

War God 91

Chapter 91 - Fierce Battle Against Huang Feiyang

Their battles had only just started, yet Long Chen had already defeated Protector Shi. This was beyond Li Yan's expectations!

Huang Feiyang's combat capabilities exploded in the next instant. He killed Protector Qin in a split second! Li Yan was speechless.

The two strongest members were dead just like that. Li Yan knew they were done for this time.

Wen Ya was an expert at the Human Core Realm. The Draconic Realm cultivators could never hope to win against him. All they could do was to stall him.

The Blood Saints members were done for!

Li Yan was so surprised that he finally realized he should run.

But it was too late. Long Chen somehow expected Li Yan would run. Even under Huang Feiyang's immense pressure, Long Chen turned around and chuckled. "If you take even half a step from where you are, you will not live another day. Stay there quietly, and I will spare your life."

Long Chen's voice was calm, but there was undeniable power behind it. Li Yan wanted to run, but he feared Long Chen even more, so he stood there motionlessly.

Based on their conversation, they are going to fight to the death! If I leave now, one of them might chase and kill me. But if I stay, I have a chance to escape if both of them are injured in their fight!

However, Li Yan was not confident when he felt Huang Feiyang's pressure.

The young boy is not bad, but he's still too young. The difference in strength is very clear, so why did I bet my life on this young boy instead? Am I an idiot?

Li Yan was conflicted, but he decided to stay still and watch their fight.

Huang Feiyang had just killed Protector Qin and slowly approached Long Chen with his lingering killing intent.

"What's wrong? Are you finally going to make a move on me?"

Long Chen chuckled and stared at Huang Feiyang without a hint of fear.

"You've only defeated a cultivator at the initial Human Core Realm and you think you can gloat in front of me?"

Huang Feiyang's eyes were cold. He completely ignored Li Yan and grinned maliciously. "Long Chen, what do you think I should tell them after the mission is completed? You were killed by Protector Shi from the Blood Saints and then I killed both him and Protector Qin as revenge. What do you think?"

"I think only an idiot could come up with a meager excuse like that."

"What?"

Huang Feiyang was angered. His pressure steadily increased. When he was seven meters away from Long Chen, his anger exploded.

“I have to admit, you are the first person who has ever angered me so much. You should be proud to die by my hand!”

No one could find out that he had killed Long Chen, so Huang Feiyang needed to do it as quickly as possible!

It had only been seconds since they killed the two protectors of the Blood Saints, and now they were at each other's throats.

“Black-tier martial technique, Wheel of Glory!”

Huang Feiyang's technique was much more powerful than Huang Xiang's!

Dust and debris flew everywhere within the forest. The giant wheel of light flew towards Long Chen, trailing loose leaves and dust behind it. It destroyed everything in its path, reducing even thick tree trunks to dust!

“What a boring attack ...”

Long Chen chuckled. Even though Huang Feiyang's speed was significantly faster compared to Protector Shi's, he was still slow in Long Chen's eyes.

Long Chen used the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, his crimson body leaving afterimages akin to a dragon soaring in the heavens. In just an instant, Long Chen had run past Huang Feiyang.

Huang Feiyang was surprised when he saw Long Chen could avoid Protector Shi's attack, but now he was even more shocked to see Long Chen avoiding his attack! That meant Long Chen had almost mastered the Nine Heavens Dragon Step!

Impossible! It has only been five days since he obtained that technique!

Huang Feiyang started taking things seriously and stared at the prideful Long Chen warily.

But Long Chen did not attack. Seeing how the other party was only focused on evading, Huang Feiyang calmed down a bit, but things were not going his way.

He's only focusing on evading, which means he can't take on Huang Feiyang's attack! But he can't dodge forever. Should I take my chance to escape now?

Li Yan was as worried as an ant on a hot wok.

If I run now, will they chase me down? That youth over there might not let me go, but maybe Long Chen will!

While Li Yan was hesitating, Long Chen estimated that Wen Ya was almost back. Just then, Huang Feiyang smiled viciously and charged forward.

“Battle Spirit's Finger Technique, Rolling Clouds!”

“Primordial Dragon Seal!”

Long Chen's attack countered Huang Feiyang's technique! Huang Feiyang finally understood how strong Long Chen was.

How did he jump to the Human Core Realm from the Eighth Draconic Stage? It's impossible to do so by relying on a beast's corpse ... Unless he hid his real cultivation level during the selections to enter the Lingwu family?!

"You will die today!"

Huang Feiyang knew his time was almost up while he glared at Long Chen, so he prepared his strongest technique, the Wheel of Life and Death. *He shouldn't have a Black-tier beast soul even though he's at the Human Core Realm. He can't defeat me as a Beast Warrior!*

Both of them wanted to kill the other within the shortest amount of time. When Huang Feiyang used the Wheel of Death, Long Chen chuckled and evaded using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step. While he was doing so, he prepared one of his own strongest attacks.

Staring at the invisible fire exuding from Long Chen as well as his fiery eyes, the pressure emanating from Huang Feiyang's Wheel of Life and Death dampened.

Is it the technique that defeated Huang Xiang? Good, I can finally avenge him! Let's see which technique is stronger, yours or the Huang family's Wheel of Life and Death!

Their battle looked exactly like the fight between Long Chen and Huang Xiang, but the magnitude of the techniques was much higher!

The consequences of their clash were going to be massive too.

Li Yan was dumbfounded. He could tell that Long Chen was exuding the same amount of pressure as Huang Feiyang.

He had guessed what the situation was. It was clear Huang Feiyang wanted to kill the prodigy, but Long Chen had improved to the point where he could fight on equal footing with Huang Feiyang!

This would be Long Chen's second time using the Burning Devil Sun Fist. He felt his Qi burning up like fire; even the core within his dantian was lit with a red flame. His powerful Qi exploded from within, sending a surge of heat throughout his body!

The technique left by the mysterious face within the fire was never just a simple intermediate Black-tier martial technique!

At the same time, Long Chen's physical body started to resemble a fire spirit. The surrounding temperature increased drastically while Huang Feiyang's Wheel of Life and Death flew towards him!

"Die, Long Chen! Wheel of Life and Death!"

"Really now?"

Long Chen smiled. When his aura peaked, he closed his eyes and focused all of his Qi and strength into a single point before punching.

"Burning Devil Sun Fist, Blazing Flame!"

His fist collided with the wheel. Long Chen now had access to a hundred times more Qi than the first time he used this technique, so using it once wouldn't leave him utterly helpless anymore.

His Qi was also ten times stronger than regular Qi, making him almost as strong as Huang Feiyang.

But Long Chen's strongest trump card was his Burning Devil Sun Fist. Even though it was an intermediate Black-tier martial technique, its destructive power was hundreds of times stronger than before!

A shimmering face appeared from within the blazing red fist. In the next instant, the face swallowed the Wheel of Life and Death before crashing into Huang Feiyang!

Huang Feiyang was extremely shocked when he saw the technique he was so proud of get obliterated in just an instant by Long Chen!

"Impossible! How can your attack be that strong? Even if it's an intermediate Black-tier martial technique, you can't win against me!"

Huang Feiyang tried to evade, but he failed. The massive, fiery fist engulfed him and burned him to cinders instantly!

All he managed to do was to let out a shriek before he perished. Even after death, an expression of shock covered his face!

Impossible ...

That was Huang Feiyang's final thought.

Two strong cultivators had clashed today, but Long Chen had come out unharmed, while Huang Feiyang had perished.

Li Yan thought he was dreaming when he saw the ending. He pinched himself to confirm whether he was dreaming or not.

By the gods, he's too strong ...

Li Yan dared not say even a single word.

Long Chen turned around, and Li Yan felt his scalp tingle. Long Chen did nothing and merely said, "Looks like you are quite obedient ..."

Long Chen ignored Li Yan and stored the corpses of Huang Feiyang, Protector Qin, and Protector Shi in his Universe Pouch. While he was storing Huang Feiyang's corpse, he spat on it.

"This is what you get for trying to kill me!"

Just then, a sound came from above. Long Chen knew it was Wen Ya. His fight with Huang Feiyang had alerted him!

Chapter 92 - Truth About Blood Saints

Long Chen had just stowed away the corpses of Huang Feiyang and the two protectors and tidied up the scene a bit when Wen Ya emerged with a gloomy look on his face.

Staring at the destroyed battleground, Wen Ya immediately sensed that something was amiss when he saw that only Long Chen was left. "Where is Huang Feiyang?" Wen Ya glared at Long Chen.

But Long Chen feigned ignorance. "The two of the protectors couldn't win against Huang Feiyang and ran away. Huang Feiyang was chasing after them. You missed them by just a few minutes."

Wen Ya frowned, but he didn't believe Long Chen.

Huang Feiyang wanted to use the enemies to kill Long Chen. Did the plan fail? With his temperament, he would never give up on killing Long Chen so easily. Unless something happened?

Wen Ya examined the ground and said coldly, "Why is the battleground such a mess? There are even scorch marks and a faint smell of burning. I felt a strong clash just now even from within the cave, but you are the only one I see. What happened here?"

Wen Ya would never have guessed that Long Chen had not only killed all of them, but he had even hid them in his own Universe Pouch.

Just then, Wen Ya spotted Li Yan, and his eyes turned icy. He approached Li Yan. "Speak. What happened here? If you don't want to die, you better tell me the truth!"

Long Chen smiled when he glanced at Li Yan. Even though Long Chen's eyes were deceptively harmless, Li Yan knew Long Chen was a dangerous man who could take lives with no hesitation.

Staring at the unfriendly Wen Ya and the calm Long Chen, Li Yan made a decision. He acted as if he was scared. "Sir ... That man was too strong and the protectors were no match for him, so they ran away. The man chased after them!"

Li Yan's testimony was the same as Long Chen's. This made him frown even more.

Wen Ya believed both of them at this point, but it still made no sense to him.

What is Huang Feiyang doing? He said he wanted to kill Long Chen, so why did he chase after the protectors alone? This is very mysterious ...

"Senior Wen, should we chase after them?"

Wen Ya carefully stared at Long Chen but found nothing out of the ordinary.

Huang Feiyang's goal is Long Chen, so I will just help him by keeping an eye on Long Chen. His Wheel of Life and Death is a powerful technique, so he shouldn't be in any danger ...

Wen Ya shook his head. "No need to chase after them. Come and help me rescue the women. As for him ... We can kill him now."

Li Yan immediately pleaded with Long Chen, who had once rescued him from the clutches of Huang Feiyang. As expected, Long Chen didn't want to kill Li Yan. "Senior Wen, he's a member of the Blood Saints. I have a grudge to settle with them, which is why I am keeping him alive. I need information from him, so please give me a chance!"

"Blood Saints?"

Wen Ya had never heard of them before, but since Long Chen had pleaded with him, Wen Ya let him do as he pleased. There was no reason to deny him that.

"Follow me."

