

War God 611

Chapter 611 - Inner City

The old man nodded quickly and completely ignored Long Chen. He then placed the item in a Universe Pouch and gave it to the lady.

The lady held out her hands happily to take it.

Just then, something unexpected happened.

When he was handing over the Universe Pouch, his hands accidentally touched the lady's hands. It was a common occurrence, but the lady became furious. She took the Universe Pouch and complained to Zhao Danchen, "Brother Zhao, he actually touched me."

Zhao Danchen swung his hand. A strong wind blew the old man away without any warning. By the time he landed, he was dead.

The other supervisor of the Martial Merchant Alliance, the lady who had been leading them, immediately kneeled on the ground for mercy.

The lady in Zhao Danchen's embrace scoffed at the old man's corpse. "How dare he touch me. I'm your woman; did he think that he could touch me?"

Zhao Danchen chuckled and embraced her. He took the chance to grope her chest, and she even moaned. "Alright, Lian'er. I've given you the Blue Devil Flame now. I have something urgent to do, so I will send you back first. I will come to visit you at night, alright?"

"You must come, alright?" the venomous woman answered shyly.

Long Chen saw everything. *Birds of a feather flock together. Zhao Danchen isn't a virtuous person, and his women aren't either. The old man accidentally touched her fingers and was killed just like that.*

After taking the Blue Devil Flame, Zhao Danchen left with Lian'er.

Long Chen sighed, feeling grateful that Zhao Danchen hadn't noticed him.

Just then, Zhao Danchen suddenly turned back. He frowned when he looked at Long Chen. "Chen Guangjun, why are you here?"

Long Chen knew that Zhao Danchen was suspecting him, so he kept calm. If he lied now, Zhao Danchen would definitely be able to tell. "I thought of buying the Blue Devil Flame, but I shall concede it to you, Martial Emperor Zhao."

He didn't add any superfluous words to his sentence, which was exactly how Chen Guangjun would speak.

Lian'er gave Long Chen a condescending look, "A minor character like you wanted the Blue Devil Flame? What a joke."

She even laughed out loud.

Long Chen said nothing as he lowered his head.

Chen Guangjun had been gone for weeks, but Zhao Danchen didn't know because of his position, nor would he take notice.

To him, Long Chen looked just like Chen Guangjun. Zhao Danchen thought that he had sensed wrongly when he felt the sliver of danger coming off from Long Chen just now. Zhao Danchen said nothing more and he led his group downstairs.

Long Chen left the place after them.

It was a close call, but thankfully, Zhao Danchen did not realize he was an imposter.

“Xiaolang, I think Zhao Danchen said he would escort the lady home before and then go elsewhere. Let's follow her somewhere remote, then we will take her life and grab the Blue Devil Flame.”

Even though the lady was beautiful, she was wicked to the core. Long Chen decided to take revenge for the old man and also release his pent-up frustration of someone taking the thing that was supposed to be his.

Mo Xiaolang responded, “Big Brother, I think we should let it go for now. If she goes missing, Zhao Danchen will definitely know that you were the one who did it. We don't know how long you will have to stay here, so we cannot reveal your identity just for the Blue Devil Flame.”

After pondering a bit, Long Chen agreed. He still had to use the identity of the Hundred-War Martial King, so he could not act rashly.

“She's still below the Earthly Martial Realm, so there's no need to worry about her using it. I will take it from her another day. Let's find out where she lives so we know where to find her.”

He quickly stalked Zhao Danchen and everyone else through the crowd. Once they were out of the Martial Merchant Alliance, Zhao Danchen and the lady separated. The lady entered an extravagant carriage under the guard of the Martial Alliance and sped off towards the east.

Long Chen quickly pursued her.

Soon, the carriage reached its destination. Long Chen saw that it was an extravagant estate. They were still in the outer city, so he deduced that the woman was a noble with at least someone at the Earthly Martial Realm guarding her family.

After taking note of the location, Long Chen left.

Even though the Blue Devil Flame was important to Xiaolang, he hadn't forgotten his true mission. It was to rescue Long Yue.

The Nine Spirit Purgatory has only one entrance, which is also the only exit. But the Red Souls said otherwise. The third Martial Emperor, Xiao Lin, most likely knows where the other exit is located ... I need to find a way to get close to him.

Long Chen had a plan to get the answer after he befriended Xiao Lin.

I can finally use the fourth stage of the Soul Swallowing Gaze: Control. The true strength of the Soul Swallowing Gaze is finally revealing itself.

Long Chen barely used Seduction and Soul Snatching. He did, however, rely on Sight quite often. In fact, it had saved him many times.

Most importantly, the fourth stage, Control, allowed him to control the minds of others through hypnosis. But it had a lot of restrictions and couldn't be used easily.

Still, it was a technique that defied the heavens.

He planned to use Control on Xiao Lin to obtain the answer.

Long Chen had a clear goal as he reached the gate connecting to the inner city. There were even more guards here than in the previous gate. The inner city was where the high-ranked members of the Martial Alliance resided. Only nobles and the families of Martial Kings and above could enter, so it was much quieter.

He reached the gate, and someone quickly noticed him. It was another Martial King. Long Chen had read the reports and familiarized himself with the other Martial Kings. The one guarding the gate to the inner city was the Fierce Tiger Martial King. He had the Primary Beast Soul of a fire tiger at the King-tier.

“Hundred-War Martial King, where have you been? We thought you went missing.”
The Fierce Tiger Martial King was unfriendly from the start.

He was slightly higher ranked than the Hundred-War Martial King since he was guarding the gates. He was older as well, so he was superior in every aspect.

Long Chen simply said, “I ran into a Blue Eyes Golden Toad, a Category One King-tier demonic beast, and almost lost my life. I recovered and rushed back here.”

The real Hundred-War Martial King was actually dead.

“Blue Eyes Golden Toad? That's a scary beast.” The Fierce Tiger Martial King was surprised when he looked at Long Chen. “It's not an easy feat to survive an attack from it.”

Everyone Long Chen had met so far had fallen for the disguise without fail. It was clear that Lan Xiang'er's techniques were unmatched.

“It's a miracle I did not die.” Long Chen did his best to imitate the Hundred-War Martial King's tone and exchanged as few words with the Fierce Tiger Martial King as possible because he was afraid that he might slip up. “I haven't returned in a long time and I'm worried for my family. Fierce Tiger, I will have to take my leave now.”

Fierce Tiger Martial King smiled and patted his shoulder as he snickered. “You are not missing your family, just your beautiful wife. She came here and asked about you many times. Hurry up and go home.”

Long Chen nodded and entered the inner city without saying anything else. He had passed the Fierce Tiger Martial King's test!

Staring at Long Chen's back, the Fierce Tiger Martial King licked his lips and sighed. "To think he really came back. I was actually thinking of visiting his wife tonight, but he came back at just the right time. I really don't understand how that woman would fall in love with him."

Naturally, Long Chen did not hear that.

The Hundred-War Martial King had a wife called Lady Mo. She was the Hundred-War Martial King's childhood friend and she was very pretty. They had a son and a daughter together.

Long Chen naturally did not enter the Hundred-War Martial King's house. Even though he was confident in Lan Xiang'er's technique, it would be very hard to hide himself in front of the Hundred-War Martial King's wife. He needed to save Long Yue as soon as possible.

But he was racing against time.

His plan hinged on obtaining Xiao Lin's trust to succeed.

He knew his way around the inner city since he had memorized the map.

There were very few people here, but those who lived here were of high status, and they rarely went out.

Long Chen recalled where the Nine Spirit Purgatory was. He took a few steps before a woman shouted behind him.

"Dear?"

Chapter 612 - Bewitching Lady Mo

Long Chen turned around and saw a woman in her twenties. She was looking at him with dumbfounded eyes. She was indeed pretty and had a mature air about her.

Long Chen remembered that that was what Chen Guangjun's wife called him. He had to admit that he was unlucky. He had decided to avoid going to Chen Guangjun's house so there wouldn't be any slip ups, and he never thought he would meet her here.

It was clear that she had come to ask the Fierce Tiger Martial King if he knew the whereabouts of the Hundred-War Martial King.

"Lady Mo." Long Chen could only play along.

His words had just escaped his lips when she pounced into his embrace. She hooked his neck with her pale arms as she cried happily.

"My dear, you are finally back. I thought ... I thought ..." She cried pitifully.

She pushed herself into his chest, and her sexiness aroused Long Chen a little. He pushed her away slightly to calm himself down. "Alright. It's fine now. I'm back. Don't worry, I was delayed by something minor. Let's go home and talk."

Long Chen was worried that she would see through his disguise after saying so much, but Lady Mo did not notice anything wrong.

"Alright. Yu'er and Zhan'er are waiting for you at home."

The Hundred-War Martial King had a son and a daughter. One was seven and the other was six. The son was called Chen Guangzhan and the daughter was called Chen Guangyu. Long Chen had memorized their names too.

With Lady Mo by his side, Long Chen knew that he had no choice but to follow her home. He couldn't afford to risk his disguise by ditching her in the streets, so he stayed with her.

