Demon Emperor's Achilles' heel.

Long Chen had already escaped, but the Demon Emperor had used a lowly method to threaten him. If this got out, it would surely affect his reputation.

"When everyone learns that Demon Emperor Jiang Wuxie used two women to threaten a weak teenager, with one of the women being a Demon King of the Ancient Demon Domain, I wonder what other people will think!" Long Chen continued.

"What are you trying to say, you brat?" The Demon Emperor's brows were furrowed. He sensed that if news of today's events got out, it would indeed sound comical. As the clan leader, his reputation was very important. This would indeed affect him.

“Big Brother.” Jiang Wuya couldn’t take it anymore and looked at the Demon Emperor wistfully. “You’re aware of the relationship between me and Clear Shallows. Although we were not fated to be together, I can confidently tell you that if anything happens to her or Yiyi, I will never let the Ancient Demon Domain have a moment of peace for the rest of my life! The Dragon clan is united, and there is nothing in this world that we dare not do. That is all I have to say. This young man is leaving with us today!”

“Are you threatening me?” asked the Demon Emperor furiously.

“I’m not threatening you, I’m just telling you not to force me. I may have left this place by my own will, but I have never forgotten that this was once my home. I hope you won’t kick me out for real; if you do, don’t blame me for treating you like a stranger!” cried Jiang Wuya fiercely.

“You!” The Demon Emperor was so furious, he could not speak.

He knew his younger brother’s personality well—he was an insanely stubborn person. If he made a decision, he would follow through no matter the cost. The Demon Emperor knew that he would actually do as he said, but the problem was that Long Chen was filled with secrets. If the Ancient Demon Domain let him leave now, who could say he would not come back for revenge?

“I hope you listen to me. Goodbye!” After Jiang Wuya finished, he glanced at the Clear Shallows King one more time, clenched his jaw, grabbed Long Chen, and dashed into the pathway. The other five followed him. The fourth layer of the Demon World was finally quiet again.

No one dared to speak.

“Father, Second Uncle took a punch from you. Let this matter rest. I think Long Chen sustained severe foundational damage; he’s almost a cripple. Even if he lives, he will be useless. And what can trash do to the Ancient Demon Domain? You don’t have to worry anymore, Father,” said Jiang Wushang in an attempt to comfort his father.

He made sense.

“I’m going back to the palace. I’ll let you handle the rest,” said the Demon Emperor, resigned.

Jiang Wushang nodded and asked, “What do we do with the Clear Shallows Pavilion?”

The Demon Emperor leaned close to his ear and said, “Liu Yiyi is your cousin; what can we do? Can we do anything to someone with Jiang blood?”

Then the Demon Emperor disappeared.

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He was saved.

Long Chen felt like he had escaped the clutches of death.

This was the closest he had ever been to a dead end. All he could do was sigh at how lucky he had gotten to survive this ordeal.

But then again, he was very unlucky to have killed the Demon Emperor's son, even entering the Ancient Demon Domain afterwards ...

Everything was controlled by luck.

The third stage of Blood Sacrifice had caused far more damage than the other stages. Since Rewind could only bring him back to his condition from ten breaths ago, he was not able to recover this time. While he was in the Demon World, he was only forcibly holding on until he was finally saved. Afterwards, he suddenly felt weak throughout his whole body and he fainted before he could thank his saviors.

He did not know how long he had been unconscious.

Suddenly, he felt a warm current flowing into his body. He was not conscious enough to control the fluid, but it still flowed through his body in an orderly manner to slowly heal his internal injuries. It treated the injuries but was not able to heal foundational damage.

After the fluid appeared three times, Long Chen felt much better and slowly regained full consciousness. By the time he opened his eyes, he realized he was lying on a soft, grass mat.

He first saw the girl in the blue dress. While she had a seductive look, there was a hint of mischief and arrogance in her. Although her features conveyed temptation, the actual personality that shone through was filled with mischief.

Other than her, four people surrounded him. They were all male, and one of them was Jiang Wuya. The other three were between Jiang Wuya and the girl in blue's age, so they were in their twenties to thirties. On the path of cultivation, they were considered youths.

However, they possessed terrifying strength.

"Oh! Big Sister, he's finally awake," cried the girl in blue with joy and surprise. Then the other lady came up and Long Chen saw only her eyes, which were as deep as a lake.

She took a look and said, "Mmm. You've recovered thanks to the nourishment of the Life Spirit Essence Fluid, but there are still deeper injuries that require a large amount of spiritual herbs to fix."

Long Chen was suddenly moved by all the concerned looks. They had only just met, yet they cared so much. It was clear that the six of them were good people. He quickly sat up and said, "Thank you all for saving me. I ... I will never forget this!"

Although it had been Liu Yiyi's request, the fact that they had chosen to save him was a huge act of kindness to Long Chen.

Now that he was awake, the six of them looked at each other and the leading lady said, "Little Brother, why don't you introduce yourself? We're all very interested in you."

Her voice was low, and he could not tell what she was feeling.

"My name is Long Chen ..." Due to the name on the Bounty Board, Long Chen was hesitant to tell them his name.

“Long Chen?” The six of them were indeed surprised. The girl in blue cried in surprise, “What a coincidence! You have the same name as Sister Long Yue’s younger brother.”

Everyone looked at the lady.

Long Chen finally learned that this Dragon Warrior descendant’s name was Long Yue.

So the Long Chen on the Bounty Board is Long Yue’s younger brother?

Long Chen once heard Jiang Cheng say that the top three people on the Bounty Board were masters at the Earthly Martial Realm.

“It is a coincidence indeed.” Long Yue paused, then she said, “Long Chen, with that name, I guess you were fated to meet us. Since you’re awake now, we will officially ask you some questions. Don’t worry, we don’t want to trouble you, so everything is up to you.”

Long Chen froze. What did they want to ask?

Chapter 534 - Dragon Warrior Descendant

The others did not speak; they were all looking at the leader, Long Yue. Long Chen did not fear this mysterious woman who seemed to be shrouded in mist, perhaps due to her having some Dragon Warrior energy in her. She felt familiar.

Long Yue spoke in a manner that was not rushed, but not dragged either. She seemed cold, but that was merely her personality. He could not measure her emotions at all from her voice.

Judging by her voice, she was, at most, in her thirties. Compared to the Demon Emperor, who was in his fifties, it meant that she was much more talented than he was.

Long Yue’s eyes scanned his body, and then she said, “When I was treating your injuries, I checked your body and indeed found that you also possess the blood of a Dragon Warrior. I thought I had made a mistake when I saw your Dragon Soul Transformation before.”

Long Chen smiled bitterly in his heart. She was treating him as a Dragon Warrior Descendant. Since he could not absolutely trust these people, he obviously would not tell them that he was a Dragon Warrior himself. His mind raced quickly, and he realized that he should pretend not to know anything. That was the more normal response.

Therefore, he replied cluelessly, “What is a Dragon Warrior?”

His response was within the six people’s expectations.

“During the Ancient Era of the Dragon Continent, ancient dragons ruled the world. However, they are all extinct now, and not much of their bloodline remains today. When one receives the Inherited Blood Essence from the dragons, they can become a powerful Dragon Warrior. We are the descendants of Dragon Warriors,” explained Long Yue.

“So that’s why I have powers like these. Is it because of the Dragon Warrior?” Long Chen replied with surprise. Due to the situation, he had no choice but to lie. No one other than Ling Xi and Xiaolang could know about this.

Long Yue nodded.

“In regards to my bloodline, only my younger brother and I remain. And we know that there are no more Dragon Warrior descendants in the Divine Martial Empire. This bloodline has been passed down for a long time, and many family members have gone missing in the middle. That is why I am sure that you and I are actually from the same family. We both have the same ancestor.” Even though she had found a family member, Long Yue did not seem very emotional. However, the others were grinning because their leader would not talk this much if not for Long Chen.

“Is that so?” There was confusion in his eyes, though he was only acting. It was just a white lie; he genuinely felt grateful to them.

“Do you have any other family members?” Long Yue asked hurriedly. This was the actual question she wanted to ask.

“I don’t. I’ve been alone for as long as I can remember,” said Long Chen.

