

## War God 571

Chapter 571 - Two Geniuses

Long Chen stood completely still as he tried to make sense of what the Earthly Martial Fist Manual was explaining.

“The Earthly Martial Soul and the pulse of the earth ... Martial Veins, Martial Meridians, and my heaven meridian point. Within my sea of consciousness ...”

Long Chen had a feeling that he was comprehending the method to enter the Three Martial Realms much faster than others.

He was reading it through quite fast.

He then found the crucial point in the manual.

The problem should lie with the heaven meridian point. Other people’s heaven meridian points lie somewhere in their bodies, but mine is in my sea of consciousness. An Earthly Martial Realm cultivator cultivates their Martial Soul, which is located in the sea of consciousness. Since my heaven meridian point is inside my sea of consciousness, it will be much easier for me to connect it with the power of the Martial Soul. Conversely, the close proximity between the two will also allow me to better control the essence coming from the meridian points. The connection between my Martial Soul and my essence will be superior to the connection of others. It seems I will have an easier time advancing into the next realm than other people.

Long Chen snickered at that prospect.

He had never heard of anyone whose heaven meridian point had appeared in their sea of consciousness. Since the average person’s Martial Soul was located inside their sea of consciousness while their essence was stored in their body, some found it difficult to connect the two, but Long Chen wouldn’t have this problem.

Others might find it hard to do this, but I will probably have an easier time. I will probably have the strength to find Ling Xi in five years.

The difference between ten and five years was massive.

Long Chen did not believe that there was an obstacle he couldn’t overcome.

“With this advantage that I have, no one can stop me.”

The Martial Realm was just in front of him.

The Four Basic Realms and the Three Martial Realms. The Earthly Martial Realm, the Heavenly Martial Realm, and the Divine Martial Realm.

But would the Divine Martial Realm be the final stage?

Long Chen didn’t think so. He knew that the Ancestor Dragons were not that weak. At the very least, Little Cat was stronger than a Divine Martial Realm cultivator before he died in the past.

Long Chen was excited to immerse himself in the feeling of advancing into the next realm. At this time, Long Yue stopped resting. Only a short amount of time had passed, so the other three hadn’t recovered yet. Long Chen was certain that Long Yue hadn’t either.

But for the sake of helping him make a breakthrough so that he could depart from here safely, she had chosen to teach Long Chen instead of recovering.

In order to avoid the others, they went to a corner of the room. Long Yue asked, "Have you read it? Do you understand it?"

"More or less." Long Chen nodded.

"Your heaven meridian point is in your head, so your comprehension should be leagues better than the average person's. Try telling me what you learned and I will see if you misunderstood anything." Long Yue was very thorough in her teaching.

Long Chen told her what he understood, and Long Yue was shocked.

"Is this really the first time you've read it?" She was speechless.

She definitely knew it was the first time, so she had asked casually. Long Chen never failed to create miracles. Long Yue even thought that his talent was at the forefront here in the Divine Martial Empire.

"Long Chen, do you know of the two geniuses of the Divine Martial Empire?" Long Yue suddenly asked.

"I don't." Ever since Ling Xi left, Long Chen had matured. He talked less and wasn't as arrogant as before. All that was left of his old self was an indomitable heart that refused to give up.

He was even more dangerous now too.

"Compared to the other empires, the geniuses here are nothing, but there are two of them that are clearly above the rest. You should know one of them." Long Yue's expression shifted slightly when she said that.

"Who is it?"

"It's ... Long Chen, my brother. He has the same name as you, but he turns twenty this year. However, he's already at the Third Earthly Martial Stage, around the same as me. But he has always been rebellious and prefers to work on his own. He has never agreed with my methods and even argued with me. I have no idea where he is right now."

Long Yue looked sad when she said that.

Maybe she was feeling guilty.

"Young people always make mistakes. Maybe he will realize that he was wrong and will apologize to you in the future."

"Yeah. You are younger, but your heart is more mature than his. It's clear that you've experienced far more hardships than him. He never had a goal, but I could feel that

you're working towards something, something so important to you that you will strive to obtain it until you die."

Long Chen never thought she would see through him.

He smiled and shifted the topic. "Who's the second person?"

Long Yue expected that he would change the topic.

"The Martial Alliance more or less controls the Divine Martial Empire. Their assets and talents are naturally very strong. The other is the personal disciple of the Martial Overlord, Zhao Danchen. He's also around twenty, and he is also one of the Three Martial Emperors along with Yang Ningfeng and Xiao Lin."

Martial Emperor. That meant he was at the Third Earthly Martial Stage.

Long Chen was only at the Ninth Passage Stage. It was clear that both of them were significantly stronger than him.

"Long Chen and Zhao Danchen. The two geniuses. It would be funny if I joined their ranks as the second Long Chen," Long Chen said with a chuckle.

"I think you have a chance to do that. I will now show you the ropes of how to enter the Earthly Martial Realm. I taught this to my brother, but now he's stronger than me."

"How long did he take to enter the Martial Realm from the Ninth Passage Stage?"

"One month."

"Then I will only need ten days." Long Chen was confident that he could do so.

"If you want to finish in ten days, then you need to work even harder. First, I will demonstrate the first stage of the fist art once. Practicing it will help you get close to the earth. You need to feel the power of the earth."

Long Yue got ready.

She punched slowly, with intention.

Long Chen observed closely. He had a feeling that Long Yue was connected to the ground. It was as if she was a stone and her Martial Vein had connected with the Earth Vein. Her essence was also circulating with the Earthly Qi.

It was as if she had caught the heart of the earth and started dancing to the beat.

Her fists and the movements of her body made it seem like she was dancing with the earth. It was more like a work of art. Long Chen forced himself to not get enthralled by it and instead focused on every single detail before imprinting it all in his brain.

Talent and hard work would make it impossible for him to fail.

One who had talent but refused to work hard would be worthless.

But it was possible for someone without talent who worked hard to achieve success after enduring harsh difficulties.

Long Yue completed the first stage while the other three recovered. She panted and white steam escaped her mouth.

Long Chen had memorized the details of her fist art.

The more he watched, the more he learned from her. Knowledge poured into his body as he immersed himself in her movements. He also tried to connect himself to the ground and move with it, but he moved the earth instead.

Everything before his eyes disappeared. What remained was the endless yellow ground and dust. Sand swirled past him as he stood with his feet planted to the ground. He felt his heartbeat and the beat of the ground connecting.

The first movement should be like this ...

As the earth pulsed again and again, Long Chen practiced. The moment he could coordinate his attacks with the beat of the earth would be the moment he could use the power of the Earthly Martial Realm.

Long Yue wanted to talk to Long Chen and ask how much he had learned, but he stood up and started practicing.

She was surprised.

This was the first time Long Chen was practicing it. His form was riddled with imperfections, but the state of his heart was far beyond what Long Yue could achieve.

But she knew that Long Chen was the only person who could start practicing by just reading the manual once.

After he finished the first stage, Long Yue smiled bitterly. "You are the only person I've seen with such monstrous comprehension. You are even better than my brother. In fact, you might really be able to reach the Earthly Martial Realm in ten days."

"Really? I felt nothing when I practiced. I'm lousy at it compared to you. I forgot the steps halfway through, so I just did something random." Long Chen panted while he talked.

He had always thought of himself as weak.

"Not bad, but don't get too cocky. I will continue to teach you what I know. I will also have to correct some of the glaring errors you made when you were practicing just now. You can correct it and then show it to me again."

Long Chen had been under two masters before. The Clear Shallows King was only a temporary one, but he respected Zhao Qingyun despite the fact that he only even gave him items. He had never helped Long Chen in terms of cultivation.

That was because Long Chen was too much of a genius for Zhao Qingyun to teach.

Long Yue was the first person to properly guide him on the path of cultivation.

Long Chen knew that without her, he would've been stuck at the Four Basic Realms for at least a few months.

But now it had gotten simpler for him.

#### Chapter 572 - Earthly Martial Realm in Ten Days

Even though Huangfu Fengchen and the others were recovering through meditation, they could sense their surroundings. They were initially curious as to why Long Yue was teaching Long Chen to cultivate here, but they understood the reason when they saw the Mini Transporter.

The Martial Emperor and the Demon Emperor were both happy when they saw that they had one less competitor since Long Yue was too busy to attempt to take the Red Emperor Seal. They also didn't care about Long Chen's predicament. However, their eyes were filled with fear when they recovered and saw Long Chen's monstrous talent.

*If he continues to grow, he could really attain the same strength as the two geniuses.* Both the Demon Emperor and the Martial Emperor came to the same conclusion.

But they could do nothing to him right now as they were trapped in this place.

They would only be able to touch him after they got out. But another problem arose. Both Huangfu Fengchen and Long Yue wanted to protect Long Chen, so it didn't seem plausible to attack him.

Without any plan, the two of them could only focus on trying to take the Red Emperor Seal for themselves. Even though it was almost impossible to get it, they refused to give up when it was just out of reach.

As for attempting to break into the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage and obtaining it ... They never even entertained the idea. Many cultivators could only go so far on the path of cultivation. They would be on the level of the Martial Overlord if they made just one more breakthrough, but it was never that simple. If it was, then Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji wouldn't have dominated the entire Divine Martial Empire.

The Demon Emperor and the Martial Emperor locked eyes before they made their way into the solar fire once more.

If they learned that Long Chen had already taken the Red Emperor Seal, they would get so angry that they would faint on the spot.

Huangfu Fengchen was the type of person who didn't try too hard when it came to things that he couldn't do. After he failed once, he gave up and tried to teach Long Chen. Since his corridor was on the other side of Long Chen, both he and Long Yue could teach him.

After Long Chen practiced once, Long Yue started to explain his mistakes.

“In order to enter the Earthly Martial Realm, you must first perfect the form. From there, try to understand its essence. Once you do, you no longer need to care about the form. If you understand the basic concept and have a firm understanding of its essence, you can shape any form you like based on it.

“But first, you need to perfect the first stage of the fist art. You have to do it again and again to perfect the form. You can start now, and I will point out where you need to improve.” Long Yue was taking this very seriously.