Along the way, Lady Mo kept asking about what had happened, and Long Chen had to lie to her. She listened with tears in her eyes, feeling pity for her husband.

Long Chen was glad that everything was proceeding so smoothly.

He was actually pitying Lady Mo since her husband was dead and she would have to raise her two children alone.

Soon, they reached the Hundred-War Martial King's estate. The children were sitting at the doorway, staring outside. They jumped like rabbits when they saw Long Chen and Lady Mo returning. They each hugged one of Long Chen's legs. "Father! You are back! We missed you!"

The children were very cute, but Long Chen didn't know what to do. Thankfully, Lady Mo and the children didn't notice anything wrong with him. Long Chen decided to deal with it by heading into the estate first. He was confident that as long as he was here, he would have a chance to enter the Nine Spirit Pavilion.

The Nine Spirit Pavilion was the entrance to the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

"Both of them were very naughty when you were away." Lady Mo winked at Long Chen and chuckled.

"No! Me and my brother were very obedient," Yu'er complained.

"Mother is the bad guy! She tried to frame us! Hmph! I don't want to be friends with you anymore." Zhan'er scoffed at Lady Mo playfully.

The two of them were very cute, and Long Chen actually liked children. He thought that it would be perfect if he and Ling Xi had a son and daughter.

That was the future Long Chen wanted.

The only issue was that he wasn't sure how long he would have to wait until then.

"Father, where are our gifts?" The two children looked at him.

Long Chen froze. He didn't know what the Hundred-War Martial King had promised them, and he would be in trouble if he didn't deal with this situation properly.

Seeing how Long Chen said nothing, Lady Mo quickly interjected. "Your father was in danger and got injured. He couldn't get anything for the both of you, so don't trouble him any further."

Her kind words swept like a wind, and the children nodded.

Long Chen was saved!

They entered the Hundred-War King estate afterwards.

Lady Mo went off to prepare dinner since it was late, so Long Chen sat in the courtyard to talk with Lady Mo's children. Since they were young, they didn't feel like anything was off with Long Chen even though he was silent most of the time.

Soon, it turned dark and they had their dinner. After Lady Mo put the children to sleep, Long Chen didn't know what to do. He stood in the courtyard as he tried to plan his next steps. The moon illuminated him in a soft glow as Lady Mo walked out and hugged his arm. "You must've been waiting for so long."

Her face was flushed red.

Waiting for long?

Long Chen was stupefied.

He didn't react when Lady Mo pulled him into her room and locked the door. She then approached him. "When you were gone, I asked my cousin to find you, but he had to guard the Nine Spirit Pavilion, so he just sent some men to do it. After some time, they came back and reported that you were missing and most likely died. I almost went crazy when I heard their news, but thankfully, you returned ..."

She started crying.

Cousin?

Long Chen suddenly remembered that Lady Mo indeed had a cousin. He was also a Martial King, but he worked underneath Xiao Lin. *Doesn't that mean that if I get close to the cousin, I can get close to Xiao Lin and win his trust too?*

Long Chen thought that the plan was plausible.

He suddenly found a way to execute his plan.

All he needed to do was wait here and Lady Mo's cousin would definitely appear after hearing the news of his return. All Long Chen needed to do was ask for a recommendation to work under Xiao Lin and it would probably be fine.

The only challenge now was not to reveal his true self to Lady Mo.

Long Chen sighed in relief when he finally had a goal. Thankfully, neither she nor the children had discovered his true identity, so he was confident in his disguise.

"Dear ..." He suddenly heard a bewitching voice.

When he turned to her, a pair of slender arms wrapped around his neck. Lady Mo pushed her voluptuous body onto Long Chen. He looked down and saw that her eyes were already glazing over and her lips were slightly parted. Her blushed cheeks showed that she was getting aroused too.

Ack! Long Chen suddenly realized that Lady Mo hadn't seen her husband for quite some time and they were supposed to consummate tonight! Long Chen could not do this, and now he realized he had been backed into a corner.

"Lady Mo, I don't think that we should do this today. I haven't recovered." Long Chen had to purposefully make his voice hoarse as he pulled himself out of her embrace.

“Haven’t recovered?!” Lady Mo’s eyes became clear again as she controlled herself. “I’m sorry ... We can do it some other time ... I thought you were having a hard time controlling yourself too ...”

Lady Mo blushed because her advances were turned down.

Long Chen could only smile.

Ten minutes later, Long Chen laid on the bed like a log as Lady Mo cuddled him. She hugged his waist and placed her head in his arms. Long Chen was supposed to cuddle only with Ling Xi, but he had no choice today.

“Lady Mo, uh ... I should cultivate now.” Long Chen despised himself for saying this, but the warmth and softness of Lady Mo’s body was not something he could handle right now. Her body and scent invoked something primal in him.

“Weren’t you injured? Rest now. No need to work so hard,” Lady Mo said unhappily.

Long Chen had to wait until she fell asleep to escape her embrace. He had to admit that he envied the Hundred-War Martial King for having such a pretty wife and cute children waiting for him at home.

Suddenly, Lady Mo stuck her hand into Long Chen’s pants and groped him without any warning.

Lady Mo sat on Long Chen’s body and chuckled. “You said you were injured, but look at how hard ...”

Then she suddenly let go in fear. “Wait, this isn’t right. You ... When did you become so big?”

The dragon signified the utmost Yang, so thanks to the Inherited Blood Essence, Long Chen was also given the most magnificent girth. It was natural for him to be bigger than the Hundred-War Martial King.

Long Chen had been very careful, but he never thought he would slip up like this.

Lady Mo’s eyes filled with fear. She stood up and stammered, “You ... You are not my dear! Your scent is different too!”

Long Chen never knew guys had a scent too.

Only a woman who spent a long time with someone would recognize it.

He was found out.

Before she shouted, Long Chen pushed her down and covered her mouth with lightning speed. “Don’t shout, or your children will die.”

Lady Mo was frightened to her core.

Chapter 613 - Soul Swallowing Gaze, Control!

Long Chen suppressed her with force. She was worried about her children, so she didn’t dare to move.

Lady Mo’s face was pale as she cried, “Who are you? What do you want? Don’t harm my children.”

“Look at me,” Long Chen commanded.

Lady Mo looked into Long Chen’s eyes and saw dark whirlpools in them. She was curious and wanted to see the bottom of the whirlpools, but a strange force sucked her in.

“I am Chen Guangjun, you are my woman, Lady Mo ...” Long Chen whispered.

“You are my dear ...” she whispered.

Long Chen then quickly worked on his hypnosis to give her commands. He had to use Control to maintain his identity. After some commands, Lady Mo forgot about everything that had happened and recognized him as her husband.

The basis of Control was like hypnosis, but it was stronger.

Lady Mo was weak, so he could’ve easily controlled her from the start. But he had chosen to use it as a last resort, and he was glad that it worked.

After completing his brain washing, Lady Mo listened to Long Chen and slept on the bed. Long Chen started cultivating because no matter how much he revealed to her, she would always think that he was her husband.

Long Chen relaxed after that.

After cultivating some fist art, he heard someone reaching the estate. Long Chen used Sight and saw there were two people waiting in front of the gate. One of them was knocking on the main gate.

“Who is it this late at night?” Now that Lady Mo was under his control, he woke her up. No one would question his identity if Lady Mo was on his side.

When they got close to the gate, Long Chen felt the strong presence of the two people. One of them was at the First Earthly Martial Stage while the other was exceedingly strong. Long Chen could only detect a Martial Saint’s strength right now, so he guessed that the other person was a Martial Emperor.

It was indeed a coincidence.

He opened the door and saw who it was. The one knocking was naturally Lady Mo’s cousin, Mo Feng, while the other person was none other than Xiao Lin, the third Martial Emperor. He had white hair but a tall stature, and he was smiling kindly.

Long Chen never thought his target would appear here today. He had heard that Xiao Lin’s temperament was the best among the three, but he was certain that Xiao Lin would never show mercy to an enemy.

“Hundred-War Martial King, I hope I didn’t interrupt the two of you.” Xiao Lin smiled plainly.

Long Chen quickly replied, “No, of course not. Greetings, Martial Emperor.”

Lady Mo also greeted Xiao Lin. She was only brainwashed about the part where Long Chen was her husband. She could still function normally outside of that.

“Is that so? Are you not going to invite us in?” Xiao Lin smiled.

Long Chen quickly invited Xiao Lin and Mo Feng into the estate. In the guest hall, they each took their seats while Lady Mo prepared some fruit and tea before she stood behind Long Chen.

Xiao Lin and Mo Feng didn't even question Long Chen's identity since Lady Mo was so close to him.

"It's late, so I will go straight into the details."

"Do you have any orders for me?" Long Chen wasn't sure why they were here so late at night.

"We were passing by and heard you were back, so we visited spontaneously." Lady Mo's cousin, Mo Feng, chuckled.

