

## War God 581

### Chapter 581 - Who's The Culprit?

Everyone was trying to deduce who the culprit was. Not many people could assassinate her without being found out.

Suddenly, the group was split in half and a path was formed. Two people ran up to the building. The one at the front was none other than Huangfu Yu. His face was pale and tears welled in his eyes. Everyone felt pity for him when they saw his expression.

Wu'er was his fiancée, and even though they had only spent a short time together, their feelings for each other were deep.

Huangfu Yu howled Wu'er's name before running into the building. His father, Huangfu Fengyun, was also frowning and quickly followed him. Those with a higher standing in the family followed them inside.

"Big Brother, let's enter too." Huangfu Qi pulled him into the building, and no one stopped them even though Long Chen was an outsider.

More than twenty people entered the place.

Long Chen said nothing as he observed Huangfu Yu. He had an idea of what happened, so he was quite surprised to see Huangfu Yu's reaction. *Why is he acting like that? I have a feeling that things are not as simple as they seem. What is he planning?*

They reached Wu'er's room. There were guards stationed outside to control the scene. A middle-aged man saw Huangfu Yu and quickly addressed him, "Young Master Yu, we never touched anything after we secured the building."

"Search the place! We need to find out who the culprit is! I must torture the person who did it no matter what!" Huangfu Yu snarled.

Huangfu Fengyun calmed his son down and took control. "Huangfu Yang, who was the first one to find out that Wu'er had died?"

"It was Wu'er's personal maid. They found out half an hour ago. I heard her shouting and quickly ran over. Cui'er, come here." Huangfu Yang called for the maid to come.

Before Huangfu Fengyun said anything, Huangfu Yu walked past them and entered the room. Huangfu Fengyun revealed a pained expression as he said, "Let's go inside. I want to see who would dare to kill someone from our family in our own house."

They entered the room together. The room was large enough to fit all twenty high-ranked members of the Huangfu family. There were even some at the Earthly Martial Realm.

Long Chen followed Huangfu Qi inside. Huangfu Qi was an infamous troublemaker in the family, so no one dared to stop her from entering with Long Chen.

"Wu'er!" Long Chen heard a painful sob and saw Huangfu Yu rush to Wu'er's corpse. Long Chen saw that Wu'er's face was pale as she kneeled on the ground. Her arms

and neck were covered in wounds made from being tied up. It was clear that she had been strangled. More importantly, her clothes were in tatters. Someone had tried to rape her, and she had died when she fought back.

*Someone tried to rape her, but she fought back and was killed for it?* Long Chen was stunned. He looked at Huangfu Yu and saw that he was reaching for her corpse when

Huangfu Fengyun stopped him. "Little Yu, don't be rash! Don't move her yet. We need to search for clues."

"Dad! I need to find the killer no matter what! They dared to harm my woman. She fought back but was killed! I have to kill that person no matter what!" Huangfu Yu appeared to have lost all sense of reason.

He suddenly locked eyes with Long Chen.

Long Chen had a bad feeling.

He quickly thought back to yesterday.

I saw Huangfu Yu following Wu'er, but his expression was suspicious. It's clear that they argued. I thought the killer was Huangfu Yu, but it seems that Wu'er was really killed by someone who tried to rape her. She died because she fought back. There's no reason for her to fight back if they are getting married anyway.

Long Chen didn't know why, but he had a scary thought when he saw Huangfu Yu lock his gaze on him.

He saw a hint of killing intent in Huangfu Yu's eyes.

Long Chen knew he was going to be framed!

Long Chen recalled what had happened in the side palace. *Huangfu Yu lost to me and Wu'er watched. Huangfu Yu is an arrogant brat with a bad temper, and there was probably already some resentment between him and Wu'er. I think that their marriage was forced by the Huangfu family ...*

Then ... Maybe Wu'er didn't really love Huangfu Yu. Since Huangfu Yu lost yesterday, he was in a bad mood and probably started arguing with Wu'er. He must've accidentally killed her when she refused his advances ... And then he tried to cover up his mistake by framing me!

That meant Wu'er's death was related to Long Chen! Of course, something like this would've happened later on no matter what.

Huangfu Yu became crazy and escaped his father's grasp as he rushed to where Wu'er was. He cried before he suddenly saw something in Wu'er's hands. "What is this?"

He took it out and saw that it was a piece of cloth that had been ripped from the bed sheet.

"She held onto it so tightly before she died. She must be trying to tell us something!" Huangfu Yu unfurled the cloth to reveal a golden dragon embroidery.

"Dragon? Why is it a dragon?" Huangfu Yu was confused, and Huangfu Fengyun took the cloth. He looked at it before glaring at Long Chen.

“Dragon. Long Chen. This evidence points towards you! Wu’er clutched it tight in her hands so that she could tell us that the culprit was you.”

Huangfu Fengyun’s words shocked everyone in the room. Those around Long Chen quickly surrounded him.

All of them were glaring at him.

They had heard of Long Chen, especially how he had defeated Huangfu Yu.

Huangfu Fengyun chuckled. “You animal. You thought that you could escape, but you must’ve never thought that Wu’er would tell us that before she died. Wu’er had been fine ever since she came here, but you must’ve gotten entranced by her beauty when she danced for you yesterday. So that’s why you tried to assault her yesterday! You dare do such a thing here in the Huangfu family?”

“It’s you! Bastard! I will kill you even if I have to die in the process! You will never get to be reincarnated again!” Huangfu Yu charged towards Long Chen, but he was held back by Huangfu Fengyun.

Before Long Chen could say anything, Huangfu Qi yelled, “Bullshit! Big Brother would never do something like that! He was with me throughout the entire evening and only returned late at midnight. I even went and visited him after four hours!”

“Four hours. Isn’t that enough time for him to do the crime? His room is right on the other side of the pond. He could have rushed over here easily without any issue. Bastard.” Huangfu Fengyun’s aura pressed down on Long Chen.

“I will send you down to hell on behalf of my son and my dead daughter-in-law.”

Long Chen remained calm and said, “You want to kill me over just a single piece of cloth? Anyone who would want to frame me could’ve just torn that cloth from something and placed it in her hands. If you think that I’m the culprit based on the cloth alone, then I have to say that the Huangfu family is very stupid.”

Long Chen knew who the culprit was and pointed at Huangfu Yu. “You can fool them, but you cannot fool me, you bastard. I didn’t think you were capable of putting on an act.”

Everyone except for Huangfu Qi was ready to fight Long Chen. Words were useless here, but Long Chen didn’t mind that. The strongest member of the family, Huangfu Fengchen, was not here yet.

He only needed to make Huangfu Fengchen understand who the real culprit was.

“How dare you spout such lies. You think you can trick the others after you kill someone from the Huangfu family? I don’t care if you are the guest of our Patriarch—you must die today!” Huangfu Fengyun’s Second Earthly Martial Stage essence exploded.

Huangfu Fengyun was the second person in the Huangfu family who reached the Second Earthly Martial Stage. He was also an accomplished cultivator in the Divine Martial Empire. His rank was second only to Huangfu Fengchen’s, so no one thought that it was inappropriate to punish Long Chen.

After all, they had very different standings.

Huangfu Qi tried to stop him. "If you touch my Big Brother, I won't consider you my uncle anymore!"

Chapter 582 - Act

Huangfu Fengyun had always doted on her, but now she was nothing. He ignored her and punched Long Chen, setting off a massive shockwave in the room.

"You don't even care about Huangfu Qi's safety. What a pity." Long Chen sighed and quickly retreated with Huangfu Qi. He then ran out of the building in one go.

"Chase after him! Don't let him escape!" Huangfu Yu followed his father and called on the others to quickly chase after Long Chen.

The others were outside the building when the wall exploded and Long Chen ran out with Huangfu Qi. Huangfu Fengyun led the others to chase after them.

"Stop that bastard! He killed Wu'er!"

When someone shouted that out loud, the others immediately understood what had transpired. All of them glared angrily at Long Chen and chased after him.

Long Chen landed and placed the panicking Huangfu Qi on the ground. "Qiqi, don't worry. Your uncle can't defeat me. Go and call your father."

Huangfu Qi nodded. She was certain that Long Chen would never do that, so she quickly ran towards where her father was.

Huangfu Fengyun and five Earthly Martial Realm cultivators surrounded Long Chen.

"Long Chen you bastard. I will kill you today to appease Wu'er's soul!" Huangfu Yu almost shouted his lungs out.

The others stood behind Huangfu Fengyun while three cultivators at the First Earthly Martial Stage tried to pull Huangfu Yu back. Even so, his bestial eyes and howls looked very real.

"Not bad. Huangfu Yu, you are a really talented actor." Long Chen smiled bitterly.

If Huangfu Fengchen didn't arrive soon, Long Chen would have no choice but to fight.

He was itching to fight someone at the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

After absorbing the Inherited Blood Essence, he had been feeling abnormally competitive. Combat made his blood boil and excited him a lot.

"Little Yu, give me the Golden Warlord Spear." Huangfu Fengyun was an expert, and the spear was originally his. He hadn't used it in a while, so he had loaned it to Huangfu Yu in hopes that his son could become stronger, but to think he had lost to Long Chen.

Huangfu Yu tossed him the golden spear and yelled, "Father, kill him for me!"

“Don’t worry. I won’t be able to meet our ancestors if he doesn’t die today.” Huangfu Fengyun took the spear and swung it around. A golden whirlwind formed and shot towards Long Chen.

The golden light enveloped Long Chen. As expected of someone at the Second Earthly Martial Stage—his attack was ten times stronger than Huangfu Yu’s.

This was a true expert that had lived through real tribulations.

Huangfu Fengyun had plenty of combat experience. He was in a different category than Huangfu Yu.

Splat!

Long Chen could not avoid one of the attacks, so it pierced through his arm. The force from the impact sent him flying! He crashed through a tree before landing in the pond.

Splash!

A large plume of water flew upwards.

“He’s dead!” Everyone cheered because they thought it was a simple matter for a legendary figure like Huangfu Fengyun to kill someone younger with just a single blow.

“Long Chen is an idiot for thinking that the Huangfu family is weak.”

“He dared to harm one of us! To think he’s so arrogant to blatantly disregard us!”

“It’s such a shame that he died so early. Wu’er was such a pretty lady, yet he killed her. I wouldn’t have given him such a quick death.”

Everyone started chatting after they thought Long Chen was dead.

“What are you talking about? He’s not dead,” one of the Earthly Martial Realm experts told them.

