#### Dan God 221

Chapter 221 - Can't Lose

Bai Youyou didn't immediately replied, she was actually in consideration; it was clear she was thinking of betting, but as she was not an alchemist, she was not sure whether Chen Xiang could be successful or not before a hundred tries.

"Oh well! Forget about it. Once I have fully grasped it, then we'll see!"

Bai Youyou, after much consideration, refused Chen Xiang's proposition. From the very start, she had Profound Yin Divine Vein and mainly cultivated freezing cold True Qi. Furthermore, she also cultivated ruthless devil skill which could make one not even recognize their own closest relatives, that was why she was usually cold. However, Chen Xiang and Su Meiyao, both knew that under that ice cold semblance, she would also be happy, excited, and be concerned about others; she too had emotions of happiness, sorrow, anger and joy.

That was why Su Meiyao was very relieved; she did not want her senior sister, whom she had shared and depended on for many years, to repeat the same mistake and walk the same path as their master. Su Meiyao didn't want Bai Youyou to turn into a devil who would slaughter everyone, becoming a person who wouldn't even recognize her own relatives and friends.

Su Meiyao also had no choice but to admit; after Bai Youyou befriended Chen Xiang, she had truly changed a lot.

Chen Xiang was somewhat disappointed, however, he still rubbed his hands in excitement. He spirit was brimming, as if he had been injected with chicken blood. He continued to refine dans; he wanted to be successful in refining the Elemental Spirit Dan, while preventing the number of his failures could not exceed hundred.

Another day passed, and Chen Xiang once again failed ten more times. As before, he could not pass the absorption of divine sense hurdle, and this made Su Meiyao secretly excited. Obviously, she too had refined the Elemental Spirit Dan, and although she didn't have a soul of Shinto, eating Elemental Spirit Dan was best for promoting divine sense. In the past, before she was able to refine Elemental Spirit Dan, she had failed six hundred times, and at that time, the depression she felt had almost made her spew blood.

Another day passed again, and Chen Xiang once again failed ten more times. As before, he was still stuck at that checkpoint!

"Holy fucking shit, do father fucking have to kiss that damn fatty in front of Yun Xiaodao and squinted dragon?" Chen Xiang started to lose his composure; if he failed, what awaits him was equal to going to hell

Su Meiyao giggles came from inside the ring; the past two days, whenever she thought of what Chen Xiang would have to do after he lost, she would heartlessly start laughing. For her, these were her most happy days in so many years.

"It's not worth it. Sister Meiyao, if you lost, you just have to kiss this handsome, suave and outstanding gentleman on the lips. But if I lose, I have to kiss Zhu Rong, that pig!" Chen Xiang's hand, which was

holding the herbs, slightly trembled. Losing would put him in a place beyond redemption, but of course, if he won, it would very cool.

But now he felt his defeat was just a matter of time!

"Ha ha, this is what you asked for yourself! Who asked you to think of kissing me!" Su Meiyao tenderly laughed and said.

Bai Youyou didn't laugh either; she was in fact very looking forward to who was going to lose or win, she was very much in anticipation of that funny scene.

Chen Xiang shook his head; he knew that if he himself lost, 'that' would definitely be an everyday nightmare for him.

"Ten more tries!" Chen Xiang, in his mind, told himself that he must win.

Night time. Chen Xiang heaved a long sigh, he had already failed ninety-eight times.

"You only have two tries left!" Su Meiyao giggled and said.

Chen Xiang, at this moment, was very serious; he absolutely could not fail. He didn't speak with Su Meiyao again; he just calmed down his heart, took a rest while replaying the moment he had failed in his mind. He wanted to find the most crucial key!

After taking rest, a confident aura flashed through Chen Xiang's eyes; he proficiently placed the herbs inside the furnace, before pouring the flames into it. Bit by bit, time slowly went by, meanwhile, the Brilliant Flame Dragon Furnace was calm as before; this was the sign of successful refinement. Su Meiyao and Bai Youyou were secretly shocked.

When Su Meiyao was secretly clenching her teeth, a thunderous sound suddenly broke out from the furnace as it exploded; this made Su Meiyao suddenly let out a sigh, and afterwards, she began giggling.

However, there was no sign of despair on Chen Xiang; he still had one more try left. Besides, after the last try, he had already crossed that threshold; his failure only came during the final moment of the dan's solidification.

Through the failure in the previous attempt, he had finally found the reason.

He took a rest for a while, before once again placing the herbs inside the Brilliant Flame Dragon Furnace. With seriousness and calmness written all over his face, Chen Xiang began refining, dismissing any distracting thought; all of his attention was focused on the situation inside the furnace.

The Brilliant Flame Dragon Furnace remained extremely calm, and at this point, beads of large sweat appeared on Chen Xiang's forehead. Apparently, he had already arrived at the most crucial moment of solidifying the dan.

During the solidification of dan, those ownerless spiritual power were very irascible. Inside the Elemental Spirit Dan, there were only pure spiritual power, however, because they were squeezed together and very tyrannical, they might explode at any moment, and this was equivalent to compressing the True Qi.

However, Chen Xiang was now compressing the spiritual power, that was why he could easily suffer a backlash from those spiritual power, making him feel as if his head was splitting. By just losing a bit of his focus, he would immediately fall short of success. That was why during the refinement of the Elemental Spirit Dan, the dan's solidification was also a checkpoint that was very difficult cross. But of course, if the divine sense was strong enough, there would be no pressure of any sort at all.

Su Meiyao knew this point; she concluded Chen Xiang's divine sense was slightly lacking, which was the main reason why she dared to bet. Although she was shocked by how quick Chen Xiang had transversed the absorption of divine sense to reach this threshold, she was still sure that Chen Xiang would still not be successful in his hundredth attempt.

Chen Xiang felt as if his head was about to split. However, just as he felt he would not be able to support anymore, the Shinto Infant Soul in his consciousness opened its small eyes; it let out a clear and sharp cry, and suddenly, divine sense poured forth into him in a steady stream, making his spirit slightly shake. With the vast divine sense he suddenly acquired, he immediately compressed that Elemental Spirit Dan.

That originally fiercely shaking Brilliant Flame Dragon Furnace suddenly calmed down, and at this point, Chen Xiang had already entered the last step of the solidification of dan; it was clear he was not far from success.

What made Chen Xiang surprised was that Shinto Infant Soul had actually, at the most crucial moment, helped him, while also giving him so much divine sense. At the moment, he was currently looking at the little baby inside the Shinto Infant Soul.

Currently, he still had no way to completely control this little baby, but if he could, he would be in possession of an extremely powerful divine sense. According to Long Xueyi, as long as he had reached the true fusion with the spirit, he would have truly crossed the first threshold of Shinto.

Generally, only a single dan would come out from each set of herbs for the Elemental Spirit Dan. According to Su Meiyao, only two dans could be refined at most, however, she herself was not able to refine that many. Since the first time Chen Xiang refined the Elemental Spirit Dan, he was not planning to take any risk; he just wanted to refine a dan in order to increase his chances of success. However, even this was very difficult to follow, and it had even made him fail ninety-nine times!

As long as his failed attempts had not exceeded a hundred times, he had won!

Su Meiyao nibbled her lips. From the past few days till now, she had been laughing everyday, but at this moment, no laughter came out from her mouth anymore; instead, her face was completely flushed.

"Senior sister, now what to do! I... I'm afraid!" Su Meiyao leaned on Bai Youyou's arm and said.

"Just don't go outside!" Bai Youyou, although she didn't smile or laugh, it was evident in her eyes that she was completely gloating.

"No way! I'll be despised by that brat." Su Meiyao shook her head and said.

"Anyway, you're just kissing him, and you are not spread your legs for him!"Bai Youyou slightly raised the corner of her lips; although her smile was somewhat stiff, it was still very beautiful.

Su Meiyao's pretty face was completely flushed, she didn't think Bai Youyou could speak so openly; she angrily retorted, "Senior sister, aren't you enjoying this!?"

"You asked for this! Anyway, you are usually intimate with the brat, kissing with him is nothing. Didn't you say you quite like him? But he's just little weaker now." Bai Youyou said.

At this time, Su Meiyao heard Chen Xiang's nasty and sinister laughter.

"Sister Meiyao, I finished refining the Elemental Spirit Dan. You quickly take a bath, wear some pretty clothes, and come out to have a kiss with me!"

# Chapter 222 - You Bet, You Pay

Chen Xiang opened the furnace and took out a very beautiful Elemental Spirit Dan. It was wrapped in a golden brilliance, and exquisitely carved, with a white light like flame beating at the center.

Su Meiyao came out. She wore a casual white dress with uncombed and disorderly hair. However, that still couldn't hide her peerless beauty, on the contrary, it added a strange sort of charm. She nibbled on her lips, as her tender and charming face was filled with displeasure. She couldn't help but tenderly snort as she saw that nasty smile on Chen Xiang's face.

