

War God 541

Chapter 541 - News of the Red Emperor Seal

Jiang Wuya could not help but smile. “Our little Miss Lan Ling’er has spoken! Humble ones like us can only submit to her magnificence! I recognize Long Chen as a brother. It’s a pity I’m at least twenty years older than him, so I don’t know if he’ll take me as his Second Brother.”

Jian Chen, Lei Zhen, and Chi Ying had little to say, but they also invited Long Chen to join them.

Long Chen grinned when he met their hopeful gazes. Without saying a word, he took out a weapon from the Primordial Realm and headed towards the mayor and Martial King Qin.

The Demon Emperor Sword had been shattered by the Demon Emperor, so he had to use something else.

The dying mayor and Martial King Qin had heard Long Yue, and Long Chen’s actions made them panic. When he approached, they realized that the person who was about to join the Dragon Clan was the teenager who had used a bizarre technique to flee!

Martial King Qin struggled to say, “Long Yue! Do you dare kill me? Once I die, the Martial Alliance will surely send countless masters to chop you to pieces! The only reason the Martial Overlord hasn’t killed you guys is because you are just too insignificant for him to kill! However, since you have overstepped the line, His Majesty will surely avenge me!”

“Are those your last words?” Long Chen quickened his footsteps.

“You will regret joining the Dragon clan, kid. The Dragon clan is a thorn in the Martial Alliance’s flesh. In just a few days, they will be completely destroyed by the Martial Alliance!”

“I have never regretted anything I’ve done!” Long Chen smiled coldly and, with a whoosh, his sword pierced through Martial King Qin’s heart!

“You’re the second Earthly Martial Realm cultivator I’ve killed!” Long Chen said as he saw consciousness fade from the Martial King’s eyes. Then he turned to look at the despaired mayor.

“Long Chen, we’ll stop here. Although the mayor of Liang Martial City submits to the Martial Alliance, he has not committed any serious crimes. If he dies, I don’t know how many people will suffer,” Long Yue suddenly said when he raised his sword.

Since he was still considered a good person, Long Chen let him go. He had mostly attacked Lan Ling’er due to pressure from the Martial Alliance.

“We are connected as brothers and sisters, and we treat each other with open hearts. This is enemy territory, so we’ll forgo the swearing-in ritual. However, Long Chen, you have killed Martial King Qin, proving that you are willing to join the Dragon clan to become our Seventh Brother. You will live and die with us, and we will fight side by

side! If you do anything that brings us harm in the future, I will not let you live!" Long Yue said solemnly, standing before him.

"Big Sister, everyone is in such a good mood. Don't make it all so serious! Seventh Brother is a good person. Don't scare him!" said Lan Ling'er.

Long Chen nodded. "Brothers and Sisters, since I have chosen to join you all, I am willing to put my life on the line for you all! I would never betray my own kin, so you can rest assured!"

Long Chen's performance today had gained everyone's approval, so they were not worried.

"I was just giving a gentle reminder. Let's go." Long Yue looked at him kindly, then she brought Long Chen away from Liang Martial City and returned to the Phantom Ravine.

"Seventh Brother, cracks have appeared in your body because you used that technique again. Thankfully, I still have some of the spiritual medicine I used on you, and it should be enough for you to recover. Remember not to use that technique again," Long Yue said with concern when they returned.

"The Day of the Nine Suns is in five days. I won't take that risk again," said Long Chen with a grin.

When that day arrived, he would become a true master. Long Chen guessed that his combat abilities would likely catch up to his older siblings. As he was both the youngest and weakest, he had no choice but to refer to them as older siblings. Of course, they also showed him great care.

"Once you have reached the Ninth Passage Stage, I'll help you with your cultivation and in comprehending the Martial Realm!" Long Yue said as she prepared the herbs.

With them here, Long Chen would not need to worry about becoming stronger. It was an amazing feeling to have people looking out for him ...

One day and one night later, Long Chen had fully recovered. He swore never to use Blood Sacrifice until he recovered his initial strength. He had just recovered, so even using the first stage of Blood Sacrifice would be enough to cause damage.

After that, he waited for the Day of the Nine Suns, which would happen in four days. It was fun living in the Phantom Ravine, and Long Chen grew closer to the others. His goofy personality was slowly revealed too.

Long Yue usually ignored the rest and focused on cultivation. Jiang Wuya also seldom showed up. As for the other three, although they did not speak much, Long Chen realized that they were very pleasant to talk to in private. Especially Chi Ying—as the founder of the largest assassin organization, how could he be a simple person?

Long Chen also learned about Jian Chen's history. He was usually very quiet, like a cold, sharp sword, but when Long Chen talked to him alone, he would answer all his questions.

“I’ve lived in a small town all my life. When I was young, I learned how to use the sword and was seen as a prodigy because I showed some talent. That was when the Martial Alliance recruited me. They are like a machine that aggregates all the talented kids together so we can cultivate, then they teach us how to kill. In the end, the kids that do well become ranked higher and higher, while the rest are either kicked out or killed, or even sent to be cannon fodder. I climbed upwards in that kind of environment one step at a time.” Jian Chen sighed as he reminisced.

“Why did you leave the Martial Alliance to come here?” Long Chen asked, puzzled. He had not expected the quietest Third Brother would be from the Martial Alliance.

Jian Chen smiled mockingly. “That place did not suit me. I turned thirty this year, but the day I turned twenty-six, the Martial Overlord personally named me the Sword Martial King! I have never liked to be controlled and I was not suited for a place like that. After enduring it all for twenty-six years, I broke free from the Martial Alliance since I was finally strong enough.”

“So that is why they put you on the Bounty Board and chased you to the end of the world?” Long Chen sweated.

“The Martial Alliance inflicts severe punishment on traitors, and they especially hate me for joining these guys. The Martial Alliance considers this a huge humiliation. Besides Big Sister, I am the person they want to kill the most among us!” Jian Chen said with a bitter smile.

Long Chen had a rough idea.

The Divine Martial Empire was the Martial Alliance’s turf. Everyone living in their borders had to either submit or get killed. They would not be able to survive for long in broad daylight.

“Our group is able to stay together because we have hearts of freedom. I really like my life right now—it’s so freeing. Isn’t this what life is all about?” said Jian Chen with a smile as he stood up.

Long Chen nodded.

Chi Ying suddenly rushed in and shouted, “Big Sister! Everyone, come out! I have news!”

The Phantom Ravine had always been quiet, so everyone heard his shout. Everyone gathered quickly, and when Long Yue saw how anxious he was, she asked, “What is it?”

“Good news and bad news. Which one first?” Chi Ying smirked mysteriously.

“Don’t beat around the bush, Fifth Brother! As usual, we’ll take the bad news first!” Lan Ling’er cried anxiously.

Seeing as no one had any objection, Chi Ying said, “Because of Martial King Qin’s death, the Martial Alliance is mad and has deployed many masters to kill us. There are a few Martial Saints and almost ten Martial Kings among them! The Martial Alliance has sent out about a quarter of its

people after us! Big Sister, Liang Martial City is very close to us. They are heading to Liang Martial City and will start searching from there. That is why this place is no longer safe.”

Everyone frowned. They looked around, unwilling to leave this place.

“It’s all my fault,” Lan Ling’er said dejectedly.

“This is not the time to talk about who’s at fault. I know you don’t want to leave, but we have no choice. We are not strong enough to fight the Martial Alliance. Chi Ying, lead the Red Souls out of here. Let them separate and slip into the nearby cities. They all have clean slates, so they won’t attract the Martial Alliance’s attention. As for us, we need to move,” said Long Yue.

Everyone nodded.

“In that case, let me tell you the good news. Everyone, we have information on the Red Emperor Seal!” Chi Ying said with a grin.

“Red Emperor Seal?” Long Yue looked surprised, and she asked hurriedly, “Tell me, where is it?”

“The members of the Red Souls heard that two strange phenomena took place in the depths of the Cloud Dream Swamp in the south. Both times, firelight shot up from the ground to the sky, dyeing half the sky red. We hear that someone saw the silhouette of the Red Emperor Seal in the light! Now is the time for all five Emperor Seals to be born, so this must be the Red Emperor Seal!” cried Chi Ying.

Everyone was emotional.

Long Chen had listened to everything carefully. He knew that they were looking for the Emperor Seal. He thought about the Black Emperor Seal, but after some thought, he decided not to tell them about it.

“The Martial Alliance has been guarding the Universe Transporters to stop this information from leaking to the other countries. It looks like they want to take the seals for themselves. However, with us here, it won’t be easy for them to get all five Emperor Seals!”

Long Yue said, “Since we need to abandon Phantom Ravine and the Red Emperor Seal has appeared in the Cloud Dream Swamp, let’s go there first! Once we get it, we can think about our next base. We must move now!”

“Yue’er, what will the arrangements be?” asked Jiang Wuya.

Long Yue looked at everyone, then her gaze fell on Long Chen.

Chapter 542 - Golden Lightning Stallions

“We need to separate into three groups,” said Long Yue.

“Why?” They didn’t understand her plan.

“Long Chen needs to take advantage of the Day of the Nine Suns to reach the Ninth Passage Stage. He will be using the Emperor Flame Pearl, which I’m afraid will cause a huge commotion, meaning the pursuers from the Martial Alliance will discover us easily. It will be a risky situation because Long Chen cannot be interrupted during the process, even if we are fighting. However, none of us can be sure that the other party won’t use some sneak attack on him, right? That is why it would be very dangerous if we all stayed together,” Long Yue explained.

“Can’t we use the Thunder Bat Dragon to travel quickly?” asked Lei Zhen.

“It’s a very big target. In the past, the Martial Alliance was wary of us and did not chase after us even when they saw us. However, now it’s different. They have sent masters after us; perhaps they want to at least teach us a lesson? No matter how high and how fast we fly, a beast that large is quite attention-grabbing.”

“Yue’er, just tell us your plan,” said Jiang Wuya.

She nodded and said, “When the seven of us are together, we’re a huge target. We need to separate to be safe. First, I will stay behind to cover for you guys and do my best to stop our pursuers. You guys will be safer that way.”

“Yue’er, it’ll be too dangerous for you to stay behind alone. I’ll stay back to help too. It will be safer with two people,” Jiang Wuya said hurriedly.

Seeing as he was insistent, she nodded. “Alright. With you helping me, they will be even safer. “

“Where will the two groups go?” asked Long Chen. He had a feeling that Long Yue would plan around him.