When Long Chen fell into the pond, Huangfu Fengyun stood on the surface of the water and looked down.

“Come out.” He thrusted the Golden Warlord Spear downwards, causing the pond to explode. The pond was split in half, revealing even the muddy bottom.

Everyone saw Long Chen at the bottom of the pond. He stood up and approached Huangfu Fengyun. Long Chen was completely different now because he was covered in blood-red scales and bone spikes. His claws were five centimeters long, and each of them resembled a blood-red blade. The way he looked left a deep impression on the onlookers.

Long Chen’s strongest body part was undoubtedly his claws.

Everyone was shocked by how he looked. They had thought Long Chen was dead.

“Why is Long Chen fine? And why is he stronger now?”

Long Chen knew that he would have to transform to face off against Huangfu Fengyun. His Dragon Soul Transformation was one of his trump cards.

The blood-red glow of the Golden Crow Flames covered his body. The fire and his essence melded perfectly.

It was rare to see such a perfect melding.

Huangfu Fengyun frowned and twirled his spear when he saw Long Chen. “Child’s play. You are just putting on an act.”

Huangfu Fengyun thrust the Golden Warlord Spear numerous times. The afterimages blanketed Long Chen.

The pond slowly leveled out. Long Chen wasn’t adept at fighting on air; he would rather fight on the surface of the pond since it didn’t affect his combat capabilities at all.

Huangfu Fengyun was fast. He suddenly swung his spear at Long Chen. That was how Long Chen was blown back previously.

The golden spear was like a snake that whipped towards Long Chen’s neck. Everyone was looking forward to seeing Long Chen get decapitated, but ...

Clang!

Sparks flew and Long Chen managed to block the Golden Warlord Spear with just his hands. The spear wouldn’t budge no matter what.

“Is this all you got? Huangfu Fengyun, you are getting old.” Long Chen chuckled and moved his arm. He smashed the spear off his body and punched Huangfu Fengyun’s heart with his other arm.

“Bastard! Die!” Huangfu Fengyun was shocked. He never thought he would have to defend against Long Chen’s attacks!

“Are you running? Aren’t you the honorable Huangfu Fengyun?” Long Chen chuckled.

It wasn’t because he wanted to run, but Long Chen’s attacks and defense were too strong. Huangfu Fengyun was beyond shocked by this.

He’s indeed strong! I thought the rumors were false, but it seems he really did kill the Void Sword Saint! I cannot be careless and tarnish my reputation here!

That was why Huangfu Fengyun was being so careful.

He ignored Long Chen’s taunt and continued fighting at a range he was comfortable with. He needed more space to unleash the strength of the Golden Warlord Spear.

It was simple enough for him to do so.

He pushed Long Chen back with numerous thrusts, but Long Chen had expected it.

“Is that all you got?” Long Chen chuckled. He had a feeling that the only way to defeat Huangfu Fengyun was to pour everything into offense.

The onlookers were surprised when Long Chen's claws suddenly lit up in flames. There were numerous illusions of dragons swimming in the flames. For some reason, they could even hear the dragons roaring.

Golden Crow Flames and the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw. It was an absurdly strong combination. Long Chen laughed and became a blur of red as he charged towards Huangfu Fengyun.

“Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw!”

Everyone recognized the technique.

But the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw had undergone a transformation when Long Chen used it.

“Hmph! Such a technique could never compare to the Huangfu family's Warlord Spear Technique!” Huangfu Fengyun laughed and launched numerous Sun Piercing Rays using the Golden Warlord Spear.

It was sunrise. The sun was just rising in the east, and Long Chen positioned himself with his back facing it. Every time Huangfu Fengyun thrusted the Golden Warlord Spear, it created a ray of light that shot towards Long Chen!

Chapter 583 - Shattered World

Long Chen didn't even flinch when he saw the incoming attack that was ten times stronger than Huangfu Yu's technique. The flames and dragons on his claws grew bigger as he circulated his essence. He then launched himself towards Huangfu Fengyun with the flaming blood-red dragons in his claws.

The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw was a melee technique. As long as Long Chen could maneuver himself around Huangfu Fengyun's attacks, he would be able to defeat him using the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw at close range.

Bam!

The massive attacks caused an explosion above the pond. The water was blown back and a large crater formed at the bottom.

“Let's see how you escape my claws.” Huangfu Fengyun's Sun Piercing Ray was strong, but Long Chen's Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw was even stronger. He had more essence due to his Dragon Soul Transformation, enough to even rival Huangfu Fengchen. There was also the Golden Crow Flames inside his essence, which made his attacks even more fearsome.

Ever since he had obtained the Inherited Blood Essence, Long Chen's life had been nothing but one battle after another. Close combat was his forte, and his talent in combat flourished whenever he found a complimentary martial technique.

Crack! Boom!

Sounds of explosions rang out as craters appeared underneath the pond before the water filled it up.

“You brat! Die!”

Long Chen used his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw to break the Sun Piercing Ray and then pounced at Huangfu Fengyun. Huangfu Fengyun swore and immediately spun his spear.

“Golden Warlord Shield!” he shouted. A golden shield appeared on Huangfu Fengyun’s arm to block Long Chen.

“You think you can block me with that?” Long Chen’s laugh sent shivers down everyone’s spines. Even though victory had not been determined yet, everyone was very surprised by how tough Long Chen was. They never thought he was as strong as Huangfu Fengyun.

Everyone stared as the blood-red dragon pounced onto Huangfu Fengyun’s golden shield, creating a terrifying screeching noise. Numerous attacks impacted the Golden Warlord Shield. Those attacks came from Long Chen’s knife-like claws!

The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw made Long Chen’s claws as strong as Divine Arms. His claws could now rival the Golden Warlord Spear since Long Chen had cultivated the elementary King-tier True Martial Demon Body.

Bam!

An explosion sounded again. Huangfu Fengyun was knocked back by the attack and sank into the pond. He landed in the mud before the water submerged him in the crater.

The situation had taken a turn—it was Huangfu Fengyun who was knocked down this time.

The onlookers were shocked. They had been craving for revenge, but now they were just too shocked to say anything. Huangfu Yu’s expression made him look like he had just eaten feces.

“Impossible! There is no way Long Chen is that strong!” The situation had actually transpired as Long Chen had deduced. Huangfu Yu was the one who had killed Wu’er to frame him. He wanted Huangfu Fengyun to kill Long Chen as soon as possible so that everything would be over, but he never expected something like this to happen.

Huangfu Fengyun had lost to Long Chen.

“Father! Use all of your strength! Don’t underestimate him!” Huangfu Yu shouted furiously.

He was also very scared.

He hoped that Huangfu Fengyun would kill Long Chen before Huangfu Fengchen got here. It would be difficult to kill Long Chen if Huangfu Fengchen arrived since he favored Long Chen.

Huangfu Yu was also afraid that Long Chen would reveal his plot to Huangfu Fengchen.

Long Chen had already deduced who the murderer was, so that was very likely to happen.

Long Chen's deductions were quite spot-on. When Huangfu Yu lost to Long Chen, the former felt frustrated and vented it on Wu’er. Because of that, Wu’er got angry too, so she declined Huangfu Yu’s advances to sleep with her.



Because of his anger, he lost control and choked Wu'er to death. When he realized what he had done, he tried to cover it up. He then saw the dragon embroidery on the bedsheet and tore it off, stuffing it into Wu'er's hand so that he could frame Long Chen.

It was a good plan. He had even asked his father to take a walk with him in the morning so that they could reach the crime scene as soon as possible. He was certain that Long Chen would be dead as soon as his father unleashed his anger.

But Long Chen did not die.

Bam!

The disheveled Huangfu Fengyun exploded upwards from the bottom of the pond. He was so angry that his body was trembling slightly.

"I shall hold back no longer. You will be the first opponent I go all-out with in ten years." Huangfu Fengyun howled and leaped into the air.

*Huh? Why is he so fast? It's as if he's weightless.* Long Chen was shocked to see Huangfu Fengyun floating so freely in the air. He could shift with the wind and appear at different places. It was very hard to predict his movements.

Forever shifting with the wind. This must be the Willow Step!

"I am certain that you will die if I combine the Willow Step with the second technique of the Warlord Spear Technique!" Huangfu Fengyun cackled maniacally in the air.

The Willow Step looked elegant, but it was extremely deadly.

*What an incredible Body Combat technique.* Long Chen knew how dangerous those irrational movements were.

As Huangfu Fengyun moved with the wind, Long Chen tried predicting the wind direction and aimed a Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw towards his back. He also used Sight to make his attack accurate.

But what surprised him was that his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw completely missed. Huangfu Fengyun was just like a feather who had been blown to the side by Long Chen's attack.

*I can't even hit him! Might as well not try.* Long Chen stopped attacking. He chose to not attack instead.

Huangfu Fengyun was actually in a hurry to kill Long Chen, while Long Chen was trying to buy time until Huangfu Fengchen arrived. Long Chen had made the right decision.

The Willow Step was strong, but it was a Body Combat technique that was used exclusively for evading. If Long Chen didn't attack, then Huangfu Fengyun could only float there uselessly.

Huangfu Fengyun and Huangfu Yu realized what Long Chen was trying to do when they saw him standing there and smiling at them. "Father! Stop using the Willow Step and kill him!"

"Fine." Huangfu Fengyun knew he couldn't drag this on any further, so he stopped. He held the Golden Warlord Spear tightly and charged towards Long Chen.

“Brat! I shall show you another powerful move!” Huangfu Fengyun’s laugh came from behind Long Chen.

Huangfu Fengyun jumped high in the air and raised his Golden Warlord Spear.

The Sun Piercing Ray was a strong technique that started at the bottom of the spear before attacking upwards. For the next technique, Huangfu Fengyun had his back against the sun as his essence circulated furiously in his body. He channeled the essence towards his spear, and the horrifying pressure caused the pond’s surface to sink roughly a meter.

“You think that’s strong?” Long Chen chuckled. He also had a stronger technique that he hadn’t shown yet. The winner would be decided soon.

“Even a genius like you has to die if you dare to commit a crime in our house!”

Huangfu Fengyun howled as golden light enveloped his body.

Bam!

A golden light shot towards Long Chen. It was the Golden Warlord Spear itself.

“Warlord Spear Technique, Shattered World.”

The water of the pond exploded and submerged both Long Chen and Huangfu Fengyun with a thunderous boom. Even Long Chen himself thought it would take a miracle to survive a hit from such a powerful technique.

This was the strongest technique used by someone at the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

The golden light swept downwards.