Wen Ya entered the cave once more. He had already dealt with the rest of the Blood Saints but had yet to rescue the women. Since Huang Feiyang had not returned yet, he could only save the women and complete the mission for now.

Li Yan immediately stood up and followed them when he saw Long Chen entering the cave with Wen Ya. He followed timidly behind Long Chen.

“I will ask questions, and you must answer honestly.”

“Yes, I understand!” Li Yan complied.

Seeing Li Yan being so obedient made Long Chen happy. He originally trusted the information Liu Lan had provided, but he had lost all of his trust in her after this mission.

Long Chen probed the weak-willed Li Yan. “I need to find one of the Protectors of the Blood Saints. His name is Xue Yuanzi. Do you know where he is?”

It was a very well-constructed question. If the Blood Saints knew that the Yang family had killed Xue Yuanzi, then this question would not reveal Long Chen’s connection to the Yang family. If the Blood Saints didn’t know Xue Yuanzi had been killed by the Yang family, then the question wouldn’t give away any information.

As expected, Liu Yan answered in a daze, “Protector Xue Yuanzi has been missing for more than half a month. We don’t know where he is. Why are you looking for him?”

Long Chen smiled coldly. “I want to kill him. Then let me ask you another question. Why are the Blood Saints capturing so many women?”

Long Chen had a feeling the Blood Saints were preparing something big. This was not an ordinary kidnapping.

Long Chen was intrigued by the scent of blood mixed within their Qi.

Li Yan stammered when he heard the question. He was conflicted when he stared at Long Chen.

“Do you want to die?”

Long Chen’s voice was menacing to him. “I will talk! But please spare me!”

Long Chen nodded. “No worries, I am a man of my word.”

With Long Chen’s guarantee, Li Yan gritted his teeth and told the truth. “Our Great Priest has a weird cultivation technique. All we need to do is to gather the Pure Yin Blood of virgin women and place them in a blood pool. The members of the Blood Saints then submerge themselves in the pool of blood and cultivate. Doing so allows us to form Bloodsoul Qi, which is twice as strong as regular Qi. Since the blood pool is dry now, we have to kidnap more women to fill it up before the next Sanguine Sacrificial Ceremony ...”

Long Chen remained quiet while he listened.

Pure Yin Blood was the fresh blood of virgin women. If they wanted to fill a pool with enough blood for the Blood Saints to cultivate in, they would need to kill thousands of virgin women!

Long Chen pursed his lips when he recalled the poor girls at the Jade Palace Brothel.

He had befriended some of them when he was there. Those women led hard lives, and they did their best to learn a trade just so they could support themselves. To think that they had ended up meeting such an awful end.

And they were not alone. Many more women had died the same way.

Long Chen’s breathing got heavier the more he thought about it.

Li Yan gingerly asked when he saw Long Chen's emotion shift, "Sir, can I leave now? You've already asked all the questions you needed."

Long Chen moved. When he raised his head, Li Yan saw that Long Chen's eyes were bloodshot.

"You've cultivated within the blood pool too, right?"

Li Yan's face went pale. He wanted to defend himself, but Long Chen had already punched his head, causing Li Yan's brain to explode. The old man was dead just like that.

"Damn! Long Chen, you did well. We cannot forgive such wicked people! They are heartless! May the heavens punish them and kill them all! They don't deserve reincarnation!"

Ling Xi was a woman too. When she heard about the Sanguine Sacrificial Ceremony, she was angrier than Long Chen!

Long Chen had never seen the kind Ling Xi so angry before.

"To think such wicked creatures were lurking at the corners of the world! They kill others just to increase their cultivation levels. The Blood Saints, their Great Priest, and all of their members must die!"

Ling Xi was sobbing when she said that. She had been born into a family that shielded her from such terrors. Never had she ever thought that there would be such cruel people in the world.

Long Chen did not regret going back on his word and killing Li Yan. He was equally upset to see Ling Xi crying.

"I know. Once I am strong enough, I will never allow sects like those to exist."

Ling Xi felt better after he reassured her. "Then you must quickly become stronger and stop them before their ceremony. I will never forgive you if you don't avenge those women!"

"I know what to do next. Plus, if they find out that I killed two of their protectors, they will hunt me down. Xiao Xi, we now have an unresolved grudge with them!"

"That's good."

When Long Chen was questioning Li Yan, Wen Ya was walking at the front. He only heard Long Chen's faint voice and thought nothing about it. But a few seconds later, he heard the sound of Li Yan getting killed.

Wen Ya frowned while he looked at Li Yan's exploded head.

Long Chen just killed him the moment he got what he needed ... Long Chen is a cruel man. If Huang Feiyang doesn't kill him now, Long Chen will surpass him in the future. We will be in trouble by then. But where is Huang Feiyang at this critical time?

Wen Ya brought out tens of women from the depths of the cave. Because the Blood Saints required the blood of virgin women, they were unharmed.

That was probably why Li Yan had a lustful look on his face when he first met Long Chen. Li Yan had probably spent too much time with the women and couldn't satisfy his carnal desires.

The mission was technically completed after rescuing the women. Wen Ya knew that something was wrong, because Huang Feiyang had yet to return. They waited until dusk came before deciding to leave the mountain. They couldn't stay up there during the night, as it was too dangerous.

Maybe he will head straight to Yanluo Town. I wonder what happened to him ...

Chapter 93 - Wan'er

Huang Feiyang, the two Protectors, and Li Yan were dead. Long Chen, Wen Ya, and the women were the only ones alive on the mountain.

The women finally processed what had happened and worshipped Wen Ya. Some of them even looked at him with gazes of love. It was all thanks to him that they were saved.

As for Long Chen, none of the women considered him because they never saw him fight with their own eyes.

"I don't know when Huang Feiyang will return, and it's already night time. We should head back to Yanluo Town first."

Wen Ya frowned. Huang Feiyang had been gone for far too long and was probably in danger, but he couldn't leave the women unattended. The problem was that he had no idea where Huang Feiyang had run off to.

The group then went down the mountain.

Wen Ya walked alone at the front. The women noticed that Long Chen was much easier to talk to and approached him. "Sir, are you from the Lingwu family?"

Long Chen was feeling very happy because he had just killed Huang Feiyang and managed to trick Wen Ya into thinking otherwise. Hence, he was more than happy to answer the questions of the beautiful ladies. "Of course, we are both from the Lingwu family. That's how we managed to rescue you so easily!"

"Wow ..."

Long Chen was young, and Wen Ya was not an old man. Both of them were what the women imagined heroes would look like. Even though they were slightly traumatized from the ordeal, they soon recovered from the shock.

"Is the man at the front your senior? He's the one who rescued us, right?"

"Your senior must be a super strong cultivator in the Lingwu family, right?"

Long Chen answered them proudly, "Of course! Senior Wen Ya is very famous in the Lingwu family. Many other women are vying for him. If you want him for yourself, you better act fast!"

The women blushed and joked with Long Chen.

They were halfway down the mountain when they met Yan Beitian. The mayor had brought a group of the strongest cultivators he knew and was searching the mountain too. When they saw the women, everyone was surprised and cheered.

Yan Beitian immediately saw that his daughter was unharmed and kneeled in front of Wen Ya. “I thank the Lingwu family for saving our daughters and averting the crisis of Yanluo Town! As the mayor and a father, I thank our three ... Two saviors!”

“Hooray! If our magnanimous savior require our help, we will gladly assist you even if we have to die!”

Yan Beitian instantly noticed that Huang Feiyang was missing. When he saw Long Chen surrounded by the women, he knew something was up. Just then, Wen Ya asked Yan Beitian to get up.

“Sir, we have prepared a feast for you. Please do ...”

Wen Ya didn’t feel like celebrating, because Huang Feiyang was missing. “You head back first. I still have something to do. Cancel the feast.”

Wen Ya’s tone was harsh. The people from Yanluo Town were taken aback and didn’t know what to do. Their mission was complete, but why was Wen Ya upset?

Wen Ya had underestimated how serious the situation was. He had thought Huang Feiyang would come back unharmed thanks to the Wheel of Life and Death.

But he had not returned even though it had been so long. He was sure that something had happened to Huang Feiyang. At this point, he no longer had the time to watch over Long Chen, because Huang Feiyang’s life was more important. Killing Long Chen was secondary.

Wen Ya warned, “Long Chen, head back to Yanluo Town and stay there. Wait for me and Huang Feiyang before we go back to Yuanling City!”

Long Chen nodded in compliance.

Wen Ya stared at the youth once more. He saw how nonchalant Long Chen was, as if the safety of Huang Feiyang did not matter to him. This was how it should be, and Wen Ya found no fault in it.

After warning Long Chen and giving some instructions, Wen Ya left them and ran into the depths of Yandong Mountain.

At the same time, Yan Beitian and the rest noticed that Long Chen seemed happy, glad even. While heading back, Yan Beitian carefully asked, “Sir, do you know what happened to the other two?”

Long Chen replied with the same lie, “While Wen Ya was saving the women, Senior Huang and I were fighting the Protectors who were at the Human Core Realm, but they were no match for us and escaped. Senior Huang chased after them but has yet to return. We waited for him until it was almost night and decided to head down first. Senior Wen Ya must be heading back to find him!”

Yan Beitian and the rest finally understood what had happened and why Huang Feiyang wasn’t present.

All of them went down the mountain safely, and the women rejoined their families once more. Long Chen sighed in relief at finally being able to get rid of Huang Feiyang.

Now it’s time to deal with the Blood Saints, but will the Lingwu family see through my lies?

Long Chen was still not confident it would work against the crazy Liu Lan.

Yan Beitian carefully stared at Long Chen amidst the crowd, his gaze filled with surprise and caution.

When Long Chen and the other two first appeared, Yan Beitian quickly noticed how Huang Feiyang hated the younger man to the point that his killing intent leaked out. Yan Beitian had guessed that Huang Feiyang would most likely kill Long Chen while they were up on Yandong Mountain.

But now Long Chen had come back unharmed, while Huang Feiyang was missing.

Thinking back on what Long Chen had said, it was clear that Wen Ya was not at the scene when everything happened. Which meant that the story Long Chen had told could have been entirely fabricated.

Although Yan Beitian looked like a simple man, he had served as the mayor for so long that he was an old, sly fox himself. Wen Ya might not have noticed it, but Yan Beitian had.

This young man surpassed all of my expectations for him. I fear that Huang Feiyang is most likely dead.

Even though he knew that this was what most likely had happened, he would never say it out loud. He knew Long Chen was who he should watch out for, and there was no reason to make him an enemy.

“Father, why are you staring at him?”

Besides Yan Beitian was a young girl roughly fourteen years old.

Yan Beitian was very grateful that his daughter had come back unharmed. He suddenly had a thought. “Wan’er, he’s quite a prodigy. Do you believe me?”

The young girl called Wan’er stared at Long Chen doubtfully. “But his senior was much stronger than him. Wen Ya was the one who saved us, and he’s so dreamy! As for him ... He looks fine, but I don’t think he’s that strong, seeing how he talked so hesitantly with his senior ...”

