

War God 81

Chapter 81 Soul Nourishing Fruit

On the second day, Long Chen learned the location of the Dawn Trading Alliance from Gan Lin and left Lingwu City through the city gates designated for the Turquoise family.

Gan Lin was a little puzzled that he wanted to leave after just arriving, but seeing as Long Chen insisted on leaving, he couldn't stop him. "You'll receive your first mission in four days, so it's best you don't stay out for too long."

Long Chen nodded. "I'm going to look for something. It won't take too long. I should be able to return within the day."

The Dawn Trading Alliance was the largest trading platform in Yuanling City. Since he still didn't have any contribution points in the Lingwu family, he couldn't purchase anything in the family yet. It was common for cultivators to go there, so Gan Lin was not concerned. He only felt like Long Chen should've been focused solely on the upcoming mission.

"The Dawn Trading Alliance is huge! They have more than a hundred bases in Yuanling City alone. There's one small base about a kilometer away from the Turquoise family's gates, but even this small base is as big as the Turquoise Willow Residence."

Since arriving at Yuanling City, Long Chen's opponents had all been a huge level above what he usually faced. He only had three Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms left, which wasn't enough for Ling Xi to help him even once. That was why Long Chen had decided to go searching for soul-nourishing herbs on his second day in the Lingwu family. *The silly girl surely wants to use her power every time I'm in danger. Since she won't listen to me, it's best I get her more herbs before she dies from this!*

Long Chen was intelligent enough to quickly locate the Dawn Trading Alliance according to Gan Lin's instructions despite not being familiar with Yuanling City at all.

It was a dark blue structure sitting on a bustling street.

It was his first time visiting such a gigantic marketplace. It was far superior to the Warrior's Market in Baiyang Town. Crowds were going in and out of the place. Since Long Chen wasn't considered an outstanding character, he was able to quickly make his way into the inner part of the marketplace.

"Woah, the things here aren't bad at all ..." praised Ling Xi in the sword. Long Chen was also studying the plethora of goods on display. Although he wasn't sure about their category levels, based on the color and price, he knew they were good stuff.

"Melastoma Root. Three Divine Jades.

"Huiling Grass. Two Divine Jades.

"Blizzard Lingzhi Mushroom. Thirty-five Divine Jades ..."

Long Chen's gaze swept across the numerous displayed herbs. There were spiritual medicines as far as the eye could see, so he assumed he was in the spiritual medicine section of the market. *This Blizzard Lingzhi Mushroom is only an elementary Black-tier spiritual herb, and it already costs thirty-five divine jades! That's so expensive. I only have eleven divine jades with me now.*

Long Chen could only smile bitterly knowing he was too poor. "Have you sensed any soul-nourishing herbs here yet?"

"Be patient!" Because he'd interrupted her, Ling Xi scolded him with some anger and embarrassment. "There are so many herbs here and the scents are all mixed. I need time to distinguish between them!"

Long Chen shrugged. As he watched the passersby, he thought, *I haven't seen more than a few weak people here. It looks like ever since coming to Yuanling City, I have become the literal bottom of the food chain. This cannot go on. If I die and go to hell, Father will castrate me ...*

There were many customers in the marketplace, but there were many people in charge of maintaining order, as well as service-type staff. An arrogant teenage girl saw that Long Chen was looking around and walked up to him to ask, "Sir, may I ask if you need any help?"

This was just a customer service staff member, and she was at the Ninth Draconic Stage, meaning she was stronger than Long Chen. He admired her for that, but the admiration disappeared the instant he saw the contempt in her eyes. "I am looking for something, but I'm not sure if your shop has it."

Long Chen was only at the Eighth Draconic Stage, yet he was behaving exactly like an aristocratic young master. This disgusted the girl, and the impatience on her face was very obvious. She looked at him, as if challenging him, and said, "What do you need? The things displayed in the Dawn Trading Alliance marketplace are all rare and precious goods! The average person won't be able to afford them!"

Long Chen was here to help Ling Xi and was too lazy to dwell on the matter. "I need soul-nourishing herbs."

The girl froze, then grinned. "Those are not cheap. Are you sure?"

She eyed Long Chen up and down. Everything she saw told her that Long Chen would not have much money. Divine jades were a trading currency commonly used by cultivators at the Hunan Core Realm, but Long Chen looked like the kind to only spend spirit jades. "Let me tell you this: our goods are priced by divine jades, not spirit jades!"

The girl was rude and seemed to be taking advantage of his silence. Long Chen privately cursed her out several times over. He huffed, "I know. Just lead the way."

What a rude, insufferable woman! If it wasn't for my darling Ling Xi, I would've dragged you out there and punished you in public!

Long Chen was secretly cursing her, but he maintained a calm, neutral expression.

The girl eyed him once more, but because of her job, she had to show him the way. *I don't know which hole this country bumpkin crawled out from. Let's see how embarrassed you'll be when you can't afford the goods later!*

She had been in a bad mood all day, and it had soured even more after meeting this little village young master.

As she led the way, Ling Xi finally got excited and softly exclaimed, “Long Chen, I can sense it! It’s an elementary Black-tier Soul Nourishing Fruit!”

He also grew excited when he heard this. He’d been so worried about keeping her alive and now he could finally rest easy.

Very soon, the girl brought him to the Soul Nourishing Fruit display and looked at him mockingly. Long Chen leaned in and was left stunned—the price of the fruit was one hundred divine jades!

It was just an elementary Black-tier spiritual medicine, yet it cost a hundred divine jades. Long Chen only had eleven divine jades on him; how could he pay for this?

This was his first time feeling the frustration of having no money in front of a woman. *I used to spend my money so generously at the Jade Palace brothel, throwing money in their faces. I never thought there’d come a day when I would feel this poor!*

When Ling Xi saw the price, her face fell too. She was incredibly excited about the Soul Nourishing Fruit, but it was unfortunate that Long Chen didn’t have much money ...

He had assumed that any elementary Black-tier herb would be something like the Huiling Grass. “It’s fine, Long Chen. We’ll come when you have more money. It’s not urgent ...”

Ling Xi had a huge pout on her face because she couldn’t get the thing she wanted. She stared at the Soul Nourishing Fruit with watery eyes.

When the girl saw Long Chen’s bitter expression, she looked smug. She had known all along it would end up like this and said mildly, “Like I said before, how could a small-town boy like you afford spiritual medicine? I assume you still remember the way to the exit? Apologies, I won’t be walking you out.”

She couldn’t be bothered to even take one more look at him. With her nose up in the air, she was about to leave when Long Chen yelled, “Wait!”

The girl turned and glared at him in annoyance. Long Chen asked before she could speak, “Am I allowed to trade other things for goods here?”

Long Chen had always been the type of person who would complete anything he put his mind to. He especially couldn’t give up when this was a promise he had made to Ling Xi.

Also, he couldn’t lose face in front of Ling Xi so he mustn’t back down ...

When she heard that Long Chen wanted to barter, the girl spat, “And what do you have that is worth as much as the Soul Nourishing Fruit? If you have something, show me now! Don’t waste my time. I need to serve other customers!”

Long Chen squinted. To be honest, he really wanted to kill her over her attitude and words, but now that he was in Yuanling City, he had to constantly remind himself to hold it in. A true man can be flexible. For Ling Xi’s sake, he swallowed his anger and took out a steel heart from his Universe Pouch.

Thinking he was about to use his Ascension Fruit to trade for the herb, Ling Xi panicked but heaved a sigh of relief when she saw the steel heart. She pursed her lips, staring at him in gratitude.

She knew that Long Chen was a prideful person, but now he had to stay humble just for her to keep living on. *Why is this idiot so good to me?*

Ling Xi didn't have an answer.

The girl glanced at the steel core and smirked as if she had expected this. "You think a stupid rock like this can be traded for a Soul Nourishing Fruit? You're killing me! A country bumpkin will always be a country bumpkin! You're so stupid!"

"Ao Xue! How could you talk like that?!"

A low voice interrupted them. Long Chen and Ao Xue turned to see an old man with white hair but a youthful-looking face quickly striding over. He looked fitter than most youths.

When she saw him, Ao Xue's face changed and she greeted humbly, "Greetings, Supervisor."

The old man she called Supervisor huffed at Ao Xue, then he looked towards Long Chen. He took the steel heart from Long Chen's hand, studied it for a while, and then asked emotionally, "My name is Zhao Tianfang. Sir, may I ask if this is a steel heart belonging to a steel puppet of the Lingwu family?"

Finally, someone who recognized treasure when he saw it. This old man was far superior to Ao Xue in terms of cultivation and position, yet he was down-to-earth. When Long Chen saw that he was friendly, he nodded. "Yes."

Zhao Tianfang then lowered his voice. "How many more do you have?"

Long Chen didn't understand why the old man saw so much value in the steel heart, but since it was useless to him and he seriously needed money, he answered, "Many."

When Zhao Tianfang heard his answer, he broke into a grin and patted his shoulder. "Young man, shall we step aside for a chat?"

Step aside for a chat? Maybe he had a chance.

Long Chen was naturally willing to do so. He gloated at Ao Xue, then turned to leave with Tianfang.

When Ao Xue saw her supervisor taking Long Chen so seriously and his gloating face, she reddened in anger. The veins in her pale cheeks almost burst and she felt like she had just been slapped. *That bastard! He's looking for trouble! Don't let me see you again!*

Chapter 82 Examiner

Why is this old man so interested in the steel hearts?

This was the question that lingered in Long Chen's mind when he followed Zhao Tianfang. *The steel hearts belong to the Lingwu family. If he knows this, then he should know that I am a member of the Lingwu family. But the Dawn Trading Alliance is powerful, so there's no need for him to be this friendly with me.*

As if sensing Long Chen's confusion, Zhao Tianfang turned and smiled. "Young man, I do want to buy your steel hearts. But don't worry, I will never tell anyone about this trade. Those steel hearts are useless to you anyway!"

The steel puppets weren't very strong and could easily be leaked into the market by anyone who had remaining steel hearts. That was why Long Chen didn't have to worry that he was leaking the Lingwu family's secrets or something of the sort. Although the old man was interested in the steel hearts, Long Chen had noticed that half his focus was on himself.

They soon arrived in a small room. "This is a room for our esteemed guests. Please, have a seat!"

Seeing as this was not far from the public market outside, Long Chen wasn't worried about the old man doing anything to him. He asked very directly, "May I ask why you brought me here, Mr. Zhao?"