Long Chen took a deep breath and tried recalling what Long Yue had done. He was smart enough to know that he had to be immersed in a world where there was only him and the earth. That was exactly what Long Yue wanted him to do.

Huangfu Fengchen was amused by this. He tried his hand at teaching Long Chen from time to time. Since he and Long Yue had different experiences when it came to advancing to the Earthly Martial Realm, it was easier to point out what the other person had missed.

Long Yue was a lady, but her combat tendencies were based on pure strength and brute force. She had the strongest attacking power amongst the four of them, while Huangfu Fengchen was adept at using spears and evasion. He preferred agility and evasion over power.

Both of them had their own requirements and criteria, but neither side criticized one another. Rather than picking one side, Long Chen chose to take in both views and incorporated them into his cultivation. This led to an unforeseen growth.

Huangfu Fengchen nodded as he watched Long Chen cultivate. “He really can complete it in ten days.”

With just a few repetitions, Long Chen managed to improve massively. Huangfu Fengchen approved of him.

“It’s too early to say that.” Long Yue, however, was calm.

She was stricter than Huangfu Fengchen.

“Martial Realm, Martial ...” Long Chen immersed himself as he practiced again and again. In just a single day, he perfected the form of the first stage.

It was also thanks to his strengthened comprehension.

His strength surged all the way to his heaven meridian point and connected with his sea of consciousness. He had a much easier time than most when it came to controlling it.

“Feel the power of the earth. Heaven and earth form the world, and they themselves are immensely powerful. Humans are weak compared to heaven and earth. The Earthly Martial Realm uses one’s strength to guide the strength of the earth ... The power of the earth comes in the form of pulses, vibrations, and waves. To obtain it, one must immerse themselves and become one with the earth. The Earthly Martial Fist Manual is the bridge to that.”

Long Chen had thought that it was just a simple manual and felt nothing after completing it for the first time. Without the words guiding him, he might’ve given up.

But Long Yue said nothing, which meant his words were right.

After practicing a few times, Long Chen suddenly had a faint feeling that some of his punches contained a profound feeling.

The more he practiced, the more he felt it. Three days later, his punches were all filled with profound energy when he did the first stage of the fist art.

“This is the process of going from simple to complicated before returning back to simplicity again. You have now completed half of the manual, but that was the easy part. The second half is where the difficulty spikes up. You need to feel and understand the power contained in your fists to obtain the essence of the Earthly Martial Realm,” Long Yue explained.

“Unfortunately, words cannot help you in the next stage. You need to grasp the essence on your own, but we can practice it for you. We can show you what our Earthly Martial Realm looks like. Let’s see if you can grasp anything.” Huangfu Fengchen was abnormally excited. Without waiting for Long Chen to agree, he immediately started displaying how he did the Earthly Martial Fist.

Long Chen was transfixed on the movements.

The movements were the same, but Huangfu Fengchen gave off a different feeling than Long Yue. Long Yue’s movements were snappy and powerful, but Huangfu Fengchen’s were billowy and fleeting just like a swallow.

Long Chen immersed himself in Huangfu Fengchen’s world.

*Essence. Now what is it?* Long Chen pondered as he observed Huangfu Fengchen’s dance. As he watched, he immersed himself in Huangfu Fengchen’s practice and even started to copy him!

“This is the path of spears.”

Huangfu Fengchen suddenly took out an ordinary spear.

“The art of spears originated from fists. Even though it’s displayed in a different form, the logic behind it is the same.”

The same movements could be applied when using the spear.

Every single movement contained the intention of Huangfu Fengchen, regardless of whether he used his fists or spear.

Long Chen did his best to grasp what essence was.

He had always been smarter than others. He also had many advantages that the others didn't have. With two experts leading the way for him, everything proceeded smoothly, and Long Chen’s improvement could be seen within hours. Both Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen witnessed his growth.

Once Huangfu Fengchen completed his demonstration, Long Chen closed his eyes and immersed himself in his own little world.

He mirrored his own movements in his mind and compared them with Huangfu Fengchen’s.

If it’s like this ...

The fist should start from the heart ...

Everything around him went silent. Long Chen heard a thumping sound in his world. He realized that it was coming from his body and from somewhere far away.

Bam.

Long Chen punched.

Bam.

Long Chen punched again.

His fists were swift just like the raging river.

He gradually felt the shape of the earth. He had a feeling that he was close to connecting with the earth. As he continued to grapple with the sensation, he felt that he was no longer standing on the earth but instead on a giant beating heart.

Bam. Thump. Bam.

He felt the ground pulse every time he heard the sound.

This should be the pulse of the earth. As long as I can align my attacks with the timing of the pulse, then my attacks will contain the essence that I need.

Long Chen started to abandon his form. He had good comprehension, so he knew that it was more important to align his attacks with the pulse of the earth.

After all, everyone forged their own path of cultivation.

Without being restricted to the form, Long Chen's attacks were as free as soaring birds. The energy coming from the earth was the updraft that allowed the bird to fly.

Long Chen needed to connect himself to the endless earth, just like how birds soared in the endless air. He was but a chick practicing to feel the presence of air when he first started, and now he managed to feel it.

As long as he continued cultivating, he would grasp the timing and grow as a chick. He would officially advance into the Earthly Martial Realm when the little chick could fly in the air.

The theory had always been the same.

Long Chen understood many things after his first repetition.

He slowed down and took a deep breath.

Then he opened his eyes and saw that Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen were looking at him as if he was a freak.

“What's wrong?”

Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen looked at each other. Long Yue flashed a rare smile while Huangfu Fengchen gave him a thumbs up. “You have extraordinary comprehension. In terms of comprehension, you are unbeatable in the Divine Martial Empire. Your fist contained a little bit of the essence just now. As long as you continue to cultivate, you will be able to form your Martial Soul. When that happens, you will officially advance into the Earthly Martial Realm.”



“We are now on the third day. I think you will be able to do it in three more days.”  
Even Long Yue was impressed.

Just then, both the Demon Emperor and the Martial Emperor came out of the solar fire. They looked at each other in disappointment.

#### Chapter 573 - Eighteen Divine Dragons

They had tried three times so far, but neither of them had managed to make it to the end. They wanted to give up but felt slightly consoled when they saw that Huangfu Fengchen and Long Yue hadn't attempted to cross the solar fire again.

No one laughed at anyone since no one had obtained the Red Emperor Seal. They would've felt frustrated if either Long Yue or Huangfu Fengchen got their hands on it.

But little did they know that they were the real losers here.

Still, they understood that Long Chen had to reach the Earthly Martial Realm in order to leave this place. While the Demon Emperor and the Martial Emperor were recovering their Qi, they also mocked Long Chen at the same time.

The Demon Emperor thought he knew all about Long Chen and mocked him ruthlessly. “What are you cultivating for? If it wasn't for the Emperor Flame Pearl, you would be the weakest of the weak. You only reached the Ninth Passage Stage because of it. With your potential, you will probably take ten years to reach the Earthly Martial Realm.”

Yang Ningfeng said, “Ten years? This place will collapse by then. No one can survive here for ten years. I doubt that any of us could reach the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage within ten years without any lucky encounters. I think we have to give up on it.”

“Brother Yang, do you want to give up?”

“I thought you were thinking the same, Brother Jiang.”

They knew that no one here could obtain it. The Demon Emperor had to go back to the Ancient Demon Domain as thousands of people were waiting for his leadership. The place would crumble within years if he didn't go back. The Demon Emperor was worried that years of hard work would be undone.

The Martial Emperor was in the same spot. He was one of the three Martial Emperors. If he spent several years here, his position would be forfeit by the time he left.

“I will try one last time. If I fail again, I will leave,” Jiang Wuxie declared.

They made one last attempt, and they failed again. They could not reach where the Red Emperor Seal was without killing themselves. To them, it was impossible to obtain it alive.

“Long Yue, Huangfu Fengchen, you can stay here and wait for him to become an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator. Make sure to come out in a few years. I won't be accompanying you anymore.” The Demon Emperor chuckled.

“I don't think we can do anything if Huangfu Fengchen decides not to take care of his family's safety.” Yang Ningfeng laughed too.

If Huangfu Fengchen did not exit soon, then something would really happen to his family. Unfortunately, even though the Huangfu family and the Ancient Demon Domain were in an alliance with the Martial Alliance on surface, the truth was far from that.

Without Huangfu Fengchen, the entire Huangfu family would be absorbed into the Martial Alliance, just like Yang Ningfeng's Wind God Sect was.

Jiang Wuxie and Yang Ningfeng looked at each other before leaving the place using the Mini Teleporters.

Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen didn't even react to their threats. The Demon Emperor and the Martial Emperor had been so busy trying to obtain the Red Emperor Seal that neither of them had noticed Long Chen's improvements. If they had, they wouldn't have said that Long Chen would only advance in ten years.

In fact, Long Chen would only need three days.

Once the Demon Emperor and the Martial Emperor had left, Long Chen focused on his cultivation. With Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen showing him their respective worlds, he improved at a rapid pace. He took in the best of both worlds to form his own.

Long Chen lost himself in his cultivation and felt himself getting connected to the earth. He improved every time he practiced. Three days passed, and the rate of Long Chen's improvement surpassed both Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen's expectations.

It was currently the fifth day.

"The pulse of the earth ..."

Even though he was standing on the heart of the earth, Long Chen could not feel its pulse. This was one of the most important steps in the process to enter the Earthly Martial Realm. Only when he could use his fist to channel the power of the earth in order to obtain more strength would he succeed in finally forming the Martial Soul in his sea of consciousness.

But the final step was the most difficult.

*How can I feel the pulse of the earth?* Long Chen was lost in thought.

*No, I shouldn't be hasty when I'm this close to succeeding. If I immerse myself in cultivation, I should eventually succeed.* He soon found the way to break through the bottleneck.

He had both form and essence. He was essentially at the level of Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen right now in terms of the Earthly Martial Realm Fist. He had Long Yue's might and speed as well as Huangfu Fengchen's gracefulness.