“This place is the Red Souls’ base. Fifth Brother Chi Ying will need to stay back for a while because a huge number of them will be moving, plus they have to move in secret. After everything is done, only will he be able to leave for the Cloud Dream Swamp. Long Chen, you must leave first, and you must find a place with nobody around. Do your best to reach a desolate place before the Day of the Nine Suns. Also, don’t travel in a straight line from here to the Cloud Dream Swamp. It’s fine if you’re a bit slower. Safety is of paramount importance.”

Everyone nodded. Her plan made sense. Jian Chen said, “Seventh Brother is very weak now and needs protection. I’ll go with him.” Other than Long Yue and Jiang Wuya, he was the strongest and therefore the most suitable to protect him.

“I want to go with Third and Seventh Brother,” said Lan Ling’er.

Lei Zhen looked around and said, “Since Third Brother and Sixth Sister will be together, I’ll stay back to help Fifth Brother. When the arrangements for the Red Souls are settled, we’ll go to the Cloud Dream Swamp. We’ll pick a spot to meet up there.”

“Mhm. It’s set, then. Seven people, divided into three groups. Wuya and I will delay the pursuers. The ones coming are only at the Second Earthly Martial Stage at best, so the two of us will be able to deal with them. As for Chi Ying and Lei Zhen, please be careful.”

Jian Chen said, “Since we have four days, I think the depths of the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range should be a good place. No one lives there, so it’ll be a suitable palace for Long Chen to use the Emperor Flame Pearl to ascend to the Ninth Passage Stage.”

Everyone nodded as they felt that it was indeed a suitable place. It was also not in a straight line towards the Cloud Dream Swamp. No one would expect them to go there, right?

“In that case, let’s go. Jian Chen, Long Chen, and Ling’er, you guys head out first. Lei Zhen, give them three Golden Lightning Stallions,” instructed Long Yue.

Golden Lightning Stallions? Long Chen was just wondering what they were when Lei Zhen released three beasts from his Beast Soul Crystal. The three stallions were not very large, similar in size to normal wild horses. Their fur was a sophisticated yellow, while their eyes were golden. Yellow lightning crackled around their hooves, making them look quite intimidating.

The stallions were bathed in yellow lightning, which explained why they were called Golden Lightning Stallions.

“Golden Lightning Stallions are Category Six Heaven-tier beasts. They are not as quick as the Thunder Bat Dragon, but they are not bad at all. Although we can move much faster, we can’t maintain our speed for long-distance travel. That is why using the Golden Lightning Stallions will be better,” said Jian Chen.

Long Chen nodded and told Lei Zhen, “Fourth Brother, I’m only at the Third Passage Stage right now. Can I even mount a Category Six Heaven-tier beast?”

Lei Zhen grinned. “Don’t worry. The beasts I tame are fierce towards enemies but obedient to our own. I have already told them that you are one of us, so you don’t need to worry, as long as you don’t mistreat them.”

Xiaolang was now a Category Six Heaven-tier beast, so he was surely not slower than the stallions. He had been in the Primordial Realm for a long time too, so he was itching to get out. Long Chen was just wondering how he could introduce Xiaolang to everyone, so he took this chance to release him.

Everyone was stunned by the Sun Devouring Wolf.

Previously, Jiang Cheng had recognized the Sun Devouring Wolf. Since Lei Zhen was more familiar with beasts, Long Chen glanced at him. However, there was only confusion on his face, not shock. This meant that he did not know of Sun Devouring Wolves. While that Jiang Wucheng bastard was bad at cultivation, this proved that he was quite knowledgeable.

“Seventh Brother, do you have a Beast Soul Crystal too?” They all looked at him, puzzled.

He could only nod, as he could not tell them about the Primordial Realm. Everyone knew that he had many secrets, and everyone had their own secrets, even after becoming sworn brothers and sisters. Therefore, they did not ask him more questions but only studied the Sun Devouring Wolf closely.

“This is my brother Xiaolang. We’ve been together for a long time. If we’re traveling long distances, Xiaolang can do it too. I’m more familiar with him.”

Lei Zhen nodded and put one of the stallions away. He then smiled. “Since you have a beast of your own, I’m taking mine back. Seventh Brother, what species is this? Why haven’t I heard of it?”

“It’s a mutated beast. I named it the Sun Devouring Wolf. Have you heard of a beast like that?” asked Long Chen.

Lei Zhen shook his head with a bitter smile. “There are very few beasts in this world I do not know about, and I cannot recognize this one. Category Six Heaven-tier. I wonder how good it is in battle.”

Long Yue also studied Xiaolang for a while, then she finally said, “Alright, we must hurry. Jian Chen will lead you guys away first. We will meet again at Cloud Heaven City outside the Cloud Dream Swamp! See you there!”

The trio nodded, and two of them mounted their Golden Lightning Stallions while Long Chen sat on Xiaolang’s back. They bade the others farewell, then went towards the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range.

To protect Long Chen, Jian Chen and Lan Ling’er traveled next to him, one on each side.

There was a mountainous area outside the forest. Terrain like that was advantageous to Xiaolang, so their speed was not affected.

“Long Chen, go this way!” Jian Chen led the way according to the map in his memory. Long Chen followed him while Lan Ling’er followed casually behind them. Since there were no obstacles, they traveled quickly. Jian Chen had chosen a deserted area to travel through, so they did not see anyone.

Time passed quickly.

They hurried along until they finally arrived at the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range a few nights later. The Day of the Nine Suns was the next day.

Sister Long Yue must have already dealt with the pursuers. Fourth and Fifth Brothers must have started to travel towards the Cloud Dream Swamp too. I must go meet them as soon as I finish cultivating on the Day of the Nine Suns. Then we’ll go search for information on the Red Emperor Seal.

Once I reach the Ninth Passage Stage and have the power of the Golden Crow in my body, I will be countless times stronger. I wonder if anyone from the Ancient Demon Domain will be at Cloud Dream Swamp; this will be a huge surprise for them!

The Five Emperor Seals is an Emperor-tier combat technique. If the Martial Alliance had not placed an information lockdown, a huge, violent battle would have taken place already! This must be the most powerful secret treasure that has ever appeared in the Divine Martial Empire! Surely tens of thousands of people are fighting for it! And I have the Black Emperor Seal ...

Long Chen knew that he was very weak right now. There were countless masters in the Divine Martial Empire like Long Yue, the Demon Emperor, the Huangfu clan patriarch, and the Martial Overlord. He still had no right to fight them. However, he chose to believe in himself because he was a Dragon Warrior.

Of course, he would only be able to utilize the powers of the dragons when he had completely absorbed the Inherited Blood Essence. So far, he had only absorbed a hundredth of it and was only a normal Dragon Warrior.

The Emperor Flame Pearl is my chance to become stronger, then the Five Emperor Seals will be an even greater chance. The Emperor Flame Pearl is in my hands already, then I'll need to get the Five Emperor Seals. After that, I'll be able to hurry to Ling Xi's country as fast as possible. I must not give up!

Long Chen was determined.

He would work hard for the Red Emperor Seal!

He looked up. They were still traveling, but he knew that when dawn came, it would be the Day of the Nine Suns. They were already very close to the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range.

Jian Chen suddenly turned around to say, "On the Day of the Nine Suns, the nine suns don't remain in the sky for the entire day. They will only be there for two hours at noon. That is why we must arrive in the deepest parts of the Swirling Clouds Mountain Range before noon tomorrow. Looking at our current speed, we have enough time."

Chapter 543 - Heaven Meridian Point

Long Chen knew very little about the Day of the Nine Suns, so he had been under the assumption that the phenomenon would last the whole day. Since Jian Chen had said it would only last two hours, it meant they had a lot more time to get to their destination. Plus, the surrounding temperatures were going to increase by several times, so if it lasted through a whole day, a large number of regular people would die. If it only lasted for two hours, the effects would not be that serious.

"Seventh Brother, don't worry. Big Sister should have been able to stop the pursuing forces. We haven't seen even one of them on this road thus far. So don't worry and focus on your absorption. The Emperor Flame Pearl will channel the power of the nine suns into your body. The nine suns correspond to your nine meridian points, so even the meridian points that have been opened will be opened once more," said Lan Ling'er with a grin as she came up to him.

Long Chen nodded. To be honest, with two Earthly Martial Realm experts protecting him, there was nothing to worry about.

The sky soon brightened and the sun rose from the east. Golden rays spread across the land, and Long Chen suddenly heard a shrill bird call. Then he saw the silhouette of a golden bird flash in the fire-red sun.

“That means that when noon comes, the nine suns will definitely appear,” Jian Chen explained with a sigh.

Long Chen looked up at the vast Swirling Cloud Mountain Range. It was a boundless sea of mountains with countless peaks like waves crashing towards the sky, with some peaks even touching the clouds. It was no wonder this place was called the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range.

“We’re here! Let’s hurry to the deeper parts of the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range. The deeper we go, the lower the chance of Seventh Brother from being interrupted.” Lan Ling’er stretched, revealing beautiful curves.

Both Long Chen and Jian Chen pretended not to see her seductive move, causing her to feel defeated, privately scolding the two men for not appreciating beauty. They had to have some difficulties in a certain area ...

The three of them hurried along without stopping and soon entered the mountains. As soon as they arrived, Long Chen and the others heard a shout. A man with tattered clothes and a dusty face rushed out of the woods. He was covered in blood stains and had many scratches inflicted by claws on his body. He must have been attacked by a beast.

Then a powerful tiger pounced from behind him, immediately pressing him against the ground. It opened its huge jaws and moved its head towards his head. If he was bit, his entire head would be ripped off, resulting in an unimaginably tragic death.

The man kept screaming for help, and he screamed even louder when he saw the trio.

Before Long Chen and Jian Chen even moved, Lan Ling’er picked up a rock and flung it so hard that it punched a hole in the tiger’s head. The tiger collapsed weakly on the man and never moved again.

Long Chen initially felt like the three of them had to keep their identities secret, so he was torn between saving the man or not. However, this person was just a minor figure who had not even reached the Heavenly River Realm and likely did not know them, so he would not be able to leak their location.

The man was overjoyed because he was saved. He clambered to his feet and kowtowed to the three of them. “Thank you for saving my life! I will never forget this! May I know the names of the three of you? I will repay you for your kindness!”