Xiao Lin nodded, "My subordinate, the Yellow River Sword King, was killed at the Battle clan. He was supposed to guard the Nine Spirit Pavilion with Mo Feng but was instead taken by Yang Ningfeng to fight. Yang Ningfeng is now dead and I have an opening at the Nine Spirit Purgatory, so I was thinking of recruiting you to work under me there."

Mo Feng added, "Hundred-War Martial King, guarding the Nine Spirit Pavilion is an easy job. You don't have to take missions outside or even risk your life. I was afraid my cousin would have to take care of her children herself, so I thought of recommending you for the position."

Long Chen was pleasantly surprised by the news.

Chen Guangjun would've been happy with the offer too as he could've just stayed in the safety of Martial Overlord City in close proximity to his family. To Long Chen, he could finally enter the Nine Spirit Pavilion to check on the news about the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

Before Long Chen could respond, Lady Mo answered, "Is that so? That's amazing! We thank the Martial Emperor for his grace." She had long wanted her husband to come home to her every day. It would be good news if he did.

She urged Long Chen to quickly accept it.

It was indeed good news, so he agreed.

Long Chen stood up and said with dignity, "I shall accept the position. I swear on my life that I will be loyal to you and do my best."

Xiao Lin chuckled. "Is that so? That's good. I won't be disturbing you any longer. Come find me in three days."

He and Mo Feng then left.

The opportunity had quite literally come knocking before Long Chen even did anything. Luck was truly on his side.

Long Chen didn't have to worry about his identity since he was controlling Lady Mo.

Three days later, Long Chen showed up at the Nine Spirit Pavilion. Xiao Lin was in closed-door cultivation, as usual. The entrance to the Nine Spirit Purgatory was in the depths of the Nine Spirit Pavilion. It was an infamous place that no one had ever managed to escape before. It didn't really

need any guards, but guards were still posted here to prevent people from causing trouble. It was indeed an easy job.

Xiao Lin's residence was inside the pavilion. He usually didn't bother dealing with daily matters personally, so Long Chen only needed to interact with Mo Feng.

Without Xiao Lin around, Mo Feng referred to Long Chen as his cousin-in-law. Being called cousin-in-law by a middle-aged man felt quite weird.

“Since this is your first time here, let me show you around. You just need to stand at the entrance of the Nine Spirit Purgatory to guard the place. There's usually nothing to do, but the Martial Overlord might come and imprison someone. He usually appears every few days.”

The Nine Spirit Pavilion was a beautiful place with a lot of greenery. It didn't resemble a prison at all.

“Both me and Yellow River used to guard the place. If he had something to do, I would take his shift. If I had something to do, he would cover for me. We actually only need a single guard at a time, so why don't we split the shift in half? If you have something urgent such as my cousin getting pregnant, I don't mind doing some overtime,” Mo Feng said with a chuckle.

The Martial Alliance was a large organization, and everyone had their own job to do. Every single Martial King was in charge of something, not just working as a soldier for the Martial Alliance.

They soon reached the entrance of the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

A small, ancient, wooden hut stood before them. Its exterior was gray and it exuded a strange aura. Long Chen even saw gray mist coming out from the wooden hut. The ground within a hundred meter radius of the hut was completely gray with nothing growing on it.

“Is that the entrance to the Nine Spirit Purgatory? I have never seen it before.” Long Chen was shocked.

“It's the most frightening place here. No one can get out alive since there's only a single entrance and no exit,” Mo Feng said proudly.

“No exits? Maybe the people imprisoned inside couldn't find it?”

“I don't think so. I've heard that the Nine Spirit Purgatory is a desolate land where there's not a single wisp of nature's spiritual energy. Cultivators can barely survive there without spiritual energy. Also, I've heard that the most terrifying aspect of the place is that everyone inside loses their sense of direction. If you walk in a straight line, you will find yourself walking in a large circle instead.”

No spiritual energy and no sense of direction.

No wonder no one has managed to escape.

He then realized that something was wrong. “Wait, if no one has ever managed to escape, then how do we know what the interior of the Nine Spirit Purgatory is like?”

Mo Feng smiled bitterly. “I don’t know.”

It was clear that Mo Feng didn’t know much either. The Red Souls’ information network was indeed terrifying to be able to find out the things that even Mo Feng didn’t know.

Long Chen was certain that the path to exit the Nine Spirit Purgatory was in Xiao Lin’s hands.

Big Sister, give me some time to get the answer from Xiao Lin, then I will come and rescue you.

Long Chen didn’t want her to suffer too long, nor did he know how bad it was inside.

Long Yue had helped him a lot, so he had to save her.

Chapter 614 - Nine Spirit Purgatory

Xiao Lin lived in the Nine Souls Pavilion, and since Long Chen was stationed there, he would sometimes come out and talk to him. But there were also times when Long Chen was completely alone. Long Chen realized that every time Xiao Lin was alone with him, it was a golden opportunity to use Control.

But Long Chen was careful. He needed to be friendly to Xiao Lin until the other party was no longer guarded towards him. Only then could he use Control, or he would fail even though his Martial Soul was strong. If he failed, everything would come crumbling down.

It was a risky move to infiltrate the Nine Souls Pavilion, but it was necessary for him to save Long Yue. Everyone else was waiting for the good news, so he could not fail.

For the next seven days, he stood guard for half a day at a time. Xiao Lin passed by a few times and talked to him every time.

At Xiao Lin’s age, he wouldn’t be able to advance anymore no matter how hard he cultivated, so there was no reason for him to cultivate. He was also more inclined to enjoy his twilight years, so his days were leisurely.

Of the three Martial Emperors, Xiao Lin was the only one Long Chen was on fairly friendly terms with. Not everyone in Martial Overlord City was evil. For example, Lady Mo was a pitiful and innocent woman.

Seven days later, Long Chen was already on good terms with Xiao Lin. Long Chen wasted no time and cultivated as he stood guard. Since he was disguised as someone at the First Earthly Martial Stage, he practiced the second stage of the Earthly Martial Fist whenever Xiao Lin passed. In reality, he had already mastered it.

But with his capabilities, he could feign it by making mistakes.

Xiao Lin started giving him pointers.

Long Chen heeded Xiao Lin’s advice and improved his cultivation. Time passed, and Long Chen saw that it was a good time to use Control since they had been talking for so long. Now that he had obtained Xiao Lin’s trust, he had to seize the opportunity as he didn’t know when his next chance would come.

As he spoke with Xiao Lin, Long Chen carefully used Control but started off weak. He planned to slowly increase the intensity of Control over a long period of time. Xiao Lin's Martial Soul was strong, so it wouldn't be easy to conquer it.

It wasn't until Xiao Lin's eyes started to glaze over while they conversed that Long Chen knew that his technique had worked. But this was only the first step—it was still risky to ask for the answer now.

Control was not omnipotent.

Long Chen's cultivation level was lower than Xiao Lin's, so the chances of failure were high. The moment Xiao Lin sensed any changes in Long Chen's essence and Long Chen tried to attack him, Xiao Lin would immediately wake up.

Control could only dominate the minds of those weaker than him, and Long Chen could even command them to hurt themselves.

“When did you reach the Earthly Martial Realm?” Long Chen tried to prevent any large fluctuations in Xiao Lin's emotions, so he asked a simpler question. These questions were also deemed normal to Xiao Lin.

“Twenty-seven...” Xiao Lin answered without any hesitation.

Long Chen then started to ask questions that slowly infringed on Xiao Lin's personal life. Long Chen had already prepared the questions beforehand, and each one would require an answer that was buried deeper in Xiao Lin's mind. That way, Xiao Lin wouldn't wake up from the hypnosis due to shock.

Long Chen saved the most important question for last. “I've heard that the Nine Souls Purgatory doesn't have an exit, but someone told me that you know how to get out of it. I was wondering if you could explain that to me?”

Xiao Lin's eyes were still glazed over. “Of course I know ... Do you want to know?”

“Could you tell me, please?” Long Chen asked in a pleading tone. It was easier for Xiao Lin to answer that way.

“First, you must find a ten-meter-tall hill in the Nine Souls Purgatory. Dig downwards for a hundred meters and you will find a compass. Follow the compass' direction and finally ...”

“Greetings, Martial Emperor.” Just then, Mo Feng entered and greeted Xiao Lin.

Long Chen's heart skipped a beat.

Xiao Lin's eyes regained clarity when Mo Feng called for him. He stared at Long Chen in confusion, and Long Chen thanked him. “Thank you, Martial Emperor Xiao, for your guidance! I'm one step closer to the Second Earthly Martial Stage!”

“Guidance?” Xiao Lin had a feeling that something was wrong with his mind. It was as if he was sleeping and had just woken up.

He never would've guessed that there was a technique like Control in this world that could fish out the deepest secrets in his heart. He shook his head and smiled bitterly. "I think I'm getting so old that I've started spacing out. You can talk to each other for now. I will go back and rest."

Xiao Lin left after that.

That was close!

Long Chen's heart was beating rapidly. Thankfully, he had managed to learn the method to escape the Nine Spirit Purgatory, or else his plans would be wasted.

"Cousin-in-law, why is the Martial Emperor acting weird?" Mo Feng was confused too.