Even though the technique’s name was exaggerated, the destructive force was not. If Long Chen was the world, he would definitely be shattered.

Boom!

Another explosion resounded.

“Is Long Chen dead?” someone asked meekly.

“No, look.”

There was a blazing fire in the middle of the pond, and within the blood-red fire were five large dragon illusions. The dragons flew upwards, leaving a trail of carnage as they homed in on Huangfu Fengyun.

“Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, Five Piercing Dragons!”

The five dragons howled and smashed through Huangfu Fengyun’s attack. They were closing in on Huangfu Fengyun, about to rip him to shreds!

The dragon illusions were actually Long Chen’s claws. He had only used one hand, so there were five dragons, or there would’ve been ten.

“What!?” Huangfu Fengyun’s face paled at the imminent threat.

He never thought his strongest attack would be destroyed by Long Chen so easily. The Golden Warlord Spear was deflected to the skies when it hit Long Chen's claw, then the five dragon illusions trapped him.

Huangfu Fengyun felt the shadow of death creeping on him.

This was the first time he had felt so close to death.

And the source of his fear was a youth that was barely twenty years old.

"Impossible!" Huangfu Fengyun howled in despair.

But that was the reality.

Right when everyone thought Huangfu Fengyun was going to be killed by Long Chen, Huangfu Fengchen appeared ...

Chapter 584 - Problem

*He's strong.* Long Chen knew how strong the Five Piercing Dragons was and was certain that Huangfu Fengyun would not be able to defend against it even if he used Willow Step.

But Huangfu Fengchen easily moved Huangfu Fengyun away from the attack range of the Five Piercing Dragons. Thankfully, Long Chen didn't intend to kill Huangfu Fengyun, so Huangfu Fengchen had come right on time.

Huangfu Fengchen plopped Huangfu Fengyun onto the bank of the lake, and Long Chen landed opposite of them. Huangfu Qi ran up and hung on Long Chen's neck, "Wow! Big Brother, you are so strong! You even defeated my gloomy uncle!"

"Qiqi, come down now. Let's not cause any trouble here." Long Chen gently eased Huangfu Qi down. He was serious because the issue was not resolved yet. *Huangfu Fengyun and Huangfu Yu won't stop trying to frame me.*

As he had thought, Huangfu Fengyun immediately complained to Huangfu Fengchen. "Patriarch, Long Chen wanted to rape Wu'er, but he accidentally killed her instead. The proof is right here, and he should be punished. How dare he commit such a grave sin here in the home of the Huangfu family? He's impudent and we must kill him now to protect our honor!"

Huangfu Yu ran over and knelt on the ground as he cried, "Patriarch! He killed Wu'er! The proof is irrefutable. Please take revenge for Wu'er! I don't think I can live any longer without her! The honor of the Huangfu family will be sullied if he leaves alive!"

No one except for Long Chen saw through his act. He was a natural-born actor who was doing his best to frame Long Chen for his own crimes.

Huangfu Fengchen was hesitating, and the onlookers noticed that. They looked at each other before they knelt down too. "Patriarch! Please kill the criminal to protect our honor!"

They knew that Long Chen was a guest Huangfu Fengchen had invited and weren't certain if killing him was the right move, but all of them firmly believed that Long Chen had killed Wu'er. Their anger would not be appeased if Long Chen was not dead.

Everyone kneeled except for Long Chen and Huangfu Qi. Huangfu Qi ignored everyone else because she was younger and didn't understand the gravity of the situation. Everyone was claiming Long Chen was the killer, but she refused to believe it. She growled at everyone, "Bullshit! My brother would not do that. He's so much better than Brother Yu. So many girls love my Big Brother, yet he chose none of them."

Naturally, no one heeded her words.

Huangfu Fengchen frowned. "Big Brother, Little Yu. You said that you have evidence. Where is it?"

Huangfu Yu took out the torn piece of fabric and gave it to Huangfu Fengchen. "Patriarch, when we discovered Wu'er's corpse, she was holding onto this tightly. It's clear that she tore it off before she died. There's an embroidered dragon on it. She's trying to tell us the identity of the culprit. There are only a few people with the surname 'Long' in the Divine Martial Empire—Long Yue and two Long Chens. Long Chen's guest room and Wu'er's residence are only separated by a pond. I believe that Long Chen was bewitched by her beauty and intended to rape her, but she fought back and died. Wu'er has been fine all this time, but she died the moment Long Chen arrived. Isn't it clear that he's the culprit?"

It was a very logical deduction.

Huangfu Fengchen looked at everyone surrounding them and noticed that all of them were glaring at Long Chen. They wanted him to kill Long Chen.

Huangfu Fengchen didn't know what to do.

More importantly, he had no evidence that Long Chen wasn't behind it.

If he protected Long Chen without justification, no one would support him as the patriarch anymore. The Huangfu family would be split in half, and he was wary of that.

He could only sigh and ask Long Chen, "Do you have an alibi?"

He could only protect Long Chen if the latter had one.

But Long Chen didn't and could only smile bitterly.

Huangfu Yu's evidence was very weak, but the issue was that Long Chen didn't have anything to refute it. No one could become a witness to Long Chen's location after Huangfu Qi left him in his room.

Long Chen tried to think of a way since he could not produce an alibi and he didn't want to cause trouble for Huangfu Fengchen. He knew that Huangfu Fengchen would do nothing to him even if he could not give an alibi.

But that would cause the Huangfu family to lose trust in Huangfu Fengchen.

He didn't want to cause trouble for Huangfu Fengchen, so he made a decision. He carefully picked up Huangfu Qi and placed his hand around her neck gently. "I don't have an alibi, but I have three things to say."

Everyone realized that Long Chen was taking Huangfu Qi as a hostage. Huangfu Qi was Huangfu Fengchen's daughter, and while Huangfu Fengyun knew about the relationship between Long Chen and Huangfu Qi, the others were still in the dark. All of them tensed up.

“Brat, what are you trying to do?”

“Let her go.”

Everyone surrounded Long Chen in a panic.

“Don’t move.” Huangfu Fengchen stopped them and gestured for Long Chen to continue.

Long Chen remained calm. “First, it’s easy to frame me. Anyone could frame me with just a single embroidery of a dragon the next time they murder someone. Don’t you think so?”

The others shouted at him, “What are you talking about? We, the Huangfu family, work together as one! No one would kill a family member just to frame you! This is the fiancée of Young Master Yu we are talking about!”

Everyone objected and booed at Long Chen.

Long Chen ignored them. “Secondly, after I separated from Qiqi yesterday, I saw Huangfu Yu tailing Wu’er.”

He then stared at Huangfu Yu.

Everyone laughed at him. “Are you stupid? Do you really think Young Master Yu would kill Wu’er just to frame you? Your imagination is really extraordinary.”

Huangfu Fengyun was gloomy after losing to Long Chen and scoffed. “Are you an idiot? Do you think the people of the Huangfu family are savages like you? Do you really think my son would kill his fiancée just to frame you?”

Long Chen did not answer. He smiled because he knew who the real savage was.

Huangfu Fengchen understood too. Long Chen noticed that Huangfu Fengchen trusted him after he said those two sentences and knew that he had a chance to resolve this. But the others still don’t trust him.

Long Chen didn’t want Huangfu Fengchen to get in trouble for protecting him. He had only visited the Huangfu family to see Huangfu Qi in the first place. Now that his objective was achieved, he had no reason to stay anymore. “Third, though I think it’s useless for me to tell you this. I already have someone I love whom I will chase after for my entire life. Since you say only a savage would do something like this, don’t try to frame me for it. Goodbye. I will release Huangfu Qi once I’m far from here. If you follow me, you will suffer the consequences.”

He took a glance at Huangfu Fengchen and saw that the latter understood what he was trying to do.

Long Chen didn’t care if the others knew he was innocent or not.

Huangfu Fengchen didn’t need to explain too much to the others.

Long Chen left, but Huangfu Fengchen didn’t chase after him. The rest of them stayed put too. Huangfu Fengchen spat once he saw Long Chen disappear. “That cunning bastard took my daughter hostage. I will chase after him now, and I will kill him.”

He then disappeared too.

The others were left at the scene without knowing what to do.

Everything was over just like that.

When Long Chen finished making those three statements, there was actually one other person who believed him, and that was Huangfu Fengyun. He understood his son the best.

“Little Yu, come with me.” Huangfu Fengyun was extremely crossed. The others thought he was angry because he had failed to kill Long Chen.

“Y-Yes,” Huangfu Yu stammered.

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After Long Chen left the Huangfu family, Huangfu Qi asked him, “Big Brother, Wu’er was killed by Huangfu Yu, right?”

“Wow, you are very smart.” Long Chen chuckled.

“Of course! I’m a genius! But are you eloping with me now?” Huangfu Qi asked excitedly.

“You must be dreaming. Look behind you.” Long Chen knocked her head lightly.

Huangfu Qi looked back and saw her own father. She frowned and grumbled, “Lousy father. Why are you chasing after us?”

Huangfu Fengchen took Huangfu Qi and pinched her nose lightly, “You little brat. You hate me so much that you want to get married at this age? Your big brother is busy, so it’s best if you don’t go and bother him.”

Chapter 585 – Willow Step

Long Chen nodded. He looked at Huangfu Fengchen and said, “Patriarch Huangfu, about this ...”

Huangfu Fengchen gave an apologetic look and said, “I apologize for what happened. Clan matters are complicated to deal with. It’s not easy to keep everyone’s mouth shut either. I’ve watched that kid Huangfu Yu grow up; I obviously know what he’s like. I didn’t want to give him the Willow Step because I didn’t want the Huangfu family to fall because of him.”

At this point in the conversation, Long Chen knew that Huangfu Fengchen knew everything.

That was good, and Long Chen did not need to explain himself.

It was not a big deal after all. It was just a fight. The only regret he had was not being able to beat Huangfu Yu up, because Long Chen did not like him at all.

“It’s fine. I came here mainly to see Qiqi. Now that I have fulfilled my objective, and even delayed my trip a bit, it really is time for me to rush to the Northern Battle clan,” said Long Chen.

“Don’t go yet. I have something for you. As compensation.” Huangfu Fengchen took out a simple, hand-written book from his Universe Pouch.

“What is this?” asked Long Chen.

“Last night, I worked through the night to copy down the Willow Step’s instructions. I initially wanted to give it to Huangfu Yu once he performed better, but after what happened today, he has lost the right to inherit this. So, I’m giving it to you!” said Huangfu Fengchen with a generous smile.

