

War God 561

Chapter 561 - Let Him Go

Long Chen had stayed back only to keep an eye on Long Yue for her safety. He had not expected Jiang Wushang to attack.

Long Chen had previously caused major losses to the Ancient Demon Domain, and as the Young Master of the Ancient Demon Domain, Jiang Wushang's hatred for him was far more intense than Jiang Wuxie's.

That was why his very first attack was heavy-handed.

"Although your True Martial Demon Body is decent, the strongest body tempering technique in the Ancient Demon Domain is the Ancient Demon Body!" Jiang Wuxie smirked coldly. Based on Long Chen's moves, he guessed that his opponent wasn't capable of killing a Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator.

What he did not know was that Long Chen never lost to opponents who had as much Qi as himself due to the Blood Devouring Domain. After using the Dragon Soul Transformation, the enormous amount of Qi in his body became comparable to the essence of a First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator.

The fight for the Red Emperor Seal would only last a short time, so Long Chen had to resolve this battle quickly.

That was why he immediately used the Blood Devouring Domain!

Blood-red mist enveloped Jiang Wushang. The unbeatable and terrifying technique left him stunned.

To be honest, he had seen Long Chen use the Blood Devouring Domain before, but he had not expected it to be this powerful. A strong sucking force was acting on his body, causing his blood to boil. It was as if every drop of blood in him had grown sentient and wanted to break free from his control to return to nature outside.

He had no choice but to use his essence to suppress his blood.

The moment he did this, almost half of his essence could no longer be used.

As a result, Long Chen was one step above Jiang Wushang in terms of strength.

"Is this some kind of satanic technique? When faced with true power, tricks like this are insignificant!" Jiang Wushang calmed himself down and did not slow down at all. He did not even glance at the Demon Illusion clone behind him and charged towards Long Chen, turning into a shadow.

"Ancient Demon Body!"

The Ancient Demon Body was powerful. He used his essence to suppress his blood while he threw a powerful punch at Long Chen. It was indeed no simple technique.

Long Chen was not an idiot, so he did not choose to face his foe's attacks directly.

He quickly dodged the attack while the Demon Illusion clone approached Jiang Wushang. If Jiang Wushang continued to attack, he would be in an unsafe situation.

His only choice was to dodge.

“You’re looking for death!” After Jiang Wushang avoided the clone’s attack, he turned around and came back. The clone caught up to him and unleashed the Heaven Sword Array in his direction!

The clone’s Heaven Sword Array was naturally much weaker than Long Chen’s real attack. However, since part of Jiang Wushang’s strength was being spent on suppressing the Blood Devouring Domain, the Heaven Sword Array was a considerable threat to him!

“This clone is annoying! I’m going to destroy it now!” Jiang Wushang snickered coldly without a hint of fear. He clenched his fists and performed a punching routine. This was exactly the same as the Ancient Demon Punch technique that the Demon Emperor had previously used. Now that Long Chen was so close to Jiang Wushang, he could see it even more clearly.

Faint silhouettes so numerous that they covered the sky appeared behind Jiang Wushang, then they shot into his fist when he threw his final punch. Then a terrifying black Fist Seal erupted from his fist. Long Chen felt as if he saw the face of the devil on the Fist Seal!

“Have you finally used your ultimate attack?” Long Chen gave a faint smile. After his clone used the Heaven Sword Array, he recalled it before it sustained any damage. Then the Heaven Sword Array and Jiang Wushang’s Ancient Demon Punch collided. Although Jiang Wushang had only used half of his strength, it was an intermediate King-tier combat technique, something that Long Chen’s clone couldn’t withstand. Therefore, the clone’s attack was quickly shattered.

“It may have looked good, but it was useless! This is within my expectations!” Jiang Wushang snickered and threw more punches until the whole Heaven Sword Array dispersed and stopped.

But was this the end?

The moment the clone’s Heaven Sword Array dispersed, the real Long Chen’s Heaven Sword Array appeared. It was more than ten times more powerful! Blood-red flames burned brightly above the dense storm of sword symbols!

The scorching flames stunned Jiang Wushang. He knew that Long Chen’s swords did not bear flames before, so he wondered how they had come about. Furthermore, he sensed a terrifying regalness coming from the flames.

“Heaven Sword Array!”

Another Heaven Sword Array fell, and this one was even more terrifying. Loud whooshes accompanied the endless storm of sword symbols shooting toward Jiang Wushang!

The Eagle Martial King was no match for this attack, even without the Blood Devouring Domain. Jiang Wushang did not fare much better; although his Ancient Demon Punch was powerful, he was unable to invest all his power into the technique. Under the battering of Long Chen's sword symbols, the Ancient Demon Punch was completely destroyed!

The endless sword symbols and blood-red flames forced Jiang Wushang to stop his Ancient Demon Punch. Then they swarmed around him and started attacking him fiercely!

Long Chen planned to kill Jiang Wushang, but now was not the time. Jiang Wuxie was just too powerful. Long Chen did not want to burden himself and other people before he was strong enough to kill Jiang Wuxie.

Jiang Wushang was shocked to find himself trapped, then Long Chen stabbed his Desolate Cleaving Sword into his abdomen and slammed the back of his head, causing Jiang Wushang to faint from the pain. Of course, this injury was not fatal.

Even Jiang Wushang was absolutely shocked by this outcome.

He never would have imagined that the final wave of Long Chen's Heaven Sword Array was this powerful. He had already cultivated an intermediate King-tier technique, but that was not enough to defend himself against the Heaven Sword Array!

"How is that possible ..."

Before he was knocked unconscious, Jiang Wushang's expression was full of disbelief.

But the pain in his abdomen told him that this was all real.

Of course, Long Chen was only able to do this because he had access to the Golden Crow's power. The boost it provided was immense. So far, it had increased Long Chen's combat abilities by several times!

Defeating Jiang Wushang was no surprise to Long Chen. He held Jiang Wushang in a backhanded grip and stood in front of the immense Black Waver Viper carcass, waiting. Several explosions occurred within the carcass, indicating that there was an intense battle unfolding inside. The Red Emperor Seal must have been found.

After waiting for fifteen minutes, several large holes tore open on the Black Water Viper's skin and several people rushed out. They were the Demon Emperor and the two Demon Saints, and they had excitement written all over their faces. They had clearly retrieved the Red Emperor Seal.

Finding the Red Emperor Seal in the viper's carcass required luck; therefore, Long Chen was not surprised to see that the Demon Emperor had gotten it. He was even happy with this outcome, though he knew that the enmity between them would deepen greatly this time.

Then Long Yue and the Martial Alliance members also emerged from the carcass and surrounded the Demon Emperor and the Demon Saints. Yang Ningfeng's expression was dark as he said, "Demon Emperor, you are also a subordinate of the Martial Overlord. Let me take the Red Emperor Seal back to him; I know he will reward you generously!"

The Demon Emperor laughed dryly and said, "Who said I found the Red Emperor Seal? Did you see me take it? If I don't have it, how could I give it to the Martial Emperor?"

Yang Ningfeng's expression darkened even more. "Jiang Wuxie, do you really want the whole Ancient Demon Domain to be taken over? If you want to continue barely surviving, you need to be smart and hand it over."

"If you're talking about the Red Emperor Seal, which I do not have, you must know that we, the Ancient Demon Domain, are not afraid. Do your worst." The Demon Emperor stood his ground stubbornly. The fact that the Ancient Demon Domain could still live on despite the threat of the Martial Alliance meant that it was no simple faction. The Demon Emperor definitely had some sort of trick up his sleeve.

Long Yue spotted Long Chen at this point, and her eyes lit up when she saw him holding Jiang Wushang. She immediately went to his side, which attracted the others' attention. Everyone suddenly saw the unconscious Jiang Wushang in his hands, as well as blood dripping from his abdomen, which had stained a large patch of his clothing!

"Wushang!" Jiang Wuxie's chest tightened when he saw his son. Thankfully, Jiang Wushang was not dead, or he would have gone mad. He had finally raised a son who could take over his role after twenty-plus years. If he had died just like that, Jiang Wuxie would've blown his top off.

After some thought, they all knew what had happened. Long Chen and Jiang Wushang must have taken the opportunity to fight while everyone else was fighting over the Red Emperor Seal. Jiang Wushang ended up losing and was now his hostage.

"This is the Long Chen from the rumors; he worked with Jian Chen to kill the Void Martial Saint," a middle-aged man whispered into the Martial Emperor's ear.

Yang Ningfeng's expression was solemn as he studied Long Chen closely. "He possesses great combat abilities at just the Ninth Passage Stage. This is exceedingly rare. Doesn't this mean he will be able to fight a Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator once he enters the Earthly Martial Realm?"

"I guess so."

This is a prodigy, yet the Martial Alliance is unable to use him, and he has decided to join the Dragon clan. The only solution is to kill him as soon as possible so we can rest easy ... Yang Ningfeng made his decision.

This teenager made him extremely nervous.

The Martial Alliance side was already radiating killing intent, but the Ancient Demon Domain members were even more furious. The Demon Emperor glared at Long Chen coldly and said, "Let him go, or I will shatter your bones."

Long Chen was not afraid. He said calmly, "Let him go? That's an easy matter, but I won't do this without a gift in return. I'll let him go, and you'll give me the Red Emperor Seal. What do you think?"

Chapter 562 - Divine Fire Realm

Although everyone had expected Long Chen to present this condition, when he said it, everyone felt like the brat was being a little too bold.

He was only brave enough to say this because Long Yue was protecting him.

The Demon Emperor had a feeling that this would happen, but when Long Chen said it, anger stirred within him.

One of the Demon Saint's faces was steely green when he said darkly, "You brat, you guys have already made an enemy out of the Martial Alliance. Do you guys really want to make the Ancient Demon Domain an enemy too? It doesn't matter how many masters the Dragon clan has—you guys won't be able to fight us all! Don't you dare twist our arms."

The other Demon Saint added, "Let us have this win today, and we will help you next time. If this goes south, with the sheer size of the Martial Alliance and the Ancient Demon Domain, can you be sure that the Dragon clan members won't be killed off one by one? Not every Dragon clan member is as powerful as the Glacier Dragon Emperor."

The two Demon Saints were older, so they were experienced, cunning foxes.

Their words made sense.