Zhao Tianfang laughed heartily. "Nothing serious. How many steel hearts do you have? Show me all you have, and I will give you a suitable price. Although the steel hearts contain earthly spiritual Qi, martial warriors can't absorb them. They're useless to you!"

Ling Xi had told him this before. Long Chen had only mentioned them to try his luck at the marketplace. He never expected to meet Zhao Tianfang. He was in no hurry to take them out and instead asked, "How much is one steel heart worth?"

"The most I can give you for one is three divine jades!"

Zhao Tianfang picked up a pot of tea and poured a cup for Long Chen before pouring one for himself. "To be honest, I am the one who wants to purchase the steel hearts. This is irrelevant to the Dawn Trading Alliance, so I can't give you a higher price."

Long Chen had retrieved a hundred and five hearts during the qualifiers and submitted seventy-five, so he had thirty left. Based on Zhao Tianfang's price, he could get ninety divine jades.

This meant that after buying the Soul Nourishing Fruit, he would become an even poorer man.

Long Chen wanted to negotiate, but the old man's tone was final. Plus, this was an unexpected turn of events. "Alright."

"How many steel hearts do you have?"

Zhao Tianfang seemed to care a lot about this.

Long Chen was a bit confused and said, "Thirty."

Zhao Tianfang grimaced, his eyes fixed on Long Chen. "Seventy-five plus thirty. That makes a hundred and five. Getting a hundred and five steel hearts at the Eighth Draconic Stage already puts you among the best of the outer Lingwu family members. One guy years ago only got a hundred and two. But then again, he was only ten years old."

When Long Chen heard him mention seventy-five steel hearts, he knew that Zhao Tianfang knew everything about him. *So, his questions about the steel hearts were just a ploy. He didn't care about the steel hearts, it's me he's interested in ...*

Based on the look in Long Chen's eyes, Zhao Tianfang knew that the teenager had realized his true intentions and didn't beat around the bush. He looked at Long Chen approvingly and said, "I won't hide it. I have my own informants keeping tabs on the Lingwu family. I also know about you to a certain extent, as a new member of the Lingwu family. But the fact that you got a hundred and five steel hearts ... This is shocking to me."

“Are you looking to poach me, Mr. Zhao?” Long Chen looked at him, slightly amused.

Zhao Tianfang laughed heartily. “Looks like you’re a smart one. Then I won’t waste time on nonsense. If you join the Dawn Trading Alliance, I guarantee we will give you more attention and nurturing than the Lingwu family. There are just too many prodigies in the Lingwu family, you will just drown in the masses there!”

Zhao Tianfang’s words, paired with his dignified status as a powerful master, surely had an impact on Long Chen. However, Long Chen was not afraid. *The Dawn Trading Alliance is a great option too. They could probably help me exterminate the Blood Saints. But to leave the Lingwu family like that ...*

When he thought of this, Long Chen replied with a small smile, “Mr. Zhao, is that a joke? I just joined the Lingwu family. If I left to join the Dawn Trading Alliance now, would you guys even want such an unstable person? Wouldn’t you be worried that I’d jump ship to another faction in the future when I get another offer?”

Zhao Tianfang froze, then he said confidently, “I believe that no one can give better terms than us!”

Long Chen waved and said determinedly, “I am infinitely grateful for your recognition, but I really don’t want to be known as a fence-sitter, so please give me some time to think about it. Is that alright? If I really have a karmic connection with the Dawn Trading Alliance, I will naturally come to you in the future, Mr. Zhao!”

Long Chen’s tone was final, and Zhao Tianfang knew that impatience would not get him anywhere. He chuckled darkly. “In that case, Long Chen, please come visit us in the future. If you ever feel like the Lingwu family doesn’t suit you, the doors of the Dawn Trading Alliance will always be open for you!”

His eyes were filled with sincerity, and Long Chen was torn for a long moment. However, he decided not to betray his own beliefs and declined for now. “Thank you so much, Mr. Zhao!”

Zhao Tianfang nodded. “It’s alright. Right, what did you come to the Dawn Trading Alliance for?”

“I want a Soul Nourishing Fruit.”

Zhao Tianfang laughed heartily. “I’ll ask Ao Xue to give you that one!”

Long Chen shook his head. “Mr. Zhao, I’m not a member of the Dawn Trading Alliance right now, so I can’t take it without having made any contributions. I think I still want to buy the fruit. I’ll give you these thirty steel hearts and ten divine jades for now!”

Zhao Tianfang’s eyes darkened. “I’m giving it to you as a friend. This is irrelevant to the Dawn Trading Alliance. Is that not allowed?”

Long Chen wasn’t scared. He smiled. “Mr. Zhao, to be honest, I really am grateful for your recognition of my strength. But the truth is, you’re still a representative of the Dawn Trading Alliance. If you want to give me something, we’ll wait until I decide to join you. Is that alright?”

Zhao Tianfang eyed him for a while. *This kid is talented and holds many secrets. He’s a calm and bold person who stands firm with his beliefs. A rare talent indeed. If I get impatient and overdo it, it’ll only drive him away!*

And so, he took Long Chen’s things and nodded. “If you insist.”

“May I ask if you have other soul-nourishing herbs?”

“When it comes to herbs in this category, the low-tiered ones have almost no effect at all, while the high-tiered ones are useful in improving a person’s intelligence and comprehension, though the effects vary with each person. In general, these herbs are very rare, and I only have one Soul Nourishing Fruit with me. But if you need it, I’ll send someone to let you know when I have new stock.”

Long Chen nodded. “Thank you, Mr. Zhao! I still have matters to deal with, so I’ll excuse myself.”

“Mhm. I’ll get Ao Xue to give you the Soul Nourishing Fruit.”

Both of them walked out. Ao Xue was waiting outside, and she glared in disgust when she saw Long Chen.

Under Zhao Tianfang’s instructions, although she was unwilling, she gave Long Chen the fruit and even walked him out of the marketplace after the old man’s reminder.

“You’ve benefited from the Dawn Trading Alliance and now you’re patting your ass and leaving just like that?” [1]

Ao Xue was mumbling to herself, but Long Chen heard her. “Who said I patted your ass? You have no shame! I wouldn’t do that for fear of dirtying my hands.”

Afterwards, he fled the Dawn Trading Alliance under her furious glare. “Xiao Xi, look at how furious she is! Don’t you think she looks like she has cow dung on her face?”

Ling Xi burst into giggles and scolded, “You’re evil! She only insulted you a little bit and you made her this angry.”

“She deserved it!”

Now that he had successfully gotten the Soul Nourishing Fruit, both were extremely excited. Although he had experienced many things in life, he was still young and had the heart of a teenager. He was overjoyed to get his hands on the fruit.

Both of them quickly headed towards Lingwu City and arrived back at the Turquoise District’s Turquoise Willow Residence at almost noon.

When he arrived, he noticed Gan Lin sitting in the Martial Hall waiting for him. “Did you actually get a hundred and five steel hearts?”

Long Chen calmed down immediately.

When Gan Lin saw his face, he grinned. “You brat, you really know how to hide your talent. If I hadn’t found thirty more dead steel puppets in the tunnel during my final check, I wouldn’t have known! But that is in the past. I’m actually here to talk to you about something else.”

Gan Lin quickly moved on from the topic, not dwelling on it. Long Chen sighed in relief. *Thank goodness he didn’t ask me for the extra hearts, or I’d be dead. Looks like the steel hearts are worthless. I guess Zhao Tianfang bought them at three divine jades each only to please me.*

Long Chen put this away in his mind and asked, "May I ask what it is you wanted to talk to me about?"

Gan Lin sat in a chair and said, "Administrator Liu wanted me to tell you that the Blood Saints haven't done anything in Baiyang Town yet, so you can rest easy and complete your first mission. But ..."

When he heard this news, the weight on his chest disappeared until he heard the "but." "You need to execute your first mission in four days. It isn't set yet, but I think Administrator Liu intends to let Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya come with you as your examiners, so ..."

1. Note: to pat your ass and leave - to leave irresponsibly / quickly without caring about anything else. In the next line, Long Chen is deliberately acting as if he misheard Ao Xue ?

Chapter 83 - Divine Gale Peng

Long Chen shivered when he heard Huang Feiyang's name.

Huang Feiyang hates me to the bone and yet Liu Lan is placing me in his team? Is she sending me to my death?

Thinking back on how the enchanting lady had treated him before, Long Chen was confused.

"You don't have to worry too much. The examiners do not have the power to fight you directly. The Lingwu's family network of information is vast. As long as you are careful, he won't make a move on you in public."

Long Chen was not afraid of Huang Feiyang, but Liu Lan's arrangement was still quite brutal.

"Senior Gan, if there's nothing else to discuss, I would like to go back and prepare."

Gan Lin nodded and said pitifully, "Unfortunately, there is nothing I can do since Administrator Liu had arranged this herself. Go back and prepare. Hopefully, you can come back unscathed!"

Long Chen finally left. Staring at his back, Gan Lin shook his head and sighed. "One hundred and five steel hearts. That's even more than what the genius of the outer family, Mo Xiaolang, obtained. What is Administrator Liu thinking? Such a pity!"

Even though Long Chen had left, he still heard Gan Lin's sigh.

He had heard the number one hundred and two from Zhao Tianfang earlier. Was Gan Lin comparing him to the same person? He assumed that both people were talking about Mo Xiaolang.

Part of the reason why Long Chen had joined the Lingwu family was because of Mo Xiaolang. The latter had asked him to join the Lingwu family after reaching the Human Core Realm, but Long Chen had joined prematurely due to the threat of the Blood Saints. He had only been at the Lingwu family for two days and hadn't even managed to find Mo Xiaolang yet, but it seemed Gan Lin knew where he was.

Long Chen chuckled when he recalled Mo Xiaolang. He turned back, which left Gan Lin confused.

"Why did you come back?"

"Senior Gan, you mentioned Mo Xiaolang just now. Do you know where he is?"

Gan Lin's expression changed when he heard Long Chen mention Mo Xiaolang. "Shut up!"

Long Chen was taken aback, his eyes growing colder. "Why?"

Gan Lin became serious. "Long Chen, I don't care what kind of relationship you had with him, but don't try to find out where he is in the Lingwu family. We don't have anyone called 'Mo Xiaolang' here!"

Long Chen was even more confused, but sensing how serious Gan Lin was, he knew something had happened to Mo Xiaolang. Long Chen nodded. "I understand."

He left the Martial Hall and returned to his room.

"Xiao Xi, what do you think?"