The six of them were a little disappointed. After a while, Long Yue said, “I initially thought that if you had a large family, Dragon Warriors like us would be able to restore our glory by relying on you guys. This is a pity. But, Long Chen, since you and I are related by blood, and we saved you from the Ancient Demon Domain, I need to tell you something.”

“Please, do tell,” said Long Chen, nodding.

“Do you know who we are?” Long Yue asked.

“I don’t. To be honest, I’m from a small kingdom under the jurisdiction of the Divine Martial Empire. I am not familiar with this place at all. If I was, I would not have accidentally killed the Demon Emperor’s son, causing that disaster,” said Long Chen.

They nodded. They were just wondering why the Demon Emperor wanted to kill this minor character.

“I’ll introduce us to little Long Chen, then.” Jiang Wuya, who was from the Ancient Demon Domain, took a step forward. He was a handsome middle-aged man who was as sophisticated as Dongfang Xuanxiao. With a faint smile on his face, he said, “The six of us do not belong to any faction. We gathered together and were sworn in as brothers and sisters. We play together, kill together, sing together, and drink together. Due to Yue, the six of us named ourselves the Dragon clan. Every major faction of the Divine Martial Empire hates us like a thorn in their flesh! We are all from different

places, but we share one similarity. We are the enemies of the Martial Alliance. Archnemeses. The six of us take up six spots in the Bounty Board's top ten!"

Long Chen was surprised. So they were all enemies of the Martial Alliance. That explained why their attitudes were so wild and free. Most importantly, they took up six spots on the Bounty Board's top ten?

"But why did I hear that only the top three are at the Earthly Martial Realm?" Long Chen recalled Jiang Cheng mentioning this.

"That's just lies from the Martial Alliance to make the general public think we are weak. If we were only as strong as they said, why would the Demon Emperor let us leave the Ancient Demon Domain?" said Jiang Wuya with a faint smile.

"I see." Long Chen nodded.

Jiang Wuya pointed at Long Yue and said, "She, Long Yue, is number two on the Bounty Board. I am fourth. As for them, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth. It was as if the Bounty Board was started just for us."

Long Chen was very impressed.

Jiang Wuya continued, "After such a long introduction, my point is that your name has probably spread everywhere already because we saved you. The Martial Alliance sees us as a thorn in their flesh, and with their personalities, they will definitely see you as one of us. That is why you cannot continue to stay the Divine Martial Empire. Your cultivation has fallen to a very weak state too; it's not enough for self-preservation at all."

"What should I do, then?" Long Chen had sensed this problem too. He had already fought the Martial Alliance in the very beginning. This time, they would likely put a bounty on his head. In the face of the major factions, he stood no chance of survival in his current state.

Jiang Wuya gazed at him warmly. "You have two choices. First, you can return to where you came from. Since we rescued you, we will finish the job and escort you home."

"What about the second?" asked Long Chen.

"The second is something that we all discussed and agreed on. You may come with us temporarily and we will, of course, be able to protect you. Don't get all suspicious of our intentions; we're doing this because you are from the same clan as Yue'er. I believe Yue'er also really wants her clan's bloodline to continue."

Jiang Wuya looked at Long Yue as he spoke.

She nodded and said, "You are from the Long clan and naturally, it is my duty to protect you. I will be able to use medicine to help you heal from the hidden damage done to your body. It is up to you if you want to follow us six siblings."

Long Chen was first silent.

“You brat, what are you hesitating for? These six people are all you can rely on for now! It’ll be the right decision to follow them for now!” reminded Little Cat in the Primordial Realm.

It was true. Long Chen thought for a moment and made his decision.

Long Yue suddenly said, “Of course, the six of us are already sworn brothers and sisters. You’re only temporarily following us. If we find that you’re good, we don’t mind having a Seventh Brother.”

The others smiled.

The girl in blue said, “Yeah! Little Brother, you need to work hard! I’m the youngest here right now, and I’m getting bullied!”

Jiang Wuya said, “Looks like our anti-Martial Alliance team is getting stronger. Plus, he’s a Dragon Warrior like Yue’er! It’s a pity that Xiao Chen doesn’t like to be tied down and isn’t willing to team up with us. If he were here, we would be even stronger.

Long Chen knew that Xiao Chen was the other Long Chen, who was ranked third on the Bounty Board. He was probably even stronger than Jiang Wuya.

Long Chen was filled with gratitude to them. “Thank you all so much for saving me and taking me in. I will never forget this!”

This meant that he had decided to go with them. At least, Long Yue had already promised to clear all the hidden damage done to his body, and Long Chen needed some time to recover his strength. Their protection was what he needed most.

The five of them smiled when they heard him, while Long Yue’s face remained difficult to see. However, Long Chen saw joy in her eyes. Perhaps she felt the sense of familiarity in him too.

“Your name is Long Chen; Yue’er’s brother is also Long Chen. We call him ‘Xiao Chen’ though. As for you, we will call you by your name for now. After you have passed our test, we will call you ‘Seventh Brother.’”

The corners of Jiang Wuya’s mouth curled upwards. He paused, then he said, “Let us introduce ourselves. I am Jiang Wuya. Out of the six of us, I am the oldest, though they call me ‘Second Brother’ because Yue’er is the boss here. I am at the Second Earthly Martial Stage, while Yue’er is at the Third Earthly Martial Stage.”

Long Chen nodded. He already knew both their names, though this was his first time learning of their cultivation levels.

The rest of them began their self-introductions.

First was the man in long, white robes. He had been silent since the beginning and did not smile often. He was also very handsome and his features were sharp, like they were carved with a blade. He had a tall nose, and a cold sword light glinted in his eyes.

His most outstanding feature was his full head of long, white hair, including white eyebrows. They were a pure white that was easy on the eyes.

Long Chen sensed a terrifying Sword Qi radiating from his body.

He guessed that this person was a Sword Warrior.

Chapter 535 - Thunder Bat Dragon

Long Chen had sensed a unique Sword Qi radiating from the royal family members of the Cangyang Kingdom, but the Sword Qi coming from the white-haired man was countless times more powerful than Lin Zichen's. Long Chen felt as if he could see a world of swords in his black irises.

"I'm ranked third, and my name is Jian Chen. Sword Warrior. First Earthly Martial Stage," said the man.

His features were very unique, so Long Chen easily remembered his name. Jian Chen. The name fit him.[1]

Next was another man, who was the most muscular of the bunch. His body shape was similar to Demon General Strongman's, but compared to Demon General Strongman's brick-like build, this man's lines were much more elegant, which caused a huge visual clash. What made him different from the rest was his one-centimeter-long hair. His features were much harder than Jian Chen's, though he was currently grinning at Long Chen. His expression made him look like an honest and friendly person, but his body radiated an aura that resembled a fierce beast.

Long Chen instantly knew that he was a Beast Warrior.

As expected, the muscular man said, "Little Brother, my name is Lei Zhen. I'm from the Northern Battle clan! The Northern Battle clan is a faction as powerful as the Ancient Demon Domain! I am at the First Earthly Martial Stage, and my Earthly Martial Beast Soul Origin is a Category Three King-tier beast called the Heavenly Mantra Thunder Beast.

Category Three King-tier?

Long Chen was even more shocked. Indeed, every single person in this group was a formidable presence. Putting Long Yue and Jiang Wuya aside, even Jian Chen and Lei Zhen were an Armament Warrior and a Beast Warrior respectively. Both of them were also terrifying.

Long Chen had never heard of the Northern Battle clan before, as he had only heard of the Martial Alliance, the Ancient Demon Domain, and the Huangfu clan. Even with just the six of them, the Dragon clan was considered one of the top factions.

The next two were younger than the others. The one who first spoke was a thin man wearing all-black, tight-fitting clothes. He was clearly very agile, and he was as quiet as Jian Chen. There was a strong killing intent hidden in his eyes, and from his outfit and aura, Long Chen had a feeling that he specialized in melee combat and speed like Chen Feng.

"I am Chi Ying. First Earthly Martial Stage. I am the founder of the Divine Martial Empire's largest organization of assassins—the Red Souls. I am also the only King-tier killer of the organization. I have a nickname: No-Fail Chi Ying. This is because I have never failed a single task I have taken. However, I'm no longer in the assassination business, and the Red Souls are serving Big Sister."

The "Big Sister" he was referring to was Long Yue.