Yan Beitian laughed.

This young man is not only a prodigy, he can make fast and hard decisions while hiding his true self. His future is immeasurable ...

Yan Beitian kept these thoughts to himself. He was initially fooled by Long Chen, but now he was both afraid and respectful of the young man.

They soon arrived back in town. Since Wen Ya had not returned, Yan Beitian called off the feast and instead just treated Long Chen to a good dinner. After some time, Long Chen excused himself.

Huang Feiyang and the other corpses were still in his Universe Pouch. He needed to get rid of them now!

Long Chen quickly ran out of Yanluo town and burned the corpses to nothing but ashes in an unseen location.

Huang Feiyang’s Universe Pouch was burned away with my Burning Devil Sun Fist, but luckily, the Universe Pouches of the two Protectors are intact. Lucky me!

Long Chen needed divine jades badly. He only had one left after buying the Soul Nourishing Fruit.

He checked the Universe Pouches and found one hundred and thirty-five divine jades. This was the richest he had ever been in his life.

There were also Yellow-tier medicines and martial techniques, along with some random items. Long Chen kept what he needed and burnt the rest away before taking the two Universe Pouches with him.

Even though the Universe Pouch was a common item for Human Core Realm cultivators, he had other uses for them.

I'm sure Lingqing would love this as a gift. She has so many things, and it's so inconvenient to not have one.

Back in the estate of the mayor, Long Chen focused on cultivating. It was only at midnight that Wen Ya appeared in front of Long Chen. He questioned Long Chen one more time. "Long Chen, do you swear you are telling the truth?"

Long Chen's eyes were cold. "What are you suggesting? Do you think I'm lying to you? Are you crazy? Do you think I can kill Huang Feiyang and the two protectors on my own?"

Wen Ya knew it was impossible, but Huang Feiyang was missing. He had searched the entire mountain but still couldn't find him. How would he explain this?

Was he killed by the Blood Saints and his body was destroyed?

Wen Ya guessed the latter half right, but he was dead wrong about who had done it.

He knew Long Chen's strength. How could an Eighth Draconic Stage cultivator kill three experts at the Human Core Realm? The sun would rise from the west if that were to happen.

"I don't care if you are lying or not, the truth will be revealed once we return to the Lingwu family. No one has ever dared to lie in front of Administrator Liu before. If you've lied to me, get ready to be punished! We will return to the Lingwu family in three days if Huang Feiyang does not return before then!"

Wen Ya left promptly.

Long Chen was indeed somewhat wary of Liu Lan. Not only was he weaker than her, but she was his superior too. He didn't know what to do with her.

"Who's afraid of that bitch? Buy me two more Soul Nourishing Fruit and I will show you my true power! I can kill her just like that! Hmph!"

Ling Xi hated how Liu Lan had tried to seduce Long Chen.

"But I only have enough money to buy one Soul Nourishing Fruit ..."

Three days passed in a flash. Long Chen and Wen Ya left, being set off cheerfully by the people of Yanluo Town. They headed back to the Lingwu family immediately.

Long Chen didn't know what kind of storm awaited him back in Yuanling City.

Chapter 94 - Training Within the Heavenly Martial Realm

Long Chen was once again overcome with a feeling of uncertainty when he was riding the Divine Gale Peng.

He was previously worried that his strength was insufficient to face Huang Feiyang, and now he was worried that his strength was insufficient to face the crazy Liu Lan.

Wen Ya didn't know what to do at this point. Huang Feiyang was missing, and it was not something he could settle on his own. Everything would fall onto the administrator.

The Divine Gale Peng soon arrived back in Yuanling City and landed in the courtyard of the Turquoise Willow Residence. Gan Lin was waiting for them.

Everything that happened in Yanluo Town had long been reported back to the Turquoise Willow Residence, which was why Gan Lin knew Long Chen would return safely and Huang Feiyang would not.

Staring at the relaxed youth, Gan Lin secretly was impressed, but the danger wasn't over yet. "You must be tired after the mission. Head back to your room to rest. I will let you know if there's anything else you need to do."

Long Chen nodded and thanked Gan Lin before leaving. He knew Wen Ya was most likely going to be brought back to Administrator Liu to be questioned.

In the end, they were still Long Chen's examiners.

"He's probably going to give me the lowest marks."

It didn't matter to Long Chen. He would not let the performance review hinder him. His talent would surely shine in the upcoming battles.

Back in his room, Long Chen organized his items and came across his identity jade token. He checked it and was surprised to see that he had thirty contribution points.

"I completed such a crazy mission and went through so much, yet all I got was thirty points? I wonder what I can buy with this much. I hope it will be better than divine jades ..."

Time passed by quickly while he was chatting with Ling Xi. Long Chen was about to start his cultivation for the night when Ling Xi pouted. "That old hag is making her way here now."

"Liu Lan?"

Long Chen stood up. He could finally confront Liu Lan again. Their battle would start now.

Ling Xi returned to the Ling Xi Sword, and Long Chen opened the door. But he had not expected the life-threatening aura aimed at his throat!

He knew he would die if he did not react now!

As expected, that fucking bitch is trying to probe my strength, but to think she's trying to kill me! I would've died for sure if I had remained at the Eighth Draconic Stage!

Long Chen released his strength as a Human Core Realm cultivator and barely blocked Liu Lan's attack. Even then, he took a few steps back, his blood boiling from the impact.

When he was retreating, Liu Lan entered the room as if nothing had happened. She smiled at Long Chen and closed the door gently.

“So you are at the Human Core Realm now ...”

She acted as if nothing had happened. Her face was ruddy while she showed off her enticing body, emanating a bewitching scent.

She licked her lips as if taunting Long Chen to make a move on her.

But Long Chen was not charmed by her at all. He knew Liu Lan was dangerous. If he had fallen for her charm, he would've died without even knowing what happened.

Long Chen took a few steps back and stared at her coldly.

“May I know the reason why you're looking for me this late at night, Administrator Liu?”

Liu Lan chuckled and said alluringly, “Why am I looking for you? It's late at night and we are locked in a room together. I wonder what would happen ...”

Long Chen was indeed tempted by her alluring body, but he knew Liu Lan was not that kind of person.

“Administrator Liu, behave yourself.”

Long Chen shut her down.

Liu Lan chuckled upon seeing how flustered Long Chen was. Her chest jiggled in front of him, tempting him even further, but then she suddenly stopped. “You are really good, being able to get rid of Huang Feiyang.”

Long Chen was shocked to hear it from her, but it didn't seem like she was angry. Long Chen calmed himself down after realizing that nothing would happen to him.

“No need to defend yourself. I know Huang Feiyang died by your hand, but don't worry, I won't punish you. In fact, I'm here to encourage you ...”

The woman was indeed crazy. Long Chen didn't know what to expect, so he remained silent.

“Alright, I will stop teasing you.”

Liu Lan adjusted her clothing and explained. “In a few days, the youths of the Turquoise family will be holding a special training session in the Divine Martial Realm. Only those at the Human Core Realm with a potential rating of three stars and above can join. You've just entered the Human Core Realm, and your potential rating is exactly three stars, so you will have to join ...”

“Three stars?”

Long Chen was somewhat surprised by this. He knew that the outer family members all had a potential rating assigned to them. The rating was separated into five ranks. Having three stars meant that he was among the best candidates in the Turquoise family.

He also recalled what the Heavenly Martial Realm was. Gan Lin had told him about it when he had just joined the Lingwu family. The Heavenly Martial Realm was a Miniverse with a lot of demonic

beasts. It was the training ground of the entire Lingwu family. To think he had to join the training just after completing the mission.

Thankfully, the Blood Saints weren't yet aware of the Yang family, and their attention would be shifted to the deaths of Protector Qin and Protector Shi. Long Chen would not know what to do if he didn't have that crucial bit of information.

I am nowhere near strong enough to face off against the Blood Saints. Since the Heavenly Martial Realm contains a horde of Black-tier demonic beasts, it will be a perfect opportunity to increase my strength!

Long Chen's eyes became more resolute once he had a goal.

Liu Lan secretly chuckled when she saw how fearless Long Chen was, but she said in a cute tone, "Gan Lin will explain the details of the training, the rules, and the rewards. But ..."

Liu Lan acted as if it didn't matter to her.

"When Feng Wutian asked me about Huang Feiyang just now, I accidentally told him that you killed him. For your information, Feng Wutian is the one with the highest chance to come out on top of this training exercise ..."

She chuckled at the end, but Long Chen was more or less staring daggers at her.

What the fuck is wrong with her? She paired me up with Huang Feiyang previously, and now she's trying to pit me against Feng Wutian. He's at the peak of the Human Core Realm. How could I defeat him? Why do I feel like she's trying to squeeze out every last drop of potential from me?

Liu Lan stopped chuckling when she saw Long Chen's cold eyes. "Feng Wutian is a genius that I've been training for the past few years. He's only a few years older than you and has almost entered the Earthly Core Realm. He's also one of the descendants of the Vermillion Bird family, one of the four inner families. He surpasses you in both potential and strength. You will most likely die inside the Heavenly Martial Realm. Brat, know your place. Don't think you are invincible just because you defeated trash like Huang Feiyang ..."

Liu Lan was most likely joking earlier. Her tone was harsh now, as if this was her true self. Long Chen felt the scornful gaze and how she scoffed at him.

She's been trying to praise me, but I fear this is her true self. She does not think highly of me ...

Liu Lan turned and left.

"Working hard is important on the path of cultivation, but bloodline dictates everything. Long Chen, you are but a normal Beast Warrior. You don't even have a Black-tier Primary Beast Soul. How will you defeat someone from the Vermillion Bird bloodline? Maybe you don't know this, but the prestige of your family dictates who is stronger. Long Chen, you will never be strong because you lack that!"

Long Chen thought about what Liu Lan said to him before she finally left.

He smiled coldly.

“My birth? My father is an existence all of you yearn to become. How could my prestige and bloodline be weak? Now that I’m a Dragon Warrior, how could I lose to someone in terms of potential and talent? Liu Lan, just you wait ...

“The Heavenly Martial Realm? I will show you who has the most potential in the Turquoise Sun Hall!”

Still, Long Chen didn’t know how to defeat Feng Wutian.

Liu Lan was sending him to his death. One wrong move and it would be all over.

“I think that old hag is just trying to kill you. One wrong move and Huang Feiyang would be the one returning unharmed instead of you. And now she’s even throwing in Feng Wutian! Hmph! Long Chen, go get me a Soul Nourishing Fruit and I will teach her a lesson!”

Ling Xi gritted her teeth in anger whenever she mentioned Liu Lan. On the one hand, Liu Lan was much sexier than her and kept teasing Long Chen. On the other hand, she kept throwing Long Chen into deadly situations!

“I don’t have any grudges against her, so why is she targeting me?”