Ling Xi was confused too. "I have no idea either. Didn't he say he was part of the Lingwu family? And it seems that he was treated quite well by the family before. Why did that guy earlier act like they had chased him away? He didn't even let us mention his name!"

Long Chen frowned. "He did say he had something urgent to do back in Yuanling City. Maybe something happened to him?"

"Oh, right ..." Ling Xi suddenly thought about another possibility. "It feels like everyone hates him even though he was previously called the genius of the outer family. Maybe he betrayed the Lingwu family?"

Long Chen thought about it and felt it was possible.

"He probably wouldn't do it out of his own accord, but it might be possible if someone forced him to."

"Yeah, just like that stinky bitch!" Ling Xi's face turned red with anger when she recalled Liu Lan. "She masqueraded as a good person and then assigned both you and Huang Feiyang together for the mission. She's definitely trying to get rid of you! Long Chen, why don't we go to the Dawn Trading Alliance? Maybe we will meet Mo Xiaolang!"

Long Chen shook his head. "Let's not be hasty. These are all just speculations. Xiaolang is stronger than me, and there's not much I can do to help for now. It's better if I cultivate and get stronger first. As for the first mission ..."

Long Chen's eyes glinted coldly. "They cannot imagine how patient I am. I will kill Huang Feiyang!"

Ling Xi was shocked by his sudden cruelty. Long Chen took out a Soul Nourishing Fruit from his Universe Pouch.

"Refine it. I need to practice the Burning Devil Sun Fist and Nine Heavens Dragon Step. I need to master them before the mission!"

On the morning of the fourth day, Gan Lin knocked and opened Long Chen's door. "The details of the mission are here. This is a level three mission. Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya will be the vanguard, so all you need to do is follow them. Perform as best as you can. They will be your examiners. Their assessment of you will become an important reference point for you to obtain various cultivation resources from the Lingwu family!"

Long Chen silently cursed in his heart.

If Huang Feiyang did not kill him, he would most certainly give the worst evaluation possible!

I don't know what that bitch is thinking, but there's no way the two of them will give me a fair assessment! I'm certain they will try to kill me during the mission!"

Long Chen tried to think of a plan while following Gan Lin.

"The location of the mission is Yanluo Town. According to the mayor, there have been several disappearances involving only girls, including the mayor's daughter. The kidnappers were most likely at the Human Core Realm, so even the mayor could do nothing. We have to rely on you three."

Long Chen noted down what Gan Lin had said. They soon arrived at the courtyard of the Turquoise Willow Residence. Long Chen had heard that the people here had tamed many demonic beasts, but he was still surprised to see a massive Peng[1] sitting on the ground and staring at the passersby. Its wings were at least fifteen meters long!

"This is a Category Seven Yellow-tier beast, the Divine Gale Peng! It flies unseen and has exceptional stamina and speed. Lingwu family members usually ride one."

The beast suddenly retreated when it saw Long Chen, its stare containing a hint of fear and respect.

Did it detect the sliver of dragon aura in me?

Long Chen then saw two people standing beside the Divine Gale Peng. Both of them were staring at him. Huang Feiyang was smirking, while Wen Ya was calm.

Even though Huang Feiyang was smiling, his killing intent was clear.

Liu Lan was not here.

"So you are finally here?"

Huang Feiyang approached Long Chen. "Not bad. Both me and Wen Ya will be your examiners today. As long as you perform properly, I will give you a high grade! Am I right, Wen Ya?"

Wen Ya forced a smile.

Huang Feiyang dismissed Gan Lin. "Senior Gan, you can go back and rest now. I will take care of Long Chen properly. He will be unharmed with my protection!"

"What a deplorable bastard. If I catch him with my own two hands I will smack him silly!"

Ling Xi had been following Long Chen for quite some time and had picked up a couple of words from him here and there.

Long Chen was pissed at Huang Feiyang's behavior. Gan Lin reminded Long Chen and told Huang Feiyang, "Junior Huang, we have a lot of informants at Yanluo Town. If things start going awry, contact the Lingwu family as soon as you can."

Gan Lin was warning Huang Feiyang.

If Huang Feiyang harmed Long Chen in public, the news would spread to the Lingwu family. Huang Feiyang would be dead then.

Huang Feiyang naturally knew what Gan Lin meant, but he played innocent. "Of course. I will ensure Junior Long Chen will never be harmed."

This was all Gan Lin could do, and he gave Long Chen one last look. "Time's up. It's time for you to leave now."

Huang Feiyang gestured for Long Chen and Wen Ya to ride the Divine Gale Peng with him. Wen Ya took out a green whistle and blew a strange tune. The Divine Gale Peng became tame and lowered its body, allowing Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya to leap onto its back. Long Chen had never ridden one before, but he showed no fear and jumped onto its back too.

Under Wen Ya's control, the Divine Gale Peng flapped its wings and flew into the sky. Long Chen held onto its feathers tightly and anchored his body on the bird. He broke out in cold sweat from almost falling off.

Huang Feiyang turned around and snickered.

Gan Lin sent them off and bit his lips. "Sigh. Such a talented young man. Why must it end in this way?"

"Gan Lin, are you unhappy with my arrangement?"

A cold voice came from behind him. Gan Lin turned around and lowered his head.

"Administrator ..."

Liu Lan approached him and chuckled.

"You can tell me what you are thinking."

Gan Lin thought about it and gathered his courage. "Administrator, I think it's wrong to use such an extreme method to discover their potential. Adding in Long Chen, we have already lost six talented individuals. Is this not enough?"

Liu Lan was still smiling as she stared in the direction Long Chen had disappeared. "A true genius is born from numerous trials and life-threatening situations. I want him to experience such a thing. If he survives, he will be a dragon amongst mortals. If he dies, then he dies.

She then turned around to look at Gan Lin. "Gan Lin, which do you think is better? Six worms, or a single dragon?"

Gan Lin finally understood what she meant. But thinking about the juniors that had perished, he sighed. "I just hope you can nurture a dragon soon ..."

"I have no idea whether this will work either."

“Do you think Long Chen has the potential?”

Liu Lan smiled at the thought of Long Chen and shook her head. “His lineage is poor and his family is not influential. Without these, there’s nothing much he could do. Up till today, Feng Wutian is the only one who has met my expectations, albeit barely. But he has blood connections to the inner family, the Vermilion Bird family ...”

1. A Peng is a giant bird in Chinese mythology ?

Chapter 84 - Wait

The Divine Gale Peng flew extremely quickly. It took them only half a day to arrive near Yanluo Town even though the distance between the two places was further than the distance between Lingwu City and Baiyang Town. Long Chen had taken more than ten days to get to Lingwu City.

The killing intent between Long Chen and Huang Feiyang increased massively while they were traveling.

Huang Feiyang is not doing anything yet. Looks like he wants to cause me trouble during the mission.

Before they made their way to the town, Huang Feiyang left the Divine Gale Peng at one of the smaller villages. The people there were already waiting for them. Afterwards, the trio set off towards the nearby Yanluo Town.

It was at this point that Long Chen realized why Huang Feiyang hadn’t done anything suspicious on the Divine Gale Peng. Someone was waiting for them when they landed. Such a huge beast could easily frighten people, so it was not appropriate for it to land near Yanluo Town.

Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya walked in front after leaving the village.

What are the two of them scheming?

Long Chen calmly followed them.

Although the mission was unexpected, he had just given Ling Xi the Soul Nourishing Fruit, so at least he had one trick up his sleeve.

If he couldn’t fight against them, Ling Xi could. Long Chen had discussed with her and they had agreed that she would only intervene if there was unavoidable danger. Even then, she was not allowed to risk her life under any circumstances.

Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya walked in the front cheerfully.

Sensing how calm his partner was, Wen Ya whispered, “When will you act?”

Huang Feiyang chuckled. “No need to rush. If Yan Beitian saw only the two of us, he would know that I got rid of Long Chen. Even if he were too afraid to report it, the family would be able to verify it easily.”

“Then when will you do it?”

Huang Feiyang was relaxed. “Our mission involves investigation and maybe even disposal. Since we know they have an expert at the Human Core Realm or above, we can just send Long Chen to them directly.”

Wen Ya nodded. "It's good that your thoughts are not clouded by revenge."

Long Chen clenched his fist from the immense pressure Huang Feiyang was giving him.

I'm so close to the Ninth Draconic Stage! As long as I break through, I can instantly step foot into the Human Core Realm. If I can accomplish that, Ling Xi won't have to risk her life for me and I will be able to fight back! This is the key to my survival!

They soon approached Yanluo Town. Long Chen didn't know what would happen, but he knew he could not lose. The moment he did, everyone he cared for would die! The safety of Ling Xi and his family in Baiyang Town were his top priorities!

They entered the town quietly, the same way Mo Xiaolang had entered Baiyang Town previously. No one paid them any attention.

Long Chen felt relaxed when he once again found himself in a place similar to Baiyang Town. They soon arrived at the mayor's estate. The family was almost as large as the Yang family. The patriarch's name was Yan Beitian, a Ninth Draconic Stage cultivator.

Yan Beitian had been waiting for them ever since he received the news. When he saw the three powerful youths approaching, he was ecstatic and immediately kneeled on the ground. "I am Yan Beitian! I welcome the people from the Lingwu family."

Long Chen silently inspected Yan Beitian. He was an older man, but his body was bulging with muscles, his tanned skin making him look like a black bear.

But he was crying, most likely due to the disappearance of his daughter.

When Long Chen was inspecting him, Yan Beitian was doing the same. He was in awe when he saw that Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya were at a higher cultivation level than himself. But when he saw Long Chen, he realized Long Chen was still young and his cultivation was nothing to brag about. Yan Beitian naturally ignored him, thinking he was Huang Feiyang's or Wen Ya's assistant.

"Please, come inside and sit down. It's our pleasure to host the great people of the Lingwu family."

Long Chen and the rest entered the hall with Yan Beitian's invitation. Yan Beitian immediately ordered the servants to prepare tea and snacks for the esteemed guests. He took extra special care of Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya.

"Both of you, please try Yanluo's town's infamous white jade cake. It's as pretty as white jade, mildly sweet, and melts in your mouth!"

Huang Feiyang smiled and took a bite. He enjoyed it a lot and praised how delicious it was. "Mayor Yan, we are not here to eat. Let's talk business."

"Yes, of course!"

Yan Beitian was agitated when they finally got down to the issue at hand. He clenched his fists, his veins popping when he thought about those bastards.