“Forget about names. It was nothing; it’s not worth mentioning,” Jian Chen said curtly, then he led Long Chen and Lan Ling’er quickly into the mountain range, thus disappearing from his sight.

Then that man looked up in confusion. He muttered to himself, “White hair ... white hair ... A hundred kilometers from here, there is a city called White City with a young Martial King from the Martial Alliance. He was the ultimate prodigy, but then he committed treason. That guy was so strong; he couldn’t be Jian Chen, could he?”

With that thought, he suddenly grew excited!

“The reward for reporting the location of people on the Bounty Board is a hundredth of the total reward. The bounty for Jian Chen is ten million Heavenly Passage Pills! If I make a report, doesn’t that mean I’m going to receive a hundred thousand pills?!”

The man quickly rolled up from the ground and ran out of the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range like he was running for his life.

The trio did not know that this act of kindness would trigger a huge problem.

“I haven’t been home in a long time,” said Jian Chen, suddenly looking southwards as they hurried along.

“Where is your home?” asked Long Chen.

“It’s in that direction. One hundred kilometers away lies a city called White City. That’s where I grew up. However, my parents died when I was very young, so I wasn’t really treated well in my family and was always bullied. But those are just things that happened when I was young. I have taken my revenge,” Jian Chen said wistfully.

His early life experiences were similar to Long Chen’s.

In the beginning, Long Chen hated the Yang family too. But not anymore, because he had long reached a far higher level than them.

Two hours before noon, Jian Chen stopped. They were in a deep valley that was very quiet and filled with plants. No one had come here for a long time, so the plants were lush.

“This is considered a deep part of the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range. If we go any deeper, there might be some powerful beasts. They might come looking for trouble when the Emperor Flame Pearl causes a commotion, so this place will do.”

Since there were two hours left, Long Chen had enough time to prepare. He found an empty space in the valley, then he sat down on a clean boulder. He looked up at the sky. The sun was diagonally above, in the east. In two hours, the sun would be directly above.

The sun looked like it was up in flames. It was likely that most people had already noticed the strange phenomenon. The surrounding temperatures had increased drastically, and without the Dragon Soul Transformation, Long Chen felt a faint burning sensation on his skin.

“Little Cat, are you ready?” Long Chen asked. He was relying on Little Cat to get the Golden Crow’s soul remnants.

“Of course. When the Golden Crow was alive, he was no match for me. Now this is just a tiny remnant of his soul, so how could it escape me?” Little Cat said smugly, rubbing his belly. He paused, then he said, “However, I’m exhausting my energy for you once again. Energy that I have accumulated over a very long time. Tell me, how will you thank me?”

“Can I find you a few pretty lady cats?” said Long Chen with a grin.

“You jerk! You know I can’t do anything now! And you’re still joking with me!” Little Cat raged.

Long Chen smiled, then he said seriously, “I am still weak now, but I will never forget your help, Reincarnation Beast. You were the one who saved my life. If I become successful in the future, you will be served at every feast!”

Little Cat knew that Long Chen was serious.

He knew Long Chen’s personality.

“Alright! Looking at your condition, you’ll be trash even if you cultivate harder. Seeing as you work quite hard, I’ll be kind and help you one more time.”

Long Chen was too lazy to return his insults.

Jian Chen sealed the entrance to the valley they were in while Lan Ling’er fussed over Xiaolang not far away, studying him. Xiaolang was speechless. Was he really that cute? Why did these girls, like the ten-year-old Huangfu Qi and Lan Ling’er in her twenties, all fuss over him the moment they saw him?

Xiaolang pretended that Lan Ling’er was just a fly. He looked up at the sun, which was burning brightly. The temperature was increasing fast, but he loved the heat. The hotter it was, the more comfortable he felt.

Sun Devouring Wolf ... In my final form, will I be able to swallow even the sun? Xiaolang thought to himself.

After taking a glance at them, Long Chen started to focus on waiting. Noon quickly arrived, and at this point, the sun was close to the center of the sky. Long Chen looked up and saw a gigantic, fiery circle around the sun. The sun seemed to be several times larger than before, burning with golden flames!

Long Chen was sure that countless people were observing this grand phenomenon!

This was a very rare event!

Long Chen was feeling both anxious and excited. The relationship between him and the Day of the Nine Suns was the most intimate in the whole Divine Martial Empire.

The nine suns had not appeared yet, but sparks were starting to fly through the air. Under the brutal heat, the plants and trees were starting to wilt. Long Chen imagined that regular plants would wilt and even die en masse when the nine suns appeared unless they were extremely hardy.

“Long Chen, are you ready? It’s about to begin,” said Little Cat in a rare moment of seriousness.

Long Chen nodded.

“When it begins, use the Emperor Flame Pearl and guide the energy of the nine suns to open your nine meridian points. When that is almost complete, I will use a secret

technique to capture the Golden Crow's soul remnant and inject it into the nine cores. However, before that, you need to find the location of your heaven meridian point," said Little Cat.

"Heaven meridian point?" Long Chen had not thought about it. He had heard that every person had a different heaven meridian point. When a cultivator progressed from the Eighth to the Ninth Passage Stage, they would naturally find out where it was.

"Every person has a different heaven meridian point. When your nine meridian points open later, you'll have to feel where the last one is on your own. I mentioned it so that you can take note and be prepared."

Long Chen knew what to do.

The nine meridian points were the centerpoints of the body. Since the heaven meridian point was the core of the nine meridian points, it was very important.

Chapter 544 - Day of the Nine Suns

On this day, it would look like nine suns had appeared, but eight of them were remnants of the Golden Crow's soul. Only the one in the dead center would be the sun. The position of one's heaven meridian point was similar to the sun in the center of the sky.

Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er watched with concern as Long Chen took a deep breath. He had a feeling that the phenomenon would begin in a short while. The world seemed to have fallen silent. Long Chen held the Emperor Flame Pearl in his hand, then he looked up and watched the sun in silence.

It has begun! Long Chen's heart skipped a beat!

The sun in the sky trembled in a manner visible to the naked eye. Bright and melodious bird calls filled the air; they sounded like they came from far away but were also close to the ear. Eight bird silhouettes emerged from the sun. They orbited around the sun, then they turned into burning suns themselves identical to the real sun in the center!

A total of nine suns dotted the sky. The image of the golden bird appeared in every sun.

That was the Golden Crow!

Long Chen felt truly shaken when he witnessed it.

Is this what true power is like?

Remnants of its souls remain in the sun so that even after its death, they appear in this manner.

The nine suns were in the center of the sky!

Hundreds of millions of people were watching this miraculous scene across the whole Divine Martial Empire!

It looked magnificent at first, but it became scorching hot soon after. Every single sun emitted waves of pure heat that roasted the world below. Long Chen felt the extreme heat around him, as if the air itself was burning.

Although he was not burning, he felt as if he was situated in the middle of burning flames. Every inch of his skin was being burned by the suns!

The people who were not as strong as him were probably suffering even more.

Of course, everyone had long known that this day would come, so it was common for everyone to take precautions. Thankfully, the situation was not as tragic as he imagined.

“How interesting.”

Xiaolang stared woodenly at the nine suns high up in the sky. He stood up subconsciously with brazen greed in his eyes. This brazen, insatiable greed came from the nature of the Sun Devouring Wolf, not Xiaolang.

The nine suns in the sky were the objects of his dream!

Due to the opening of the nine meridian points and the Emperor Flame Pearl, the main character of the day was Long Chen.

The nine suns had officially formed, so Long Chen guessed that the Emperor Flame Pearl would activate soon. As expected, the quiet Emperor Flame Pearl suddenly emitted a shocking amount of heat and levitated from his palm until it was floating above his head!

The Emperor Flame Pearl spun quickly, and Long Chen kept reminding himself to calm down as he watched it spin. It was not an absolutely safe method to directly progress to the Ninth Passage Stage, so he had to remain cautious.

Everyone else watched the Emperor Flame Pearl spin anxiously.

The burning suns were directly above the Emperor Flame Pearl. It let out a soft cry, then, to Long Chen's shock, he saw a golden thread flying out from each sun towards his head!

They were golden threads when they were in the sky, but by the time they reached his head, they turned into golden fiery poles!

This was why Long Yue said that Long Chen would cause a huge commotion. Even people beyond the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range would see nine fiery poles descend into the mountain range!

The poles came directly from the nine suns in the sky!

The gigantic poles quickly reached his head. By now, Long Chen had already lost consciousness and all he felt was his body floating as he lay horizontal in the air. All he could see were golden flames!

Rumble!

When the gigantic fiery poles hit the top of his head, they shrank immediately and all their heat poured into the Emperor Flame Pearl. The Emperor Flame Pearl was absorbing them into itself!

The singular pearl suddenly multiplied into nine, and every pole corresponded to one pearl. The arrangement of the pearls was the same as the suns in the sky.

From Long Chen's perspective, the nine pearls looked like nine miniature golden suns, though they were close by. Behind the nine miniature suns were the actual suns in the sky!

Nine Emperor Flame Pearls, nine suns! They reflected each other!

"Long Chen, focus! Begin!" said Little Cat.

Little Cat's reminder made Long Chen a lot more awake.

An invisible force guided Long Chen's Qi.

One of the nine pearls led the power from the golden poles to slowly descend upon his body. It was heading towards Long Chen's dantian. This was the dan meridian point, also the first meridian point in his body!

Whoosh!

Long Chen watched the Emperor Flame Pearl melt into his body, flow to his dantian, and merge with his dantian. Golden energy flowed through his body and followed the eighteen starry rivers within to travel to his four limbs. To his surprise, having flames burning within his golden energy was not as terrifying as it seemed. It was a gentle, nourishing source of energy that did not belong to any element. It was just like the Ascension Fruit he had consumed a long, long time ago!

The nourishment helped his past injuries heal very quickly. This included the foundational damage caused by the third stage of Blood Sacrifice. If merely one pearl was effective, he could not imagine what the others would do.

When the first Emperor Flame Pearl had completely merged with his dan meridian point, the second Emperor Flame Pearl descended. Just like a liquid, it flowed into his central meridian point, then even more energy poured into his body!

The nine suns provided a continuous flow of energy, and when the pearls merged into his meridian points, the power of the suns entered his body directly.

It was comfortable, very comfortable. He had the same sensation as bathing in warm water on a winter day when he was very young. Not only did the golden energy heal his injuries, it also left behind a seal that strengthened his body.