"Sister Meiyao, I'm a veteran. You don't need to worry, I won't bite your tongue. Rather, I'm afraid of you biting my tongue!" Chen Xiang said with a grin, as he moved towards Su Meiyao.

Su Meiyao glanced at the Elemental Spirit Dan. Chen Xiang was indeed successful in refining it, moreover, it was of top quality, which made her secretly give up all resistance.

"How... how do you want to start?" Su Meiyao's pretty face flushed slightly, as she asked in a low voice.

"Raise your head and close your eyes, leave the rest to me!" Chen Xiang licked his lips, and said with an evil smile.

Su Meiyao tenderly spat, before closing her eyes, and raising her head to face Chen Xiang. Her heartbeat accelerated and she became extremely tense, especially when she felt that Chen Xiang was gradually approaching.

Chen Xiang looked at that stunning and coquettish beauty. He couldn't help but lightly stroke Su Meiyao's cheek with the back of his hand, and savour that white creamy feeling. Su Meiyao's eyelashes slightly shook a bit, before she tenderly snorted and said, "Hurry up, don't mess with me!"

Chen Xiang mischievously laughed. Su Meiyao was willing to accept a loss if she had agreed to a bet. Afterwards, two figures embraced each other!

As they both got drunk in that marvelous feeling, both of them completely lost track of time. After an unknown duration of time, this tender scene was shattered as Long Xueyi tenderly shouted, "Someone's coming!"

At this time, Chen Xiang was reluctant to part with Su Meiyao. As she separated from Chen Xiang's bosom, she looked at him with a confused and beautiful expression in her eyes. However, she soon lowered her head and spat, before returning back to the ring.

Chen Xiang grinned, licked his lips, and savoured that lingering feeling.

After Su Meiyao returned to that small residence inside the ring, she collapsed on the bed. She didn't speak, and lowered her head thinking of something. Her face was still slightly rosy. Seeing this scene left Bai Youyou baffled.

"Chen Xiang, what's kissing? Does it taste good? I also want to try!" Long Xueyi suddenly asked, her voice full of curiosity.

"Eat my ass, All day, do you only think of eating? Little brat go away, this is adult business!" Chen Xiang scoffingly rebuked.

"Humph, I have been in the dragon egg for thousands of years, you are the little brat!" Long Xueyi berated in a tender voice.

Chen Xiang left the private room. As he arrived in his little garden, he noticed Elder Dan blankly standing under the Nine Sun Flames Tree.

Noticing Chen Xiang arrive, Elder Dan fiercely turned around and hastily asked, "What the hell happened here?"

Chen Xiang, while scratching his head, smiled and said, "This isn't all that bad, right?"

Elder Dan coldly harrumphed and said, "Nonsense, the Five Color Lotus, the Nine Su Flames Tree, Fire Spirit Grass, Raising Soul Grass, Divine Spirit Flower, Metal Spirit Trees, Thousand Vein Trees... which of these aren't good things? Tell me honestly, where the hell did you get all this!?"

The Nine Sun Flames Tree had already bore two fruits, so Elder Dan was fully aware that they weren't recently planted by Chen Xiang.

Elder Dan had just come out of secluded training, in regards to the outside matters, she simply had no clue. Otherwise, there would be no need to ask Chen Xiang what was going on.

"You have to keep it a secret! You can't tell this to anyone else!" Chen Xiang said.

"That is a given, we already know too many of each other's secrets. You don't need to remind me."

Chen Xiang grinned, "These were all taken from the Herb King Mountain, I'm pretty sure the Lu Family is currently looking around for me."

Elder Dan was surprised for a moment, Chen Xiang had actually raided the Lu Family's Herb King Mountain! However, she knew that the Lu Family wasn't weak at all, they would absolutely not let Chen Xiang off scot free.

"I'll reinforce the array here! Quickly, go! The Dean is assembling everyone above or in the True Martial Realm currently present in the Extreme Martial Sect." Elder Dan said.

Originally Elder Dan had to halt her closed-door training because of Gu Dongchen. Chen Xiang followed behind her and left the Extreme Dan King Courtyard.

The assembly place was a large patch of open space in the Mysterious Realm. On the way, Chen Xiang saw Yun Xiaodao and the others. Chen Xiang also noticed their complexion wasn't bad, with one glance he was sure that their good luck had once again played its part.

"Zhu Lao, did you get lucky again?" Chen Xiang asked while laughing.

"Almost, I picked up a very easy high-ranked mission." Zhu Rong laughed and answered. He was a businessman, and in this regard, his vision was very accurate. Of course, some luck was also required.

"Elder brother Chen, this time the Dean is gathering all us True Martial Realm martial artists. It seems the battle with the devil path sects is about to start. Right, the Lu Family has actually posted a five million crystal stones bounty on you, your worth has once again gone up!" Yun Xiaodao said with a look of admiration, "When can I have everyone posting a reward for me, how beautiful would such a scene be!"

Chen Xiang shook his head, if the Lu Family didn't put a bounty on his head, that would be even more strange. After all, he had actually shaved off their entire foundation.

"Chen Xiang, what did you do to the Lu Family? Why did they put such a high bounty on your head!? Even when you killed their elder, they didn't put a bounty on your head!" Xu Weilong asked.

Chen Xiang laughed and said, "I didn't do anything, I just took a trip to the Lu Family!"

Seeing Chen Xiang with that kind of smile, Yun Xiaodao understood 'took a trip' meant he had definitely benefited from it. From the sheer value of the bounty, they were certain that he had certainly done a lot of fishing (fish up a fortune).

"Chen Xiang, where's my share? I helped you investigate the Lu Family!" Zhu Rong hastily grabbed Chen Xiang's arm, after which he quickly received a jade box from the latter.

As Zhu Rong hastily opened it, he let out a strange cry, as his face was filled with surprise and excitement. He quickly closed the jade box, calmed down, and tried to act as if nothing had happened. This was because Chen Xiang had given Zhu Rong two Building Foundation Dans.

"Sigh, if only some of my sisters were so beautiful!" Zhu Rong sighed. In his eyes, Chen Xiang was a nouveau riche, and also very candid and generous.

Although Yun Xiaodao's and Xu Weilongs's strength was very good in their generation, Chen Xiang's felt they still fell short by a little, so he also gave each of them two Building Foundation Dans. This would give them the chance to improve their strength quickly!

Building Foundation Dans could allow them to improve their cultivation, after taking the dan, their strength would become even more terrifying. Although, among their peers they were already very strong, there were still surpassed by many of the same generation. And this was even after leaving the abnormal monsters, such as Chen Xiang, out.

Besides, these Building Foundation Dan were a very rare and precious dan, only Chen Xiang could produce so many of them with his odd techniques. Moreover, not only did he refine them quickly, even

their quality was very high. Not to mention that his Building Foundation Dans potency was several folds that of any other alchemist.

Zhu Rong knew his stuff, with just a glance, he could tell that these Building Foundation Dans were out of the ordinary!

# Chapter 223 - Candidates

Yun Xiaodao and Xu Weilong were both scared just like Zhu Rong after they opened their respective jade boxes. They realized Chen Xiang also gave Zhu Rong two Building Foundation Dans. At once, six Building Foundation Dans came from Chen Xiang. This left them extremely surprised, did Chen Xiang find a stash of Building Foundation Dans or something!?

"Hei hei, a total of five hundred thousand crystal stones, are you going to buy or not?" Chen Xiang laughed, in order to not let them feel burdened, Chen Xiang also had recover a little crystal stones.

"How many do you have, I want all of them!" Zhu Rong hastily shouted.

"Get out!" Yun Xiaodao scoffingly said, "Of course we're going to buy, but can't you reduce the price a little?"

"You are actually bargaining with me, really proximity to pitch turns you black!" Chen Xiang laughed and said as he glanced at Zhu Rong.

Zhu Rong curled his lips and replied, "What proximity to pitch turns you black, this one always had good habits."

Xu Weilong very readily took out five hundred thousand crystal stones and gave it Chen Xiang. Xu Weilong said with a light sigh, "This is all I have, all of a sudden I'm left with nothing."

Chen Xiang's Building Foundation Dans were very useful for all of them, with this, they could quickly obtain a ton of True Oi.

After they walked into a huge courtyard, they saw a hundred or so people already present. These were all the True Martial Realm disciples the Extreme Martial Sect could gather, in total, a little more than hundred True Martial Realm martial artists. It was evident just from this that there were not many True Martial Realm in the Chenwu Mainland. However, Chen Xiang had crippled more than hundred of them last time in the Black Tortoise Mysterious Realm, it was such a huge scale event that it shocked the entire world.