"I don't know. He was guiding me on the Earthly Martial Fist just now," Long Chen answered then he continued his cultivation.

Mo Feng dropped the topic and continued to talk to Long Chen. After some time, Long Chen left the Nine Souls Pavilion and returned to his home.

I cannot enter the Nine Spirit Purgatory right now, or it would be too suspicious. I should wait a day or two before I enter.

Two days later, Long Chen decided that it was time to rescue Long Yue. He used Control on Lady Mo one more time so that she would be even more certain that Long Chen was her husband. He tried to minimize the risk as much as possible while he was entering the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

It was Long Chen's turn to stand guard that day. He could reach the wooden hut without any worry. He used Sight and checked that no one was there before he opened the door.

Before he could react, a strong force pulled Long Chen into the hut. The door closed lightly, and the Hundred-War Martial King disappeared from the world once more.

Long Chen could only apologize to Lady Mo. The death of her husband didn't concern him, and he only gave her some closure by appearing in front of her as the Hundred-War Martial King. Since she had a cousin who was also a Martial King, Long Chen was certain that her life wouldn't be terrible. There were people living in worse conditions than her in the world.

The strong force sucked Long Chen into the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

He opened his eyes and was surprised by what he saw.

The Nine Spirit Purgatory was devoid of color. Everything was gray, including the sky. There were no signs of plants, and gray clouds covered the sky. A cold wind blew past the endless wasteland.

"This is the legendary Nine Spirit Purgatory ..." Long Chen looked around and realized two important things. One, everything was the same no matter which direction he looked. It was like a massive maze.

The second thing was that there was barely any nature's spiritual energy here. It was weaker than even Baiyang Town. Long Chen realized that his essence was circulating much more slowly than usual, and he wasn't able to replenish any essence that had been used up.

Long Chen had a thousand King Crystals that he had plundered from Yang Ninfeng, and he had eight hundred more of his own. Most of the King Crystals came from the Divine Fire Realm. Even the Martial Overlord might not have as many King Crystals as he did.

Each King Crystal contained an enormous amount of nature's spiritual energy, so he wasn't worried about his predicament right now.

But he could imagine how those without King Crystals would slowly become weaker if they were trapped here. Since the Nine Spirit Purgatory's exit was also well hidden, many of them would've died here.

It was the most likely reason why the Martial Overlord had chosen this place as his prison.

It was a cruel environment without any resources.

I need to find Long Yue before I search for the compass.

He had a goal, but he could do nothing but smile bitterly. There was nothing in this barren land, so how would he find Long Yue? Where was the little hill? It might've been easier to find the hill if the flatland continued infinitely, but Long Yue was a different matter. It was possible that she was already dead.

Long Chen wasted no time and ran as fast as he could in one direction. A gray shadow ran across the barren land.

He didn't know if he still needed his disguise, so he didn't take it off yet.

"Huh?" Long Chen ran for a long time but met no one. In fact, the sky and land looked the same as the place he had just landed.

Suddenly, he saw footprints in front of him. On closer inspection, he realized that the footprints were his!

Chapter 615 - Gray-Clothed Youth

"That's strange. I've been running in a straight line but ended up back in the same place. If I continue, I might not be able to find the exit. I should change directions to go to other places."

Since running in a straight line would lead him back to his original location, Long Chen chose to run and change his directions randomly numerous times. He thought that it would lead him somewhere else.

Half a day passed, and Long Chen never saw his footprints again. That meant he had left his original location.

The Nine Spirit Purgatory doesn't have a fixed direction and is always changing. No wonder I need a compass to find the exit. I think the compass' direction will change from time to time to show the exit. Even though I can leave the original location by running in random directions, I do not think I will be able to find the exit like this.

Long Chen continued his journey.

Suddenly, he saw someone on the horizon. Long Chen approached the person, but the other party saw him too. The person ran towards Long Chen while shouting something.

Long Chen realized that the person was looking at him like prey. Long Chen quickly stopped and saw that the person wasn't Long Yue, but someone at the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

Long Chen was shocked by the person's appearance.

His clothes were in tatters and his hair was long and messy. His entire body was caked in dirt, as if he had just dug himself out of the earth. More importantly, his eyes were unfocused until he saw Long Chen, which was when they changed into an animalistic stare.

So this is how a person ends up if they are trapped here for a long time.

The man appeared in front of Long Chen as he panted and glared.

"Newbie, give me your Universe Pouch and King Crystals. I will let you live if you do so. Quickly!" the man shouted at Long Chen.

King Crystals.

In this barren place, King Crystals were the key to someone's survival. Without them, a cultivator's strength would slowly dissipate as they aged and died.

Long Chen pitied the man.

"How long have you been locked up here?"

"Years? I don't know how long. Quick, give me the crystals," the person continued. It was clear that he didn't want to fight Long Chen, as it would expend too much energy.

Long Chen frowned and gave him two King Crystals. "Here, this is for you. Can you answer some questions for me?"

The man ignored him as he took the King Crystals with trembling hands. He stared at them with glee as if they were the world's greatest treasures.

"Answer me," Long Chen repeated.

But the man ignored him as he smiled wildly. He put the King Crystals away and then looked at Long Chen with bloodshot eyes.

"Newbie, give me all of your King Crystals. I will live eternally. Give me all of them, or I will kill you."

He turned crazier now that he had two King Crystals. He immediately pounced towards Long Chen.

"Greedy bastard." Long Chen shook his head. The man was very weakened and yet he dared to attack Long Chen. It was clear that the King Crystals were the most sought-after items here.

Long Chen waved his hands and slapped the man away.

After rolling onto the ground several times, the man struggled to get up before he pounced towards Long Chen again. “Newbie! You have a lot of King Crystals and you will be killed soon! They are going to take all your King Crystals! You are going to die anyway, so might as well give them to me!”

“Is that so?” Long Chen suppressed the man easily. Even though the man was on the same cultivation level as he was, he could easily defeat him. Still, the man was struggling so much that Long Chen found it difficult to use Control to get information.

“You are strong, but so what? I was very strong, stronger than you when I first came here! But I became the same as the others. Go die like them!” The man continued to resist even though he was being suppressed.

Long Chen felt a forlorn sadness when he saw how crazed the man was. He also realized how scary the Nine Spirit Purgatory was, to be able to reduce a strong cultivator to nothing but a madman. This place was suitable as a graveyard.

Also, he wasn’t sure if Xiao Lin’s method would work.

“Let me ask you this. Did a female cultivator come here recently? She’s at the Third Earthly Martial Stage.”

“A female cultivator? Hahaha. If she was injured by the Martial Overlord, she would most probably be dismembered by now. I definitely do not have the luck nor strength to share the spoils, hahaha.”

Long Chen learned how cruel this place was.

It was clear that the man didn’t know about Long Yue.

The Nine Spirit Purgatory was a large place, and it wasn’t going to be easy to locate someone in here.

But Long Chen did not give up. He felt that time was short, so he warned the man, “I don’t want to kill you, so you have two choices. One, get out of my sight. Two, die and give me peace of mind.”

The man’s eyes were still bloodshot when he shouted, “I have a third option! Kill you and take all of your King Crystals!”

Crack.

Long Chen snapped the man’s neck.

“I gave you the option to live and yet you did not grab it.” Long Chen was speechless. He placed the corpse down and then stared at the wasteland around him. *Not only will the physical body be under stress, even their mental health will deteriorate. They lose all reason if they get trapped here for too long. It’s better to just die.*

He then continued his journey.

Long Chen found that his deductions were accurate. If he traveled in a straight path, he would return to his original location, but he would reach other places if he walked randomly.

Where is this place? Time slowly passed. At first, it was hours, and then days passed. Three days later, Long Chen had only met two other people. Both of them had lost their minds and were killed by him.

Another three days passed before Long Chen saw something major. Four cultivators were chasing after a youth in gray clothes. His clothes looked relatively new, so Long Chen assumed that he had only arrived recently.

There were five of them. Long Chen hoped that he could obtain some information from them.

“Don’t run!”

“Give us your King Crystals or we will kill you!”

The four cultivators were drained of any essence. Long Chen didn’t know how strong they were originally, but being trapped here without any King Crystals had caused their strength to deteriorate to the point of being regular human beings. Even a normal Heavenly Passage Realm cultivator could kill them now.

The gray-clothed youth was very disheveled. He then tripped and rolled on the ground. Underneath his messy hair were clear eyes filled with animosity. “If you force me any further, I will absorb my King Crystals’ power and kill all of you!”

The youth thought they would back off, but he was mistaken. One of the cultivators stepped forward. “Kill us, then. We don’t want to live anymore.”

The prisoners here were both afraid and unafraid of death. They wanted to use the King Crystals to extend their lives because they were worried about slowly wasting away. They didn’t have the courage to kill themselves. Some of them welcomed death at the hands of others.

The youth was backed into a corner. He had no choice but to fight as he looked pitifully at the four other cultivators. A single King Crystal appeared in his hand, and he absorbed it.

The King Crystal disappeared. The four cultivators prepared themselves for death as they pounced towards the youth.