Most people live on the earth throughout their entire lives. The earth is the foundation for us. Doesn't that mean I'm already connected to it?

The pulse of the earth had to be learned through experience.

The slow drum of the earth started to resonate inside of Long Chen.

This is how it feels ...

Long Chen punched.

Through his hard work, he slowly got closer and closer to perfecting the timing. The pulse of the earth no longer restricted how he punched. Long Chen felt like his legs were rooted to the ground as he absorbed the strength of the earth to grow.

After some time, one of Long Chen's punches resulted in a large *bang*. His cultivation was completed.

The yellow Earthly Qi surged upwards from his legs and covered his body. He was now encased in a large, yellow cocoon formed by an unlimited amount of Earthly Qi.

Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen both laughed.

They knew that Long Chen was just one step away from making a breakthrough.

"He said he would finish it in ten days, but he did it in five. This guy ..." Long Yue smiled in satisfaction.

"Oh ho, the rumored icy princess is smiling. You have such a beautiful smile too. It's a waste that you are usually frowning." Huangfu Fengchen teased her.

Long Yue's smile froze and she frowned again. She glared at Huangfu Fengchen before looking at Long Chen.

Huangfu Fengchen chuckled and stared at Long Chen too.

The two of them were polar opposites. Long Yue rarely smiled, while Huangfu Fengchen smiled all the time.

Long Chen was now at the final and most critical stage.

I have completed the cultivation of the Earthly Martial Realm. The only thing left to do is to let the Earthly Qi enter my body. It will transform my starry rivers into martial veins, my nine meridian points into Martial Meridians, and then turn my Qi into essence. Only then will my Martial Soul be born.

Thanks to their guidance, Long Chen had a good idea of what was going to happen next.

An unlimited amount of Earthly Qi surged into his body, and the cocoon became a maelstrom. It absorbed all of the Earthly Qi and channeled it into Long Chen's body.

Long Chen was drowned in the sea of Earthly Qi.

It's starting ...

The Earthly Qi entered his body and soon came into contact with his Dragon Soul Qi. He quickly transformed at the same time.

The two energies clashed but merged harmoniously. The blood-red Qi merged with the Earthly Qi, transforming it from yellow to red. It became the basis of Long Chen's strength.

The gaseous Dragon Soul Qi slowly changed into a liquid as it flowed through Long Chen's eighteen heavenly rivers and nine meridian points.

The overwhelming power soon surpassed what his heavenly rivers and meridian points could handle.

Long Chen started to feel it going out of control.

His Dragon Soul Qi continued to flow through his body. Thanks to an invisible force, his starry rivers quickly transformed into thick Martial Veins. The egg-sized meridian points soon expanded to the size of a fist, becoming stronger and sturdier than before.

But this change could not be seen from the outside.

Nine Martial Meridians and eighteen Martial Veins. Due to the constant flow of the Dragon Soul Qi, both of them became larger and sturdier than ever before. But as they continued to grow, an unexpected change started to take place.

Long Chen's Martial Veins were covered in faint dragon scales. They even had the faint markings of a dragon's head, tail, and whiskers. Each of his Martial Veins was like a red dragon coiling around his body,

His Martial Veins became eighteen Divine Dragons that coiled around his body.

All of this was due to the influence of the Dragon Soul Qi.

Long Chen was stunned because he had never expected something like this to happen. He had a strange feeling that his Martial Veins were stronger than those of other people, and this would bring him even more benefits than he had thought.

His Martial Veins would sustain him throughout the entire three realms of the Martial Realms. The Three Martial Realms were divided into twenty-seven stages, and advancing through each stage would be significantly harder than advancing during the Four Basic Realms.

It would also take him a lot of time.

If Long Chen could not advance past the Divine Martial Realm, the eighteen Divine Dragons would live inside his body forever.

But so far, this was the only unexpected change that had occurred.

The final step was forming the Martial Soul.

#### Chapter 574 - Dragon Martial Soul

Even though his eighteen Martial Veins and nine Martial Meridians were completed, his essence continued to grow inside his body until there was ten times more than before. His blood-red essence flowed like a river inside his nine Martial Meridians and eighteen Martial Veins.

The sound of a roaring river flowed inside his body.

The essence of someone at the Earthly Martial Realm was monstrous.

Long Chen couldn't imagine how strong he would become once he had full control over it.

The meridian pills in his nine Martial Meridians were slowly changing too. Initially, they were like blood-red suns with the Golden Crow's illusion inside of them. But they had changed under the influence of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon too.

They looked like a cross between birds and dragons right now.

Even the Golden Crow's soul remnants were affected by the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's influence.

An ancient aura filled with bloodlust radiated out of Long Chen.

The essence inside his body was currently at maximum capacity.

When he used the Dragon Soul Transformation, he would have as much essence as someone at the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

When he entered the Earthly Martial Realm, he would be able to beat someone one stage above him thanks to the Dragon Soul Transformation. Those at the same stage wouldn't be his match whatsoever.

It was only when his body completed the transformation that a change occurred in his sea of consciousness.

The fog inside his sea of consciousness rippled. The Dragon Jade Pendant and the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's Inherited Blood Essence were completely still.

The white fog rippled intensely before it started to condense. The fog was a representation of Long Chen's consciousness, and it had started to condense to form his Martial Soul.

But this was only his Earthly Martial Soul. There would be an even larger change when he advanced into the Heavenly Martial Soul and the Divine Martial Soul.

As time passed, Long Chen remained immersed in the profoundness of the Earthly Martial Realm. His Martial Soul slowly formed, but to Long Chen's surprise, the transformation was completed when the fog condensed into a miniature humanoid shape that looked blurry and fragile.

The Martial Soul of those at the First Earthly Martial Stage was indeed fragile. It was only when they advanced that its outline became clearer and stronger.

Once his Martial Soul was completed, Long Chen felt like he could control the essence in his body through it.

He was genuinely surprised by how perfectly he could control it. He felt like he was the miniature humanoid inside his sea of consciousness. Looking through the Martial Soul's eyes allowed him to observe his body and control it perfectly, down to the smallest group of muscles.

The Martial Soul was complete.

Through it, he could control his strength and body perfectly.

Long Chen was elated at how precise it was.

He knew that he was now at the Earthly Martial Realm.

He thought he had obtained a new life once he reached the Ninth Passage Stage, but now he knew he was wrong. A bigger change had occurred when he advanced into the Earthly Martial Realm.

Long Chen was now a true cultivator after advancing into the Three Martial Realms.

Only those who advanced into the Earthly Martial Stage were considered true martial artists.

A martial artist was also someone who lived for martial arts.

Long Chen thought everything was over after his Martial Soul was formed.

All he needed to do was wake up and leave the place through the Mini Teleporter.

But something unexpected happened.

A Martial Soul was supposed to form in the center of one's sea of consciousness, but in Long Chen's case, that spot was taken over by the mysterious Dragon Jade Pendant and the Inherited Blood Essence.

Long Chen's Martial Soul could never dream of overtaking them.

The Dragon Jade Pendant suddenly exuded a force that pulled Long Chen's Martial Soul towards the center. It then placed Long Chen's Martial Soul above it.

So now a strange scene unfolded in his sea of consciousness.

The Inherited Blood Essence was at the bottom, the Dragon Jade Pendant at the middle, and his Martial Soul at the top.

The three of them were lined up perfectly.

Both the Martial Soul and the Inherited Blood Essence appeared to be controlled by the Dragon Jade Pendant.

Just then, out of Long Chen's control, the Dragon Jade Pendant exuded another force that took one ten-thousandth[1] of the Inherited Blood Essence and merged it with his Martial Soul.

The minuscule amount didn't affect the Inherited Blood Essence, but it caused a massive change in his Martial Soul. His Martial Soul slowly changed from a miniature humanoid to a shimmering dragon.

The one ten-thousandth of the Inherited Blood Essence had fused into his Martial Soul due to the mysterious power of the Dragon Jade Pendant.

Which was why his Martial Soul had transformed into the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon's visage.

The shape of the Martial Soul was not superficial. Any changes in its shape would determine its quality and strength.

When a demonic beast reached the King-tier, it would also undergo a transformation. They would form something called the Demonic Soul. The Demonic Qi in their body would transform into Demonic Essence. Each demonic beast would develop a Demonic Soul that was an exact replica of their body. For example, the Black Water Viper would've had a Demonic Soul that looked exactly like its real body.

This was why Long Chen's case was special. Even though he was human on the outside, his Martial Soul had taken the shape of a dragon. It was likely that once his body had merged completely with the Inherited Blood Essence, his body and soul would also take the forms of a true Dragon Ancestor.

But it was not accurate to say that Long Chen was like Xiaolang in that he would become a demonic beast.

The Primordial Dragons were different from demonic beasts. Demonic beasts were in a category of their own. Primordial Dragons, on the other hand, were distantly related to humans. Even though he would become a dragon one day, he would still be related to humans.

For now, the transformation of his Martial Soul brought no benefits, but he was certain that something extremely beneficial would occur for him in the future.

This made Long Chen ponder what would happen to Xiaolang. Him becoming a Sun Devouring Wolf was purely an accident.

He has a human soul but the body of the Sun Devouring Wolf. I wonder if he will have a humanoid Martial Soul or a beast-shaped Demonic Soul?

Long Chen woke up once his Martial Soul had formed.

The cocoon formed by the yellow Earthly Qi slowly disappeared. Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen saw him slowly appear in the middle. Both of them had the same sense of confusion when they first saw Long Chen emerge. They had a feeling that they were looking at a coiling Primordial Dragon rather than Long Chen.

They blinked and saw that Long Chen was back to normal again.

Long Chen closed his eyes and felt the strength on his body through his Martial Soul. He looked over the eighteen Martial Veins resembling Primordial Dragons, the nine Martial Meridians, and the flowing blood-red Dragon Soul Essence. It flowed through his body and condensed within his nine Martial Meridians. The whirlpool of essence continued to swirl as the blood-red suns burned.

Almost half of Long Chen's strength originated from the nine burning suns.

Advancing to the Three Martial Realms has truly brought about a massive change.