“No way! Isn’t this an inherited treasure of the Huangfu family? I cannot take this,” said Long Chen, shaking his head.

“I’ve lost face because of what happened today. If you don’t take this, I will be too embarrassed to ever see you again in the future,” Huangfu Fengchen said, then he tossed the handwritten book to Long Chen. “I think the old Battle Emperor is going to die soon. The Battle clan is in great danger, but I am unable to help. Please help them in my place. Looking at your performance today, I know you have surpassed all cultivators beneath the Third Earthly Martial Stage. And how many Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators are there in the whole Divine Martial Territory? Work hard and catch up to the two prodigies. You’ll get there soon!”

Then, before Long Chen could reply, Huangfu Fengchen quickly disappeared along with Huangfu Qi. With his speed, Long Chen would never be able to catch up even with his Dragon Soul Transformation!

All that remained was the cries of Huangfu Qi.

She thought she still had time to play with Long Chen, but Huangfu Fengchen grabbed her and disappeared.

Long Chen stared at the item in his hand, frozen. He smiled bitterly and said, “It was only just a fight, but I received an intermediate King-tier combat technique. I’ve actually gained something from this trip to the Huangfu family.”

Every member of the Huangfu family other than Huangfu Fengchen now saw him as an enemy.

But Long Chen did not care.

The others were irrelevant to him.

Since this was a problematic place, Long Chen did not stay for long. He had almost completed his cultivation of the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw on the way here. He was going to spend the next part of his journey studying the Willow Step!

This technique was more suitable to be cultivated during his travels than the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw. He had to improve his movement somehow, and the body combat technique was useful for that. The Willow Step made the body as light as a swallow, so not only was it useful for dodging attacks, it was also advantageous while traveling.

The Willow Step was great training for his ability to fight in the air, and he did not need to step on the ground when he started using the technique.

Previously, he had seen Huangfu Fengyun use it, and he had somehow managed to “blow” him away using the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, which was a forceful attack. It showed that this technique was something special, despite it looking so simple!

The essence of the Willow Step could be understood from its name. Willow fluff was extremely light, and the seeds flew with the breeze. If the opponent’s attack was the wind, then Long Chen was a willow seed. The moment there was a breeze, he would fly away immediately.

[Note: There is a fluffy part that resembles cotton attached to the seeds of the willow tree, which aids in seed dispersal by wind.]

When he truly used the Willow Step, his body became much lighter than before, so light that it was terrifying!

This did not mean that his attacks would become weak, however. His attacks were still as strong as before, but when he used the Willow Step, he became as light and graceful as Huangfu Fengchen!

This boosted Long Chen’s combat abilities once more!

Long Chen had extraordinary talent when it came to cultivating combat techniques. This was likely due to the nourishment from the Inherited Blood Essence, as well as the Mysterious Dragon Jade in his sea of consciousness. His Martial Soul was very important for his ability to comprehend combat techniques too, and now that it had taken the form of a dragon situated above the Dragon Jade, it took his comprehension abilities to the next level!

Long Chen had a late start, but there was no one else in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory with a hundredth of the Inherited Blood Essence and a dragon-shaped Martial Soul. He had a lower starting point compared to other people, but the speed at which he progressed was unprecedented!

The only other person who could keep up with him was Xiaolang, who was a mutated demonic beast!

Long Chen cultivated the Willow Step for five days. Not only were there secret teachings in the handwritten book, there were also explanations provided by Huangfu Fengchen, and he had even drawn many diagrams. After looking at them, many concepts that he could not understand were quickly explained.

Five days later, Long Chen could dance in the air like a light piece of willow fluff. He could move very quickly, and as he made his way through the forest, almost no one could see him clearly.

Huangfu Fengchen was right. There were not many people who could fight Long Chen as an equal in the whole Divine Martial Territory. There were only a handful of Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators after all.

It had only been a little more than three months since he came to the Divine Martial Territory, yet he had improved by a terrifying margin. If other people learned of his journey, their jaws would surely be on the floor.

Long Chen had only truly been cultivating for a little more than a year.

This was why the blood of the ancestral dragons was so powerful.

The only prodigy who could be his equal was by his side. He was also Long Chen’s closest friend, a brother, a Sun Devouring Wolf—Mo Xiaolang!



On this day, Long Chen was traveling through the forest with the tip of his foot a meter above ground. His eyes were closed, but he managed to dodge all the obstacles ahead, as if sleepwalking.

Suddenly, his eyes sprang open and he cried with joy, "Xiaolang!"

He halted, and a cloud of gray mist poured from his chest. A large, black wolf appeared. After a long time of digesting, absorbing nutrients, and evolving, Xiaolang was now ten times larger than his previous size. This was a sign that he had reached the King-tier!

The Sun Devouring Wolf was currently a King-tier demonic beast that was almost on the same level as the Blood Ocean Viper. He was gigantic at more than ten meters tall and twenty meters long. He lied down while Long Chen stood in front of him, looking like a mouse in front of an elephant.

Xiaolang was not awake yet, but Long Chen knew that it was almost time.

The Sun Devouring Wolf was completely engulfed in black flames. Long Chen sensed a suffocating coldness radiating from Xiaolang. It was a bone-chilling cold that came from the black flames. Those were the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, Xiaolang's fatal attack!

After reaching the King-tier, Xiaolang would surely be able to control even more of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

The huge fire swallowed Xiaolang whole, and the black flames started to turn the surrounding ground into hard, black ice. Thankfully, Long Chen was still floating in the air, so he was not affected.

The black flames slowly disappeared.

The flames soon extinguished, but the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire continued to burn on his four paws. The Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was just like Long Chen's Golden Crow Flames, offering a great boost to Xiaolang's attacks!

One swipe with his paw was enough to turn his opponent into hard ice!

The fatal strike that had killed the Void Martial Saint had been Xiaolang's Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, and Long Chen's Heaven Sword Array had merely helped the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire enter his body.

After entering King-tier, Xiaolang could now concentrate the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire on his paws.

Whoosh!

The Sun Devouring Wolf stood up and his black eyes sprang open. Long Chen did not see pupils in them, but two black flames—the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire!

"Awoo!"

Xiaolang looked up and let out a terrifying, eerie cry. His howl traveled far and wide; every demonic beast who heard him trembled and was paralyzed with fear.

This was a natural suppression of inferior beasts by a superior beast.

Now that Xiaolang had reached the King-tier, he had successfully broken free from the status of an inferior beast.

Just like cultivators, the Yellow, Black, Earth, and Heaven tiers were only foundational tiers for demonic beasts. They were only true demonic beasts when they reached the King-tier. This was also when the beasts started to become intelligent. Of course, this did not include Xiaolang, because he had a human soul, so he had always possessed peak intelligence.

The King-tier was only the beginning. Xiaolang had a long way to go before reaching the peak of all beasts.

Even Long Chen was nervous when he saw Xiaolang in this state.

He had pitch-black fur, a muscular body, agile grace, sharp claws, and canine teeth. Frightening black flames danced on his shiny fur while the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire burned on his four paws.

The Sun Devouring Wolf looked like a nightmare from hell!

Despite all this, Long Chen was most concerned about Xiaolang's ability to take human form.

Chapter 586 – Death of the Battle Emperor

After Xiaolang let out all his excitement with a single howl, he finally stopped. He started off looking fierce, but when he saw Long Chen, his eyes returned to their pure, innocent state, even with a hint of shyness.

Xiaolang had shown the wildness in his heart with that howl.

In reality, he had always allowed Long Chen to make the decisions throughout their time together. Long Chen never had a younger brother, but Xiaolang basically was one. Although he was not talkative and was a little shy, there was fiery passion in his heart!

Long Chen still remembered what the Yang Patriarch had said to him in Baiyang Town.

When you have a brother, you must be clear about what is in his heart; you must know if his heart is filled with passion or poison!

My heart is filled with passion!

Looking at Long Chen, Xiaolang gently shook his body. A wave of flames quickly blew across his body, and then his gigantic body vanished. What remained was a beautiful teenager with waterfall-like hair, who stood bare-footed on the black ice!

Yes. When it came to Mo Xiaolang's looks, Long Chen could only use the word "beautiful" to describe him.

The more Long Chen cultivated, the stronger the Yang energy in his body became. Perhaps due to the influence of the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, he had lost his prodigal-son energy and ended up becoming dark and intimidating like a blood-red flame.

On the other hand, perhaps due to the influence of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, Xiaolang leaned more towards Yin, graceful and pure. However, he still had endless killing intent deep inside!

It had been a long time. Long Chen finally saw the purity he first saw in Xiaolang, which felt like clear lake water. Xiaolang's hair was quite long now, and despite having become a Sun Devouring Wolf, his looks had not changed. Compared to Long Chen, Xiaolang was slightly thinner and his skin was much fairer. In fact, he had better skin than many girls. His fingers were fair and slender, his features were clean ... He was ... beautiful.

Right when he turned human, Xiaolang's eyes were still two black flames, which gradually disappeared to reveal two bright, black but pure pupils.

He was exactly the same as before.

The only difference was the faint hint of Demonic Qi radiating from his body, perhaps because he was now a demonic beast. Those who were more capable could tell that he was not a human, but a demonic beast after sensing his aura.

Or rather, he was a member of the demon race.

Long Chen did not know how to describe what he felt. He wondered if he should give Xiaolang a hug and maybe cry out, "Brother!" or something similar, but he gave up after some thought. He had a lot to say, but it all amounted to, "Hey, how are you still better-looking than me?"

Xiaolang shook his head shyly when he heard Long Chen, then he tried to move his new body. There was a clear lake not far away, so he hurried over to it to take a good look at himself. After a long time, he finally cried with joy, "Big ... Big Brother! I ... I still look ... exactly the same."

He hadn't spoken using the language of beasts, but with his mouth.

"Why are you stuttering?" Long Chen was a little speechless.

Long Chen had always been open when communicating with Xiaolang. But now that Xiaolang had a human body, he suddenly felt awkward talking to him.

However, he was still in a great mood.

"I ... I've just regained my human form ... I ... I'm not used to it yet ... It'll ... It'll get better with time," said Mo Xiaolang with a shy smile. His expression was so innocent that it was purer than sunlight.

He looked around, then he examined his body, hands, and feet. In the end, he sighed. "It's been a long time since I've felt like this ..."

After a few sentences, his speech became much smoother.

He had always known how to talk; it had just been a long time since he formulated words.