The youth moved instantly, and dragons appeared. The dragons blew past the four cultivators and killed them without any mercy.

The youth staggered and almost lost his footing.

Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw! It was Long Chen’s turn to be shocked. To think that the youth had used it! *He must be the other Long Chen!*

The youth was none other than Long Yue’s brother, the genius at the Third Earthly Martial Stage. Long Chen never thought that he would become this weak after being imprisoned here.

“Wait!” Long Chen ran towards the youth and stopped him from running away. The youth’s expression had been cold, but he was shocked to see who was blocking him.

“Someone new? And you are even a Martial King!”

Long Chen was still in disguise.

Long Chen chuckled. "I'm not from the Martial Alliance. Do you know Lan Xiang'er? She gave me the disguise. I know you are Long Chen and you are also Long Yue's brother. I'm not sure if you've heard of me."

Long Chen's words caused a glimmer of light to appear in the youth's eyes, especially after he mentioned a certain someone.

Chapter 616 - Fengyun Group

"I've seen everyone in the Dragon clan. You must be Long Chen, our newest member, since you're referring to my sister as 'Eldest Sister.' And you have the same name as me! I've heard the news of what you've done before I was imprisoned here. I never thought you would come here though."

Long Chen was even more certain of who the youth was.

The youth was none other than Long Chen.

Long Chen had finally found someone significant after three days here.

The youth was captured and imprisoned roughly a month ago, so he didn't know what had happened outside.

Long Chen said, "I'm here to rescue you both."

"Us?" The youth laughed. "You must be crazy. There's no exit in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. You cannot escape once you enter."

Long Chen smiled but didn't explain more.

"Wait, you said both of us. Who else are you rescuing?" The youth was confused.

Long Chen knew that the youth didn't know Long Yue had been imprisoned as well. They would've been together if they had met each other in this place.

"Eldest Sister is also imprisoned here. She came here roughly ten days ago after hearing that you were imprisoned here. She battled against the Martial Overlord and lost."

"What?!" The youth's cold expression instantly turned pale as he looked at Long Chen incredulously. "You mean my sister tried to rescue me and got imprisoned here too?!"

"It's the truth. I came here to rescue her too."

The youth was in a daze as he contemplated what to do. He squatted on the ground and held his head in despair. "Why would she risk her life to rescue me? I've never listened to her once and always angered her. I even left her, so why did she come here? I thought she hated me."

They really did argue before he left. Long Chen smiled. "How could she hate you? You are her brother, and your sister will always take care of you, no matter what happens. You are the only one who truly thinks she hates you."

In reality, the youth was in his rebellious phase, which was why he had refused to let Long Yue take care of him. That was why he left her, but it was not a significant enough conflict to damage his relationship with her.

Bonds between siblings weren't fragile enough to shatter with just an argument.

The youth fell quiet after listening to Long Chen, then he shook his head and recovered. "She's so stupid. She should've thought of me as dead as soon as I was imprisoned. Why did she waste her life? Our clan is now extinct."

Long Chen smiled. Those words meant that the youth was no longer at odds with his sister. It was good news since he could save both him and Long Yue at the same time.

The youth then looked at Long Chen. "You came here to rescue my sister. Does that mean you know the way out?"

It only just dawned on him that Long Chen had come prepared.

Long Chen nodded. "I do know the method, but we must find your sister first. The Martial Overlord must've taken all of her King Crystals when he threw her into this place. I haven't seen her once in the past three days."

The youth panicked and clenched his fists. "That Martial Overlord bastard. How dare he hurt my sister! I will tear him to bits!"

The youth didn't even think to ask how to escape when he heard that his sister was injured.

Long Chen had a lot of King Crystals and spare Universe Pouches. He took out a hundred King Crystals and placed them in a Universe Pouch. "Here, take this."

The youth was shocked when he saw the hundred King Crystals. "Why do you have so many?"

Long Chen chuckled. "I got them on my own. You should be able to recover with this much. Since you're at the Third Earthly Martial Stage, you should be able to last until we get out of this place."

"Brother, I, Long Chen, will never forget what you've done for me."

Long Chen laughed dryly. "Don't say 'Long Chen' anymore. We have the same name, so it feels weird."

The two of them became close just like that.

Long Chen liked the youth's personality and soon got on very friendly terms with him.

The youth then remembered to ask the important question. "Wait, I thought there was no exit to this place? I've been exploring for an entire month and still haven't found the exit. No matter how much I walk, I always end up in the same place or region. How do you know there's an exit? How do we get out?"

"I learned it from Xiao Lin. It should exist."

"How do we find it, then?"

“Xiao Lin told me that there’s a ten-meter-tall hill. Climb up the hill and dig down a hundred meters to find a compass. Follow the direction of the compass and we will be able to leave the Nine Spirit Purgatory.”

“A hill and a compass? Then the compass must be something special. As for a ten-meter-tall hill I think I saw it once.”

Long Chen was excited to hear that since it meant Xiao Lin wasn’t lying.

“Do you know where it is?”

The youth frowned. “I do not. It’s very hard to go back to an exact location here. But I’ve seen it once, so it must be real. Since you have enough King Crystals, we have a lot of time to find it again.”

The youth was right.

They had time and hope on their side.

“Still, we need to find your sister first. Let’s move out now. Not only is she a lady, she’s also injured. It’s very dangerous for her to be here in such a vulnerable state.”

The youth was also worried about his sister, so he nodded. He quickly followed Long Chen to find Long Yue’s whereabouts. Rather than finding her, it was more accurate to say that they just walked in random directions to test their luck. If they walked in a straight line, they would find themselves back where they started.

After absorbing the King Crystals, the youth’s strength returned to the Third Earthly Martial Stage. He now knew that Long Chen was at the Second Earthly Martial Stage. “You are very strong for your age. You should be able to reach the Third Earthly Martial Stage in a short amount of time,” the youth commented.

Long Chen nodded. His current combat capabilities far exceeded that of a regular Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivator. Even the youth couldn’t win against him, especially after Long Chen merged the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw and Wind God Kick. The combination of his claws and kicks was devastating.

There were a lot of people in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. The Martial Overlord regularly imprisoned people here, including those not even at the Earthly Martial Realm. Long Chen and the youth captured everyone they encountered to ask about Long Yue’s whereabouts, but none of them had an answer.

Long Chen and the youth’s patient gradually wore out. Ten days later, they felt like they had circled around the entire Nine Spirit Purgatory, but still hadn’t found Long Yue.

On the twelfth day, Long Chen caught a First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator. The man had tried to take Long Chen’s King Crystals but was defeated.

Long Chen suppressed the man and asked about Long Yue. Surprisingly, the man hesitated before answering, “I think ... I think I saw her ...”

Both Long Chen and the youth were shocked. “Where? Where did you see her? Tell me everything and I will give you ten King Crystals.”

Ten King Crystals were enough for him to be king in this place. The man looked at them with surprise until Long Chen slapped him. “I ... I saw the people from Fengyun Group chasing her. She doesn't have any King Crystals, but the boss of the Fengyun Group wanted to take her as his wife.”

“Fengyun Group?” Long Chen frowned.

The youth at his side was angry. “The Fengyun Group was originally one of the larger factions in the Divine Martial Empire, similar to the Wind God Sect. They were a group of bandits that were rebellious and refused to yield to the Martial Alliance. All eight experts were imprisoned here, including their leader, who's at the Third Earthly Martial Stage. I've heard of them in this place. They had a lot of King Crystals when they entered and they kept taking King Crystals from others. That's why no one dares to fight against them. But they must die for trying to touch my sister.”

Long Chen nodded.

Time was of the essence, and they needed to act now.

Chapter 617 - Final Struggle

Long Chen wasn't afraid of the Fengyun Group because they were trapped in the Nine Spirit Purgatory for so long.

He had obtained even more information about Long Yue from the cultivator. The man had told them that he last saw Long Yue yesterday and didn't know where she was today, but he was certain that she was nearby. If Long Yue wasn't captured yet, then Long Chen and the youth would have spotted them immediately since having numerous people chasing after a single cultivator would've roused a huge commotion.

Long Chen and the youth separated but maintained a distance of a hundred meters so that they were always in each other's sight. They then started combing the area. Both of them started panicking after learning that Long Yue was in danger, but they weren't afraid of the Fengyun Group. Both of them were born for battle and didn't even fear the Martial Alliance, much less a group of bandits.

Gray clouds covered the sky as a cold wind blew past the wasteland. The gray earth stretched all the way to the horizon as if there was no end to it.

Long Yue was tired. She had spent most of the time running away from her pursuers after she was thrown into this place half a month ago. She had already used up most of her essence, so she was relying solely on her willpower to run now.

She had fallen numerous times, so her clothes were dirty. Her clothes were also covered in blood from both herself and others.

Long Yue felt dizzy and accidentally fell down again. Her body told her that she needed to rest, but the presence of pursuers spurred her to wake up again.

“No, I cannot stop, or I will really die.” Behind her were the people from Fengyun Group. At first, they wanted to capture her to satisfy themselves, but after Long Yue

killed some of their partners, their greed and hatred had amplified many times. Long Yue knew she would be done for if she was captured.