Long Chen didn’t know why. All he knew was that she was trying to kill him by telling Feng Wutian that he had killed Huang Feiyang!

“Xiao Xi, don’t be rash. We will see what we can do once we enter the Heavenly Martial Realm. I haven’t entered a Miniverse before, so I’m quite excited. But first, let’s go to the Treasure Pavilion to see what we can buy with the contribution points. I feel like spending all of my thirty points today.”

“Hehe, let’s go! Buy me anything interesting you find!”

Chapter 95 - Treasure Pavilion

There were nine Treasure Pavilions in Lingwu City, distributed among the nine outer families of the Lingwu family. The Treasure Pavilion located in the Turquoise District was not far from the Turquoise Sun Hall.

Even though the Lingwu family had a lot of people, Lingwu City was more than large enough to accommodate everyone. It was still early in the morning, so there wasn’t a crowd while Long Chen walked through the streets.

There were various experts in the Lingwu family, and the competition in the Turquoise Willow Residence was very intense, much less the outside.

Long Chen kept such a low profile that someone mistook him for a Draconic Realm cultivator.

The closer he got to the Treasure Pavilion, the more people he came across. There were even some youths stronger than him there.

Cultivators at the Human Core Realm were abundant in the Turquoise family, but those at the Earthly Core Realm were scarce. As for the Heavenly Core Realm, Long Chen had never seen one. The strongest person he had encountered was Liu Lan.

The Treasure Pavilion had three floors. It was much larger than the Dawn Trading Alliance located in the Eastern Ling District.

Long Chen knew he could not go to the upper two floors with his current strength.

But there were plenty of things on the first floor, and most of them were suitable for him.

Long Chen strolled through the Treasure Pavilion, passing by rows and rows of artifacts before reaching the spiritual herb section.

Even the herbs were categorized here, but they didn't specifically separate herbs that could nourish the divine soul. Long Chen had to rummage through the "others" section before he gave up and asked the clerk. Even then, he only managed to find a single Soul Nourishing Fruit.

He checked the price and was relieved to find out it was only worth nine contribution points.

After completing the transaction and placing the fruit in his Universe Pouch, Long Chen asked the clerk, "Do you have any other herbs just like the Soul Nourishing Fruit?"

"The Treasure Pavilion only keeps one just in case. Since you've bought it, it will take around three days before we have another one."

Long Chen nodded. *I have to wait until then. The Soul Nourishing Fruit is worth a hundred divine jades on the outside, but it only costs nine contribution points here. Does this mean that I earned roughly three hundred divine jades just from a single mission? That can't be right. I'm a new person and I merely assisted in the completion of a third-grade mission. Maybe Liu Lan gave me some extra?*

While Long Chen was thinking about it, Ling Xi was drowning in happiness on obtaining yet another Soul Nourishing Fruit. She was touched when she learned that Long Chen was planning to spend all thirty of his points on Soul Nourishing Fruits. "Hey, I'm fine with just one. Go and get something for yourself. Let me see if there's anything good for you here!"

"No need. I don't need anything, but these herbs are needed to save your life. I want to get more of them ..."

"No! You've already given me enough. Let me help you find something good here. My eyes are very keen!"

Long Chen sighed and relented. He wandered around the place while Ling Xi scoured through everything to see if there was anything good.

"Looks like your nose is working as well as a dog's. Haha ..."

"Bastard, are you going to repay my kindness by teasing me? I'm doing this for you ..."

She suddenly stopped and got very excited. "Hey, do you see that thing over there called the Recovery Fruit?"

“Wait, you found something good?”

Long Chen was surprised and followed Ling Xi’s direction. There was indeed a black fruit roughly the size of a fist there. It was tightly wrapped and there was nothing special about it.

Recovery Fruit, intermediate Black-tier spiritual herb. Primary usage: recovery. Effective on those at the initial Earthly Core Realm. Price: twenty contribution points ...

Long Chen read the description and understood how to use the fruit, but he was confused. “Xiao Xi, intermediate Black-tier healing-based spiritual herbs are everywhere in the Treasure Pavilion. The Recovery Fruit’s effect is not even that great. Other intermediate Black-tier spiritual herbs with better recovery effects are priced at least fifty contributions points and above ...”

“That’s because you are ignorant and don’t know its true effect! Listen to me and buy this immediately, or we might not be able to get it again!”

“But I only have twenty-one points left ...”

“Hmph! I won’t help you again!”

Long Chen sighed and used twenty points to purchase the insignificant Recovery Fruit.

The clerk was confused when he saw a cultivator below the Earthly Core Realm purchasing the fruit. “If you are using it yourself, we can introduce you to some elementary Black-tier recovery-type spiritual herbs, such as the Huiling Grass. You could get a bunch of them with just one point.”

Long Chen declined his offer.

The clerk rolled his eyes and ignored Long Chen afterward.

Long Chen was miffed about it.

“Xiao Xi, if this turns out to be a waste of points, I will give you a good smack when we return!”

“Fine, you ignorant bastard. You can’t even discover its true effect without me! The Recovery Fruit should not be used to heal wounds, but it was sold as such. It’s hilarious!”

Ling Xi knew that she was right and wanted to prove Long Chen wrong, so she quickly asked him to go back home.

She’s acting so mysterious, but I benefit greatly every time she does this. I should trust her this time.

Even though he was still muttering about it, he trusted Ling Xi. Since he had used up all his points, there was no reason for him to be here anymore. He quickly headed back since he was curious about how to use the fruit too.

It was already past morning, so there were many people at the Treasure Pavilion. Long Chen blended into the crowd.

The Lingwu family is so strict with the hierarchy that even the Treasure Pavilion is separated into three floors. I can only access the first floor due to my strength, but they already had so many

elementary and intermediate Black-tier items. There should be many treasures on the second and third floors. I wonder when I will be allowed to go up there ...

While Long Chen was trying to exit the Treasure Pavilion, he felt a penetrating gaze fixated on him. He raised his head and saw that it was none other than Feng Wutian at the entrance.

Staring at the youth in front of him, Long Chen recalled what Liu Lan had told him yesterday. As expected, killing intent spilled forth from Feng Wutian's eyes.

Feng Wutian was wearing an orange and white robe. He looked like a noble, though his eyes were a pale shade of orange. Long Chen was not bad-looking either, but that was the only thing had in common with Feng Wutian.

“Senior Wutian, the Wind Spirit Leaf is over there. Let me show you ...”

Beside Feng Wutian was a girl wearing a pale, red dress. She was very pretty, with cherry-like lips and a slim waist. Her tall body attracted the stares of all the boys, and her sweet voice made everyone feel good.

Long Chen thought that if she were older, she would be as good-looking as Liu Lan. *Wait a minute, she does resemble Liu Lan.*

“Senior Wutian?”

When the girl saw Feng Wutian suddenly stop, she looked in the direction he was starting. She was confused when she saw Long Chen, a normal cultivator of the outer family.

“Senior Wutian, why are you staring at him?”

Feng Wutian ignored her and continued to stare icily at Long Chen.

Seeing Long Chen take Feng Wutian's attention away from her made her angry, so she soon stared at Long Chen coldly too.

Feng Wutian approached him and stopped two meters away. Everyone surrounding them was frightened and discovered that they had a grudge. They circled and started gossiping.

“Isn't that Feng Wutian from the Turquoise Sun Hall? Why is he bothering with that normal-looking person?”

“How should I know?”

Feng Wutian was still staring at the fearless Long Chen.

Long Chen felt his killing intent. *I knew it, the pressure from a peak Human Core Realm cultivator is no joke.* Long Chen had the strength to kill Huang Feiyang, who was at the mid Human Core Realm, but there was nothing he could do against Feng Wutian.

“So you are Long Chen?” Feng Wutian asked plainly.

The girl beside him had not heard of Long Chen, but she knew Feng Wutian hated him. “Hey, brat, Senior Wutian is talking to you. Reply immediately, or you will suffer the consequences!”

Having said that, she pouted at Feng Wutian, expecting some praise from him. Unfortunately, Feng Wutian ignored her. She was furious at this but directed her anger towards Long Chen. Her eyes were glinting with killing intent.

A cultivator in the Turquoise Sun Hall suddenly remembered what had happened when he heard Long Chen's name. "I remember him now! Isn't Long Chen one of the newest members of the Turquoise Sun Hall? He had the highest potential as a newcomer. I heard he joined Huang Feiyang and Wen Ya on a mission a couple of days back. When they returned, Huang Feiyang had gone missing. Maybe the reason why Feng Wutian is targeting Long Chen is because he is related to the disappearance of Huang Feiyang?"

"It could be! I heard Long Chen was the one who hurt Huang Feiyang's brother!"

Another cultivator of the Turquoise Sun Hall joined in on the gossip, and soon, rumors spread around the onlookers. Everyone now knew who Long Chen was.

"But he was only at the Eighth Draconic Stage when he first entered. How could he defeat a cultivator at the mid Human Core Realm? It must be a hoax."

"Then why is Feng Wutian targeting him?"

"Let's just wait and see ..."

Chapter 96 - Recovery Fruit Core

"How unlucky! Why do I have to see such a stinky face on my first visit to the Treasure Pavilion ..."

Long Chen pinched his nose and walked past Feng Wutian with a disgusted look on his face, much to the horror of the onlookers.

"You bastard! Stop!"

Feng Wutian had not said anything. Instead, the girl beside him was the one who shouted out of anger. She stopped Long Chen and glared at him. "What did you just say?"

The two disciples of the Turquoise Sun Hall in the crowd of onlookers grimaced when they saw who it was.

"Damn, Long Chen is fucked! He just offended Liu Ling. She's the daughter of our Sect Elder, Liu Yuan. And her elder sister is an administrator!"

Long Chen, on the other hand, didn't know who she was. To him, the girl was nothing but a fan of Feng Wutian. Even though she was pretty, Long Chen felt that Ling Xi was prettier.

Therefore, he was uninterested in her and retorted, "I'm saying that the both of you are stinky. What are you going to do? Bite me?"

"You bastard!"

Liu Ling was pissed off. This was the first time someone of a lower rank had scolded her. She raised her hand to hit Long Chen, tears welling up in her eyes.

But Feng Wutian grabbed her arm and stood between her and Long Chen.

Even though Long Chen had humiliated him in public, Feng Wutian showed no signs of anger. He stared blankly at Long Chen and shook his head. "I used to have a small amount of respect for you, but to think you are just an insignificant nobody with loose lips."

Long Chen chuckled. "Yeah, I'm good with my words. What are you going to do? Hit me here in the Treasure Pavillion?"

Liu Ling wanted to kill Long Chen when she saw how disrespectful he was. If it wasn't for the laws of the Lingwu family, she would've fought Long Chen here and now!

The reason Long Chen was being so disrespectful was because he knew that disciples could not fight in public. Still, this was how he usually was, and he wanted to show Liu Lan how little he cared for her.

Whenever he thought about Liu Lan, he felt ever so slightly depressed. She treated him like a disposable pet that she was rearing.