Looking at the teenager, Long Chen pursed his lips and gazed at him solemnly. He truly felt like he was Xiaolang's older brother. There were many things he had to do for Mo Xiaolang, and he could not keep letting Xiaolang work for him.

During this journey, Long Chen had been chasing after his goal of meeting Ling Xi, but Xiaolang had only been an occasional side character. It was only when Xiaolang appeared in front of him in human form that Long Chen felt like he had been an irresponsible brother.

"Xiaolang, I'm sorry," Long Chen said sincerely, patting Mo Xiaolang's shoulder.

"Big Brother, why are you saying that?" Mo Xiaolang asked, confused.

"Nothing. Forget it, my good brother! Can you fight with this body?" Long Chen grinned and tossed the guilt away.

There was no need for draggy feelings between brothers. If he had made a mistake, all he could do was do better in the future.

“As a King-tier beast, my human body doesn’t have much combat abilities. To most beasts, the human body is a burden. If I want to fight, I have to return to the Sun Devouring Wolf form. Once I reach the Emperor-tier, or maybe the Divine-tier, my human body will be powerful, though not as strong as my original form,” said Mo Xiaolang, resigned.

“That’s fine. Just be like this from now on. Don’t go into the Primordial Realm anymore. We’ll explore the world as brothers! If we need to fight, you can turn into the Sun Devouring Wolf then.” Long Chen did not mind. He had already started to treat Xiaolang as a demonic beast.

He was a brother, not a demonic beast! Long Chen felt like it was an insult to Xiaolang to make him stay in the Primordial Realm.

Mo Xiaolang understood what Long Chen was thinking, so he smiled and said, “Big Brother, I actually think the Primordial Realm is great. I’m quite lazy these days and I like sleeping there. When I’m in deep sleep, I slowly grow stronger too. After becoming a demonic beast, my habits have changed. We brothers don’t have to worry about things like that, right?”

He looked at Long Chen gratefully and continued, “Thank you so much for taking care of me. If it wasn’t for you, I wouldn’t have consumed so many things. You can even say that I’m only here today because of you! You have shown me so much kindness! I will follow you for the rest of my life, and we will fight side by side in all battles! If you want to go look for Sister Ling Xi, I will help. Then we’ll show them just how powerful we are!”

“Good, good!”

“Brothers for life!”

“Mhm.”

Passions ran high as they made proud promises.

No one knew what the future held, but with two brothers side by side, what was there to be afraid of?

Long Chen knew that he would not be lonely on this journey!

“Hey, hey! How could you guys forget about me, Master Cat? I have saved your lives and given you a lot of help!” cried the lonely Little Cat in the Primordial Realm.

Long Chen obviously would never forget about Little Cat. Although he was annoying, he had a good heart. He had explained many things that Long Chen did not understand and offered a lot of help.

“I haven’t forgotten about you, of course! Little Cat, if you perform well on this journey with us, I don’t mind calling you our brother too! Haha!” Long Chen said.

“Tsk! Do you think Master Cat cares about two brats? Years ago, people like you two weren’t even fit to carry my shoes!” Little Cat said smugly.

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang locked eyes and grinned.

“Come, let’s go to the Battle clan!” Long Chen did not dwell further.

It was a good thing that Xiaolang had become a King-tier beast before arriving at the Battle clan. Long Chen knew that although Xiaolang was only at the Category One King-tier, the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire and his other impressive abilities made him a great asset in battle!

Long Chen knew that if he had to face the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire face-on, his survival was not guaranteed!

There was no need to drag emotional conversations between brothers.

Very soon, Long Chen arrived in front of a small city in the northern region. Before this, Long Yue had taught him how to send a message to the Red Souls. Long Chen knew that there were Red Souls members in this small city, so he used that method to call for someone. It turned out to be a thin teenager in a hotel busboy’s outfit.

“Greetings, Seventh Master,” the teenager said hurriedly when he saw Long Chen.

Long Chen rubbed his nose, unsure of when he had been coined as “Seventh Master.” He grinned and said, “How far is this place from the Northern Battle clan?”

The teenager pointed in a direction and said, “If you travel in that direction for twenty-five kilometers, you will arrive at the Northern Battle clan’s territory. Second Master and the others are there. The moment you arrive, someone will greet you.”

Long Chen nodded and said, “That’s good. I understand. Right, do you have any news about the Battle clan?”

“There is major news,” said the teenager nervously.

“Tell me,” Long Chen said with furrowed brows.

“The Battle Emperor of the Battle clan, due to severe injuries, has passed away. Now the head of the Battle clan is the First Prince, Lei Zhen. Second Master and the others assisted Lei Zhen, so he had a stable ascension. Since there are enemies on their doorstep, they quickly united all the clan members and are prepared to fight the Martial Alliance!”

“The old Battle Emperor has died, and Fourth Brother has become the clan leader?” Long Chen muttered to himself.

“Yes, but there’s one more thing. Yesterday, Yang Ningfeng, a few Martial Saints, and at least ten Martial Kings entered the Battle clan’s territory. They emerged not long after. We don’t know what exactly has happened at this point; perhaps you’ll only know when you arrive, Seventh Master. However, the Martial Alliance has completely sealed the Battle clan’s territory, so you must be careful when going in.”

Long Chen nodded. "Alright, you may go back."

"Alright." The teenager quickly left.

"Big Brother, there are two Martial Emperors there. Will we be able to defeat them?" asked Mo Xiaolang.

"In the face of a strong enemy, all we can do is fight bravely. Turning back is not an option. Those guys have helped me before, and they are my siblings. They're also your siblings. We can't only live for ourselves. If I can die fighting for my brother, I will die without regrets," said Long Chen, squinting as he stared in the direction of the Battle clan.

"I understand," said Mo Xiaolang with a smile, revealing his bright, white teeth.

"Don't you pretend to be cute!" Long Chen scolded him.

Then they headed for the Battle clan!

#### Chapter 587 – Battle Clan Territory

The Battle clan lived in a vast, mountainous forest. After rushing for twenty-five kilometers, Long Chen could see the boundless patch of forest ahead. He traveled along treacherous mountain roads with shorter trees around him. Tall trees were rare.

"Big Brother, there are Martial Alliance people up ahead." Mo Xiaolang relied on his sharp olfactory senses to quickly sense the presence of Martial Alliance members.

They had just crossed over a mountain when Xiaolang alerted him. Long Chen quickly looked ahead and lo and behold, a group of Martial Alliance enforcers were standing in between the trees. Enforcers wore golden-yellow uniforms with a giant "martial" character on their chests. They were completely blocking the path leading towards the Battle clan by standing in a row.

There were more than a hundred of them, all at the Heavenly Passage Realm. Long Chen postulated that the rest of the paths leading to the Battle clan were probably blocked too. Their objective was probably to stop any Battle clan members from exiting, or any outsiders from entering before ramping up their operations. Perhaps they wanted the Battle clan to surrender and pledge loyalty to the Martial Alliance like the Ancient Demon Domain and the Huangfu family had done.

Long Chen guessed that with the Battle clan's temper, the likelihood of a large-scale conflict was quite large.

The Battle clan was located behind this patch of forest.

"Big Brother, shall we enter?" Mo Xiaolang asked innocently with sparkling eyes.

"Nonsense!" Long Chen laughed. They were all Heavenly Passage Realm cultivators, and the only Earthly Martial Realm cultivator present was still resting. He was only at the First Earthly Martial Stage too, so Long Chen did not take him seriously.

Xiaolang couldn't fight in human form, but he could still travel quickly. Turning into the Sun Devouring Wolf to fight these people was unnecessary.

So Long Chen said, "Let me do it! Just follow me!"

Then he charged at the Martial Alliance blockade like a gust of wind. Mo Xiaolang's eyes lit up and he quickly hurried behind Long Chen. He could run as fast as Long Chen, and when he ran, his back was bent so he looked very similar to a wolf-type beast!

The Enforcers quickly noticed the duo and sounded the alarm. The crowd of one hundred people stood in formation, blocking Long Chen's path. The Earthly Martial Realm cultivator who was resting with his eyes closed was already standing at the very front. He glared coldly at the charging Long Chen and roared, "Who are you? The Martial Alliance is working here, and the path leading to the Battle clan has been sealed off. If you take one more step, we will kill you!"

Not many people from the Divine Martial Empire would dare disobey the commands of the Martial Alliance. But when the cultivator saw that Long Chen was not going to slow down after his declaration, his gaze darkened and he roared, "It's an enemy ambush! Kill him!"

Everyone grew anxious with his command and spread out to charge at Long Chen. At least five of the enforcers in front were at the Ninth Passage Stage! But cultivators at that level would find it difficult to cause Long Chen any harm. Very quickly, Long Chen collided with them, but their abilities were on very different levels. Long Chen could basically kill one person with one strike!

When both sides came into contact, bodies flew in the air one after another. Everyone was frightened by the tragic sight!

"Everyone, be careful! He's at the Earthly Martial Realm!" They had not seen Long Chen's face clearly yet because he was moving too fast. Before they could tell who he was, he had already killed many people!

Whoosh!

There came the sound of heavy panting.

"Everyone, stay back! Let me handle this Earthly Martial Realm cultivator!" the Earthly Martial Realm enforcer roared. Everyone retreated to form a gigantic circle around Long Chen, with the enforcer standing directly in front of him!

"You think you can stop me?" Long Chen laughed and turned into an illusion. Then he appeared in front of the enforcer in the blink of an eye.

"Ground Punch Technique!" the enforcer roared as he threw a punch at Long Chen's face. Even the ground trembled when he threw the powerful punch. It was clear that this punching technique was connected to the essence of the earth!

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Consecutive booms rang in Long Chen's ears like dull thunder. Admittedly, this enforcer had already completely mastered this King-tier technique. He was a middle-aged man who had spent many years studying his technique, so achieving this level of mastery was not surprising!

However, it was nothing compared to Long Chen's extraordinary talent!

Whoosh!

The powerful punch landed on Long Chen's chest. The enforcer did not know why it was so easy to hit Long Chen, but in reality, Long Chen had not been hit at all!

When he was about to come into contact with his enemy's chest, it was like a gust of wind had blown Long Chen away! It was very strange!

"What?" The Enforcer was both shocked and terrified. He was very knowledgeable, so he knew that this was a terrifying body combat technique and what this meant. With a panicked look on his face, he gasped!

"Isn't this the Huang—" Before he finished, he saw a blood-red glint coming from a claw. It landed on his neck and caused his head to fly off. No one could believe what just happened!