Long Yue had never thought she would die in this place and in the hands of people like them.

She gritted her teeth and stood up. Her red face was now pale from exhaustion. The wounds inflicted by the Martial Overlord and her constant usage of her essence had left her on the brink of collapsing.

She didn't know how much longer she would be able to handle this, but she still gritted her teeth and continued forward. Even so, the obscene laughter and angry shouts were getting closer and closer.

Long Yue felt fear for the first time when she heard those bestial shouts. She had always been fearless and didn't cower when she confronted the Martial Overlord, but the people from Fengyun Group were like demonic beasts after suffering in the Nine Spirit Purgatory for so long.

Her strength was nearly exhausted and she couldn't last any longer. The more she used the last remaining bit of her essence, the faster she felt her dizziness coming back again.

"What should I do to escape this?" Long Yue despaired. She wasn't afraid of death, but she was afraid of not finding her brother here. If both of them died in this place, the Dragon clan would go extinct. She felt ashamed for letting her ancestors down.

The dizziness grew stronger and her vision blurred. Her legs went limp and she hit the ground again. This time, she didn't crawl back up. Her pursuers saw that she was down for good and immediately ran towards her.

When Long Yue crawled up again, the group had encircled her. There were five men, and all of them were wearing tattered clothes. Their hair was a mess and looked like beggars, but their auras were stronger than Long Yue's because they had Royal Crystals.

All of them were glaring at her with hatred and lust. One of the skinny men approached her as he panted. His eyes were filled with intense desire.

"Long Yue, I actually yearned for you ten years ago. I thought I lost my chance when I was imprisoned in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, but I never thought you would end up here too. You once defeated me, and now you even killed members of the Fengyun Group. I will make you pay for everything here today!"

The man's shirt was in slightly better condition than the others because he was the leader of the Fengyun Group. He had a supply of Royal Crystals, so no one could defeat him. He always took most of the Royal Crystals for himself.

Long Yue knew that without Royal Crystals, they wouldn't have lived for so long. The Nine Spirit Purgatory was a barren place, but she had learned that many of the prisoners spent their time digging because there was a chance they could get a King Crystal or two if they were lucky.

It was all thanks to the buried Royal Crystals and the occasional new prisoners bringing in Royal Crystals that they were able to survive until today.

Long Yue smiled as she glared at Feng Zhiyun. “I thought you were already dead, not surviving like a zombie here in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. Do you think you’re great for bullying the people here? Everyone here is weak and pitiful. You are accomplishing nothing by bullying them.”

Long Yue’s taunt hit a sore spot. Feng Zhiyun knew that no matter how glorious he was in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, he was nothing but a joke to outsiders.

“Fine! I, Feng Zhiyun, love to bully the weak, but so what? You are now in my hands. Don’t think that I will let you off so easily. Ten years ... I haven’t tasted a woman in ten years, especially one of your caliber. I never thought I would have the luck to experience this again. Once I’m done with you, I will let my brothers savor you too! I won’t let you die easily—I will use you as a tool for as long as I live.”

“Thank you, Boss!” The other four became excited when they heard that Feng Zhiyun was going to give them a chance too. They were also tempted by Long Yue’s beauty.

Brothers shared everything.

But Long Yue was not afraid. She chuckled and shook her head. “No matter what you do, you will always be a loser to me. A lowlife piece of trash.”

Long Yue wasn’t afraid of them, as she could just kill herself before they touched her, but she was disappointed that she was unable to find her brother.

Feng Zhiyun was angry after getting insulted by Long Yue so many times. He shouted angrily, “Go! We’ve wasted two Royal Crystals just for her! We cannot waste any more!”

“Yes, Boss!” The four men revealed lecherous looks and pounced towards her. After so many years, even their attacks had become pitiful.

Long Yue didn’t have enough essence to do much, not even to use the Dragon Soul Transformation. But even without it, she had her base strength as a Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivator.

“Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw.” Using her physical strength and the last of her essence, Long Yue decided to go all out. Killing one more before she died was more than enough.

Long Yue’s final struggle was even more fearsome than they had thought. The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw was a strong attack that intensified even more when she attacked recklessly. The four men who hadn’t had a real battle for a long time were pushed back.

“Die! Five Piercing Dragons!” Long Yue wanted to kill Feng Zhiyun, but to her surprise, he asked his followers to block the attack.

Even so, with enough Royal Crystals, Feng Zhiyun’s followers could defend themselves from an injured Long Yue with no essence. Feng Zhiyun could even ensure his safety.

Long Yue mustered all of her remaining strength and used the Five Piercing Dragons. Four of the dragons attacked the four men while the final one charged towards Feng Zhiyun, but the latter had miscalculated. Long Yue’s final desperate attack was not something a regular First Earthly Martial

Stage cultivator could block. Feng Zhiyun was shocked when he saw his four followers' necks cut open with heavy slash wounds, causing blood to be sprayed from their arteries.

"No!" Feng Zhiyun used all of his strength to block Long Yue's final attack. He had underestimated her strength, which resulted in the deaths of his followers.

After using the last of her strength and killing four of the men, she fell to the ground without any strength left. She couldn't fight back against Feng Zhiyun anymore; her strength left her body and her consciousness faded.

The only thing she heard was Feng Zhiyun's angry shouts. His four followers had helped him a lot, and after spending the last ten years together, he had formed a brotherly bond with them, but now they were dead.

Feng Zhiyun suddenly stopped shouting and laughed. "Fine. They are all dead. That means I get to enjoy Long Yue on my own. She's all mine now. I have even more Royal Crystals to use now that they're dead. Not bad. Not bad."

Chapter 618 - What Are You Laughing At?

Long Yue smiled bitterly.

There was no more hope for her.

She was going to get sullied.

But she was not going to let Feng Zhiyun get what he wanted. She was prepared to commit suicide and even explode her body to bits in the process to prevent the pervert from defiling her corpse. She was certain that he would do so now that he had become a crazed animal.

Long Yue caught a whiff of Feng Zhiyun's stench.

Even in her final moments, Long Yue was still worrying about the Battle clan. Between them and her brother, she valued the latter more. She thought that it was possible that the Battle clan and the Dragon clan had been eradicated since she wasn't there.

Long Yue recalled her entire life. She had lived half of her life with her brother, while the other half was with the Dragon clan.

She recalled everyone's faces and even the moments she spent with her brother, Long Chen. It wasn't until the end that she recalled the other Long Chen, who created miracle after miracle.

Suddenly, she heard Long Chen's voice. Long Yue thought she was hallucinating because it was impossible for him to be here in the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

"Stop!" A thunderous shout woke Long Yue up. She raised her head groggily and saw two figures approaching. They were running at the speed of Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators.

Who are they?

Long Yue thought she was still hallucinating.

Feng Zhiyun was now just beside her.

He hadn't touched a woman in ten years and couldn't hold back anymore.

Feng Zhiyun's crotch was already bulging when he saw Long Yue's pale face and curvy body.

But at the same time, he heard someone shouting. He scowled and looked at who it was. Two figures appeared in front of him in an instant. One of them, a youth in gray clothing, sped past and used his arm to slash at Feng Zhiyun's neck.

"Who are you?!" Feng Zhiyun gurgled as his vision blurred. Blood sprayed from his neck and covered his clothes. The cold pain informed him of his broken neck as his head drooped downwards.

I'm dead? His consciousness faded and he stared in disbelief. His head fell uncontrollably. The thing he saw was Long Yue's surprised look.

And then there was darkness.

"Xiao Chen!" Long Yue cried with joy. She thought she had heard her seventh brother Long Chen, but it was actually her real brother.

Long Chen stood at the side. Xiao Chen was what Long Yue called her real brother, while she would call him by his name or 'Seventh Brother.' It was easier to differentiate them like this.

Long Yue was still laying on the ground as she stared at the gray-clothed teenager. Both of them were crying, ignoring Long Chen. Long Chen chuckled and took out several King Crystals from the Primordial Realm. "Eldest Sister, don't get too excited yet. Absorb these King Crystals first. You don't have any essence right now, and it's very hard to feed you spiritual herbs like that."

The King Crystals fell into Long Yue's hands. Those King Crystals were enough for her to recover half of her strength. Long Chen could give her more once she recovered.

Long Yue was shocked to hear Long Chen's voice. He was still disguised as the Hundred-War Martial King, so she didn't recognize him.

"Seventh Brother?" Long Yue couldn't believe her eyes.

"Yes, it's me. Hurry up and refine them. We can explain everything once you've recovered. I have thousands of King Crystals, so don't worry about it."

Long Yue nodded like a good child and understood that his disguise came from Lan Xiang'er. She also had a good guess as to where Long Chen's King Crystals came from. She quickly refined the King Crystals in her hand.

She sat up as she refined the crystals. The youth finally relaxed and looked at Long Chen with gratitude. "I am very grateful. If it wasn't for you, both me and my sister would be goners. I really don't know how to thank you ..."