However, this did not scare Long Chen and Long Yue, because the Ancient Demon Domain and the Dragon clan were already enemies. If the Dragon clan was afraid of them, Long Yue would not have come here today. Jiang Wuya was far away, so Long Chen was not worried. Jiang Wuya was a trustworthy person, and with him leading the other four, it would be difficult for the Martial Alliance and the Ancient Demon Domain to touch them.

The Divine Martial was huge, so finding a single person would be very hard.

Even if they remained in the Cloud Dream Swamp, it would be difficult to find Jiang Wuya and his squad after he left.

Long Chen and Long Yue locked eyes for a moment, then Long Chen said, "Elders, you do not need to scare me. Without the Red Emperor Seal in my hand, I will never hand Jiang Wushang over. Oh no, let me see! It looks like he's bleeding! If this drags out and he loses too much blood, he'll die! And if that happens, you can't blame me."

Long Chen spoke in an infuriating tone.

The Demon Emperor and the others's faces were green. They regretted not killing Long Chen when he was in the Ancient Demon Domain. If they had killed him, this stalemate would not have happened.

Jiang Wuxie's heart shattered when he saw the state his son was in.

The blood flowing out of Jiang Wushang's abdomen was his blood too.

"What now?" Jiang Wuxie's mind was a mess.

"The Red Emperor Seal is one of the five Emperor Seals. Do you think you can gather all five Emperor Seals and get the Emperor-tier combat technique on your own? With the Martial Emperor present, that's obviously impossible. Even if you do collect all five, where will you hide if the Martial Overlord decides to kill you? The Dragon clan is

different. The Martial Overlord can't do anything to us. That is why it's best you recognize the situation as it is," Long Chen said.

It was the truth. The Demon Emperor's home was the Ancient Demon Domain, which meant he could not appear and disappear like the Dragon clan. Even if he could collect all five Emperor Seals, he would have to give them to the powerful Martial Overlord.

With that thought, the Demon Emperor and the two Demon Saints accepted their fate. Long Chen's words had successfully convinced them.

But would the Martial Alliance give up?

The Demon Emperor was concerned about Jiang Wushang's life, but the Martial Alliance was not. While the Demon Emperor hesitated, Yang Ningfeng gestured, and all the Martial Alliance members surrounded Long Chen and Long Yue. Completing the trade with the Demon Emperor was not going to be easy.

They found themselves in a stalemate once again.

Long Chen frowned. With the Martial Alliance intervening, this was going to be much more difficult.

"Big Sister, what do we do?" asked Long Chen. The Martial Alliance was watching, and he did not have a solution.

Long Chen had no confidence that he could complete the trade under these circumstances.

No one dared to move first, so the tension continued.

When everyone's patience was wearing thin and Jiang Wushang grew paler, another unexpected twist happened.

There was a sudden explosion not far behind Long Chen, which threw mud into the air. Then they saw fire ten times hotter than before shooting up into the sky, causing half the sky to turn completely red. The sound of a chanting mantra came from the fiery-red clouds, and suddenly, a gigantic projection of the Red Emperor Seal appeared within the clouds. A moment later, it disappeared!

This phenomenon lasted more than ten times longer than before. While everyone was still stunned, the ground trembled as if something was digging to the surface.

Long Chen froze for a while, though because his mind was sharper than average, he immediately thought of the Red Emperor Seal's legend. That bizarre phenomenon was identical to the legends, which stated that the phenomenon appeared in two steps. The previous phenomenon only consisted of the firelight!

Didn't that mean that the Red Emperor Seal from before was a fake?!

When Long Chen realized this, Long Yue quickly drew the same conclusion! Everyone looked at the Demon Emperor, who froze and immediately took out the Red Emperor Seal. He slammed his palm on it, and the legendary Red Emperor Seal shattered!

It's a fake! We've been played! The same thought popped into everyone's minds. They must have been tricked! The first phenomenon must have been fabricated by someone, and the replica Red Emperor Seal must have been used as a decoy!

It was an extremely intricate plan too!

It was obvious that this time was the actual birth of the Red Emperor Seal!

The person behind this had pulled an extremely cunning trick. Many people had died or sustained injuries in the previous battle. The Dragon clan, the Martial Alliance, and the Ancient Demon Domain had fought and even formed grudges. They had no idea that it was over a fake Red Emperor Seal!

They were stunned when the true Red Emperor Seal was revealed.

The one who reacted the fastest was the Martial Alliance because they had no attachments and quickly adjusted to the situation when they realized that the seal was fake. They sprinted toward the location where the Red Emperor Seal was born. The Ancient Demon Domain obviously wanted to go too, but Jiang Wushang was still in Long Chen's hands!

Long Chen could read the situation and knew that the Demon Emperor did not actually have the Red Emperor Seal, so Jiang Wushang was now useless to him. Taking Jiang Wushang with him would only mean carrying an extra burden. Without a word, he threw Jiang Wushang at the Demon Emperor, who carefully caught him and passed him to a Demon Saint. With no time to teach Long Chen a lesson, they quickly followed the Martial Alliance towards the true Red Emperor Seal.

"Let's go too," Long Yue said.

"Big Sister, you go first. I'll catch up later. Don't worry, I have Blood Warp. If anything goes wrong, I will run immediately!"

After what had happened, Long Yue trusted him and quickly nodded before following the Ancient Demon Domain. Long Chen was confident in Long Yue's abilities too. After she left, he went up to the Black Water Viper's carcass.

Someone had taken its demonic core and beast soul.

But the most important thing to him was its blood.

Even the Primordial Realm could not fit such a big body, so he used the Blood Devouring Domain once more to extract all the blood in its body. When he was done, a large blood orb had gathered in front of Long Chen. He looked like an ant next to it!

The withered carcass of the Black Water Viper remained in place.

Although the body did not fit, he could fit its blood in the Primordial Realm.

"Although the most important thing when cultivating at the Martial Realm is comprehension, increasing one's essence is very important. With this Category Three King-tier beast's blood, I won't have to worry about getting King Crystals."

Other people relied on King Crystals to strengthen their essence, but Long Chen could do it with just beast blood.

After he stored the blood in the Primordial Realm, Long Chen looked towards the Red Emperor Seal's direction.

"Although there are powerful enemies present, the Five Emperor Seals are extremely important to me. Even if I only have a tiny trace of hope, I must try to take it. I don't have the luxury of choosing. If I don't get strong enough, how will I be able to meet Xiao Xi's parents?"

Long Chen missed the girl dearly; his longing for her sometimes made him so miserable that he could not breathe. Perhaps this was love.

All the experiences he had with her were enough for him to savor and reminisce for the rest of his life.

"Let's go!"

After steeling himself, he took a deep breath and sprinted to battle. This task had not taken much time, so he was sure that no one had gotten the Red Emperor Seal yet.

Very soon, Long Chen arrived at his destination. The same people from before were standing in a circle, though Long Chen's eyes were first drawn to a strange structure. It was a large, fiery door that rose from the ground!

More specifically, it was a gigantic fireball. On one side, there was a large, bronze door bathed in flames. It looked simple, but it radiated an ancient aura and a regalness that made everyone nervous.

There was a fiery red sign above the bronze door engraved with fiery characters.

"It's the ... Divine Fire Realm!"

Long Chen quickly read the sign.

This meant that the fiery door led to a miniverse, and the Red Emperor Seal was in that miniverse!

After studying the door, he looked at the people in front and noticed a burnt, black body on the ground. Since the body was in front of the door and no one was rushing in, it likely meant that this person had tried to make his way through but was burnt to death!

Chapter 563 - Huangfu Fengchen

That was the reason why no one was moving.

They would have long started fighting if the treasure was right in front of their eyes.

The people in front of Long Chen were divided into four teams. He walked up to Long Yue's side, who gave a slight nod when she saw him, then she continued watching the bronze door intently.

Long Chen's gaze fell on another person.

There were four teams here. Long Yue, the Ancient Demon Domain, and the Martial Alliance formed one group each. The other team also only consisted of one person, and the Ancient Demon Domain and Martial Alliance members were glaring at this man with seething hatred.

The man was wearing long, yellow robes embroidered with blooming daisies. He was likely almost the same age as Long Yue, in his thirties at most. The only way to describe how he looked was

handsome and sophisticated, but not controlled by anyone. He wore a smirk and an expression that said he did not respect anyone present. Despite the glares, he was smiling at them, which infuriated everyone.

“He is the strongest member of the Huangfu family, as well as the patriarch, Huangfu Fengchen. The fake Red Emperor Seal was his doing,” Long Yue whispered when she saw that Long Chen was looking at Huangfu Fengchen.

Long Chen understood.

The fact that this man dared to stand here alone like Long Yue showed that his cultivation level was high. Only the patriarch of the Huangfu family would be both bold and strong enough to do this. Had this man really single-handedly caused that whole commotion before? Long Chen was speechless. The way Huangfu Fengchen had played the whole crowd with a fake Red Emperor Seal was very impressive.

If the Martial Alliance and Ancient Demon Domain members were not focused on the bronze door, they would have attacked Huangfu Fengchen in fury.

Long Chen was ignored. He did not have any positive feelings about Huangfu Fengchen based on his first impression, but he wondered if he was Huangfu Qi’s father. Perhaps she had gotten her crazy personality from him.

While Long Chen was studying Huangfu Fengchen, the latter was also studying Long Chen. After a while, he broke into a chuckle and said, “Hey, kid, my darling daughter misses you. When are you coming to visit the Huangfu residence?”

Indeed, he was Huangfu Qi’s father.

Long Chen guessed that he had always kept his daughter hidden, keeping her a secret from the world. That was why no one guessed that she was his daughter when she ran to the Ancient Demon Domain.

“I’ll definitely visit when I have the time,” Long Chen said with a nod. He was not familiar with Huangfu Fengchen and did not know how the relationship between him and Long Yue was, so he kept his distance.

When he heard Long Chen’s response, Huangfu Fengchen smiled and said, “Don’t be such a stranger, kid. My daughter calls you ‘Big Brother’ and treats you like a real brother. She’s always talking about you! Since you’re her brother, you don’t need to be so formal with me. You may even see me as your father.”

Long Chen almost choked on his spit.

Huangfu Fengchen was indeed a little crazy.

That was some strange logic! Since his daughter called him “Big Brother,” Long Chen was now his son. Long Chen did not know how to respond, so he said, “In that case, I’ll just call you ‘Uncle.’”