It's the third one now ... The third Emperor Flame Pearl merged into the sole of his left foot.

Time passed slowly. The strange phenomenon taking place in the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range continued.

Long Chen had already opened the first three meridian points, while the other four were sealed because of Blood Sacrifice. However, this was no obstacle to the Emperor Flame Pearls—the meridian points quickly opened once more after the pearls merged with them.

In the blink of an eye, seven pearls had merged with seven meridian points. The merging of the eighth meridian point had begun. Just now, Long Chen had been terrified because the power of the pearl entered his Yang meridian point, which was located in his fragile brain!

The merging of the eighth pearl was undeniably a success. Out of the nine suns in the sky, eight of them were actually soul remnants of the Golden Crow, but they were now directly connected to his body!

Only the heaven meridian point remains. Once this succeeds, I'll begin ... thought Little Cat.

The Emperor Flame Pearl in the center moved. Long Chen watched it anxiously because he had a feeling that it was moving towards his heaven meridian point!

Little Cat's assistance would be the most important moment of today. Right now, this was the second most important moment!

After he finished clearing his heaven meridian point, his cultivation would be solidified at the Ninth Passage Stage!

While he was anxious, the other two were anxious too. Lan Ling'er had been watching nervously since the beginning as the fiery poles were very scary. She would not have dared to use this method to increase her strength.

Of course, she did not need the Emperor Flame Pearl since she was at the Earthly Martial Realm.

Jian Chen squinted, also watching for Long Chen's heaven meridian point.

Usually, the position of the heaven meridian point was strongly related to one's talent in cultivation. The more important the location was, the more talented the cultivator. It was usually located in the torso, but there were both good and bad places within. The most powerful location was the heart.

If the heaven meridian point appeared in the limbs, then that person was not talented in cultivation.

A peak prodigy's heaven meridian point would be in between their eyebrows, forming a triangle with the Yang Earth and Yin Earth meridian points. Jian Chen had heard that only a handful of people had this. The legendary Martial Overlord of the Martial Alliance was one such case.

Long Chen was extraordinary too, so Jian Chen really wanted to know ... Where would his heaven meridian point be?

Jian Chen's expression suddenly changed.

"Ling'er, someone's coming. Be prepared to kill. Protect Long Chen at all costs!"

Chapter 545 - Pursuit

Lan Ling'er was not the only one who had heard Jian Chen; Long Chen had as well. However, Long Chen was in a critical moment right now, so he could not be distracted. He knew that the others would deal with it. He was grateful to have met them, because without their protection, he wouldn't have been able to use the Emperor Flame Pearl in peace, nor would he have escaped the Demon Emperor's grasp.

He was puzzled because they had made their way deep into the mountain range, so why would someone disturb them this soon?

Although the nine suns would remain for two hours, only fifteen minutes had passed. Maybe these people were initially in the Swirling Cloud Mountains and were coming over after seeing the commotion Long Chen was causing?

The pursuers came from the direction of the valley entrance, and they entered confidently in broad daylight. Long Chen was focusing on the last Emperor Flame Pearl, but he managed to take a quick glance in their direction. Three people had appeared in front of Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er!

The three of them were wearing the Martial Alliance's golden brocade robes. Two men, one woman, and all three were older than Jian Chen. They clearly had very high positions in the Martial Alliance, because their clothing was identical to Martial King Qin's clothing. This meant they were at least the same rank as him!

Most importantly, there were three of them!

And on Long Chen's side, there were only two!

Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er's faces changed slightly when they saw the trio. Long Chen was also slightly nervous, though he was clear that no matter how powerful his enemies were, he had to complete the task at hand!

Remain calm! The most important thing is to remain calm right now! Third Brother is a Sword Warrior and he is at the peak of the First Earthly Martial Stage! He will be able to hold the two of them off for a while, and once I succeed, I will be able to help ease his burden! This was what Long Chen thought.

He initially assumed that they would be regular cultivators, the kind who entered the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range to hunt demonic beasts. Who would've thought that they would be from the Martial Alliance?

There's no chance three Martial Alliance members would be strolling around the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range for no reason. It's very likely our location was exposed and they had long arrived here to search for us. But because the area is too large, they only came after the commotion I caused by using the Emperor Flame Pearl!

They hadn't met anyone on the way here, so who could have leaked their location?

The only person they met was the man who was attacked by the beast.

It must've been him. A man's greed knows no bounds! We saved his life and he paid us back by stabbing us in the back. It looks like the Divine Martial Empire is not the Cangyang Kingdom. I must not be that naive ever again.

Let's ignore everything else and focus on opening my heaven meridian point!

One of the worries that burdened Jian Chen was eased when he saw that Long Chen was still able to focus. He was not worried about Long Chen making a mistake. He and Lan Ling'er locked eyes and he said, "That woman is the Flower Martial King. She's very good at seducing men, but her strength is only average. You deal with her. It's best if you kill her as soon as possible. I'll take the other two!"

"Third Brother, are you sure you can handle two Martial Kings?" Lan Ling'er asked with a frown.

"We'll just have to do our best. Long Chen's safety is the priority. He's young, and he's our brother. We must protect him till the end!" Jian Chen said coldly as he gazed at the approaching Martial Kings.

Lan Ling'er hesitated, but all she could do was agree.

Jian Chen could hold off two Earthly Martial Realm cultivators, but she could not.

The woman's eyes shone with greed the moment she saw Jian Chen, her gaze fixed on his body. "It is indeed the Sword Martial King! I didn't believe it in the beginning, but it really is you! Look at you; such a handsome man who betrayed the Martial Alliance! If you follow me back to the Martial Alliance and listen to me, you might even be able to keep your life! Of course, I will reward you very generously too."

"Flower Martial King, Jian Chen has betrayed the Martial Alliance. Even if he wanted to return, he would be executed," reminded the Martial King next to her.

"I know. Do you really have to tell me?" Flower Martial King rolled her eyes, then her gaze fell on Long Chen behind Jian Chen. She chuckled. "What a handsome young man! Yet you choose to go against the Martial Alliance. I can play with you first, then I'll kill you. It's time! Let's fight! We'll make a huge contribution to the Martial Alliance today!"

The woman's mood changed instantly. In the beginning, she was flirting with Jian Chen and even seemed interested in Long Chen, but then killing intent suddenly appeared in her eyes. She looked like a venomous snake.

Long Chen was at the most critical juncture, so he could not attack. It would be very bad if he was forced to stop cultivating. The two male Martial Kings locked eyes, exchanging vicious looks. Then one of them charged at Jian Chen and the other at Lan Ling'er!

"You're nothing, yet you think you can beat us?" Jian Chen chuckled coldly and took a step forward. A white sword appeared in his hand. It was a sword, but a more accurate description was a sword-shaped jade because it was made of a material similar to jade—translucent, reflective, and beautiful!

However, it had a cold, sharp glint. It was much sharper than regular swords forged from metal!

"Is that a King-tier Cloud Sword? That belongs to the Martial Alliance, so we'll take it back to the Martial Alliance today!" The Flower Martial King trembled as she giggled.

She thought she would not need to do anything, but to her shock, Jian Chen stopped the two Martial Kings with the Cloud Sword!

"One against two? You're too bold!" mocked the Flower Martial King.

The woman was as charming as Lan Ling'er, but Lan Ling'er had a charm unique to a young woman, so it was more conservative. Her charm was fleeting, and only present in a sudden movement or smile. The Flower Martial King was different; her seductiveness came with her aura that radiated in all directions.

Lan Ling'er hated women like that.

"Die, bitch!" With a *whoosh*, Lan Ling'er ran past the two Martial Kings and arrived in front of the Flower Martial King.

"The Ever-Changing Demon Girl! You dare insult me, you lowly scum?!"

Very beautiful women were natural enemies!

Although the fight between them started later, the intensity surpassed Jian Chen's battle!

Long Chen was not worried about Lan Ling'er, but he was worried about Jian Chen. Although Jian Chen was powerful and one of them was no match for him, fighting two opponents was a different matter!

Watching a battle between Earthly Martial-Realm cultivators would be very beneficial to Long Chen, but he had no time to watch. He only had a rough gauge of the situation, and to his relief, Jian Chen seemed like he would be able to hold on for a while.

The heaven meridian point was located between his eyebrows.

The last Emperor Flame Pearl brought with it the power of the true sun. It sank into the point between his eyebrows, then it melted into a liquid.

The three meridians form a triangle. My level of talent is the highest possible. Long Chen was satisfied with the position of the heaven meridian point as it proved that he was more talented than others.

He guided the energy from the Emperor Flame Pearl to open the heaven meridian point.

Once it was opened, he would be able to fly.

Suddenly, he froze.

He was completely stunned.

Because the final Emperor Flame Pearl had disappeared in his body.

What's going on? What happened? Where did the heaven meridian point go? This was an unexpected twist because how could the heaven meridian point suddenly go missing?

Amidst his shock, he suddenly heard a *boom*.

The point that should have been his heaven meridian point, also the point where the eighteen starry rivers in his body connected, suddenly became illusory. Long Chen entered the illusory point and found that it opened up into a space. Wasn't this his sea of consciousness?

The Ancient Dragon Jade was still at the center of the sea of consciousness. The remaining Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon blood was still suppressed beneath it, and it remained unmoved.

Why would Qi containing energy with physical properties connect to the sea of consciousness? Long Chen was puzzled.

It was at this point that he noticed a pearl. It was the Emperor Flame Pearl!

He watched in shock as the pearl slowly morphed into what looked like a meridian point. Two starry veins that had turned illusory connected to the newly formed meridian point, then golden energy poured out of it. It passed through the two illusory starry veins to connect to the eight main meridian points outside!

How is this possible? My heaven meridian point appeared in my sea of consciousness!

Long Chen was in disbelief.

The heaven meridian point was a physical point. How could it have formed in his sea of consciousness?

However, the dragon jade and the Inherited Blood Essence were also physical objects that were stored in his sea of consciousness.

There were all sorts of strange things in this world. After the initial shock, he recovered immediately because he knew that this was a good thing. It did not matter where the heaven meridian point was—he could just progress as usual, right?

Chapter 546 - Soul Remnants of the Golden Crow

Long Chen's nine meridian points were fully formed now.

The nine suns in the sky shot nine golden flaming poles that landed on Long Chen. Nine golden shining points appeared on his body, reflecting the nine suns.

Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er's battles had reached an extremely intense level, especially Jian Chen's fight. He had to not only block their attacks, but also prevent them from ambushing Long Chen, so he was having a very difficult time. He had to risk his life several times to block an attack for Long Chen!

It was time for Long Chen to refine the golden energy and turn it into his own dragon Qi. However, he did not do so immediately because he knew that Little Cat was about to act!

His body and the nine suns had successfully been connected. The next important step was absorbing the Golden Crow's soul remnants! He would only start to refine the golden energy once the soul remnants had been incorporated into his meridian points.

This was a crucial moment. If he was interrupted now, it would all be for nothing. Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er knew this, so they fought especially hard!

His nine meridian points have already been opened. Is he about to start refining? There was a venomous flash in the Flower Martial King's eyes when she saw that Long Chen's whole body was connected to the nine suns. She had been forced back several times by Lan Ling'er's attacks, and she knew that if this continued, she would likely be defeated!

This little bitch is impressive, but does she think she can beat me? The Flower Martial King smiled to herself and suddenly retreated. As she did so, she flicked up a rock using the tip of her foot, then there was a *boom* and the rock flew past Lan Ling'er towards Long Chen!

Oh no! Lan Ling'er had been working hard to kill the Flower Martial King, so she had not expected her opponent to pull a trick like that. She could not react in time, so the rock was heading towards Long Chen unimpeded. The rock had the strength of an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator behind it, so it would pierce through his body!

Both Lan Ling'er and Jian Chen's faces turned pale!

Everything had happened so fast. After Lan Ling'er turned pale, she could not even scream before someone stood in front of Long Chen!

It was Xiaolang!

Xiaolang had been hiding all this time to stop them from ambushing Long Chen. As expected, when he saw the rock, he quickly spat out a powerful burst of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, which engulfed the whole rock!

Whoosh!

However, the rock was simply moving too fast to be burned up completely. When it struck Xiaolang, he felt like a large boulder had crashed into him. Xiaolang was then thrown to Long Chen's feet, almost crashing into him!

The power of an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator was terrifying!

However, Long Chen was safe thanks to Xiaolang.

Both Lan Ling'er and Jian Chen sighed in relief, but because they had slowed down slightly, their opponents' attacks grew even fiercer. Wave after wave of attacks came, so Jian Chen could not afford to be distracted. However, with his abilities and the Cloud Sword, he was able to suppress his two opponents.

As for Lan Ling'er, she initially had the upper hand, but the surprise ambush had helped the Flower Martial King turn the tides. While Lan Ling'er was in shock, the Flower Martial King took the chance to quickly gain the upper hand, forcing Lan Ling'er back with every strike!

Of course, defeating Lan Ling'er was no simple task!

Jian Chen initially wanted Lan Ling'er to kill the Flower Martial King as fast as possible, but looking at the current situation, a quick kill was not possible.

What now?

Wait until Long Chen reached the Ninth Passage Stage? Then what? Even at the Ninth Passage Stage, he would not be able to participate in this battle. To Jian Chen, they had been cornered. He had no idea how to proceed.

All we can do is let Long Chen escape when he reaches the Ninth Passage Stage. After he flees, Ling'er and I can run if we are still capable, thought Jian Chen as he clenched his teeth.

To be honest, the Flower Martial King's ambush had also startled Long Chen. Thankfully, Xiaolang had managed to stop it in time. Although Xiaolang was a little injured, it was not serious. Long Chen was filled with gratitude. He forgot about him sometimes, but he was glad that Xiaolang was his brother for life!

Long Chen believed that even if that attack had been a fatal one, Xiaolang would've blocked it for him regardless. Long Chen was content to have found such a good brother.

I must not waste Xiaolang's kindness! He focused on waiting for Little Cat. At this moment, an image slowly formed above the Primordial Realm in his chest. It was Little Cat's plump body, but he was much more serious than usual.

"Long time no see, old friend," Little Cat said wistfully to the nine suns in the sky. To Long Chen's astonishment, the nine suns reacted as if they had heard Little Cat's words!

The nine suns moved in unison!

“Although only a trace of your soul remains, a huge amount of power is stored within it. I have a complete soul, but I don’t have a trace of power. Hundreds of millions of years ago, did we ever think that we would end up like this?”

There was a wistful look on its face.

“I’m not going to talk nonsense. Today, your old friend just wants to borrow some power for this kid. Don’t be selfish ...” said Little Cat as he reached out with his little paw and touched the thickest pole of sunlight in the center.

Long Chen did not know what method was being used, but he suddenly sensed a terrifying reaction coming from the other side of the pole!

Something arrived instantly in his body!

Nine indescribable things had instantaneously arrived in his meridian points!

“It’s complete! Refine it now, quick!” said Little Cat. He did not return to the Primordial Realm but savored the golden energy with great sorrow. Hot tears filled his eyes as he sensed the familiar energy, shaking his head helplessly. When he saw that Long Chen had started to refine the golden energy, which was the last step, he sighed in relief. “Old friend, since you’re so generous, why don’t you give a bit of energy to that wolf too?”

When Little Cat finished speaking, far away in the sky, the sun in the center ejected golden flames toward Xiaolang’s head! The golden flames were different from the golden poles that had flown to Long Chen. Long Chen had received pure solar energy, while Xiaolang was receiving pure solar fire!

“This is the most powerful level that you can absorb. My mission is complete.” Little Cat glanced at Xiaolang, then at Long Chen. Both of them were quickly growing stronger, and he knew that he was the main reason why. Seeing them grow stronger made him quite happy.

“Old friend, I don’t know when we’ll meet again ...” Little Cat returned to the Primordial Realm in deep thought.

Xiaolang was no idiot, so he knew that the fat cat was helping him. Although there was not much solar fire, there was no chance he would pass it up. He quickly swallowed the golden flames!

Then he started to digest them!

He initially started at the Category Six Heaven-tier, but his cultivation level was quickly rising at a pace faster than Long Chen!

Long Chen was also progressing very quickly. He knew that both Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er were quickly approaching their limits, so he had to speed up the process!

This was so that he could complete his cultivation and help them!

Filled with golden energy, Long Chen fervently guided the energy through the eighteen starry rivers and nine meridian points in his body. He activated his Dragon Soul Transformation, which made him tougher. The characteristics of his Dragon Qi were even more pronounced now!

The Qi given to him by the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon was blood-red, and it was ranked higher than the Golden Crow's power. That was why the golden energy slowly turned blood-red as he guided it through his body.

Before that, there was one more process that was even more important. The soul remnants of the Golden Crow had split into nine pieces and planted themselves in Long Chen's nine meridian points. All of them were activated at the same time, and infinite golden energy flowed through his eighteen starry rivers and nine meridian points. The power accumulated and soon reached the limit that his starry veins could bear!

While his strength skyrocketed, just like the sun rising at dawn, the nine tiny suns in his body rose from their nine whirlpools, and nine chilling bird calls rang in his body. The nine golden suns had replaced his meridian points!

All of the tiny suns burned brightly with golden flames, and Long Chen saw small, golden birds inside each one!

Those were the soul remnants of the Golden Crow!

Chapter 547 - Ninth Passage Stage

When looking at the nine Golden Crow soul remnants, Long Chen felt anxious deep in his soul.

He knew that based on this, Little Cat had succeeded. He had successfully taken a portion of the soul remnants in the sun and planted them into his nine meridian points.

I wonder what changes they'll bring to my body?

Long Chen was curious, so he closely inspected the golden birds, whose eyes were closed. Suddenly, the nine soul remnants opened their eyes at the same time, and he felt the same terror as when he faced the Inherited Blood Essence.

It was as if a god from high above had suddenly looked at him for a moment. The immense regalness and unstoppable power almost scared him into falling to his knees!

But they quickly closed their eyes again.

That was powerful. They are indeed Golden Crow soul remnants who lived in the sun.

He was impressed. At this moment, his body was filled with awesome strength, which was much stronger than his previous peak form!

The foundational damage caused by the third stage of Blood Sacrifice finally recovered fully. Not only that, he had leveled up in every aspect, achieving great strength!

Although he did not know what the soul remnants provided at the moment, he had no time to study them. Jian Chen was fighting two Martial Kings alone, and if he did not help him, Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er would die!

Long Chen would never forgive himself if they died because of him!

Long Chen's body was filled with golden energy from the sun. The last step was to absorb and convert it. If he did not have the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's Inherited Blood Essence, he would not need to convert it because the golden energy was strong enough!

However, the blood-red Dragon Qi was his foundation!

A hint of blood-red Qi appeared in the expanse of golden energy. Like a pigment, it slowly dyed all the golden energy blood-red. The patch of blood-red Qi expanded and followed the flow of Qi through his body, traversing the eighteen starry rivers and nine meridian points, reaching all his bones and four limbs. After several cycles, all the golden energy within him was blood-red. It flowed like blood in his body!

The golden whirlpools in his meridian points turned blood-red, and the golden suns above the golden whirlpools also turned into blood-red suns burning with red flames!

All his meridian points were now completely red!

Another nine chilling bird calls were unleashed, and the sound waves almost caused his body to explode. However, several blood-red dragons flew out of his blood-red Qi and entered every meridian point, causing the soul remnants to turn blood-red.

The blood of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon is awesome. Even the fundamental quality of the soul remnants were converted. It truly is an ancestor of dragons. The ten Ancestral Dragons were once the peak creatures in the Dragon Continent, Little Cat thought when he saw the changes.

Long Chen's cultivation finally came to an end!

There were still nine suns in the sky, but after Long Chen had converted all of the golden energy into blood-red Qi, the nine suns cut off their connection to Long Chen.

The Day of the Nine Suns really was a miraculous phenomenon.

Long Chen felt like he had undergone rebirth when comparing himself before and after using the Emperor Flame Pearl. Due to Blood Sacrifice, he had dropped to the Third Passage Stage, but now he had activated the heaven meridian point to reach the Ninth Passage Stage! The peak of the Heavenly Passage Realm! He had even received the Golden Crow's soul remnants, as per his wish! Even his injuries were all gone ...

In less than two hours, Long Chen had reached the strongest state he had ever been in in his life!

Especially after the Dragon Soul Transformation, he was far beyond the Ninth Passage Stage in terms of Qi quantity. He had far, far more Qi than ever before; almost as much as he had after he used the third stage of Blood Sacrifice. During the last Blood Sacrifice, Long Chen's body had been far too weak to withstand such energy. Now, however, he could control it perfectly, so he was much stronger than before.