The immense strength inside his body made him sigh in admiration.

Thanks to his Martial Soul, he could completely hide his aura and strength to appear as a regular human, but the strength in his eyes and his intentional movements could not be covered.

Long Yue flashed one of her rare smiles when she saw that Long Chen had succeeded.

“Now that you've made your breakthrough, all seven of us are at the Earthly Martial Realm. I think that you're stronger than the others now, so I hope you will take care of your senior brothers and sisters.”

“It's all thanks to your teachings that I managed to advance. Also, we are all siblings, so I will always fight for them!” Long Chen smiled.

Huangfu Fengchen chuckled and said, “Hey, he just advanced into the Earthly Martial Realm. Why are you asking him to work immediately?”

Long Yue ignored him. “Since you are at the Earthly Martial Realm and we can't get the Red Emperor Seal, we should head out now. I fear that they might've set an ambush for us.”

She was right. Yang Ningfeng was the sort of guy that would set a trap since he knew Long Yue would have to come out one day. She would be in trouble if she was trapped. Thankfully, two days was too short of a time frame to have placed an elaborate trap.

Long Yue was also worried about Jiang Wuya and the rest.

Long Chen and Huangfu Fengchen nodded. The two of them said nothing as they stepped onto the Mini Transporters. The price to activate it was harsh—Long Chen had to spend two King Crystals.

This was the second time he had used one of these.

It took significantly longer for this transporter to activate, but this one was much more powerful than the one that Long Chen had used at the Cangyang Kingdom. He felt a force tearing his body from all directions, but he was fine since he had the body of an Earthly Martial Realm cultivator.

Soon, they saw the sun outside.

They looked around cautiously before finding that they were on the outskirts of the Cloud Dream Swamp. They were just three Li away from Cloud Heaven City.

After confirming that they were safe, Huangfu Fengchen bade them goodbye. "I should head back home soon since we are out now. Long Chen, my daughter still misses you. Do come and pay us a visit if you have the time."

Long Chen still remembered how he owed her fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. He would naturally visit them one day since he was not the type of person who would break a promise he had made with a lady.

#### Chapter 575 - Information on Ancient Graveyard

Long Chen replied, "I will go there when I have the time one day. Not only have you protected me, you even guided me into the Earthly Martial Realm. I will repay the favor one day."

Huangfu Fengchen laughed. "That's alright. No need for such formalities. My daughter has taken quite a liking to you, and I don't find you repulsive. Helping you didn't cost me anything, so it's fine. I will have to go now. Goodbye."

He then disappeared swiftly after saying goodbye to Long Yue too.

"Huangfu Fengchen is not a bad guy. He's quite humane." Long Yue approved of him too.

"He's indeed good." Long Chen watched Huangfu Fengchen disappear before looking at Long Yue. "Big Sister, I've reached the Earthly Martial Realm, but we didn't get the Red Emperor Seal. What should we do next?"

"Let's find the others first. We have people from the Red Souls in Cloud Heaven City. We can locate the others through them."

Long Chen nodded.

They were only three Li away, so they sprinted towards Cloud Heaven City.

Long Chen was conflicted. He didn't know if he should tell her that he had obtained the Red Emperor Seal. The Red Emperor Seal was one of the clues that would lead them to the Prismatic Key, which would then lead them to the treasure of the Five Emperors. According to the fragmented soul of the Red Emperor, the treasure was located in the Ancient Graveyard.

The Ancient Graveyard was also where Long Chen needed to go.



It was the perfect time to obtain information about the place since Long Yue would know more than the others. Long Chen asked her, “Big Sister, do you know anything about the Ancient Graveyard? Could you tell me about it?”

“The Ancient Graveyard?” Long Yue did not expect that question from him. “Long Chen, how do you know about it?”

“I thought I could explore one day.”

Long Yue shook her head and sighed. “It’s too dangerous there. The Ancient Graveyard is where numerous experts from the Ten Thousand Nations Empire perished in ancient times. While there are numerous treasures there, it’s also filled with unimaginable dangers. Setting aside the King-tier and Emperor-tier demonic beasts that dominate the place, there are also traps and trials left behind by the experts from back then. The Divine Fire Realm is an example. It was a miracle that you survived both of its trials.”

*The Ancient Graveyard is most likely a forbidden area where treasures and danger go hand-in-hand.* This was within Long Chen’s expectations, but he wanted to know how it connected to the Three Emperor Territory.

“I don’t have the qualifications to go there now, but if I get lucky and become stronger, I should be able to go there. I wonder how I should do that?”

Long Yue saw how sincere he was and answered in kind.

“Are you sure you want to go there? Every time the Ancient Graveyard opens, a bloodbath ensues. Very few people return from that place since everyone wants a treasure for themselves. The Ancient Graveyard can be described as a large coliseum that numerous experts from the Nine Divine Empires strive to enter. Every time it opens, experts kill each other without any hesitation as the allure of treasures and the grudges held between the empires blind them. Many of the experts of the Nine Divine Empires rose to their positions thanks to the treasures they found at the Ancient Graveyard.”

“Nine Divine Empires? I thought there were ten?” Long Chen was confused.

Long Yue smiled wryly. “Nine, not ten. That’s because the Divine Martial Empire is no longer qualified to be called one. If it weren’t for the Nine Divine Empires honoring the promise they made in the past, the Divine Martial Empire wouldn’t have survived until today.”

Long Chen had never heard of any of this before. Based on what she had said, it appeared that the Divine Martial Empire was the weakest of them all.

“Why is that?”

“Thousands of years ago, the strength of each empire was roughly the same, but as time went on, the people of the Divine Martial Empire started becoming weaker and weaker. Due to that, the other empires attacked the Divine Martial Empire in an attempt to secure more land from themselves. The Divine Martial Empire was

supposed to be wiped out that day. The weak perish and become food for the strong. But one day, roughly a thousand years ago, an extremely strong individual appeared in the Divine Martial Empire. He had reached the peak of the Heavenly Martial Realm. He challenged the experts of all nine empires and won. No one was his match. He was the strongest individual in the Ten Thousand Nations Empire.”

Long Yue became excited when she said that.

“You mean he made a promise with them before he challenged all of them? If he beat all of them, the others would never encroach on the Divine Martial Empire?” Long Chen immediately guessed what had happened back then.

“Yes, but with a time limit. They agreed to set it as two thousand years. Thanks to that, even though the Divine Martial Realm was currently the weakest, we have a thousand years of peace left. Still, it’s a fact that we are considerably weaker than the other empires.”

Even though all of that had happened long before Long Chen was born, he could feel how admirable that person was just from listening to the story.

“He made the nine other empires adhere to the promise to give two thousand years of peace to the Divine Martial Empire. That person must have been extremely powerful.”

Long Yue nodded and said proudly, “That person had the surname ‘Long.’”

Long Chen was stunned.

“You are right, and he was our ancestor. His blood flows through our veins. It’s just a shame that none of his descendants inherited his strength. Then the despicable Martial Alliance overtook our family and became the leader of this land,” Long Yue said with a sad expression on her face.

To think that the extremely powerful figure was Long Yue’s ancestor.

Long Chen had a feeling that Long Yue's ancestor was a Dragon Warrior of the lowest-ranked Red Dragon. To think that even the weakest dragon would make him the strongest person in the entire Ten Thousand Nations Empire. It was clear that Dragon Warriors were extremely strong.

That was how the Divine Martial Empire remained standing even though they were weak.

Similarly, it also showed how strong the rest of the empires were. *The Martial Overlord at the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage would probably just be a regular person if he went to the other empires.*

“Long Chen, do you understand how strong the other empires are now? If you go to the Ancient Graveyard, your opponents will not only be those from our empire, but also the others. Imagine this: you are alone and from the Divine Martial Empire, but the other empires have thousands of people with them. All of them are at the Earthly

Martial Realm, and some of them are even at the Heavenly Martial Realm. How will you fight against them?"

"That's true, but could you tell me how to enter the place? I'm asking out of curiosity since I can't enter when I'm this weak."

Long Yue nodded. "The Ancient Graveyard opens periodically. News of its opening is explosive news for the other empires, but no one in the Divine Martial Empire knows about it. Do you know why?"

"Of course not." Long Chen shook his head.

"The Ancient Graveyard is controlled by an invisible force. Whenever it opens, the invisible force gives out special tokens called Ancient Tokens to every empire. Those who possess tokens are then sucked into the Ancient Graveyard when it opens."

Long Chen was shocked, not because of the tokens, but the person sending them.

That person must be extremely powerful.

Most of the people in the Ten Thousand Nations Empire did not know about the Three Emperor Territory. The Ten Divine Empires had the perception that the Three Martial Realms were the peak of cultivation, which was why they didn't know that the invisible force was most likely an expert from the Three Emperor Territory taking care of the Ancient Graveyard.

But that was just his conjecture. He was still weak, so this wasn't the time to concern himself with these matters. He was more concerned about whether the tokens would be given to the Divine Martial Empire or not.

"Yes, every empire receives them, but the numbers are based on the empire's overall strength. Each empire is given anywhere from five hundred to several thousand based on their strength, but the Divine Martial Empire is only ever given one as a courtesy."

One?

Long Chen almost fell over from shock.

The Divine Martial Empire was too weak.

That meant that he would have to get his hands on that single token no matter what.

"The Ancient Graveyard opens up once every ten years or so. The last time it opened, Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji entered and never returned. Before that, someone strong from the Martial Alliance obtained it, but he never returned either. The Ancient Graveyard is considered a nightmare for the experts of the Divine Martial Empire."

Long Yue tried to intimidate Long Chen with the truth, but he refused to give up. "When was the last time it opened?"

Long Yue smiled bitterly. "Coincidentally, the last time it opened was roughly ten years ago. I wonder if Zhao Wuji will go. I know I definitely wouldn't."

Long Chen had one last question. “Where will the Ancient Token appear?”

“It’s random. There is no fixed location.”

Chapter 576 - Well Prepared and Ready For Action

Long Chen was satisfied after learning that much about the Ancient Graveyard.