He would not get into trouble for this, and he could even build a relationship with Huangfu Fengchen. Although Long Chen had Long Yue protecting him, he would benefit from additional protection from Huangfu Fengchen.

Many people could read between the lines. Although it sounded like he was joking, he was trying to close the distance between himself and Long Chen. It was a warning to the rest. He had called himself Long Chen's father, meaning that if other people touched Long Chen, they'd be slapping Huangfu Fengchen in the face! If he wanted to defend Long Chen, no one could object.

Everyone present knew that perhaps due to his daughter, Huangfu Fengchen seemed to intend to protect Long Chen. Those who wanted to attack Long Chen were forced to consider if they could afford to offend Huangfu Fengchen.

However, Long Yue rolled her eyes after Long Chen spoke.

Long Chen suddenly had a bizarre realization. Long Chen, Long Yue, and the rest all called themselves brothers and sisters. Since he called Huangfu Fengchen "Uncle," didn't that put Long Yue one generation beneath Huangfu Fengchen?

Huangfu Fengchen laughed.

Long Chen had fallen into his trap. Huangfu Fengchen looked at Long Yue smugly.

But she ignored him.

Everyone was staring at the door nervously. They had already tried, and attacking it was useless. There had already been one death. If someone like Long Yue did not dare act recklessly, everyone else was even more cautious.

All they could do was wait.

Huangfu Fengchen was clearly a Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivator. Including him, there was a total of four Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators present.

Long Chen waited for a while. While everyone was thinking of a solution, sparks appeared in front of the door. They danced around and slowly morphed into several characters.

Just like the sign above, the characters looked ancient. Long Chen guessed that they were from the Middle Ages.

Only five may enter, or the realm will collapse

After the sparks formed those words, they disappeared immediately.

"Only five?" They were all momentarily at a loss. If six people entered, the realm would collapse, bringing the Red Emperor Seal down with it and possibly trapping the people inside too. The four masters present were top-ranked leaders in the Divine Martial Empire. If they all died, many people would also end up in tragedy.

Therefore, they did not dare act recklessly.

The four of them looked at each other, and very soon, a fair solution was proposed. Yang Ningfeng said, "There are four factions present, but there will be one spot left. It doesn't matter who takes the spot, since everyone else would be unhappy, right? So only four of us should go."

Time was running out. Yang Ningfeng wanted the Martial Alliance to send two people, but he knew that no one would ever agree to it.

Huangfu Fengchen was the first to agree, seeing as he had come alone. Long Yue looked at Long Chen, then she agreed. With Long Chen's strength, he probably wouldn't get the Red Emperor Seal from the three masters.

Since three of them had agreed, Jiang Wuxie had no choice but to agree too.

"Long Chen, after I enter, they will surely attack you. Just use your escape technique to leave and look for Wuya and the rest," Long Yue instructed.

Long Chen nodded. When Jiang Wuya left, he had told Long Chen where they were headed. Only Long Chen could easily find them.

But was he really going to leave just like that?

Long Chen was unwilling.

Only five may enter. So far, four people are going in ... Long Chen's mind raced as he watched the bronze door.

There was a loud *creak*—the bronze door was slowly opening! No one dared to move, so they could only wait. When the door was completely open, they realized that roaring flames were burning on the inside.

The four of them took several steps forward, looking at each other. No one dared do anything rash, especially the Demon and Martial Emperors. They were older and more cautious.

"You cowards." Huangfu Fengchen glanced at those two with contempt, then he slipped into the flames. The roaring flames rippled like the surface of a lake. Huangfu Fengchen had disappeared.

"So it's an optical illusion." Soon after Huangfu Fengchen entered, Long Yue followed suit. The two emperors locked eyes and fought to rush in too.

When they had passed through the bronze door, they realized they were all standing in a cave. They all looked at each other cautiously, then stood farther away from each other.

They studied the cave. To their confusion, it was a sealed cave with no exit. The only exit was through the bronze door.

The bronze door had not closed, and they could see the outside clearly despite the fact that the roaring flames had blocked the vision when they were outside.

"Only five may enter. Is it possible that we need exactly five people? Since there are only four of us, maybe the door won't close and a new path won't open up until the fifth person enters?" said Long Yue.

Everyone thought that made sense. If not, how could they explain this situation? They were all trapped inside a cave, and this was a miniverse. They did not even know how to exit.

After some thought, the Martial Emperor and the Demon Emperors panicked. The fifth person had to be a member of one of their teams, but the problem was that their voices could not travel out of the miniverse. They would have to wait until the people outside come to the same conclusion! The first person to figure out that five people were required would be the fifth.

The four of them looked outwards.

Long Chen had made his decision as soon as they entered.

The moment Long Yue left, the Martial Alliance and Ancient Demon Domain members all looked at him.

He had killed Martial Alliance members before and had even held Jiang Wushang hostage. Both factions had plenty of reasons to kill him.

“Do you guys intend to kill me? Unfortunately, you’re not capable of doing that.”

He was not nervous at all. There were four Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators present; did he really think he could escape unscathed?

There were two Demon Saints present; one was caring for Jiang Wushang while the other took several steps forward and said to the Martial Alliance, “Brothers of the Martial Alliance. This brat hurt my Young Master, so I must kill him.”

“He killed my good friend, the Void Martial Saint! I must be the one to kill him!” said someone from the Martial Alliance indignantly.

It was comical that they were fighting over who would get to kill him. Long Chen had no patience to argue, so he said, “Stop bickering, you old farts! Why don’t I just fight everyone at the same time?”

“This kid is bold! He has a death wish!”

Chapter 564 - Red Emperor

The Martial Saint and the Demon Saint both attacked Long Chen, a Ninth Heavenly Passage Stage cultivator, at the same time.

“You idiots.” Long Chen laughed and turned into a ray of blood-colored light. *Whoosh!* He disappeared. Everyone thought he was running away, but to their surprise, he was heading towards the bronze door.

By the time they realized it, he became visible for a moment and then plunged into the flames. There were some ripples in the flames, then they swallowed him whole.

“He entered the Divine Fire Realm!” The crowd gasped and quickly ran after him. Before they arrived, he had completely vanished.

“Don’t move! If six people enter, the whole Divine Fire Realm will collapse! Then the Martial Emperor and the rest will die,” said the Martial Saint from the Martial Alliance, hurriedly stopping everyone.

“How humiliating that the brat managed to get in! That brat is cunning. He probably planned to enter all along. That’s why he was standing there so calmly!”

“We were tricked!”

“He’s so young, but so cunning.”

“The Demon Emperor can easily kill him off inside. Why are you so worried? I’m sure that he won’t be able to leave. There are four Third Earthly Martial Stage masters in there. A puny Long Chen is nothing!”

Everyone cursed furiously.

Then the door creaked again and slowly closed. Startled, everyone backed away. After they retreated, the fireball slowly engulfed the whole door and the “Divine Fire Realm” sign, turning into just a gigantic ball of fire floating in front of them. It spun, then it slowly sank into the mud. It disappeared just like that.

Everything returned to normal. They all looked at each other in shock.

“Even the door disappeared! Nothing is left! How will the Demon Emperor and the others get out?” one of the Demon Saints cried in panic.

“Don’t worry. Since someone designed the test to be like that, then there must be a way to get out. I’m sure he’ll get the Red Emperor Seal!” said the other Demon Saint with determination.

“In that case, let’s return to the Ancient Demon Domain.” After the two Demon Saints made their decision, they left with the injured and unconscious Jiang Wushang. The Martial Alliance members looked at each other and said, “Let’s go to Cloud Heaven City to set up camp, then report what happened to the Martial Overlord. We’ll let him decide!”

“Yes, Sir!”

Long Chen appeared in front of the others who had entered.

The moment he did, Long Yue pulled him behind her, watching the two emperors cautiously. They had already agreed on sending in four people, but now that Long Yue had an extra person with her, they would not let it rest.

As expected, Yang Ningfeng said, “We have four factions here, so only four may fight for the Red Emperor Seal. Now that there’s one more person, I think the only way to make it fair is to kill him.”

The Demon Emperor said, “Long Yue, will you do it? Or should we? Don’t anger everyone just because of one puny Ninth Passage Stage kid!”

Long Yue looked at them coldly and smiled. “If you want to kill him, it’s simple. You can do it over my dead body. The problem is, will you be able to do it?”

Seeing that the situation was getting tense, Huangfu Fengchen maintained his smile and said, “Don’t make jokes like that! Long Chen is my darling daughter’s big brother! And he is now my nephew. In the future, he might even become my son-in-law! How could I allow you to kill him on a whim?”

Long Chen was stunned.

He stared at Huangfu Fengchen in shock. To be honest, he had never seen a father behaving like that. Huangfu Qi was only ten—why was he already looking for a son-in-law? He was a strange man indeed.

After some thought, Long Chen realized that Huangfu Fengchen was just trying to protect him, and it was just a joke.

This meant that Huangfu Fengchen and Long Chen were on the same side. As a result, he was also on the same team as Long Yue.

The Demon and Martial Emperors were naturally on the same team.

With two versus two, it was even. As for Long Chen, if there was truly a battle, he could not do much and would basically just be a burden.

The two emperors locked eyes, reading the situation well. If they wanted to kill Long Chen, it would ignite a battle between the four of them. That would not be worth it.

The entrance was completely shut now. The whole space trembled, and flames lit up five spots on the wall in front of them. The flames grew larger until they turned into five passageways. Every inch of each passage was also covered in fire, except for the ground.

A spark flew out of the passage and formed several words.

“One person per tunnel, or die.”

The instructions did not state who would die, but if they disobeyed, they would not meet a good end. The four of them were used to being mighty leaders in the Divine Martial Empire, but they were forced to lay low and be obedient in the Divine Fire Realm.

Both Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen were worried about Long Chen because this meant they would not be able to take care of him. He was actually a burden for them.

“Big Sister and ... Patriarch Huangfu, you two don't have to worry about me. I'll be fine,” said Long Chen, trying to comfort them.

He was not very confident either, but he had many divine techniques on top of his combat techniques. He even had Little Cat with him, who was a very knowledgeable fellow. He would surely be able to stay alive. Maybe he would even be able to get the Red Emperor Seal.