Long Chen was amazed. Chi Ying looked inconspicuous in this group, but he was actually the founder of the Divine Martial Empire's largest assassin organization! And he looked only twenty-seven or twenty-eight at most.

"The Martial Alliance forbids assassin organizations, so a few years ago, they started a sweep of these groups. The Red Souls were caught within the tide, and if Big Sister had not rescued me, I would not be here today. Now the Red Souls have gone underground," said Chi Ying, moved.

He was only talking about this because he was grateful.

Long Chen nodded.

The girl in blue was last, as they were speaking in the sequence of their ranking. The animated girl had always been the most talkative, so this time was no exception. When it was her turn to speak, she said immediately, "My name is Lan Ling'er; call me Sister Lan. I am also at the First Earthly Martial Stage, and I'm an extraordinary prodigy! But I can't tell you too much about myself, because I can't let you learn about my secrets."

"Ling'er is good at disguises; she has mastered techniques like bone shaping! She's amazing at transforming one's features and using disguise-related medicine and tools, and people call her the Ever-Changing Demon Girl! Long Chen, you need to be careful of her or one day, you'll find yourself an identical twin," said Jiang Wuya with a grin.

By now, Long Chen had been introduced to every member. He had a feeling that they would become very important people in his life. His journey had been a lonely one, but everything was about to change due to the appearance of these few people.

At the very least, there was no question about how powerful they were.

The leader, Long Yue, was a master as powerful as the Demon Emperor. Did that mean that she was in the top five of the whole Divine Martial Empire? With a person like that protecting them, Long Chen would not need to worry anymore!

The mysterious Big Sister Long Yue; the Ancient Demon Domain-born Jiang Wuya; Sword Warrior Jian Chen; Lei Zhen with a Category Three King-tier Beast Soul; the leader of the largest assassin organization, Chi Ying; and the Ever-Changing Demon Girl, Lan Ling'er. The six of them formed the Martial Alliance's most terrifying enemy—the Dragon clan!

Seeing as everyone had introduced themselves, Long Yue said, "We haven't found the Black Emperor Seal yet, so we did not manage to fulfill our goal. We will return to the Phantom Ravine, and we will only leave when we receive news on the other Emperor Seals. Long Chen's injuries require rest and treatment, so we should not wait any longer. Lei Zhen, we'll leave now!"

The fourth-ranked Lei Zhen, the muscular Beast Warrior, gave a warm smile. "Alright, Big Sister!"

Long Chen only had one objective in coming to the Divine Martial Empire, which was to head to the Ancient Graveyard. These six people were some of the strongest people in the Divine Martial Empire, so he wanted to ask them about it, but seeing as they wanted to travel as soon as possible, he would do that later.

He thought about it and realized that he would have to follow them at least until his injuries were healed. After he became closer to them, it would be more natural to ask them about the Ancient Graveyard. There was no need to rush.

But why had Long Yue only spoken to Lei Zhen when they were about to leave? Long Chen quickly had his answer. A gigantic beast was released from a large, purple bracelet on Lei Zhen's wrist!

Long Chen had always thought that the Primordial Realm was the only thing that could fit beasts, but he had not expected Lei Zhen to have the same thing.

Due to Jiang Wuya's relationship with Liu Yiyi, he was more concerned about Long Chen than even Long Yue. He knew that Liu Yiyi liked Long Chen, so he had also taken a liking to this young man. Therefore, he explained, "The Northern Battle clan is a faction independent from the Martial Alliance. They are very powerful, and Lei Zhen is the first prince of the clan. He snuck out to train on his own, but due to his folly of youth, he got into trouble with the Martial Alliance. If it was not for Yue'er, he would have died."

"Second Brother, let's not talk about my embarrassing past, haha!" Lei Zhen laughed as he spoke to the gigantic beast in a strange language.

"Alright, I won't. Long Chen, you must not know that the whole Northern Battle clan consists of Beast Warriors, and they possess powerful techniques to tame beasts. They can even tame King-tier beasts to sell their souls for them. They have also mastered many beast languages, so they can directly communicate with beasts. You see his bracelet? That's a Beast Soul Crystal, an item exclusive to the Northern Battle clan. It serves as a shelter for their beasts. It's much more impressive than Universe Pouches."

"That's so cool!" Long Chen was shaken.

That was when Little Cat said lazily, "It's just an unimportant crystal. Although it's considered rare, how could it compare to the Primordial Realm? Beasts can't stay for long inside crystals like that. If you don't let the beast out before the time limit, the beast will die. How could that compare?"

What Little Cat had said made the Primordial Realm even more impressive.

"Once you stay with us for longer, you will learn more about the Divine Martial Empire. We need to hurry. After we reach the Phantom Ravine, I want to ask you about Yiyi," said Jiang Wuya.

Long Chen nodded. "Alright."

Then he looked at the beast. It was a beast with huge wings that could fly, though it was not an avian-type beast. Instead, it was more similar to a bat, though its body was longer than a bat's, making it look more sophisticated. Most importantly, its head looked similar to a dragon's. Long Chen could even sense an extremely minute trace of Dragon Blood from it.

"This is a Category Nine Heaven-tier demonic beast called the Thunder Bat Dragon. It's the fastest Heaven-tier beast, and it is lightning-fast. Of course, you must also be

able to tell that this Thunder Bat Dragon is a descendant of the dragons. I can sense a tiny trace of Dragon Blood in it, but it's much weaker than yours," explained Long Yue when she saw that Long Chen looked puzzled.

Countless flashes of lightning appeared on the surface of its body as if it were covered in a web of electricity. The crackling and popping of lightning made Long Chen's scalp go numb.

The Dragon clan was so impressive that even their mode of transport was terrifying.

Long Chen would probably die if the Thunder Bat Dragon touched him gently.

"I'll help him. You guys go first," said Jiang Wuya to the others, standing next to Long Chen. Everyone flew up in the air and sat on the lightning-covered Thunder Bat Dragon's back. A layer of energy appeared on the surface of their bodies, wrapping them up so the lightning would not touch them.

Suddenly, Long Chen sensed a warm energy wrapping around his body. With a *whoosh*, he was suddenly sitting on the back of the beast. There were purple scales on the back of the Thunder Bat Dragon, similar to dragon scales.

Upon closer inspection, Long Chen realized that he was being wrapped in Jiang Wuya's energy. It felt like a warm fluid that stuck closely to his body, guaranteeing his safety.

"Is this essence of the Martial Realm?" asked Long Chen.

He realized he was wrapped in the same space as Jiang Wuya.

"Yes. When a person reaches the Martial Realm, the eighteen starry rivers in his body turn into Martial Veins. The nine main meridian points turn into Martial Meridians, and the Qi within them turn into essence, which is close to a fluid state. Of course, you can also call it Martial Essence.

Chapter 536 - Phantom Ravine

Long Chen did not know anything about the Martial Realms.

Though he knew that he was not far away from the Martial Realms, because he had something very important: the Emperor Flame Pearl. He did not know how long he had been unconscious for, but it was likely only one or two days. On the Day of the Nine Suns, he would be able to use the Emperor Flame Pearl to immediately progress to the Ninth Passage Stage, which would not require even Heavenly Passage Pills.

However, there was one thing he had to do first, which was to treat all the hidden damages caused by the third stage of Blood Sacrifice as soon as possible. Even if he used the Emperor Flame Pearl, these hidden problems would remain and would only cause more issues. Every hidden injury would be like a blade stuck in his body. If they were not removed, they would bring him fatal harm in the future.

Long Yue seemed to have a solution.

Long Chen would only be able to become strong once more with the help of these kind people. He had to take this opportunity seriously.

“Long Chen, I want to ask you more about the Clear Shallows King and Liu Yiyi. Just tell me what you experienced after you met them, in detail,” said Jiang Wuya, pursing his lips. He looked at Long Chen solemnly.

Long Chen did not know what to feel about this man. It was clear that he was pursuing Long Yue, and he must have liked her for a long time. He was probably the romantic type. However, why did it seem like he previously had a relationship with the Clear Shallows King, even leaving behind a daughter?

He did not look like the irresponsible type to abandon his wife and child. Long Chen did not know the complicated story between them, so he could not judge further. All he knew was that the Clear Shallows King was a decent person, and so was Jiang Wuya.