"These past few days, the negotiations between our righteous sects and devil path sects have been fruitful! However, there is a precondition. According to the agreement, a battle is going to be held in the Southern Wasteland, between martial artists under the 5th level of the True Martial Realm. Those who enter the Southern Wasteland will face a life and death struggle, they will have to survive in the Southern Wasteland mountain range for two months. In the end, the side with most disciples surviving will be victorious!" Gu Dongchen announced.

Wu Kaiming carried on, "The righteous sects will send fifty disciples, while the devil path side will do the same. Our Extreme Martial Sect will send ten disciples."

The True Martial Sect and the Beast Martial Sect had suffered heavy losses, and thus they couldn't sent too many. Plus, as the number one sect of the Chenwu Mainland, the Extreme Martial Sect naturally had to send more than the others.

"The devil path sects have proven again and again that they also have great potential in their little Devil Province. If they win, we righteous sects will then have to provide them with a large amount of resources, and if we allowed this to happen, with their growth, they would soon become a great threat for our righteous sects." Wu Kaiming said in a heavy tone.

"Those below the 5th level True martial Realm, and including 5th level True Martial Realm can participate in this battle, who wants to go? Bear in mind this battle is very dangerous, even a single misstep can take your life." Gu Dongchen's gaze swept over those True Martial Realm martial artists one by one. There were many under the 5th level True Martial Realm, however no one stepped forward.

Chen Xiang shouted, "Count me in!"

Recognized as the youngest and most talented in his generation, Chen Xiang was obviously going to take the lead for the Extreme Martial Sect, this made many elders secretly nod in appreciation. However, Gu Dongchen and Wu Kaiming were both somewhat worried about their young martial uncle, they knew these devil path martial artists were not to be trifled with.

Besides, the Southern Wasteland was in itself very dangerous, it was a notoriously dangerous place.

"I'll also go!" Yun Xiaodao followed up.

This cry was immediately followed by Zhu Rong and Xu Weilong, everyone could tell they had just step into the True Martial Realm, but actually had such guts. This made many secretly admire them.

"Sign me up!" This time, the speaker was Yao Haisheng, Chen Xiang's apprentice. Now five people had signed-up, all of them had good relations with Chen Xiang.

"I'll also go, I can't fall behind the youth." A middle-aged man slightly laughed and said. This time it was Hao Dongqing, Zhu Rong's uncle.

Four left, however, for Wu Kaiming and Gu Dongchen, this result was very unsatisfactory. This was because the majority of the candidates were young, whether their experience or the required martial skills, they were lacking. Young people will only suffer disadvantages, of course, Chen Xiang was an exception.

"Are all the other martial courtyards cowardly? All six people participating came from our 15th Martial Courtyard!" Yun Xiaodao berated in a ridiculing tone.

"Exactly, the 1st Martial Courtyard this number is in vain for these guys, such a waste of a good martial courtyard." Zhu Rong also followed up with another insult.

Many were very reluctant in their hearts to fight with vicious and fierce individuals from the devil path sects. Facing the ridicule of those younger than them, although they were furious, everyone chose to remain silent.

At this moment, the entire courtyard was dead silent. The Extreme Martial Sect still had four spots left, however, no disciples came forward. Gu Dongchen was slightly angry, he didn't expect the Extreme

Martial Sect's disciples to be so weak and cowardly, even the current new generation of True Martial Realm disciples dared to step forward but none of the old ones.

Gu Dongchen didn't want to force anyone, however, he was now left with no choice. Just as he was about to speak, Chen Xiang said, "Dean, how long is left before the start of battle?"

"Three months!"

"Leave those last four guys to me. After three months, I'll bring four True Martial Realm guys to see you!" Chen Xiang once again said.

Gu Dongchen frowned, and said, "Are you speaking the truth?"

"Of course, but we are going risk our lives after all. When we return, will there be any rewards awaiting us?" Chen Xiang laughed and replied.

"There will definitely be proper compensation!" Gu Dongchen said, "Well, now that the candidates are determined, there will not be any further changes"

Chen Xiang once again shouted, "Dean, if we all came back alive, couldn't you give each of us a bronze disciple and silver warrior title?"

Chen Xiang's words raised everyone's heartbeat in an instant. If they could get these two titles, they would be able to enter the King Martial Courtyard.

Zhu Rong and the other four were all secretly excited, and eagerly awaiting Gu Dongchen's answer.

Gu Dongchen considered for a moment before he glanced at Wu Kaiming, only to see him nod his head.

"No problem, as long as you return alive, we will reward a million crystal stones, five hundred True Elemental Dans, as well as the bronze disciple and the silver warrior title!" Gu Dongchen loudly proclaimed, this made Yun Xiaodao and the others extremely happy, however, they need to come back alive first.

Yao Haisheng and Hao Dongqing were both looking forward to the reward, however, they didn't think it was as simple as it seemed, they were clearly aware on how strong these devil path martial artists were compared to the other three.

"Disperse, for the next three months, we of Elder Courtyard will do everything to guide you, so that you're sufficiently ready for the battle!" Gu Dongchen said.

At this point, many people present had some regrets, these rewards were just too tempting. Not to mention, the candidates were going to personally receive the Elder Courtyard's guidance!

"Haisheng, for these next three months, don't bother refining any dans!" Chen Xiang said. Yao Haisheng was currently in the 4th level of the True Martial Realm.

"Chen Xiang, where are you going to get four more people in the True Martial Realm? They shouldn't be in 1st level right?" Hai Dongqing asked. If they were all in 1st level, then it would affect their overall strength. Hao Dongqing was in 5th level of the True Martial Realm, and was quite powerful. In the Extreme Martial Sect, he also had a decent reputation.

"Uncle Hao, you can rest assured. They might be a little weaker, but they will absolutely not drag us down in any way." Chen Xiang replied, before taking his leave with Yun Xiaodao and the others.

Before, Chen Xiang had asked Yun Xiaodao to search for some talented people to win over, people worthy to vigorously nurture. Yun Xiaodao had already found five, and Chen Xiang was going to see them now.

### Chapter 224 - Buying Popularity

Out of those five people, two were currently performing missions outside the sect and had yet to return, so there were only three people here at the moment.

Zhu Rong and the others had not only carefully investigated these five people, but also observed them for a very long time. Their evaluation of them was very high.

In a small room, Chen Xiang was looking at three young males, two of which had big physiques, and pretty much the same appearance. Apparently, they were brothers. As for the other one, he looked like a scholar, although what he wore very simple garb, it was very tidy, and he had a amiable smile on his face

Two brothers were called Lei Xionglin and Lei Zhong.

While Lei Xionglin was the eldest, and was a sturdy and forthright man. However, when he spoke he it was often somewhat rude and hoarse. On the other hand, his brother Lei Zhong was a simple and honest man. He usually spoke very few words, and even when he spoke, he really wasn't good at talking. However, both of them were very diligent, otherwise they would not had become 10th level Mortal Martial Realm martial artists at such young age.

That man with a scholarly appearance was called Lian Mingdong. He was a very astute person, and had done many good deeds in the Tianmen City. However, anyone thinking of drawing in this kind of astute person would cause some suspicion in the back of their minds, perhaps this person had some sort of scheme or plot. But, Chen Xiang was fearless of such things.

Lei Xionglin, Lei Zhong and Lina Mingdong all knew why they had been invited here today. They knew someone wanted to win over them, they had also experienced this kind of thing several times before. However, they had not been chosen in the end because they had no background.

Inside the sect, before someone was drawn in, generally their background would be taken into consideration. If they had a good origin, such as a junior from a small family or a son or daughter of some big businessman, it would be easier for them to be won over.

However, for Chen Xiang, this was not feasible, as those people would probably not loyal to him, in fact, they would easily betray him for the bounty on his head.

Chen Xiang's name in the Extreme Martial Sect reverberated like thunder. Some hated him, some liked him, some admired him, but the majority was simply jealous of him.

Now Lei Xionglin and the others could see such a 'Great master like figure' of the Extreme Martial Sect, all of them were somewhat excited and surprised in their hearts.

"I won't waste time talking nonsense, although we are meeting for first time, I think you should all be acquainted with one another. I've already investigated you all, I hope you don't mind." Chen Xiang slightly smiled, "This was because I wanted to have more than a few trustworthy men."

Lian Mingdong was slightly surprised for a moment, he glanced at Lei Xionglin and Lei Zhong, as all of them were the same kind of people. All three were pretty good friends, and were somewhat surprised about this.

"Are you willing to join us? Simple as that, if you want then join us, that would be great. If not, then forget it. As for what to know about each other, that will come later." Yun Xiaodao said.

Yun Xiaodao, Zhu Rong and the others were all young True Martial Realm martial artists. As a matter of fact, in the Extreme Martial Sect, they were very famous. Besides, they were all juniors of big families.