"What can you do to me?"

Feng Wutian was not someone who would tolerate such disrespect. "Since you are so good with your words, I will rip your tongue out of your mouth. How about we fight in the Mortal Arena tomorrow?"

The onlookers were shocked to hear him mention the Mortal Arena.

Even though the disciples could not fight in public, they could settle their grudges in the Mortal Arena. As long as both parties agreed, they could fight and kill without penalties.

"Feng Wutian is trying to kill Long Chen! Will Long Chen agree to it?"

"Of course not! Long Chen is just being rash. Who would fight Feng Wutian in the Mortal Arena?"

Long Chen somewhat knew what he meant when he mentioned the Mortal Arena. Feng Wutian was indeed trying to kill him!

He scoffed and walked past Feng Wutian, then he made a taunting face at Liu Ling before leaving.

"He said nothing. Does that mean he agreed?"

Everyone thought the same too.

Liu Ling could not forgive Long Chen. Not only had he humiliated her, he had even humiliated the man of her dreams. While Long Chen was leaving, she said coldly, "Meet us at the Mortal Arena tomorrow at seven in the morning. You are not a man if you don't come!"

Long Chen turned around and teased, "Why don't you spend the night with me and see if I'm a real man? Unfortunately, I don't think the man beside you would agree."

Liu Ling's face turned red from anger after that retort, but Long Chen disappeared before she could formulate a response.

"Ling'er, you lost the moment you were angered by such an insignificant person. Come, let me help you find the Wind Spirit Leaf."

Liu Ling's face was still red while she gritted her teeth in anger. She wanted to kill Long Chen! But Feng Wutian was unfazed, as if the insults did not bother him.

“Okay. Senior Wutian, do you think he will show up tomorrow?”

Feng Wutian gave it some thought. “Judging by his pride and arrogance, he probably will. I will rip his tongue out for you when he does.”

“Ew. No, I don't want to look at that. Let's just go and find the Wind Spirit Leaf!”

Even though she was still angry, most of her anger had dissipated after being consoled by the man she loved. She recovered and became the cute girl everyone knew. Then she grabbed Feng Wutian's arm and walked into the Treasure Pavilion. Seeing that both parties had left, the onlookers scattered.

“Seven tomorrow? Looks like there will be a show to watch.”

“Do you think Long Chen will go? Is he really idiotic enough to agree? I don't think he will show up, so you will be wasting your time.”

“I think so too. Plus, he's as weak as an ant compared to Feng Wutian. I think lying low for the time being would be better for him. Others will ridicule him, but it's better than losing his life.”

Long Chen was indeed nonchalant about Feng Wutian, but still, he noted down what had happened today.

Feng Wutian was unfazed even though I insulted him so much. He's a tough nut to crack. He's also much stronger than me. Looks like I will have trouble in the upcoming training exercise in the Heavenly Martial Realm ...

With the training session swiftly approaching, Long Chen decided to cultivate as much as he could, as he knew his strength was lacking. As for the promise to fight at the Mortal Arena tomorrow, he was not bothered by it.

Long Chen was indeed rash from time to time, but he knew the value of biding his time and putting up a front rather than boasting his strength.

“Hey, are you going tomorrow?”

“Only an idiot would go.”

“But ...”

Ling Xi appeared from the sword and circled him. “Aren't you afraid that people will think you aren't a man?”

“What do you know? How many one is isn't decided on an arena, but on a bed.”

Ling Xi rolled her eyes. “Idiot. Quickly, give me the Soul Nourishing Fruit. I'm hungry!”

Long Chen took it out and passed it to her. He also took out the Recovery Fruit that cost him two hundred divine jades. He was still somewhat unsatisfied with the purchase.

Even after killing both protectors and Huang Feiyang, he had only managed to take around a hundred divine jades. The Recovery Fruit alone cost two hundred!

After Ling Xi hungrily devoured the Soul Nourishing Fruit, Long Chen placed the Recovery Fruit in front of her and asked excitedly, “Quick, tell me now. How should I use this stupid fruit?”

“You're the stupid one here!”

Ling Xi rolled her eyes and carefully landed on the Recovery Fruit. “The Recovery Fruit is not a healing-type spiritual herb, but an anomaly. It doesn't belong to any grade or tiers.”

“It's that amazing?”

Long Chen couldn't tell the difference just by looking at the black fruit.

“How do I use it correctly? Tell me quickly.”

“Why are you in a rush? Haven't you heard of the proverb ‘an impatient man is unable to eat hot tofu[1]?’”

Ling Xi slowed down her explanation because she loved watching him beg.

Long Chen sighed, but when he saw how cute she was when she tried to show off her knowledge, he chuckled. “Hehe, since I cannot eat hot tofu, I can just eat you ...”

Ling Xi blushed and scolded him before explaining how to use the Recovery Fruit. “The flesh of the fruit does have healing properties, but the most important part of the fruit is the core. As an anomaly of the heavens and earth, the fruit's core is very special. Within the core of the fruit is a martial technique.”

“Martial technique? In a fruit core? Xiao Xi, has your imagination always been this wild?”

Long Chen stared at her in disbelief.

She scolded him in her heart. *Hmph! Just wait. You will know how great I am later on!*

Ling Xi put on a professional tone. “It's up to you whether to believe me or not, but first remove the flesh of the fruit.”

“Remove it?”

Long Chen felt his heart bleeding. The fruit was worth two hundred divine jades, and it had cost him twenty contribution points ...

“Quick!”

“Alright, I'll do it.”

He opened up the fruit and saw that the flesh was white and soft. A pleasant fragrance filled the room, but he ignored it. He followed her instructions and held the black core in his palm.

The core was roughly the size of his thumb, and there was nothing unusual about it. He was thinking about how to use it when Ling Xi told him, “Swallow the core and use your Qi to try and

refine it. If you refine it for a day and a night, you should be able to turn it to dust. The martial technique will then appear inside your body.”

“Huh?”

Long Chen tried pinching the core and found that it was surprisingly strong. It felt like a steel orb! Only an idiot would try and refine it ...

“Xiao Xi, are you sure?”

Ling Xi frowned upon seeing that Long Chen still did not believe her. “It’s up to you whether to swallow it or not, but you’ve already used your twenty contribution points!”

Long Chen sighed and followed her instructions. He swallowed the core and discovered that it was as hard as steel. It was very uncomfortable to have it sit in his stomach. He quickly circulated his Qi to try and refine it.

She might be right. If it was a simple process, someone else would’ve bought it instead of me ...

He steeled his heart and concentrated on refining the core within his stomach.

The core was indeed abnormally hard. With Long Chen’s current Qi, he would need at least a day and a night to refine it completely.

But he did not give up. He refined it continuously, and on the dawn of the second day, the core had been refined to the size of his pinkie finger! There were even cracks appearing on its surface.

Just then, the core shattered!

1. Meaning you can't reap the rewards if you are impatient. ?

Chapter 97 - Life Combat Technique!

Long Chen took one full day and one full night to successfully cultivate the steel-like core of the Recovery Fruit.

More and more cracks appeared on the core until it broke. At that moment, a thick surge of energy that resembled medicinal power flowed into Long Chen’s veins in a fixed route!

“Remember the pathway this energy flows in!”

Ling Xi’s reminder made Long Chen recall the time he received the Blood Transmutation and Dragon Soul Transformation techniques. He only learned them because he remembered the pathways his Qi flowed in at the time. Now, he did the same thing by memorizing the route that this energy, which seemed to have appeared spontaneously, flowed.

The energy disappeared soon after it appeared. Long Chen felt refreshed, perhaps because the Recovery Fruit also possessed medicinal power.

But the new combat technique ...

Ling Xi eyed him smugly, then she exclaimed with pride, “How will you ever thank me for this? This combat technique is called a Life Combat Technique. It’s very rare! I doubt a place like this has anything like it!”

“Life Combat Technique?”

Indeed, he hadn't heard of it.

When she saw his stunned face, she burst into laughter. "Life Combat Techniques, also known as Healing Combat Techniques, are very rare. Only maybe one out of a thousand Combat Techniques is a Healing Combat Technique. That's rare, don't you think?"

Long Chen cried, "Xiao Xi, are you saying that a Healing Combat Technique can replace spiritual medicine? Can it heal my wounds? Even during battle?"

"Well, not exactly. It's best you stay still while you're using the technique. The healing effects are decent, you don't need to spend money, and you can use it anywhere and anytime you want. Even low-tier Life Combat Techniques are very desirable!"

"I see ..."

Now that he had a Life Combat Technique, he had better insurance for his own life. Long Chen was grateful from the depths of his heart. "Xiao Xi, you're so capable! Haha! Quick, tell me! What's the name of this technique and what level is it?"

"The technique hidden in the Recovery Fruit's core is naturally named 'Recovery,' and it should be an intermediate Black-tier. That also means that you'll be able to use this Life Combat Technique throughout the time you're at the Human Core Realm," said Ling Xi in exasperation as she rolled her eyes.

"Twenty contribution points for an intermediate Black-tier Life Combat Technique! That's such a good deal! Xiao Xi, you're my darling girl ..."

"Don't start. Just get stronger and give me the soul-nourishing herbs you promised me!" Ling Xi didn't fall for his smooth talking, but knowing that she had helped him left her feeling overjoyed.

"You can try using this technique now since you've received quite a few injuries recently. You should take some time to heal to prevent them from leaving chronic problems in your body!"

"Yes, ma'am!"

Long Chen sat cross-legged in the underground room of his quarters, his eyes shut tightly. Then he activated his Life Combat Technique—Recovery.

A faint, white glow enveloped him, and white ripples swirled on his body. Waves of energy scanned Long Chen's body and slowly healed his injuries ...

"The Recovery Fruit is actually not bad at all!"

He was pleasantly surprised by its effects. He tried activating it again, and the energy that disappeared reappeared once more. It flowed within him in a fixed path, quickly healing a few micro injuries ...

Now that I have Recovery, there'll always be a chance for me to turn the tables as long as I don't die in one strike!

With that thought, he was filled with confidence when he recalled the upcoming training exercise in the Heavenly Martial Realm! *I'm not an idiot. Why would I go to the Mortal Arena at a time like this? A true duel should happen in a forest! That's way more exciting!*

Time passed slowly as he studied the technique and grew more familiar with it. After about half a day, he heard a knock on his door. He opened it and found that it was Gan Lin.

He followed Gan Lin into Martial Hall. The latter was staring at him with an odd look, though in the end, he sighed and said, "So you've really reached the Human Core Realm? You broke through two levels consecutively in such a short time. I don't know how you did it, you mutant."

Long Chen shook his head helplessly, smiling. "It was just luck. If something like that happens again, I might not be able to come back."

Gan Lin knew what he was insinuating. He knew about Liu Lan's instruction for Long Chen to enter the Heavenly Martial Realm and the fact that she had told Feng Wutian about Long Chen killing Huang Feiyang. "Right, Long Chen. I heard that you and Feng Wutian agreed to duel at the Mortal Arena, but you stood him up today?"