He told him about his experiences, though he chose to skip parts related to his own secrets, for example, the Black Emperor Seal. The six of them had gone to the Ancient Demon Domain because of the Black Emperor Seal; how could he tell them that it was actually with him?

The ultimate treasure, which was the Emperor-tier Five Emperor Seal technique, could be retrieved by combining all five Emperor Seals. Emperor-tier techniques were precious things that people fought over in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, and the Divine Martial Empire was no exception. It was clear that these six had been searching for the Emperor Seal in recent times.

Jiang Wuya guessed the Clear Shallows King and Liu Yiyi’s lives through Long Chen’s experiences. His eyes were wet when Long Chen finished, though he quickly wiped them and said, “Thank you so much.”

“You guys have shown me insurmountable kindness. I should be the one thanking you,” Long Chen said solemnly.

Jiang Wuya smiled, though his expression suddenly turned serious when he asked, “Long Chen, do you want to take Yiyi as your wife?”

Long Chen was a little exasperated. Jiang Wuya was Liu Yiyi’s father, so naturally he cared about his daughter’s matters. Long Chen said, “I am not in control of my fate currently, and I do not have the luck to enjoy Miss Yiyi’s good intentions in this lifetime.”

“In that case, I forbid you from returning to the Ancient Demon Domain again. Don’t even set foot in there without my permission!” said Jiang Wuya sternly.

“Mhm.” Long Chen nodded. He understood where Jiang Wuya was coming from. Since Long Chen did not love her, then he would not let Long Chen hurt her.

After their chat, Jiang Wuya did not speak again.

The Thunder Bat Dragon flew very quickly. Long Chen could see the clouds quickly flying past them while electricity flew all around them. Soon after, he sensed the beast slowing down and suddenly, the Thunder Bat Dragon stopped mid-air, let out a low roar, and disappeared. Jiang Wuya carried Long Chen and descended from the sky.

Below them was a vast patch of forest.

Thick, white mist was everywhere, clouding Long Chen's vision. It was difficult to see what was ahead. After they descended, they immediately slipped into the forest and traveled towards the deeper parts of the mountains.

Obscured by the endless mist, the place they lived in was quite hidden too.

It was an endless patch of mountains. After several kilometers of trekking within the thick mist, the space suddenly opened up. It was a paradise in a very deep part of the mountains.

What Long Chen saw was a ravine that was tranquil and filled with trees. Beneath the trees, flowers dotted the ground like stars. Not far away was a calm lake that was not large, but it was strangely clear, so even tiny fishes and prawns could be seen within. Several Sika Deer were drinking from it. They were regular animals, not demonic beasts. After being spotted, not only did they not run, they boldly approached. Their sparkling eyes were very adorable.

Not far away from the edge of the lake stood several elegant wooden houses. Long Chen counted six of them, which was the same as the number of members.

"What do you think, Little Brother? Isn't our home beautiful?" said Lan Ling'er smugly, leaning over to Long Chen. Color flowed within her sparkling eyes, making them look beautiful.

Long Chen took a deep breath. This place was peaceful and tranquil; it was indeed a good place to rest and heal.

"It is indeed beautiful," said Long Chen.

"It is beautiful, and we built the houses ourselves. However, if someone starts calling me 'Sister Lan,' I would be so happy that I would even be willing to help that injured person build a house!" said Lan Ling'er with a chuckle.

"Alright, Ling'er. That's enough. Everyone, help him out. I will prepare some medicine. His condition is difficult to treat." Long Yue paused, then she looked at Long Chen. "From tomorrow onwards, I should be able to help you treat your injuries. Stay with them today and familiarize yourself with this place."

"Thank you, everyone!" Long Chen nodded, his eyes filled with gratitude.

Then Long Yue went off to prepare the medicine. Chi Ying left, likely to check with the Red Souls members for recent updates, while the others quickly helped Long Chen build a simple wooden house. At least Long Chen now had a quiet place to cultivate.

Long Chen felt like he was in a dream as he looked around at everything.

He could tell that the six of them had a close bond, one that was as close as true siblings.

Night soon fell. Chi Ying returned, and to celebrate Long Chen's arrival, the few of them decided to make a bonfire. Long Chen was impressed by Jian Chen and Lei Zhen's excellent cooking—Jian Chen was great at making sophisticated dishes, while Lei Zhen specialized in barbecuing meat ...

Long Chen soon relaxed under their warm welcome.

He had always thought that the path of cultivation was filled with only bitter training and violence, but he saw something else in them. Freedom. All of them were extremely drawn towards freedom, and that was why they clashed with the Martial Alliance's control. However, it felt good to gather with them; it was them against the world.

Very soon, Long Chen grew familiar with them. Since he was the youngest, he referred to them as brothers, though obviously, Lan Ling'er was "Sister Lan." Being called that made Lan Ling'er especially happy, seeing as she had always been the youngest. Finally, there was someone younger. The six of them had been sworn in, but Long Chen was considered only a temporary guest.

"Long Chen, there are many trials and tribulations in life, and there will be danger. However, having siblings by your side makes it all worth it. Don't you guys agree?" said Jiang Wuya with a grin after drinking some wine.

Everyone agreed.

"Cultivation and killing are boring. What do we do so that we do not become boring people? We put on a show! You're new, so we'll go easy on you. You will perform last! If you don't do well, I won't let you live it down!" After drinking a little, Lan Ling'er's face was a little red, making her extremely beautiful.

"Ling'er, don't bother him. We'll start first. Third Brother, to celebrate Long Chen's arrival, shall we perform a guqin-flute duet?" said Jiang Wuya with a smile.

"Of course." The white-haired Jian Chen gave a rare smile.

Very soon, Jiang Wuya started playing his guqin beneath the moonlight while Jian Chen stood and played his flute. Both of them were absolute masters at their instruments. Long Chen and the others enjoyed the music greatly.

The duet between the guqin and the flute started gentle, like a tune in a dream, but it went up in a crescendo in the middle of the song until it became like a war song sung by ten thousand people. Chi Ying plucked a leaf from a tree and said, "I'll join you guys!"

To Long Chen's astonishment, Chi Ying then started playing a beautiful tune from a leaf!

"How could we not dance when there's such beautiful music playing?" Lan Ling'er giggled and walked up to Long Chen. She started to dance along to the music. Long Chen had spent a long time immersed in the world of prodigal sons in Baiyang Town, so he had watched many beautiful dances. However, Lan Ling'er resembled a blue butterfly swimming along with the tides. Her moves were elegant and graceful, and this was surely the most beautiful dance he had ever witnessed.

*Are all of them this talented? Surely that blockhead Lei Zhen doesn't have any skills ...* thought Long Chen in exasperation. Lei Zhen suddenly let out a joyous laugh, rushed into the space, and said, "With all of you performing, how could we not include the Northern Battle clan's dance?"

He moved quickly as he spoke. His dance involved vigorous movements with large actions, but it was filled with wildness and masculinity. When paired with Lei Zhen's muscular figure and the

emotional crescendo of the music, he seemed like a wild beast when compared to Lan Ling'er, who was dancing like a butterfly!

Everything finally came to an end.

All of them stared woodenly at Long Chen. Lan Ling'er said, "Little Brother, you have watched our performance for free! It's your turn! If I'm not satisfied, I'll strip you naked and you'll freeze in that lake for three days and three nights."

Everyone grinned at him with schadenfreude.

Long Chen had finally seen their true selves. In general, the Dragon clan members were powerful in cultivation but playful children at heart.

He loved this place.

### Chapter 537 - Learning About The Martial Realm

When he tried to think of a performance, Long Chen's mind went blank. Ever since he received the dragon jade, he had been focused on learning how to kill. He had forgotten about things like that a long time ago. That was why he felt like he was inferior to them when comparing his life of killing to their lives of freedom.

He had gotten on the right path for cultivation, but in terms of mindset, he had taken a more demented path; Blood Transmutation had led him into the abyss of killing and violence.

"I truly don't know anything ..." Long Chen waved his hand with a bitter smile.

"You don't? Then I'll have to do what I said! I'll have to strip you naked!" Lan Ling'er tried to scare him.

"Ling'er, that's enough. Don't scare him. You're a lady, why are you always talking about getting naked? If he let you strip him naked, would you even dare to do it?"

Jiang Wuya laughed.

Lan Ling'er turned both embarrassed and angry.