At the very last moment, he had seen Long Chen's face clearly.

Long Chen's appearance was recorded in the Martial Alliance's system, so this Enforcer, who was a Martial King, knew who Long Chen was. However, why did Long Chen have the Huangfu family's Willow Step? He died with this question in mind.

He would bring this question down to hell.

"Xiaolang, let's go!" After Long Chen killed the Martial King, everyone else was still stunned. They only reacted after a long pause, and they all shouted in terror!

"Report this to the Martial Saint now! Tell the two Martial Emperors!" Many people scrambled to get reinforcements while the rest remained. They looked at the Martial King's body, then at themselves.

"Who was that? He killed a Martial King in just one short fight. He must be a Martial Saint-level master."

"I got a brief glimpse of his face just now. He looked very young. Are there any teenagers other than Martial Emperor Zhao who are this strong?"

The crowd was left confused.

At this point, Long Chen had already disappeared into the forest with Mo Xiaolang.

Long Chen had easily broken free from their encirclement to enter the Battle clan's territory. The mountainous roads here were treacherous, but Long Chen and Xiaolang ran through them with ease.

When Long Chen started fighting the Martial Alliance, informants reported it to the Battle clan. The moment Long Chen arrived in their territory, several tall and muscular men came up to him and asked, "Young man, may I ask who you are?"

"I am a good friend of your clan leader, Lei Zhen. My name is Long Chen. I don't know if you've heard of me?" Long Chen quickly stopped and spoke respectfully to the large men, who had similar figures to Lei Zhen.



The men looked overjoyed and said, “Are you the Long Chen who killed the Void Martial Saint? Our clan leader and his siblings talk about you every day! It’s amazing that you’re here. I’ll bring you to meet them now. Yantou, pass this message!”

The leading man gave a cheerful smile.

In reality, they had been sullen for many days. A smile was very rare. However, when they turned to look at Long Chen’s back, they looked sad once more, as if they had not seen the person they were looking for yet.

One of the men nodded and rushed off to pass the message. Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang followed the leader towards a deeper part of the territory.

Along the way, the man started to tell Long Chen about the Battle clan. Long Chen learned that the whole clan consisted of Beast Warriors, and most of them were very strong too. They were usually stronger than normal cultivators at the same level. Furthermore, they also tamed beasts, and many beasts in this region were close friends with the Battle clan!

In fact, when the beasts died, they were willing to offer their Beast Souls to them so they could continue fighting for the Battle clan. Along the way, Long Chen saw many resting beasts. Many of them were of the thunder element, and Long Chen even saw the same beast that Lei Zhen had, the Thunder Bat Dragon!

Golden Lightning Stallions were everywhere.

When the demonic beasts saw Xiaolang, they all had terror in their eyes. They lowered their heads to show that they were loyal to him.

The men were telling Long Chen about the culture of the Battle clan, but when they saw this, they started to study Mo Xiaolang carefully.

“You’re an interesting person; you make these demonic beasts afraid …” said the men, who were puzzled.

Xiaolang radiated the aura of a demonic beast, but his aura is much fainter than that of other King-tier demonic beasts. That was why these Heavenly Passage Realm cultivators did not notice that his original form was a demonic beast.

“This brother of mine is interesting, of course! As for why, you all will understand in the future,” said Long Chen with a laugh, patting Xiaolang’s shoulder.

Very soon, they emerged from the mountainous forest into a true forest. Although the path was still treacherous and littered with boulders, the trees were much taller and larger from here onwards. There were many strange-looking trees that made this dense forest frightening.

“This is the base camp of the Battle clan. Many generations of clan members have lived here. We do not fight with anyone else, and we mind our own business. We only ally with demonic beasts! The Martial Alliance bastards just would not stop bugging us!” There was rage in the men’s eyes.

They clenched their fists tightly. It was clear that they were very angry!

## Chapter 588 – Three Duels, Two Victories

“Was the Battle Emperor really defeated by Zhao Danchen?” Long Chen asked.

The men nodded dejectedly. “Zhao Danchen was just too strong, plus the old Battle Emperor was in his senior years. He was not as strong as he once was. Although they were at the same cultivation level, he was no match for Zhao Danchen. Of course, while he hurt my clan leader, he sustained injuries too. If not, the Martial Alliance wouldn’t have sent Yang Ningfeng here as reinforcement.”

Long Chen nodded, realizing how strong Zhao Danchen was. A person who could defeat a master of the older generation in a direct fight had to be very strong. He was the only direct disciple of the Martial Overlord, who was the strongest person in the Divine Martial Empire. Perhaps he had even received all the Martial Overlord’s techniques. In a few years’ time, he would probably become the new Martial Overlord.

“The old clan leader’s injuries were very severe, so he passed away just a few days ago. The new clan leader is now Prince Lei Zhen. He’s a young prodigy with courage and a pure heart, and the Martial Alliance has a grudge against him. We are all willing to follow him though,” said the men wistfully.

What the Red Souls member had said was true. Lei Zhen really was the new leader of the Battle clan.

Long Chen wanted to talk to the men about other things, but several people were walking towards them. He looked up and saw that they were Jiang Wuya, Jian Chen, Lei Zhen, Chi Ying, and Lan Ling’er. They had parted ways at the Cloud Dream Swamp; now they were finally reunited!

“Seventh Brother!” The five of them laughed happily. When the men saw that their leader had arrived, they quickly bowed and greeted him before stepping aside.

“I’ll take Seventh Brother from here. You guys go back to observing the Martial Alliance’s movements,” instructed Lei Zhen.

The men quickly nodded and left.

It was clear that Lei Zhen had matured greatly after this major tragedy. After becoming the clan leader of the Battle clan, his every move was filled with regalness.

Everyone was happy to be reunited after being apart for a while. However, when they saw Long Chen alone, there was a hint of disappointment in their eyes.

“Seventh Brother, is Big Sister not with you?” Lei Zhen asked sadly.

“Her younger brother was caught by the Martial Alliance, so she rushed to see him,” said Long Chen.

Everyone nodded. Jiang Wuya said, “We expected Yue’er not to come because she was concerned about her brother’s safety. It’s not that she doesn’t care about us; her brother’s situation is way more dangerous than ours. We don’t blame her.”

“Second Brother, how could we? We’ve all been together for so long. We know her well! It’s fine. I will survive this ordeal with the Battle clan,” said Lei Zhen with a determined nod.

“There are many things to talk about. Let’s chat on the way back.” Jiang Wuya nodded and called for the whole group to follow him. They walked towards the depths of the forest, where the main base of the Battle clan was. When they arrived, there were many warriors guarding the area. The Battle clan clearly had far more members than the Ancient Demon Domain. With such a large clan, it was understandable that the Martial Alliance was nervous and wanted to eliminate them as soon as possible. Perhaps the Martial Alliance had always wanted to invade; they had only just gotten their chance to do it.

Since Long Yue was not here, they shifted their focus to Long Chen. After studying him, they gasped. “Long Chen, you’ve reached the Earthly Martial Realm?”

Long Chen nodded and said, “I broke through in the Divine Fire Realm. I had help from Big Sister and the Huangfu Patriarch. I’m very grateful to both of them.”

“Oh my goodness! How long were you in there? And you’ve reached the Earthly Martial Realm already? This is infuriating!” Lan Ling’er cried furiously. She was still in her male disguise, looking as beautiful as Xiaolang.

“Seventh Brother is indeed extraordinarily talented. You can’t compare him to us. Sixth Sister, just admit defeat! Haha, but, Seventh Brother, who got the Red Emperor Seal in the end?” Jiang Wuya asked solemnly.

He had heard some information himself, but he wanted Long Chen to verify it.

Long Chen told them about what had happened, though he obviously omitted the part where he took the Red Emperor Seal. From his description, everyone believed that no one had retrieved the Red Emperor Seal, let alone the mysterious gift.

“It’s the best case scenario that no one retrieved it. We’re most afraid of the Martial Alliance collecting the Five Emperor Seals. If that happens, the Martial Overlord’s power will be boosted greatly, and the whole Divine Martial Empire will have to kneel before him,” Jian Chen said.

Lei Zhen nodded. “That’s right. When we searched for the Azure Emperor Seal, we found it very quickly. Then we searched the Seven Layered Demon World for half a day to find the Black Emperor Seal, but we came out empty-handed. Now all the effort for the Red Emperor Seal was also for nothing. The Azure Emperor Seal is with us and no one has the Red Emperor Seal, so no one will be able to get all five. That’s for the best. Seventh Brother, you didn’t know the Azure Emperor Seal was with us, right?”

“I didn’t,” said Long Chen, shaking his head, though he had already guessed it. He did not want to talk about the Five Emperor Seals for the moment, but that did not mean he did not see them as his brothers.

The most urgent task at hand was to help the Battle clan survive this ordeal.

Lan Ling’er looked behind Long Chen and asked with hearts in her eyes, “Right, Seventh Brother, why haven’t you introduced this pretty little brother to us?”

Long Chen grinned and pulled Xiaolang forward. “Have you forgotten? You’ve met him before. His name is Mo Xiaolang.”

Xiaolang?

They had a vague impression of this name.

Lei Zhen studied him for a while. Since he had grown up with demonic beasts, he was the first to realize it and cried out with great surprise, “Seventh Brother, this is ... A King-tier demonic beast? How could I forget a beast I’ve met?! Why is his demonic aura so faint?”

When he mentioned it, Jian Chen and Lan Ling’er both recalled the black demonic beast that Long Chen rode. Lan Ling’er’s jaw dropped and she cried, “Wow, is this that black demonic wolf? Why is he so pretty after taking a human form? And how could a beast have this much capacity for growth? He grew from the Heaven-tier to the King-tier!”

Lei Zhen explained, “Many powerful beasts do not possess great power at birth. This demonic wolf is clearly a mutated beast. We might not know what tier he belongs to, so he will be whatever tier he happens to reach when he matures. As he grows older, he will become stronger.”

Everyone nodded.

Long Chen knew that the Sun Devouring Wolf was not considered a very powerful beast in a normal sense. Xiaolang had reached the King-tier because he had an impressive ability to absorb power.

After getting to know Xiaolang, they asked a few more questions. Long Chen turned his attention to the current state of the Battle clan. He could tell that although they did not express it clearly, there was a hint of worry on their faces when his siblings spoke.

Especially Lei Zhen, who was likely very worried right now.

They had all hoped that Long Yue would come. Without her, it would be difficult to fight two Martial Emperors. The future of the Battle clan was bleak. Lei Zhen had only just become the clan leader, but he was already facing great pressure.

