

War God 61

Chapter 61 - Illusory Seven Killings Sword!

“Bai Shichen.”

Yang Lingqing took a few steps forward and stood in front of everyone. Holding back her tears, she glared coldly at the two Bai youths, clenched her teeth, and asked boldly, “Are you sure you want me to go with you?”

Bai Shichen froze, then he met Bai Shiji’s eyes and grinned. “Lingqing, have you finally come to your senses? This is a good thing. You and Lingyue will be able to live with the Bai family in the future. It’ll be a happy life, don’t you think?”

As if she hadn’t heard his mocking words, Yang Lingqing continued, still holding back tears, “I have two conditions.”

This piqued Bai Shichen’s curiosity. “What conditions? Can I hear them?”

The whole Yang family cried while watching the teenage girl speak. Yang Lingqing said with full resolve, “The first condition is to let them go. All the masters of the Yang family have died in your hands, and these are the old and the vulnerable. They’ll never be a threat to you. The Bai family isn’t afraid of them, right?”

Bai Shichen looked at the group of crying Yang family members. Although his grandfather had commanded him to slaughter them all, he decided that he could agree to this condition when he thought about how Yang Lingqing would follow him willingly.

I can just pretend to agree for now. When she becomes mine, I’ll just send someone to kill them all. Wouldn’t the result be the same? I pity Yang Lingqing. Although she’s beautiful, I, Bai Shichen, am still much smarter than any woman. When I’m done playing with you, I’ll send you to the Jade Palace Brothel. Maybe even to the Blood Saints!

Bai Shiji and Bai Shichen were thinking the same thing. They looked at each other, then they agreed to Yang Lingqing’s condition with grins. “Although my grandfather has commanded us to kill them all, I am willing to disobey him for you, Lingqing. I believe my father will understand!”

Bai Shichen and Bai Shiji were both relaxed. Bai Sheng and Bai Li’s victory against the Yang masters was all but confirmed. There were four powerful fighters on their side, two at the Eighth Draconic Stage and two at the Seventh Draconic Stage. The old, weak, young, and women of the Yang lot were easy to kill any time. They were bored anyway, so this was a fun game to play.

Bai Zhanfeng, who was behind Bai Shiji, frowned and asked Bai Zhanlong next to him, “Eldest Brother, if they continue playing games like this and cause delays, won’t it affect Father’s plans?”

Bai Zhanlong smiled. “Xue Yuanzi is a fantastic master at the Human Core Realm who is more than ten times stronger than the old man from the Yang family. With Father and Second Uncle there as well, the Yang family stands no chance. Shichen and Shiji have just recovered and have some trauma, so just let them play a little. They’ll throw their toys away when they get bored. I’m just afraid they’ve got permanent trauma. To be honest, that little Yang bastard is just a bit too inhuman when it comes to talent ...”

When he thought of the teenager, Bai Zhanlong's brows furrowed and he sighed. "If only the Bai family had a prodigy like that. How nice would that be ..."

Yang Lingqing stood her ground against Bai Zhanlong and Zhanfeng's stares. She glared at Bai Shichen with iciness and hatred. That was when Bai Shichen asked, "Lingqing, what is your second condition?"

Yang Lingqing had now received the sword from Yang Wu. The long sword was hidden in its sheath, only revealing its jade-like hilt. An intense aura radiated from the sword, making Bai Zhanlong and Zhanfeng frown!

They were wondering where the sword had come from, but Yang Lingqing walked up to Bai Shichen with the weapon in hand. She clenched her teeth and finally said, "Bai Shichen, listen carefully. My second condition is that you defeat me!"

All the Bai family members were stunned by Yang Lingqing's words.

Bai Zhanlong and Bai Zhanfeng reacted quickly though. They looked at each other and smiled while Bai Shiji was bending over with laughter. When Bai Shichen heard the request, he smirked and said, "Now that is a request I can definitely fulfill. Lingqing, don't be afraid! I won't hurt you!"

The Bai family agreed happily, but when the Yang family members heard that Yang Lingqing had made such a request, their faces changed instantly. Yang Lingyue knew that Yang Lingqing was no match for them and screamed tearfully, "Lingqing, no!"

But Lingqing had already made her decision. Her eyes were filled with determination, and she turned to look at the Yang family one last time. Memories flashed through her mind. She recalled happier times with her family, the little moments she spent at home, then finally, she thought of Long Chen. She thought about how he had single-handedly turned the tides of battle to save the whole Yang family. *Big Brother, you are my inspiration. I'll take a page from your book today ...*

When she thought of Long Chen, a burst of confidence rushed through Yang Lingqing's heart, as if he was physically there cheering for her. Infinite power filled her thin body.

She turned around with resolve, her hand on the hilt of the sword. When Bai Shichen saw the determination and resilience in her eyes, he suddenly felt like he could see Long Chen in her!

Long Chen was the person of his nightmares. *Bai Shichen, you've really gone mad ...*

He chided himself lightly, then he gently pushed Bai Shichi behind him. He said lovingly to Yang Lingqing, "Alright, Lingqing, do it. I'll play with you. Don't worry, I'll treat you well."

Bai Shichen's smile was as warm as the sun in spring, but in Yang Lingqing's eyes, it was the most disgusting thing in the world. She took a deep breath, then her eyes turned cold. The next moment, she charged towards Bai Shichen with lightning speed!

Bai Shichen gave a small smile. Everything was within his control.

As she neared him, the corner of Yang Lingqing's mouth curved up slightly. When Bai Shichen was ten meters away, she unsheathed the Illusory Seven Killings Sword as quickly as possible!

Bai Shichen was still smiling, not intending to attack her at all. Bai Zhanfeng's and Bai Zhanlong's brows suddenly furrowed because they had a bad feeling the moment before she unsheathed the sword. That was when they saw the sword shining brightly in the light!

From Bai Shichen's perspective, Yang Lingqing had turned into an illusion, as if she momentarily wasn't real. The blurry images from the sword looked just like a pattern of flowers. He couldn't tell what was real or fake. Every flower looked like an ethereal sculpture from beyond this world.

But he didn't think it was a sword technique! He thought it was a performance! "Illusory Seven Killings Sword ... Flower Illusory Blade!"

When Bai Shichen truly felt the fatal blow, Yang Lingqing's strikes had already fully rained down on his body. The beautiful flower patterns had turned into sharp cuts with powerful killing intent, all targeting Bai Shichen!

"Chen'er, watch out!" Bai Zhanfeng and Zhanlong called anxiously from behind. Bai Shichen also sensed that something was off because Yang Lingqing had turned from a flower into a sharp sword!

Yang Lingqing was only at the Sixth Draconic Stage, but when she wielded the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Technique along with the Yellow-tier Illusory Glass Sword, her strength completely exceeded the Sixth Draconic Stage and was closing in on the Eighth. Most importantly, Bai Shichen had not perceived Yang Lingqing as a threat at all, so he only realized it when she was about to hit him!

But it was too late. He was overcome with fear. Yang Lingqing's attack had completely exceeded his expectations!

He had the exact same feeling as the day Long Chen had defeated him. And when he thought of Long Chen, he felt a chill in his abdomen. The gripping fear crawled into his heart like the devil!

He no longer saw Yang Lingqing as herself. She was Long Chen!

Everything happened in an instant. At that moment, Bai Shichen unleashed his half-formed Abyssal Heaven Fingers' First Finger of Devil Transformation to defend himself against Yang Lingqing's Illusory Seven Killings Sword Technique. But would a complete Illusory Seven Killings Sword Technique paired with the Illusory Glass Sword be that simple to defeat?

Under the shocked gazes of the crowd, numerous rays from her sword shattered his finger technique. Yang Lingqing's gaze was icy and determined as countless rays rained onto Bai Shichen's body. He screamed in agony, his cries chilling enough to make their scalps go numb!

Bai Zhanlong's and Bai Zhanfeng's hearts broke when they heard him. They roared in rage and charged to his rescue, but Yang Lingqing had already sheathed her sword and was quickly retreating!

Her eyes were teary, bloodshot, and filled with determination. There was not a hint of regret or fear.

The Yang family was completely silent, staring woodenly at Yang Lingqing. Bai Zhanlong and Bai Zhanfeng had arrived in front of Bai Shichen, who was staring at Lingqing with wide eyes in full disbelief.

His clothes had been cut into pieces, and Bai Zhanlong froze in shock when he touched him.

Bai Shichen's body suddenly separated into pieces and crashed into the ground. Blood stained Bai Zhanlong's clothes and eyes red.

When the young Yang children witnessed the gruesome death of Bai Shichen, they screamed and some of them started to vomit.

Yang Lingyue's mind went blank when she saw the body. She couldn't think about what would happen next and she didn't even wonder how Yang Lingqing had managed to kill Bai Shichen. Only the image of Bai Shichen's body remained branded deep in her mind. She felt her stomach churn!

Yang Wu was also stunned. He looked up at the thin teenage girl standing in front of them and bit his lip. "Lingqing, good one ..."

Although Yang Wu's voice was soft, Yang Lingqing heard him very clearly. She never thought she would kill someone. This was her first time taking a life, and also the most memorable kill of her life!

There was infinite rage and hatred within her. This was the only way she knew to maintain the dignity of the Yang family, the only way to fulfill Yang Qingxuan's instructions before he left.

When he saw how his son was brutally killed, Bai Zhanlong and the rest sank into manic rage. Although Yang Lingqing was staring at three Bai family members who had turned into devils with rage, she did not feel a hint of fear. She gripped the Illusory Glass Sword tightly with resolve in her eyes. *Big Brother, I'm sure you'll be satisfied with my performance today. I will be able to brag to you about it in the afterlife ...*

Yang Lingqing closed her eyes when she thought of him, and a smile crept up her face.

She suddenly thought of the first time Long Chen stood up for her when she was six. *He has protected me since I was small. Is that what a big brother does?*

When Yang Lingqing opened her eyes, Bai Zhanlong and the others had turned into devils and were charging towards her. The auras of the three Eighth Draconic Stage cultivators paralyzed her!

The shadow of death was looming over the entire Yang family.

In the end, Yang Lingqing could no longer hold back her tears.

Because she spotted a blood-red figure sprinting down from the Desolate Mountains in the distance!

Chapter 62 - Chosen One

No one expected Bai Shichen to die in Yang Lingqing's hands. Bai Zhanlong's mind went blank when he saw his healthy son get chopped to pieces. The only thought left in his brain was one word: kill!

He turned around and looked at the thin girl standing in front of the Yang family. Bai Zhanlong was in disbelief that the son that people called the ultimate prodigy had been killed by a young girl from the Yang family!

One major reason for why it happened was him underestimating Yang Lingqing, but the biggest reason was the girl's sudden rise in strength!

Bai Zhanlong instantly descended into madness. Bai Shiji was standing near Bai Shichen. His face was pale at this point, while Bai Zhanfeng's was stony green. Bai Zhanfeng glared at the Yang family with malice. "Not a single Yang member will leave here alive today!"

When Bai Zhanfeng made the declaration through clenched teeth, Bai Zhanlong had already sprung towards Yang Lingqing like a raging dragon!

The power of an Eighth Draconic Stage cultivator crashed into the Yang family like a tsunami, making Yang Lingqing feel like a small, wooden boat struggling in a storm. The only possible outcome was death.

Yang Lingqing had known that this was how it would end, and she accepted her fate. She wasn't afraid of death, but she felt guilty for burdening her family. When she had lost all hope, a red silhouette suddenly caught her eye!

She was overcome with joy, and her entire being relaxed instantly. Seeing this person filled her with infinite calm. "Brother ... Chen."