"But, Long Chen, you can't just watch us without performing. We will give you a task. If you complete it, we will not force you," said Jiang Wuya.

"If you can get Yue'er out here, we will let you go," he continued.

Long Chen was just wondering why Long Yue wasn't here when the five of them were enjoying themselves.

"Big Sister has always been like that. She works too hard and usually ignores us when we play. That is why if you can get her out here, we will not bother you anymore," Lan Ling'er added.

"Alright, I'll try my best." Seeing as everyone looked so insistent, Long Chen had no choice but to stand up and head towards Long Yue's wooden house. Perhaps because she liked the quiet, her wooden house was far from the others.

He looked back and saw that they were partying once more. He was speechless at how they acted this way at their ages.

There was no sound coming from Long Yue's wooden house. After he arrived at the door, he was about to knock when a voice came from inside. "Come in."

It was Long Yue's voice.

He pushed the door and entered, then he was stunned by what he saw. He saw a girl in loose-fitting silk clothing with her hair up in a ponytail while she practiced a punching routine. Her punches looked normal, but there was something philosophical about the way she performed. Long Chen's gaze was immediately attracted to her, and he was completely immersed in her routine, quickly forgetting why he was there.

Her every move, including every punch and every time she retracted her fist, seemed to connect to the depths of his heart. The space in front of him seemed to be endlessly vast and Long Yue was standing at the center of it. Every time she punched, the earth shook and waves of energy crashed. Although her punches seemed simple, they were closely connected to the pulse of the land, as if she were the center of the world. Every moment made the ground shake around her.

As the strange punches flew in front of his eyes, an indescribable feeling arose in his mind. He was confident that no matter how much strength he used, he would not be able to recreate these punches. It was unrelated to their strength because Long Yue was punching so lightly that not a sound could be heard.

She is using only a tiny bit of strength, but it is enough to shake the ground. This is not related to strength, but to her mind and soul.

When Long Chen comprehended this point, Long Yue finally slowed down her punches, and Long Chen woke up from his astonishment.

Long Yue was not wearing the helmet she had been wearing before. Her ponytail paired with her soft, white clothing made her look exceptionally graceful. Long Yue was as beautiful as Lan Ling'er, but while Lan Ling'er was coquettish, Long Yue radiated elegance. There was also magnificence in her eyes that made other people too intimidated to look into them. Her energy field even made him feel chills.

She looked at Long Chen and asked, "Did you feel anything from the punching routine just now?"

"I'm confused; I don't really understand it." Long Chen did not dare put on airs in front of her.

Long Yue changed the subject and said, "I heard your cultivation progressed very quickly in the Heavenly Passage Realm. You improved a lot in just one or two months, right?"

"Mhm." Long Chen nodded, unsure of her intentions.

"I bet you won't be able to achieve that speed when you reach the Three Martial Realms," she said directly.

"Why?" He did not understand, because if he relied on Blood Transmutation, he would be able to achieve quick growth regardless of the cultivation level.



“It looks like you don’t know a thing about the Three Martial Realms. The Three Martial Realms are different from the Four Foundational Realms, as the Four Foundational Realms involve pure Qi growth and clearing the meridians of the body. The Three Martial Realms are different. You can say that you are only considered a true martial artist once you have entered the Martial Realms!”

“Why do you say so?” Long Yue’s explanation shook his understanding.

“As long as you have a tiny bit of talent and you can refine some spiritual herbs to gain more Qi, you can clear the Heavenly meridian and reach the Ninth Passage Stage when you’re at the Four Foundational Realms. However, why are there so many people stuck at the Ninth Passage Stage, unable to progress to the Three Martial Realms? It’s because they don’t understand what ‘martial’ means! They don’t know what ‘Martial Realm’ means!” Long Yue gazed at him wistfully. What she was implying was that if Long Chen did not understand this, it would be very hard for him to progress.

She was a cultivator at the Third Earthly Martial Realm, so she definitely had the right to teach him. He knew that since she had said this, then she intended to teach him the right way.

He asked hurriedly, “Could you please explain it to me in detail, Sister Long Yue?”

Long Yue privately approved when she saw that he was not stubborn in his ways and was humble enough to seek teaching. She said, “The most important thing for you now is to clear your hidden injuries, then use the Emperor Flame Pearl to ascend to the Ninth Passage Stage during the Day of the Nine Suns, which will be in eight days. After that, I will teach you what the Martial Realm means.”

Long Chen knew that being impatient would get him nowhere.

Therefore, he nodded and said, “Thank you!”

Long Yue was a woman filled with personality, and she was warm despite her icy exterior. He reckoned it would be beneficial to get to know her well.

“You don’t have to thank me. The blood flowing in your body is the same as mine. When you become strong, you’ll be able to extend our bloodline. That is my dream,” said Long Yue.

Even without her helmet, she spoke without any expression.

“I have prepared the spiritual medicine. Since you’re here, I’ll start treating your injuries now. You used a method that exhausts your body’s potential. While I have no way of helping you get back the potential you lost, I can return your body to brand new. But you must remember never to use that technique again.”

Though her words were cold, Long Chen could hear the concern hidden in them.

He knew that she was taking great care of him because of their bloodline.

“Are we starting now? They’re waiting for me outside ...” he said awkwardly.

For some reason, he felt like a younger brother in front of Long Yue, afraid that his older sister would be displeased by his poor performance.

“Ignore those idiots,” Long Yue said directly.

She brought him into his own quarters.

“Your injuries require both internal and external treatment, so they will take at least three days and three nights to heal completely. I have prepared a few spiritual medicines that will be effective only when they are used together. The main ingredient is the elementary King-tier spiritual herb, the Snow Heart Lotus.”

Long Chen only nodded. He would let Long Yue take control of his treatment as she must have already made ample preparations. She took out a gigantic boulder from her Universe Pouch, which had a smooth indent large enough to fit Long Chen’s body.

“This indent ...” Long Chen was shocked.

“You guessed it? Not bad. Yes, I hit it to create the indent.” She looked at him with praise in her eyes.

Long Chen was astonished. The smoothness of the indentation on this boulder made it look like it had been formed over a long, long time, yet Long Yue said she had created it with her fists.

*Does the Martial Realm mean using power at this level?* Long Chen was speechless.

Then, following her instructions, he entered the deep indentation in the boulder. With her control, the medicinal fluid she had prepared flowed into the indentation and immersed him. The essence within the medicine seeped into his body, bringing him great comfort.

Then Long Yue let him consume the Snow Heart Lotus.

*This must be what she meant by internal and external treatment.* With the King-tier Snow Heart Lotus inside and precious medicinal fluid outside, the damage sustained due to the third stage of Blood Sacrifice would heal in three days and three nights.

When everything was done, Long Yue gave him some reminders, then she left.

Bathing in the spiritual medicine, he felt his body slowly heal. He heaved a sigh of relief and finally started to think about his current situation.

I managed to survive and even received the Emperor Flame Pearl. Although the journey was filled with tribulations, the results were the same as what I previously expected. Now that I have left the Ancient Demon Domain, I’ll formulate a new plan after I have reached the Ninth Passage Stage in nine days’ time.

With a goal set, he felt his mind clear up.

It looks like I’ll still need to follow them for a while. It might be very difficult to reach the Martial Realm if I try to figure it out on my own, and Long Yue clearly plans to teach me. The Divine Martial Empire is the Martial Alliance’s turf, and I can tell that the Martial Alliance exerts strict

control over their land. If I go out on my own, there will surely be informants and I might even die without knowing how it happened. It's good to be with them anyway. At least I will stay alive, and they are indeed a bunch of interesting people ...

#### Chapter 538 - Xiaolang's Wish

This path full of struggle was filled with dangers.

With a faction like the Martial Alliance present, the Divine Martial Empire was surely a treacherous place. Long Chen would never submit to anyone, so how could he possibly live without ever clashing with such a powerful faction?

“Big Brother, Fat Cat told me some great news!” Xiaolang cried excitedly from within the Primordial Realm while Long Chen was treating his injuries.

“What good news?” Long Chen asked hurriedly.

“Have you seen a King-tier beast?” asked Xiaolang.

“Of course not.” There were no King-tier beasts in the Ancient Demon Domain.