"You don't have to be so polite. She's your sister, and in a way, she's also my sister after I joined the Dragon clan. It's normal for me to save her. Without her, I wouldn't be where I am today. In a sense, she's also my benefactor."

After he had escaped the Ancient Demon Domain, Long Yue had helped Long Chen recover and even guided him into the Earthly Martial Realm. If it wasn't for her, Long Chen might've made a lot of mistakes.

The youth nodded and smiled. "Looks like the Dragon clan is doing well, seeing how you're treating them. I'm envious now. If I get out of here, I will stay with my sister and follow you all."

"You thought it through?" Long Chen was surprised. He thought that the youth would still be rebellious, but it would be better if he followed Long Yue. That way, the Dragon clan would have another strong cultivator.

The youth smiled bitterly when he looked at Long Yue. "Maybe. I realized that no matter what I do, she will always look at me as if I am always a child in her eyes. As they say, our oldest siblings are our parents too. Maybe it's time for me to listen to her since she's my only family right now."

Long Chen relaxed when he heard that.

He was certain that Long Yue would be happy too.

The Martial Alliance was becoming weaker, while they were becoming stronger. This was good news for them.

Half a day later, while the two Long Chens were conversing, Long Yue finally recovered. She had regained half of her essence and was now out of the critical zone.

Long Chen gave Long Yue hundreds of King Crystals. He was not a stingy person, so he didn't mind giving her that much.

Long Yue had heard their conversation while she was refining the King Crystals. After she recovered and took the other King Crystals, she looked at her brother in excitement. "Xiao Chen, did you mean what you said?"

The youth nodded. "It's true. From today onwards, I will follow you. Don't abandon me, alright?"

Long Yue cried again, but then she remembered where they were and her expression turned bitter. "There's no way to escape this place. What good would it be for you to follow me? Wait, Seventh Brother, why are you here? What happened to the Battle clan?"

Long Yue wanted to know a lot of things.

Long Chen didn't answer her. "Eldest Sister, now that you've recovered, we need to find the ten-meter hill. I will explain the rest later."

The two of them nodded. While the youth was looking for the hill, Long Chen started to fill Long Yue in on what had taken place during her absence.

He briefly explained what happened to the Battle clan since Long Yue was worried. Both Long Yue and the youth were shocked to hear his story.

"You mean ... You advanced into the Second Earthly Martial Stage during the fight and killed Yang Ningfeng? That's how you won and chased the Martial Alliance away?" Long Yue's voice was trembling from awe.

“You even killed Yang Ningfeng? I couldn’t even kill that old bastard!” The youth was shocked too. It was already a miracle to advance to the next stage during battle, but Long Chen had even managed to kill a Martial Emperor!

They looked at Long Chen and saw that he wasn’t lying at all.

“Almost a month ago, when we first left the Cloud Dream Swamp, you were only at the First Earthly Martial Stage. You advanced to the Second Earthly Martial Stage in just ten or so days? Seventh Brother, you ...” Long Yue didn’t know what to say about Long Chen’s talent.

She had never seen someone so monstrous before.

The youth had told Long Chen before that as long as he worked hard, he would reach the Third Earthly Martial Stage and become as strong as Zhao Danchen. But Long Chen had not only accomplished that, he had even surpassed it a little. The youth was embarrassed.

Long Chen nodded nonstop.

He wasn’t sure how to react when both Long Yue and the other Long Chen looked at him like a monster. He decided to explain the rest of the story. “Zhao Danchen told me that you were imprisoned in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, and he even said he was going to marry Second Brother’s daughter, Liu Yiyi. So I asked Second Brother to head to the Ancient Demon Domain while I came here to rescue you.”

Long Yue was touched when she heard that he was here to rescue her, but then she felt pain in her heart. “Why are you so stupid? You shouldn’t have come here. Now all three of us are stuck. All we can do now is await death. The Dragon clan no longer has any descendants.”

She was angry.

But both Long Chen and the youth chuckled.

“What are you laughing at?” Long Yue was confused.

Chapter 619 - Stone Scorpions

“Sister, he knows the way out. We need to find the small hill and we can get out of here,” the youth explained with a smile.

“What?”

“It’s the information from the Red Souls. They told me Xiao Lin knew the way out of the Nine Souls Purgatory. I used a secret technique to learn the information. We need to find a small hill that’s roughly ten meters tall and dig down a hundred meters. That’s where we will find a compass that will aid us in escaping this place,” Long Chen explained.

“Is that so?” Long Yue was overjoyed. Long Chen had created a lot of miracles, but this would be the largest one of them all if they really escaped the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

“Let’s go find the small hill now.”

“Let’s rest for a bit first. Eldest Sister, you are still injured. I have some spiritual herbs here that can help you recover faster.” Long Chen took out some spiritual herbs and gave them to her.

They were clear on what to do next.

Find the small hill and escape.

It had taken them tens of days to find Long Yue. Long Chen estimated that they would need the same amount of time to find the small hill. The gray-shirted youth had come across it once, but due to how the Nine Spirit Purgatory worked, it was hard to find it again.

“That’s strange. I know I saw it before. Why didn’t we see it in the past ten days?” The youth sighed.

“Don’t worry. We should be able to find it as long as we keep searching,” Long Chen said to console him. The Nine Spirit Purgatory was devoid of anything. Anyone stuck inside for a long period of time would’ve gone crazy if they were alone.

Ten days passed by in a flash. Thanks to Long Chen’s King Crystals and the spiritual herbs, Long Yue recovered completely. The three of them were at the Third Earthly Martial Stage, so their combined attacks could decimate anyone in the Divine Martial Empire. Even the Martial Overlord had to be wary of them if they escaped.

Even the Ancient Demon Domain only had a single person at the Third Earthly Martial Realm.

The Martial Alliance, on the other hand, only had two left.

The three of them spent their time talking as they searched for the small hill.

Because they needed to find it fast, Long Chen didn’t spend much time cultivating for the past ten days.

The Earthly Martial Realm could technically cultivate as long as their feet were planted on the ground and connected to the earth.

In those ten days, Long Chen removed his disguise as the Hundred-War Martial King and revealed his true self.

“The Nine Spirit Purgatory is truly a bleak place. There’s nothing here at all.” Long Chen huffed as he stared at the unchanged terrain.

“Other than the gray clouds and ground, there really is nothing else.” Long Yue sighed in exasperation too.

“There are also some strange stone scorpions. I haven’t seen one yet, but the others kept talking about how fearsome those scorpions were. The scorpions are a pile of animated stones and not demonic beasts. They are extremely durable, and most Earthly Martial Realm cultivators find it hard to destroy them. The stone scorpions are also exceedingly powerful. I think we would die from just a single jab from their tail or a single crush from their pincers. But the most fearsome trait is that they always appeared in groups of at least a thousand. Almost no one survives their onslaught whenever they appear.” The gray-shirted youth knew more about the Nine Spirit Purgatory as he had been imprisoned here longer.

“Oh? Is there really such a thing?” Both Long Chen and Long Yue were shocked to hear about the fearsome stone scorpions. *To think that they may not be alive and yet have even stronger attacks than regular beasts.*

“The scorpions are like the bringers of death in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. A lot of people die whenever they appear. Those without sufficient King Crystals are destined to be killed by a group of stone scorpions. Thankfully, we have plenty, and the stone scorpions usually appear once every few years. If not, there might not be anyone left alive—”

He suddenly paused, stopping mid-sentence.

“Wait, the ground is shaking.” The youth was stunned by what was happening.

Long Chen and Long Yue frowned. Long Chen focused on the ground to feel the vibrations. Sure enough, the ground was shaking, and it was steadily growing stronger. All of them had a bad feeling and looked around them with their guard up.

“Did I ... Did I just jinx everyone?” the youth grumbled.

“Yes,” Long Yue and Long Chen answered at the same time. They saw a large cloud of dust on the horizon that blurred the line between the sky and the ground. Long Chen squinted and saw numerous tails high up in the air.

He had a horrifying realization that the scorpions’ tails were ten meters long if he could see them from so far away.

Ten meters was a conservative estimation.

“Holy shit. They really are the scorpions. Fuck!” The gray-shirted youth was dumbfounded. He was just talking about the scorpions, but then they really appeared.

The rumbling grew stronger. It was clear that the stone scorpions’ strength was immense from how the ground shook even though they were so far away. They didn’t know what kind of stone the scorpions were made out of, but they were certain that the scorpions were extremely durable.

The trio looked at each other and decided to run.

They didn't know what the stone scorpions were, but they knew they would be dead if they got surrounded. There was no reason to risk their lives here in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, so they ran immediately.

To conserve their King Crystals, they decided to maintain a set distance from the scorpions. Thankfully, they had enough, or they would end up like the other survivors—butchered by the scorpions.

The cloud of dust was like a meat grinder as it approached the three. The stone scorpions somehow homed in on the trio because no matter where they ran, the scorpions were behind them.

“I understand now! The Nine Spirit Purgatory is a prison, and the stone scorpions spawned to eradicate us due to our essence ...”

It was a plausible explanation to why the stone scorpions were chasing after them only.