Huangfu Fengchen and Long Yue locked eyes, seeing concern in each other's faces.

“I personally would not have recommended you to come in here, but since you're already here, there's nothing I can say. Good luck, kid,” said Huangfu Fengchen in a rare moment of seriousness.

“He's right. I won't be able to help you either,” Long Yue said sadly.

The two emperors glanced at them with *schadenfreude*, then they each entered a passage. Every passage looked the same, so there was nothing to fight over.

“Don’t worry. Perhaps I will be the one who gets the Red Emperor Seal in the end.” Long Chen stood up with great confidence. He waved at them, then he entered one of the tunnels.

“This teenager is bold,” Huangfu Fengchen commented.

“Like you, no?” said Long Yue. Then she entered one of the tunnels, leaving the last one for Huangfu Fengchen.

Other than the dried soil on the ground, fire covered everything. If Long Chen had not injected the Golden Crow’s soul remnants into his nine meridians, the heat here would have barbecued him alive.

The deeper he went, the higher the temperatures.

“Only five could enter, and after that happened, five tunnels appeared. It’s like everything was pre-arranged. Why? Is there someone above controlling us?” asked Long Chen.

“You’re right. Someone controls the Divine Fire Realm, though that person has long died. I don’t have much power now, so I can’t really sense his presence,” said Fat Cat.

“What do you mean?”

“The remnants of his soul control the Divine Fire Realm. When a Martial Realm cultivator cultivates, he is actually growing his Martial Soul. An Earthy Martial Realm cultivator has to empower his Earthly Martial Soul to progress, and he has to do the same with the Heavenly Martial Soul at the Heavenly Martial Realm and the Divine Martial Soul at the Divine Martial Realm. Both the Earthly Martial Soul and the Heavenly Martial Soul exist independently from a person’s own soul, which is also known as the Divine Soul. However, when one reaches the Divine Martial Realm, the Martial Soul and the Divine Soul merge together. As long as the Martial Soul isn’t destroyed, the Divine Soul will exist forever.

“The Martial Soul is power, while the Divine Soul is sentience. Even though the body has died, the souls may still remain under the right circumstances. I’m guessing that a Divine Martial Soul left behind by a cultivator who was at the Divine Martial Realm controls the Divine Fire Realm. Of course, it’s likely only a small portion of the original Divine Martial Soul.”

Long Chen only half-understood what Little Cat had said.

He did not know enough about what cultivation at the Martial Realm entailed.

However, he understood the part about the Divine Martial Realm master, and he replied in shock, “Divine Martial Realm? Above the Earthly Martial Realm is the Heavenly Martial Realm, and both

have nine stages, making a total of eighteen stages. The most powerful cultivators in the whole Ten Thousand Nations Territory are only at the Heavenly Martial Realm, so where did this Divine Martial Realm person come from?”

“He isn’t from the current times. There were Divine Martial Realm cultivators in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory in the Middle Ages. I don’t really know who they were though. Since you guys are looking for the Red Emperor Seal, perhaps this is the Red Emperor,” said Little Cat.

“Red Emperor? Divine Martial Realm? Five Emperors?” Long Chen made a mental note.

He knew that the Divine Martial Realm was his goal. If he reached it, he would have the right to marry Ling Xi. But how long would it take to get there?

He bit his lip. He had a feeling that he would have an extraordinary opportunity in the Divine Fire Realm, and it would be up to him to take full advantage of it.

He felt a little helpless.

Being looked down upon by his beloved’s family—that was the worst form of humiliation to a man. If he did not fight hard, he would have to carry this shame for the rest of his life.

He was unwilling to surrender.

That was why he strode forward without fear.

That was why he was willing to put himself in danger to enter the Divine Fire Realm.

If he did not enter, how could he marry Ling Xi?

Long Chen did not know how long he had been walking, but he nearly started sprinting when he saw light at the end of the tunnel. When he rushed out of the tunnel, he found himself in a cave similar to the one before. There were no flames around here, and there was another exit that led to an identical tunnel.

But getting there would not be easy.

A total of ten little flames burned not far from his feet. The moment he arrived, the flames suddenly rose up into the air!

Chapter 565 - Immortal Fire

Something’s happening. Long Chen retreated hurriedly after the flames flared up, keeping his guard up in case anything else happened. He knew that the Red Emperor Seal was in the Divine Fire Realm, so he assumed that he was heading towards it. Five people were competing to take the Red Emperor Seal for themselves, and they would have to face various tests to get it.

These sparks were Long Chen’s first test.

“Interesting.” Long Chen watched as the twinkling sparks quickly expanded to the size of a human, they then morphed into human shapes. They looked similar to Long Chen’s Divine Fire Clones, though they were countless times stronger.

The flames burned brightly and colorful lights danced and flowed within them like crystals.

A total of ten flaming men appeared before him.

Their faces slowly morphed until eyes, ears, noses, and mouths took shape. Only the eyes took a more detailed form with darker-colored, tiny fireballs.

Whoosh ...

Rays of light shot out of their eyes. Long Chen sensed that slumbering souls were waking up.

“Do I need to defeat them to pass through?” He looked at the passage up ahead and saw another bronze door at the end of it. The door was wrapped in flames and tightly shut. He guessed that he would never be able to open it if he tried to force his way through.

Therefore, the only way was to defeat the flaming men.

These were not normal living beings, so he could not tell how powerful they were. For his safety, Long Chen activated the Dragon Soul Transformation, radiating the aura of dragons and powerful fire energy due to the Golden Crow’s soul remnants. They provided Long Chen with an advantage when facing fire.

He was sure that although the other four people were powerful, they did not have a huge advantage like he did.

Faint, red flames flowed on the surface of his blood-red scales.

As Qi traveled through his body, the Golden Crow’s energy covered him in a fiery membrane.

The membrane boosted his defense.

One of the ten flaming men stepped out and approached Long Chen.

“Is one coming over to test my strength?” Long Chen’s mind raced. There were ten of them, so he chose to remain in the tunnel. That way, due to limited space, he would not need to deal with all of them at the same time.

He would not need to worry if it was just one opponent.

The flaming man suddenly accelerated—it charged right up to him and threw a punch. To his shock, the punch brought with it a powerful wave of heat, and the fist became several times bigger when it flew towards his chest. He even sensed Earthly Martial Realm-level energy from the punch!

“He’s strong!” Long Chen was startled. He threw his own punch in retaliation. It was a simple punch backed by his physical strength, but it was special due to the boost from the Golden Crow’s soul remnants. The Golden Crow’s energy turned into red flames and wrapped around his fist. The two types of fire collided!

Boom!

The Golden Crow’s energy was slightly stronger, causing his opponent to take several steps back!

Long Chen was shocked because the Eagle Martial King had also been forced back by his punch. Didn't this mean that one flaming man was the equivalent to an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator? And there were ten of them!

Chills ran through his body.

If this was only the first test, what more awaited him?

No matter what lay ahead, he could not give up now, as he had to stay alive. He quickly stabilized himself and took out the Desolate Cleaving Sword, setting fire to the blade. Then he charged at the flaming man. The first time he slashed, the flaming man blocked with its fist, and the second time he slashed, the flaming man was split in half!

Without the Golden Crow's power, Long Chen would've found it very difficult to resolve this situation.

"One down, but many more to go." Long Chen rushed back to the mouth of the cave with the sword still burning in his hand. The other flaming men had not moved yet, so he did not move either.

"How do I get past them?" Long Chen and the flaming men stood in a stalemate while his mind raced.

"Long Chen, careful!" Little Cat warned.

Long Chen's hair stood on end. When he heard Little Cat's voice, he felt a huge threat coming from behind him. He turned and swung his sword as fast as he could. It coincidentally collided with a flaming man's fist!

If he had not been fast enough, the punch would have landed on the back of his head! He would have been greatly injured, as the flaming man was at the Earthly Martial Realm.

After Long Chen's desperate slash, the flaming arm was cut in half and flew in the air.

"Didn't I split that guy in half just now? How is he still alive?" Long Chen was very puzzled.

Then he saw the flaming arm, which had been thrown up in the air, disappear. A brand new arm grew from the flaming man's body, and it attacked him again!

"Is it immortal? Are you kidding me?" Long Chen smiled bitterly. It was difficult enough to fight ten of them, and now they were immortal? How long would it take him to defeat them all and open the bronze door to get to the next level?

"I refuse to believe I can't kill you!" Long Chen refused to accept defeat when the flaming man's arm regrew. He swung his flaming sword around with all his might. Seven minutes later, the flaming man had been cut to tiny pieces.

Long Chen heaved a sigh of relief.

The flaming men were not immortal. They had something that resembled life force within them, and every time he hurt them, their life force deteriorated. Its previous injury had not caused much

damage to its life force, but after landing about a hundred slashes on its body, the flaming man finally died and dispersed completely.

Long Chen put down the Desolate Cleaving Sword, panting heavily.

“What a tough being! It takes a hundred slashes to kill one?! Even if they come one by one, I’m going to die from exhaustion!” Long Chen paled as he looked at the other flaming men. After the first death, the rest of them moved simultaneously.

“No!” Long Chen gasped. He thought two or three would come, but now all of them were approaching. He even saw anger in their eyes!

Long Chen was not in the cave, but the tunnel. Since it was not wide, he was only faced with four or five of them. Even then, it was brutal!

Five fists flew at him simultaneously. It did not matter how fast he was—it was impossible to block that many punches. He could only attack and retreat at the same time, but the flaming men needed a hundred slashes to die. After he retreated a hundred meters, he still had not killed even one!

“I’m dead if this goes on.” In the face of great pressure, Long Chen’s brows were deeply furrowed, though he did not regret his decision at all. He continued to retreat. One of them, with a mate as cover, managed to land a punch on his shoulder!

Boom!

The flaming man’s punch was strong. Although Long Chen had the True Martial Demon Body, a tough Dragon Body, and was boosted by the Golden Crow’s power, he was thrown back in the air, almost dropping the Desolate Cleaving Sword!

“It’s powerful!” Long Chen was destabilized by the punch and almost vomited blood. One punch was enough to injure him, and he was very clear about the reality of the situation.

“If this goes on, I will die.” Long Chen understood this very well when he crashed into the ground. If he did not have the Golden Crow’s fiery membrane covering his body, the flaming man’s fire energy would have burned him to crisp.