Lei Xionglin and Lei Zhong both glanced at each other, they were being drawn in by a group with such a good influence, they were certainly happy. However, at this moment, their eyes were filled with helplessness.

Lian Mingdong said, "For senior brother Chen to be kind enough to invite us to join, we are extremely grateful, however...during our last mission, our group came in conflict with some people and we also lost two of our companions."

Zhu Rong laughed and said, "Are you worried that you will drag us into your conflict?"

Lian Mingdong nodded his head, "Yes, I know senior brothers are all young and promising, but..."

At this time Lei Xionglin roared, "Don't speak of this! Let's go, we'll manage our own affairs ourselves!"

Lei Zhong had a very simple-minded smile facing Chen Xiang and the others, and said "If we join your group, we will only bring trouble for you, I'm sorry."

Xu Weilong coldly said, "Who is targeting you, and also killed your two companions! Although we have nothing to do with you, our investigations made us admire you, which was why we wanted to be invite you guys to create a big group!"

Chen Xiang sighed and said, "If I'm not wrong, it should be other Extreme Martial Sect disciples! Sigh, you're risking your lives with them, yet this is what happens. It is simply wastage of your own life... I have an opportunity to let you have life and death battle with devil path martial artists, this life and death fight is what you should be yearning for the most!"

Lei Xionglin's and Lei Zhong's entire body trembled, before Lei Xionglin immediately asked, "What opportunity?"

Chen Xiang faintly smiled, according to the information, Lei Xionglin's and Lei Zhong's village had been ravaged by the devil path martial artists, which was why their hatred devil path martial artists stemmed into their very soul.

"Since we have called you, we have put our trust in you. If you let us down, then it's just because our eyes could not discern people! The Extreme Martial Sect will have to immediately send ten disciples to a place where they will have to fight with the disciples of the devil path sects. On the behalf of you three, I have reserved three spots. However, you need to be in the True Martial Realm!"

Chen Xiang's words made Lei Xionglin and the others gasp. They were not same as the majority of people, usually when people heard they needed to fight with devil path martial artists, they would be all worried. Especially those who put on airs of arrogance and elegance, they would all be worried about losing their pathetic little lives. They would be more than happy to have a compromise with the devil path sects, and share the rich resources of the Chenwu Mainland with the devil path sects.

But the Deans of all major righteous sects understood what kind of people the devil path martial artists were. If they were allowed to grow, then the civilian populations and the righteous martial artists would have to bear the brunt of the damage, there would be no good days ahead. In order to suppress the devil path sects, a fierce battle was needed.

Chen Xiang took out six Building Foundation Dans and said, "I can give two Building Foundation Dans to each of you. Whether or not you can step into the True Martial Realm will be up to your talent, fortune, and luck."

"After you step into the True Martial realm, whether or not you want to work together with us is all up to you. However, you absolutely can not be like those other cowards in the Extreme Martial Sect and not dare to fight with the devil path!" Chen Xiang placed the six Building Foundation Dans on the table.

Lian Mingdong, Lei Xionglin and Lei Zhong were all petrified. They continued to look at those six Building Foundation Dan in amazement, they were all left speechless. Not to mention them, even Yun Xiaodao and the others could not help but be surprised. Chen Xiang had just given them two Building Foundation Dans each, however, he once again took out six more!

"I'm not giving these Building Foundation Dan for nothing, later, you have to return it to us! I want two hundred thousand crystal stones for each dan, if you feel like you can repay the debt in the future, then take it!" Chen Xiang laughed and said.

Half a million crystal stones could not be considered a unpayable amount, nor a negligible amount. That being said, if they could enter the True Martial Realm, it wouldn't be difficult for them to earn that amount, however, they still required quite a bit of time.

Lian Mingdong and the others all took two Building Foundation Dans. They looked at Chen Xiang with gratitude, they swore in their hearts they would follow Chen Xiang until death. He had given them an opportunity to become strong and take revenge! Otherwise, with their origin, god knows which month, year, or decade they would be able to enter the True Martial Realm. Or perhaps they would just remain in the 10th level of the Mortal Martial Realm for the rest of their lives!

"After you enter the True Martial Realm, immediately seek Elder Wu and let him make proper arrangements for you. At that time, tell him Chen Xiang sent you to find him. And one more thing, only eat one dan for now, if you can breakthrough using one, then you can leave the other for when you try to reach the 2nd level." Chen Xiang seriously instructed them.

Lei Xionglin and the others didn't said anything, they just held their fists towards Chen Xiang, and followed Yun Xiaodao and the others out. Such a generosity was unable to be repaid just by saying thanks, they would use their actions to thank Chen Xiang for what he has done.

Now, only one more candidate was needed. Chen Xiang could only go back to Elder Dan's King Courtyard to find Elder Dan. After all, Wu Qianqian was the best final candidate for the position, he was just worried about Elder Dan hiding Wu Qianqian until her death.

### Chapter 225 - Shinto

After returning to the Extreme Dan King Courtyard, Chen Xiang had just thought of knocking on Elder Dan's door when Elder Dan's voice suddenly came from inside.

"Did you come for Wu Qiangian?" Elder Dan opened the door and asked.

Chen Xiang nodded his head, "Now just lacking one person!"

"Tomorrow, I will take her to Dean. You definitely need to bring her back to me!" Elder Dan said.

"No problem!" Chen Xiang smiled, and then quickly left. After he returned to his own private room, he took out the Elemental Spirit Dan. Although he only had one, it was still enough for his very immature divine soul.

This time, the fight with the devil path martial artists in the Southern Wasteland would be very frigid, which caused Chen Xiang to feel some pressure. He knew these devil path sects were not vegetarians, whoever they sent would definitely not be weak.

The Extreme Martial Sect had not forced anyone to go, everyone was voluntarily going to the battle. Hence, the 5th level True Martial Realm people, these strong martial artists, would often not be participating because they were deeply aware how powerful devil path martial artists were. In their opinion, Chen Xiang and these younglings were only seeking their deaths. Not to mention, they were going to the Southern Wasteland, which was one of the most dangerous place in the Chenwu Mainland.

"Little dragon, if I just start cultivating Shinto, what kind of power will I gain?" Chen Xiang asked. In regards to Shinto, it could be said he knew nothing at all.

"That depends on what kind of spiritual power you are going to learn." Long Xueyi said, "To be precise, the spiritual power is state of the divine soul under which one use their power. it is probably similar to yours so called Divine Martial Skills, their principles are very similar. However, spiritual powers are very rare, even I only have five in my hands, nothing more."

Chen Xiang frowned, the Dragon Clan's hereditary memories were exceptionally vast, however, according to Long Xueyi, she only had five spiritual powers. Chen Xiang had only seen her using the spiritual power called the [72 Transformations], turning into a small rabbit, small rat or something similar, he felt that this skill didn't serve much of a use.

"The spiritual power you planning to teach would not be that [72 Transformations], right?" Chen Xiang asked in contempt. Without any spiritual power, then cultivating the divine soul one would only be able to grow divine sense, but they would have no way use its power.

"Don't underestimate the [72 Transformations], I know how to alter sound, change appearances, and turn into a small animal and hide myself, that's very useful! This spiritual power is listed as an abnormal spiritual power and it's ranked in forefront!" Long Xueyi said in a tender voice.

Chen Xiang pondered for a while, after thinking over it again, it was indeed very bizarre and almost cheat like. He asked, "If I cultivate it, can I even transform my body?"

"Of course you can. After you cultivate Shinto, you will enter into the 2nd level. By then, your divine soul will have grown as old as you are and then you can fuse it with your body. When that happens, your body will be transformed along with your divine soul. However, if you want to transform to the same extent as me, then there is still a long way to go." Long Xueyi proudly said.

Chen Xiang got slightly excited, exclaimed, "Pretty mystical!"

"Of course, otherwise it will not be called divine soul(神魂), spiritual power(神通), and Shinto(神道)." Long Xueyi said.

Chen Xiang swallowed down the Elemental Spirit Dan, what made him surprised was that the Elemental Spirit Dan was quickly digested by his body, producing a steady stream of spiritual essence that flowed into his consciousness. While the Infant Soul in his consciousness mindlessly absorbed that spiritual essence.

As the Infant Soul absorbed the vast amount of spiritual essence, it grew by leaps and bounds, Chen Xiang could clearly see that originally one to two years old baby growing bigger by the second.

"This Elemental Spirit Dan should allow your divine soul to grow around five to six years old! Once it's finished, you can start cultivating spiritual power. In the next three months, you should be able to learn few transformations among the [72 Transformations]. To be precise, the most powerful aspect of spiritual power in attacking is the utilisation of divine sense and True Qi together." Long Xueyi said.