“Fat Cat says that demonic beasts at the King-tier and above can take human form. The more powerful they are, the more powerful their human form. However, A King-tier beast's human form is far weaker than their beast form. And when the beast reaches the Emperor-tier or Divine-tier, their human form will be extremely powerful too! This means I will have a chance to be human again ...”

“What?” Long Chen almost leaped from the boulder with excitement. He had always regretted allowing Xiaolang to lose his body and turn into a Sun Devouring Wolf. So there was a chance for him to turn into a human again? Even though he wouldn't be strong in human form, that was not really important! The most important thing was to recover his human form. He was a perfectly normal person, but he had been forced to live as a beast—no one would enjoy that fate!

“Every martial artist in the Divine Martial Empire knows that King-tier beasts can assume human form. What is so surprising about that? It's embarrassing for a god like me to be with you two ignorant hillbillies!” Little Cat sighed.

“Shut your mouth,” Long Chen said jokingly. Then he said to Xiaolang, “This is great news! After the Day of the Nine Suns, I will do my best to find fire-type treasures for you to help you break through to the King-tier! I wonder what changes will come when the Sun Devouring Wolf becomes a King-tier beast! I'm looking forward to seeing it!”

“Thank you, Big Brother!” Xiaolang was emotional too.

“We’re brothers! You don’t have to thank me!” Long Chen hadn’t learned much about King-tier beasts in the Ancient Demon Domain, so this new piece of information was a pleasant surprise.

This was the happiest piece of news he had received since leaving the Ancient Demon Domain.

Xiaolang had left his hometown with him, and they were brothers for life. Long Chen knew that losing his human form to become a beast was Xiaolang’s biggest regret. Even though he would fundamentally be a beast despite taking human form, at least he would be able to live as a human again.

The Sun Devouring Wolf was initially only a Category One Earth-tier beast, but it possessed extraordinary absorption abilities. Long Chen knew just how terrifying Xiaolang could be with time!

The ancient dragons ruled over all the species on the Dragon Continent. They were super strong from birth, and Long Chen did not know much about other beings. However, unlike humans, a beast’s strength was mostly determined at birth. The Sun Devouring Wolf was a special exception, and it was similar to humans in that it could increase its strength.

Humans were naturally the weakest beings, but they had great plasticity and were highly intelligent. They had invented cultivation techniques to increase their strength. If it were not for the fact that humans could cultivate, the Dragon Continent would belong to the beasts. Without cultivation, how could humans rule the continent?

Long Chen privately decided that he would help Xiaolang get stronger as soon as possible.

He was a human being first and foremost, so even though he had become a beast, he had to live as a human.

Three days and three nights passed quickly. Long Chen exited the wooden house after he completely absorbed all the medicine that Long Yue had prepared for him. Her work was as reliable as expected, and Long Chen had completely recovered from the damages caused by Blood Sacrifice.

As for the foundational damage he had sustained, his foundation had always been more powerful than that of other people, resulting in extraordinary comprehension and cultivation speed. He had already absorbed a hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence, and the next time he absorbed the Inherited Blood Essence, this tiny bit of damage would be completely fixed.

Long Chen remembered that he would turn into a true Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon after absorbing all of the Inherited Blood Essence. Of course, he would first take a juvenile form and it would take a very long time to grow, but he knew it would be enough for him to marry Ling Xi proudly in broad daylight.

His future, which had been dark just recently, was filled with color once more. Battle spirit filled his gaze!

His body was filled with power once more!

The ordeal at the Ancient Demon Domain had not defeated him!

“All we have left to do is wait for the Day of the Nine Suns, which will be in five days!”

There would be nine suns in the sky, and they were all remnants of the Golden Crow's soul! What would happen then?

When his body was filled with the Golden Crow's powers, despite being at the Ninth Passage Stage, he would be able to unleash powers beyond that level, right?

Little Cat once said that the suns were actually remnants of the Golden Crow's soul and that he could only retrieve a small portion of it. However, Little Cat had bragged about how powerful the legendary Golden Crow was, so it was surely an excellent beast!

Long Chen had a feeling that this would bring a powerful boost to his future battles!

He couldn't wait for the Day of the Nine Suns.

Long Chen looked around and found that there was no one around. When he used the Soul Swallowing Gaze, he realized that the rest were in their houses, so they were probably cultivating. Only Lan Ling'er's house was empty. He was just wondering where she was when a powerful force ambushed him and pushed him into the tranquil lake.

He climbed out in exasperation while Lan Ling'er was bent over in squeals of laughter.

"You've been soaking for three days; you didn't expect to be soaked again right after you came out, right?" said Lan Ling'er, laughing.

He could not stand her. She was already in her twenties, yet she was still so childish. He climbed out without a word and dried his clothes.

"Long Chen, while you were healing, the rest have been cultivating. I've been so bored. You must go out with me." Her clear eyes sparkled.

"Will Sister Long Yue let you go out without permission?" Long Chen asked.

"Of course! I'm not a three-year-old, and my disguises are ten thousand times better than what you can do. I'm going to take that as a yes. Wait for me ..." Then she turned into a blue gust of wind and disappeared. When she reappeared, Long Chen was stunned.

A handsome, elegant young man appeared in front of him. He spun a few times and said, "What do you think? Brother Long, can you still recognize me?"

Her voice was still high-pitched, but it was very different from its previous feminine tone. Regular teenage males also sounded like that. She was indeed the Ever-Changing Demon Girl, and only a shadow of her previous self could be seen in her current looks. Even her height had changed; she was about ten centimeters taller than before. She was a completely different person.

"Sister Lan, I'm impressed! Very impressed!" Long Chen could not help but give her a thumbs up.

"Wrong, you need to call me 'Brother Lan!'" corrected Lan Ling'er. Then she grabbed his hand and dragged him into flight. He felt the wind blowing on his face and could faintly tell that she was leading him through the trees.

I must admit that the Earthly Martial Realm is terrifying. I was only able to kill the Red Ghost King due to luck.

Although he was very powerful then, a large contributing factor to the Red Ghost King's death was the fact that he had underestimated Long Chen. If the Red Ghost King had used all his strength to defend himself, Long Chen would've been no match for him.

Judging by how Lan Ling'er slowed down a lot once she had left the Phantom Ravine, she was definitely sneaking out.

Long Chen finally could see his surroundings clearly, and when they were close to the edge of the forest, she basically let him travel on his own.

She grabbed his sleeve and said demurely when she saw how serious his expression was, "My good brother, why are you so nervous? I was bored in the Phantom Ravine! I'm just bringing you out to play!"

Long Chen could not stand her.

"Alright, alright. We'll play. I'm not afraid."

"That's how a man should be." She chuckled when she won.

Long Chen sensed the auras of many people around, and they were all at least at the Seventh Passage Stage.

"These people are all Fifth Brother's subordinates, also the assassins of the Red Souls. Due to suppression of the Martial Alliance, the Red Souls don't take assignments anymore, but their information network is powerful. They're the reason we learn about what happens in the Divine Martial Empire very quickly," said Lan Ling'er with pride.

This was yet another impressive part about the Dragon clan.

"You must work hard to gain their approval and become our Seventh Brother. You'll be sworn in, and maybe Fifth Brother will give you a few subordinates so you can have fun being a leader," said Lan Ling'er.

Swear in?

Long Chen thought for a moment. Perhaps it was not a bad choice at all.

"I will work hard," Long Chen said with a smile.

Lan Ling'er nodded and continued to lead the way. After they exited the forest, a city as large as Yellow Martial City appeared ahead.

Turning around to look at the vast forest, Lan Ling'er said, "Little Brother, many Red Souls assassins are hiding in that forest. If someone tries to kill you, we will come out to save you as soon as you enter this forest! Of course, it'll be better if you stay with us the whole time."

"I understand." He privately made a mental note. What she had implied was that the Red Souls had taken over this patch of forest.

“Let’s go to Liang Martial City!”

There was a hilly area ahead, and on its other side was Liang Martial City.

Chapter 539 - Battle For A Hand In Marriage

Earthly Spiritual Qi shot up into the heavens.

Liang Martial City seemed close, but it was actually very far, so it took Long Chen and Lan Ling’er quite some time to arrive. It was a city similar to Yellow Martial City, and also the closest city to the Phantom Ravine. Lan Ling’er often visited, though she usually came alone. Now that Long Chen was around, she could finally bully someone into coming here.