When he landed on the ground, six or seven of them swarmed towards him. They had already successfully landed a punch; if they rode on this momentum, they would be able to kill him!

Long Chen’s face changed. After he landed, he quickly unleashed the Heaven Sword Array. Blood-red sword symbols emitting endless sword light materialized in the tight space. The flaming men were swallowed by the Heaven Sword Array, and the crowded tunnel suddenly became empty!

Is it over? Just as the question popped into his mind, the sparks that remained in the tunnel turned into flaming men again. Not a single one of them had died, though their life force had diminished after the attack.

“A full-power Heaven Sword Array merely diminished one-tenth of their life force. I can’t use the Heaven Sword Array ten times ...” His brows were furrowed.

How would he survive such a terrifying test?

Xiaolang's voice came from the Primordial Realm.

“Big Brother, let me try! Aren't they immortal? I'll swallow them whole! But since they're difficult to defeat, why don't I swallow them when you catch them?”

Xiaolang was at the Category Nine Heaven-tier, so he was almost on the same level as the flaming men. Long Chen had a feeling that his idea would work, so he nodded and let Xiaolang out of the Primordial Realm.

This was his only hope ...

Chapter 566 - Golden Thread Kingsnake

The Sun Devouring Wolf was a fire-element beast, but it was also the predator of all beings that used the fire element.

After Xiaolang emerged from the Primordial Realm, he stood next to Long Chen and hung his head as he gazed at the fiery men. Black flames flickered in his eyes.

If all of the fiery men attacked Xiaolang at the same time, even Xiaolang would suffer, so Long Chen's current task was to cover for him.

He activated the Demon Illusion, and his clone separated from his body.

Long Chen and his clone stood to the left and right of Xiaolang.

Xiaolang gave Long Chen a look to show that he was ready, then he leaped towards the fiery men, which had just recovered from Long Chen's Heaven Sword Array. Xiaolang arrived in front of them in the blink of an eye, and Long Chen followed him closely.

“Let's begin ...” When the closest fiery man threw a punch at him, Xiaolang opened his mouth, and a black whirlpool appeared in his throat!

Whoosh!

The overwhelming sucking force pulled the fiery man in. It tried to retreat when it realized what was happening, but it was too late. It struggled to take even one step and was quickly mashed into a fireball before Xiaolang swallowed it whole.

Xiaolang closed his mouth. Two red flames flickered in his eyes, then they disappeared.

During that time, Long Chen chopped two fiery men into halves!

“It worked! That's good ...” Long Chen sighed in relief while Xiaolang looked excited. This showed that swallowing the fiery men was beneficial to him. Perhaps he could really become a King-tier demonic beast soon.

If he reached the King-tier, he would be able to take human form. Although his main body was still one of a beast, getting a chance to live like a human was the greatest surprise to Xiaolang.

Long Chen was even more careful because of this.

While Xiaolang was swallowing a fiery man, Long Chen worked hard to chop up the other fiery men. Xiaolang swallowed them increasingly fast as he became more familiar with the process. The number of fiery men slowly dwindled, and they became less and less of a threat to Long Chen.

Without the assistance of a special beast like Xiaolang, Long Chen would never have been able to defeat all ten fiery men. Even Long Yue and the others probably had to defeat them slowly. Every kill was time-consuming!

Finally, Xiaolang killed off the last man.

Xiaolang's aura had strengthened greatly.

"What do you think? Is it enough for you to break through to the King-tier?" Long Chen asked with concern.

"No, I need just a little more. Reaching the King-tier is different because it's like becoming a life form on a whole different level. Almost no demonic beast has been able to progress from the Heaven-tier to the King-tier. That's why I think it'll be very difficult!" said Xiaolang, a little resigned. He had already digested a lot of fire, even absorbing the solar fire from before. Unfortunately, he was unable to cross the canyon between his current level and the King-tier right now.

If he ever reached the King-tier, he would surely become much more powerful.

"I don't think there's only one test here. We need to proceed to the next one. Perhaps we'll make more gains." Right when Long Chen finished speaking, the bronze door at the end of the passage suddenly opened. He and Xiaolang nodded, and he let Xiaolang back into the Primordial Realm while he carefully walked up to the bronze door.

Once he passed through the door, the space in front of him suddenly opened up and he found himself in a luxurious, underground hall. The floor, walls, and ceiling were all made of clear, fire-red fire crystal. Although this type of crystal was not as precious as royal crystal, their neat arrangement was aesthetically pleasing.

This place was a squared-shaped hall, though it was separated into five sections that resembled five corridors that led to the next stage. However, there seemed to be an invisible wall between each section that prevented anyone from crossing over, though they could see through the entire room.

One of the sections belonged to Long Chen. There was another bronze door at the end of the hall, and at this moment, it was open.

The first thing Long Chen saw were sparkling white crystals scattered messily on the red floor. They were royal crystals! Many of them!

royal crystals were valuable, and he knew that this was his reward for passing the first round. He immediately stored them in the Primordial Realm. After a rough count, he found that there were more than seven hundred crystals. He knew that the average First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator had about ten royal crystals, and Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators had around fifty. Seven hundred crystals was well above the net worth of even Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators.

After putting away the royal crystals, Long Chen looked over and saw four other bronze doors, which were all open. The floor was also clean.

Does this mean that the other four have passed the first test already? Long Chen looked around and found nothing else out of the ordinary. He turned around and passed through the door, which rumbled and closed behind him.

The other four were at the Third Earthly Martial Stage, so he was not surprised that they had passed the first test quicker than him.

The first stage was so difficult ... What will the second stage be like? Long Chen was not very confident, but after a brief moment of hesitation, he steeled himself.

I've already come this far! If I don't go on, can I even call myself a man? He was in a tunnel identical to the previous one, and as he walked further, he noticed that the surrounding temperature was hotter than before.

There were whooshing sounds coming from the front.

Something was waiting there for him.

Long Chen was still in his Dragon Soul Transformation. With the Desolate Cleaving Sword in hand, he slowly made his way deeper into the tunnel. After walking for about fifteen minutes, he saw a bright firelight. He put his guard up as he approached, and he found that there was another cave ahead. This cave was much larger than the previous one, perhaps several times larger.

He sensed a huge threat in this cave.

What was it?

Hiss!

Long Chen heard snake hisses. The ground was empty, but when he looked up, he suddenly saw a sea of fire on the ceiling! The fire burned brightly, and the hisses were coming from the sea of flames!

When he looked closer, he realized that it was not a sea of fire, but millions of small, fiery snakes. Every snake was just half a meter long, but they were not real snakes. Just like the fiery men from before, they were made of flames, but the snakes moved exactly like real snakes.

Long Chen spotted a small, golden snake made of real flesh and blood at the center of the millions of fiery snakes. It was almost as small as the fiery snakes, but Long Chen sensed a terrifying aura coming from its body.

“Be careful. That demonic beast was very famous in the Middle Ages. It's a Golden Thread Kingsnake, a Category Two King-tier beast, but it can kill opponents far beyond its level,” the knowledgeable Little Cat explained.

Long Chen eyed the golden snake cautiously. In his mind, the higher level a beast was, the larger it was supposed to be. It was unbelievable to him that this tiny snake was a Category Two King-tier.

Category Two King-tier?

Long Chen's scalp went numb.

“What’s so special about it?” Long Chen asked tiredly.

“Look at the other snakes. They are made of normal, condensed flames. Every fiery snake is a clone of it. Normal people can’t find the snake’s true body in the sea of fiery snakes. Its strength is in attacks and being able to hide easily so no one can touch it. However, it does not have strong defenses, and you stand a chance to survive because of this flaw. So, use your Soul Swallowing Gaze well,” Little Cat said nonchalantly, as if this was none of his business.

Long Chen’s brows were deeply furrowed.

Li Xuanji was the one who had taught him the Soul Swallowing Gaze. After reaching its third stage, which was Sight, he never progressed further. However, Sight had proven to be very useful recently. Everything disappeared from his sight; only the soul of the Golden Thread Kingsnake remained.

Long Chen was able to pinpoint its location due to its soul.

This was his only chance to win and live.

“You don’t need to be scared. You’re extraordinarily lucky. A First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator would have died on the first level, but you had Xiaolang. In this level, Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators might exhaust themselves to death, but you stand a chance because of your Soul Swallowing Gaze,” Little Cat said.

Even Long Chen felt like he was indeed quite lucky.

He looked up at the Golden Thread Kingsnake, and the millions of fiery snakes also looked at him. Then the Golden Thread Kingsnake hissed once and fell to the ground. The rest of the fiery snakes followed suit, as if the kingsnake had a gravitational pull.

Loud hisses sounded across the cave.

Long Chen’s hair stood on end.

The countless fiery snakes instantly drowned out the kingsnake, and there was a sudden burst of firelight. Then a gigantic fiery snake as large as the King-tier Blood Ocean Viper appeared before Long Chen!

When he took a closer look, the gigantic snake was made of countless tiny snakes! The whole colony moved as one like they had gained sentience, their tongues flickering out of their mouths!

Chapter 567 - My Reason To Live

Long Chen took several steps back with some resignation.

“The Golden Thread Kingsnake is hiding somewhere in the giant snake. Use your Soul Swallowing Gaze to find it, then do your best to kill it. After you kill the kingsnake, all the little fiery snakes will disappear. You have an advantage here because you know where it is. Other people might end up half-dead trying to fight the snake without knowing where it is,” said Little Cat.

Although Long Chen was able to find it, killing it would not be easy!

Compared to Long Yue and the others, he was at a disadvantage because he was too weak. After passing the reward room earlier, he knew that they were progressing faster than he was.

The gigantic, fiery snake took up a quarter of the cave when coiled. It glared menacingly at Long Chen. He was still in the passageway, and the moment he entered the cave, it would unleash a storm of attacks on him.

Using the Soul Swallowing Gaze, Long Chen saw the Golden Thread Kingsnake in its abdomen, though it probably wouldn't remain in the same location. The Golden Thread Kingsnake was moving slowly as it studied Long Chen. It was in control of the gigantic body.

The center of its abdomen was not an easy spot to get to.

What now?

The Golden Thread Kingsnake was a Category Two King-tier for a reason, despite its only flaw, which was having a weak defense. Long Chen was strong enough to kill it, but he would have to find the perfect opportunity.