Long Chen asked, “What is the situation with the Battle clan now? Now that I have reached the Earthly Martial Realm, I might be able to help.”

Lei Zhen shook his head without a word while Jiang Wuya chuckled bitterly and said, “You can let me explain it. The current state is, frankly, terrible.”

“Why do you say so?” asked Long Chen.

“A few days ago, when the old Battle Emperor passed away, Lei Zhen dealt with the funeral rites and became the clan leader, taking over this huge responsibility. The Martial Alliance’s Zhao Danchen and Yang Ningfeng have arrived and may invade at any moment. If they force their way through, we will be no match for them. However, they are not planning to invade for the moment.”

“Why not?” asked Long Chen.

“Although the Martial Alliance is powerful, the Battle clan has been cornered and has nothing left to lose. Fighting an opponent with nothing to lose will result in great losses on their side. They are forced to think about the potential losses. Previously, they subdued the Ancient Demon Domain and Huangfu family by force, forcing them to pledge loyalty and become alliance members. However, this method is useless for the Battle clan because the men here value freedom and would never bend the knee to anyone. They would rather fight to their deaths instead of submitting to them! The Martial Alliance does not know the Battle clan well; they are even working hard to make the Battle clan submit right now. If they fail, they will resort to military might and destroy the whole clan.”

Long Chen finally understood. In short, the Battle clan was a thorn in the Martial Alliance’s flesh. If the clan was not killed off entirely, every Battle clan member would be a potential threat in the future. That was why they had to attempt to force the Battle clan into submission.

“Yesterday, Martial Emperor Yang Ningfeng came to make a bet with us,” Jiang Wuya said solemnly.

“What bet?” Long Chen asked curiously.

“He asked for three duels to determine the outcome. One First Earthly Martial Stage, one Second Earthly Martial Stage, and one Third Earthly Martial Stage duel. Each side will send their strongest cultivator at each stage to duel. If we win two duels, the Martial Alliance will get out and not invade us for a hundred years. If we lose, the Battle clan will have to submit to the Martial Alliance,” said Jiang Wuya.

Three battles in between the strongest First and Second Earthly Martial Stage fighters from both sides. But what about the Third Earthly Martial Stage?

Long Chen asked hurriedly, “I thought we didn’t have any Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators on our side?”

Before Jiang Wuya replied, Lan Ling’er said, “Those Martial Alliance bastards! They’re bullying us! They said, ‘we have Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators on our side, but if you guys don’t have one, you can send a First Passage Stage guy as replacement!’ Damn it! We haven’t even started the fight and they’re already fated to win! How could this be fair?”

The Martial Alliance had Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators on their side. Before even starting the duel, they were fated to win one round. If the Battle clan wanted to keep their freedom, they would have to win both the duels between the First and Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators. This was not easy as the Martial Alliance was abundant with prodigies.

“Second Brother, have you agreed to this?” asked Long Chen. The bet was unfair, so Long Chen thought they would not agree.

However, Jiang Wuya nodded and said, “Yes.”

“Why?” Long Chen was puzzled because it was clearly unfair.

“Fourth Brother said that this is a gift that they delivered to our doorstep, so how could we refuse? The Martial Alliance has a reputation to maintain. If they lose, they must keep their word if they want to maintain their reputation in the Divine Martial Empire. But we’re not the same. We are the victims, and we need to fight for our lives no matter what, so there is no difference if the battle starts after we lose. The word ‘submission’ does not exist in the Battle clan’s vocabulary.” Jiang Wuya’s tone became a little wistful in the end.

Long Chen realized that they were ready to fight after they lost, and were not planning to submit at all. That was also the style of the Dragon clan. Long Chen did not feel that it was funny, only that it was tragic but brave.

Looking at the tall, muscular man standing before him, Long Chen felt a sense of respect rise within him.

The fact that this man could bravely lift the clan up in the face of extinction showed that he was a good man! The Dragon clan were true brothers to stay by Lei Zhen’s side through this ordeal! Wasn’t it the same for Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang?

Everyone saw death as coming home at this moment.

However, Long Chen felt that there was a chance for victory. At the very least, no one at the same stage could defeat him. With Long Chen here, they would surely win the First Earthly Martial Stage battle. Now it depended on the Second Earthly Martial Stage battle. That was what Long Chen was worried about.

“Second Brother, what are your arrangements for the bet?” asked Long Chen.

Jiang Wuya said, “We don’t even need to think about the Third Earthly Martial Stage battle. Anyone who takes that role will surely lose, so we plan to just admit defeat. As for the First Earthly Martial Stage, we initially thought Third Brother could go, but Fourth Brother is going to the Battle clan’s Lightning Pool to comprehend the Running Thunder Blade. When he emerges in ten days, he’ll surely be much stronger. That is why Lei Zhen will be our fighter for the First Earthly Martial Stage battle.”

Long Chen was sure that he was much stronger than Lei Zhen, but he did not say anything. Based on what Jiang Wuya had said, they had ten more days, so it was not urgent.

“As for the Second Earthly Martial Stage, there is only one Battle Saint in the Battle clan, plus me, who qualify. Old Vulture is at the Second Earthly Martial Stage, but he is very old. That is why I'll take the battle instead,” Jiang Wuya said solemnly.

Jiang Wuya?

Long Chen nodded. Jiang Wuya was indeed strong and was surely considered one of the strongest Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators. However, Long Chen felt like neither Jiang Wuya nor Lei Zhen could guarantee success. Long Chen himself could guarantee he would win in the First Earthly Martial Stage battle, seeing as he could even defeat a Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator!

Of course, if he said it now, they would not believe him.

“Their participants will come to the Battle clan and fight us in front of our ancestral mausoleum in ten days! Even if I die, I, Lei Zhen, must win in a magnificent manner!” Lei Zhen clenched his fists tightly, causing his green veins to pop. His eyes were filled with hatred.

Everyone else looked ready to sacrifice themselves too.

All they could do was try their best.

They chatted along the way, and Long Chen learned that they actually felt very helpless too. The Martial Alliance was very powerful. Now that the Battle Emperor was dead, there was no Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivator in the Battle clan. They could not even be considered a faction on the same level as the Huangfu family or the Ancient Demon Domain anymore.

Despite the large number of clan members.

The Battle clan had eight First Earthly Martial Stage cultivators with Lei Zhen here. They called themselves the Eight Battle Kings of the Battle clan. However, there was only one Battle Saint at the Second Earthly Martial Stage. He was called Old Vulture.

Lei Zhen led them to the inner section of the clan, where Long Chen met the eight Battle Kings and Old Vulture. Old Vulture was a thin old man of few words. There was also a cloud hanging over him, likely privately worried about the problem with the Martial Alliance.

Like the other Dragon clan members, Long Chen received a warm welcome.

Due to the Lei Zhen, the Dragon clan was famous in the Battle clan. During this treacherous time when they were facing mortal danger, almost all the powerful Dragon Clan members had gathered here. How could they not be moved?

The Dragon clan was one of the main reasons why Lei Zhen ended up becoming the clan leader, despite not being the strongest in the clan. The Battle clan had always respected power!

Numerous tall, muscular warriors looked at Long Chen and the others with reverence.

When they arrived, the Second Earthly Martial Stage Old Vulture asked coldly, “Is this teenager the Long Chen who killed Void Martial Saint and defeated Jiang Wushang at the Cloud Dream Swamp?”

Most of the Battle clan members were tall and huge like bears, but Old Vulture was thin like a vulture. There was barely any hair on the top of his head too.

“I am,” said Long Chen with a nod. Lei Zhen had told him that this old man was the old Battle Emperor’s brother, as well as Lei Zhen’s uncle. However, he had gone missing when he was young and was raised by demonic beasts for over ten years before he was brought back to the clan. His personality had always been cold, but he had always dedicated his efforts to the Battle clan. Even though Lei Zhen had taken over leadership, Old Vulture was still managing many daily affairs.

Old Vulture nodded. “You are not even twenty yet. Indeed, you are a teenage hero. Thank you for helping the Battle clan!”

“This is my duty. The Battle clan has many masters, and I may not actually be able to contribute much. Old Vulture, you’re exaggerating my achievements,” Long Chen said humbly.

Long Chen admired the Battle clan’s willingness to die instead of surrender. That was why he was very polite to everyone.

Next, Long Chen got to know the seven of the eight Battle Kings. Lei Zhen was one of the eight, and they already knew each other. Although Lei Zhen was the clan leader, the Battle clan had always ranked members according to strength, so he was still holding the position of a Battle King.

Each of the Battle Kings commanded a branch of the army.

The eight kings were mostly tall and muscular, but there was one handsome man whose figure was similar to Old Vulture’s. Long Chen asked around and learned that this was Old Vulture’s son, also the Second Prince of the Battle clan and Lei Zhen’s cousin. Although he looked frail, he was only slightly weaker than Lei Zhen because Lei Zhen’s Beast Soul was the Category Three King-tier Heavenly Mantra Thunder Beast that the old Battle Emperor had personally killed!

The Second Prince had a much warmer personality than Old Vulture. He was the one who spoke to Long Chen the most.

After getting to know Long Chen, the Battle clan members with worry in their eyes dispersed. Lei Zhen looked at Long Chen and said, “Seventh Brother, the Battle clan is at a crossroads that will determine our fate. I need to go deal with some matters and intensify my cultivation. Since you’ve just reached the Earthly Martial Realm, you need to solidify your base. All our siblings have reached the Earthly Martial Realm a long time ago, so you can ask them about anything you don’t understand.”

“I understand, Fourth Brother. Go do whatever you need to,” Long Chen said with a nod.

Jiang Wuya also left to go cultivate in preparation for his duel, so five of them remained. Since Long Chen needed to continue practicing his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw and the Willow Step, plus the mood was very heavy, he searched for a place to cultivate on his own. Mo Xiaolang had nothing to do, so he followed.



“Big Brother, I just realized something. It’s easier to cultivate your divine techniques when I’m in human form,” Xiaolang suddenly said in the room that Lei Zhen had arranged for them.

*Whoosh!* Xiaolang’s shadow stood up, and then it returned to its original state.

“Have you successfully cultivated the Demonic Illusion?” Long Chen asked with surprise and excitement.

Mo Xiaolang nodded and said, “It’s been so long; it’s about time I finished cultivating it. I just never had the chance to use it. Big Brother, not only do I have the Demonic Illusion, I can also use the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire. If I’m chosen for the First Earthly Martial Stage duel, I guarantee that no one is a match for me.”