Unwittingly, the divine soul in Chen Xiang's consciousness was already as big as four to five years old. He could now feel an even more intimate connection with his divine soul. However, it still could not called a true fusion, as that required it to become fused with his body, only then could he transform his body under the mystical power of his divine soul.

The divine soul's growth was the same as how people grow. During childhood, one would not understand anything, while as one gradually grew, they would began to gain wisdom, which was also the best time for fusion.

"Quickly fuse, if you miss this opportunity, the fusion will be much more difficult down the road." Long Xueyi said, she could directly see inside Chen Xiang's consciousness.

"How?" Chen Xiang hastily asked.

"Just simply think of yourself fusing with the divine soul."

Chen Xiang immediately followed Long Xueyi's instruction and concentrated on thinking of fusing his body and divine soul together. Slowly, his body began in glitter in bursts of golden light one after the other as a bizarre feeling permeated throughout his whole body.

Ten days passed, Chen Xiang heaved a long sigh and opened his eyes. He looked at his hands and feet, he made his finger curl a bit, but this action was not under the control of his body, but rather his divine soul!

Even if his body was paralyzed by some drug now, he could still perform the same movement, because he could now use two different ways to move his body. One was using his mind to move the body like ordinary humans, while the other was using his divine sense to control his body.

Chen Xiang sat cross-legged on the ground, and breathed in a bit of air. With that mystical divine soul from before, he tried to control his body to levitate in the air as his legs gradually left the ground, becoming suspended in mid-air!

"Hahaha!" Chen Xiang suddenly started laughing, "This kind of feeling is too cool, is this Shinto?"

These past ten days, Su Meiyao and Bai Youyou had always been paying attention to Chen Xiang's condition. They had seen him treading the path to Shinto step by step alone. It was very rare chance to see such a thing, if they could have the opportunity to contact Shinto, then this would be tremendously helpful.

"Correct, but you better not let your divine soul leave your body for now. Your divine soul is currently too weak, it's just a little brat. With just one pinch, I can kill you!" Long Xueyi tenderly laughed and said.

Chen Xiang nodded his head, this divine soul was quite similar to his own soul. However, it was able to be cultivated, and it could become even more powerful much easier than his actual soul.

"When can I let my own divine soul be isolated from my body?" Chen Xiang asked in excitement. He thought it would be very cool to be able to do that sort of thing.

"It's best to wait till your divine soul has the strength of someone in the Nirvana Realm. Of course, you could still do it with a 5th to 6th level of the True Martial Realm strength, but the premise is that no one more powerful than you can find you. Otherwise they will attack your divine soul, and it will be bothersome, especially if you can't escape! Even if you're just seriously injured, it might result in your soul getting destroyed and scattered. If just lightly, then your divine soul will suffer serious injuries." Long Xueyi said, "That's why it's better to stay honest and let it mature inside your body, let your body and divine soul both grow stronger together! This is the most formidable and safest way. Otherwise, my dragon clan would not need to cement their bodies before breaking their shell and just use our divine souls instead."

Chen Xiang had taken yet another step on the road of Shinto. This made him very excited. He first took a bath, before he quickly left Extreme Dan King Courtyard in order to find Yun Xiaodao and the others. He wanted to see how Lei Xionglin and the other two were doing.

Chen Xiang entered a hall and soon saw Lian Mingdong, Lei Xionglin and Lei Zhong. The three people had pretty good complexions, their faces brimming with a pleasant smile. When they saw Chen Xiang arrive, all three of them stood up one by one.

Seeing their current appearance, Chen Xiang did not need ask whether they had entered the True Martial Realm or not. He chuckled and said, "Congratulation for entering the True Martial Realm!"

Lei Xionglin laughed and said, "This is all thanks to Senior Brother Chen. Because of the Building Foundation Dans you had given to us, we were able to enter the True Martial Realm. For this, we are extremely grateful."

Lian Mingdong said, "Senior Brother Chen, we cannot thank you enough for your great graciousness. In the future, if you need any help from us, whatever it is, just say it."

Lei Zhong spoke with a silly laugh, "I don't have brain, but I have power. In the future, I'll definitely repay Senior Brother Chen."

Yun Xiaodao and the others secretly admired Chen Xiang's methods. All three of them had entered the True Martial Realm, and now they were loyal and devoted to Chen Xiang. While others have a lot more young retinues, their retinues were only in the 10th level of the Mortal Martial Realm. Although they had more, all of them combined would still be incomparable to a 1st level True Martial Realm martial artist.

Chen Xiang chuckled and asked, "How many Building Foundation Dans did all of you ate?"

"One!"

Lian Mingdong and the trio only ate one; from this, it was evidently clear how big their potential wa. They were just stuck at the bottleneck of the Mortal Martial Realm, but if they cultivated with all their efforts for ten to twenty years, even without the Building Foundation Dans, they would have eventually entered the True Martial Realm.

"You're all here! Dean asked me to gather you." Hao Dongqing walked in.

Lian Mingdong and the others had just stepped into the True Martial Realm two or three days ago, and already met with Wu Kaiming and the Dean.

As all three of them had just entered the True Martial Realm, going to the Southern Wasteland would be extremely dangerous for them. Of course, Chen Xiang, from the start, didn't want to make these three newcomers risk their lives in killing the devil path martial artists. Going to the Southern Wasteland was not just for the competition, otherwise, there would be no need to go the Southern Wasteland. If one so wished, they could simply find a safe place in the Southern Wasteland and hide themselves for the sake of surviving. Finally, whoever had more people surviving, they could claim themselves as the winner.

That was why the biggest challenge was surviving; survive in that dangerous land and avoid being hunted down. Those were the most crucial. However, Chen Xiang could still not understand why would devil path sects propose to go there.

In Wu Kaiming's courtyard, there were a total of 10 people, including Chen Xiang and the others. He also saw Wu Qianqian, however, since there were several elders as well as the Dean present here, he couldn't just go and have a conversation.

"Everyone is here! Sigh, honestly, this trip is very dangerous for you youngsters, especially those who had just recently entered the True Martial Realm." Gu Dongchen sighed.

Elder Dan said, "How about I go and bring those timid guys here. If ten 5th level True Martial Realm martial artists would go, then it would be the most powerful lineup!"

Gu Dongchen shook his head, "No need, the others are not necessarily going to send their strongest. The devil path sects may not sent their most powerful disciples either. We all know this competition is proposed by the devil path sects, and both the time and the location are according to them. Moreover, the purpose of this competition is not to compete in strength, but to compete who can live longer."

Wu Kaiming nodded his head and said, "If comparing strength, those devil path disciples are not much better than us, otherwise, they would not have go through all this trouble! They proposed the location of the competition in the Southern Wasteland mountain range, Maybe it's because their ability to adapt is way better, and they can also use the terrain and various dangers to sneak attack our people."

Chen Xiang agreed, "Yes, maybe they don't even need to act, people will surely die in there. If their surviving ability is better than us, maybe at the end, all of them will be surviving, and then they will certainly win! This way, they could easily win against those martial artists stronger than them, and they could also await for the death of a few True Martial Realm martial artists of the enemy along the way.

Gu Dongchen said, "That's why when you go there, don't think you have to risk your life into killing the other party. Of course, if someone is alone, everyone together with all their might can kill him. However, pay close attention if any kind of trap set by them!"

"Among the righteous sect, our Extreme Martial Sect is sending the largest number of people, the Beast Martial Sect and True Martial Sect are only sending four participants; the Danxiang Taoyuan and the Divine Weapon Heavenly Empire are sending seven each, and as for the remaining Lotus Island, Icewind Valley and the Proud Sword Sect, all of them are just sending six each." Wu Kaiming said, "We are sending ten there, as for teamwork, Chen Xiang must leave all of you. This guy is a troublemaker; moreover, he has a bounty of 15 million, so whether it's the righteous or the devil path, both will be eyeing him for his head"

The corners of Chen Xiang's mouth slight twitched, however, what Wu Kaiming and the others ordered him to do was also the correct decision. Otherwise, he would affect the whole team. Yun Xiaodao and Lei Xionglin, as well as the others, were somewhat reluctant though. All of them revered Chen Xiang, and they were thinking of wandering in the world with Chen Xiang. However, they had to listen to Gu Dongchen.

"Chen Xiang, you act alone. You have the Vermillion Bird Fire Wings and rich fighting experience. You have killed a lot more people stronger than you! Your purpose to go there is to kill the devil path martial artists, and at the same time, protect the disciples of the other sects. When the disciples of the righteous sect are getting attacked, you need to come out to rescue! As for the other nine people, you will stay together and cannot be separated. In the next three months, we will train you and make you act in harmony." Gu Dongchen spoke.

Chen Xiang suddenly thought whether the Divine Weapon Heavenly Empire and the Icewind Valley were going to send Xue Xianxian and Leng Youlan. Both of them were quite powerful in their generation, and they were also the focus of training in their respective sects.