"What are you talking about? I never agreed."

Long Chen froze.

Gan Lin grinned. "People are now saying that you agreed but didn't have the guts to show up. That's why your reputation isn't the best right now ... Madam Administrator's younger sister is especially unhappy. She's been telling everyone you're a cowardly man ..."

Long Chen was exasperated, but he didn't say anything.

"Don't you want to go out there and defend your name?"

"Defend? What would be the purpose of that? I know my own capabilities. Why would I need to prove myself to people who don't matter?" Long Chen shrugged.

There was a hint of admiration in Gan Lin's eyes. He nodded and said, "I came here today mainly to talk to you about the training exercise at the Heavenly Martial Realm for the Turquoise family's Human Core Realm elite youths happening in seven days."

"It's in seven days? And it's only for Turquoise youths that are at the Human Core Realm?"

Gan Lin nodded and smiled bitterly. "It's for the *elite*

youths with a potential value of at least three stars and above. For example, I'm at the late Human Core Realm, but I'm old and don't have much potential, so I don't get a chance to participate ..."

There was some bitterness in his voice. His fate was more or less certain at this point. Even if he wanted to climb higher, he wouldn't get the chance. "There are eight halls in the Turquoise family. You can consider it a competition between the eight halls. All the participating disciples of the Turquoise Sun Hall, which consists of ten people working under the five administrators, will form a team with Feng Wutian as the leader. There will be three people from Green Willow Residence, namely you, Feng Wutian, and Liu Ling."

“He’s the team leader? Doesn’t that mean I’ll be under his command?”

Long Chen was uncomfortable when he thought of Feng Wutian. The guy was indeed strong, and they were enemies. It would be disastrous if he had to listen to his instructions.

Gan Lin smiled bitterly when he saw Long Chen’s icy glare. “For other people, it is imperative that they listen to Feng Wutian. As for you ... I came today because I wanted to give you a suggestion to ignore his instructions. When you enter the Heavenly Martial Realm, find a way to leave and hide. Feng Wutian will be too busy competing for the Supreme Purity Sword, so he won’t have time to disturb you.”

Long Chen was wondering if he could work alone. Based on what Gan Lin was saying, the answer was yes.

Since working alone was allowed, everything would be much easier. But first of all, would Feng Wutian even let him work alone?

Gan Lin’s suggestion made sense. Long Chen was no match for Feng Wutian, and there was a huge possibility that they would get into a fight in the Heavenly Martial Realm. If Long Chen truly had the potential, he had to wait until he caught up to Feng Wutian to fight him.

“Senior Gan, you mentioned the Supreme Purity Sword. Is that the reward for this training exercise?”

Gan Lin nodded with blazing eyes. “The Supreme Purity Sword is an intermediate Black-tier spirit sword. There’s also a Sword Combat Technique hiding within it, named the Supreme Purity Sword Dao. The sword and its technique are considered extraordinary among intermediate Black-tier treasures. It’s a precious treasure that even I’m interested in.”

Long Chen was privately impressed with the generosity of the Lingwu family. Not only were they giving away a spirit sword, it was a spirit sword with a Sword Combat Technique inside.

“How do I get the Supreme Purity Sword?”

Gan Lin replied weakly, “Before the training exercise begins, the Turquoise family’s Grand Elder will put the Supreme Purity Sword in a Universe Pouch. He will then hide it in the Heart Eater’s stomach. It’s a Category Four Black-tier demonic beast residing in the Human Core Area of the Heavenly Martial Realm. You need to find the beast and kill it, then you’ll be able to take the Supreme Purity Sword from its stomach. Whoever gets it first will be the winner.”

Long Chen nodded.

A Category Four Black-tier demonic beast was approximately the same as an initial Earthly Core Realm expert, but with elites from the eight halls fighting it together, it should be manageable.

Long Chen counted for a moment. He had killed Huang Feiyang, a person above his own cultivation level, and gotten only a potential value of three stars. Did that mean that there should be almost a hundred people as talented as he was in the Turquoise family?

His stress was unimaginable ...

“Long Chen, it’s best if you don’t go out for the next few days. Stay home and cultivate. Do your best to minimize all contact with other people during the training

exercise too. You didn't show up to the duel, so you'll definitely be mocked if you go out now. Based on your personality, if you're impulsive, you might ruin the rest of your life. If you trust me, please listen to me. Alright?

Long Chen liked Gan Lin as a person. He was down-to-earth, didn't put on any airs, and answered all his questions clearly. Even now, he was concerned about Long Chen.

Long Chen was too lazy to head out now anyway, so he nodded. "Alright, I won't go out."

However, he still felt wronged when Gan Lin mentioned the duel again. He had never agreed to the duel in the first place, but now they were saying he was a coward. *It must be that bitch's doing! She's so young but already so manipulative. I must be careful at the training exercise, because she has a powerful background!*

Liu Lan and the number one person of the Turquoise Sun Hall, Sect Elder Liu Yuan, were not people he could fight.

After giving a few reminders, Gan Lin left. Long Chen had only just left when he saw Gan Lin leading another person over. It was the Dawn Trading Alliance's Ao Xue. *The Dawn Trading Alliance is looking for me? Do they have news about the Soul Nourishing Fruit?*

Long Chen wanted as many fruits as he could get his hands on.

Chapter 98 - Blazing Thunder Crystal

Gan Lin left after he led Ao Xue to Long Chen. The relationship between Long Chen and the Dawn Trading Alliance was a personal matter, so he couldn't interfere.

It was obvious that Ao Xue was resentful that she was the one who had been sent here. Her rage worsened when she saw Long Chen grinning at her. "Supervisor Zhao says that the Dawn Trading Alliance has received a new Soul Nourishing Fruit. He asks if you want it," she said flatly, glaring at him.

She was content to be sitting at the marketplace, but her boss had instructed her to come all the way here just to tell Long Chen this. This was utterly insufferable to her.

She didn't understand why and thought that Supervisor Zhao was doing too much for Long Chen. "I do! Of course I do!"

Long Chen had always been a prodigal son since young. Now that he had about a hundred divine jades at hand, he didn't intend to save them. *When I get stronger, I'll be able to get as many fruits as I want. I should buy more soul-nourishing herbs for my darling girl so she can live a little longer.*

He saw the hostility in Ao Xue's eyes. But, like how a dead pig wasn't afraid of boiling water, he said shamelessly, "Uh. Miss Ao Xue, you may lead the way."

Before she set off, Supervisor Zhao had reminded her with severity not to be rude to Long Chen. She didn't dare disobey him, so it didn't matter if Long Chen was unreasonable—she still had to clench her teeth and swallow her pride. *You bastard! If I get a chance, I'll skin you alive! You only had a few steel hearts; I can't believe how Supervisor Zhao treated them like treasures! I'll prove very soon that Long Chen is no match for me!*

Harboring hatred in her heart, Ao Xue walked ahead without a word with a frighteningly dark expression.

“This girl isn’t ugly at all, but she’s sulking so bad that her face looks like cow dung. My Ling Xi is much prettier ...”

Walking behind Ao Xue, Long Chen mocked her in a low voice. This delighted Ling Xi, who was giggling at his jokes.

If Ao Xue had heard him, she would’ve fought him to death on the spot.

However, Long Chen was still cautious with her dark glare. *I wonder what Supervisor Zhao is up to. If he only had a Soul Nourishing Fruit, he could’ve just asked Ao Xue to bring it to me. Why is he making me go to him? Is he still trying to recruit me?*

Long Chen admired Ao Xue’s curvy figure as he walked behind her, mulling over how he should deal with Supervisor Zhao later.

It was afternoon, so there were fewer customers in the Dawn Trading Alliance marketplace. When Long Chen arrived, Supervisor Zhao welcomed him with open arms. He gave Long Chen a hug, then patted his shoulder and said, “Brother Long Chen, you’re finally here!”

“A person who is overly friendly for no reason is either a crook or a robber.” Ling Xi pursed her lips inside the Ling Xi Sword when she saw Supervisor Zhao’s behavior.

Long Chen greeted him with the same friendliness. He brought Long Chen into the same guest room as the previous time and invited him to take a seat. He then instructed the green-faced, unwilling Ao Xue to serve them tea and grinned at Long Chen. “I heard that you killed a mid Human Core Realm expert on a mission. Does that mean you’ve reached the Human Core Realm?”

Ao Xue was pouring tea when she heard Supervisor Zhao open the conversation so directly. Such shocking news would startle anyone. She had accidentally poured tea outside of the cup! “I’m sorry, Supervisor! I wasn’t careful ...”

It wasn’t appropriate for Supervisor Zhao to rage in front of Long Chen, so he wanted to shoo her out, but Long Chen waved and looked at her arrogantly. “Don’t go yet. You’ve made a mess, so you should be cleaning it up, don’t you think?”

“You!”

Ao Xue was about to leave in a fit of rage when Supervisor Zhao said hurriedly, “Ao Xue, clean it up.”

When she heard his flat tone, Ao Xue didn’t dare disobey. She glared at Long Chen, gritted her teeth, and started to clean up.

Long Chen was smug when he saw her unwillingness.

He’d been extremely annoyed by her arrogance from the last time he came to the Dawn Trading Alliance. Now, it was her turn.

He finally started getting into the main topic. “Supervisor Zhao, it’s true that I have reached the Human Core Realm, but the thing about killing Senior Huang Feiyang—that’s just a rumor spread

by someone who wants to frame me. If I had really killed Senior Huang, I wouldn't be chatting with you here, unscathed."

Supervisor Zhao was initially doubtful that Long Chen could kill Huang Feiyang, seeing as he was only at the initial Human Core Realm.

However, whether or not he had killed Huang Feiyang didn't affect how seriously he took Long Chen. He took out a large, wooden box containing two bundles of red cloth. Wrapped within were two Soul Nourishing Fruits.

Ling Xi's eyes brightened when she saw the two fruits, but Long Chen frowned.

"Brother Long Chen, these are the Soul Nourishing Fruits you wanted."

But he didn't have enough divine jades to buy two fruits, so he said with great pity, "Supervisor Zhao, I don't need two. The money I have right now is only enough for one."

Ao Xue looked at him with contempt, seeing how poor Long Chen was. She was initially a little frightened when she thought Long Chen had really killed a mid Human Core Realm expert. Too bad it was only a rumor. *This bastard. He's only at the Human Core Realm, why is he so smug? In a few days, I'll reach the Human Core Realm myself! When that happens, let's see who's stronger!*

Ao Xue was also extremely envious that Supervisor Zhao placed so much importance on Long Chen.

When Supervisor Zhao saw Long Chen's frown, he laughed heartily. "Didn't I mention this last time? We've met twice now, so I consider us friends. Look, you can buy one and I'll give you the other one for free. What do you think?"

Such gifts were too generous for a man who only admired him.