"It's been happening for a few days now. Those bastards have appeared in the town every night and kidnapped all the women who were still outside. They were very

elusive, but as more and more women disappeared, we established a strike team and ambushed them. It was only then that we found out what had happened!”

Huang Feiyang frowned. “You wrote in the letter that there’s an expert at the Human Core Realm?”

Yan Beitian nodded. “Yeah! That bastard was too strong for us to beat even though both my father and I faced him together! How could he be below the Human Core Realm? Even my daughter was taken away!”

“Do they have any identifiers?”

Yan Beitian thought about it. “They don’t look that different from normal people, but I recall that each of them had a red dot on their forehead!”

Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya didn’t realize what it meant, but Long Chen was shocked.

“Are they from the Blood Saints?” Ling Xi whispered.

“Should be. Liu Lan probably assigned me this mission because of my connection to the Blood Saints. If possible, I would like to obtain as much information about them as possible! But Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya are here and will definitely cause me trouble ...”

“I thought it sounded familiar when I heard that women were being kidnapped. I think it’s the same as what happened at the Jade Palace Brothel. Those bastards! Long Chen, what should we do?”

Long Chen smiled. “This is an issue between Huang Feiyang and them. I will just let these two get hurt in the process.”

Meanwhile, Huang Feiyang and Yan Beitian discussed how to capture the Blood Saints.

“They’ve captured quite a lot of people in the past few days. I think they are going to leave the area soon. I know they have a stronghold somewhere in Yandong Mountain, but I have no idea about their specific location!”

Yan Beitian was so angry that his face turned purple whenever he thought about his poor daughter.

“Long Chen, I’m worried about his daughter too. You must help him!”

“I know, and I want to destroy the Blood Saints. But we will use Huang Feiyang to fight against them. Since Huang Feiyang wants to kill me, it’s best we wait to see what his next move is!”

Long Chen glanced at Huang Feiyang.

Yan Beitian was so busy talking with Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya that he completely ignored Long Chen.

“Yandong Mountain?”

“The mountain itself is not big, but it’s difficult to find just a group of people.”

Huang Feiyang frowned. "If they aren't here, then we will go to the mountain. We have a much higher chance to find them there!"

Yan Beitian was very grateful. "Then let's head up the mountain now?"

"No need to rush." Huang Feiyang chuckled. "Yan Beitian, I heard you obtained a Black-tier beast corpse?"

Long Chen immediately paid attention. Even though time was short, Huang Feiyang was more concerned with the Black-tier beast corpse.

A Black-tier beast corpse. If it's fresh, then I could benefit from the blood essence! I would enter the Ninth Draconic Stage and then I can immediately step into the Human Core Realm with the help of the Ascension Fruit ...

This made him excited. He started thinking about how to obtain the corpse!

Yan Beitian replied, "Is the beast corpse enough payment for my daughter's life?"

It was naturally expensive to request aid from the Lingwu family. Usually, one would present the Lingwu family with a reward after the completion of the mission. Since Yan Beitian cared for his daughter's life, he had stated in the letter that he would give them a Black-tier beast corpse as an additional reward. Both Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya knew about it.

This was their additional reward for the mission.

They would do their best for the mission for the sake of the corpse. But for Huang Feiyang, killing Long Chen was the highest priority.

Yan Beitian had noted that the beast had died recently, so its soul and demonic core were still present. Even though it was only a Category One Black-tier beast, it was still very valuable.

Huang Feiyang chuckled. "Of course it's enough. Give us the corpse now and we will ascend the mountain immediately. If we fail the mission, we will return the corpse to you."

Yan Beitian felt that it was inappropriate to hand them the corpse now, but his daughter's life was at stake. He had no choice and nodded. "Alright."

Yan Beitian was about to retrieve the beast corpse when Long Chen stopped him.

"Wait."

Chapter 85 Black Tier Demonic Beast Carcass

"What is it?" The audacity of Long Chen to speak now annoyed Huang Feiyang, knowing he was going to kill Long Chen soon.

"All three of us are executing this mission together, so I get a part of the Black-tier beast's carcass too, right?" he said, looking up nonchalantly.

"Are you kidding me?!" Huang Feiyang darkened, and he chuckled ominously. "This mission is merely your test, and you want a reward for it? Long Chen, you don't have the right at all. Also, do you think a brat at your level can enjoy a beast soul and demonic core from a Black-tier demonic beast?"

“So, you’re not giving me anything? Hehe. You two can head to the mountain, then. I won’t follow if I’m not getting a reward.”

Yan Beitian was stunned. To him, Long Chen was just a subordinate following these two masters—how insubordinate of him to be so rude to Huang Feiyang! “Well ...”

Yan Beitian watched Huang Feiyang, who had stood up from his chair. His glare was icy, and a powerful gust of Qi rushed at Long Chen. Huang Feiyang wanted to attack him on the spot, but Wen Ya stopped him.

He gave Huang Feiyang a look, then he looked at Long Chen coldly. “Long Chen, we’re your examiners for your mission, so you must listen to our orders. If you do not enter Yandong Mountain, you won’t be able to explain yourself in front of Administrator Liu when we give you the lowest score!”

If Long Chen refused to enter Yandong Mountain, how would he execute his plan to kill him? Huang Feiyang would not allow it. However, Long Chen was definitely not getting the beast carcass either. But he couldn’t kill Long Chen on the spot if he stubbornly insisted on staying. Huang Feiyang’s brows were furrowed.

“Are you trying to scare me?” Long Chen refused to back down. He gave them a cold, unwavering look and said, “If you two do not agree to my request, I’m not doing this anymore!”

Even Wen Ya was furious at Long Chen’s unreasonable behavior, much less Huang Feiyang, whose eyes were already blood-red!

He looked at Long Chen’s arrogant expression, then he thought of his severely injured younger brother. When he recalled how Huang Xiang still hadn’t recovered from his injuries, his killing intent slowly rose! *I must hold it in! I cannot kill him in public now! Wait till we get to Yandong Mountain, where no one will be watching. He will die there! Long Chen, Long Chen, you will die a tragic death!*

With that thought, Huang Feiyang swallowed his rage.

Yan Beitian watched their argument, stunned, but after he saw that Huang Feiyang didn’t kill Long Chen immediately, his opinion of Long Chen skyrocketed. *This little brat made Master Huang so mad, yet Master Huang dared not kill him. Looks like he has some power too. If I want to save my daughter, it looks like I need to neutralize both sides ...*

When he thought of this, Yan Beitian said hurriedly, “Little Master, the lives of the Yanluo townswomen are in your hands! Please have some compassion. You can have anything you want apart from the Black-tier beast corpse.”

“I only want the corpse.”

Long Chen grinned mischievously, looking at the green-faced Huang Feiyang without a hint of fear. *In your dreams!*

Huang Feiyang chuckled coldly, then he looked at Yan Beitian. “Mayor Yan, you don’t have to say a thing. This brat has only just joined the Lingwu family and doesn’t know his limits yet. I’ll make

him suffer a little so he'll learn his lesson. But if the family starts investigating this matter, I hope you can help me put in a good word."

Yan Beitian looked torn. "Master, I don't think that'll be good ... You're all part of the Lingwu family; it's not good to ruin the peace ..."

Long Chen interjected, "Huang Feiyang, I won't beat around the bush anymore. I just need the beast's carcass and not the Beast Soul or demonic core. Give me the carcass and I will settle this mission for you. How about that?"

The most valuable parts of the carcass were the demonic core and beast soul; everything else was basically trash. Huang Feiyang didn't expect Long Chen to ask for that and frowned in puzzlement. *What does the brat want to do with the carcass? What secret is he hiding?*

Wen Ya was equally confused, while Yan Beitian also couldn't figure out Long Chen's intentions, because he knew that the carcass wasn't worth anything.

"Unless you're afraid that my strength will skyrocket after getting the beast carcass? So much so that I will surpass you?"

When he saw them hesitate, Long Chen burst into a snicker.

As expected, Huang Feiyang was triggered. He eyed Long Chen suspiciously for a while, then he said coldly, "You're merely at the Eighth Draconic Stage. I'll consider myself unlucky if you could reach the mid-Human Core Realm just using one corpse! But is that even possible?"

Wen Ya and Yan Beitian laughed because this was impossible. "Mayor Yan, you can give me the corpse. We'll take the demonic core and beast soul out first. If we don't complete the mission, we'll return them to you."

Yan Beitian hesitated a little but still agreed. The Lingwu family was trustworthy.

Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya then started to extract the beast soul. Long Chen waited for a while in the hallway, then he heard them approaching.

"It's so easy to trick this bunch! All you did was challenge and trigger them a little and they gave you the corpse! They're so stupid, hehe!"

"It's only because I'm a genius, don't you think? I'm now at the peak of the Eighth Draconic Stage. Once I get the blood essence of the carcass, I definitely will achieve a breakthrough!"

Huang Feiyang and the rest appeared once more. Under Huang Feiyang's cold glare, Long Chen stored the carcass in his Universe Pouch. "It's a Blue Eyed Snow Lion. A Category One Black-tier demonic beast. Based on the injuries on its body, it was bitten to death by another beast ..."

After doing so, Long Chen turned to Yan Beitian. "I need half an hour to do something!"

The clock was ticking, yet Long Chen still wanted to delay the mission! Yan Beitian panicked like ants on a hot wok, but all he could do was give Huang Feiyang a begging look!

Huang Feiyang's killing intent towards Long Chen reached its peak, but he swallowed his rage when he remembered that he could kill him once they arrived at Yandong Mountain.

Killing Long Chen was his number one mission now. *Enjoy yourself now. Although it's true I wouldn't dare kill you in broad daylight, just know that you won't live past tonight!*

Huang Feiyang waved him off, annoyed.

Once he had gotten permission, Long Chen gave a small smile, then he asked Yan Beitian, whose face had turned green from panic, for a spot where he could be alone.

Long Chen knew that he had limited time and asked hurriedly, "Xiao Xi, are you sure the Ascension Fruit can be digested in a very short time? And that it will push me straight to the Human Core Realm?"

"Of course! I know a lot of things a village boy like you will never understand!"

Without wasting any more time, he immediately took the Blue Eyed Snow Lion out of his Universe Pouch. He quietly began his Dragon Soul Transformation with his eyes fixed on the beast with long, snow-white fur.

As he controlled his Qi, neat rows of red scales emerged from his skin and red, blade-like spines protruded from his joints!