I wonder if it's able to distinguish between my Demon Illusion clone and myself? Long Chen released his Demon Illusion clone, which was holding an intermediate Heaven-tier sword. With a *whoosh*, his clone charged into the cave but did not attack the gigantic snake. Instead, it charged towards a corner!

Hiss!

Countless hisses rang. The gigantic snake blurred as it charged at the clone!

I'm afraid my clone will be destroyed here. Long Chen frowned. The clone was a very helpful tool, and if it was destroyed, he would be weakened. However, all he really needed to do was kill the snake to pass to the next stage.

Under Long Chen's control, the clone suddenly turned around after it rushed to the corner. The gigantic snake was very close now, and the tall flames on its body flew at the clone like a flaming mountain!

Long Chen had the clone use its most powerful attack, the Heaven Sword Array. It sent a tidal wave of sword symbols flying at the gigantic snake!

When the array collided with the snake, large flames shot out of its head, as if there were explosions. More sparks flew in all directions while the giant snake screamed and quickly retreated. The clone's Heaven Sword Array had taken a chunk off its head!

But then the countless little snakes slithered up and quickly filled up the hole. The fiery snake only shrank by a tiny bit as a result.

This showed just how resilient the snake was. Long Chen would probably have to use the Heaven Sword Array thousands of times in order to make it completely disappear, but that was impossible.

If he did not find another method to deal with the snake, it would be impossible for him to pass!

The Divine Fire Realm was indeed a terrifying place.

The real Long Chen was waiting in the tunnel, holding his breath. Just as expected, after his clone shot out, the kingsnake's full attention was on his clone. It did not seem to notice Long Chen!

The large snake's head approached the clone, though its body remained coiled, flipping occasionally. The kingsnake in its abdomen moved slowly.

One of the giant snake's sections was not far from Long Chen. To prevent its opponent from finding it, the kingsnake kept moving through the giant snake. All Long Chen could do was wait until the kingsnake moved to the portion in front of him!

He hoped his clone would survive until then.

Long Chen waited. After the giant snake was injured by the clone, it let out a deafening scream, and the kingsnake commanded it to pounce on the clone once more. It opened its immense jaws and shot endless flames at the clone. Its plan was to swallow the clone and burn it to a crisp!

The clone continued to retaliate with another bout of the Heaven Sword Array!

Immense amounts of Sword Qi forced the giant snake away once more!

Once again, a small portion of the body was gone, though it did not affect the giant snake's combat abilities at all.

The clone was only able to force it away; it was impossible for the clone to kill the giant snake!

It's close! Long Chen's muscles were completely tensed. Furious, the kingsnake changed locations quickly. Unbeknownst to it, it was heading towards Long Chen. Once it was close, Long Chen would shoot out and launch his fatal strike!

After two bouts of the Heaven Sword Array, Long Chen's clone was becoming dull in color. Victory would be determined in the next attack. Whether he succeeded or not was all up to luck!

The giant snake was even angrier this time, and countless fiery snakes screamed. The noise merged into a deafening sound wave that flew towards the clone. The gigantic snake sped up and its head shot out at the clone like an asteroid falling from the sky!

This time, the impact would destroy the clone even if it used the Heaven Sword Array. This was completely possible as the gigantic snake was very strong; it was an aggregation of countless snakes after all!

Long Chen's heart pounded in his chest.

He was nervous.

Success all depended on this one shot.

For the last time, the clone used all its strength to launch a final Heaven Sword Array. A tidal wave of swords inflicted damage on the snake, but the snake did not stop even after it was attacked. It was completely consumed by rage!

Hiss!

A deep cut opened up on its head, and hundreds of tiny snakes were torn to shreds by the Heaven Sword Array once more. More snakes rushed forward to replace them!

The clone had used up all its energy, so it could not dodge the gigantic snake's furious attack or defend itself. The large snake swallowed it with ease!

Long Chen sensed the aura of the clone weakening under the terrifying flames. The clone then turned into a wisp of gas and disappeared. Long Chen's shadow appeared beneath his feet!

He knew that his Demon Illusion clone was gone!

However, he had already achieved his goal. The kingsnake was now ten meters away, and all its attention was on the clone. When it sensed that the clone was about to completely disappear, it visibly relaxed and was about to disperse the gigantic snake!

That was when Long Chen charged!

He had been waiting for this moment. With the Desolate Cleaving Sword in hand, he used the Blood Devouring Domain on the snake the moment he shot out. The Dragon Soul Transformation and Blood Devouring Domain had become necessities in his recent battles, bringing him countless victories!

It was the same this time!

Long Chen covered a distance of ten meters in the blink of an eye. The gigantic snake was about five meters wide. With red flames covering his body, he slammed his fist onto the gigantic snake to open a hole. Then he unleashed the Heaven Sword Array towards the kingsnake!

With the boost of the Golden Crow's soul remnants, his Heaven Sword Array was ten times more powerful than the clone's array! Since Long Chen had managed to get very close, the kingsnake could not react in time. The Blood Devouring Domain played a huge part in this as well, but most importantly, the Demonic Illusion clone had completely tricked it!

Sword symbols with red flames exploded, covering a ten meter radius around Long Chen with burning Sword Qi. The Golden Thread Kingsnake was completely trapped!

Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!

Countless fiery snakes were destroyed by the Heaven Sword Array. The gigantic fiery snake was severed in half, and the kingsnake could not dodge in time. It drowned in Long Chen's Sword Qi!

Long Chen had poured all his strength into this final attack!

It was a perfect fatal strike that had successfully cut the Golden Thread Kingsnake in half!

He had won!

Long Chen had the urge to fall to his knees.

Admittedly, both tests were close calls. In the first test, he would not have passed if it were not for Xiaolang. This time, he would not have passed if he did not have his Demonic Illusion clone or the Soul Swallowing Gaze. Although the Divine Fire Realm was treacherous, it was as if the tests were designed for Long Chen.

The fiery snake disappeared completely when the Golden Thread Kingsnake died. They turned into small flames that fell on the ground like rain, creating a beautiful sight. Millions of tiny sparks covered the ground.

The only loss he had suffered was the Demonic Illusion clone.

The Demonic Illusion had brought Long Chen a lot of benefits. If he did not have it while fighting the Void Martial Saint, he would not have won either.

Most importantly, he had cultivated the Demonic Illusion with Liu Yiyi.

The girl who was very similar to Ling Xi.

Two faces appeared in his mind. In the end, he could not let go of the image of Ling Xi.

What is love? I don't know, but I'm chasing after Ling Xi as if she's my reason to live.

Long Chen stood up, looking around numbly.

Chapter 568 - Solar Fire

This time, Long Chen believed that he had passed his test faster than the others. Finding the snake's location while dealing with its powerful gigantic form was difficult even for a Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivator, so the others would take some time to defeat it.

Cultivators at the First Earthly Martial Stage would not even have been able to pass the first test, and cultivators at the second Earthly Martial Stage would not have passed the second. These two tests were clearly set up to filter off people below the Third Earthly Martial Stage. However, although Long Chen was only at the Ninth Heavenly Passage Stage, he had miraculously passed.

After the Golden Thread Kingsnake died, Long Chen put away its carcass. He saw that the bronze door on the other end of the cave had opened.

Was there going to be another test?

If there was, it could end in tragedy for him. He had gotten very lucky to survive this long.

If he had to go through a more difficult test, he would likely die.

After cleaning up, Long Chen exited through the door without hesitation. It led to a bright space, and he realized that it was another hall that was also divided into five sections. Each section could see the other side, but there were transparent walls dividing them.

Long Chen could tell who had passed when he looked at the other lanes. He did, and this time, he discovered that none of the other four bronze doors were open. This meant that the four Third Earthly Martial Stage masters had not killed their respective Golden Thread Kingsnakes yet.

Without a technique like the Soul Swallowing Gaze, they had no way of knowing the location of the Golden Thread Kingsnake, so it would indeed be difficult.

Long Chen pushed them out of his mind and looked forward. He saw a light array not far away from the door. It was not large; its radius was only about one meter, so it was far smaller than a universe transporter. However, there were several times more symbols on it, and they were both beautiful and complex.

"This is a Mini Transporter, which only allows one person to pass, and it only goes in one direction. It is also transboundary," said Little Cat when he saw how confused Long Chen was.

"Transboundary? What do you mean?" Long Chen understood the first part, but not the last part.

“The transporter you went through in the Cangyang Kingdom is not transboundary because it transports people within the same universe. This transporter can send you from the Divine Fire Realm to the outside world, so it is transboundary,” Little Cat lazily explained, looking at him with disgust as if Long Chen was a hillbilly.

Long Chen turned his gaze from the mini transporter to other places.

“This means that this is the exit leading out of the Divine Fire Realm. Then the item that I want must be here.” Long Chen looked ahead for the first time.

“It’s really hot ...” Long Chen sensed that the temperature was very high, much higher than in the other sections.

When he looked closely, he saw that the space in front of the passage was filled with flames, and they blocked him from walking any further. Xiaolang grew very excited when he sensed the presence of the flames.

“Big Brother, those are not ordinary flames!” Xiaolang said hurriedly.

“Not ordinary?” Long Chen looked closely and saw that other than having abnormally high temperatures, they were a little different from normal flames. Wasn’t that solar fire? There was more of it here than what Xiaolang had absorbed!

Solar fire was the most common type of fire found on the sun. It would sometimes fall and land on the ground, but it was very rare to see so much of it concentrated in one place. Although Long Chen could not see all of it, he estimated that there was ten times more solar fire than what Xiaolang had received!

This meant that Xiaolang would likely achieve a breakthrough to become a true King-tier beast just by consuming the solar fire in this room!

Xiaolang was not the only one who was excited—Long Chen was too.

The next step was to obviously let Xiaolang swallow the flames.

It was time to let Xiaolang out, but one of the bronze doors suddenly burst open behind him. A red, feminine silhouette appeared—it was Long Yue! There were many black, burnt patches on her body, likely injuries sustained from the battle with the Golden Thread Kingsnake.

The first to appear out of the others was Long Yue.

Then again, it did not mean that she was the strongest. It only meant that she was the fastest to defeat her opponent.

Since she was out, that meant the others would soon follow. Long Chen initially wanted to let Xiaolang out, but looking at the current situation, he would have to wait.