Long Chen knew that it was impossible for him to leave the Lingwu family at this moment, so he was unwilling to take the gift.

Supervisor Zhao's eyes twinkled when he saw that Long Chen was still hesitant. With his eyes still fixed on him, he said, "Let's do it this way, Brother. You help me do something and I'll give this fruit to you. That way, we won't owe each other anything. What do you think?"

"May I ask what I can do for you, Supervisor Zhao?"

Zhao Tianfang had spoken with a somber tone, so Long Chen guessed that this was the main reason why he had been invited here. If it wasn't for this, he wouldn't have asked Ao Xue to go through the hassle of bringing Long Chen here.

Zhao Tianfang gave a small smile, sent Ao Xue out, and then took out a Universe Pouch. After a moment, he pulled out a crystal the size of a baby's fist.

Long Chen squinted to see that the crystal was completely blue and rhombus-shaped. The top and bottom were extremely sharp, and there seemed to be sparks of electricity flickering inside the crystal. At the same time, blue sparks flew outwards.

Ling Xi's surprised voice came from within the Ling Xi Sword. "A Blazing Thunder Crystal?"

But Long Chen was too close to Supervisor Zhao, so she didn't dare speak anymore after she cried out its name. However, he now knew that the Blazing Thunder Crystal was valuable.

“Do you know what this is?” asked Supervisor Zhao solemnly.

Long Chen shook his head. “No.”

“This is called ... a Blazing Thunder Crystal.”

Supervisor Zhao stared as the crystal spun in his palm, then he explained passionately, “The Blazing Thunder Crystal is an extraordinary treasure that doesn’t belong to a tier. If one absorbs it into their body, they’ll possess the power of lightning and fire. This item is very effective for Body Tempering techniques. Once you merge with more than ten Blazing Thunder Crystals, you will successfully obtain the Blazing Thunder Combat Body!”

Long Chen looked at it in amazement. “One only has to merge with it? And that’s possible without cultivating?”

Wasn’t that even more convenient than the Recovery technique that he’d just received?

It was important to note that Long Chen had only taken one day and one night to successfully cultivate his Life Combat Technique.

“Of course, it’s not that easy ...” Supervisor Zhao shook his head. “The number of Blazing Thunder Crystals that one can merge with depends on one’s talent and bodily properties. As long as one can merge with more than ten crystals, they’ll be able to form the Blazing Thunder Combat Body. When one masters the power of lightning and fire this way, they’ll be called a Blazing Thunder Warrior!”

Blazing Thunder Warrior?

That didn’t sound bad at all.

Long Chen realized that he knew too little about this world. He’d just gotten the Recovery Fruit, and now he had learned about the Blazing Thunder Crystal, both very impressive treasures.

But why had Zhao Tianfang asked for help and then pulled out the crystal?

Long Chen asked suspiciously, “Supervisor Zhao, may I ask what your Blazing Thunder Crystal has to do with me?”

He gave a small smile, eyeing Long Chen up and down. “To be honest, I am very impressed by you. The thing I want you to do is ... I want to see how many Blazing Thunder Crystals your body can merge with!”

It was as if a loaf of bread had fallen from the sky and hit his head. Long Chen was in disbelief.

He was initially wondering how difficult his task would be. He never expected such an awesome task!

Supervisor Zhao not only wanted to recruit Long Chen into the Dawn Trading Alliance, he had also repeatedly given him gifts. Long Chen hesitated, wondering what strings would be attached to them in the future.

When Supervisor Zhao saw that he was hesitating, he said solemnly, “Long Chen, don’t think that it’ll be easy to absorb a Blazing Thunder Crystal. The crystal contains a manic, violent energy. If you cannot withstand it, your body will explode and you will die. I want you to try merging with

this crystal, but if your body isn't capable of absorbing even one, you'll likely be in mortal danger. That's why it's not going to be a simple task to get these two Soul Nourishing Fruits. Take some time to think about it ..."

While he hesitated, Ling Xi suddenly said, "Quick, say yes."

Ling Xi was more knowledgeable and was intimately familiar with Long Chen's situation, so when she said that, Long Chen nodded hard without a hint of hesitation. "I can't believe you have such great expectations of me, Supervisor Zhao! Therefore, I shall merge with the Blazing Thunder Crystal, no matter what!"

Chapter 99 - Merge!

When he received Long Chen's consent, Supervisor Zhao laughed heartily. "This place isn't suitable for you to merge with the Blazing Thunder Crystal. Long Chen, I'll take you to somewhere quiet!"

Long Chen nodded, then they left through a back door and entered a large yard. Supervisor Zhao found him a vast, quiet room.

There wasn't anyone present, but Long Chen wasn't afraid that Supervisor Zhao would bear any ill intentions towards him right now. First, he was very poor. Second, Ling Xi had consumed two Soul Nourishing Fruits in a row and now possessed two more. These spiritual herbs were enough for her to use her power without being in mortal danger herself.

"I'll place five Blazing Thunder Crystals here. I hope you know your limits when it comes to the number of crystals you can merge with. If you know you can't withstand another, you must not force it. Do you understand?"

As he spoke, he took five Blazing Thunder Crystals from his Universe Pouch and placed them on the floor of the quiet room.

Staring at the five beautiful crystals swirling with tiny lightning and fire sparks, Long Chen nodded and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Zhao. I'm not an idiot. I wouldn't throw my life away because of greed."

Supervisor Zhao looked at him approvingly. "Then I won't disturb you anymore. I'll be waiting in the yard outside. If anything unexpected happens, just shout for me!"

He waited for Supervisor Zhao to leave, then he finally asked the question he'd been holding in. "Xiao Xi, you wanted me to merge with the Blazing Thunder Crystals. Are they really good for me?"

Ling Xi had been holding it in for a long time too and was very excited to be able to speak. "Of course they're good for you! They're amazing! Long Chen, you're a Dragon Warrior, so your body is tougher than the average person's. Later on, you'll be able to get a feel of your limits after you've merged with one crystal."

Long Chen didn't merge immediately but picked one up. He felt a prickling sensation as the tiny lightning and sparks grazed his skin.

“The Blazing Thunder Crystal is great because the higher your cultivation level and the tougher your body is, the more crystals you can merge with. There isn’t an upper limit, making it much more powerful than the average Body Combat Technique!”

Long Chen was very tempted based on what she had said, but he was not brash. After mulling over it, he said in puzzlement, “Xiao Xi, my relationship with Supervisor Zhao isn’t at all deep, yet he wants me to undergo this experiment with Blazing Thunder Crystals. Do you think he’s trying to test the extent of my talent? If that is the case, if I merge with too many crystals, he’ll definitely do everything in his power to recruit me into the Dawn Trading Alliance, even involving the higher powers of his organization. And if I still am not willing, they might kill me ...”

“Is that so?”

Ling Xi was startled, and fear crept into her heart. She quickly patted her chest, stuck out her tongue, and said, “You’re a Dragon Warrior. The Dragon Brand in your body will naturally be strong enough to tame the Blazing Thunder Crystals. If you try your best, you might merge with many more crystals than a normal person is capable of. So what you said is indeed possible ...”

Such an amazing treasure was now within reach, but obviously, Long Chen dared not merge with them all. The grief he felt made him want to vomit blood.

“Wait!” Ling Xi suddenly cried. “Didn’t you see how casually he took five Blazing Thunder Crystals from his Universe Pouch just now? And the fact that he’d use them to test you means that the Dawn Trading Alliance has many things like this. They might even have Blazing Thunder Crystal mines. You could casually merge with one or two here and then leave. I’ll then turn back and take his Universe Pouch from him!”

Long Chen’s jaw dropped at such a bold proposition, and he said hurriedly, “Hey, boss, please don’t do that. It was so difficult for me to get you the four Spirit Nourishing Fruits to make sure you’re safe. Don’t you dare get yourself into mortal danger again! Are you kidding me?!”

Ling Xi pursed her lips. “Hey, idiot, do you really think I’m that useless? I now have the spirit power of four Soul Nourishing Fruits. I’m just going to steal a Universe Pouch from a guy who is at the mid Earthly Core Realm. This is a piece of cake to a master like me!”

Ling Xi, who was usually very timid, had spoken with so much confidence that when Long Chen thought about how the crystals could make him a lot stronger, he was swayed. He asked doubtfully, “Xiao Xi, are you sure you can steal the Universe Pouch without anyone noticing?”

She glared at him furiously. “Of course! I’ve never been one to take cultivation seriously, but I was number one in special techniques! Even my father always praised me for it. How dare you underestimate me, you idiot! You just wait and see!”

With Ling Xi’s promise, Long Chen felt a lot calmer. They had no time to waste, so he looked at the five Blazing Thunder Crystals on the floor. “I don’t have much time. Let me test out these crystals, and we’ll see just how magical they are!”

The five Blazing Thunder Crystals on the floor were placed in a row. He picked one up and held it in his palm. Then he sat cross-legged, took a deep breath, and gazed at it. “Supervisor Zhao said that I can merge with it by activating my Qi and guiding the crystal into my body!”

With that thought, faint, red Qi slowly flowed from his palm, gradually swirling and surrounding the Blazing Thunder Crystal. The unmoving crystal, as if it had awakened, suddenly turned into a fiery, blue electrical current and merged into his body through his palm!

“This crystal is not as simple as it seems!”

When the electrical current entered his body, it quickly spread to every corner, and he was instantly bathing in a burning, fluid-like current. He started emitting a faint, blue glow, and he slowly felt a prickling pain appear in every corner of his body.

It was a prickling pain at first, then it turned into waves crashing repeatedly into his body. It stung and intensified with every wave, finally turning into intense pain. Every part of his body, including his blood, internal organs, tendons, bones, and muscles, was being torn apart by lightning and burned by flames!

Such agony was enough for anyone to break down!

Blue lightning and flames appeared on the surface of his skin, quickly swimming about. His eyeballs suddenly had lightning and flames burning within them. Suddenly, a powerful zap of electricity shot out of his eyes!

Although the pain is difficult to bear, my body is slowly becoming stronger. This feeling is much more frightening than the time I cultivated the Constellation Body!

It's no wonder Xiao Xi wanted me to merge with them. Blazing Thunder Crystals truly are great treasures!

The wrath of the crystal finally faded after almost an hour. Long Chen heaved a sigh of relief and stretched. He noticed that his body had strengthened significantly, and it was very tough!

Supervisor Zhao said that my Qi would contain the power of fire and lightning after merging with the Blazing Thunder Crystal. He was telling the truth—my Qi has changed significantly!

However, when compared to the light-red Qi, the blue Qi's power was significantly weaker. The wisp of blue hadn't even entered his Human Core; it remained in the blood-red mist outside of it.

“Indeed, one Blazing Thunder Crystal is far from my limit!”

Although the experience had been terrifying, he would have to experience much hardship if he wanted to become a master. Long Chen had long understood this.

“How are you feeling?” Ling Xi asked anxiously.