Yang Lingqing knew that the familiar silhouette was Long Chen. If Bai Zhanlong was moving as quickly as a tornado, then Long Chen was a powerful windstorm twisting past Bai Zhanfeng and Bai Shiji in a flash, charging after Bai Zhanlong!

When he sensed the immense aura behind him, Bai Zhanlong, who was hell-bent on killing Yang Lingqing, finally woke from his rage. The powerful aura alerted him that even if he could kill Yang Lingqing, he would end up dead as well!

Although he didn't know who was behind him, he still cared for his own safety. He hesitated for a moment, but Yang Lingqing used this small opening to retreat backwards. Bai Zhanlong had only taken a few more steps forward when a deathly threat loomed over him!

He turned in fear and his pupils dilated. A flash of red appeared before his eyes, and he could only make out the outline of that person's face. That was when an unstoppable force crashed into him!

The blinding pain of a fatal injury spread across his body. Bai Zhanlong could barely breathe from the agony. Although he had only seen the outline of the red figure's face, he knew who it was.

Long Chen. Long Chen was the only person with a body covered in blood-red scales. Only Long Chen could make him feel so helpless.

When Long Chen completely destroyed his defenses with only one blow, Bai Zhanlong knew that he wasn't the only one who had lost. The whole Bai family had been defeated!

If the Bai family had won the battle, Long Chen would never have become this powerful, nor would he be here!

The next blow came, and Bai Zhanlong was blasted into the ground. Long Chen's fist collided with Bai Zhanlong's chest once again. The bony spine on his fist penetrated his chest, shredding his organs!

Blood sprayed out of Bai Zhanlong's mouth, staining his whole face red. He fought the intense pain, trying to open his eyes, but his vision had turned blood-red and was becoming blurrier by the second. In the end, he could only make out the blinding, red sun above, and beneath the sun was a blood-red figure walking past him. His gaze then focused on the perfect blood-red scales. "You ..."

Bai Zhanlong's world went dark.

After killing Bai Zhanlong, Long Chen arrived in front of Yang Lingqing. He looked at the girl, who was now sobbing ceaselessly, and pulled her lovingly into his arms. Yang Lingqing hugged him tightly and sobbed even harder, her tears soaking into his clothes.

Yang Lingyue, who was behind them, was so emotional that she couldn't breathe when she saw Long Chen and how he had killed Bai Zhanlong in just one blow.

Her impression of Long Chen had been rising steadily since he defeated her on the stage at the Family Meeting. Now, Yang Lingyue saw him as the Yang family's pillar, as well as her own!

Color finally returned to Yang Wu's pale face. He took a deep breath and looked at the blood-red figure standing in the sun. He was completely humbled. "He is the true chosen one. I, Yang Wu, am but a common peasant next to him ..."

The Yang family members stared at Long Chen, their despair dissipating. They never would've imagined that he would save their lives one day. They knew they were completely safe as soon as they saw him. And the Yang family seemed to have won.

Their gazes were filled with emotion.

Long Chen was stroking Yang Lingqing's hair, speaking gently in her ear. "Lingqing, I'm sorry for being late. I'm sorry you had to suffer ..."

Yang Lingqing's tightened chest finally relaxed, and she was filled with surprise and calmness. She wanted to tell him all about how much she had suffered, but nothing seemed to come out. "You don't have to tell me. I know what you want to say. You've been very brave. You're my little sister after all! As for the brats who bullied you, they will meet the same end. They will die ..."

When Bai Zhanfeng and Bai Shiji saw how Bai Zhanlong had been killed in just two blows, their rage was replaced with deep fear.

They had no time to wonder why Long Chen was here despite the death trap their family had set. Nor did they wonder why he was this strong now. Their hearts were completely swallowed by fear of Long Chen's sudden appearance and Bai Zhanlong's gruesome death!

Bai Shiji never would've imagined the worthless teenager of the Yang family would make him feel deep fear like this today. Both him and Bai Zhanfeng ran immediately, as fast as they could!

Bai Zhanfeng's mind slowly cleared while he ran, but he only felt more fear with time. *Why is he here? Why is he this strong? Were they not enough to kill him even with Father's intricate traps? Was the Human Core Realm master no match for him? That's impossible! How could this brat be that scary?*

A wave of panic rolled through him. At this point, he had already sprinted into the Desolate Mountains. He thought he was finally safe, but a red figure appeared with a flash, blocking his path.

Bai Zhanfeng paled instantly!

"You're trapped. Do you really think you can escape me?"

Long Chen's cold voice caught Bai Zhanxiong off guard. Bai Zhanfeng had also just heard him when the figure in front disappeared in a flash and he felt several forces cut through his body. He was instantly reduced to pieces!

“Why?”

Bai Zhanfeng only had time to exclaim one word before his internal organs shattered from Long Chen’s Typhoon Nine Fingers. He lost consciousness very quickly, his eyes wide in disbelief.

When Bai Zhanfeng collapsed, Long Chen shook his head. “There is no reason. We are enemies, so you must die.”

Long Chen disappeared once again, chasing after Bai Shiji, who had fled in another direction. But he couldn’t run fast enough to escape Long Chen’s lightning speed.

Bai Shiji had entered the Desolate Mountains by now too. When he saw that Long Chen had gone after Bai Zhanfeng, he heaved a sigh of relief and said coldly, “Now that the Yang family has let me escape, I shall commit myself to cultivation from today onwards. When I achieve success, that will be the end of the Yang family!”

“Is that so?”

A voice sounded from behind Bai Shiji. His face turned pale and he felt a powerful force gripping him. He was completely helpless in the face of such power and was dragged backwards!

He knew it was Long Chen.

Bai Shiji had never traveled this fast in his life—not even Bai Sheng could run this fast while holding him. He felt the wind rush past, and he couldn’t even see his surroundings clearly!

Long Chen leaned his face so close that he touched Bai Shiji’s head. When he saw the brat’s panicked look, he grinned. “Now that you’ve said that, it’s all the more reason why I shouldn’t let you go.”

When Bai Shiji heard Long Chen, his fear reached its peak and he quickly realized that Long Chen had brought him in front of the entire Yang family. When he saw so many people glaring coldly at him, his previous arrogance vanished instantly and he kneeled pathetically in front of Long Chen, tears streaming down his face. “Please let me live. Even if I have to be your servant, I will serve you well for the rest of my life. I’m begging you, I will never dare do this again ...”

Bai Shiji’s pathetic groveling made Long Chen lose even more respect for him. He recalled Bai Shiji’s arrogant behavior from before, a far cry from the man now begging him for mercy on his knees. Long Chen had a revelation. *All of this is because of my strength. Father would never harm me; every word he said was golden. I must never allow myself to stagnate at this level, or I’ll be the one on my knees begging someone else for mercy one day.*

Disgust was the only emotion the Yang family felt while watching Bai Shiji.

Especially Yang Lingyue. Bai Shiji used to be an elegant gentleman in her eyes who was ten thousand times better than a spoiled brat like Long Chen. She only imagined Long Chen would kneel at Bai Shiji’s feet, but never had she expected to see Bai Shiji kneeling at Long Chen’s feet instead. And in such a pathetic state too.

Yang Lingyue thought of Bai Shiji’s past glory, then she recalled how he had hurt her brother, Yang Wu. Now, all that was left was unbridled rage and hatred. At this point, she still didn’t know if the Yang patriarch and the others were still alive, so she bore the strongest killing intent amongst all the Yang family members.

Long Chen suddenly looked at Yang Lingyue and said, "Sister Lingyue, you do it. Kill him!"

Yang Lingyue froze when he called her name.

"Lingyue, go. Kill Bai Shiji. It's time for you to grow up too," said Yang Wu in a gentle voice.

Yang Lingyue looked at her heavily injured brother in her arms, then at Long Chen and Yang Lingqing. She recalled how impressed she felt when she watched Yang Lingqing single-handedly kill Bai Shichen. She could kill Bai Shiji now?

When Bai Shiji heard this, his face changed. Looking at Long Chen's icy expression, he knew the situation was hopeless. He attempted to attack Yang Lingyue, but Long Chen fully expected it.

The moment he moved, Long Chen punched him hard in the chest, causing him to collapse. He felt as if all his bones had broken, the intense pain leaving him paralyzed.

"Lingqing, lend me the sword."

All the blood drained from Bai Shiji's face and he panicked when he heard Yang Lingyue's cold voice. "Lingyue, don't do this! Don't ... I truly love you! Would I have given you that jade necklace and earrings if I didn't?"

As soon as he finished speaking, she threw the jade necklace and sparkling earrings in his face. He then saw the glass sword form a large arc behind the shiny light from the jewelry. There was a *whoosh*, and Bai Shiji felt an icy object stab into his heart.

He saw Yang Lingyue's beautiful face amidst his fading consciousness, but the whole world faded very quickly.

Yang Lingyue stabbed the Illusory Glass Sword through Bai Shiji's heart, then she sat on the ground with a dazed smile. "Bai Shiji, you used to tell me that I was the only girl for you. But I can see clearly now. I never was ..."

Long Chen patted her head. "Oh, don't be silly. People like him only have dog blood in their hearts. He would never commit to a beautiful girl like you."

Chapter 63 - Blood Saints!

All the important members were seated in the Grand Martial Pavilion of the Yang family.

Everyone had just returned from the outskirts of Baiyang Town. The frightening battle had finally come to a complete end, and all of them felt a weight lifted from their shoulders.

Although they had gone through a harrowing experience, the Yang family had emerged mostly unscathed. They all knew that this was only possible because of one person. That was why as they sat in the hall, many eyes occasionally darted towards a certain teenager sitting quietly in his seat.

The conflict with the Bai family had been settled and the Yang family had emerged victorious. They had decimated the main fighters of the enemy family, and the rest of the members had fled the town. The young, children, and women were no threat to them, so they knew that the Bai family could be considered destroyed at this point.

The other powers in the town were aware of the conflict. When they heard about the outcome, all of them thought of one person: Long Chen.

The Bai family had tried to kill them twice, but Long Chen was the reason why the Yang family had emerged victorious. They could even say that if it wasn't for Long Chen, the whole Yang family would be souls in the afterlife by now.

The Yang family knew this well, so the way they looked at him today was completely different from a month and a half ago.

Long Chen was deeply moved when he saw the gazes filled with reverence and a hint of fear.

The Yang patriarch, who was sitting at the head of the room, had emerged from his deep thinking. His gaze swept across the room.

Then it finally fell on Long Chen, and he said, "The Yang family has met two major crises, but we survived them. In fact, we can even say we were unharmed. All of this is only because of one person."

The Yang patriarch choked a little as he spoke. Everyone understood the gratitude and emotion that filled him. "He was the one who defeated the Bai youth at the Demon Hunting Tournament, captured them, and saved us when we were poisoned. He defeated Bai Sheng and Bai Li today, even defeating a master at the Human Core Realm, and finally saving all of us once more ..."

Everyone's eyes sparkled with tears as he recounted the emotional events, especially Yang Xueqing's. Her heart had turned fragile after such a horrific experience. She felt much more emotional than everyone else as she looked at the calm teenager sitting opposite her.

That was her biological son after all. And she used to look down on him.

But one undisputed fact was that her contempt gave Long Chen huge motivation to become stronger.

The Yang patriarch nodded at Long Chen. "Chen'er, an old man like me doesn't even know how to thank you for what you did. I know we mistreated you and your father in the past, yet you were able to move past it all and risk your life for us. To be honest, I've never been this moved in my life. All I can say is thank you. There's no other way to convey my emotions at the moment. The Yang family is your home, and all we can do is try to make up for our past wrongs from today on."

The Yang patriarch was speaking from his heart. Everyone else agreed too.

Long Chen was extremely flattered and smiled hurriedly. "Don't look at me like that ... I know I'm handsome, but I can't stand it when everyone looks at me with this much admiration ..."