Chen Xiang had some contradiction in his heart; if they were there, he would be very happy because he could meet with them. But at the same time, he was also worried; if they went there, then they would certainly have to face danger. After much deliberation, he felt it was better if those two didn't go there, because it was too dangerous. He prayed Liu Menger would not send them.

"Good, now all of you should go with Elder Lao to a secret place for training, Chen Xiang you stay, we have something to tell you." Gu Dongchen said.

Yun Xiaodao and the other eight followed a hunchbacked old man out. After they went away, only then did Wu Kaiming spoke, "Young Martial uncle, how did you suddenly find three martial artists who just entered True Martial Realm? If they are to join, then you are only killing them; these three have pretty good foundation."

"Surely young martial uncle gave them Building Foundation Dans." Elder Dan spoke from the side.

Both Wu Kaiming and Gu Dongchen didn't know that Chen Xiang had so many Building Foundation Dans. They also didn't know that Chen Xiang could refine Building Foundation Dan. If it was spread out that Chen Xiang had so many Building Foundation Dans in his grasp, it would shake the entire Chenwu Mainland.

Gu Dongchen and Wu Kaiming immediately thought Chen Xiang was developing his own forces. Doing so was not wrong in any way.

Chen Xiang laughed and said, "I'm not going to conceal it from you, this martial uncle knows how to refine Building Foundation Dan. If you want, I can sell it to you a little cheaper; just half a million crystal stones for one. If you want, you just have to say a word."

"What!?" Gu Dongchen shouted in shock; it came as a surprise to him that Chen Xiang could actually refine Building Foundation Dan!

Wu Kaiming also dumbfoundedly stared at Chen Xaign. Although he and Gu Dongchen didn't know how to refine dans, they still knew how difficult it was to refine Building Foundation Dans. Above all, it was required for an alchemist to be prodigal in wasting enough materials.

"It's true!" Elder Dan coldly snorted, however, in her heart, she was secretly laughing. Chen Xiang was clearly planning to cheat Gu Dongchen and Wu Kaiming; she knew that for Chen Xiang, obtaining the Building Foundation Dans was nothing.

# Chapter 227 - Transformation Technique

Seeing Elder Dan's confirmation, both Wu Kaiming and Gu Dongchen could not help but gulp a cold lump in shock; Chen Xiang could actually refine Building Foundation Dan, and it also seemed he had no small amount of them.

"Young martial uncle, how many do you have?" Gu Dongchen hastily asked. Over the years, the disciples entering the True Martial Realm in the Extreme Martial Sect were getting increasingly lesser.

"Ten!" Chen Xiang smiled and said, "You want? But I can not sell you so many all of a sudden. But if you want all in one breath, then so be it. Either give me one thousand two hundred True Elemental Dan, or give me six hundred thousand crystal stones."

Gu Dongchen secretly cursed Chen Xiang, then said, "I first have to consult with those old men of the Elder Courtyard."

"Hurry up, do not blame me when they are gone." Chen Xiang laughed and said, then followed Elder Dan to the Extreme Dan King Courtyard.

The advantage of the Building Foundation Dan laid in its ability to release a large amount of rich True Qi at once. It could allow a 10th level Mortal Martial Realm martial artists to breakthrough their bottleneck in one fell swoop, which other dan could not replace in any way. Because the Building Foundation Dans were rare, it was even more expensive. Chen Xiang could not let a large number of Building Foundation Dans flow out, otherwise, they would not have any rarity, and thus, their value would diminish. That was why he intended to leave them for his own use, or sell them at a high price to whom he was familiar with. If opportunity presides, he would take them out for auction.

"Have you used the entire Azure Profound Fruits?" After returning to the Extreme Dan King Courtyard, Elder Dan asked.

"En, failed good several times, however, I still have more than a hundred." Chen Xiang laughed while Elder Dan lightly snorted. She was secretly jealous of Chen Xiang; he was only at True Martial Realm, yet he already had so many Building Foundation Dans in his grasp. If used sparingly, more than a hundred True Martial Realm martial artists could be nurtured.

However, Chen Xiang didn't intend to nurture so many. He didn't want so many; as long as they were fine, together with him, they would do many things. Few could also could facilitate managing other things for him.

"Now are you planning to learn a Divine Martial Skill?" Elder Dan asked.

"Are you going to teach me?" Chen Xiang laughed and said.

"Of course."

Chen Xiang shook his head and said, "Not now. I have more important things to do, hei hei, if you take off your mask to teach me, then that's more like it."

"Humph, you want to learn, but you won't learn. At the time of your death, don't blame me!" Elder Dan softly snorted and said, then angrily left.

Chen Xiang was baffled, he could not understand why would Elder Dan would suddenly become angry.

He returned to his private room, sat cross-legged then asked, "Little Dragon, are you going to teach me those spiritual powers?" Chen Xiang thought it was better to learn spiritual power first, because it would allow him to possess an even more powerful ability to survive, especially that spiritual power of myriad transformations.

"I can teach you now, but whether you can learn or not is all upto you." Long Xueyi's voice was filled with contempt, as if Chen Xiang didn't have a fat chance to learn it.

"Little girl, don't underestimate me!" Chen Xiang laughed and said, "Quickly teach me!"

"First I'm going to teach you 72 Transformations. With your current weak divine soul, it would be just about right for you to transform into a small animal, as for those bigger entities, don't even think about it." Long Xueyi said, "Currently, even I can only transform into an adult tiger at most."

"It's enough, transforming into a small bird should do it!" Chen Xiang was suddenly excited, thinking of himself transforming into a bird and flying away, making his enemies unable to notice him in the slightest.

"Of course you can, but first you have to learn!" Long Xueyi laughed and said, "At that time, just don't get eaten. But with your body, even if you encountered any powerful attack, you will not immediately die. Those who have divine soul, as long as they don't encounter someone many, many times powerful than them, generally speaking, they will not die."

Chen Xiang rubbed his hands. At this time, Long Xueyi began imparting him the so called [72 Transformations] spiritual power. It had lot of content, but fortunately, Long Xueyi was passing it through her divine sense; fast and convenient. Chen Xiang was more and more certain that Su Meiyao and Bai Youyou both were from the Heavenly Realm, because this divine sense transmitting ability or anything similar was something he still hadn't seen yet.

This 72 Transformations could not specifically transform into 72 things, but instead into various kinds. However, generally speaking, there was no need for so many, that was why it was developed into 72 basic transformations. After grasping these, as long as one's divine soul was strong enough, one could truly transform into myriads of things.

Its difficulty lay in the utilization of divine soul to control the body, then in releasing a bizarre power from the divine soul. Long Xueyi called this power as spiritual power, and its user could use their own mind to control the transformation of body. At the same time, in accordance with some method of applying the spiritual power, one could also silently chant some spells in their mind.

When the spiritual power flowed in various pround patterns in the body, one had to chant a spell. With the spell, a sonic shock would be then released in the spirit veins, stimulating the spirit veins to display the spiritual power. The process was somewhat complicated, but if one could get familiar with its application, they would be able to transform in a very short time. Just like Long Xueyi, she could transform in the blink of an eye.

Three days passed, Chen Xiang had remained sitting crossed-legged, without any movement. In his mind he heard, Long Xueyi's series of crisp and clear laughter coming, and in his heart, he secretly despised her.

"Little girl, I still have not learned the application of the spiritual power. Wait for me to learn it, then I'll show you!" Chen Xiang said. He was telling the truth; it was indeed somewhat difficult to control the technique. He had spiritual power flowing through all his limbs and numerous bones, which were composed of various spirit veins linked together. He was attempting to trigger the effect of these spirit veins using the spell, and that way, he could transform his body. If he wanted to revert back, as long as the linked spirit veins were broken, he would immediately revert back.

Once again, three days passed, when suddenly, a golden aura burst out from Chen Xiang's body. Chen Xiang's lips squirmed as he quickly chanted a spell, which was then followed by a flash of golden light, causing Long Xueyi to suddenly let out a tender cry.

"You actually learned it so quickly!" Long Xueyi tenderly shouted.

Chen Xiang had indeed learned it, but now he could only transform into a small bird. He was fluttering his wings while flying inside the private room, and what made him feel mystical was that he did not feel any kind of change in his body whatsoever, nor any reduction in his strength; he could still use his True Qi.

"Currently the divine soul is managing your body state, that's why in your sense, as long as you willed it, you will move. However, others would only see you flying." Long Xueyi said.

Chen Xiang indeed didn't need to control the flapping of his wings. With just a thought, he could move anywhere he thought. It was very mystical, and even if he had not transformed, he could still rely on his divine soul's spiritual power to make him levitate; this was the strongest ability of the Shinto!