Long Chen grinned. “Good, very good! Xiao Xi, I'm going to reward you so well for this! You're amazing!”

Then he turned to the rest of the crystals and smiled. “I'll leave these four Blazing Thunder Crystals here. Xiao Xi, I'll leave the rest to you. Remember that the crystals aren't that important. Your safety is the top priority! Do not force it!”

Ling Xi was filled with sweetness when she heard how much he cared about her, but his next words made her face darken once more.

“If anything bad happens to you, it’s just going to make me very busy and very tired. I can’t afford to be injured right now.”

“You bastard!”

Ling Xi gritted her teeth when she thought about his stupid face.

Long Chen decided to leave the room and look for Supervisor Zhao.

Once he opened the door, he saw immediately that Supervisor Zhao was sitting in a pavilion far away and hurried over. Supervisor Zhao quickly noticed him too, and seeing as he had emerged in less than an hour’s time, he had a bad feeling. “Long Chen, how was it? How many did you merge with?”

Long Chen gave a look of exasperation and said, “I can only blame myself for being useless. I only merged with one.”

“One?”

Supervisor Zhao didn’t quite believe it. He knew that Long Chen had a tough body and estimated that he could merge with at least two, maybe even three. He was very disappointed that Long Chen had only merged with one.

He initially thought that Long Chen was a rare talent that he could poach from the Lingwu family. If Long Chen’s future was bright, he would also benefit from it. However, it looked like he had wasted his time, which left Supervisor Zhao feeling defeated. He waved at Long Chen and said with some annoyance, “If that’s the case, you may return.”

Long Chen was impressed by how his extreme friendliness had cooled the moment he realized that Long Chen was weak.

That was good too. Initially, Long Chen was feeling bad about stealing the Blazing Thunder Crystals. Now, there was no hesitation.

“If that’s the case, let me excuse myself!” Long Chen smirked coldly and left.

The Dawn Trading Alliance probably has many Blazing Thunder Crystals. Having Ling Xi steal some probably isn’t too unreasonable ...

Chapter 100 - Blazing Thunder Combat Body!

After Zhao Tianfang led Long Chen back to the Dawn Trading Alliance, he went off to deal with his own matters. When Ao Xue saw Zhao Tianfang’s cool expression, she smirked, as if she knew this would happen all along.

“Goodbye!” she said, as if shooin Long Chen away.

From the look on Zhao Tianfang’s face, she knew that Long Chen must have merged with one crystal at most. Ao Xue was the same—she too had only merged with one. If she worked harder, she might be able to merge with two!

This proved that Zhao Tianfang’s warm treatment of Long Chen was all for nought. “He’s trash! And yet he pretended to be a genius, how funny!” she snickered behind Long Chen.

“I wonder what kind of face she’d make if she knew that you could merge with much more than one,” Ling Xi said in his ear with a laugh.

“Xiao Xi, we’ll walk around outside for a while as it’s only evening now. Once night falls, it’ll be time for you to shine. It’ll be too suspicious if he loses something the moment after I’ve left.”

Long Chen only responded to Ao Xue’s behavior with a smirk.

But he had no time to dwell on people like that. Very soon, Long Chen walked out of the Dawn Trading Alliance under Ao Xue’s gaze of contempt. He turned through a few streets, found a quiet teahouse, and drank some tea, familiarizing himself with his current body.

“So I’ll be able to form the Blazing Thunder Combat Body and become a Blazing Thunder Warrior if I merge with ten Blazing Thunder Crystals?”

Long Chen felt the numb, prickling energy faintly flowing through him.

Lightning and fire were two of nature’s most violent energies.

“That’s right. Also, the Blazing Thunder Combat Body is divided into tiers. Once you’ve merged with ten crystals, you’ll gain the Level One Blazing Thunder Combat Body. What comes next is Level Two, and the highest is the Level Three Blazing Thunder Combat Body! I’m not sure how many crystals that takes, but it’s definitely more than ten!”

“Then how can I merge with more crystals?” he asked expectantly.

“The number of crystals depends on your body type. Your body type is one of a Dragon Warrior, and your Qi contains mostly the power of a dragon. Plus, your body is considered the embryonic form of a dragon. That is why in terms of bodily properties, you can easily conquer the crystals.

“On the other hand, it’s also related to the amount of Qi you possess. Your Qi contains a dragon’s aura, so let’s call it Dragon Soul Qi. The stronger your Dragon Soul Qi, the more Blazing Thunder Crystals it can suppress and control. The crystals contain Blazing Thunder Power, so as long as your Dragon Soul Qi is more powerful than the Blazing Thunder Power, it’ll be okay ...”

“We’ve talked so much about it, but we still don’t know if we’re going to get them for sure.” Long Chen smiled helplessly.

Blazing Thunder Crystals were great for Body Tempering and strengthening the Blazing Thunder Power in his Qi. Indeed, he was very tempted.

When he first received the Dragon Soul Transformation, his body had skyrocketed in strength and attained a level beyond that of an advanced Yellow-tier Combat Body.

And that was just a sliver of the Inherited Blood Essence. But as his enemies grew stronger and stronger, and also possessed more powerful combat techniques, he started feeling that he was lacking.

He didn't know when the Inherited Blood Essence would be activated again, so he decided to first put his focus on the Blazing Thunder Crystal.

"You bastard! You still don't trust me, do you? You just sit right here. I will personally get your matter settled and it will be perfect."

Ling Xi was furious that he didn't believe in her.

If it wasn't for the fact that it wasn't time yet, she would've rushed to the Dawn Trading Alliance immediately. "You wouldn't even be able to fathom the tricks I use. No matter what you say, I will get you the Blazing Thunder Crystals!"

Ling Xi's sudden burst of determination today didn't seem like her past self at all. But Long Chen knew what the girl was thinking.

He had treated her extremely well and bought her soul nourishing herbs anytime he had some money. He had even entered the Desolate Mountains when his family was about to enter a war, risking it all to search for Dream Lingzhi Mushrooms. Ling Xi was extremely touched by his kindness.

That was why she wanted to do something for him. *With a girl like her by my side, I've already won even if I don't get to be a player for the rest of my life ...*

Long Chen's mind wandered into the gutter, but he quickly shook his head. His relationship with Ling Xi hadn't reached that stage yet, and her background was mysterious. He could faintly feel that sometimes, they were like people from two different worlds. On the other hand ...

I am Young Master Long! I've always been a player who played the field without ever catching feelings. I play in the flower field but never get even a leaf on myself. So why would I hang myself on a tree? And this tree hasn't even grown ...

Sometimes, reality could be so peculiar that it was out of anyone's expectations, even if it made sense. *But Ling Xi is so beautiful that she seems out of this world. When she becomes a woman in a few years, I'm sure I'll be falling on my knees at the end of her dress. If I let any other animal touch a fairy like her, it would be a tragedy!*

When Long Chen thought about how Ling Xi might be with other men in the future, he suddenly had the impulse to die. *Unless this is the legendary 'love' they talk about?* He smiled bitterly.

Both of them had indeed been through a lot during their time together. He felt like they were ride-or-die partners now, and the corners of his lips subconsciously curled up into a smile every time he recalled the way they joked and scolded each other. *Sister Yu at the Jade Palace Brothel said that love at first sight is rubbish; true feelings develop when two people have walked on the same path together for some time, sharing tears and laughter along the way. That's how love grows. If I continue spending time with Ling Xi like this, will it come to that?*

Long Chen was oddly torn with that thought. Since young, he'd imagined himself with many wives and mistresses and definitely not like this!

“Hey, idiot! You’ve got a disgusting grin on your face! What the hell are you thinking about?!” asked Ling Xi, her brows furrowed, when she saw that he was suddenly in deep thought.

Long Chen gave a sheepish grin.

The sky had darkened by now. He looked in the direction of the Dawn Trading Alliance and suddenly smiled. “Xiao Xi, don’t you think there’s something ... strange about the name of the *Dawn Trading Alliance[1]?”

He grinned. “Chen Xi. I’m Chen and you’re Xi. Together, isn’t that Chenxi?”

When she felt Long Chen’s fiery gaze, her cheeks reddened. Growing mad, she bared her teeth and scolded, “How dare you take advantage of me! I’ll beat you up!”

Although she was scolding him, her voice was filled with gentle sweetness.

Ling Xi froze as she realized how she was acting, then she changed the topic. “It should be time, right? I want to go now.”

Long Chen didn’t want to stop her. If he didn’t let her show off her capabilities, she might cause him more trouble in the future.

This mission wasn’t very dangerous, so he agreed. “Listen. Safety is more important than anything.”

“Mhm.”

The tiny Ling Xi Sword slowly slid out of Long Chen’s ear, then it quickly disappeared into the darkness of the night.

Without the sword in his ear, Long Chen suddenly felt like his heart was empty, like it had nowhere to go.

He suddenly felt so lonely without Ling Xi by his side. *Have I suddenly become afraid of loneliness?*

He couldn’t imagine where he would be without Ling Xi, nor could he imagine how he would continue living on. *Chenxi is the beginning of it all. We will forever be like the dawn—the symbol of rebirth that will never ever die out!*

With that thought, Long Chen closed his eyes and placed both hands on the armrests of his chair. He leaned back, feeling his heartbeat.

When he listened closely, he realized it was beating quite loudly.

The beat continued to grow louder in his ear. He could faintly sense a blood-red dragon, majestic enough to cover the skies and the sun, roaring within. *Ancient Bloodsoul Dragon ... Blood and massacre ... Are they my destiny?*

Time passed slowly. After a little over fifteen minutes, Long Chen’s eyes sprang open, and a Universe Pouch was thrown into his hand. The feeling of contentment returned and the sword returned to his ear. “Hey, stupid, hurry up and get back to Lingwu City!”

Without another word, Long Chen started walking back to Lingwu City.

When he didn't hear any signs of weakness in Ling Xi's voice, he heaved a sigh of relief. He asked anxiously as they hurried on, "How was it? Are you hurt?"

"How's that possible?" Ling Xi was pleased with herself. "That smelly bastard didn't even notice me when I took the Universe Pouch. Also, I helped you teach Ao Xue a lesson! It's her fault for being so annoying!"

When he heard that Ling Xi could do bad things, he was very interested. "What did you do to her?"

Ling Xi blushed in embarrassment. The feeling of being a naughty child was refreshing, but it wasn't her style.

"... I ... I cut off her hair ..."

"Pfft!"

Long Chen was worried but felt like the girl was just so adorable.

"Right, one more thing. I did have to use a technique to take the Universe Pouch. I used a secret technique to turn invisible, which exhausted a lot of my power. That's why I've spent approximately more than two Soul Nourishing Fruits out of the four I have ..."

Long Chen was speechless at this prodigal daughter's behavior, but he waved his hand and said generously, "It's fine. Just eat them all! When they're finished, I'll steal more!"

"Yay!"

"Let's go! We'll see how many Blazing Thunder Crystals you got!"