His joke made every woman in the group burst into giggles, while Yang Qingxuan and the rest shook their heads with a smile. "Why are you being so smug?! You wouldn't be here today if I hadn't killed that guy!" mocked Ling Xi in the Ling Xi Sword, who had already woken up by now. However, the look of joy on her face made it obvious that she was happy for Long Chen.

The Yang patriarch smiled and shook his head. "Chen'er, you're being so modest that talking about all these things will only make me look emotional. Alright, then I shall talk about something more practical. Now that the Bai family is no longer in Baiyang Town, the town now belongs to us. Destroying the Bai family has brought us great benefits, namely these three Ascension Fruits. Chen'er, you're the reason these fruits ended up in our hands, so I'll let you decide what you want to do with them!"

The Yang patriarch looked at him sincerely, and Long Chen knew he was speaking the truth. He quickly waved it off and said, “Grandfather, you are the patriarch. You should be the one-”

“Don’t say that, you’re going to make me lose face. If you still see me as your grandfather, you will take these fruits.”

Then he moved to take the fruits out of the Universe Pouch. Long Chen had no choice but to say, “Alright, then I’ll distribute them now. There are three Ascension Fruits. One is enough for me. Another will be for you, Grandfather. You’re the patriarch, and the Yang family needs to be guarded by a cultivator at the Human Core Realm, so you cannot decline this no matter what.

Long Chen’s voice was full of resolve. The Yang patriarch nodded, understanding his intentions.

It was true that he was the only Ninth Draconic Stage cultivator in the Yang family right now. Only he could enter the Human Core Realm within a short time to pull the whole family up.

“As for the last fruit ...”

Long Chen’s gaze fell on Yang Qingxuan and Yang Xueqing. His eyes stopped on his mother. He really wanted to give it to her so that she would be stronger and less vulnerable to threats.

But then he thought about how being stronger also meant being in risky situations more often, so he said, “There are two cultivators at the Eighth Draconic Stage right now, namely Eldest Uncle and my mother. We’ll do it this way: whoever reaches the Ninth Draconic Stage first will get the fruit. What do you guys think?”

The Yang family naturally didn’t have any objections to his decision.

The safety of their family was the most important matter at hand. They didn’t really care who was the one who would become stronger. After two major crises, all the Yang family members were finally united and their sense of unity was stronger than ever.

The Yang patriarch looked at the skies outside the door, now slowly turning bright red. The colors of dusk shone beautifully. “When the sun rises tomorrow morning, the Yang family shall be truly reborn ...” The Yang patriarch envisioned a brand new family emerging within Baiyang Town. This family would not only have a master at the Human Core Realm, but also an extraordinarily talented prodigy.

With the Yang patriarch as the pillar and Long Chen’s immense potential, the Yang family felt secure.

However, while they were all basking in the joy of having a peaceful future, Long Chen’s brows were furrowed. Now that they had distributed the Ascension Fruits, he knocked on the table and said mildly, “Everyone, the person who died in the Desolate Mountains, Xue Yuanzi, was one of the Eight Grand Protectors of Yuanling City’s Blood Saints ...”

Yang Qingxuan’s expression changed with this thought. He probed, “Xue Yuanzi must’ve snuck to Baiyang Town in secret if he wanted the Ascension Fruits. In that case, they wouldn’t know we killed him, right?”

The Yang patriarch’s brows were knitted once again. He shook his head. “If a person as powerful as a Grand Protector dies, they will definitely launch an investigation. Since Xue Yuanzi was close

with the Bai family, they will naturally come to Baiyang Town to investigate. And many people know what happened here ...”

The rest of the family paled once again when they heard him. The relaxed atmosphere grew tense once more.

Yang Qingxuan smiled bitterly and shook his head. “What an eventful fall it has been for the Yang family. Father, do you know anything about the Blood Saints?”

The Yang patriarch answered solemnly, “The Blood Saints might not be well-known in a gigantic place like Yuanling City, but they are notorious in our region. They say that the Blood Saints have Eight Grand Protectors and Four Sect Elders. They’re all at least at the Human Core Realm, and the Four Sect Elders are at the late Human Core Realm. According to rumors, the Great Priest of the Blood Saints is at the terrifying Earthly Core Realm!”

When he finished, the whole family drew sharp breaths. Even Long Chen looked pale. *It was already extremely difficult to deal with the Bai patriarch and Xue Yuanzi. If we face the Blood Saints, a small family like ours will stand zero chance. I may have been able to save the Yang family today, but will I be able to do it again?*

I am not confident against an initial Human Core Realm cultivator, much less a person who has reached the late Human Core Realm. And I dare not even think about the Earthly Core Realm! Is this it for the Yang family? Yang Chen looked up at Yang Lingqing and Yang Xueqing. He had sworn to protect them both.

Looking at them gave him confidence. Or rather, the huge responsibility he had set for himself forced him to pull himself back up. *No, I cannot watch them die right before my eyes. If that happens, I might as well die ...* The weight on his chest grew a few times heavier once more. The moment he thought of the phrase “Earthly Core Realm,” a sense of helplessness rose within him, then his fighting spirit was roused. *No matter what happens next, I will do my best. If they must destroy the Yang family, they will do it over my dead body!*

Long Chen had made his decision. He was now the strongest fighter in the Yang family, so he could not stand down!

Morale was low as they thought about the Blood Saints. Even Yang Qingxuan could only comfort himself by repeatedly telling himself that the Blood Saints might not find out that the Yang family killed Xue Yuanzi.

The Yang patriarch was not so naïve. He knew the notoriety of the Blood Saints. If those vicious folks found out it was the Yang family, then the fate of their family would not be mere destruction.

I must reach the Human Core Realm as soon as possible. If the Blood Saints find out about us, I must send Chen’er and the young ones away even at the cost of my life. With Chen’er’s potential, he’ll be able to make the Yang name proud and avenge us!

The Yang patriarch’s eyes filled with resolve with this train of thought.

That was when the silent Long Chen suddenly spoke. Everyone looked up, wondering what he would say.

Long Chen had recalled the information he had learned from Chen Xiongzhou and Feng Mingyang at the Burning Heavens Mountain Range. “The Blood Saints are far away in Yuanling City, so it

will take some time for them to first find out about us. I don't think the first people they send after us will be too powerful, so if Grandfather reaches the Human Core Realm, we should be able to cope.

“Most importantly, the Lingwu family in Yuanling City frequently recruits youths from other families into their own. Since I have some potential, I should be able to become a member of their external family. I'll then be considered a true member of the Lingwu family, and I'm sure they'll be able to offer us greater protection. Also, going to a large place like that will give me more room to grow. That is why I have decided to go to Yuanling City!”

Chapter 64 - Embarking

“I heard that when one enters the Lingwu family, they help new recruits remove any enemies. Although the Blood Saints are much stronger than us, they are probably too small to fill the gaps between the teeth of a beast like the Lingwu family.”

Every Yang family member listened to his every word.

That was when the Yang patriarch looked up and asked, “Chen'er, are you sure about this?”

Long Chen nodded solemnly. “I no longer have any peers in Baiyang Town. Going to Yuanling City will give me more space to grow and will help us deal with the Blood Saints. That is why I have made my decision.”

The Yang patriarch knew how powerful Long Chen was. In his current terrifying state, he was at least as strong as someone at the Human Core Realm, so he had no peers in this town anymore.

Prodigies could only grow in places that challenged them. If Long Chen continued to stay in a small place like Baiyang Town, he might stagnate at his current level forever.

He looked at the rest and saw unwillingness and emotion in their eyes.

Long Chen's motivation to enter the Lingwu family was mostly to benefit the Yang family. He had worked very hard to save the Yang family, and now he was going to move far away for them. All of them had mixed feelings about receiving such large favors.

However, they all admired his ability to not hold grudges, considering how badly they treated him in the past. “If that is the case, when do you plan to leave, Chen'er?”

“The threat of the Blood Saints looms over us. There's no time to waste. I want to leave tomorrow. Grandfather, you need to use the Ascension Fruit soon and reach the Human Core Realm as quickly as possible. If you do that, at least the Yang family will have some strength to fight back when the Blood Saints send people over to investigate. I will enter the Lingwu family as soon as possible.”

“You're leaving tomorrow?”

Yang Xueqing and Yang Lingqing could not bear to see him leave.

After the Ascension Fruit crisis, Yang Xueqing and Long Chen's relationship had been completely mended. "The Blood Saints are in Yuanling City. I think going to Yuanling City will make it much easier to track their activities. That is why I have decided to leave tomorrow at dawn."

The rest of the family nodded. Since Long Chen had made his decision, they would not object.

Although he was still no match for the Blood Saints, they felt more secure.

Night fell quickly.

Long Chen was packing in his room, but someone soon knocked on his door. He opened the door and saw Yang Xueqing standing there. "May I come in?"

Long Chen smiled. "Of course. Which mother can't enter her own son's room?"

The air between them livened with his grin. Yang Xueqing sat on the wooden chair, about to speak when Long Chen said, "You don't have to apologize. I don't care anymore, nor do I blame you now. I'll be leaving tomorrow, but you don't have to miss me. It's just Yuanling City, right? I can come home any time."

Yang Xueqing looked at the cheeky teenager and rolled her eyes. "What nonsense is that? The Lingwu family controls the whole Yuanling County and has strict rules for their family. Do you think you can leave whenever you want? Chen'er, I came here to remind you to try your best to control yourself when you go to the big city. If you become too high-profile before you get stronger, you're only going to suffer.

"Rumors say that there's a beast in the Lingwu family who has surpassed the Human Core Realm, an existence that can destroy the heavens and earth. You may be number one in Baiyang Town now, but you will be at the very bottom when you meet the Lingwu family. I really don't want you to die, so you must be cautious ..."

Long Chen was very moved by the deep worry in Yang Xueqing's eyes, and he took her words to heart. *Someone beyond the Human Core Realm? Destroyer of heavens and earth? What level of terror is that? I have gotten a little too smug with myself with how quickly I've been improving recently. Looks like I've got to rein myself in. After all, I'll be at the bottom of the food chain once more when I arrive.*

Therefore, Long Chen nodded. "Mhm, I will remember that. Don't worry, the Yang family has me. You all will be fine."

When he said that, Yang Xueqing had the sudden feeling that she was looking at a grown man lifting the heavens on his back.

She was left in a daze, recalling the days Long Chen was in her womb. It felt just like yesterday, but it had all gone by in the blink of an eye. Long Chen was already grown, and nothing else mattered. "Alright, then I have nothing else to say. Rest early tonight, I'm going back now ..."

Yang Xueqing stood up to leave, afraid that she would miss him even more if she stayed any longer.

"Mother!" Long Chen blurted.

Yang Xueqing froze, then she smiled sweetly. "I came here to hear you call me that, actually. You haven't called me that in a long time ..."

“We’ll have a lot more opportunities next time. In fact, you’ll probably grow tired of it.”

Yang Xueqing gazed at him lovingly and smiled. “I can listen to it until I’m old and die, and still I won’t grow tired of it.”

She started to head outside, but then she suddenly turned around and said, “I saw that girl Lingqing sneaking out of the estate just now. I don’t know what she’s up to; she said she was going to prepare a gift for you.”

Yang Lingqing?

That silly girl. Even Long Chen was shocked that she had mastered one of the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Techniques.

He and Lingqing were close. The girl would probably miss him a lot now that he was leaving for Yuanling City. *What gift is she getting me?* he wondered.

After Yang Xueqing left, Long Chen started to organize his belongings in the Universe Pouch.

In terms of finances, he only had one divine jade. This was considered rich in Baiyang Town, but he would be as poor as a beggar in Yuanling City.