Long Chen was completely transformed in just the blink of an eye. He looked evil and vicious but regal at the same time, which would make anyone feel a complex mix of emotions. "Next, Blood Transmutation ..."

He hadn't used Blood Transmutation ever since he absorbed Xue Yuanzi's blood.

Although it was an unnatural act, to be honest, Long Chen was only this successful today mostly because of Blood Transmutation. It was a powerful ability to possess.

At least in Baiyang Town, he had never heard of such a technique.

Long Chen had two powerful abilities, namely Blood Transmutation and Dragon Soul Transformation, which came from the Inherited Blood Essence. And he had only absorbed a sliver of it. *Perhaps the blood essence really is from the Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon, but Ling Xi just doesn't want to believe it ...*

In this obscure corner where no one could see him, drops of blood sprouted out of the surface of the Blue Eyed Snow Lion's skin, as if they were sentient!

The droplets danced and flew excitedly into Long Chen's body until they were absorbed and finally turned into Qi.

The blood essence of a Black-tier beast might be lacking in terms of volume when compared to the Underground Blood Lizard King, but it was of much higher quality. The power contained within it was many times higher than the Underground Blood Lizard King.

When Long Chen consumed Xue Yuanzi's blood, he hadn't experienced an increase in Qi this large!

Blood-red Qi exploded in his body, surging manically as more new Qi was added. It flowed through the already-broken eighth dragon vein while the ninth vein, namely the Heavenly Dragon Vein, was still as stable as a mountain.

Long Chen knew that the Heavenly Dragon Vein was difficult to break through. That was the reason why Yang Qingxuan and the others were still stuck at the Eighth Draconic Stage ...

Qi surged through him, and a blood-red tsunami rose in his body. When it rose to its peak, he finally knew that it was time for him to work towards breaking through to the Ninth Draconic Stage.

Chapter 86 Divine Core Realm!

Once the Heavenly Dragon Vein was broken through, he would be able to reach the peak of the Dragon Realm: the Ninth Draconic Stage.

At that point, all the dragon veins within the cultivator would be completely cleared and broken through, allowing Qi to flow through the entire body without any blockages!

After Long Chen completely absorbed the Blue Eyed Snow Lion's blood essence, the Qi in his body became a few times more intense. His body was bursting with Qi, and he now possessed enough strength to break through and reach the Ninth Draconic Stage!

“Heavenly Dragon Vein!”

He was sitting on the ground, legs crossed. With Ling Xi protecting him, Long Chen wasn't worried about any unexpected accidents. He gave a small cry and activated his Qi, bringing it towards the ninth dragon vein, also the longest dragon vein.

His powerful Qi turned into a blood-red dragon that released booming roars. It charged like a mighty asteroid to break through the Heavenly Dragon Vein while infinite Qi pushed through behind it!

Being the longest dragon vein, the Heavenly Dragon Vein was almost as long as all the other veins combined. It was also as difficult as breaking through all of them at once. However, Long Chen had already consumed the blood essence of a master and a beast at the Human Core Realm, so the strength and quality of his Qi were at their maximum. The Heavenly Dragon Vein could not hold against his will!

Thick, powerful Qi pushed forward through the vein!

“You can do it!”

Ling Xi watched Long Chen anxiously. Her eyes were fixed on him and her tiny fists were clenched tightly.

Time passed slowly. Although the vein was long, Long Chen was progressing much faster than before. So in fifteen minutes, the ninth dragon vein was completely unblocked!

A low, booming dragon's roar erupted within his body. The moment his Heavenly Dragon Vein was unblocked, Long Chen felt infinite blood-red dragons roaring manically inside him, as if celebrating his becoming stronger!

Blood-red dragon images appeared on his veins, internal organs, and bones. Although it was a bloody scene, and there were too many of them to count, Long Chen felt no fear. *The ancient dragons are incomprehensible beings to me. I wonder if they share any similarities to demonic beasts?*

While he was thinking, cracking and snapping sounds came from his bones and internal organs, and his aura suddenly exploded outwards in every direction. He shot up to his feet, then his eyes sprang open and shone brightly!

Feeling the power gushing through his body, Long Chen exclaimed, “Xiao Xi, I have reached the Ninth Draconic Stage! My Qi has increased too; I’m so close to the Human Core Realm!”

Ling Xi was excited as well when she witnessed his excitement. She said hurriedly, “Use the Ascension Fruit now. It’s already been fifteen minutes. If we drag this any longer, those two bastards might come looking for trouble!”

He smirked. “Would they dare touch me while I’m cultivating? The Lingwu family takes their members’ potential very seriously, and advancing in cultivation is an important moment in displaying one’s potential. If they disturb me now, they’ll be in great trouble if news gets out!”

Despite his scoffs, Long Chen did not dare slow down.

He’d gotten the carcass from Yan Beitian and had two powerful enemies nearby. He was aware that cultivating like this was very risky!

Though he also knew that he had no choice but to take the risk. This carcass was an outstanding opportunity for him. If he didn’t take it, he would be in mortal danger once he fell into Huang Feiyang’s and Wen Ya’s hands, who were mid-Human Core Realm cultivators! *Do you think a Dragon Warrior like me will still fear you two once I have reached the Human Core Realm?*

He smirked, having already taken out the Ascension Fruit from its jade box. He swallowed it immediately because if the fruit’s fragrance spread, it would invite a lot of trouble!

The Ascension Fruit was indeed the best spiritual medicine Long Chen had ever encountered. Although it was only an elementary Black-tier, Ling Xi once said that its price was almost the same as intermediate Black-tier herbs. He wouldn’t be able to buy one fruit even if he had a thousand divine jades.

That was because the Ascension Fruit was just too effective. It was a super herb that could bring a Ninth Draconic Stage warrior to the Human Core Realm in the blink of an eye!

Once the fruit was in his stomach, he felt a refreshing current spread to every corner of his body. It felt the same as plunging into a cool, refreshing pool on a hot summer day!

But after the cool current came a gentle warmth that made him feel like he was soaking in a hot spring. It was extremely refreshing! “You idiot! You need to refine the medicinal power now! Concentrate your Qi at your dantian, then condense it into a divine core!”

Ling Xi woke Long Chen out of his bliss immediately. He quickly activated his Qi according to her instructions and started cultivating the medicinal power that had spread throughout his body! *The medicinal power of the Ascension Fruit is as vast and immense as the ocean!*

The medicinal power initially concentrated in the fruit expanded into an ocean-like force the moment it entered his body, rolling and surging through him!

Long Chen controlled his Qi, allowing it to pass through every corner of his body to absorb all of the medicinal power.

The amount of medicinal power in his body decreased with time as it was incorporated into his Qi, making the Qi more and more condensed. Once all of the Qi had flowed into the ninth dragon vein and was headed for his dantian, his vast Qi was ten times more condensed than before! *The Ascension Fruit seems to have a Qi-condensing effect. It’s no wonder Ling Xi said it would help me*

reach the Human Core Realm. Who knows how long it would've taken if I had to rely on myself to condense the Qi!

Within his dragon veins, all his Qi turned into nine dragons that charged towards his dantian in unison!

Long Chen's body vibrated greatly as a powerful current whipped around him. His body even started swelling a bit—it was fortunate he had activated the Dragon Soul Transformation. He didn't know if his original body would've been able to withstand all these Qi fluctuations! *This process where the Qi charges into the dantian is known as Dantian Collision. If this process is successful, all of the Qi will condense more than ten times over once more! And it'll turn into the human core!*

At such a critical moment, Long Chen had no time to think about anything else. Clenching his teeth, he controlled all his Qi and brought it all towards his dantian!

Nine dragon veins led to the dantian. At this moment, there were nine blood-red Qi dragons charging through them, and they all collided with each other in the dantian!

Long Chen, who had never experienced anything like this before, was so frightened that he turned pale. He expected an explosion after so much Qi collided together!

To his surprise, every blood-red dragon disappeared. First, they lost their heads, then their bodies, then their tails. In the end, they turned into a ball of blood-red mist that completely filled Long Chen's dantian! *The ball of mist is shrinking!*

The mist emitted countless dragon roars. However, he was the only one who could hear them. The noise filled him with passion and pride, as if he had returned to the era that belonged to the dragons!

Countless dragons twisted within the blood-red mist. Although they were only illusions, Long Chen was shaken!

The mist slowly shrank along with the illusory dragon images. Fifteen minutes had passed, and Huang Feiyang and the rest were already approaching.

At that moment, a soft pop could be heard from his dantian, and the mist slowly condensed until it finally became a blood-red core the size of a chicken egg!

It was a human core belonging to a Human Core Realm cultivator. Long Chen had once learned about the human core, but now he realized that his core was different from the usual human core—his was red!

More importantly, he discovered a dragon pattern on the human core that emitted a faint, red glow. Although it wasn't easy to notice amidst the red mist, it contained a majestic aura that sent shivers down his spine!

There was a blood-red dragon engraved on his human core?!

Now that he was a Dragon Warrior, he didn't find this particularly strange. And he knew that he had fully stepped into the Human Core Realm now.

All the Qi in his body had condensed into a blood-red human core and his body was no longer swelling. Instead, all of his power was contained neatly inside him, and he looked more refreshed. Just like a warm, friendly teenager.

However, if he activated his strength, he would still transform into the massacre king! *Although I don't radiate fierceness like before, I am more than a hundred times stronger now than when I was at the Eighth Draconic Stage!*

When he activated the Qi within the human core, he could feel its vast power. From this, he had a rough estimate of his strength. *With my current strength and the Dragon Soul Transformation ... Huang Feiyang ...*

Long Chen's eyes glinted coldly when he thought of the person who was waiting to kill him at any moment. *I bet you can't wait to kill me in Yandong Mountain. But when that happens, I'll give you a huge surprise ... I'll play along for now ...*

When Ling Xi saw that he had successfully reached the Human Pill Realm, she heaved a sigh of relief and eyed him nervously. "Thank goodness you were smart enough to get yourself this Black-tier beast carcass, or you wouldn't stand a chance. Although your values are questionable, you've been very lucky. I think the heavens have gone blind."

Ling Xi had been speaking her mind more and more around Long Chen these days. He was rendered speechless by her remark and was about to tease her when his expression changed. After putting on a faint smile, he looked outside.

Huang Feiyang, whose face had turned green, was walking over with Wen Ya and the mayor!

Chapter 87 - Bait

Long Chen was now at the Human Core Realm, but he didn't flaunt his power recklessly like Huang Feiyang and kept his aura contained. Now that he was more self-assured, he felt lighter and grinned at the three people approaching him.