A thought suddenly arose in Chen Xiang's heart. He left through the window, then flew towards Elder Dan's residence. He has always been curious about Elder Dan's appearance, and now that he had the opportunity to peep, how could he let it go.

After he transformed into a little bird, he had converged his breath, and he looked no different than any ordinary bird.

"You are so bad! You are not allowed to go!" Long Xueyi, after seeing Chen Xiang actually flew to peep, immediately shouted.

"I'm not going to look at her taking a bath, I will just peep at what's underneath that mask of hers!" Chen Xiang mischievously laughed and said.

"Humph, if you use the spiritual power to do this kind of nasty thing, I'm going to ignore you in the future." Long Xueyi angrily said.

"Little girl, didn't you often imitate me and speak some nasty things? Moreover, you yourself had also often peeped at sister Meiyao and sister Youyou... Hei hei, haven't you also seen me." Chen Xiang laughed and said. As of this moment he was hovering beside the already opened window of Elder Dan's residence.

# Chapter 228 - Heavenly Dragon Seal

Long Xueyi softly snorted before speaking, "That's different, I only peeked at you. You're not going to blame me or be angry. Besides, I only spoke those words to deepen the feelings between you and those girls. I was thinking about your well being!"

Chen Xiang flew into the room, but contrary to his expectations, he didn't find Elder Dan here, so he reckoned she was in her private room. It was not easy to enter the private room, so he intended to wait for her here.

Night time came, and Chen Xiang finally heard some sound. At this time, he had already consumed more than half of his spiritual power, however, he felt it was worth the effort. Very soon, he would be able to see Elder Dan's true appearance.

After Elder Dan walked into the room, she took off her black gown first. Underneath the gown, she wore a snow white longuette, outlining her graceful figure. After removing it, she then proceeded to remove her mask.

When Chen Xiang's anticipation had reached the extreme, Chen Xiang fiercely started cursing, because Elder Dan's visage was covered in white light. She was actually so strict, and she would not allow anyone to see her face no matter what. But for what reason must she do this?

Chen Xiang flew away in disappointment. Elder Dan had already noticed that small bird; she felt strange and had intended to attack, but in the end, she didn't really take any action.

Chen Xiang was surprised in his heart, so sped up and hurriedly flew away. Elder Dan was a Nirvana Realm martial artist, and just with an arbitrary wave of her sleeve, she could blast him to pieces. His whole body was drenched in cold sweat, so he decided not to do this kind of dangerous thing ever again.

"Haha, you've finally learned how to be afraid!"Long Xueyi grinned and said, "After returning, you should learn how to turn into a turtle."

With his current spiritual power, he could only turn into some small-sized creatures. After returning, he learned to turn into a squirrel and a gopher, allowing him to hide in the wilderness.

In order to be proficient in transformation, he practiced for one month. However, he was still not able to transform in the blink of an eye like Long Xueyi; he still required a few seconds before he able to transform.

Chen Xiang originally wanted to go to Yun Xiaodao and the others, however, he knew they were in special training, and it was the most efficient method to improve their strength. At the same time, various elders were guiding them in learning some powerful martial skills, as well as examining their shortcomings and improving their overall abilities. Visiting them would only cause them to be disturbed.

"These guys made it big time. So many old men are guiding them at the same time." Chen Xiang laughed and said. Afterwards, he irrigated the various precious and rare herbs in the little herbal garden, and the two Azure Profound Tree planted beforehand had already grown up. Soon, they would blossom.

Of course, the Five-Colored Lotus he had planted had already began germinating. These Five-Colored Lotus were different from ordinary lotus; these lotus could be planted by just using the lotus seeds, and it also didn't required to grow in the water. They mainly relied on the absorption of the five elements Spirit Qi to grow.

Elder Dan oftenly came to observe Chen Xiang's herbal garden. She discovered that the growth of the flowers and the plants in the herbal garden was very quick, and she had already guessed Chen Xiang had some means to accelerate the growth of these spirit herbs. This was essentially heaven defying, and at this point, she knew it was not some trivial matter, so she absolutely could not allow anyone to know or tell anyone. In order to solidify the defense of this small herbal garden, even Wu Qianqian couldn't casually enter.

"You also can't loaf around, by that time, you have to return alive!" Elder Dan, while watching Chen Xiang irrigate those spirit herbs, coldly spoke.

"I know, in any case I still have to beat you and then marry you! Although I don't know your appearance, your figure is still good and in line with my standards." Chen Xiang grinned and replied.

Elder Dan, seeing Chen Xiang smiling mischievously, without even an ounce of tension, coldly harrumphed before taking her leave.

After irrigating the entire garden, Chen Xiang returned to the private room and continued cultivation. He was now familiarizing himself with the various devil techniques and divine exercises, and at the same time, he was also preparing to learn an offensive spiritual power.

"Next is the spiritual power called Heavenly Dragon Seal. It is also one of the most terrifying spiritual power of my dragon clan. After casting, it would take away your spiritual power and a part of your True Qi. Afterwards, it will be followed up with the absorption of a large amount of Spirit Qi in the surrounding before transforming into a huge dragon claw which will descend from the sky. Casting this spiritual power requires a little time, that's why it is only suitable to attack while hiding and attacking from a distance." Long Xueyi said.

In order to learn this spiritual power, Chen Xiang had no choice but to leave the Extreme Martial Sect. He quietly went to the mountain forest outside the city to learn it, and just like the 72 Transformations, he first needed to arouse the spiritual power to flow in his body, form profound spirit patterns, and finally chant the spell to cast it. However, it was different from the 72 Transformations. The 'Heavenly Dragon Seal' required True Qi as well, and at this time, Chen Xiang released a large amount of True Qi. The True Qi, under the guise of the mystical spiritual power, without any sound, aura or dissipation, quietly drifted away into the sky, before starting to absorb the Spirit Qi in the surroundings.

"Chant the spell!" Long Xueyi shouted.

Chen Xiang hastily started chanting, however, the chanting was inaccurate, causing him to eventually fail. He had already failed more than thirty times, and if not for the large number of True Elemental Dan he had used to restore his True Qi, he simply could not even try it.

Chen Xiang had already stayed deep in the mountains for a month. During the day, he learned to cast the 'Heavenly Dragon Seal', while in the night, he cultivated while creating Golden Dragon Saliva. He didn't loaf; this was all for the survival in the Southern Wasteland.

In the evening, the clouds were surging high in the sky. If he didn't pay any special attention, it was very difficult to realize that a large amount of Spirit Qi in the radius of a couple li was already surging towards the peak of a hundred or zhang high mountain. As Chen Xiang was observing that very mountain from far away, his lips slightly moved; he was chanting some bizarre spell.

Followed with the end of movement of Chen Xiang's mouth, a huge dragon claw, which was glistening in five to six colors, suddenly appeared at that mountain top. However, that dragon claw actually resembled that of a human's; it was devoid of any scales, but it had a hook like claws.

This was precisely the Heavenly Dragon Seal. It ruthlessly pressured down from the sky, and in the blink of an eye, it fiercely pressed upon the crest of that hundred so high zhang mountain. Followed by a thunderous and explosive sound coupled with a fierce tremor running through the ground, a large number of crushed stones and mud spread towards all four directions like smoke. In just a few blinks of an eye, that mountain was completely flattened.

"Fierce!" Chen Xiang dumbfoundedly exclaimed. He had not consumed much of his True Qi and spiritual power, however, he was still able to create such an effect. If he had used some more of his strength, it would have been even more frightening.

It was not very far from the Tianmen City, and he had actually created such a huge commotion. It would definitely be noticed by the Extreme Martial Sect, so Chen Xiang, at first notice, immediately left and returned back to the Extreme Dan King Courtyard.

After arriving in the herbal garden, Chen Xiang once again saw Elder Dan here. After Chen Xiang's disappearance, the entire herbal garden was taken care of by Elder Dan. She was an alchemist, so she naturally knew how to raise these spirit herbs, and she was even more serious than Chen Xiang. She was actually more careful while taking care of the spirit herbs, even though she didn't really have a share in any of these spirit herbs.

Once Chen Xiang came in, he immediately noticed the three Azure Profound Tree had already bloomed; the relatively older one had fifty flowers blooming, and as for the other two, each had only twenty, and regarding this kind of shocking matter, Elder Dan had long been accustomed to. Now, there was not even an ounce of surprise on her.

"The next time you leave for a long time, tell me before leaving. There was no one to tend to these spirit herbs, how would it grow well?" Elder Dan had a look of reproach on her face while speaking.