“Don’t worry! Although Liang Martial City is under the Martial Alliance’s control, there is only one First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator in the whole city, who is weaker than me! We won’t have any problems going in,” Lan Ling’er explained hurriedly when she saw how cautious he looked.

“There are so many Martial Alliance guards at the gates. How will we enter?” asked Long Chen.

“We’ll sneak in from somewhere else, of course, stupid! Who can a simple city wall keep out?” Lan Ling’er knocked his forehead, then she led him on a huge detour to a more hidden spot in the city wall. She blinked her watery eyes and said, “After we enter, remember to call me ‘Brother Lan!’”

Long Chen nodded with a grin, then she quickly led him into the city. Of course, no one had seen them sneak in; she was an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator after all.

“Why did you want to come to Liang Martial City?” Long Chen asked curiously.

“For fun, of course! This world is full of marvelous things. The others love staying in the Phantom Ravine, but I don’t like that place. It’s too quiet. I love hustle and bustle. Let’s go walk around!” Lan Ling’er pulled him away to a very busy main street. She kept staring at displays of ladies’ fashion, forgetting that she was in a man’s disguise.

Long Chen followed her in exasperation.

There were few high-tiered cultivators in this city of a hundred thousand people. Long Chen looked around and saw that most of the people were at the Heavenly River Realm, while the kids were mostly at the Divine Core Realm. Of course, there were also regular people who could not cultivate.

They roamed around as he kept Lan Ling’er company, and he truly felt how scary a woman could be. Whenever she spotted something she liked, she would use all sorts of methods to get it. After half a day, she seemed to be somewhat satisfied. He was about to suggest going back when they noticed a commotion ahead.

When she heard the noise, she pulled him over and said, “Brother Long, let’s go check it out!”

Long Chen was speechless.

When they arrived, Long Chen saw a grand hotel called the Liang Martial Hotel. Judging by the name, it was the grandest hotel in the whole city. At the bottom of the hotel stood a large red stage, which added to the celebratory atmosphere. There were many people surrounding the stage, and most of them were male.

Lan Ling'er, with her Earthly Martial Realm strength, was soon able to squeeze herself to the front with Long Chen. She hurriedly grabbed a bystander and asked, "Brother, what is happening here?"

"You don't know? The owner of the Liang Martial Hotel's daughter is organizing a competition for her hand in marriage! Anyone who is under twenty-two years old, and whose cultivation level is higher than hers can become his son-in-law! Let me tell you this, the hotel owner is the mayor's younger brother. He's very wealthy, and if you get to become his son-in-law, you're going to enjoy the rest of your life in riches!"

"Son-in-law?" Lan Ling'er's eyes lit up.

"Sister Lan, that's enough. Our identities are sensitive. We should keep a low profile," Long Chen said hurriedly because she looked like she really wanted to participate.

"I just want to watch. Nothing will happen! Don't worry about anything! Also, have you forgotten what you need to call me?" Lan Ling'er furrowed her brows, pretending to be fierce.

On a high floor of the hotel, three middle-aged men were watching the scene downstairs through a window. One was short and fat, another was as regal as a tiger, while the last was wearing a formal, long, yellow robe with a giant "martial" (武) character.

The short, fat man was the hotel owner, while the regal one was naturally the Earthly Martial Realm mayor. The mayor of Liang Martial City said to the yellow-robed man, "Martial King Qin, I apologize for my niece's funny idea to search for a prodigy."

The man called Martial King Qin smiled and said, "It's not funny at all! Yu'er is only eighteen, yet she has already reached the Eighth Passage Stage. She would be considered a prodigy in the Martial Alliance. If someone defeats her and becomes your new son-in-law, it will be a good thing as long as you are clear about their identity."

"That's true, that's true. We must be clear about their identity. We can't let anyone with malicious intent or hatred for the Martial Alliance in," said the mayor hurriedly.

"In that case, let's watch carefully. Let's see what sort of prodigies live in Liang Martial City," said Martial King Qin with a smile.

The main character of the event, a girl named Yu'er, finally made an appearance. Long Chen took a glance and saw that she was indeed pretty and was at the Eighth Passage Stage. She would have been considered a top-tier prodigy in the Ancient Demon Domain.



The girl emphasized that anyone who could beat her would become the Liang family's new son-in-law, then she announced the start of the event. Long Chen never thought a practice found in Baiyang Town, which was a small place in the Cangyang Kingdom, to also be found here.

However, this seemed like a very new thing to Lan Ling'er, so she was very excited.

This was considered a major event in Liang Martial City. However, very few people dared step up despite the growing crowd. This girl was the number one prodigy of the city after all. Many Seventh Passage Stage cultivators went up, but they were defeated and had to flee pathetically. Time passed quickly, and the number of participants dwindled. Although the girl was pretty and it was very tempting, everyone knew their own capabilities well and did not go up to embarrass themselves.

"There are hundreds of thousands of people in Liang Martial City! Is there not a single man who can defeat a little girl?" The girl named Yu'er looked down at the crowd mockingly.

Lan Ling'er was furious. "Fuck that! How dare she look down on me! Let me get up there and show you what a true man is!"

Then she rushed onto the stage and stood in front of the girl!

*She's a fake; what does she know about being a man ...* Long Chen was speechless. They were supposed to be keeping a low profile, but Lan Ling'er wasn't taking their safety seriously and Long Chen had failed to pull her back in time before she ran up.

Lan Ling'er's words triggered loud cheers in the crowd. She smiled and raised a hand for them to quiet down. She said loudly, "Fellow men! I did not intend to come up here, but this girl dared look down on us! I came up here for justice! Not only must I punish this girl here on this stage, I will punish her again on the night of our consummation to vent the anger in my heart!"

Lan Ling'er's words ignited a deafening cheer from the crowd.

Long Chen was stupefied.

She was being too reckless.

"You bastard! How dare you spout that nonsense! You're looking for death!" The girl had turned red from Lan Ling'er's insults and hurriedly attacked her. To the crowd's shock, one casual move from Lan Ling'er was enough to defeat her.

Everyone gasped in surprise.

Long Chen furrowed his brows. It was getting out of hand, so he had no choice but to announce loudly, "Brother Lan, it's time to go. If you aren't leaving, I'll head out first!"

Lan Ling'er knew she had overdone it when she saw that Long Chen was getting angry. She smiled sheepishly and let the girl go. She was about to head to Long Chen when a loud explosion came from the top of the hotel. Two middle-aged men rushed out, hovering in the air. They looked at Lan Ling'er with interest while the mayor said coldly, "Young man! You need to respect my rules after you have defeated my niece! Are you really going to leave?"

Lan Ling'er's gaze instantly turned cold. Her gaze moved from the mayor to the other man. The man was also studying her, but his eyes suddenly widened!

“Lan Ling’er! I can’t believe it’s you! I was just wondering why such a young Earthly Martial Realm cultivator would appear here! Only the Ever-Changing Demon Girl could make herself a man, haha! I did not even have to spend any effort to search for you! Brother Liang, we’re going to be generously rewarded for this!” Martial King Qin said emotionally.

When the crowd sensed the tension in the air, they fled quickly.

They all knew the mayor, but if this man could sit side-by-side with him, there was no way he was a simple figure. And if they looked at Lan Ling’er as if they had met their archnemesis, would Lan Ling’er be a simple figure? If they fought each other, it would surely result in great casualties!

“A master at the Earthly Martial Realm! He’s a Martial King from the Martial Alliance!” Lan Ling’er’s face changed. She was only one person, and there were two opponents! If they attacked together, she would be no match for them!

She was only here to play; she had not expected this at all!

Her mind raced, trying to find a way to deal with this. Suddenly, she had an idea. In a flash, she grabbed the girl named Yu’er and wrapped her hand around her neck. Lan Ling’er would easily be able to kill Yu’er if they attacked.

“Big Brother, she is holding my daughter hostage!” cried the stout hotel owner in a panic.

The mayor frowned. Martial King Qin did not speak and rushed at Long Chen. The mayor had not noticed what Long Chen said to Lan Ling’er, but he had. Since Lan Ling’er had decided to hold Yu’er hostage, why couldn’t he hold Long Chen hostage?

There was an unexpected twist in the tournament for marriage!