He had a few demonic cores too, but they belonged to the Devil Groundhound and the Constellation Demon Wolf, so they couldn’t sell for much money either.

The only thing of value was the Ascension Fruit. “I am still at the Eighth Draconic Stage, so I can’t use the fruit yet. I can’t fight the violent Blood Saints either. But once I reach the Ninth Draconic Stage, I can immediately eat this fruit to ascend to the Human Core Realm. With my Dragon Soul Qi and Dragon Soul Transformation, I’m sure my strength will rise greatly!

“The Blood Saints ...”

The Yang patriarch initially wanted to give Long Chen more divine jades, but he had declined them. There were only a few of them, so they would be much more useful to the Yang family than Long Chen. “Hey, how long can your Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms last you?”

Ling Xi calculated for a moment, then she said worriedly, “We had a total of six in the beginning, but that incident used up three. If everything goes as usual, then they should be able to last about two months ...” Long Chen knew that with Ling Xi’s concern for his safety, she would come to his rescue whenever he faced an attack he couldn’t withstand. However, three mushrooms were only enough for her to help him one more time.

Long Chen, in his heart of hearts, did not want her to use her power. “I’ll try not to get myself into extremely risky situations in these two months. I’ll also need to search for more divine soul-nourishing herbs ...”

Long Chen grew increasingly worried as he thought about it.

Protect the Yang family. Keep Ling Xi alive. These were the two things he had to accomplish soon. *Ling Xi isn’t doing too well right now. It looks like I need to invest more effort into this. I couldn’t bear to see her leave me ...*

The root of the problem is that I, Long Chen, am far too poor ...

Time passed as he mulled over matters and arrived at this conclusion. Long Chen packed more clothes and other belongings, then he opened his door. There was already a group of Yang family members waiting outside this early in the morning.

Looking around, he realized that Yang Lingqing wasn't present, so he asked urgently, "Where has Lingqing gone?"

Yang Yuntian shook his head with a bitter smile. "The girl said she was going to prepare a gift but hasn't come back. If you leave now, I'm afraid she won't be able to see you off."

"We'll see when we get to the gates."

Long Chen didn't know what Yang Lingqing was up to either. He quickly walked out of the Yang residence with the rest of the family, receiving words of care and advice from them all. The sun had just risen, covering the lands in a layer of faint gold until it reached Long Chen's feet.

The group waited for a while, but Yang Lingqing still wasn't back. Just as everyone was growing a bit worried and the Yang patriarch was about to tell Long Chen not to wait, the cry of a horse sounded from the horizon!

Long Chen looked far ahead and saw the girl riding urgently on a two-meter-tall wild horse, soon arriving in front of the group.

The group looked at the tall, black horse. Its rippling muscles bulged all over its body and its legs looked powerful; it seemed to breathe raw power. A long, black mane grew on its neck with an arrogance and refusal to surrender in its red eyes.

It was covered in black scales from head to toe, similar to Long Chen post-transformation. "Isn't this ... a Category Five Yellow-tier Black Scaled Dragon Horse?"

Long Chen didn't expect Yang Lingqing's gift to be a Black Scaled Dragon Horse.

He was very happy with this dignified, majestic demonic beast. The killing intent and bloodlust radiating faintly from its body was exactly to his liking.

He then thought about how Yang Lingqing not only knew him so well, but also how she had spent the night in the Desolate Mountains just to tame this demonic beast for him. Everyone watched the disheveled and dusty girl descend from the horse. They could tell that she had suffered to bring it here.

The Yang family had already prepared a steed for Long Chen, also a good horse, but it was no Black Scaled Dragon Horse.

Yang Lingqing quickly came up to Long Chen. She looked at him excitedly and cried, "Big Brother Chen, this is my gift to you! Do you like it?"

Long Chen was moved as he looked at the silly girl's pretty face that was smeared with some dirt. He laughed and pulled her into his arms, then he pinched her cheeks and exclaimed, "Girl, how nice would it be if you weren't my cousin? I would've taken you to bed already!" Long Chen's face did not even turn the slightest hint of red when he said this in front of his elders, but it embarrassed Yang Lingqing so much that she shoved him away and ran to her father. Her face turned as red as an apple when she saw everyone looking at her.

“Alright, Chen'er, don't bully my daughter, or I'll need to come for your head again,” said Yang Yuntian with a chuckle.

Long Chen looked at the Black Scaled Dragon Horse, then at the Yang family whose eyes were filled with longing, then at the embarrassed Yang Lingqing, then at Yang Xueqing, who was gazing at him gently. Without a word, he mounted the horse.

The Black Scaled Dragon Horse was too afraid to move when it sensed his powerful aura.

Taking a deep breath, Long Chen waved at the Yang family, then he turned the horse around to head towards Yuanling City.

As the sun rose further up into the sky, its bright light swallowed Long Chen whole as he rode off into the sunrise.

Chapter 65 – Ten Satellite Cities

Based on the Black Scaled Dragon Horse's speed, Long Chen would take about ten days to travel from Baiyang Town to Yuanling City.

He packed sufficiently for the trip and spent most of the time on the road, not entering cities and towns along the way.

Eight days later, a gigantic city surrounded by tall, majestic walls appeared before him. Long Chen initially thought that he had arrived at Yuanling City, but when he approached, he realized that it was only one of the ten satellite cities surrounding Yuanling City—Yuanyang City.

As he walked through the streets of Yuanyang City, he admired the vast array of goods sold by the merchants and the various passersby who exuded an air of elegance and sophistication. They were obviously cultivators of great cultivation levels. “Yuanyang City's a hundred times greater than Baiyang Town both in terms of material resources and military might. And this is only one of Yuanling City's small satellite cities.”

Long Chen had nothing but praise for this place.

When Ling Xi saw this embarrassing behavior, she huffed, “Hey, you country bumpkin, you haven't seen the world yet! Once you see the Royal Territory, you'll know what 'big' truly means!”

“What's the Royal Territory?”

“I'm not telling you!”

There was a magnificent hotel in front, one that was a few times better than Baiyang Town's most famous Sunset Hotel. Long Chen looked at the tall, beautiful building and kept gawking as he entered. *Traveling with him is so embarrassing*, thought Ling Xi.

What she didn't think of was that to an outsider, Long Chen looked like he was walking into the hotel alone. Ling Xi was merely a spirit inside an ear stud.

Very soon, a busboy greeted him. The busboy was extremely judgmental, and he only needed one look at Long Chen's clothes to know that he was some small-town aristocratic teenager.

While he was considered an aristocrat, his status meant nothing in Yuanyang City. The young man had not even brought a servant with him, which made him look even poorer. The busboy's bent back straightened and his tone hardened. "Sir, are you here for a meal or to stay?"

Everyone in Baiyang Town always greeted Master Chen with a smile, so this was Long Chen's first encounter with a busboy like this.

However, he deeply understood his current position and was not demanding for top service. Keeping a low profile was the way to go. Therefore, Long Chen was not going to play into his power games and said directly, "Take my horse to the stables. Use top-grade grain! Then bring me a few dishes. It's late out, I will be staying for the night."

When the busboy saw Long Chen's Black Scaled Dragon Horse, he gasped. *This man's cultivation must be decent for a country bumpkin if he can tame a horse like this. I have a stable job in this place and mustn't ruin it, so it'll be best if I serve him well!*

Then he put on a smile of flattery and instructed the stableboy to take Long Chen's Black Scaled Dragon Horse away for feeding. Afterwards, he led Long Chen up to a seat on the first floor by the window.

Long Chen looked out of the window and saw the stable boy tying his horse well and preparing to feed it.

That was a gift from Yang Lingqing.

Every time he looked at the horse, he felt a sense of sweetness in his heart. He also gave a few more reminders to the busboy about how they had to treat the horse well. "Don't worry, Sir. All our stableboys are cultivators with above-average strength. They also have many years of experience with demonic horses. You'll find that your horse will be much more muscular tomorrow!"

The busboy went downstairs and soon, the rice and dishes arrived. Various types of local delicacies were arranged on his table, but Long Chen kept the busboy. "Is there anything else, Sir?"

Long Chen asked mildly as he ate, "Are you familiar with Yuanyang City? Do you know of any soul-nourishing herbs in the area?"

The busboy froze, then he said, "I grew up in Yuanyang City, but I don't know much about soul-nourishing herbs. I'm not the right person to ask, Sir."

Long Chen furrowed his brows.

Within the Ling Xi Sword, Ling Xi felt a gush of warmth when she saw the teenager worried about her again.

"Where do you think I can find herbs like that?"

The busboy thought for a moment. "There aren't any large spiritual herb markets in Yuanyang City, but I know that Yuanling City's Dawn Trading Alliance has everything you can dream of. Combat techniques, spiritual medicines, divine weapons, and all sorts of mysterious artifacts. As long as you have money, you can buy anything. As for soul-nourishing herbs, I guess there should be whatever you want there. Of course ..."

The busboy eyed Long Chen from head to toe and emphasized, "Of course, you first need to have enough money. You won't be able to buy anything at the Dawn Trading Alliance for less than a few dozen divine jades ..."

It was obvious that the man did not think a person from a small town like Long Chen would have much money. "The Dawn Trading Alliance?"

Long Chen was too lazy to deal with a judgmental person like him and sent him away. "I'm going to Yuanling City anyway. I'll aim to pay the Dawn Trading Alliance a visit. But I only have one divine jade now. As for spirit jades, Grandfather gave me some, but it's not much ..."

Ling Xi replied gently, which was rare for her, "Hey, why are you so worried? We've got about two months left, remember? I've lived in this state for a long time, and I have you now."

Long Chen broke into a grin. "Xiao Xi, why are you saying such romantic things? Do you have feelings for me? Be honest. Are you swooning over my handsome looks, looking for a chance to get with me?"

"Ew! I would never like an ugly fart like you! That's disgusting!"

While both of them joked around, a group of people on horses stopped in the main street outside the hotel.

Leading the group was an elegant-looking young man clad in luxurious, brocade robes and tall, black, combat boots.

He looked about twenty, but his expression was icy and his gaze was as sharp as lightning. He had the airs of an aristocrat from head to toe.

The busboy that served Long Chen previously quickly went over to greet them, crouching in reverence as he lathered his greetings with flattery. The young master was rude, but the polite smile on the busboy's face did not waver. "Busboy, take our horses to the stables. Use the best stableboy you have and the best grains too. Also, bring us the best dishes you have for our young master. If you serve us well, you'll be rewarded generously!"

Next to the young master in luxurious clothing was a butler-type character with a sharp chin and fat cheeks like a monkey's. The butler gave everyone instructions, then he led the young master into the hotel. That was when the young master's eyes lit up and he said mildly, "Busboy, bring me to your stables."

The busboy froze. He didn't know what the young master wanted. Although it was sort of against the rules, he didn't have a good reason to decline. On top of that, he could see that the young master was from a powerful background, so he said hurriedly, "Yes, Sir. I will take you to the stables now!"

The group arrived at the hotel's stables very quickly, which was not far from the bottom of Long Chen's window.

The young master immediately took a liking to a tall, handsome, black horse that was covered in scales. It was Long Chen's horse.

His eyes shone when he saw the Black Scaled Dragon Horse and said, "What a lucky day it is! The heavens have been generous to me, Huang Xiang, today! Old Liu, isn't this the very rare Category Five Yellow-tier Black Scaled Dragon Horse?"

The butler, Old Liu, also eyed the beast in admiration and said, "Indeed, it is! This horse is especially handsome with a pure-black color and very neat scales. It's the elite of all Black Scaled Dragon Horses! Congratulations, young master, for getting such a good horse here in Yuanyang City!"

All the other servants started giving praises too.

Huang Xiang was overjoyed. He stepped forward, preparing to tame the horse.