"Long Chen, are you ready?"

Huang Feiyang was secretly laughing at Long Chen, seeing as he looked like he wasn't afraid to die at all.

Long Chen didn't look at him, and instead turned to Yan Beitian. "Mayor Yan, I apologize for delaying the start of the mission. I had to attend to some important matters."

Huang Feiyang was naturally extremely uncomfortable with being ignored by Long Chen. However, he was also long past the age of youthful impulse. Instead, he squinted, and a cold glint appeared in his eyes. *This brat looks a little different. But I can't tell what changed ...*

His killing intent heated up as he stared at Long Chen darkly. *This brat looked so unwilling earlier, yet he's now grinning at us. I'm sure he's only pretending. Now that I've cornered him, he must hate me to the bone and wishes to stab me a thousand times. But you shall experience true torture very soon, you brat ...*

Long Chen could immediately read Huang Feiyang's mind.

Mayor Yan felt frustrated when Long Chen spoke to him before the other two.

He was a cunning old man himself and knew that Long Chen was deliberately trying to anger Huang Feiyang. As he looked at the young Long Chen, he felt that it was a waste.

But his daughter's life was in danger, and he responded hurriedly, "If you all are ready, it's time to enter Yandong Mountain now!"

"Alright." Long Chen nodded.

Are you pretending to be calm in front of me? We'll see how you fare later!

With this thought, and after he saw Yan Beitian's panicked look, Huang Feiyang waved and said, "We shall depart for Yandong Mountain now. Long Chen, I hope you will perform well!"

Long Chen didn't care to reply.

Although he looked calm, he wanted to kill Huang Feiyang as much as the latter wanted to kill him. He was just better at hiding it.

Under Huang Feiyang's instructions, Yan Beitian stayed in Yanluo Town while the trio left for Yandong Mountain.

The mountain was not far, and the trio quickly arrived at a dense forest with no sign of human habitation. "Let's all split up and search in three directions. Make some noise as you travel. If a strong opponent appears, we'll come to protect you immediately if you shout loudly!"

Huang Feiyang spoke like a true senior.

Long Chen turned and smirked coldly without a word, walking up to the front.

Once Long Chen was a little further ahead, Wen Ya asked with a frown, "Something feels very strange with the brat. If we don't kill him now, it'll only get more complicated later!"

"He's only pretending to be calm. I think he's scared to death. There's no one in Yandong Mountain, and we're two mid-Human Core Realm cultivators. Now that he's in the palm of our hands, do you think he can escape us?"

Huang Feiyang was smiling confidently. "All I want is for the people on the other side to kill him. Wen Ya, if there are a lot of them, try your best to not kill all of them so the news can spread. That way, it'll be easier for Madam Administrator to believe that we didn't kill Long Chen!"

Wen Ya could only nod in agreement. "Alright. But Madam Administrator has taken a liking to him. Do you think it's risky for us to do this?"

"Taken a liking?" Huang Feiyang snickered. "How important could he be? Is he more important than Boss Feng Wutian? With him protecting us, Madam Administrator won't do anything to us over a mere brat's death!"

Seeing that Long Chen was already walking far ahead, both of them followed silently.

Huang Feiyang's evil plans were clear as day to Long Chen. *I think he's going to use the Blood Saints to kill me. You think I wouldn't figure this out? You've crafted this situation to suit your plan, but do you think I can't use it to my advantage as well?*

First, they had to lure the Blood Saints out. That would not be an easy task, but Long Chen had a trick up his sleeve. There were many Category One and Two Yellow-tier beasts in Yandong Mountain, so when he found a nest of some canine-type beasts, he chased tens of them out.

These low-tier beasts were in a state of chaos and created a huge commotion in the area. Long Chen kept disturbing more beasts until chaos spread across the whole mountain.

Huang Feiyang grinned when he saw how hard Long Chen was working.

“If a strong enemy appears, we will not attack. It’ll be much easier if we wait till we find their nest, and we can kill two birds with one stone!” said Wen Ya, patting Huang Feiyang’s shoulder.

Yandong Mountain wasn’t as large as the Desolate Mountains, though there were many low-tier beasts around. Very soon, most of them had been triggered by Long Chen, and he noticed there were more people watching him other than Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya. *Indeed, the bastards from the Blood Saints haven’t left this place!*

Although he didn’t know where they were, Long Chen could clearly sense their presence.

After a while, a disheveled middle-aged man, clad in a blood-colored robe, at approximately the Eighth Draconic Stage, saw Long Chen from afar. His eyes brightened and he praised, “What a beautiful teenage boy! Just my type. How lucky am I? Looks like the heavens are treating me well today!”

Why is this guy looking at me in a disgusting way?

Long Chen was already suppressing a lot of anger seeing as he still couldn’t fight Huang Feiyang. When he saw the perverted middle-aged man staring at him, drooling, Long Chen turned into a tornado and charged before his enemy approached!

There was a red dot between the middle-aged man’s eyebrows. “Blood Saints ... We meet again ...”

Chapter 88 Conflict!

The perverted middle-aged man thought that this was his lucky day. He was finally going to be able to release his pent-up energy. When he saw the handsome teenager charging towards himself, he burst into evil laughter.

Long Chen never would’ve thought that this man had such a strange and disgusting perversion.

Being drooled over like that made his stomach churn. *What the hell does this guy want?* He was very confused.

But the man only snickered. “Be a good boy and come here! Let me treat you well!”

Long Chen almost vomited. He recalled the strange type of men who liked boys, and this man was obviously one of those.

The man was about to attack when Long Chen turned into an illusion right before his eyes.

The member of the Blood Saints squinted, watching the flickering shadow. *He’s so young, but he’s already a cultivator. He must be the disciple of a nearby family. This makes it much more exciting!*

With that thought, he saw Long Chen’s flickering shadow instantly speed up a hundred times more. He’d only blinked once, but Long Chen had disappeared.

At the next moment, a punch strong enough to force last night's dinner out of his stomach landed on his abdomen. He cried in agony, then he crouched painfully and curled up like cooked shrimp.

What just happened? How is the boy so fast? Was that a Body Combat Technique? Does that mean this boy is from a strong faction?

The man had lived a violent and bloody life. Although he was in great pain, he hadn't lost his ability to think.

He thought that Long Chen might be a prodigy from a large faction. In his haze of pain, his eyes darted quickly and he clambered onto his knees, begging with flowing tears and snot, "Please, Sir! I, Li Yan, have never done anything evil in my life. I've also never hurt you, Sir! Please show me mercy! Please let a lowly man like me live!"

"Is that so? Didn't you say you wanted to 'treat me well?'" said Long Chen through clenched teeth.

"No! I wouldn't dare! Sir, you're an extraordinary talent and your life is not something a lowly being like me can touch," cried Li Yan pitifully.

This bastard is trying to act pitiful now. But am I really that gullible? Based on the bloodiness of his aura, I'm sure he's harmed countless people! The Blood Saints may be a mysterious bunch, but that's not a place for good men.

Long Chen wanted to kill him, but Li Yan could be useful. Without another word, he kicked Li Yan's head with a loud thud, pressing the man's head on the ground.

The strong impact brought Li Yan even more pain than before. He never would've expected such a harmless-looking guy like Long Chen to be this violent!

His vision blurred as pain seared through his head, but there was no time for him to go unconscious. The foot on the back of his head was basically a knife held to his brain!

This assault had taken him completely by surprise; all he dared to do now was keep begging for mercy. His life was completely in Long Chen's hands. "I'm not wasting any time on you. You have two options. One, death. Two, also death."

This scared Li Yan, and the color drained instantly from his face. When he heard that he would die in a place like this, with his face pressed into the dirt, he fell into despair!

Long Chen was secretly amused by the bastard's crying. He could tell that this guy had no guts in him. "What the fuck are you crying for? I'm just kidding! I'll give you two options now. One, still death; two, bring us to the Blood Saints' base!"

Li Yan, who had lost all hope, was ecstatic to hear this offer, though his excitement quickly turned into shock. It didn't take much intelligence for him to realize that Long Chen was here for the Blood Saints!

His mind raced within the next few moments. *The kid was making so much noise because he wanted to lure me out and then interrogate me about the locations of the others. Looking at him, I think he's planning to save the girls we captured from Yanluo Town!*

He really is a brave kid. I can't believe he came here alone at such a young age. Whatever, I'll just take you there. Let's see how you'll fare in front of our two Protectors! You've hit me twice already! I'm never going to forget this!

When he saw the bastard's eyes darting back and forth, Long Chen knew what he was thinking.

His task at hand was mainly to find the Blood Saints' base. Huang Feiyang was going to deal with what came later, so he didn't care what plans Li Yan was cooking. "You're taking a long time to think. Have you decided? Or are you picking the option to die?"

Li Yan was frightened and said hurriedly, "Sir! I pick the second one, the second one! I'll take you there now!"

"Oh?"

Long Chen eyed him teasingly. "Promise not to pull any tricks?"

"I would never!"

Long Chen smiled nonchalantly. "I'll make you regret being born into this world if you have any naughty thoughts on the way there! There are many people like you in the Blood Saints anyway. I can just lure another one and I'll still find your base!"

"Yes, yes! You're right, Sir!" Li Yan nodded hurriedly.

Long Chen let him go. The man crawled up onto his feet with a humbled look. Long Chen gave him a look, and he led the way obediently.

Long Chen looked in Huang Feiyang's direction teasingly, as if to challenge him, then followed Li Yan with a grin.

Within a bush far away, Huang Feiyang glared coldly when he saw Long Chen's look. "What are you being so smug about? When you arrive, that will be your final moment."

"Brother Huang, isn't Long Chen a Beast Warrior? He's at the Eighth Draconic Stage, but he didn't even use his Beast Soul Transformation. He defeated a same-level opponent so easily?!"

Wen Ya felt like something was wrong.

Huang Feiyang also furrowed his eyebrows. "The brat's a little stronger now than the day of the qualifiers. Looks like he had a breakthrough, so he's probably at the Ninth Draconic Stage now. There's nothing strange about that!"

"Long Chen indeed has some talent. That Body Combat Technique just now... We only saw the tip of the iceberg, but it was already impressive. Why was it so familiar?"

"That's the Nine Heavens Dragon Step from the Lingwu family." Although he couldn't believe it himself, Huang Feiyang continued reluctantly, "It's only been about five days since he received the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, yet he can already sort of use it. I think Boss Feng Wutian is the only one at the Turquoise Sun Hall with as much talent as him. Bu Wen Ya ..."