Even though there would only be one token in the entire Divine Martial Empire, he had to obtain it. If he couldn’t, he would have no choice but to go to another empire to grab one. But the problem was that the other empires’ cultivators were stronger, so it would be harder to get one.

The difference in strength between the Divine Martial Empire and the other empires was clear just by looking at the difference in the number of Ancient Tokens.

It was accurate of Long Yue to call it the Nine Divine Empires instead of Ten Divine Empires.

Based on the number of ancient tokens, Long Chen estimated that tens of thousands of cultivators would enter the Ancient Graveyard in order to obtain the treasures. Long Chen’s goal was to travel past the Ancient Graveyard to enter the Three Emperor Territory, so he wouldn’t need to fight others that much.

Still, he would be more than happy to try his luck at contesting for treasures if his strength allowed for it. One of the Prismatic Keys was already in Long Chen’s Primordial Realm, so he would lose nothing if he tried to take the treasure of the Five Emperors.

There are five Prismatic Keys, and I just got the fifth one. Does that mean the Ancient Graveyard will be opening soon? It’s a shame that I don’t know where the Ancient Token will appear. I could’ve waited at that location until it appeared.

Long Chen pondered about what his next plans would be.

They soon reached Cloud Heaven City.

Long Chen memorized the details about the Ancient Graveyard before he accompanied Long Yue to find people from the Red Souls. They waited at a gazebo and soon, a man in black overalls appeared.

“How are the others? Where are they?” Long Yue wasted no time.

The man respectfully answered, “They actually wanted to hide and wait for you here in Cloud Heaven City, but something happened a few days ago, so they rushed to where the Northern Battle clan is.”

“What’s happening there?”

“The Battle Emperor was heavily injured out of nowhere and his life is in danger. The Martial Alliance is attacking the Battle clan, so Lord Lei Zhen had to head back. The others followed him and assigned me to wait for you here.”

“The Martial Alliance must’ve injured that old man.” Long Yue frowned.

“They’re the only ones who could have injured him. It must’ve been Zhao Danchen, one of the Three Martial Emperors, who did it. Two days ago, Yang Ningfeng exited

the Cloud Dream Swamp and ran towards the Battle clan. I think that the two Martial Emperors are planning to defeat the Battle clan once and for all.”

“Even though the Battle Emperor is old, he should still be strong. Zhao Danchen must’ve become stronger recently. I fear that even I cannot defeat him now ...” Long Yue shook her head and sighed.

“The Battle clan is the only major faction that has yet to submit to the Martial Alliance. I fear that they will fight to the death if the Martial Alliance invades. I doubt Second Brother can stop the Martial Alliance by himself, so we should hurry and help them,” Long Chen said.

Long Yue nodded. “You are right. The Martial Alliance don’t usually act on their own, but they are dreadful when they do. If the old Battle Emperor was injured, the Battle Clan would be done under the attack of two Martial Emperors.”

They immediately set off for the Battle clan.

“Lord Long, there is one more thing. My master told me to inform you about this the moment you appeared.” The man appeared to be anxious.

“What is it?” Long Yue had a bad feeling.

“We managed to find the location of your brother, Long Chen, ten days ago. He was caught by the Martial Overlord and was imprisoned in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. We do not know if he’s alive or dead.”

“What?!” Long Yue smashed the stone table to pieces as she stood up. Her eyes exuded cold bloodlust. Long Chen had a feeling that she was enveloped in bloodlust.

“We don’t even know if he’s alive?” Long Yue clenched her fists so hard that her bones cracked. She was extremely angry because her brother was in danger. Even though she hadn’t seen him in a while, they shared the same blood.

She was angry yet silent.

“Nine Spirit Purgatory ...” Long Chen had never heard of it, so he asked the man in black, “What is that place?”

“It’s one of the Martial Alliance’s Miniverses. It’s situated in Martial Overlord City, and it’s where the prisoners of the Martial Alliance are kept. No one has ever managed to escape it, so no one knows what it looks like inside. I fear that only the Martial Overlord knows ... ” the man explained with trepidation.

Long Chen frowned too.

It must be fate that I have the same name as him. He’s one of the two geniuses, a Third Earthly Martial Stage expert, and he was somehow imprisoned in the Nine Spirit Purgatory? There is no

way Long Yue would be calm, but I fear that they need her at the Battle clan too ... She wouldn't abandon her blood brothers and sisters, but she can't abandon her own brother too ...

Long Chen knew she was struggling.

Which was why he decided on a bold plan. "Big Sister, if you need to rescue your brother, get some information from the Martial Alliance first. Save him if you can. I will go to where the Battle clan is. I am improving rapidly, so I should be able to beat foes at the Second Earthly Martial Stage."

On one side were her blood siblings and on the other was her brother. Long Yue was conflicted.

But she sighed in exasperation when she heard Long Chen's plan. "Long Chen, I've owed my little brother too much ever since I was young. I have to rescue him now. Please apologize to our brothers and sisters on my behalf. I will rush over there as soon as possible."

Long Chen understood what she was going through. Bonds between family members could never be severed. He nodded. "Go now. I will handle the issue with the Battle clan."

Long Yue had a good understanding of Long Chen's strength and knew that he was trustworthy. "Don't be rash and don't die. Survive and live so that you can fight back another day."

Long Chen nodded.

The big picture was the priority here.

Since they had decided on their course of action, Long Yue wasted no time and dismissed the man in black. She then reached into her Universe Pouch, took out a golden book, and passed it to Long Chen. Long Chen saw an engraving of a Red Dragon on the cover of the book. The claws were its most prominent feature.

"This is the Long's family secret technique, the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw. It's an intermediate King-tier martial technique. Since you have the same surname, you should also be part of our family. I will pass it to you today and you can pass it to your descendants one day. Do not give it to outsiders," Long Yue warned sternly. She was treating Long Chen as if he was her true brother.

Long Chen was conflicted. He was certain that he did not belong to her family, but then he thought that he really needed the martial technique. He wouldn't leak it to outsiders, so he agreed.

"Then let's separate now." Long Yue watched Long Chen put the book away and leave.

The two of them went their separate ways.

After saying goodbye, Long Chen made his way to the Northern Battle clan. Since Xiaolang was still sleeping, he didn't have a ride. But since Long Chen was at the Earthly Martial Realm now, he could slowly absorb the Earthly Qi and transform it into Dragon Soul Essence. That way, his speed would be on par with a demonic beast at the Category Eight Heaven-tier.

While traveling, Long Chen also immersed himself in the feeling of connecting with the earth. He was doing two things at the same time. One of them was cultivating the Earthly Martial Realm Fist. He needed to learn the second stage to advance into the Second Earthly Martial Stage. Thanks to his experience, he was learning it at an incredible speed.

His heaven meridian was located in his sea of consciousness and his Martial Soul was a dragon! There was no way his comprehension was weak with such talent!

Long Chen only took a few days to understand the theory behind the second stage of the Earthly Martial Realm Fist. Now he only needed to practice it in order to advance into the Second Earthly Martial Stage successfully.

As for how long it would take, that depended on how quickly he could understand the essence of it. He cultivated as he traveled.

Even though he could choose to fly, Long Chen chose to run on land to feel the energy and pulse of the earth. It was also the source of his strength.

The second thing he was cultivating was the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw. An intermediate King-tier martial technique was naturally hard to learn. It was complex and grand, though thankfully, Long Chen had a similar fighting style to Long Yue, so it would compliment him well.

Soul Dispersing.

This was the first time Long Chen had tried to cultivate a claw technique, but he understood how well it suited him. He was not an Armament Warrior, so weapons did not suit him well. After transforming, his main weapons had to be his fists, seals, fingers, and claws.

His claws were extremely sturdy, but he had never used them. The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw would release his potential.

The claws were the hardest part of his body when he transformed.

Long Chen already had an elementary King-tier Body Tempering technique. He didn't have the Demonic Illusion anymore, and the Heaven Sword Array was too weak for him now.

The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw had come at the right time.

Especially since it would be enhanced by the Golden Crow's soul remnants.

Long Chen remained transformed as he cultivated the technique. That way, he could feel how strong and deadly the technique was.

It was a technique that excelled at close-quarters combat.

It was also the perfect technique for Long Chen after he reached the Earthly Martial Realm.

He ran through desolate places while he made his way to the Battle clan. He was like a caveman running without shoes as he cultivated the Earthly Martial Realm Fist and the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw from time to time.

His talent was unmatched thanks to being a Dragon Warrior.

He had no problem with understanding the difficult words written in the book.

Chapter 577 - Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw

The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw was a profound technique even amongst other techniques at the same tier. Long Chen managed to grasp the fleeting sensation of the profoundness of the Martial Realms by cultivating the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw. He had a feeling that the Martial Realms were limitless and he was barely scratching the surface.

But that was more than enough for him to improve.

He didn't know the exact location of the Battle clan, only the general direction, so he headed north and gathered information.

He was afraid for the other's safety if the Martial Alliance attacked, so he did his best to travel faster as he cultivated the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw.

A blood-red figure ran towards the north.

The Divine Martial Empire was roughly tens of times larger than the Cangyang Kingdom. Even though Long Chen's speed had increased drastically, it still took him more than ten days to reach the northern region. He estimated that he would need another five days to reach where the Battle clan was located.

He had spent those ten days immersed in the cultivation of the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw. In fact, he had almost mastered one of the basic techniques recorded in the book.

Other than the basic technique, there were two more techniques. He had watched Long Yue use one of them, the Five Piercing Dragons. The two techniques were the essence of the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, but the basic technique was still usable.

As he journeyed, he found some demonic beasts as practice targets. But he could kill normal demonic beasts without even transforming. Demonic beasts at the Category One King-tier and below were no match for him.

No wonder this is the secret technique of Long Yue's family. It's several times stronger than the Soul Dispersing Eagle Claw!

Long Chen admired how strong the technique was.

He could now be called a true expert after he obtained the Golden Crow's soul remnants, advanced into the Earthly Martial Realm, and mastered the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw.

Long Chen was no longer the person who had to run and hide when entering the Divine Martial Empire for the first time.