The Black Scaled Dragon Horse was currently upset from being surrounded and watched by this many people. Its gaze swept coldly across the crowd, eyes slowly turning blood-red.

"Shh, be a good horse. Fate has brought us together! If you listen to me, I'll give you the best food!"

Huang Xiang approached the horse in excitement.

The busboy nearby looked extremely conflicted.

He knew that the horse belonged to Long Chen, but Young Master Huang Xiang's background was obviously more powerful than Long Chen's. Huang Xiang was the one who should not be offended here. That was why the busboy quickly came to a decision.

He swayed over to Young Master Huang Xiang and said demurely, "Young master, I can see that you like this horse very much, but this horse belongs to one of our guests. Would you like me to talk him into giving it to you?"

Huang Xiang froze and looked upset. "A horse this good already has an owner? A common peasant will only sully a good horse like this. But my father told me to rein myself in a bit out here, so, Old Liu, give that guy two divine jades."

When the busboy heard about the two divine jades, his eyes sparkled. Now he was sure that this young master was from a powerful family. He was just giving away two divine jades ...

Old Liu obeyed hurriedly, about to follow the busboy off, but Long Chen had already jumped out of the window. He had witnessed the whole commotion from upstairs.

This Huang Xiang guy is only about my age, but he seems more powerful than Grandfather ...

Although he was privately shocked, Long Chen stood tall fearlessly.

He had lived in a small place like Baiyang Town all his life and never explored the world. After meeting Huang Xiang, he finally understood how much he lacked.

When the busboy saw Long Chen, he quickly ran over, trying to send a message with his eyes as he said demurely, "Sir, Young Master Huang over here wants to buy your horse for two divine jades. You must know that the Black Scaled Dragon Horse is only a Category Five demonic beast, and it's not even worth half a divine jade. But our Young Master Huang ..."

The busboy was speaking as if Long Chen had clearly gotten a very good deal.

Young Master Huang was still looking at the Black Scaled Dragon Horse with admiration and praise. He did not even look at Long Chen. Old Liu's eyes darted at Long Chen once, then his face turned stony and he fished out two divine jades from his Universe Pouch. He tossed them at Long Chen.

At the same time, Old Liu said, "Leave quickly after you take the divine jades. Once our young master suddenly recalls how a brat like you got to ride such a nice horse before him, he might break your legs."

He then never looked at Long Chen again.

Ding! Ding! Two pure-white divine jades fell on the ground. Long Chen did not catch them.

The busboy froze, then he muttered to himself in contempt, "Indeed, he's not at all impressive. He can't even catch two divine jades."

When Old Liu heard the divine jades fall, he turned and regarded Long Chen slowly. He saw Long Chen's mocking glare and froze, then he laughed. "People who can't read the room usually get tragic endings ... Do you not understand, brat?"

Chapter 66 Daylight Robbery!

If Long Chen had a choice, he would not have offended Huang Xiang.

But Yang Lingqing had spent all night preparing the gift for him, so he would never let this person buy his horse by force.

Yang Xueqing had told him to keep a low profile and avoid trouble if his cultivation was not up to par.

Long Chen didn't want to argue with Young Master Huang Xiang either, but he was not a person who could be easily bullied.

At this point, the butler was already shooting him a hostile glare. Long Chen gave a small smile and said in a sincere tone, "I'll be honest. This horse is extremely important to me, so I cannot sell it. If the young master really wants one, I don't think it'll be hard to catch another horse."

If he was in Baiyang Town and someone wanted to take something that belonged to him this casually, Long Chen would have rushed forward without hesitation.

But now he was out of town with a heavy responsibility on his shoulders. That was why he was responding in a mature manner.

Unfortunately, being polite would only make people think it was easy to bully him and take even more.

The butler Old Liu thought he could chase Long Chen away easily and not sour his young master's mood, but Long Chen seemed to be unable to read the room.

A killing intent rose in Old Liu, and he gestured to the nearby bodyguards, who started to surround Long Chen. Old Liu then said coldly, "Looking at your clothing, you must be from some inconspicuous background. It's unfortunate that you're so stupid and have so little knowledge. Our young master here is the grandson of Patriarch Huang from Huangyun City, one of Yuanling County's ten great cities. I'll give you one more chance to get out, or not only will you die a gruesome death, but every person related to you will die as well!"

But Long Chen would not be frightened this easily. He eyed Old Liu for a moment, speculating about his strength. *The butler and the bodyguards are approximately at the Seventh Draconic Stage. They're no match for me. However, what he said about the Huang family of Huangyun City should be true. I can't afford to offend a superpower like that. And this Huang Xiang kid should be*

approximately at the Ninth Draconic Stage. But the horse was a gift from Lingqing ... No one is allowed to take it away ...

Long Chen's face darkened, and he glared at the butler. "Like I said, this horse is very important to me. Are you planning to commit a robbery right here in Yuanyang City?"

Many people had noticed the conflict between Long Chen and the group by now and started to crowd around.

The hotel's busboy looked at this dumb donkey that was Long Chen who dared to fight back. He was smart enough to quickly retreat into the crowd. Someone immediately asked him what was going on.

The busboy snickered and pointed at Long Chen. "That brat's an idiot. That young master in luxurious clothing is obviously from a powerful family, and he wants the horse. But the brat declined him! Two divine jades! That's enough to buy a hundred other Category Five demonic beasts! Is he stupid or what?"

A few passersby looked at the annoyed-looking Long Chen and nodded.

The manager of the hotel was a middle-aged man with a long beard. He stroked his beard, looking at Long Chen, and said, "This must be the teenager's first time leaving home. He's arrogant. It's good for him to suffer a little and learn a lesson. But if they hit him too hard, I'm afraid that'll be the end of him."

Another hotel guest nodded. "Based on his attire, he's probably a small-town aristocrat. He doesn't know that he needs to control himself in a big city. If he dies, he can only blame his parents for not telling him how big the world actually is."

Long Chen looked young and seemed to have some talent. It was a pity that he was just too impulsive. When the crowd thought about what would happen next, they all shook their heads.

But Young Master Huang was obviously from a powerful faction, so they dared not intervene.

When Long Chen spoke, Old Liu's temper had already flared.

He was about to attack when Huang Xiang's gaze finally turned from the Black Scaled Dragon Horse to Long Chen, his delighted expression darkening. He walked past the few bodyguards and quickly approached Long Chen.

Old Liu said hurriedly, "Young master, you carry on with the horse. He's a nobody; you don't have to do it yourself. This dumb donkey is worthless, but ruining your mood is a serious matter ..."

Huang Xiang took a moment to look at Long Chen, then he said mildly, "You guys can stand down. This brat must be some small-town prodigy, so it's normal for him to be arrogant. Wasn't I like this years ago too? But he isn't someone you underlings can deal with. I want to join the Lingwu family, so this is perfect for me to get some practice."

"But ... Young master, having you sweat over such a minor figure ... I ..."

"It's fine. Old Liu, stand aside. I won't punish you."

Long Chen was furious as he watched the master and servant chat among themselves as if he wasn't there at all.

The Black Scaled Dragon Horse belonged to him. Not only did they want to rob him in broad daylight, but they also had to put on such airs!

Long Chen had slowly become more powerful since obtaining the Dragon Jade and had not been wronged like this since then.

He snickered coldly.

When Huang Xiang heard his snicker, he turned around to look at Long Chen, and a powerful aura slowly erupted from his body!

Long Chen had thought that Huang Xiang was some spoiled brat, but he hadn't expected him to be a tiger pretending to be a pig!

When Huang Xiang's aura erupted, his panther-like glare fixed on Long Chen and his aura pressed onto him. "How dare a lowly Eighth Draconic Stage scum ruin my mood? You've got guts ..."

Long Chen felt no fear despite the display of power. He even retaliated. "I do have guts. In fact, I'm ten times more gutsy than you."

Everyone present could hear the mocking in his tone.

The crowd was amused by the joke, but they were also afraid of Huang Xiang's temper being redirected at them, so they were in a state of half-laughter.

But when they calmed down, they shook their heads at Long Chen's boldness. "This boy isn't going to live long if he can't control his temper."

Huang Xiang initially wanted to kill Long Chen only because Long Chen was ruining his day. But Long Chen's retaliation and subtle insult made him furious! "You're looking for death, brat!"

He didn't want to kill someone in broad daylight, but Huang Xiang's killing intent grew obvious the moment Long Chen spoke. When the Ninth Draconic Stage cultivator's aura erupted, the crowd stumbled back in fear! "Young Master Huang is only twenty, yet he is so powerful! He really is a prodigy!"

"That's right. He comes from a powerful faction; the brat's no match for him!"

The hotel's busboy watched the way Long Chen struggled against the pressure of Huang Xiang's aura like he had expected this all along.

When he served Long Chen, he never saw anything in the brat anyway. He had worked here for almost ten years now and was an expert at reading people. And he was never wrong.

Long Chen was privately shocked while looking at Huang Xiang. He had already killed two Ninth Draconic Stage cultivators and both kills were easy. However, although Huang Xiang was also at the Ninth Draconic Stage, he was stronger than the other two!

"This bastard's family is rich. The Bai and Yang families are basically beggars in comparison. A family like his must own countless techniques, so you must be careful when you guys fight. Even Bai Sheng and Bai Li would've struggled to defend themselves against him!"

Ling Xi's solemn words made Long Chen grow more cautious.

Everyone had already backed away by now, their eyes fixed at the center of the conflict. Old Liu and the few bodyguards were excited to see their young master display his strength!

“A small-town beggar like you wouldn’t know how deep wealth runs in a large clan!”

After Huang Xiang spoke, he charged at Long Chen in a flash.

Long Chen squinted because he felt like he could barely pinpoint Huang Xiang!

“This is a Body Combat Technique! Baiyang Town doesn’t have this, I think. Fortunately, the technique he’s using is only average. It’s only an intermediate Yellow-tier technique!”

Long Chen grew a little nervous when he heard Ling Xi’s explanation.

He had initially thought that defeating Huang Xiang would be as easy as killing Bai Sheng and Bai Li. It looked like he was very wrong! *After gaining the Dragon Soul Transformation and Qi ten times stronger than usual, I have become arrogant and assumed I could defeat anyone even if they’re one or two levels above me. It looks like I’ve been looking at the heavens from the bottom of a well. There are countless superpowers much more powerful and richer than the Bai family. If I can fight someone above my level, they can likely do it even better!*

With this train of thought, Long Chen understood that the reason he could defeat the Ninth Draconic Stage Bai Li when he was only at the seventh wasn’t because he was extraordinary, but because Bai Li was relatively weak.

Only Huang Xiang can be counted as having truly reached the Ninth Draconic Stage, one level higher than Long Chen!

And not only did Huang Xiang know a Body Combat Technique, he had also mastered an advanced Yellow-tier Body Tempering Technique. Long Chen had no advantage at all in this fight!

Long Chen’s heart fell to rock bottom.

But this did not mean he was afraid. It only meant that his opponents had leveled up from being his prey to people who he needed to fight with all his strength.

As long as it wasn’t someone at a much higher cultivation, Long Chen would be able to cope!

Huang Xiang charged using his Body Combat Technique, his footsteps light and unpredictable, making it difficult for Long Chen to pinpoint his location. The only solution Long Chen could think of was to retreat at lightning speed. While stepping backwards, he decided to use his Dragon Soul Transformation despite previously thinking it wouldn’t be needed!

When his blood-red scales emerged and Long Chen’s Qi skyrocketed to several times its original level, the crowd was stunned. The hotel’s busboy looked left and right and said awkwardly, “It’s just a Beast Soul Transformation technique; it’s not worthy of surprise. Haha ...”