Jian Chen and the rest had waited far too long for this moment.

Long Chen, who was sitting on a boulder, opened his eyes and stood up.

The first thing he did was take note of Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er's current situation. Lan Ling'er had managed to tip the scales back in her favor, but the Flower Martial King was no easy opponent. Due to the trick she had pulled earlier, she had managed to hang on. She knew that she just had to survive until the two other Martial Kings defeated Jian Chen!

Rays of light shot out from Jian Chen's Cloud Sword. His opponents did not dare face him directly, but did their best to work together against him. Jian Chen was trying to prevent them from ambushing Long Chen, so he was in a very dangerous situation.

Long Chen noticed that Jian Chen was getting pale; he was struggling to hold on after dealing with his powerful opponents for such a long time!

Long Chen had taken much longer than Jian Chen expected. When he saw that Long Chen had finally succeeded, he saw hope and roared, "Long Chen, run! As long as you make it out, we will be able to run!"

Lan Ling'er thought Long Chen would be as smart as he was at Liang Martial City, but Long Chen did not move. Instead, he leaped off the smooth boulder, glanced at the deeply slumbering Xiaolang, who was still digesting the solar fire, and took out a sword from the Primordial Realm!

Intermediate Heaven-tier swords were common in the Divine Martial Empire, so it wasn't difficult to find one as powerful as the Demon Emperor Sword. Long Chen had used the Heaven Sword Array to its maximum potential and knew that he was starting to fall behind in terms of combat techniques. However, it was powerful enough to deal with these people!

Long Chen isn't leaving? There was a flash of confusion in Jian Chen's eyes. Long Chen was approaching him. For a moment, Jian Chen had a mistaken feeling that it wasn't Long Chen, but a gigantic ancient beast!

His terrifying aura even terrified Jian Chen!

Blood-red heat waves spread in Jian Chen's direction.

Of course, they were not directed at him, but released subconsciously by Long Chen!

Clumsily dodging an attack, Jian Chen roared, "Long Chen, why aren't you leaving?"

"Leaving?" Long Chen shook his head. He was now right on the edge of their battle, watching his two opponents. "Third Brother, let me take one of them!"

"What?" The three Martial Kings of the Martial Alliance thought they had heard him wrong. Long Chen had only just reached the Ninth Passage Stage, yet he wanted to battle an Earthly Martial Realm opponent?

They had experienced the metamorphosis of progressing from the Heavenly Passage Realm to the Earthly Martial Realm, so they knew exactly how big the gap between the two realms was. Even though a Seventh Passage Stage cultivator could be talented enough to fight a Ninth Passage Stage opponent, a Ninth Passage Stage cultivator would never be a match for someone at the Earthly Martial Realm!

Because they were on a whole different level!

No one had ever done this before!

The two Martial Kings burst into laughter. One of them said, "You Dragon clan people are all so ignorant! You think you're better than everyone just because you reached the Ninth Passage State!"

“Whatever. Since he made the request himself, I shall show him the power of the Earthly Martial Realm! It may look simple, but it is countless times stronger than the Four Foundational Realms!”

As he spoke, he prepared to head towards Long Chen!

Jian Chen initially wanted to stop him, but he did not because he had witnessed how powerful Long Yue was, and he knew how mysterious Long Chen was too. When he was in the Ancient Demon Domain, Long Chen had killed a Demon King! Although Long Chen had used a special technique that caused severe injury to himself, it was undeniable that common logic did not apply to him!

That was why he did not stop him.

Long Chen smiled when he saw the Martial King coming in his direction. Now it was only a matter of time before Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er could defeat their opponents. Ever since he finished cultivating, he knew that they were free from danger.

It had been a terrifying ordeal.

He was too close to Jian Chen, and he needed a large space. Therefore, he created some distance. He wanted to truly see how big the gap between himself and someone at the Earthly Martial Realm was, and check how powerful he currently was!

The Four Foundational Realms versus the Three Martial Realms. This was the biggest power gap he would have to overcome thus far!

The Martial King standing in front of him had a slender figure and a hawk-like nose. He was strong and had excellent combat abilities in all aspects. Although he had been battling Jian Chen for a long time, his strength level hadn't declined much!

Boom!

Long Chen realized that when he stepped on the ground, he felt as if he was connected to it. He was the earth, and the earth was him.

Now that he had opened the heaven meridian point, he knew that he could fly, though it was not very useful at the Ninth Passage Stage. It was suitable for showing off, but definitely not battling in the air.

“Brat, I am the Eagle Martial King of the Martial Alliance! Now you know who will kill you!”

Chapter 548 - Battling The Earthly Martial Realm

An Earthly Martial Realm cultivator.

Although his opponent was only at the First Earthly Martial Stage, Long Chen did not let his guard down.

As he felt the power flow through his body, he gazed at the Eagle Martial King. He would move when his opponent moved, not daring to attack first, because he was not confident.

He wondered what it would be like to fight a true Earthly Martial Realm cultivator.

At this moment, Long Chen had the King-tier True Martial Demon Body and the Demonic Illusion. He guessed that his opponent had one or two King-tier techniques at most, but in terms of Qi, Long Chen definitely had more Qi than the opponent had essence!

However, Earthly Martial Realm cultivators had something else.

Long Chen had seen them fight before. It was as if they could control every bit of energy in a punch so that it was all concentrated in one point. It would look like a simple attack, but it would contain far more energy than what a Heavenly Passage Realm cultivator could release!

Whoosh!

The Eagle Martial King ran out of patience when he saw that Long Chen was not moving. There was a cold flash in his eyes, then he turned into an illusion as he sprinted forward. In the next second, he was already right in front of Long Chen!

He's so ... fast ... but his movements look like mine before I started cultivating, before I reached the Dragon Realm ... Long Chen studied the Eagle Martial King's movements in detail.

I can sense that all of his power is concentrated in his torso, and I can even sense that he is connected to the earth. Every time his foot lands, he absorbs the energy in the earth. Perhaps the Earthly Martial Realm is related to the earth?

Long Chen thought back to when he watched Long Yue's punching routine. At the time, he suddenly felt as if she was one with the land. Every punch seemed to conform with the pulse of the earth, flowing like waves in the ocean.

That was a simple punching routine, but each punch was an earth-shattering attack. After passing through the drama of the Four Foundational Realms, the Earthly Martial Realm likely returns to the origin point. It is like melee combat before one reaches the Dragon Realm. It looks like the Earthly Martial Realm has a high requirement for close-range combat. One can only comprehend the strength of the Martial Realm in an intense battle of life and death.

Many thoughts popped into his mind as he watched the Eagle Martial King.

"Let me show you what the Martial Realm truly is!" When he was close to Long Chen, the Eagle Martial King smirked and suddenly punched. He did not use any attack techniques; it was merely a punch. It was simple, but it seemed to bring with it the pulse of the earth. It was as if the earth was flying toward him!

Long Chen took a deep breath, let out a roar, and also threw a punch!

He was only at the Ninth Passage Stage, so he was using his Qi. However, the amount of Qi he had access to far surpassed the weight of the Eagle Martial King's essence!

To Long Chen's shock, that punch had been instinctive. The silhouettes of the Golden Crows in his nine meridian points appeared in his mind, and he had instinctively used the energy from them. Then he realized that when he threw his punch, his fist had emitted a blood-red firelight and burned up in flames. His fist collided with the Eagle Martial King!

Boom!

Long Chen was thrown back from the impact!

The result left him utterly shocked. The Eagle Martial King's punch had allowed him to truly feel the power of the Earthly Martial Realm. Even with his King-tier body tempering technique and the toughness of the Dragon Soul Transformation, his arm felt numb and trembled. He quickly relaxed his arm, but he was forced tens of steps back!

The Eagle Martial King was suffering too. He had not been forced back by Long Chen's strength; he was retreating on his own due to the pain. Long Chen looked up and saw that half of his opponent's fist was charred. There was even hot smoke coming from it, and judging by the Eagle Martial King's contorted features, it was very painful.

If their exchange was any indication, the Eagle Martial King was clearly stronger. If he had not stopped because of the pain, the pain in Long Chen's arm would have been worse!

Is this the power of the Golden Crow's soul remnants?

Long Chen now understood that the Golden Crow's soul remnants were now living in his nine meridian points and had become his power cores. Whenever he used his Qi, their power would merge with his Qi, therefore adding powerful flames and strength to his attacks!

Just now, Long Chen's Qi, which could match someone at the Earthly Martial Realm, could only barely withstand the Eagle Martial King's attack. However, the Golden Crow's power had injured the Eagle Martial King.

Perhaps the Golden Crow's power will be incorporated into my attacks from now on. This is an amazing boost. Will the Golden Crow's power also be incorporated into my sword techniques?

Long Chen was in a great mood.

If he could wield the Golden Crow's powers well, it could result in terrifying effects!

It was just like the Dragon Soul Transformation, which gave Long Chen Qi that was ten times stronger than average. These effects also grew with Long Chen, so he wondered if the effects would be increased by another tenfold when he became a super master!

Long Chen did not believe that the soul remnants contained this little power. It was likely that the power was only released based on how much Qi he utilized.

That was why the Golden Crow's power was likely a divine technique just like the Dragon Soul Transformation, which would continue to stay with Long Chen as he grew!

"How could your Qi have such an intense heat? This is impossible! You absorbed pure, non-elemental energy, so how could it be this hot?" The Eagle Martial King was in disbelief.

Of course, he did not know that there was a legendary Reincarnation Beast in the Primordial Realm located in Long Chen's chest, who had helped him get the Golden Crow's soul remnants!

The Eagle Martial King was not the only one. Jian Chen and the others were also paying attention to Long Chen. Jian Chen's brows were furrowed when he saw that Long Chen had chosen to face the Eagle Martial King directly, but when he saw the result, he could not believe it for a moment.

However, he and Lan Ling'er sighed in relief.

“Linger, quickly finish her up!” Jian Chen took a deep breath, then he launched a storm of attacks at his opponent! A single Martial King was no match for him!

“Old Eagle, what are you still standing there for? Fight him! I can’t hold on for long!” roared the Martial King who was fighting Jian Chen.

The Eagle Martial King calmed down and finally saw Long Chen as an opponent he had to take seriously.