His thick Dragon Soul Essence was like a raging river coursing through his body. The maelstrom in his Martial Meridians contained unimaginable power, and the nine burning suns were horrifyingly strong.

Long Chen ran into a small forest. Several thin lines appeared on the trees. When he exited from the other side, the dense trees were reduced to ashes. An entire forest had disappeared and left nothing behind.

"At least I've mastered the basic technique. As for the other two techniques ... Hehe ..." Long Chen smiled confidently and continued his journey.

Long Chen was taking in the beautiful scenery when he unexpectedly found a clean and wide path. Several demonic beasts were pulling carriages on the path.

"What is this place?" Long Chen looked around and saw that there was something interesting towards the left of the path. Deep inside the forest was a kaleidoscopic mist that barely showed the outline of a building.



The building was large and beautiful. Long Chen estimated that tens of thousands of people could live in it.

He didn't want to know what it was and was about to leave when he heard someone saying that it was where the Huangfu family was located.

"To think that the Huangfu family lives here!" Long Chen was shocked. Huangfu Fengchen had left the Cloud Dream Swamp moments before him. He never thought that he would reach Huangfu Fengchen's home so soon. *He's probably at home now since he can run faster than me.*

Even though it was nighttime, the Huangfu family's building was bright due to the copious amount of lanterns.

"Might as well visit them since I'm already here. I don't know if I will have a chance to come back here in the future. I definitely won't have the time to return Qiqi her fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills when I start looking for the Ancient Token, so I better do it now. It probably won't take too much time."

He then approached the building.

Since he was visiting them, he took some time to clean himself up.

The Huangfu family was as strong as the Ancient Demon Domain, but they followed the ruling method of a family.

Long Chen guessed that they probably operated just like the Lingwu family.

However, the Huangfu family only had one patriarch, while the Lingwu family had four.

He soon reached the grand gates of the building. Long Chen noticed that the people who entered and exited presented a special token. There were guards stationed outside the building, and they noticed Long Chen fairly soon. One of them approached him and asked, "Who are you? Why are you loitering around here?"

"I am Long Chen. I wish to greet the patriarch of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Fengchen. Could you pass on the message?"

"Long Chen?" The guard was shocked. "Which Long Chen?"

Long Chen's name had been spread far and wide. There was only one Long Chen before, but now there were two.

Long Chen couldn't do anything about it, so he explained, "I'm not on the bounty board. I'm also the best friend of Miss Huangfu Qi. I am here to see her."

"Not on the bounty board? Both Long Chens are on it, but I think I know which Long Chen you are if you say you are Miss Qiqi's best friend. You must be the one from the Ancient Demon Domain."

"That's me." Long Chen didn't know his name was on the bounty board.

The guard nodded. "Alright. Let me take you to the Patriarch."

Maybe it was the influence of Huangfu Fengchen, but Long Chen had a feeling that everyone in his family was easy to talk to and was not bound by rules. It was a good feeling. While walking, they chatted and Long Chen learned the guard's name, Huangfu Song. Coincidentally, Huangfu Song was just slightly younger than Huangfu Fengchen.

The Huangfu family estate was beautiful compared to the desolate Ancient Demon Domain.

"The Patriarch just returned two days ago and is in the study. Let me lead you there."

"Thank you."

They followed a small path and soon reached the study room.

Though they called it a room, it was actually an entire building. The building was graceful and timeless. Long Chen saw Huangfu Fengchen standing outside, waiting to greet him. He could hear his laughter from far away.

"Long Chen, I just invited you to the Huangfu family and you actually came so soon! What a surprise." He was indeed surprised that Long Chen would show up so soon.

Long Chen smiled.

He had a good impression of Huangfu Fengchen. "I'm not here to see you. I'm here for Qiqi."

"So you are here because you are enamored by my daughter's beauty? Alright. Huangfu Song, go and arrange a banquet. I will bring Long Chen there later."

Huangfu Song left to prepare the banquet.

Following Huangfu Fengchen's lead, Long Chen talked with him as they made their way to another building.

"I've heard the news about the Battle clan. You are heading there, right? You must've accidentally come across this path and ended up here." Huangfu Fengchen deduced exactly what had happened.

Long Chen nodded. "I didn't know the Huangfu family was here. I overheard someone saying that on the path and came over."

"Where is that violent Long Yue? I don't see her."

"Her brother got imprisoned by the Martial Overlord, so she went to the Nine Spirit Purgatory."

"What?" Huangfu Fengchen's face paled. "Long Yue is too rash. That is not a place she can enter and exit freely. I fear that she is in danger this time."

It was clear that the Nine Spirit Purgatory was a dangerous place if even Huangfu Fengchen would say that. Long Chen frowned in worry. The Battle clan needed him, but he also couldn't relax when Long Yue was in such a dangerous predicament.

All of them were in danger, but he wasn't strong enough to solve their problems. What was he supposed to do?

Long Chen didn't have a plan.

Huangfu Fengchen stopped and looked at Long Chen with a conflicted expression. "Long Yue must be there by now, and I can't help you at the Battle clan either. Long Chen, to be honest, my family has only survived up till now because we took no side and did not go against the Martial Alliance. Thousands of my family member's lives are in my hands. I fear that I cannot help you in regards to the Battle clan."

He thought Long Chen was here to ask him for help.

But Long Chen actually understood Huangfu Fengchen's predicament. Since they allied themselves with the Martial Alliance, they would definitely be in trouble if they went and helped the Battle clan. Huangfu Fengchen would never risk the lives of his family members.

Long Chen never thought of asking Huangfu Fengchen for help to begin with.

"You are thinking too much. I am really here to see Qiqi. I still owe her fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills. If I don't return them to her now, I probably won't have a chance to do so again."

Huangfu Fengchen sighed when he heard Long Chen say that. "I'm so sorry that I can't help you, but since you are here, let me show you my hospitality. I don't want Long Yue to call me stingy! Hahaha!"

Huangfu Fengchen brought Long Chen into the side palace. He sat at the head of the table while Long Chen sat to his right. The table was already filled with food.

Long Chen had just sat down when a yellow whirlwind burst through the door and blew towards him.

"Big Brother!" Huangfu Qi sat on Long Chen's lap.

Chapter 578 - Warlord Spear Technique

She was finally reunited with Long Chen, so she wouldn't let him go. She kept grabbing his face with her pudgy hands. "Big Brother! Why didn't you visit earlier? I was so bored in this house. That old bastard won't let me go out anymore."

Huangfu Qi glared at Huangfu Fengchen.

Old bastard ...

Long Chen was speechless to see her scolding her father at such a young age.

Huangfu Fengchen ignored her and laughed dryly. He then dedicated a toast to Long Chen.

Long Chen talked with Huangfu Fengchen while he endured Huangfu Qi's assault on his face. It took some time until she stopped and asked, "Big Brother, where is the dog?"

Huangfu Qi wanted to see Xiaolang badly.

She actually wanted Long Chen to come to her house so that he could show her Xiaolang.

“My dear daughter, haven’t I bought you several thousand dogs? There’s one of every breed. Why do you still want to see another person’s dog?” Huangfu Fengchen was speechless.

“I don’t care. I want Big Brother’s dog,” Huangfu Qi snarled.

Long Chen and Huangfu Fengchen smiled bitterly.

Huangfu Qi was indeed a courageous young girl.

Huangfu Fengchen waved his hands and called for Huangfu Song. “Go and prepare some entertainment. I will be drinking with Long Chen.”

Huangfu Song left quickly. After some time, as Long Chen and Huangfu Fengchen were conversing, a group of dancers wearing beautiful clothes waltzed in and danced in front of them. There were musicians at the side too.

Huangfu Fengchen’s life was nothing short of entertaining.

One of the dancers was especially good. As she danced, she swept her long sleeves across Long Chen’s face and flashed a devilishly seductive smile.

“Long Chen, what do you think about the dancer?” Huangfu Fengchen chuckled mischievously.

“Beautiful.”

“Hehe. She is actually my brother’s step sister. She will be getting married to my nephew soon.” Huangfu Fengchen laughed.

That was a random fact that didn’t concern Long Chen.

Long Chen took a look at Huangfu Qi and asked, “Qiqi, let me return the fifty thousand Heavenly Passage Pills.” He was getting ready to leave.

“No!” Huangfu Qi refused.

“Why not?”

“I don’t want them! If I take them, you won’t come back. You can’t leave tonight!” Huangfu Qi was adamant.

She grabbed Long Chen’s hands tightly, and there was nothing he could do.

Huangfu Fengchen chimed in. “Long Chen, you took quite some time to get here, so I don’t think staying the night will make much of a difference. Take some time to at least rest up.”

Long Chen considered how well they had treated him and how Huangfu Qi refused to let him go before he agreed. “Very well. I shall heed your words.”

The dancers finished their performance and were preparing to leave when two people entered through the front door. The main dancer, who was the fiancée of Huangfu Fengchen’s nephew, acknowledged the two people, bowed, and left.

Long Chen took a look at them as well.

One of them looked similar to Huangfu Fengchen but was slightly older. There were already wisps of white hair on his head. Following him was a youth roughly the same age as Long Chen. He was also handsome since he was part of a wealthy family. He wore a light-yellow silk brocade and his chin was high. It was clear that he was arrogant.

Even though Long Chen couldn't see through the other party's strength, he had a feeling that Huangfu Fengchen's older brother was at the Second Earthly Martial Stage, while the youth was most likely at the First Earthly Martial Stage.

The youth was as strong as Jiang Wuchang.

Even though he was weak compared to Zhao Danchen, being on par with Jiang Wuchang wasn't bad at all.

When they approached, Huangfu Fengchen immediately introduced them to Long Chen. "This is my older brother, Huangfu Fengyun. And that is my brother's son, and also the famous youth in my family, Huangfu Yu."

Hearing that Huangfu Fengchen was introducing them to a youth, both Huangfu Fengyun and Huangfu Yu looked at Long Chen. They noticed that Long Chen was an expert at the Earthly Martial Realm, and Huangfu Yu squinted with suspicion.