Old Liu was shocked but quickly sighed in relief. “Even Ninth Draconic Stage Beast Warriors have fallen before Young Master Huang. This guy is only at the Eighth Draconic Stage ... It’ll be fine ...”

Chapter 67 - Black-Tier Martial Technique

Huang Xiang turned serious when he saw Long Chen's aura increasing in intensity and becoming dangerous.

He stopped and smiled at Long Chen. "I thought I'd be able to send you flying with ease, but I think you've just earned the right to become a test subject of my new martial technique."

The people in the hotel didn't know what kind of Black-tier martial technique it was, but they were sure Huang Xiang had a good grasp on Long Chen's strength. That meant it was a trivial matter for Huang Xiang to get rid of Long Chen, even going so far as to experiment with a new technique.

The butler and his guards were delighted. "Young master, are you using the new technique? That's incredible! You haven't been able to test it on a living target yet, so this is a good chance. At the very least, you will have a higher chance of joining the Lingwu family."

The guards nodded too.

Even though the butler had spoken in a hushed tone, Long Chen heard it loud and clear.

So he's entering the Lingwu family too? Now is a good time to get rid of him! Who knows if I will have the opportunity later ...

But Long Chen was wary of what Huang Xiang had said just now.

He said he had learned a new martial technique. There's no reason for him to announce it if it's an advanced Yellow-tier martial technique, unless ...

There was no stopping now.

Huang Xiang chuckled when he saw Long Chen's solemn expression. "You guessed right. This is a Black-tier martial technique. You are but a lowly beggar from the boonies, so you must've never seen a Black-tier technique before."

His words were like hammers smacking Long Chen's head. He finally realized how dangerous the situation was.

The children from influential families probably have access to innumerable martial techniques in their repositories! My strongest technique is the Dragon Seal. I don't have a Black-tier martial technique!

Long Chen's advantage was his physical resilience in his dragon form, but it was worthless in front of an advanced Yellow-tier Body Tempering method.

His Qi might've been ten times stronger than the regular Qi, but Huang Xiang had roughly ten times more Qi than him, making them almost equal. What Long Chen lacked was a Black-tier martial technique!

Long Chen frowned.

He finally understood how weak he was, but Huang Xiang naturally would not let him go just like that. The young master opposite him emanated a suffocating presence.

Huang Xiang circulated his Qi madly and then a faint wheel of light appeared in his hands, turning and spinning faster the longer he prepared it. Rays of light shot towards Long Chen.

Long Chen almost lost his footing!

But he did not give up. Even though his opponent had the advantage, a battle could not be decided based on techniques alone!

Long Chen did not take a step back even against the menacing wheel of light. He tensed up and pounced towards Huang Xiang in a blur of red!

His speed was comparable to Huang Xiang's speed, causing the latter to be surprised.

Shit, he's as fast as me! His Qi must be almost equal to mine. Beast Warriors are indeed unique. If it wasn't for this Black-tier martial technique, he might've been on equal ground with me!

He changed his perspective on Long Chen. Even though the latter was wearing normal clothes and came from a humble background, it was irrational to think that a normal family would be able to produce a Beast Warrior.

I might be in trouble if I kill someone from an influential family, but I will not stop now! Since you've angered me, I will teach you a lesson. This is your fault!

Huang Xiang did not hold back, and the wheel of light soon completed in his hands. He approached Long Chen, the wheel of light overflowing with power, causing the bystanders to step back!

The busboy was shocked to see what was happening. *Young Master Huang is crazy! If this attack landed on the hotel, the entire building would be destroyed! That young man is dead for sure!*

He turned around and was even more surprised to see a blood-red glow on Long Chen's body.

Long Chen quickly formed his seal while images of blood-red dragons quickly formed up his arms and towards his palm. Soon, nine dragons were formed, and they flew towards Huang Xiang!

He had used all of his strength in this single attack!

"Wheel of Glory!"

The wheel of light flew towards Long Chen as soon as he released his attack!

"Primordial Dragon Seal!"

The two massive energies collided and exploded, causing dust to fly everywhere. The horses in the stables cried out in fear. Even the butler and the personal guards of the Huang family paled from the shockwave and retreated a distance away.

The guests within the hotel were slightly closer and were blown away by the shockwave. The busboy's clothes were ripped apart, exposing his hairy body. But he did not notice it and continued staring at the fight.

"What the fuck? What happened? Did that young man use an equally strong technique?"

He had thought the young man was dead as the Wheel of Glory was an attack capable of destroying the hotel in one blow, but to think Long Chen's attack was on par with Huang Xiang's attack!

This was a massive plot twist.

Even if he endured it, he should be dead soon. I refuse to accept that a bumpkin like him can come out unscathed!

He stared at the fight and saw that both fighters had been blown back by the attack. Long Chen and Huang Xiang took several steps back, leaving footprints on the stone path!

Long Chen had been sent back ten meters. He had to circulate his Qi feverishly to prevent his blood from boiling. Even then, his arm was numb from the impact.

But what surprised everyone was that Huang Xiang had been moved as well. He had retreated five meters and had to suppress his Qi from the impact. He was shocked to see Long Chen coming out unscathed!

The Wheel of Glory, a Black-tier martial technique, can't even kill him? How can it be? Or is it because I can't use its full strength?

Huang Xiang was in disbelief.

My father told me I had grasped eighty percent of the technique. The remaining twenty percent can only be learned when I arrive at the Human Core Realm. But even so, how could it not kill the brat? Maybe he is from a family with an equal standing to mine?

Huang Xiang felt conflicted when he saw Long Chen recovering.

Father told me to not cause any issues unnecessarily. Since even the Wheel of Glory can't kill him, I have no choice but to use that technique. But using it will affect my chances of entering the Lingwu family ... Fine, I will let him go today. Though I'm going to kill him if I ever see him again! I would've killed him today if it wasn't for the fact that using the other technique wouldn't harm a large amount of my Qi ...

The busboy was shocked. He had thought that Long Chen would've been heavily injured if not dead after that attack, but to think he was still standing there unharmed. The busboy's jaw was wide with shock, to the point that someone could stuff their fist in there.

His clothes were in tatters and his hairy body was out in plain view, but he didn't notice.

To think I have been so blind. This young man most likely hails from a powerful family!

He was not the only one surprised by the outcome. The guests and bystanders were equally surprised to see Long Chen taking the Black-tier martial technique and coming out of it unscathed.

The butler was in denial. He rubbed his eyes and confirmed that Long Chen was indeed unharmed. Denial soon turned to shock.

“Impossible! Our young master is a Ninth Draconic Stage cultivator. Even the master said that the young master would be unmatched in a fight against cultivators at the Draconic Realm! How could he fail to kill an Eighth Draconic Stage cultivator?”

Long Chen's performance made everyone rethink their evaluation of him.

Not only had he taken Huang Xiang's attack from the front, he was even unharmed. All of them instantly placed him in the same position as Huang Xiang and no longer dared to ridicule him.

Huang Xiang stared at Long Chen spitefully. There was no reason to fight any longer since he couldn't kill Long Chen. Naturally, he was no longer interested in the Black Scaled Dragon Horse.

Huang Xiang only wanted the horse on a whim.

He took one more glance at Long Chen before shrugging his shoulders and entering the hotel.

The butler and his guards naturally followed. All of them looked at Long Chen as if he was a dead man.

“The young master must be fuming since he’s not talking, but why isn't he doing anything?”

“I don’t know, but the young man is dead for sure!”

Long Chen had no idea what Huang Xiang was trying to do after seeing him entering the hotel without a single word.

“He probably felt too embarrassed to stay here any longer after you blocked his strongest attack,” Ling Xi said nonchalantly.

Long Chen, however, had a feeling that this was not the end of it.

“He’s probably afraid of harming his own Qi by fighting me here, which would hurt his chances of joining the Lingwu family later on. To think he would swallow his pride for that. But I don’t think I can stand the humiliation he gave me.”

“We don’t have a choice. You are not at all inferior to him except in terms of martial techniques. If you manage to obtain a Black-tier martial technique, you might be able to beat him quite easily.”

“A Black-tier martial technique ...”

Long Chen squinted in contemplation.

Chapter 68 - Burning Devil Sun Fist

The skies darkened and soon it was night. Everything ended without a fuss because Huang Xiang had left early.

Long Chen inspected a steel token inside one of the hotel’s rooms.

“It’s been days since I’ve obtained it, but I didn’t have the time to check it. Xiao Xi, what do you think we should do with it?”

Long Chen was slightly disgruntled from the fight today. Even though their strength was almost equal, Huang Xiang had just barely come out on top.

In the past, he had always been the one who surprised and dominated others, but to think the situation had been reversed this time. Huang Xiang was also the one who had insulted him first!

While he did not say it aloud, he felt like he had been wronged.

Ling Xi was also interested in the steel token, but she also hadn’t had the time to inspect it. She popped out of the Ling Xi Sword and circled the steel token with a minute body before sitting on the table. She then propped her chin up and she frowned.

“What’s wrong?”

“This is a key to an inheritance. Normally, you can only use it once you find the tomb or the site where the inheritance is located, but there seems to be a faint presence of a seal on it. I’m not sure ...”

Ling Xi racked her brain trying to figure it out while Long Chen kept quiet. After a few moments, she leaped up in joy. “I know! This must be an invisible seal!”

“An invisible seal?”

“It’s a type of seal designed to be as discreet as possible. For it to be as invisible and discreet as possible, as little Qi as possible is used to construct it. As such, there’s almost always some kind of limitation to the seal. Thankfully, I’m an expert in such seals as well!”

Ling Xi rolled her eyes at Long Chen expectantly.

Long Chen understood and pleaded with her. “Sister Xi Xi! Please ...”

“You want me to unlock the seal? Give me some herbs that nourish my Divine Soul, then.”

Long Chen agreed. “Alright, alright. Once we get to Yuanling City, I will buy whatever the Dawn Trading Alliance has in their inventory!”

Ling Xi scoffed happily and concentrated on the seal.

She became very serious, a stark contrast with her usual, mischievous look. Long Chen didn’t dare bother her and cultivated silently.

Fifteen minutes later, a small light array appeared on the steel token.

Long Chen realized that it was almost done.

“Because it’s an invisible seal, they only used a minute amount of Qi. Hehe, this makes it super easy to unlock for someone as great as me!”

Ling Xi boasted even though she was still unlocking the seal.

She wanted to show how useful she was after what he had said to her during the wedding dinner of the Bai family and Yang family, as well as when they were fighting for the Ascension Fruits.

“If you say something stupid like that one more time, I will not help you!”

“Alright, I’m sorry. You are as great as the ...”

Ling Xi finished soon after. The moment she did, she immediately ran back into the Ling Xi Sword!

She had done the very same thing when she unlocked the seal on the Dragon Seal.

“Nobody knows what will happen when a seal is opened. If it exploded, it could’ve damaged my soul, so I had to retreat to safety.”

Long Chen focused on the steel token. Fire slowly spread out from it, burning a massive hole in the table. The fire continued to spread.

This caused him to panic. If the steel token exploded like it did back at the Burning Heaven Mountain Range, Yuanyang City would be done for!

Thankfully, the fire stopped when it was half a meter in diameter. The steel token was engulfed within an orb of fire and slowly floated upwards.

Long Chen was curious about what was happening when a blurry face appeared within the fire. A mysterious pressure focused on Long Chen, rendering him immobile.

The fiery face took one look at him and disappeared, but his words lingered within Long Chen's ears.

"To think you even found out about the invisible seal. Not bad ... I hope you won't sully my inheritance ..."

The ancient voice sent a shiver down Long Chen's spine. Thankfully, it soon disappeared, leaving nothing but questions in his heart.

"Why did a face suddenly appear in the fire?"

"Maybe it's the one who left the inheritance. He's probably dead now, but he should have been very powerful when he was still alive, considering how he managed to leave a mark of his soul on a steel token like this."