Long Chen nodded. Indeed, if Xiaolang went, he was more likely to win than Lei Zhen.

Of course, Long Chen was the one with the highest chance.

“We still have ten days left, so we don’t have to decide yet. Let’s see how much of the Running Thunder Blade Fourth Brother is able to master. I’ll mention it to him then,” said Long Chen with a nod.

“Big Brother, you’re more suitable than I am for the First Earthly Martial Stage duel. Then again, the Martial Alliance has so many people that I don’t think Jiang Wuya can guarantee victory,” said Mo Xiaolang, frowning his brows.

Long Chen thought the same.

“If we lose, the Battle clan will fight the Martial Alliance directly, which will surely lead to countless casualties. I’m sure no one wants to see that. Xiaolang, I’ve made my decision,” Long Chen said with determination.

“What have you decided?” Xiaolang asked.

Long Chen exhaled and said, “For the First Earthly Martial Stage duel, you’ll go. If Second Brother loses, I’ll give the Third Earthly Martial Stage duel a shot. No one is a match for me at the Second Earthly Martial Stage, so it’s also time for me to challenge even stronger opponents!”

“No one is a match for you at the Second Earthly Martial Stage? Big Brother, I’ve got to say ... You’re a psycho ...” Mo Xiaolang said with a bitter smile.

“You’re the psycho,” Long Chen replied. Then he continued to practice his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw and the Willow Step.

Time passed quickly as he cultivated.

Before they knew it, night arrived.

Chapter 590 – Zhao Danchen

Long Chen had the habit of often using the Soul Swallowing Gaze. While he was practicing the Willow Step in his room, he occasionally saw Lei Zhen walk past his house.

The future of his whole clan was now in his hands alone. It was a huge weight on his shoulders, and although Lei Zhen presented as a strong person, he was suffering privately and felt bleak.

The Battle clan had to win the bet in ten days, and he was going to be one of the fighters. The agreement was that if they did not win two rounds, the Battle clan would submit to the Martial Alliance. The Martial Alliance believed that the Battle clan was going to hold up their end of the bet. Their goal was to subdue the Battle clan without any effort spent. In reality, to the Battle clan, that would be the beginning of the true war for their lives.

If they lost the bet, then they would fight for their lives.

Fighting for their lives would ignite the passion in their blood. Lei Zhen knew that without an absolutely powerful master in the Battle clan, they were fated to lose the war. There was basically no chance of surviving this.

When the Martial Alliance made their quick rise to power in the Divine Martial Empire, the Battle clan knew that this day would come.

The Battle clan had existed for countless years. They were different from the Ancient Demon Domain and Huangfu family, because they had an unwillingness to submit. The other two powers would never be able to compare in terms of spirit. If it came down to a true battle for the clan's survival, neither of those forces would be a match for the Battle clan.

Although raw power was important on the journey of the Martial Dao, one's mindset, determination, and even faith were just as important. The undying stubbornness of the Battle clan had become their faith.

That was why this man, Lei Zhen, was carrying such a huge weight on his shoulders.

Long Chen opened the door and came out with Xiaolang. Xiaolang had always been quiet, so he did not say much.

When Lei Zhen saw that it was Long Chen, he squeezed a smile with great difficulty and said, "Seventh Brother, why are you out here?"

Long Chen went to his side, studied Lei Zhen for a while, and then said, "I can see that you're thinking about many things, Fourth Brother. Let's take a walk and talk about it."

Lei Zhen froze for a second, then he nodded. "Mhm, alright ..."

They walked towards the outside of the forest.

"Seventh Brother, you guys don't actually need to get involved in this mess. It looks like the Battle clan can't avoid this tragedy; I don't want you guys to be dragged into it too. I've tried to convince Second and Third Brother to leave, but unfortunately, they won't listen. Now you're here too. Seventh Brother, you're still young. Don't kill your future because of me, your useless Fourth Brother ..."

As he spoke, Lei Zhen gave a resigned, bitter smile.

Long Chen's heart sank.

Experiencing life and death together—that was what the rest of the Dragon clan was doing. Therefore, Long Chen could do the same! They were the ones who had rescued him from the

Ancient Demon Domain. And without their protection, Long Chen never would've gotten the Red Emperor Seal and Prismatic Key. He would not even have reached the Earthly Martial Realm! These were all the things they had done for him as brothers!

Now his brother was in danger, so how could he not help?

Looking at Lei Zhen's depressed expression, a rage towards the Martial Alliance rose in his heart. He slapped Lei Zhen's shoulder and said in a low voice, "Fourth Brother, don't try to convince me to leave either. I'll never go! You and the Martial Alliance bear a deep hatred and enmity towards each other, which means the same for me and the Martial Alliance! If the Martial Alliance dares to touch the Battle clan, I will do my best to kill as many of them as I can!"

Long Chen's insistence moved Lei Zhen. He knew that this Seventh Brother of his was an even more stubborn character that would be even harder to convince.

"Alright, just promise me that you will protect your life. That is the number one priority," Lei Zhen said tiredly, shaking his head.

Over the past few days, the muscular and courageous-looking Lei Zhen had aged by several years.

Along the way, many other muscular men greeted them. The greetings of the Battle clan were clean but filled with power. Their eyes were filled with admiration when they looked at Lei Zhen.

It was nighttime, so the old, weak, and young were all asleep. Only the strong men were patrolling the area. The clan was in mortal danger, so they did not dare let their guards down.

Long Chen wanted to talk about something else when the forest suddenly opened up into a jagged hill. This hill was not tall, and boulders were strewn about. Long Chen and Lei Zhen quickly reached the top and looked down at the forest, which was shrouded in white mist. The corners of Lei Zhen's eyes grew misty too, and he opened his arms wide. He said with great sorrow in his voice, "The Battle clan has lived on this piece of land for five thousand and three hundred years. In ten days' time, it will be ravaged by the fires of battle, and it will die in my, Lei Zhen's, hands. I, Lei Zhen, will have wronged thousands of generations of ancestors!"

*Crash!* He fell to his knees and hit his forehead hard on a rock. *Crack!* The rock shattered and left a trace of blood on Lei Zhen's forehead.

"Fourth Brother, don't say that. The results have not been determined yet." Long Chen felt suffocated and quickly pulled Lei Zhen up. Lei Zhen gently pushed him away.

"If the Battle clan dies, I won't be able to live either! As the clan leader, I must be at the very front of the front lines! I will trade my blood for the Martial Alliance's blood! The Battle clan will never surrender! We will fight to our deaths! Those stronger than us will step on our bodies, but never our spirits!"

There was another *crash*, and he slammed his forehead on the ground once more. After three kowtows in a row, flesh and blood blurred on his forehead.

Of course, with Lei Zhen's regenerative abilities, it would heal quickly.

Then he stared to the east with great sorrow. It was late at night, so the sky was filled with stars. Lei Zhen put his palms together in a prayer pose and closed his eyes, singing a folk song. It was clearly a folk song of the Battle clan, likely in their ancestral language. Long Chen did not understand what he was singing, but the tone of the song made him think that it was about the willingness to die, the refusal to surrender, the courage in war, and massacre!

Looking at the man before him, Long Chen clenched his fists tight. Although the feelings of brotherhood between them were not as deep as what he and Xiaolang shared, Long Chen felt that he would never regret it if he lost his life fighting for this man.

Of course, that would be if he managed to save the Battle clan.

Refusal to surrender. This idea aligned with Long Chen's spirit, and it was something Long Chen had always chased. During this journey, he had never bowed down to anyone. If he had surrendered in front of a huge obstacle such as Ling Xi's family, would he still be on this path?

After a long time, Lei Zhen stood up and smiled at Long Chen, embarrassed. "Seventh Brother, I apologize for this."

"Fourth Brother, you are a true man. You have my genuine respect," Long Chen said seriously.

Lei Zhen nodded and said, "Let's go. I have finished venting, so it's time to go back. The huge Battle clan needs my supervision."

Long Chen and Lei Zhen prepared to leave. Suddenly, a very creepy laugh came from behind them. Their hair stood on end and they quickly turned around. Xiaolang did not speak, but two balls of flames appeared in his eyes. The black flames were the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

Long Chen looked at the man, who was the source of the laughter.

It was a young man wearing long, golden robes that fell loosely around him, shining luxuriously. His long hair fell behind him, and what made him look strange was that both his long hair and eyes were pure golden, making him look very shiny. Such a strange-looking person was surely no ordinary man.

He looked at the two of them with a smile on his face, like he was looking at prey.

It was Long Chen's first time meeting a person with golden hair and eyes. When he used the Dragon Soul Transformation, his eyes turned blood-red. If this person looked like that without any transformation, it meant he was part of some special bloodline.

Lei Zhen's gaze changed when he saw the young man. He took several steps back, pulled Long Chen behind him, and said, "Zhao Danchen, your injuries have healed?!"

Long Chen froze. So that was why he felt like this young man was strong! He was one of the legendary top two prodigies of the Divine Martial Empire, Zhao Danchen!

Zhao Danchen was about twenty years old and he was one of the three Martial Emperors of the Martial Alliance! He was at the Third Earthly Martial Stage, meaning he was extremely powerful! Zhao Danchen's surname was not originally Zhao. Like Jian Chen, he had climbed the ranks through the Martial Alliance's training process. Due to his outstanding performance, when he

reached the Third Earthly Martial Stage and became a Martial Emperor, Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji took him in as a stepson and gave him the surname Zhao!

Reaching Long Yue's level at such a young age showed that Zhao Danchen was no ordinary person. Huangfu Fengchen, Long Yue, the other Martial Emperors, and the Demon Emperor were all in their thirties when they reached the Third Earthly Martial Stage. If Zhao Danchen continued to grow at this rate, it was possible for him to reach the Fourth or Fifth Earthly Martial Stage!

Long Chen had heard that he was injured when he fought the Battle Emperor. It had only been a few days, but he had already recovered.

When Long Chen met the young man face to face, he sensed exactly how terrifying he was. Those golden eyes were filled with a suffocating power. Their eyes only met for a moment, but he felt like a whole mountain was pressing on him.

Normal people would instinctively dodge Zhao Danchen's gaze, but Long Chen did not. His heart had a strong refusal to admit defeat, which came from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon. With such determination in his heart, how would he ever bow down to this person?

What was Zhao Danchen doing here?

Long Chen and Lei Zhen did not know, but his appearance did not bode well for them.