#### Chapter 540 - Sworn In

Lan Ling’er was previously focused on taking Yu’er hostage, so she had completely forgotten about Long Chen. When the Martial King attacked Long Chen, her face changed. Knowing the urgency of the matter, she was about to abandon her hostage to rush towards him. Long Chen remained calm and said loudly, “Leave me! I have my own methods!”

Long Chen’s mind had been racing ever since the situation took a turn for the worse. The other side had two Earthly Martial Realm masters, and they had discovered Lan Ling’er’s identity. With two against one, they could definitely win. However, since she was holding an important person of theirs, at least the mayor would not dare act recklessly. Lan Ling’er could likely survive alone for a short while!

Long Chen was the problem. If he was held hostage, it was possible that both he and Lan Ling’er would die here! That was why his mind raced. Not only did he have to run, he had to return to tell the others so they could rescue her!

At the very last moment, Long Chen stopped Lan Ling’er from giving up her hostage. He was still at the Fourth Passage Stage and his body had recovered considerably, so he could use Blood Warp!

Martial King Qin had only moved a short distance!

Long Chen's Blood Warp was extremely fast, but due to his lowered cultivation level, he ended up moving as fast as Martial King Qin's regular speed!

But that was enough!

Because Lan Ling'er was more important, if Martial King Qin went after Long Chen and left the mayor alone, he would surely not be able to hold Lan Ling'er back! Long Chen's Blood Warp had also taken Martial King Qin by surprise, so he only realized what had happened after Long Chen had turned into a ray of blood-colored light. However, if he wanted to chase after Long Chen, it would take a lot of time!

"What?" The mayor and Martial King Qin watched in shock as he left!

Lan Ling'er had not expected Long Chen to do this either. Initially, she regretted it and was about to give up her hostage to save him. She had not expected him to stop her and then flee!

This did not mean that Long Chen had abandoned his mate and ran off alone. He knew that he was useless here and that his presence could even make matters worse for her. That was why he had decided to run and seek help!

Lan Ling'er was not stupid, so she quickly figured it out.

Long Chen is going to bring back help! I must hold on until they arrive so that his hard work won't be a waste! I've really caused a lot of trouble today! If Big Sister finds out, I'm done for! Sigh!

Lan Ling'er regretted it greatly.

However, after spending a lot of time with Long Yue and the rest, she also had a streak of viciousness in her. Now that she had a hostage, there was still hope that she could hold on until Long Chen brought Long Yue and the rest here!

"I'll do my best!" Lan Ling'er expression turned icy!

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Long Chen had burned up all his Qi, but he had only traveled five kilometers. Liang Martial City was about eight or nine kilometers away from the forest, and he knew that Lan Ling'er's life was in his hands!

Sister Lan said that as long as I find the Red Souls in the forest, they can pass the message to the Phantom Ravine!

He recalled what Lan Ling'er previously told him.

However, he had spent all his Qi, so he could only rely on his body's strength to sprint. He still had a King-tier body combat technique, but at his current speed, she would be dead by the time he arrived at the forest.

His eyes turned red!

Although we've only just met, everyone is like siblings! I must not let her die!

He tried thinking of a way as he ran like a madman.

He knew he could not keep pushing his limits like this!

I will be able to reach the Ninth Passage Stage on the Day of the Nine Suns in five days. Whatever, I can live without this Fourth Passage Stage cultivation for the moment!

With that thought, his eyes turned blood-red!

He activated Blood Sacrifice once more! Only Blood Sacrifice could bring him power!

Of course, this time he used only the first stage, which added one tier of strength. His exhausted Qi was partially replenished!

The core in one of his meridian points shattered and turned into blood-red Qi that flowed within his body. Using this Qi, he used Blood Warp once more and rushed into the forest.

“Red Souls! Get out here!”

Long Chen roared using his last shred of energy! His body had only just recovered, but since he had used Blood Sacrifice to save Lan Ling'er, cracks began to appear in his newly recovered body. Blood sprayed out of his mouth and he collapsed!

His injuries were not as serious as last time though. If Long Yue still had more of those herbs, he would probably be able to recover in one or two days!

However, it was still extremely painful!

Long Chen's shout successfully attracted several Red Souls assassins. When they saw that it was him, a few of them quickly helped him up. Some of them had seen him leave with Lan Ling'er, and now he had returned in an injured state while Lan Ling'er was gone. Everyone's brows furrowed.

Long Chen struggled to get out, “Go to the Phantom Ravine! Tell them that Lan Ling'er is in trouble in Liang Martial City!”

The moment they heard him, two rushed off to the depths of the Phantom Ravine while someone helped him sit up. He took a deep breath and wiped the blood from the corners of his mouth. He felt miserable, but he had completed his task. Whether or not Lan Ling'er survived was up to fate now.

Long Chen consumed some medicine, allowing his condition to improve a little.

He looked towards the Phantom Ravine. There was a sudden *whoosh*, and Long Yue appeared in front of him. She took a cold glance at him, then she disappeared. After a short while, Jiang Wuya and the others appeared. When they saw Long Chen, Jiang Wuya hurried over, frowned, and said, “Long Chen, did you use that potential-exhausting technique again?”

There was some blame in his tone.

“Sister Lan is in Liang Martial City! There are two Earthly Martial Realm cultivators attacking her! If I hadn't done this, it would've taken me much longer to get here,” Long Chen said helplessly.

Jiang Wuya and the others looked at each other. Although they did not say it, there was gratitude in their eyes.

Jiang Wuya helped Long Chen up and said, “Yue'er has gone to save her. Don't worry. I'll take you to Liang Martial City! Let's show the people of Martial Alliance what happens when they touch a sister of the Dragon clan!”

Jian Chen, Lei Zhen, and Chi Ying hurried after Jiang Wuya towards Liang Martial City. They moved as fast as Long Chen's Blood Warp and arrived quickly. The city was in chaos, but they ignored it. When they arrived at the Liang Martial Hotel, Long Chen saw that Long Yue was carrying Lan Ling'er in her arms. The latter was pale and there was blood in the corners of her mouth. Her eyes were filled with fear, but thankfully, her life was not in danger.

Not far away lay a body that looked like Yu'er. Long Chen guessed that in order to catch Lan Ling'er and claim the bounty, Martial King Qin had attacked without consideration for Yu'er's safety.

Not far away from Long Yue's feet were the mayor and Martial King Qin lying on the ground. Their faces were bloody and their expressions were dark as they lay on the ground, though they were not dead. However, Long Yue had turned them into cripples.

Long Chen looked at Long Yue in shock. He knew that very little time had passed, but she had already defeated these two and saved Lan Ling'er.

Everyone was safe, so Long Chen was no longer worried.

Long Yue placed Lan Ling'er down gently so she could stand on her own, then she waved Long Chen over and said, "Come here."

Long Chen nodded and stood with Lan Ling'er. The rest of them stood behind Long Yue. She was indeed very capable and knew what he had sacrificed to save Lan Ling'er just with one glance.

"Apologize," she said to Lan Ling'er.

She nodded, then she looked at Long Chen awkwardly and bitterly, saying, "Little Brother, I'm sorry. I was the one who got us into trouble, and you almost ended up in harm's way. I ..."

Lan Ling'er looked guilty like a young child.

"Aren't you alright? Since everyone is alright, we don't need to overthink it. The bad people who bullied you are already on the ground. We should be happy," Long Chen said with a chuckle.

"Mhm!" Lan Ling'er nodded hard.

Long Yue nodded too. She then looked at Long Chen and said, "I have made a decision. I don't know if you guys agree."

"Please tell us, Big Sister," the others said hurriedly.

Long Yue walked up to the dying mayor and Martial King Qin, then she said to Long Chen, "Long Chen, are you interested in being sworn in as one of our brothers? If you're willing, kill them and we will bond by blood! Then you will be one of us!"

Smiles appeared on all their faces. Long Chen did not care about harming himself in order to save Lan Ling'er, and they knew that this had moved Long Yue, inspiring her to make this decision.

Everyone liked him too, especially Lan Ling'er, who was closest in age. She said excitedly, "Alright! I have always wanted a Seventh Brother so he could call me 'Sister Lan!' And Brother Long Chen is very cute too, and he saved me! I'll fight anyone who objects to this!"

She glared at everyone threateningly.