As soon as she said that, something happened to the steel token. After the face disappeared, the fire slowly retreated into the token. The raging fire slowly became threads of fire and branded themselves onto the steel token, leaving lines of sentences on its surface. Long Chen was surprised to see how small the words were.

Each character was as small as an ant, and there were thousands of words engraved neatly on such a tiny medium. He was also surprised by how well he could read it.

"This ... This is a martial technique!"

Ling Xi was surprised to see what the characters were! To think Long Chen's biggest flaw could be remedied so soon.

The words on the steel token shimmered continuously while Long Chen memorized each single sentence.

"Intermediate Black-tier martial technique, Burning Devil Sun Fist."

Long Chen was equally surprised and happy!

The fire soon dissipated, and the steel token reverted to its normal form. Long Chen threw it back into his Universe Pouch and let out a laugh.

"Burning Devil Sun Fist. The timing couldn't have been more perfect ... Everything in this universe is separated into Yin and Yang, with Yang representing Fire and Yin representing water. The burning devil sun incinerates the heavens and engulfs the earth ... This technique is much stronger than the Dragon Seal. It's stronger than the

Wheel of Glory from Huang Xiang as well. If my guess is correct, the Wheel of Glory is a Black-tier martial technique, making it weaker than the Burning Devil Sun Fist.”

Long Chen slowly digested the meaning of the technique and asked, “Xiao Xi, who do you think the person who left the inheritance was? It seems the Burning Devil Sun Fist was his weakest technique, but this is already very strong in my opinion.”

Ling Xi pouted. “I have no idea. While this technique is indeed strong, you should be able to get something even better when you enter his tomb.”

“Is that so?”

Long Chen recalled how Huang Xiang had to resort to using the Black-tier martial technique just to win against him. He chuckled.

Let’s see if you still dare to rob my horse after I’ve learned this technique!

Long Chen was painfully clear of his current strength. He was still at the Eighth Draconic Stage, but once he entered the Ninth Draconic Stage, he could instantly enter the Divine Dan Realm with the Ascension Fruit. At that point, his strength would increase beyond a hundred-fold!

My strength will grow greatly once I learn the Burning Devil Sun Fist ...

Thinking about his objective of going to Yuanling City and how the Yang family was constantly living under the threat of the Blood Saints, he steeled his heart. The Blood Saints was an organization with an Earthly Core Realm cultivator. The entire Yang family could be wiped out if they were to find out what had happened!

Yang Xueqing, Yang Lingqing, and everyone else were people Long Chen would lay his life down to protect!

I am still weak! From today onwards, my mission is to become stronger! The Blood Saints are the type of people who would never forgive the Yang family when they found out the truth ...

Long Chen felt like a mountain was placed on his heart when he thought about the Blood Saints. The pressure was so intense that he almost couldn’t breathe.

Every single part of his body was responding to his will to become stronger. And this will planted its seed deep into his heart.

My most important objective right now is to participate in the Lingwu family’s qualifiers and pass it! I might only be an Eighth Draconic Stage cultivator, but as long as I show that I’m stronger than someone at the Ninth Draconic Stage, I should be able to enter the Lingwu family with ease. Huang Xiang is also trying his luck to enter the Lingwu family, so we should meet again.

Long Chen saw that it was still quite some time before daybreak, so he closed his eyes and researched the Burning Devil Sun Fist technique.

The Dragon Jade Pendant in his sea of consciousness flowed, and Long Chen felt his comprehension skills skyrocketing. He could easily comprehend the difficult sentences of the martial technique.

No martial technique will be too hard for me with the help of the Dragon Jade Pendant.

The night soon passed and day came, but he did not stop. Long Chen researched the technique without rest until noon.

“So this is what the Blazing Flame looks like ...”

As much as he wanted to continue, Long Chen had to stop because it was time to go.

“It takes two days to reach Yuanling City, so you need to go now. Don't forget the herbs you promised me! Hmph!”

Long Chen smiled at Ling Xi's cute, pouting face. “Alright, alright. Long Chen, at your service!”

They went downstairs, and Ling Xi noticed that everyone was staring at them strangely. “Hm? Why are they staring at us?”

Long Chen only noticed it after she told him. Everyone was avoiding his gaze, especially the busboy, who tried to run away after seeing him.

Long Chen held him up and was about to ask him when the busboy cried, “Sir ... Sir, it's not my fault! Your horse was killed by Young Master Huang. It's not my fault!”

“What?!”

Long Chen was pissed!

Chapter 69 Turquoise Family!

Long Chen rushed to the stables to check, and lo and behold, the Black Scaled Dragon Horse was lying on the ground with blood flowing out of his mouth. It looked at Long Chen weakly.

He could tell that it had sustained a severe internal injury and was on the brink of death.

Long Chen's eyes slowly reddened when he saw his beloved horse suffering in pain. “Huang Xiang ...”

He clenched his fist tight, veins bulging from his arm. The people who had rushed out of the hotel with him shivered in fear when they saw him like this.

When Long Chen saw the Black Scaled Dragon Horse struggling at the end of its life, the memory of Yang Lingqing giving it to him surfaced in his mind.

The girl had risked her life in the Desolate Mountains for a full night just to get him this horse, returning in a disheveled state at sunrise. Long Chen had taken great care of it these few days, afraid it would get hurt, but now ...

An intense killing intent rose within him when he thought of Huang Xiang's cold smirk. *This is the first gift Lingqing has ever given me. Other than the dragon jade Father gave me, this is the most important gift I've ever received. But ...*

He was filled with guilt when he thought of the silly girl, Lingqing.

Lingqing, I'm sorry I wasn't able to care for the gift you gave me. But I will take my revenge ...

He looked up in the direction of Yuanling City, his gaze slowly sharpening into a dagger-like glare. *Huang Xiang, I didn't want to kill you at first, but you were the one looking for death! So don't you blame me!*

Long Chen approached the Black Scaled Dragon Horse. It was in great pain. Long Chen didn't want it to die, but he gently slammed his palm and ended its life instantly so it wouldn't suffer anymore.

Looking at the horse he had bonded with over the past few days, he shook his head and sighed. He turned around and grabbed the hotel busboy, instructing sternly, "I will give you three hundred spirit jades. You will take my horse out of the city and bury it well. I will return to Yuanyang City again. If I find that my horse wasn't buried well, I will come for your head!"

When the busboy saw Long Chen's fierce glare, his legs shook in fear and he replied hurriedly, "I ... I will definitely give it a good resting place!"

Three hundred spirit jades were enough to bury the Black Scaled Dragon Horse ten times over.

After giving his instructions, Long Chen did not stay in Yuanyang City. He left to chase after Huang Xiang's entourage, who was coincidentally also heading to Yuanling City!

"Hey, are you planning to kill them on the way there?"

Long Chen sneered. "Don't worry, I won't be brash. I won't attack if I'm not confident I can kill him. I don't know where the Lingwu family is, so with Huang Xiang here, it'll save me a lot of time from making mistakes!"

He hadn't lost his ability to reason even when his hatred was at an all time high. Ling Xi sighed in relief and scolded, "That guy's a bastard! Must he destroy something he can't get? If my powers return, I will chop him up into eight pieces for our beloved Blackie! His name shouldn't be Huang Xiang, he should be called Shithead!"

Ling Xi had taken a liking to the Black Scaled Dragon Horse and was furious when she saw the horse's pitiful death. Furious enough to cuss him out.

Long Chen had left the hotel close to noon and didn't know what time Huang Xiang had left. However, Huang Xiang was traveling on horseback, meaning Long Chen should be a few times faster if he sprinted towards Yuanling City with all his strength.

Time passed slowly. He was one and a half days into the two-day journey when he spotted Huang Xiang's entourage from afar.

But what he also saw was the gigantic, magnificent Yuanling City of the legends!

The sight left him completely stunned.

He looked up and rubbed his eyes to confirm that he was looking at an infinite, edgeless city and not a mountain range.

Yuanling City was veiled in mist, so he could only faintly see a few corners of it. But that was enough for him to leave him in awe of its gargantuan size!

Long Chen once heard Chen Xiongzhou say that the distance between the east and west side of Yuanling City was about five hundred kilometers. Now, he was seeing its size with his own eyes! *It's no wonder it can fit a population of a hundred million. I see now that Yuanling City is truly as huge as they say!*

Comparing Yuanyang City and Yuanling City was like comparing a tiny chick to a horse or a bull. Not worth a mention at all.

At this point, Huang Xiang's entourage was already heading towards this city concealed within the mist. Long Chen dared not slow down and quickly hurried over.

There were many people entering and leaving the city. A dense crowd filled Long Chen's entire field of vision, most of them cultivators. There were even masters whose strength far exceeded Long Chen's everywhere, the kind whose auras suffocated him!

Long Chen felt like a goat entering a tiger's den. *Yuanling City has such a terrifying presence! I was number one in Baiyang Town, but I'm at the bottom of the bottom in Yuanling City!*

Looks like Mother's reminder for me to keep a low profile makes sense!

Long Chen was not discouraged by seeing so many masters. Firstly, he felt like he would reach their level one day too. Second, these masters were quite a bit older than him. When Long Chen saw an old man walk past, the fear he felt was stronger than when he first saw Mo Xiaolang. "When matching your age to your current strength, you're considered above average in Yuanling City. On the other hand, when matching Mo Xiaolang's capabilities to his age, he should be the best of the best. There's a big gap between you and him."

Long Chen had grown up in a small town and had only been cultivating for a very short time. Being a level above average at this point in his journey was already commendable.

He also knew that impatience would not help matters, so he wasn't impatient. "The objective of my trip to Yuanling City is mainly to solve the problem with the Blood Saints. If there's something I can do to allow the Yang family to lead a safe and peaceful life, then I will try my best to accomplish it here in Yuanling City! This shall be my playground!"

He followed Huang Xiang into the city, admiring the various types of people and buildings along the way. Although this was only the outer ring of the city, the buildings were already tall and magnificent at a scale that far exceeded Yuanyang City. *Almost all the elites of Yuanling County are concentrated in Yuanling City, so it's not odd that the general cultivation level here is so high.*

There were a hundred million people in this city, but he didn't feel like it was very crowded. Just from this alone, he could tell how big the place was.

This was practically a small kingdom to Long Chen.

The fact that the Lingwu family could control such a large piece of land so securely meant that they were very powerful! *Entering the Lingwu family will be very beneficial to me.*

Long Chen familiarized himself with Yuanling City while trailing far behind Huang Xiang.

At this moment, Huang Xiang was sitting in Hotel Hongxing. It was far larger than the hotel in Yuanyang City, but it was only considered a low-tier hotel in Yuanling City.

Huang Xiang was enjoying delicious Yuanling City cuisine when he turned to ask Old Liu, who was standing in a reverent posture, "Old Liu, what do you think the brat will do now?"

The butler immediately replied, "What else can he do? One look and I can tell the brat doesn't have much money. He'll definitely cry his eyes out for a while after suddenly losing a horse like that. Haha, whose fault is it that he's so stupid? Our young master was already kind enough to give him two divine jades, but he was stupid and ungrateful. It was appropriate for you to teach him a lesson!"

Huang Xiang was delighted with the answer, nodding away. "You all may return to Huangyun City after I enter the Lingwu family. You have served me well throughout this journey. When you return, Father will reward you all well."

"Yes, yes!" Old Liu lost his calm when he thought about the reward and said emotionally, "Once you enter the Lingwu family and achieve great results, we all will be able to rest easy. Right, I heard that the eldest young master has already attained a high position in the Lingwu family and his cultivation has progressed very quickly. He's already reached the mid Human Core Realm, right?"