Even though they had enough King Crystals to run, the search for the small hill had to be postponed.

Long Chen and the others tried to shake the stone scorpions off, but they refused to give up. The stone scorpions ground up any cultivators that were unlucky enough to run into them. The other cultivators they encountered ran as fast as they could too.

Three days passed...

All three of them were tired. The stone scorpions were closing in on them. Long Chen looked back and saw what they looked like. They were made from grayish-white rocks and they towered above Long Chen. Their tails were more than twenty meters tall and their massive pincers were raised high. The creatures were armed to the teeth with their fearsome appendages.

“I don't think we should run anymore. They've killed countless people while chasing us and yet they are not stopping. Will they not stop until they've killed us?” Long Chen was curious.

“I don't know. We've used a lot of King Crystals in the past three days. If we continue running like this, we will be dead long before we find the small hill.” The youth huffed as he spat out his words with difficulty.

Long Yue smiled bitterly and shook her head.

Two more days passed after that.

All three of them were very tired after running nonstop for five days, but the stone scorpions were still chasing after them. They were a hundred meters away now. The stone scorpions would close the gap significantly if any one of them were to stop even momentarily.

All three of them were panicking.

They never came across the small hill even though they'd been running for days.

Long Chen suddenly heard Long Yue cry out in surprise, “They stopped!” He looked back and saw that the stone scorpions had indeed stopped chasing. They were standing still, and the dust cloud settled down.

Thousands of the stone scorpions stood deathly still in a neat row just a hundred meters away from them. Long Chen could finally stop and take a closer look at them.

Other than the grayish-white stone making up the scorpions' bodies, he also saw a strange black rune on each of their carapaces. The black runes pulsed and glowed when the stone scorpions were moving.

Is the black rune the reason why they can move?

"They've stopped moving. Why?" The youth circled around some of the stone scorpions and found that they didn't have eyes. They completely ignored the youth despite how close he was.

"Maybe they ran out of energy after chasing us for five days? Maybe that's why they aren't moving."

"Good. We can finally get away from them. Let's go." The youth smiled and turned around.

"Wait, they are digging into the ground. The Nine Spirit Purgatory is a bizarre place. Aren't you curious about where they came from and what's so special about them? Since we haven't found the small hill yet, why don't we follow them? We can run back up here if there's any danger," Long Chen suggested.

The stone scorpions were indeed starting to dig into the gray earth. Their bodies were massive, but they dug with surprising speed.

Long Yue hesitated before she said, "Alright, let's chase after them. We can get out the moment we encounter any danger."

Chapter 620 - Underground Space

Both Long Chens were adventurous while Long Yue was a determined person.

Using Sight, Long Chen saw that the stone scorpions lacked souls. *They don't have souls? What are they, then?*

The three of them watched the stone scorpions sink into the ground. The ground was like their home. Once they burrowed, the ground returned back to normal as if nothing had happened.

The three of them had to dig down into the earth to chase after the scorpions, so they activated their powerful dragon forms. Due to being Earthly Martial Realm cultivators, their strength came from the earth, so their digging speed matched the stone scorpions'.

Long Yue and the youth realized that Long Chen's Dragon Soul Transformation was different from theirs. Long Chen's Dragon Soul Transformation gave him darker-colored scales that were more evenly distributed. His bone spikes were also much stronger than those of the siblings.

The Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon and the Red Dragon were both red, but there was a large gap between the strongest and weakest dragon.

“Are you sure you’re from our family? Why is your Dragon Soul Transformation much stronger than ours?” the youth asked.

Long Chen shook his head and smiled. “I don’t know. I was like this when I first learned the Dragon Soul Transformation. Your sister said that I might be from a branch of your family. Let’s continue chasing after the stone scorpions. We can’t let them detect us.”

He didn’t want them to know about his Dragon Soul Transformation, so he changed the subject.

The three of them dug silently. Their bodies and claws were harder than the gray earth, so it was easy enough to tunnel through it.

But the deeper they dug, the stronger the pressure became. The pressure was becoming unbearable, but the stone scorpions still continued to go deeper. Not knowing when they would reach their destination, Long Yue was the first to give up. “Let’s stop chasing them. If we continue digging downwards, we might not be able to escape if there’s danger. Let’s go back now.”

The youth nodded.

Just then, Long Chen said, “Wait, they disappeared. What a strange space ...”

Long Yue really wanted to leave, but she had no choice but to continue digging when she heard Long Chen say that. Long Chen had defeated the Martial Emperor Yang Ningfeng and was the strongest of the three, so she had no qualms with letting him lead them.

Long Chen dug towards where the stone scorpions had disappeared. Right before they arrived at the spot, Long Chen felt his claws breaking into empty space. He stopped immediately. *What is this?*

He reached out and felt his arm reach out of the ground. Long Chen realized that they were just outside of an empty space deep underground.

How big is the space in front of us?

Long Chen was fearless because he had the strength to back it up. “There’s something strange up ahead. Let me enter first and I will let you know if there’s any danger.”

Since he had suggested it, he was the one who entered the strange space first. He tunneled forward and entered the empty space. Much to his surprise, he found that he was high up in the air when he broke through. He quickly suspended his body in the air and slowly floated downwards. Thankfully, he still remembered how to fly.

He looked down, and what he saw was shocking.

It was a massive cavern, one so big that he couldn’t see the other end of it. The only thing he saw was the large amount of stones on the ground. The stones were the same color as the stone scorpions. Long Chen suspected that the stones on the ground were the scorpions themselves.

The cave was their nest. When the stone scorpions came here, their bodies were dismantled and turned back to normal stones.

But it was just Long Chen’s guess.

The bottom of the cavern was filled with stones. Long Chen looked up and saw a membrane of black light holding up the earth to form the cavern. The light rippled just like the water in a lake and looked beautiful.

Long Chen had tunneled through the layer of light just now. It appeared that the light only kept the dirt out while allowing other things to enter.

Just then, the black light shimmered behind Long Chen. Long Yue and the youth came through. They were worried that Long Chen was in danger, so they entered without waiting for Long Chen to give them a clear signal.

The two of them were shocked too when they saw what was in the cavern.

“This is a massive cavern ... But where are the stone scorpions?” Long Yue was intrigued.

Long Chen pointed at the blanket of stones underneath them. “Those should be the stone scorpions.”

“Are you saying ...” Long Yue was surprised.

The gray-shirted youth pointed in a direction and said, “Wait, look over there. There’s a massive stone there in the middle.”

They looked at what he was pointing at. It was a massive boulder surrounded by fragmented stones in the middle of the cavern. The boulder was completely gray and appeared to be made of the same type of stone as the stone scorpions. It was smooth with a soft light glowing on its surface. The boulder was roughly twenty meters in diameter.

“I think that boulder is the reason why this place is so strange.” Long Chen then waved his hands and gestured for them to check the boulder. “Since we are here, might as well check what it is.”

He made his way towards the boulder.

Nothing happened when they started approaching it.

But Long Chen suddenly sensed danger when they were close. He stopped and asked them to retreat. They did so, only to find that a black light had appeared underneath them. Several black runes lit up, then the stones quickly converged, forming several stone scorpions in front of them.

The black runes were shimmering on the carapaces of the scorpions.

“The stone scorpions are really made out of inanimate rocks!” The youth was shocked.

The thousands of stone scorpions that had chased after them for five days were scarier, but there were only a few dozen of them right now, so they weren’t afraid. Most of the stones on the ground remained in place.

“I think the scorpions are out of energy after chasing after us for five days. Maybe that’s why only a few dozen are moving right now. Let’s deal with them first.”

There was no reason for them to be afraid if Long Chen was right.

It would be easy for them to deal with this number of scorpions.

Long Chen suddenly appeared in front of one of them. The scorpion used its massive pincer to punch Long Chen.

“Willow Step.” Long Chen evaded the pincer easily with the technique. The scorpion couldn’t touch him at all.

The stone scorpion suddenly swung its tail at Long Chen. The tail was much faster and stronger than its pincers.

Its tail whistled through the air.

Long Chen used Willow Step to evade it too.

“The Huangfu’s family Willow Step?” Both Long Yue and the youth were shocked to see Long Chen using Willow Step. *How did Long Chen obtain it and when did he find the time to cultivate it?*

Despite only being apart for a short time, Long Chen had not only advanced to the next stage, he had also learned two intermediate King-tier martial techniques!

Long Yue was surprised by Long Chen’s improvement.

The youth was also impressed by Long Chen’s strength. At first, he felt superior to Long Chen since he was at the Third Earthly Martial Stage at such a young age, two years younger than Zhao Danchen. But his confidence was bruised when he learned of Long Chen’s accomplishments.

“What a monster.” The youth sighed.

Because Long Chen had approached them first, the stone scorpions designated him as the main threat and surrounded him. The attacks came relentlessly. The stone scorpions were fast and strong, but Willow Step allowed him to avoid the attacks with ease. He didn’t even need to attack them.

Whenever an attack was going to hit him, he would stand in front of one of the stone scorpions and use Willow Step to dodge it. The attack would then hit another stone scorpion.