“You brat, you must have used some demented technique.” Then the Eagle Martial King suddenly flew like an eagle and swooped at Long Chen’s head. There was a *whoosh*, and Long Chen realized that the whole sky above him was filled with the Eagle Martial King’s iron talons!

The Eagle Martial King had a talon-type attack!

This was likely not a King-tier combat technique, but since it was used by an Earthly Martial Realm master, it was quite terrifying. His simple punch was already powerful, so this would be worse!

He’s fast and his attacks are vicious!

This was Long Chen’s impression of the Eagle Martial King. He did not dare underestimate this talon attack too. Although his Heaven Sword Array looked dazzling from the outside, it was nowhere near as strong as a simple punch from an Earthly Martial Realm master!

The Heaven Sword Array had enough power to leave countless scars if he were to use it to attack a mountain, but a simple punch from an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator would completely shatter the whole mountain!

Long Chen finally experienced the power of the Martial Realm for himself!

Why were they called the Three Martial Realms?

Because this was the true meaning of “martial!”

Of course, the Heaven Sword Array was different when it was used by Long Chen.

Long Chen had several advantages that a regular Ninth Passage Stage cultivator could only dream of!

When the Eagle Martial King moved, Long Chen moved too. He was retreating as fast as he could, and at the same time, consecutive blades of Sword Qi flew from his sword towards the Eagle Martial King’s attack. These blades of Qi collided with the talon seals!

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Long Chen’s Sword Qi contained Qi from his own body. At this level, a regular Ninth Passage Stage cultivator would be easily killed by his blades. However, they were lacking in the face of the Earthly Martial Realm attacks.

But the blood-red flames burning brightly on top of his Sword Qi were going to make all the difference!

The collision between the two attacks was abnormally violent. The Eagle Martial King wanted to approach, but Long Chen did not let him. He knew that if he got within close range of an Earthly Martial Realm master, he would die.

Every time the talons appeared, they formed large arcs as if they wanted to scratch space itself apart. There were even sounds of explosions, which proved just how powerful the attack was! However, the Eagle Martial King had suffered from the Golden Crow's powers once already, so he did not dare face Long Chen directly!

Only through dodging and unleashing his essence was he able to shatter Long Chen's Sword Qi. Right now, Long Chen was completely exposed beneath the talons!

Jian Chen let out a furious roar. Without looking back, the Eagle Martial King knew that Jian Chen had forced the other Martial King to his limit and would likely kill him in a few breaths' time!

I didn't expect Jian Chen to be this good! No way, I must kill this brat now. I will let him have a taste of my most powerful attack! Hold on, Brother!

If he could finish Long Chen now, he would be able to save his partner!

If Long Chen died, Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er would die too!

Whoosh ...

The Eagle Martial King exhaled a white mist, and an ice-cold light appeared in his eyes. Loud snapping and cracking came from his bones, making Long Chen's scalp go numb. Then the human in front of him turned into an eagle and charged directly at Long Chen!

Soul Dispersing Talons!

Chapter 549 - Power of the Golden Crow

Having mastery over King-tier combat techniques was a specific sign that a cultivator was at the Martial Realm. The Eagle Martial King's Soul Dispersing Talons was a King-tier combat technique.

The scratches from the talons turned into five bright rays of light that shot straight at Long Chen. At this point, the Eagle Martial King could no longer be seen clearly. All Long Chen could see was a heaven-encompassing eagle, as well as the sharp talons right before his eyes. When the talons swiped past him, it looked as if space itself was twisted. It was clear just how terrifying this attack was.

I am no match for the Eagle Martial King when it comes to expertise in my attacks. That is why I can only gain the upper hand through sheer strength. This was the only thing Long Chen could do. As usual, he used the Heaven Sword Array, though this one was quite different from previous ones.

Number one, he was much, much stronger.

Number two, he had the power of the Golden Crow.

When the Eagle Martial King launched an attack, Long Chen did not sit around and wait for it to arrive. He had used the Heaven Sword Array countless times, but this time, it was used on an unprecedented level. He raised his sword in an arc, lifting it high in the air, then he swung it in one powerful strike. Countless sword symbols formed a sword array, which despite its small size, contained ten times more power in every single symbol compared to before!

Every sword symbol trembled and let out shrill calls, causing even the air to tremble. If this was it, then it would still be insufficient to threaten the Eagle Martial King. Most importantly, blood-red flames burned brightly above every sword symbol!

Just one burning sword symbol was enough to hurt the Eagle Martial King, let alone tens of thousands of them on this scale. An instant later, the Eagle Martial King was engulfed in red flames!

“Die!” Long Chen unleashed the Heaven Sword Array!

“Die!” Although the flames were scary, the Eagle Martial King clenched his teeth, trying his best to withstand them!

Due to the presence of the Golden Crow’s soul remnants, Long Chen’s energy was now Yang-leaning. The blood in his body surged as if it had started to boil. Powerful Qi and Yang energy surged through his youthful and strong body, presenting the characteristics of a Yang body.

The Heaven Sword Array, boosted by the Golden Crow’s soul remnants, collided with the Eagle Martial King’s King-tier Soul Dispersing Talons! Everyone else was watching this moment out of the corners of their eyes, so they were extremely nervous too. No one initially thought that Long Chen was a match for the Eagle Martial King, but when strange, red flames appeared in his attack, they were uncertain!

Perhaps there was a possibility that Long Chen would win!

Long Chen had killed many people by just relying on the Heaven Sword Array; his first victim was the Sword Emperor and now it was the Eagle Martial King. Without counting the incident where he used the third stage of Blood Sacrifice, the Eagle Martial King was the most powerful opponent he had fought with the Heaven Sword Array thus far. Furthermore, his Heaven Sword Array was currently in its strongest state!

The Heaven Sword Array fell hard, and it was immense. As long as one was engulfed within, the swords would seal the space around them. The swords glinted, and they were each very fatal once alight with the red flames!

The victor would be determined in the next moment!

As long as the Eagle Martial King could get close to Long Chen, Long Chen would immediately lose. Once a cultivator reached the Earthly Martial Realm, they mostly engaged in melee combat because their strength and speed far outmatched someone at the Heavenly Passage Realm. Even the most brutal attacks from a Heavenly Passage Realm cultivator could not match close-range attacks from them. Usually, killing a Heavenly Passage Realm cultivator would be as easy as chopping vegetables when they were close by.

Long Chen was a monster—he was only at the Ninth Passage Realm, yet he possessed enough strength to kill an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator. This time, he was well aware that it was unwise to get close to an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator. That was why he won. His attack also far exceeded the Heavenly Passage Realm level, therefore breaking this natural law!

Beneath the pelting of the Heaven Sword Array, the Eagle Martial King sprinted forward with all his might while holding back the sword lights. As long as he could get out of the Heaven Sword Array’s range, it would only be a matter of time before he killed Long Chen. However, he underestimated how powerful the Heaven Sword Array was!

When the first burning sword light broke through his defenses and pierced into his body, the intense pain almost made the Eagle Martial King curl up. It was so hot that it instantly burned a piece of his flesh!

Due to the pain, the Eagle Martial King lost his focus. Then tens of thousands of sword lights swallowed him whole.

He let out a scream of agony, though it quickly died down. Everything the Eagle Martial King had worked for was gone beneath the Heaven Sword Array. He was now dead.

Everything in front of Long Chen returned to emptiness.

Long Chen suddenly felt weak. He knew that he could not use the Golden Crow's power recklessly. He had to be frugal with it and use it to kill his enemies at the last moment!

His fight was over.

The other two fights changed drastically when his fight ended. Due to an advantage in strength, the moment after Long Chen killed his opponent, Jian Chen's opponent drowned in a flurry of sword attacks.

Jian Chen's Cloud Sword pierced through his opponent's throat. He pulled it out, and his opponent collapsed. He did not close his eyes, even in death.

The Flower Martial King was smart. When she saw that her two helpers were faltering, she took out some red powder from somewhere and threw it at Lan Ling'er!

Having heard of the Flower Martial King's reputation, Lan Ling'er knew what the red powder was. It was an aphrodisiac-type medicine. Once poisoned, Jian Chen and Long Chen would embarrass themselves greatly. Lan Ling'er had no choice but to quickly retreat to dodge the red powder; she knew not to come into contact with it!

"You little bitch! Why are you dodging it? You have two handsome men, one young and one old, here for you to enjoy! Isn't this aphrodisiac powder exactly what you want? Hehe ..."

Since Lan Ling'er had been forced away, the Flower Martial King laughed and shot off like a madwoman!

In terms of speed, Jian Chen was only as fast as she was, and now he was blocked by the powder. That was why the three of them could only watch her leave.

"You horny woman! One day, I'll chop you up to pieces! Aaaaaah!" Lan Ling'er was mad with rage, throwing punches at the boulder next to her. Then she suddenly recalled something and then looked at Long Chen with wide eyes as if he was a stranger. Even Jian Chen was eyeing him from head to toe in shock.

"...S-seventh Brother! You killed the Eagle Martial King?" Lan Ling'er stuttered, walking up to him.

"Of course. This means I'm better than you now," Long Chen said proudly with a smug look on his face.

“Tsk, look at you being all smug. Even one hundred of you would be no match for me,” Lan Ling'er said with a grin.

“You killed an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator despite only being at the Ninth Passage Stage. Long Chen, you have basically performed a miracle. Your strength is on par with us; you're now qualified to truly be a part of the Dragon clan. If Big Sister assigns a task to you, you cannot refuse it.” Jian Chen showed his approval in his tone.

Two of the three Martial Kings that had ambushed them were dead and one had escaped.

After he finished speaking, there was a boom in the sky. Long Chen looked up. Two hours had gone by, and the grand phenomenon of the Day of the Nine Suns had completely disappeared. The extremely hot air started to cool too. The temperature would return to normal levels in a few hours.

Long Chen's achievements had far surpassed his own imagination.

“Since the Flower Martial King ran off, we shouldn't stick around here. Once Xiaolang wakes up, we need to hurry to the Cloud Dream Swamp,” said Jian Chen with furrowed brows after he woke up from his shock.

The people of the Martial Alliance were everywhere. Just like flies, catching one's attention would not end well.

Long Chen and Lan Ling'er both nodded.

“It doesn't even make sense! I have always been the weakest, and after great difficulty, I finally found a younger brother to bully. Now this younger brother seems to have become stronger than me.” Lan Ling'er sighed, resigned. However, she was still quite shocked. It looked like it was the right decision to have Long Chen join them.