Huang Xiang nodded. "Elder Brother's talent is almost equal to mine. Once I reach his age, I will also be able to reach the mid Human Core Realm, or maybe even surpass him and reach the Complete Human Core Realm!"

"We're all extremely in awe of your talent, young master!"

Long Chen smirked as he watched Huang Xiang basking in his subordinate's flattery. *You can laugh now, but just wait until the Lingwu family's qualifiers begin. I'll make you lose terribly!*

Huang Xiang then said, "Elder Brother is in the Turquoise family, one of the Lingwu family's external families. Coincidentally, the Turquoise Sun Hall of the Turquoise family is now recruiting new members, which is why Father sent me here. Since Elder Brother is in the Turquoise Sun Hall, my entry into the Lingwu family is basically guaranteed!"

"There's usually about fifty people participating in the Turquoise Sun Hall's qualifying event, with a one in ten chance of entering. It's going to be a piece of cake for you, Young Master!"

One in ten?

Long Chen's brows furrowed slightly, but then he quickly relaxed. *If Huang Xiang isn't worried, then I've got even less to worry about! But he has an elder brother in the Turquoise Sun Hall who's at the Incomplete Human Core Realm. If I don't enter the Human Core Realm myself, I won't be able to kill Huang Xiang and avenge my Black Scaled Dragon Horse!*

A gentleman had to bide his time when taking revenge. Long Chen understood this concept well.

Huang Xiang soon finished his meal and said, "Yuanling City has two large inner cities called Lingwu City and Yuandi City. We'll head to Lingwu City now. It's almost time for the qualifying round, so we need to hurry. I don't want Elder Brother to scold me! I haven't met him in years, and I hear that his temper has gotten much worse!"

The group quickly left for the legendary Lingwu City.

Long Chen hurriedly followed them. "It doesn't seem like the qualifying round will take place in Lingwu City. Only when we pass the qualifying round and formally become true Lingwu family members can we enter Lingwu City. What a proud moment that would be! I, Huang Xiang, have finally gotten my chance to shine! Here's to the Turquoise family!"

The Turquoise family? I heard that the Lingwu family has four inner families and nine outer families. The Turquoise family must be one of the outer families!

Chapter 70 Dawn Trading Alliance

“That’s the Turquoise Sun Hall’s gathering point ahead! We’re finally here!”

Huang Xiang smiled cheerfully when he saw the large, green building ahead. Very soon, the people guarding the place led him inside, while his servants left in high spirits after bidding him farewell.

Long Chen looked at the tall structure but did not enter immediately. Huang Xiang had just arrived, and he didn’t want to meet him immediately. *I’ll wait till the qualifiers start to surprise you! You killed my horse; how could I possibly swallow the humiliation?!*

Long Chen stood and waited outside the entrance for a while and noticed a few people entering. All of them were at the Ninth Draconic Stage and very young. The youngest was about the same age as Long Chen.

It looked like all these people were as talented as he was, yet they intended to enter the Lingwu family as members of an outer family. The Lingwu family had to be very powerful just based on this alone!

Long Chen looked at the building, then at all sorts of people entering and felt a bit stressed. “I can’t believe I feel like an ant here standing in front of the Lingwu family ...”

But Long Chen did not lose his fighting spirit. It was the opposite—the stronger his environment, the more it triggered his fighting spirit.

Long Chen initially thought only people at the Ninth Draconic Stage could enter, but he suddenly noticed a tall, muscular man in front who was at the Eighth Draconic Stage. All this man had to do was display his Beast Soul Transformation technique and he was allowed in! *Looks like the minimum for Beast Warriors is only the Eighth Draconic Stage! Some good luck at last!*

After waiting for a while, Long Chen finally entered. The old man guarding the door saw him from afar and squinted when he saw how young Long Chen was. “State your basic details according to this list.”

The white-haired old man pointed at a wooden board with a list of basic information categories.

Long Chen glanced at it, then said, “My name is Long Chen. I’m sixteen years old. I’m from the Yang family of Yuanling County’s Baiyang Town. I am at the Eighth Draconic Stage, but I am a Beast Warrior.”

Beast Warrior. This was a term Long Chen and Ling Xi agreed on earlier because the people here did not know about Dragon Warriors. Since Long Chen had been mistaken for a Beast Warrior many times, he decided to declare himself as one. “Oh?”

When the old man heard that Long Chen was a Beast Warrior, he eyed him for a while and asked, “And your Draconic Realm’s Primary Beast Soul is ...?”

“The Underground Blood Lizard.”

The old man nodded. “A Category Five Beast Soul, not bad. Show me your Beast Soul Transformation.”

Long Chen wasted no time and quickly activated his Beast Soul Transformation. Dense, blood-red scales and blood-red, bony spines emerged from his skin, quickly transforming him into a completely different being!

The old man was visibly shocked by the ferocious transformation, though there seemed to be some confusion in his eyes. "If it's the Underground Blood Lizard, why do you have such a thick, bloody aura? I assume you found a Beast Soul that was on the verge of transforming into a Blood Lizard King. You're very lucky."

All Long Chen could do was nod and ask cautiously, "May I ask if I pass?"

The old man gave a small smile, looked at Long Chen for a while, and then passed him a green wooden token. "Take this turquoise wooden token. As long as you pass the qualifiers, you will be a member of the Turquoise family. The Turquoise Sun Hall is only recruiting five people for this round. I don't think you have much hope ..."

Long Chen froze, but the old man smiled warmly. "So you must work hard."

Long Chen nodded. Under the guidance of a young man standing behind the old man, Long Chen took a few turns in the building and arrived in an area with many rooms. He picked one, and the young man told him, "It's late out. Spend the night here. Tomorrow at dawn, someone will take you all for the qualifiers."

He nodded and thanked the young man, then he opened the door. When he entered, he didn't expect to see another person inside. He was first stunned, then he finally understood. *Looks like they've allocated two people to each room.*

The person looked up immediately when Long Chen stepped inside.

It was a somewhat disheveled, skinny young man who looked to be about twenty years old. His eyes spun in alertness, and he had a warm smile.

When he saw Long Chen, he approached immediately and said warmly, "You're here for the Lingwu family's qualifiers too? Haha, me too! I'm Liu Fengfeng. What is your name?"

Although the guy was friendly, based on that look in his eyes, Long Chen surmised that this was the kind of guy who liked to take advantage of other people. But Long Chen was unwilling to cause any conflict, so he merely smiled. "I'm Long Chen."

"Long Chen? You look young and you've reached the Ninth Draconic Stage already?"

"I'm a Beast Warrior, and I'm only at the Eighth Draconic Stage."

Liu Fengfeng did a brief comparison and knew Long Chen was no match for him, so his excitement faded. When Long Chen saw that his heart was no longer in it, he added a few more sentences and then stopped talking.

"Brother Long Chen, I'm not trying to dissuade you, but if I were a Beast Warrior, I would've waited until I was at the Ninth Draconic Stage before coming here. That way, my advantage would be more obvious. Right now, it'll just be a wasted trip for you. The Lingwu family's qualifiers are more vicious than usual. It's not worth it to die here."

Liu Fengfeng started to nag Long Chen like he was his older brother.

Long Chen neither agreed nor disagreed and merely responded with a small smile.

When Liu Fengfeng saw that he wasn't listening, he grew a bit embarrassed and angry, but it was not a good time to attack Long Chen, so he said harshly, "You must not know this, but killing is acceptable in the Lingwu family's qualifiers. There was a study that found that the death rate is at least one in five and the rate of severe injury is two in five. I think you'll likely ... Sigh."

The guy was acting like a know-it-all, and although Long Chen disagreed with him, it was a good chance to gain more information, so he put on a fearful expression despite cussing him out privately. *Whether I participate in the qualifiers or not is none of your fucking business!*

Now that he was no longer in Baiyang Town but in Yuanling City, where masters were as common as trees in a forest, Long Chen felt like he couldn't even cuss freely.

Living like this was not his style at all ...

"Brother Liu, you seem to know a lot about the qualifiers. Are you from Yuanling City?"

Liu Fengfeng replied smugly, "I grew up in Yuanling City! I've lived here for twenty years, so I know everything that happens around here! Looking at your attire, you must be from some small town, right? Those places are piss poor and the people there are frogs in wells. I went to a small town once, and the people there thought Ninth Draconic Stage cultivators were the most powerful in the world. It was laughable."

Liu Fengfeng spoke passionately, his spit flying in all directions. When he saw Long Chen looking somewhat impatient, he snickered to himself. *This guy's obviously from some small town, but he's got an arrogant look. You're going to suffer so much tomorrow, and you'll see that there's always someone better than you ...*

"Brother Liu, I've traveled far to be here. As a local, can you tell me about Yuanling City?"

Liu Fengfeng seemed a bit impatient. He combed his messy hair a bit, admired himself in a bronze mirror for a while, and struck a few dazzling poses. When he confirmed that he was very handsome, he finally replied mildly, "Yuanling City, you say? Yuanling City is just a city. There's nothing worth mentioning. It seems huge to you, but it's normal to me."

"How is Yuanling City divided? What factions are there?" asked Long Chen, suppressing his urge to throw up.

He could not stand Liu Fengfeng at all. He could accept being underestimated, but wasn't this behavior a bit too much? "Hmm ... Yuanling City is divided into the north, south, east, and west. The Lingwu family's Lingwu City is in the Eastern Ling District, which is where we are right now. The other three are the Western Ling, Southern Ling, and Northern Ling Districts.

"As for factions, everyone knows that the Lingwu family controls Yuanling County, but the Beast Soul Palace controls Yuandi City in the Western Ling District. They're equal in strength to the Lingwu family. If I were a Beast Warrior, I would likely head to

Yuandi City instead. What are you doing here in Lingwu City? Yuandi City is heaven for Beast Warriors!”

Long Chen was shocked because he only knew about the Lingwu family being number one in Yuanling City. He didn’t know there was another faction who was equal in strength!

After he heard Liu Fengfeng’s explanation that Lingwu and Yuandi were equals, he realized that the first characters of Lingwu and Yuandi made up the name “Yuanling.” This meant that the Beast Soul Palace of Yuandi City was a faction on the same level as the Lingwu family! *I knew about the Lingwu family, but I’ve never heard of the Beast Soul Palace before. But since I’m here already, I’m not planning to leave.*

When Liu Fengfeng saw that Long Chen still wasn’t afraid of death, he shrugged. “Whatever, I’m not going to nag you. Just be careful at the qualifiers and keep yourself alive. When you enter the Ninth Draconic Stage, I suggest you get into the Beast Soul Palace instead. That’s where Beast Warriors should go.”

Long Chen wanted to save Liu Fengfeng a little face, so he nodded. “If I don’t get into the Lingwu family this time, I’ll go to the Beast Soul Palace next time.”

Liu Fengfeng finally nodded. “I see that you’re young and just don’t want you to waste your time on mistakes. I hope you understand that I’m saying this for your own good!”

Long Chen didn’t think so. He was just showing off his status and knowledge. “Right, Brother Liu, do you know of the Blood Saints?”

He initially wanted to get some information on the Blood Saints from Liu Fengfeng, but unexpectedly, the guy froze and asked, “The what saints? I haven’t heard of them. Probably some really obscure faction. Only people from small towns like you would be scared of small factions like them. Let me tell you this—Lingwu City has three main factions: the Lingwu family, the Beast Soul Palace, and the Dawn Trading Alliance. The Dawn Trading Alliance’s influence spans the whole Northern and Southern Ling Districts, but you can still find traces of them in the east and western areas. While they are not as strong as Lingwu City and Yuandi City in terms of military, they are powerful in terms of resources and assets!”

“The Dawn Trading Alliance?”

Long Chen didn’t expect the Dawn Trading Alliance to be such a powerful organization!