When Long Yue emerged, she instantly spotted Long Chen. Her initially sorrowful expression turned into shock when she saw him, and disbelief filled her eyes.

“Long ... Long Chen, you’re here?!”

Long Chen knew that the reason she was so shocked was because under normal circumstances, he should not have been able to pass the first level with his First Earthly Martial Stage strength.

“If I said it was due to luck, would you believe me?” Long Chen chuckled.

Long Yue gave him a strange sense of closeness.

She eyed the shocking teenager once more, and in the end, she had to believe that her eyes weren't playing tricks. She shook her head with resignation and said, “It's as if you've been creating miracles since the beginning. We'll talk later. Since you arrived first, what have you found here?”

Long Chen pointed at the mini transporter and said, “That is likely the exit of the Divine Fire Realm. But I think the Red Emperor Seal is in the flames.”

He pointed at the solar fire.

The front of Long Yue's section was also filled with solar fire.

As he spoke, a small flame leaped out of the solar fire, and the same happened on Long Yue's side. The golden flame shook and a row of characters took shape in front of them.

“The Red Emperor Seal is in the solar fire, which stretches over a hundred meters. Whoever traverses fifty meters first will get the seal. Anyone who can complete a hundred meters will get a mystery gift.”

That was the message from the flame.

Long Chen and Long Yue locked eyes, and he saw the exhaustion in her eyes. She said, “The solar fire is extremely hot, so I need to wrap myself in essence to pass through it. And if I exhaust my essence, I might even be burned to death inside. With my capabilities, I can only walk forty meters at most. The rest of them likely cannot make it past thirty meters either. This means that no one below the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage can get the Red Emperor Seal!”

Long Yue's analysis was surely accurate.

However, Long Chen was not stressed. Instead, he was pleasantly surprised, because he had Xiaolang with him. Xiaolang could swallow the solar fire, guaranteeing Long Chen's ability to enter. However, Long Yue was still here, so Long Chen was not in a hurry.

“I can only hold on for forty meters at most. Even if I could get to the Red Emperor Seal, I would need to have enough essence to make it back here. Since merely going there would exhaust all my essence, I'd die on the way back. As for the mystery gift, it's impossible to get it without reaching the Fifth or Sixth Earthly Martial Stage!” Long Yue said solemnly.

This meant that there was still a huge gap between the other four and the Red Emperor Seal.

The other three doors burst open consecutively. Yang Ningfeng, Huangfu Fengchen, and the Demon Emperor all emerged, and all of them looked ashy and disheveled. They were all in a worse state than Long Yue.

When they emerged, they studied their surroundings carefully, understanding the situation in the hall. Of course, what shocked them the most was Long Chen. They all assumed Long Chen was

long dead, as even they had to put in some effort to pass the two tests. How had Long Chen made it here unscathed?

“How is that possible? How did you survive that, brat? Putting the golden snake aside, even one of the fiery men could have easily killed you,” blurted the Demon Emperor.

Yang Ningfeng and Huangfu Fengchen were wondering the same thing.

Huangfu Fengchen was pleasantly surprised to see that Long Chen had survived. He studied the teenager with a grin. The look of disbelief on his face turned into praise.

It looks like this brat has many secrets. Since Qiqi likes him so much, when she's older ... Hehe ... he thought creepily.

Long Chen ignored the Demon Emperor. Since there were transparent walls, the Demon King could not touch him. He looked at Long Yue and asked, “Big Sister, what's your plan?”

“I must still try. Wait for me outside. The solar fire is extremely hot; do not go in.” Then Long Yue wrapped her whole body with essence. Without even looking at the other three, she entered and was instantly swallowed by the flames.

Long Yue had always been a decisive person.

When she made her move, the others ignored Long Chen and quickly approached. Flames also popped out to give them the instructions.

“Fifty meters? Is that a joke? Doesn't that mean we need to walk a hundred meters in the solar fire?” Jiang Wuxie's expression changed. The other two were also torn because their capabilities were all similar.

“I absolutely must try. Even that woman Long Yue went in!” Huangfu Fengchen laughed, then, like Long Yue, he wrapped himself in essence and entered.

Yang Ningfeng and Jiang Wuxie locked eyes and scrambled to enter too. Very soon, only Long Chen remained.

Chapter 569 - Prismatic Key

Long Chen hadn't entered yet because he could not let the rest know that he had gotten the Red Emperor Seal. With so many strong enemies around, he wouldn't be able to keep it for long. He could not even tell anyone that he had the Black Emperor Seal.

After they entered, Long Chen called for Xiaolang to open up a path for him. However, there was another worry. If Xiaolang came out to swallow all the flames, the others would see him, right?

However, Long Chen quickly came up with a plan. As long as he did not swallow the flames at the mouth of the tunnel, showing that the flames were still there, it would be fine. He let Xiaolang out of the Primordial Realm. Xiaolang's eyes were filled with greed when he saw the solar fire. To him, it was the most delicious food in the world.

“Xiaolang, you must only start swallowing when you go one meter deep into the tunnel. I should be able to make it past one meter,” Long Chen instructed.

Xiaolang nodded, then he shot into the flames. After ten breaths of time, Xiaolang emerged once more and said, “Big Brother, I have formed a space one meter away from the entrance. You can enter, then I will continue to swallow the flames.”

Long Chen nodded. He wrapped all his Qi around his body, which contained the Golden Crow’s power. The Golden Crow’s fire was several tiers higher than solar fire. Although there was only a minute trace of it in his Qi, it was probably sufficient to protect him for long enough to move one meter.

Xiaolang entered the solar fire once more.

Long Chen took a deep breath and plunged into the flames. An insanely hot wave of heat rushed at him, making him feel like his entire body would melt! The solar fire was indeed terrifying; even a First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator would only be able to walk one meter. The fact that the others could make it to forty meters proved just how big the gap between each cultivation level was.

One meter was initially enough to exhaust all of Long Chen’s Qi, but he realized that the Golden Crow’s energy provided ample protection against the flames. Although the red flames covering his body looked thin, they were able to block off the main heat from the solar fire. After one meter, only a third of his Qi was spent.

If he used all his strength, he would be able to walk three meters.

After making it past one meter, Long Chen noticed an empty space in front, and Xiaolang appeared. His mouth was open and he was currently swallowing large swathes of solar fire.

Long Chen knew that due to time constraints, Xiaolang would swallow the fire now and then digest it later.

Since he had swallowed solar fire before, he worked fast, and they were able to progress much faster than the others. There was already three to four meters of space for Long Chen to move in.

As Xiaolang trekked forward, Long Chen followed him.

All of the golden solar fire aggregated inside Xiaolang, causing both his body and fur to slowly turn bright gold.

After he finished digesting the solar fire, he would return to black because that was the Sun Devouring Wolf’s original color.

They progressed quickly.

Long Chen was in a great mood because if this continued, the Red Emperor Seal would be his.

Ten meters! Twenty! Thirty!

He had already covered more distance than the others ever could, and they were likely only about ten meters deep at this point in time. Under such immense stress, no one could travel quickly within the solar fire. Long Chen had only managed to walk fast for one meter because he had the protection of the Golden Crow’s soul remnants.

Very soon, he was forty meters deep. Long Chen watched with great anticipation.

Ten more meters ... Counting his footsteps, Long Chen knew that he was almost there.

After a short while, Long Chen had made it through half of the tunnel. Suddenly, Xiaolang stopped because a fire-red seal had appeared before him.

The seal had only materialized after Long Chen passed the fifty-meter mark.

Long Chen was sure that it was the Red Emperor Seal.

He had seen the Black Emperor Seal before, which was completely black. It looked simple and old, but there was nothing strange about it. The Red Emperor Seal was the same. Although it belonged to the fire element, it was not hot.

Long Chen studied it for a while, then he said to Xiaolang, "Carry on. I want to see what the mystery gift at the hundred-meter mark is."

"It's likely more precious than the Red Emperor Seal. The Red Emperor Seal is already one of the Five Emperor Seals and is related to an Emperor-tier combat technique. I wonder what the mystery gift will be?" Xiaolang was curious too.

He continued swallowing the flames.

Maintaining their speed, they soon passed fifty more meters.

Long Chen was truly grateful for Xiaolang this time because he would not have passed even the first test without him, nor would he have made it past three meters without him. Xiaolang had not only enabled him to get the Red Emperor Seal, but also the mystery gift!

The Red and Black Emperor Seals were now both in his hands. No one would ever have expected this!

As for the Azure, White, and Yellow Emperor Seals, Long Yue likely had the Azure Emperor Seal, though Long Chen was not sure about the other two. However, he was the one closest to completing the set of five as he had two!

After the last trace of the solar fire was swallowed, Long Chen found himself before a cave. It was a small cave, and when he entered, he realized that there were five entrances. The other four entrances were filled with roaring solar fire.

Those entrances led to the other tunnels, so in theory, all of them could gather here if they passed through. Or more accurately, they could fight here.

Xiaolang burped and said, "Big Brother, I really feel like I have reached my limit already. Let me back into the Primordial Realm. I need to refine the solar fire to reach the King-tier!"

Long Chen nodded and sent him back into the Primordial Realm.

There was a square boulder at the center of the cave. There was a key laying on it, and white, green, black, red, and yellow lights danced on it. Long Chen's mind raced. He understood that this was a reflection of the Five Emperors, namely the White, Azure, Black, Red, and Yellow Emperors.

The five-colored key was clearly the mystery gift.

Long Chen walked over.

Suddenly, a fire-red silhouette shot out of the five-colored key. He took several steps back, eyeing the red shadow with caution.

“That is the Divine Martial Soul that has been left behind for many years,” Little Cat said softly.

Long Chen nodded.

The red silhouette slowly took the shape of a human, and he stared straight ahead as if he did not notice Long Chen. Long Chen knew that he had died a long time ago and that this was whatever the owner had recorded back then.

“I am the Red Emperor, one of the Five Emperors of the Ten Thousand Nations Territory! You are very lucky, man of fate, because you are likely going to get the treasure that the Five Emperors left behind!”

Treasure of the Five Emperors?

Long Chen was ecstatic. Were there other treasures aside from the Emperor-tier combat technique?