“In that case, what do you think about calling me 'Elder Brother Chen?'” Long Chen teased.

“You bastard! Do you want to fight? You're just a brat!”

Long Chen initially wanted to tease her more, but something was happening to Xiaolang. Long Chen did not know what growth the solar fire would bring to him, so he quickly went to Xiaolang's side and watched with great anticipation.

The golden flames burning on Xiaolang's body slowly died down, and the heat radiating from him also slowly dissipated until he returned back to normal. Suddenly, his eyes sprang open to reveal golden pupils and golden flames burning within. When Long Chen looked at them up close, he felt as if he was in an endless sea of golden flames himself.

“I'm just one step away from the Category Nine Heaven-tier. Just a little more,” Xiaolang said resignedly.

“That’s okay. This is already great.” The Category Nine Heaven-tier was within Long Chen’s expectations. He and Xiaolang had always been on a similar level, though Long Chen was always a little stronger than Xiaolang. However, although he was at the Category Nine Heaven-tier, the Nine Demons Ancestral Fire was a terrifying tool.

The two Golden Lightning Stallions waiting far away grew frightened when Xiaolang woke up.

“Alright. In that case, let’s hurry to the Cloud Dream Swamp,” Jian Chen suggested, worried that the Flower Martial King would return with more experts.

Long Chen and Lan Ling'er nodded and both climbed on their mounts. With Jian Chen leading the way, they rushed toward the Cloud Dream Swamp at high speeds.

The birth of the Red Emperor Seal would be a grand phenomenon. How many people would there be?

Chapter 550 - Void Martial Saint

After leaving the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range, the trio chose a more obscure path as they headed towards the Cloud Dream Swamp.

“There is a small city called White City a hundred kilometers from here. That’s where I was born; I spent my childhood there,” Jian Chen said wistfully. His eyes were dark.

“White City? Third Brother, do you want to visit? It won’t take long,” said Long Chen. Jian Chen’s journey was similar to his own. If he were to pass by Baiyang Town, he would definitely want to go.

“There’s no need. With me being wanted and all, there’s no need to go back. Also, my parents both died a long time ago and so did my grandparents. I wasn’t close with anyone else. If I went back now, I’d just get them in trouble. That would be bad,” said Jian Chen, shaking his head after some thought.

“Third Brother, don’t be so hesitant. Even if you don’t visit, you can still look at it from afar,” said Lan Ling’er.

“Alright, then. It’s been about ten years since I last went back. So much has changed in these ten years. When I was young, I felt like a hero when I joined the Martial Alliance. Who would have thought I’d end up like this?” Jian Chen looked resigned as he stared into the distance.

“We were born to be eagles. No faction can tie us down,” said Long Chen suddenly.

Jian Chen and Lan Ling'er nodded. They both loved freedom, so they had ended up together.

Xiaolang moved quicker than the Golden Lightning Stallions, so the journey was effortless. They quickly covered a hundred kilometers. There was some excitement in Jian Chen's eyes, as he was about to reach the place he was born in.

They gradually approached.

Long Chen looked up and saw a small city ahead. It was not big and looked tranquil. However, there seemed to be some loud noise coming from it.

Upon closer inspection, he saw many people on top of the city walls, but the city gates were tightly shut.

“Third Brother, something is happening at White City.” The three of them only wanted to take a look and leave immediately, but after Long Chen saw the abnormal situation, he quickly alerted them.

Both Lan Ling'er and Jian Chen saw it too.

Lan Ling'er was not sure what was happening, but Jian Chen's expression soon turned unbelievably cold!

“I'm going there now!” Jian Chen said coldly. Then, he urged his stallion on with his crop, and they turned into a yellow lightning storm that flew towards White City. Long Chen and Lan Ling'er looked at each other.

“Follow him!” Although they didn't know what Jian Chen was doing, he was not an impulsive person, so Long Chen trusted him.

The three of them flew to White City like a gust of wind. When they approached, Long Chen saw what was going on. The people on the walls were all looking in the same direction, which was the top of the city walls. Long Chen then saw thirty-plus thick ropes dangling from the wall, with a body at the bottom of each rope. He did not know if they had been strangled or strung up after they died.

Thirty-plus bodies were hanging in the same fashion. It was an eerie sight.

This is bad ... Long Chen and Lan Ling'er's eyes met, seeing the worry in each other. Those people were likely people from Jian Chen's clan, or Jian Chen would not have had this reaction!

A thick aura of violence radiated from Jian Chen!

Long Chen saw a silhouette above the city tower—the Flower Martial King!

She must have known about Jian Chen's past. After running from the Swirling Cloud Mountain Range, she must have come here to kill his whole clan and hung them on the wall as revenge! She knew Jian Chen and the others would surely come here!

Looking at the smirk on the Flower Martial King's face, Long Chen confirmed his suspicions. Although Jian Chen was not very close to his family, it was likely that they had all been killed.

Long Chen saw many Martial Alliance Enforcers in the small White City. Usually, such a small city would not need this many Enforcers. This meant that the Martial Alliance had long set a trap here, and they were only waiting for Jian Chen to fall into it!

This was why Jian Chen's family had lived until now!

They were alive only because they could serve as bait.

Looking at the row of bodies and the cold smirk on the Flower Martial King's face, Long Chen knew that if he was Jian Chen, he would go crazy! Thankfully, he still had his wits about him.

“Xiaolang, catch up to Third Brother,” Long Chen said hurriedly with a dark expression.

They quickly rushed up to Jian Chen, who had already stopped, dismounted, and unsheathed his sword. Jian Chen was marching towards White City one heavy footstep at a time.

Long Chen approached and saw that Jian Chen’s eyes had turned blood-red. A thick aura of violence radiated from him. Long Chen knew that his killing intent must have risen to the limit!

No one could remain calm in a situation like that!

“Third Brother ... The Flower Martial King would only dare do this if she had a way to defeat us. We will definitely take revenge, but let’s calm down first. Let’s assess the situation and kill our enemies, alright?” Long Chen said solemnly.

“I am unable to remain calm.” Jian Chen’s voice was as cold as ice.

“Third Brother, no matter what happens, we will fight alongside you. However, we must remain calm, or not only will we not get our revenge, but those bastards will take advantage of us too. That would be bad,” Lan Ling'er said gently, grabbing his arm.

Jian Chen stopped and took a deep breath. “Why don’t you guys head to the Cloud Dream Swamp? I’ll catch up right after I deal with this.”

Long Chen stood in front of him and blocked him. He stared straight into Jian Chen’s eyes and said, “You said that we are brothers and sisters. Third Brother, is that what you think brothers do? We live together and die together. That is what a brother is to me. Just now, you protected me when I was using the Emperor Flame Pearl. Now it’s my time to repay you!”

“That’s right. We will never leave,” said Lan Ling'er in a panic.

Seeing as they were so insistent, and Long Chen’s words had touched Jian Chen, he regained some of his senses. He took a deep breath and calmed his emotions. If he drowned in rage and only killed blindly, he would fall into their trap.

Why would the Flower Martial King dare face the three of them without some kind of trap?

When the trio arrived in front of the city gates, Jian Chen did not even look at the people above the walls. With a frigid expression and holding back his great sorrow, he put the bodies one by one in his Universe Pouch. After taking the last body, he returned to Long Chen’s side. Long Chen saw tears in his eyes.

“I was the one who brought them harm.” It was a short sentence, but the endless self-blame was evident.

“If I can live on, I will never let the Martial Alliance live in peace again. No matter how many masters appear, I will kill them all until no one remains in the Martial Alliance!” Jian Chen swore in front of Long Chen and Lan Ling'er.

Long Chen and Xiaolang locked eyes, knowing that a major battle was coming.

“Jian Chen, this is the first present from the Martial Alliance to you. Aren’t you surprised? Are you going to cry from joy? Of course, don’t thank me—this isn’t from me. I was only in charge of hanging them ...” Then she let out a seductive giggle.

Jian Chen clenched his fists tightly.

“You bitch! Get the fuck down here! I beat you up so bad just now that you ran off with your tail between your legs, and now you’re being a coward?!” Lan Ling'er was almost blinded by rage. She had never seen such a shameless woman in her life!

“What did you say?!” The Flower Martial King was annoyed. Lan Ling'er hated her, and the hatred was reciprocated. However, she had not completed her task here, so she ignored Lan Ling'er and continued looking at Jian Chen. “Next, the Martial Alliance would like to give you your second present. Second present, please come out ...”

Second present?

Were there more people killed?

Long Chen’s brows furrowed.

A man suddenly appeared behind her with a flash and pulled her into his arms. He expertly reached his hand into her clothes and grabbed her breast, brazenly kneading it. The Flower Martial King was reduced to whimpers, accompanied by vigorous panting. Her face immediately reddened and her eyes glazed over.

Long Chen felt greatly threatened by this man.

Upon closer inspection, this man had a head full of white hair and a wrinkled face. He was tall and thin, looking to be in his fifties. There was a cold glint in his hawk-like eyes. He did not look at the Flower Martial King in his arms, but at Jian Chen.

“My good disciple, how have you been?” His hoarse voice, along with the Flower Martial King’s moans, rang through the air. The Flower Martial King’s voice made everyone’s imaginations run wild and their mouths grew dry, but his voice made their hairs stand on end.

Disciple? Is he Jian Chen’s master? Long Chen wondered.

Lan Ling'er’s face changed and she whispered in Long Chen’s ear, “This is bad. That person was Third Brother’s master in the Martial Alliance. He’s the Void Martial Saint. He was the one who taught Third Brother his sword techniques, and he is a violent and short-tempered person. Third Brother left the Martial Alliance because he couldn’t stand his way of teaching!”

Martial Saints were similar to Demon Saints. Cultivators at the First Earthly Martial Stage were given the King title, like Demon King and Martial King. Those at the Second Earthly Martial Stage were called Saints, such as Sword Saint, Demon Saint, and Martial Saint. Cultivators who had reached the Third Earthly Martial Stage were known as Emperors; the Demon Emperor and the three Martial Emperors of the Martial Alliance were on this level.

The Void Martial Saint was at the Second Earthly Martial Stage!

Long Chen knew they were in trouble. This was the Flower Martial King's trump card! With the Void Martial Saint here, what was there to be afraid of?