Huang Feiyang's expression darkened as he continued, "This is exactly the kind of person that we must kill before he progresses!

"If we give him space to grow, only more problems will come in the future."

Although Wen Ya didn't want to be Long Chen's enemy, he had no choice because of his good friend Huang Feiyang. "Let's go. Let's end this troublesome brat's life."

After crossing a few hills, they arrived at a patch of forest where the trees had started to wilt and turn yellow. Strange boulders protruded from the ground, making the place very hidden.

The Blood Saints had already cleared the beasts in the area, whose nests were useful for temporary shelter and hostage-holding cells for the captured girls. "S-sir, right in front. Our brothers are still drinking and eating right now. The captured girls are deep inside that cave. I guarantee they're not hurt ..."

As they approached, Long Chen could faintly detect human auras in front, as well as the faint smell of alcohol and meat. Far away in the forest, there were faint traces of smoke rising into the sky.

Now that they had arrived, Li Yan was no longer needed.

Li Yan looked at Long Chen nervously. It was the crossroads of death for him. He was completely prepared for this moment, looking for the perfect opportunity to attack Long Chen and run.

He didn't need to defeat Long Chen. As long as he could run away, he could get the Blood Saints to protect him.

The Blood Saints were practically right in front of them already. He thought Long Chen would rush over, but the teen stopped unexpectedly, grinning at Li Yan. "Sir, our people are just ahead ... Sir, you said you'd let me go. Have you changed your mind?"

"No, I'm just waiting for someone," said Long Chen calmly.

"Waiting for someone?"

Li Yan was puzzled, but he soon saw two other powerful cultivators emerging from the vegetation behind. These two had piercing gazes and radiated much more power than Long Chen!

He panicked, finally understanding that he had underestimated Long Chen. He thought Long Chen was a brash hero who had entered the mountain alone for a girl, thinking he could fight them all. He didn't expect Long Chen to have other people with him!

All three of them were powerful young cultivators, and a frightening phrase came to his mind! "You guys are ... The Lingwu family?!"

"You're right!"

Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya appeared in front of Li Yan in the blink of an eye. Huang Feiyang smirked coldly, then he thrust his fist at Li Yan's abdomen. Although it was a simple punch, it was a punch from a mid-Human Core Realm cultivator! One hit was enough to kill Li Yan!

The viciousness in Huang Feiyang's eyes was more intense than Long Chen's, so when he appeared, Li Yan knew he was done for!

At the critical crossroads of life and death, Li Yan unleashed all the strength in his body to escape!

“You think you can escape from me?”

Huang Feiyang had been suppressing his anger for far too long. Since he couldn't act on Long Chen now, he vented on Li Yan. This was also a good opportunity to intimidate Long Chen!

Li Yan and Huang Feiyang were separated by many cultivation levels, so it was impossible to escape with such a short distance between them. Being immersed in violence all year round, Li Yan had long been prepared for death.

But he was extremely unwilling to die by Huang Feiyang's hand!

When he was in despair, a figure blocked in front of him and forced Huang Feiyang back with a punch that seemed to sparkle with starlight!

Li Yan looked closer, only to realize that it was Long Chen!

Chapter 89 Giant Asteroid Fist!

This was shocking enough to shatter Li Yan's mind!

When Huang Feiyang was about to kill him, Long Chen, who was holding him hostage, suddenly stepped in to deflect Huang Feiyang's attack. This gave Li Yan the opportunity to run for his life, though he was extremely puzzled by what had just happened.

Not only had he blocked Huang Feiyang, he had also let Li Yan go. Huang Feiyang flew with rage and cried, “Long Chen, what kind of idiotic move was that? Is there something wrong with your brain?”

“I previously said I wouldn't kill him, so all I'm doing now is keeping my word!”

Huang Feiyang almost wanted to attack him, seeing as Long Chen was not going to back down. Wen Ya pulled Huang Feiyang back quickly!

Huang Feiyang thought about how he had suppressed his anger for so long, and how his plan to kill Long Chen was almost about to succeed. They were at the very last stage, so he forced himself to swallow his boiling rage!

Glaring coldly at Long Chen, Huang Feiyang said, “You were the one who let him go, so bring him back here now!”

If Li Yan arrived first, the Blood Saints might scatter. And if that happened, their mission would be a failure and Huang Feiyang would need to devise another plan to kill Long Chen. All he could do now was command Long Chen to chase after Li Yan!

Long Chen pursed his lips, then they all ran after Li Yan. Seeing as he wasn't fast, the trio knew where he was and that he was quickly approaching the Blood Saints' base!

Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya both ran in front, chasing after Li Yan while affirming that Long Chen was still following them. “The brat's actually quite fast!”

In the blink of an eye, Li Yan appeared in front of them. Humans held limitless potential when faced with mortal danger—Li Yan had been running and shouting for help at the same time, so there was

suddenly a huge commotion far away. Very soon, a group of people with red dots between their eyebrows rushed out of the forest!

There were about eleven or twelve of them, each fierce-looking and radiating a bloody aura. They were obviously the Blood Saints.

All of them had red faces and reeked of alcohol, so they must have been celebrating the success of their operation. Li Yan was probably just a low-ranked minion, seeing as he was loitering somewhere else during an event like this.

When these people appeared, Li Yan reunited with the group pathetically. They also saw Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya. "Protector, they're from the Lingwu family!"

When they heard the name, the whole group's faces changed!

Two men were leading the group. One was thin and small with a sharp, arrow-like glare. There were faint traces of blood-red in his hair and eyebrows.

The other man was muscular with a shiny, bald head. He looked like a metal ball from far away.

They were two of the Eight Grand Protectors from the Blood Saints. Between the two, the thinner one seemed to be the leader!

Long Chen could sense that he was more powerful. When the leading Protector heard the term "Lingwu family," his expression changed and he immediately commanded, "Kill them all! Don't let even one escape!"

The Lingwu family were too powerful to the Blood Saints, so all he could do was kill them all and destroy all traces of this event! "Yes, Protector Qin!"

When Huang Feiyang saw that there were two leaders present, he was secretly pleased. *That bald man's at the initial Human Core Realm, while the thin Protector Qin is at the mid-Human Core Realm, approximately the same as me. Both of them are more than capable of killing Long Chen!*

"The Blood Saints? You guys have some guts to think you can attack members of the Lingwu family! You all are currently located within the bounds of the Lingwu family's jurisdiction, yet you still dare to commit such unforgivable crimes. Today, as a representative of the Lingwu family, I will kill you all!"

While Huang Feiyang spoke, his mind was racing. He'd formulated a plan within this time, and he turned to whisper to Wen Ya, "I will deal with Protector Qin while you circle around them and release the girls. That bald man won't dare fight you directly, but he'll start pestering Long Chen!"

Wen Ya understood. Then, under Protector Qin's command, the group of Blood Saints charged. All of them were at the Eighth or Ninth Draconic Stage! Although they were not at the Human Core Realm, they were still a formidable force when they moved together!

To their surprise, one of the Lingwu family members suddenly circled around them and sped off to the area behind the group. Protector Qin was the only one who possessed the capability to stop him at that speed!

Protector Qin looked at the other man named Protector Shi, and they understood each other. They were both extremely anxious because there were two mid-Human Core Realm cultivators present.

However, they were young, meaning they didn't have nearly as much battle experience or viciousness. This was the reason why they dared to fight the Lingwu family incomers! *These three are just baby-faced teenagers. They're definitely not as experienced as us, who fight every day. They only have higher cultivation levels. I was nervous at first, but one of the idiots even separated to go save the girls! How stupid!*

Protector Qin smirked to himself as he shouted, "Any members under the Human Core Realm, go chase after him and keep him occupied! Once I deal with these two, I'll come save you all immediately!"

There were about ten Eighth and Ninth Draconic Stage fighters present. Although they couldn't defeat the guy, at least they could keep him occupied for a while!

Protector Qin and Shi would take this chance to kill Huang Feiyang and Long Chen! *This particular teenager has an extraordinarily frightening cultivation level. I must be more careful. But once Old Shi kills that other young man, we'll both kill this teenager together!*

Our very lives are at stake here! Old Shi, we must fight till the end!

Under Protector Qin's command, all the other underlings chased after Wen Ya. Li Yan was the only one who remained, as he was mostly incapacitated after being struck by Long Chen and running for his life. After running a few steps, he slumped onto the ground, pale, and made himself look weak.

In terms of fighting power, Li Yan wouldn't make a difference if he went or not. There was no time to waste, so Protector Qin pounced at Huang Feiyang after giving his instructions, while the tall, muscular Protector Shi approached Long Chen menacingly!

Everything was going according to plan. Huang Feiyang privately heaved a sigh of relief. He glanced at Long Chen, who was being targeted by Protector Shi, and chuckled coldly. *That bald man looks very strong. Long Chen, you're so dead ...*

Huang Feiyang needed to focus on fighting Protector Qin, seeing as he was a cultivator at the same level as him. *Only one of these two needs to die! The one who lives shall be a witness to prove that Long Chen died in your hands! Then it will all be done!*

He'd completely forgotten about Li Yan, who was not far away.

At this moment, he was watching the battle unfold with great uncertainty. If Protector Qin couldn't make it in time, the people chasing after Wen Ya would be in great trouble. That was why Li Yan hadn't gone with them.

However, his brows were still furrowed over the Lingwu family's behavior. "That teenager just saved me. Obviously, he isn't on good terms with the other two. Now these two are plotting to let Protector Shi fight him. Looks like they want to use us to kill him!"

Li Yan was impressed when he arrived at this conclusion. "I can't believe these young men are so vicious. Looks like competition within the Lingwu family is very intense. They must be envious of his talent and are plotting to murder him!"

Li Yan was quite touched that Long Chen had stuck to his word and blocked Huang Feiyang's attack.

His eyes were glued to Long Chen as he sighed. “A teenager with principles who keeps his promises is a rarity these days. But it’s a pity he’ll die by Protector Shi’s hand ...”

Protector Shi was currently eyeing Long Chen appreciatively, smirking. “You’re so young and so handsome. If you were a regular person, I would have taken you in already. But since you belong to the Lingwu family, you must die!”

Long Chen ignored him.

Wen Ya had already left. Huang Feiyang thought this was a good time to kill Long Chen, but wasn’t it an equally good opportunity for Long Chen too?