This person must have been a master in the Middle Ages. Fat Cat said this was a Divine Martial Soul, so he must have been at the Divine Martial Realm. The Five Emperors must have been master cultivators at the Divine Martial Realm, so the treasures they left behind can't be as simple as a mere Emperor-tier combat technique. Perhaps they passed on some legendary Divine-tier items?

Long Chen was extremely excited!

King-tier, Emperor-tier, Divine-tier!

Even an Emperor-tier treasure could trigger a storm of blood and violence in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory, let alone Divine-tier treasures!

“The treasure of the Five Emperors is located in the Ancient Graveyard. There are a total of five Prismatic Keys; you need to have all five in order to unlock the treasure! I wish you luck!”

The Red Emperor's message was short and simple. After that, the red silhouette disappeared. Long Chen first put the Prismatic Key in the Primordial Realm, then he straightened his thoughts.

The Five Emperors must have been the five strongest people in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory in the Middle Ages. They managed to reach the legendary Divine Martial Realm, while the most powerful person today is only at the Heavenly Martial Realm. After they died, they left behind some treasure and hid it in the Ancient Graveyard. The only way to unlock the treasure is to collect all five Prismatic Keys, and now I have one ...

As for the Five Emperor Seals, the Emperor-tier combat technique is likely considered a low-level item among the treasures they left behind, which is why they are located in the outside world. Because I was lucky, I not only got the Red Emperor Seal, but also one of the Prismatic Keys. There will likely be something else much more precious than an Emperor-tier combat technique!

It was not an easy feat to get to this key.

Based on what Long Yue had said, only a cultivator at the Fifth or Sixth Earthly Martial Stage would be able to complete the journey of one hundred meters.

There were no masters at that level in the Divine Martial Empire.

If Long Chen hadn't come here, no one would have been able to get the Red Emperor Seal or the Prismatic Key.

I got the Red Emperor Seal, the Prismatic Key, and the King Crystals from before! What a great haul! But the others will be coming out soon. If they don't see me, they'll get suspicious. I need to get out fast!

It had taken a long time to get in, but going out was much easier. He covered ninety-nine meters quickly and, just like before, it took some effort to pass through the last meter of solar fire. Right when he emerged and composed himself, he saw Long Yue emerge from the solar fire.

Chapter 570 Earthly Martial Realm

"How was it? Did you get the Red Emperor Seal?" Long Chen asked hurriedly when he saw Long Yue.

She shook her head with a bitter smile and said, "I did my best, but I only managed to go twenty-five meters deep. That's only half the journey! Unless I reach the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage, it'll be impossible to get the Red Emperor Seal. Only the Martial Overlord can get it, but he's not here."

"What if you cultivate here until you reach the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage?" asked Long Chen.

She thought for a while and then shook her head. "No, I still have a long way to go before I reach the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage. I don't know what will happen to the Divine Fire Realm during that time. If I stayed here for too long and got stuck, that would be a tragedy. Thankfully, if I can't get the Red Emperor Seal, the others can't either."

Long Yue did not know that not just the Red Emperor Seal, but also the Black Emperor Seal were with Long Chen.

He thought for a while and decided not to tell her about them. He trusted Long Yue, but one could never be too cautious. Then again, they were only useful when all five seals were together. It would be useless telling her now anyway.

Then Huangfu Fengchen and the others also emerged from the solar fire. Just like Long Yue, they were dusty and disheveled, and none of them had managed to reach the Red Emperor Seal. How would they feel if they knew that the Red Emperor Seal they had worked so hard to get was actually with Long Chen?

Most importantly, Long Chen even had the Prismatic Key, which led to the treasure of the Five Emperors.

Xiaolang was in a deep sleep. Long Chen guessed that when he woke up, he would be a King-tier demonic beast.

It was time to leave the Divine Fire Realm, but since he was with Long Yue, he had to wait for her, or the others would attack him when he got out.

After all the four masters emerged and saw that everyone else was disheveled, they all privately sighed in relief. They knew that no one had gotten the Red Emperor Seal. However, they did not give up or leave immediately.

They all sat down to cultivate using the King Crystals. They absorbed the Martial Essence within them and slowly healed. They would need about half a day to recover all their lost essence.

Long Yue had also exhausted all her essence.

She initially also wanted to sit down to cultivate, but when she looked at the mini transporter, her face changed. She approached Long Chen and whispered, "Chen'er, don't touch the mini transporter, and don't try to leave yet."

"Why?" Long Chen asked, puzzled.

"That's a transboundary mini transporter. When you cross between worlds, there will be a huge tear in space. Although you have cultivated a King-tier body tempering technique, you are not at the Earthly Martial Realm yet, and you do not possess essence or an Earthly Martial Body. The tearing force will destroy you! If you try to use the transporter, you'll likely be severely injured, and it could result in permanent damage!" Long Yue explained with a frown.

"Huh?" Long Chen was stunned and quickly asked Little Cat, "Fat Cat, is what she said true?"

"It is true, haha ..." Little Cat's laughter sounded a little guilty.

"Then why didn't you say so earlier?"

"I am a god! How could I remember the details relevant to weaklings like you guys? To me, you are no different from a normal human. When I was at my peak, I could kill millions of you with just a breath ..."

Long Chen had not expected an obstacle like this and was speechless. He looked up and asked, "Big Sister, doesn't that mean that I have to reach the Martial Realm if I want to leave?"

Long Yue nodded. "That's the only way for now. You have already reached the Ninth Passage Stage, and it is already time to break through anyway. Since I can't get the Red Emperor Seal for the moment, I'll teach you the cultivation method now."

Long Chen thought for a while and knew that this was a rare chance. He knew nothing about the Earthly Martial Realm, so with Long Yue teaching him, it would be easier. The only thing that worried him was whether anything would happen to the Divine Fire Realm if he did not leave soon.

The other three people were busy recovering, preparing to try again. Long Yue said, "I am sure that none of us will get the Red Emperor Seal unless we reach the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage. Since that is the case, I will fully focus on teaching you. Let me recover my essence first, or I won't be able to demonstrate. Of course, I will first explain the theory of the Earthly Martial Realm's cultivation so you understand."

"Thank you, Big Sister," he said, nodding hurriedly.

"We're siblings; you don't have to thank me. Plus, we are related by blood, so it's only natural that you should call me 'Big Sister.'" Long Yue spoke in a cold tone, but there

was a hint of gentleness hiding in her cold glare, especially when she spoke to Long Chen.

“I understand,” he replied. He had never respected authority, but in front of Long Yue, he felt like he was speaking to an elder.

“The cultivation of the Earthly Martial Realm comes in two parts. The first part is the same as the four foundational realms, which consist of meditating and absorbing the spiritual Qi of the earth to strengthen your essence. The second part is comprehending the word ‘martial’ during your punching routine. As a result, you will form your Martial Soul within your sea of consciousness!

“Your punches are the foundation of your martial abilities. Once you master your punches, you will master swordsmanship, seal techniques, and finger techniques. It does not matter if they are attacks with or without weapons—they are an extension of punches. Master your punches, and the other attacks will come easily. The Earthly Martial Fist Manual explains all of this. If you follow the manual in its entirety, you will complete your Earthly Martial Soul and reach the Ninth Earthly Martial Stage. Of course, that is easy to say but difficult in practice. I’ll recover my essence while you read the summary and first part of the manual.”

Then Long Yue took out a manual. It was not large and did not have many diagrams. Most of it consisted of introductions and guidance for the main concepts. Due to the transparent walls, he could not take the manual, so she opened it and placed it on the ground for him to read.

He was smart and had a photographic memory, so after scanning the words a few times, he memorized almost everything. Of course, memorizing and understanding them were two separate matters.

Due to his comprehension abilities and battle experience, he had a deeper level of understanding of the concept of “martial,” so cultivating would be smoother for him.

The Four Foundational Realms really were just the foundations.

Long Chen nodded as he thought about the meaning of the text.

The eighteen heavenly rivers become Martial Veins that pass through the entire body, while the nine meridian points become the nine Martial Meridians and are the center points of the body’s power. Most importantly, Qi becomes Essence and thickens so that one’s strength multiplies by many times...

After reaching the Ninth Passage Stage, a cultivator reaches the limit of the strength that his consciousness can control. Therefore, he needs to strengthen his consciousness by turning it into a Martial Soul so that it can control even more power. The cultivation process of the Earthly Martial Realm is actually a strengthening process for the Martial Soul. Absorbing more earthly spiritual Qi to become essence is a separate but not very significant step.

My Blood Transmutation can help me quickly gather martial essence, but cultivating the Martial Soul will require comprehension and diligence. Comprehending my punching technique is the most important step.

Cultivating at the Earthly Martial Realm also condenses and trains the Martial Soul. The strength of the Martial Soul is reflected in one's martial abilities. This is a process that is related to the earth.

One must connect to the pulse of the earth and borrow the power within the earth to boost one's attacks. This will result in an attack several times stronger. The martial soul is also strengthened when it connects to the earth ...

The pulse of the body connects to the pulse of the earth. This energy comes in endless waves, and reaching the First Earthly Martial Stage allows one to use the first stage of the earth's pulse, strengthening the cultivator's attack by a factor of one. Reaching the Second Earthly Martial Stage allows one to use two waves of the earth's pulse, and at the Ninth Earthly Martial Stage, a cultivator can multiply their strength by nine times! Just a simple punch would be enough to make a mountain tremble ...

A cultivator must connect to the earth to become a true master.

Utilize the potential of every part of a cultivator's body.

Condense and train the martial soul. With a stronger martial soul, a cultivator can more accurately control the strength in their body. The martial soul is able to concentrate the body's power in one dot, preventing any energy loss. This results in an even stronger attack!

From this, Long Chen understood why masters at the Earthly Martial Realm like Long Yue could carve out a smooth hole in a boulder.

After looking through the manual, he roughly understood what the Earthly Martial Realm was.

In order to reach the Earthly Martial Realm, I must first sense the power of the earth. Then I need to guide it and inject it into my body. Standing on the ground while performing punches is the easiest way to sense the earth. Every punch and every time a cultivator's foot lands on the ground can help them improve until their attack is completely connected to the pulse of the earth.

Long Chen took off his shoes so that his bare feet were on the ground. He slowly felt the energy of the earth.

It was cold.

That was what he felt.

It shouldn't just be cold. I need to feel the movement. The earth is not still; it is moving. It's just that we are on it, so we cannot feel its movements ...