"Patriarch, who is this esteemed man?" Huangfu Fengyun asked.

"This is Long Chen. The very same man that killed the Void Sword Saint and revealed his talent in the Cloud Dream Swamp," Huangfu Fengchen said with pride as if he was the one who had trained Long Chen.

"Killed the Void Sword Saint?" They had heard the rumor before, but they thought it was just a joke. Many people thought that Jian Chen was the one who had done the most in that battle.

"Esteemed? More like just fishing for fame," Huangfu Yu whispered, smiling in disdain.

Except for Huangfu Qi, everyone in the room heard that remark. Long Chen paid no mind since he had met a lot of people like Huangfu Yu. The strongest youths were always placed first in the family, so it was natural that they did not think highly of others.

After the introductions, Huangfu Fengyun started to talk about official matters.

"Big Brother, just tell me what's on your mind." Huangfu Fengchen was direct.

"It's like this." Huangfu Fengyun pushed Huangfu Yu towards the front. "Little Yu has almost finished cultivating the Warlord Spear Technique. He's very talented, so I think it's time for him to learn the Willow Step."

The Warlord Spear Technique and the Willow Step were the two ultimate techniques of the Huangfu family. An attacking technique and a body combat technique. They were the perfect pair that could take advantage of each other's strong points.

*The Warlord Spear Technique is an intermediate King-tier martial technique, and Huangfu Yu is almost done cultivating it.* Long Chen was surprised by how strong Huangfu Yu was.

He looked at Huangfu Fengchen to see what kind of decision would be made.

He knew a bit about the Huangfu family. The position of patriarch should have been inherited by Huangfu Fengyun, but Huangfu Fengchen had grown strong too fast. In the end, he was conferred the position of patriarch. Even though the two of them didn't show it outright, there was some resentment between them.

Huangfu Fengyun sired a lot of children, but Huangfu Fengchen only had a daughter. Huangfu Qi was only ten years old and was a girl, so the next patriarch would definitely be Huangfu Yu.

But with Huangfu Fengchen's attitude, it was clear that he didn't care about being the patriarch.

Huangfu Fengchen listened to his brother and looked at Huangfu Yu. "Little Yu, there are three stages to the Warlord Spear Technique. Which stage are you on now?"

Huangfu Yu said with pride, "Patriarch, I've completed the first stage and will be finished with the second stage soon."

Huangfu Fengchen frowned. "Your cultivation is not complete. It's still too early to learn the Willow Step. You should talk to me again once you finish the third stage or reach the Second Earthly Martial Stage."

Huangfu Fengyun did not comply when he heard that. "Patriarch, it's not that simple to cultivate the third stage of the Warlord Spear Technique or even reach the Second Earthly Martial Stage. Doesn't that mean that Little Yu might not even get to start cultivating the Willow Step in ten years?"

"If that's the case, then his talent is too weak. You should know that cultivating the Willow Step will only impede his progress if he has too many things on his plate to cultivate," Huangfu Fengchen explained sincerely.

"Are you afraid that Qiqi will never catch up to me?" Huangfu Yu asked in a weirdly provocative tone.

Huangfu Fengchen smiled. "Little Yu, even though your cultivation is lagging behind, you are getting more and more prideful. You are confined in the safety of the Huangfu family and don't know how strong the people outside are. There are many people who are stronger than you."

"Many? You mean like Long Chen, who killed the Void Sword Saint?" Huangfu Yu pointed at Long Chen and looked at him with disdain.

Huangfu Yu had been pampered since young. Even though he was as strong as Jiang Wushang, his mind was weak.

Huangfu Fengchen smiled when he saw that Huangfu Yu was trying to provoke Long Chen. "Fine. I have to make you understand your folly today. If you defeat Long Chen, I will give you the Willow Step."

Without waiting for Huangfu Yu to agree, Huangfu Fengchen looked at Long Chen and said, "I helped you advance into the Earthly Martial Realm, so could you consider doing this for me?"

Long Chen understood that if he didn't show them how strong he was, Huangfu Fengyun and Huangfu Yu would not stop. Long Chen owed Huangfu Fengchen a favor, and it was also a good chance to test his strength at the Earthly Martial Realm. "Of course. But I don't know if Young Master Huangfu Yu would want me to be his opponent."

Huangfu Yu looked at Long Chen and rolled his eyes. "Patriarch, you want me to fight him? Just say it and don't waste any more time."

Huangfu Yu was arrogant beyond measure.

Long Chen stood up and decided to not transform to fight against Huangfu Yu. He wanted to test his strength after all.

Seeing that they were ready, Huangfu Fengyun stood to the side.

"Son, show them your Warlord Spear Technique. Don't be careless."

"I know, I know. Don't start nagging again. You are also annoying even though you are so old," Huangfu Yu said lazily. Then he pulled a glimmering gold spear from his Universe Pouch and focused on Long Chen.

The spear appeared to have been forged from gold, but its strength was far beyond that. The spear was engraved beautifully, and the tip was dangerously sharp.

"Elementary King-tier Divine Arm, Golden Warlord Spear."

Chapter 579 - Golden Warlord Spear

Long Chen frowned when he saw the spear, though he relaxed at the next moment. The spear was indeed strong, but the person using it was not.

"Yay! I get to see Big Brother smack some evil bastard again! Brother Yu is an evil bastard who always bullies others. He even harasses other ladies. Hmph! Qiqi has wanted to beat him for a very long time," Huangfu Qi said.

Long Chen was speechless.

It appeared that Huangfu Qi didn't really like her cousin.

There was no reason for Long Chen to hold back now.

The side palace was large and there was enough empty space in the middle for them to spar. Huangfu Yu stood on the opposite side and looked past Long Chen to address Huangfu Fengchen. "Patriarch, I hope you will honor your words. If I defeat him, you will give me the Willow Step."

"A gentleman always keeps his word."

Huangfu Yu was satisfied and smiled evilly. He raised his spear and slammed it onto the ground, causing the sound of screeching metal to reach Long Chen's ears.

"You are lucky enough to spar with the strongest youth of the Huangfu family. Just show me any technique you have and let me see whether you are as strong as the rumors say!"

“Is that so? Then I won’t hold back.”

“You won’t have the chance to—”

He was cut off when Long Chen became a blur and appeared in front of him the next instant.

*Fast!* Huangfu Yu immediately raised his guard after seeing how fast Long Chen was. He quickly retreated and stabbed his spear forward. The spear snaked around the air like a soaring dragon.

A piercing sound exploded, and the spear appeared in front of Long Chen. It was a strong attack being used by an expert at the Earthly Martial Stage.

The essence of an Earthly Martial Realm expert filled the spear, so the explosive strength was immense.

Every time the spear stabbed forward, the air was ripped apart to the point that even space itself warped a little. When Long Chen heard the explosive sound coming from the spear, he knew that Huangfu Yu was actually really strong even though he was very arrogant.

“Is that all you got?” Long Chen only needed to dodge faster if the spear was fast. As the spear stabbed forward, Long Chen quickly caught it with his quick reaction speed.

Huangfu Yu immediately rotated his body with both hands on the spear. That force was enough to make Long Chen lose his grip on the spear, but Long Chen chuckled. “Idiot. Who wants your spear?”

When Huangfu Yu twisted his body, Long Chen let go and almost made him fall down.

One had to remain rational during a fight.

Long Chen’s battle sense has been honed to a frightening degree thanks to all the fights he had gone through. The moment Huangfu Yu lost his balance, Long Chen launched himself forward and punched him.

Flames suddenly appeared on his fist.

“What is that?!” Huangfu Yu was shocked to see that. To him, rather than a fist, it was more like a golden bird flying towards him.

The fire was hard to protect himself against.

*Danger.* Huangfu Yu realized that he was in danger and stopped looking down on Long Chen, but he still refused to acknowledge him. He quickly spun the spear and formed a large shield with his essence.

“Golden Warlord Shield.”

It was a rare defensive technique. Long Chen recalled how he had the Nine Spinning Fire Shield.

Huangfu Yu clearly intended to use the Golden Warlord Shield to take on Long Chen’s punch. But Long Chen quickly turned his hands when he got close, and a fiery shield appeared in his hand.

The Nine Spinning Fire Shield had undergone a transformation. With Long Chen using the Golden Crow soul remnants, the blood-red shield was clearly stronger than before.



But there was a limit to how strong a technique could get. Even the soul remnants couldn't increase the strength of the Nine Spinning Fire Shield too much. Long Chen also had Divine Fire Clones, but he didn't have that many Golden Crow Flames.

This time, he used the Nine Spinning Fire Shield as an offensive technique. It crashed into the Golden Warlord Shield. One was attacking while the other was defending, so it was clear who won. Long Chen sent Huangfu Yu rolling on the ground. Huangfu Yu hastily stood up.

Long Chen, on the other hand, was only pushed back a few steps.

"Hahaha!" Huangfu Qi laughed out loud. "The donkey is rolling on the ground."

Everyone except for Huangfu Yu and Huangfu Fengyun was smiling and laughing.

"Little Yu, don't look down on him. He's not as strong, but he has a lot of tricks up his sleeve," Huangfu Fengyun told his son. Even though he knew Long Chen was stronger, he couldn't discourage his son right here.

Huangfu Yu was not at all intimidated by Long Chen, but he couldn't forget how humiliating it was to be sent rolling by Long Chen's punch. He had always been undefeated and had never once rolled on the ground after getting hit.

"You bastard!" Huangfu Yu was angry after seeing Long Chen's taunting smile. "Your attacks are weak! Let me show you how strong my family's Warlord Spear Technique is!"

He swung his spear around and got faster and faster. Huangfu Yu got so fast that rather than swinging a spear, he was swinging a golden light.

Long Chen felt the pressure coming from him.

Huangfu Yu suddenly charged forward and became a golden light, instantly appearing in front of Long Chen.

"Warlord Spear Technique, Sun Piercing Ray!"

The Warlord Spear Technique was the strongest offensive technique of the Huangfu family. When Huangfu Yu used it, Long Chen felt the entire side palace tremble.