Long Chen roared and Qi exploded from his body. He activated his Dragon Soul Transformation and, under the two Protectors and Li Yan’s shocked gazes, neat, delicate rows of blood-red dragon scales and sharp, bony spines emerged from Long Chen’s skin! *The teenager’s a Beast Warrior?*

Protector Shi was first stunned, then he burst into laughter. “This look is ... Not bad, this is interesting! Makes it more fun!”

He didn’t care how strong Long Chen was, pouncing immediately. On the other side, Huang Feiyang and Protector Qin were already locked in battle! *When you’re in front of a Human Core Realm cultivator, even the most powerful Draconic Realm cultivator is nothing but a clown.*

With this thought, Huang Feiyang was reassured and focused on Protector Qin, though he occasionally glanced at Long Chen out of the corner of his eye. The Blood Saints were in a hurry and Protector Shi was a key figure in their plan. That was why Protector Shi immediately closed in on Long Chen! *Indeed, a master at the Human Core Realm! He’s strong!*

Protector Shi appeared in front of Long Chen in the blink of an eye, the Qi of a Human Core Realm cultivator erupting from his body. He looked like a gigantic mountain closing in on Long Chen! *There’s also a bloody trace in Protector Shi’s Qi, though it’s far inferior compared to my Qi. I just wonder how they cultivated this Qi!*

Protector Shi’s eyes glinted coldly as Qi erupted and wind whipped around him. He then smashed his boulder-like fist right into the ground! “Giant Asteroid Fist!”

When he unleashed the Giant Asteroid Fist, Long Chen still didn’t move. Li Yan raised his eyebrows, thinking sadly, *This teenager is far too inexperienced ...*

Chapter 90 Killing Protector Shi!

He’s using an elementary Black-tier technique right off the bat! Looks like he wants to kill me as fast as possible. But why would I, Long Chen, let you get your wish?

Smirking to himself, Long Chen remained calm when the Giant Asteroid Fist came falling, moving his feet quickly. Although Protector Shi’s punch was powerful, its weakness was its speed!

Long Chen had cultivated the Meteor Fist, and it was similar in concept to the Giant Asteroid Fist. However, meteors in the sky moved quickly before falling to the ground. Their speed naturally far surpassed that of asteroids!

He used the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, and his feet turned into illusions. Protector Shi thought he could finish Long Chen in one strike, but just as he thought his fist was going to hit its target, whom

he thought was stunned silly, Long Chen turned into an illusion. Like a dragon in the water, he dodged Protector Shi's attack gracefully!

Protector Shi was shocked when Long Chen dodged with a flash, while Li Yan's jaw dropped, thinking, *This brat is a genius! He just dodged using his Body Combat Technique at such a critical moment. But ...* Li Yan shook his head. *Cultivating this technique still doesn't make him a match for Protector Shi, whose strength is in attack techniques ...*

By now, Long Chen had already circled around Protector Shi and was behind him. With a cold glint in his eye, danger radiated from him like blades! *I thought only attack techniques were effective, but it looks like combining Body Tempering and Body Combat Techniques is the solution to unleashing a person's full fighting capability!*

Using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, Long Chen could now exhaust his enemy. Although he was at the Human Core Realm, the quality of his Qi was ten times superior to Protector Shi's!

Only people whose Qi surpassed Long Chen's had the right to consider themselves his opponents. Protector Shi was left lacking! On the other side, Huang Feiyang was fighting Protector Qin while observing Long Chen's battle. He was shocked when he saw him dodge Protector Shi's attack using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step!

Long Chen and Huang Feiyang hadn't shown their mutual hostility in front of Protector Qin yet, so he merely thought Huang Feiyang was concerned about Long Chen!

Protector Qin, who was already intending to kill Huang Feiyang, thought he wasn't being taken seriously and was furious at this humiliation. "You brat! I am your opponent! As for your little brother, he won't be alive for long!"

Protector Qin thought Long Chen was his younger brother.

Huang Feiyang's lack of seriousness triggered a rage within him. Attacks rained like an angry storm, and since both sides were at the same cultivation level, the scales tipped the moment Huang Feiyang was distracted, so he was now at a disadvantage!

Long Chen hadn't even been killed yet. If he died now in the hands of their enemy, it would be so embarrassing.

That was why Huang Feiyang had no choice but to fight with all he had. It was a duel to the death! "How dare you defy the Lingwu family! You are now fated to die horrible deaths!"

"Is that so? But before that happens, die, child! That brat must be your younger brother, right? Haha! After you die, we will torture him well!"

Huang Feiyang and Protector Qin were fighting to the death while Long Chen had already dodged a few of Protector Shi's attacks. When he saw Protector Shi's furious expression, anger rose within him too and a strong surge of power erupted within him!

Dodging one time was lucky, but Li Yan was shocked that Protector Shi was incapable of even striking Long Chen once.

Long Chen was no longer just a lucky man in his eyes!

Long Chen was furious. After slipping behind Protector Shi, the aura of a Human Core Realm cultivator erupted from his body. This startled everyone present!

By the time they discovered that Long Chen was also at the Human Core Realm, he had already finished unleashing his attack towards Protector Shi!

While he was dodging his enemy's attacks using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, he made a seal at lightning speed. Then he roared, and the image of the nine dragons was already completed in his hands. A formidable attack was launched at Protector Shi at point-blank range! "Primordial Dragon Seal!"

Long Chen had fallen in love with combining his attacks with the Body Combat Technique by now. After using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, he could fully unleash the potential of his attacks!

Protector Shi had failed to strike Long Chen so far. Now, he was faced with the sudden eruption of a Human Core Realm cultivator's aura, as well as such a fast, powerful, and unexpected combat technique! All of this made him go mad with shock! Within that madness was fear and panic!

Protector Shi had only just turned around and activated a simple defense when the dragon seal hit him squarely!

Although it was only an advanced Yellow-tier technique, the powerful impact caused blood to spray out of his mouth. He was launched backwards, knocking down a few trees before the huge man crashed into the ground. After a brief moment, he stopped breathing!

The time between Long Chen erupting with the aura of a Human Core Realm cultivator and the death of Protector Shi was only two breaths!

Li Yan was still stunned. His eyes were fixed on the awesome teenager and his teeth started to chatter uncontrollably ...

After a long time, he finally straightened his breathing. He took a deep breath, looked at Long Chen, and praised, "This teenager is extraordinary. I didn't even notice that he was suppressing his strength ..."

Obviously, Huang Feiyang and Protector Qin both witnessed Protector Shi's death as well.

Long Chen's fight had basically decided the result of their own battle. Both of them were roughly equal in strength, and they had been waiting for the result on Long Chen's side.

The strange thing was that both Huang Feiyang and Protector Qin were hoping for Long Chen to die.

To Protector Qin, Long Chen's death meant Protector Shi would come to help him finish Huang Feiyang.

To Huang Feiyang, his objective was for Long Chen to die. As for the two Protectors working together to fight him—he had his own plans. At the very least, he would be able to hold them off until Wen Ya rushed over!

What they didn't expect was for Long Chen, who was at a disadvantage, to suddenly explode and kill Protector Shi in two breaths' time!

Huang Feiyang's face twitched at the unexpected turn of events. He had labored to lay this plan perfectly, wanting to use the enemy to kill Long Chen. He wanted to vomit blood when he saw such a twist of events.

Now that Long Chen had dealt with his opponent, he was grinning at Huang Feiyang, whose lungs almost exploded when he saw the youth's mug! *I wanted to use them to kill you, but you've repeatedly angered me! Long Chen, you were the one looking for death, so don't you blame me for being this vicious!*

If Madam Administrator starts to investigate, I will merely refuse to admit to it! And I refuse to believe that I could lose to a newbie like you after toiling in the Lingwu family for so many years!

Huang Feiyang's eyes were bloodshot!

When Protector Qin saw that Long Chen had killed Protector Shi, he was completely shocked. Protector Shi was the most important part of his initial plan, but he never would've imagined that Old Shi, who had been by his side for half their lives, would die at the hands of a kid like Long Chen! "Old Shi!"

Protector Qin glared at Long Chen, also with red, bloodshot eyes!

He didn't know about the conflict between Long Chen and Huang Feiyang, that his opponent was waiting to seek revenge and leave. To him, the most important task at hand was to defeat Huang Feiyang!

Protector Qin roared and attacked Huang Feiyang even more relentlessly, using combat techniques that risked his own life!

Initially, Huang Feiyang hadn't been using a hundred percent of his strength. But now that his plan had failed and he could barely contain his rage, he decided to kill the annoying Protector Qin in the shortest time possible! "You old man! You're looking for death!" threatened Huang Feiyang coldly.

Protector Qin seemed to have lost his mind as he closed in on Huang Feiyang with every attack. "You are the ones who deserve to die!"

Their operation had been running smoothly so far, but the Lingwu family had ruined it. Protector Qin was furious over this!

However, Huang Feiyang was angrier than he was. His eyes darkened when he saw Long Chen kill Protector Shi. "How inconvenient! I'll give you a taste of the Huang family's most powerful technique—the Wheel of Life and Death!"

Huang Xiang had used this technique on Long Chen too, but it had been defeated by Long Chen's Burning Devil Sun Fist!

Huang Feiyang was a mid-Human Core Realm expert, so his Wheel of Life and Death was tens of times more powerful than Huang Xiang's!

An immense aura exploded like a bomb in the air. The black and white light wheel appeared, flickering and covered in runes. It spun around Huang Feiyang quickly, shuddering as it flew!

The whole forest vibrated along with it!

The Protector's face changed when he saw such a powerful technique. The Blood Saints was a large faction in Long Chen's eyes, but in terms of wealth, they were lacking compared to Huang Feiyang's family!

The Wheel of Life and Death caused a huge commotion in the space around it. Protector Qin realized that he had no way of withstanding this! *The youth of the Lingwu family are indeed on a level that I cannot touch!*

In this situation, death would be certain if he ran, but he might survive if he fought back. As a person who had been fending for himself all his life, Protector Qin knew what to do.

The Blood Saints were a bloody, violent organization. Every member was vicious, and the fact that Protector Qin could ascend to his current position meant that he was no timid man! “If you want me to die, I won’t let you go easy either! Gale Eagle Attack!”

The two immense forces collided. Protector Qin’s attack was weaker than Huang Feiyang’s attack, so he was struck to the ground!

Huang Feiyang had a cold but arrogant look in his eyes as he rushed forward to end Protector Qin’s life once and for all. Then his cold glare turned to Long Chen. “I haven’t kept you waiting, have I? It’s your turn now!”