*Horriying.*

But he wasn't afraid.

He smiled when he saw the spear approaching him. He splayed his palm out and curled his fingers like a claw. Eerie red flames lit up on his claw.

Huangfu Yu was stronger than the Eagle Martial King thanks to his Warlord Spear Technique, but Long Chen could easily deal with it. He had killed the Eagle Martial King using the Golden Crow's soul remnants while he was only at the Ninth Passage Stage after all.

When Huangfu Yu unleashed his technique, Long Chen used his too. He suddenly sprung forward like a coiled dragon. Long Chen transformed into an illusory Red Dragon as he pounced towards Huangfu Yu.

Roar!

A dragon's howl could be heard in the side palace as the blood-red dragon crashed into the Golden Warlord Spear. The blood-red fire flared up from the impact.

A horrifying screeching sound echoed through the side palace. Even Huangfu Qi covered her ears in pain. She watched the golden spear and the blood-red dragon claws clash again and again.

"Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw." Huangfu Fengchen was shocked. *He didn't know how to use it when we left the Divine Fire Realm. Does that mean Long Yue gave him the manual and he actually cultivated it in just ten days?!*

Huangfu Fengchen couldn't calm down when he realized this.

Genius! He's a true genius! He only took five days to advance into the Earthly Martial Realm. He then cultivated the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, a technique that others would take several months to a year to cultivate, in ten days! Compared to Little Yu, Long Chen is the true monster here. Zhao Danchen could never be compared to Long Chen!

Long Chen should be part of Long Yue's family, and their ancestor was the one who rescued the Divine Martial Empire. The Huangfu family also benefited from the protection given by that hero in ancient times. The Long family's ancestor was the strongest person in all Ten Divine Empires. Is Long Chen going to be the one who will revive the Long's family glory?

Huangfu Fengchen thought quickly.

This was the first time Long Chen had used the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, and he hadn't even transformed. He had only used the basic technique, but even so, he had five times more essence than Huangfu Yu despite not transforming. He even had the Golden Crow's soul remnants, so Huangfu Yu could never win against him.

Chapter 580 - Wu'er

Bam!

A massive explosion rocked the palace, and a golden light crashed open the doors.

Someone shrieked from outside. The person had been spying on them and was surprised when they were almost hit by the attack. The person knew that they had been discovered, so they walked out sheepishly. It was none other than the lead dancer from earlier, Huangfu Yu's fiancée.

She had been spying on them because she was worried about whether Huangfu Yu would be able to obtain the Willow Step or not.

The golden light that had caused the door to open was none other than the Golden Warlord Spear. The spear fell to the ground, sending sparks flying everywhere.

The dancer and everyone else were shocked by the scene.

Huangfu Yu's face was pale and Long Chen's hand was on his neck.

It was clear who had won.

Huangfu Yu's spear had been knocked away by Long Chen, and the latter's claws were wrapped around Huangfu Yu's neck. If Long Chen hadn't shown mercy, Huangfu Yu would be dead right now.

Long Chen had won.

This was within Huangfu Fengchen's expectations. Long Chen had defeated Jiang Wushang even before he reached the Earthly Martial Realm, so naturally, he could defeat Huangfu Yu.

Huangfu Fengchen smiled because Long Chen had helped him solve a difficult matter.

Huangfu Qi danced happily. "Haha! The evil bastard has finally been defeated. I told you Big Brother was strong. If you bully the consorts and maids again, Big Brother will come and smack your butt as punishment!!"

Huangfu Yu's face soured when he heard her. It was humiliating to hear all that from a child.

"Impossible!" Huangfu Yu knocked away Long Chen's arm. He refused to admit defeat and tried to punch Long Chen, but Long Chen was faster. A single kick was all it took to send Huangfu Yu spiraling onto the ground.

"Huangfu Yu!" The dancer tried to help him up, but Huangfu Yu was angry and pushed her away.

"Go away."

The dancer retreated with a pained look on her face.

Huangfu Fengchen became upset when he saw that. "Little Yu, you are a man. You must accept defeat when you lose. Don't make the outsiders think that we of the Huangfu family are shameless. We are men that admit defeat when we are outclassed. Don't embarrass us."

Huangfu Fengchen was usually quite easy-going, so his harsh words startled Huangfu Yu, who looked down and said nothing.

Huangfu Fengyun took this chance to defuse the situation. "Little Yu has lost. It seems there are more experts out there than he expected. Little Yu, let's go. Don't embarrass us any further here."

Huangfu Fengyun was embarrassed by his son's performance and didn't want to remain here any longer.

"Wait." Huangfu Fengchen stopped them. "Big Brother, I'm not trying to make Little Yu look bad. Haven't you seen his technique? He still hasn't mastered the Sun Piercing Ray. He doesn't understand its essence yet, much less the second and third stages. You should only bring him here to talk about the Willow Step after he masters the second stage."

"Thank you, Patriarch." Huangfu Fengyun nodded without showing a hint of expression before looking at Long Chen. "You are indeed very strong. I am impressed."

Huangfu Fengyun then left with his son.

Huangfu Yu glared at Long Chen before leaving. He thought that the reason he couldn't obtain the Willow Step was Long Chen.

The dancer bowed and said, "Patriarch, Wu'er will be leaving too."

Huangfu Fengchen chuckled when she was gone. "Long Chen, you are really impressive. I can't believe you learned Long Yue's signature technique in just ten days."

Long Chen nodded. "I've only learned the basics. That was my first time using it, and I made a few mistakes when executing it."

"It's commendable that you can use it at all. I am impressed. I really want to make you my son-in-law right now. If only Qiqi was born sooner ..."

Long Chen could only laugh dryly in response.

"Dad, do you want me to marry Big Brother? Will I get to leave this place if I marry him? I want to marry him, then!" Huangfu Qi's eyes glowed with anticipation.

"Marry?!" Huangfu Fengchen almost slumped from the shock of hearing his daughter saying that. He had only been joking, but Huangfu Qi thought it was real.

"Qiqi, I still have important things to do. My brothers and sisters are in danger and I cannot stay here for long ..."

"No! It's already late. You can leave tomorrow!" Huangfu Qi pulled Long Chen's sleeve.

Huangfu Fengchen chuckled. "In that case, Qiqi, you can show Long Chen your favorite places. But you haven't finished your cultivation yet. If you don't finish, you will be grounded for a month."

"Fine. I will play with Big Brother for a bit before sending him to his room, then I will continue my cultivation." Huangfu Qi quickly pulled Long Chen out of the place.

Long Chen actually had a huge soft spot for Huangfu Qi. Since he was here, he thought it would be fine to spend a night. *I'm not as strong as Long Yue, so I don't think I will be able to help the Battle clan all that much.*

If he was as strong as Long Yue, he wouldn't have had to stop to cultivate as he journeyed.

Long Chen spent four hours with Huangfu Qi. She showed him the various places in the estate. The Huangfu family's estate was more like a palace, and it was far better than the Ancient Demon Domain.

Even though it was nighttime, the place was very beautiful.

It was late at night when Huangfu Qi brought Long Chen to the guest room. "Big Brother, I have to cultivate for four hours a day. I need to go back now, but you mustn't leave! I will come and fetch you tomorrow morning."

Huangfu Qi actually wanted Long Chen to go to her room, but Long Chen had refused. It was inappropriate.

Huangfu Qi skipped back to her room. Long Chen was about to close his door when he saw the lead dancer approaching. He recalled that her name was Wu'er. She had a sad look on her face when she walked past his door.

*It seems that she's Huangfu Fengyun's stepdaughter, so she's also Qiqi's cousin.* Long Chen didn't think much more of it and slid his door shut. But before the door was completely shut, he saw Huangfu Yu lurking in the darkness and tailing Wu'er. There was a very angry expression on his face.

"They are engaged, so I probably shouldn't butt in." Long Chen saw the two of them go towards Wu'er's residence. She was living in a beautiful building just on the other side of the pond.

Long Chen closed the doors and finally started cultivating.

"Little Cat, how's Xiaolang doing?"

"He's undergoing some changes. He should be able to reach the King-tier in a few days and show himself as a human again," Little Cat answered lazily.

Long Chen was excited to finally see Xiaolang as a human again.

*Xiao Xi saw Xiaolang back in Baiyang Town. I wonder if she will be surprised to see him again in human form. Hehe.* Long Chen chuckled as he thought about that.

His opponent today was by no means weak, and Long Chen had learned a bit more about the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw after the battle. He was going to review it tonight and master it. He had a feeling that he could use the Five Piercing Dragons if he focused.

Dragon Soul Transformation and the Five Piercing Dragon. That was Long Chen's strongest combo.

The night passed in a flash.

Four hours later, Huangfu Qi crashed through Long Chen's door with a pale face. "Big Brother! Big Brother! Something awful has happened!"

"What's going on?" Long Chen shook himself from his cultivation.

"Sister Wu'er was killed." Huangfu Qi was crying when she told him the news.

Long Chen was shocked.

"Sister Wu'er was only a dancer, so she was only at the Second Passage Stage. We don't know who would be cruel enough to kill her! If I knew who did it, I would skin them alive myself!"

Long Chen bit his lip and calmed her down. "Qiqi, let us go and see what happened."

"My father is still in closed cultivation, so he doesn't know about it yet. I only overheard it when I was coming over to you. Let's go quickly." Huangfu Qi pulled Long Chen out of the room and ran past the pond.

There were already a lot of people near the building where Wu'er was living. Long Chen had a bad feeling and recalled what he had seen last night.

Who would kill her? Could it be ...

Long Chen and Huangfu Qi arrived at the scene, where many people were already discussing what had happened.

“How did she suddenly die? She was fine just yesterday! Did someone kill her? Who would dare to do such a thing? She was as beautiful as a prized gem and also the fiancée of Young Master Yu.”

“I don't know. I thought they were getting ready for their wedding. I think Young Master Yu is going to go crazy over this. To think his fiancée is dead now.”

“Who would do such a thing? Wu'er has been living here for half a year. Why today of all days?”

“We need to find the culprit and tear them to pieces!”