#### Chapter 229 - Feeling Proud And Elated

For a martial artist, three months weren't that long, and they very quickly passed. Chen Xiang was now in the 3rd level of the True Martial Realm, and furthermore, he had already cultivated a couple of powerful devil techniques. His strength had gone beyond a 4th level True Martial Realm martial artist, and almost equal to a 5th level True Martial Realm martial artist. However, this was only true under the case in which he was facing ordinary True Martial Realm martial artists. If he encountered someone with a better spiritual vein, or with formidable martial skill, he would be no match for them.

After Yun Xiaodao and the others had their special training, Chen Xiang felt there was too big of difference between them from now and before. Each one of them had a great drive, had a very fierce momentum, and the True Qi within their body was also very dense. At a moment's notice, they were all ready to go. What made him surprised was that Lei Xionglin and the others, these three, had actually entered the 2nd level of the True Martial Realm. They had taken the second Building Foundation Dan not long ago to advance, and during the three months of training, all of them had eaten a lot of good dans.

These days, Chen Xiang had not seen Elder Dan at all. Elder Dan just said she was going to take a walk alone.

"You first say goodbye to your families, I'll take you to the meeting place after three days." Gu Dongchen said.

Yao Haisheng returned back to his residence; he had also planted some spirit herbs, and he needed to hand it over to someone to take care of them. Zhu Rong followed his uncle, Hao Dongqing, and left. As for Yun Xiaodao and Xu Weilong, they left together and returned to their respective family.

Chen Xiang also wanted to return to the secular world, but he didn't have enough time. He just decided to wait till his return from the Southern Wasteland, then he will take a trip back to visit his family and go take a look at the secular world. He was curious how much it has developed since he left.

"Qianqian, are you not going to go back?" Chen Xiang asked.

"I'm not going to go, there is no one in my family." Wu Qianqian somewhat dejectedly replied.

"I'm sorry." Chen Xiang heaved a sigh in his heart and hastily said.

"Doesn't matter, I will first return to the Extreme Dan King Courtyard, I still have to learn alchemy." Wu Qianqian showed a bright and beautiful smile; she appeared to be one very strong girl.

After Wu Qianqian walked, Chen Xiang looked at Lian Mingdong and the others, "You?"

"I decided to wait till we come back from that ghastly place, then we will go." Liang Mingdong smiled and said.

"Our families had already been devastated by those devil path bastards. If it wasn't for the Dean, I would have already gone to kill one or two bastards personally." Lei Xionglin furiously said.

"No way, we have to listen to the dean. I also want to slaughter devil path guys." Lei Zhong, while scratching his head, said with a silly laugh.

"Then let's go for a drink, my treat." Chen Xiang laughed and said.

While chatting, the four of them went towards the entrance, and just as they walked out of the door, they heard a howl from behind, "You three, stop."

Chen Xiang and the others immediately turned around. They saw ten or so boys coming from behind, and all of them were in the 10th level of the Mortal Martial Realm. They had fierce expression on their faces, as though they were ready strike at any moment.

Before Chen Xiang came to know Lei Xionglin and the others, these three had already provoked some guys, and moreover, the guys they provoked were the ones who caused two of their companions to die.

"Are your two companions killed by them?" Chen Xiang gloomily asked.

"Yeah! It's them. Father is definitely going to cripple these mongrels." Lei Xionglin clenched his fist and furiously replied.

Chen Xiang nodded his head, "Kill two and cripple the others!"

"What? Kill two?" Lei Xionglin was slightly surprised for a moment. They were at the entrance of the Extreme Martial Sect, so fighting was not a problem. However, if someone suddenly lost their life, the Extreme Martial Sect was definitely going to care about it.

"Senior Brother Chen, it is somewhat inappropriate. After all, we are still at the entrance." Liang Mingdong said with a frown.

"If you have to kill them, it's better to kill them in a place where no one is around!" Lei Zhong was also somewhat worried.

Chen Xiang laughed and said, "Rest assured, you're going to the Southern Wasteland right away. Dean can't do anything to you, and besides, it is right and proper for them to pay life with life! They had killed two of your companions, and you should make them pay blood with blood."

"Good!" Lian Mingdong's complexion turned ruthless as he nodded his head and spoke.

Lei Xionglin clenched his fists tighter, then laughed and said, "You group of bastards! Today, father will not let you off." While speaking, his brother rushed out, and Lian Mingdong followed behind them.

These three were all rather speedy, and besides, they had not even used all of their power. The group of boys didn't even have the chance to dodge before the huge body of Lei Xionglin and Lei Zhong struck upon them. A few of them had flown about before colliding in the entrance's wall, causing them to lose their consciousness in an instant.

Lian Mingdong was not as brutal as his two brothers. He used a fan and very lightly slapped upon those guys faces. Even though his attacks seemed gentle, that fan was followed by howling winds, causing the tooth of those he struck to flew out as they spat out blood.

This was the strength of the True martial Realm. When they had encountered these guys before, they were just in the 10th level of the Mortal Martial Realm. Even if they went all out, they weren't able to cause any injuries to these guys. However, now with just a casual attack of theirs, they had already heavily injured them.

"Are... Are you all True Martial Realm martial artists?" A young man asked. The previous handsome face of his was now beyond recognition due to the pounding of fists from Lei Xionglin.

After Lei Xionglin and the others received training from the Elder Courtyard, it would be even difficult for martial artists who had been in the 2nd level of the True Martial realm for many years to win against them. Besides, each of them was rather inherently talented, and their True Qi as well was very vigorous.

"Right, go die, wastrels who are afraid of the strong and can only bully the weak!" Lei Xionglin coldly said as he vigorously pounded a foot on that man's chest. In an instant, that man's chest was dyed in blood.

Lian Mingdong opened his steel fan, lightly struck as he cut one man's throat, scaring the shit out of the rest from the group. The group was now aimlessly shouting, some were crying for help and some were begging for mercy.

"Brothers let's go, let's drink!" Chen Xiang shouted. Lian Mingdong and the others were usually unbearably bullied by these aristocrats, but today, they could feel proud and elated. In their hearts, they were completely satisfied, and they knew that all they could have today was all given by Chen Xiang.

In the hotel, Chen Xiang and the others were drinking while talking about ambitions, women and boasting about majestic deeds they had done in the past...

When they returned from the hotel, it was already late at night. After Chen Xiang entered the Extreme Dan King Courtyard, he saw a lamp lit in a room; it was Wu Qianqian's.

Chen Xiang had not seen Wu Qianqian for a long time. She was in possession of a fire spirit, and moreover, she was also an alchemist. Chen Xiang had always been very curious about her whereabouts.

He went over and knocked on Wu Qianqian's door. After Wu Qianqian opened the door and saw Chen Xiang, she mischievously smiled and said, "Something wrong?"

"Can't I come and find you without any reason at all?" Chen Xiang laughed and said.

Wu Qianqian welcomed Chen Xiang into a small hall and offered him tea.

"Chen Xiang, ask her to release the Blue Star Fire, you also release a bit of your fire spirit. See what will happen after your Heaven Sun Fire fused with hers." Long Xueyi curiously spoke; the fusion of flames released by different fire spirits was very rare, because not many people had a fire spirit. However, in the Extreme Dan King Courtyard, there were actually three, and this was but a very rare opportunity.

# Chapter 230 - Fire Spirit Fusion

Su Meiyao's eyes lit up, and quickly urged Chen Xiang to give it a try.

Wu Qianqian was also hailed as a leader amongst the younger female disciples in the Extreme Martial Sect. Not only was she a startling beauty, she was rather talented as well. Of course, the only reason she dared to go into the Southern Wasteland was because she had great confidence in her ability to survive. All of this stemmed from her having the Blue Star Fire Spirit.

"Qianqian, where have you been all these days? I missed you very much, but I couldn't find you. Elder Dan hid you very well." Chen Xiang mischievously laughed and said. He was already acquainted with Wu Qianqian, which was why he could so openly joke with her.

Wu Qianqian twirled her hair, it lay on her chest, making her appear even more charming and mature. It was a rather seductive scene.

"Did you really miss me?" Wu Qianqian sweetly smiled. She was very strictly dressed, making Chen Xiang somewhat disappointed, as he was not able to appreciate her graceful figure.

"Elder Dan instructed that I can't tell you! But, I can tell you, all this time I've been learning how to conceal my Blue Flame, look!" After saying this, Wu Qianqian released a bundle of red flames, "Elder Dan said that only after I reach the Nirvana Realm do I not need to conceal my flame."

Chen Xiang laughed and said, "Qianqian, can you release a tiny bit of your blue flame for me, that should be just about enough."

Wu Qianqian didn't know what Chen Xiang wanted to do, but she readily agreed, "Of course I can. If not for you, I wouldn't even be able to fuse with this powerful flame."

"When you were fusing with the Blue Star Fire Spirit, you were holding me so tightly, you even left scratches on my back... Ha ha." Chen Xiang laughed, making Wu Qianqian chuckle and also somewhat flushed red with shame.

Wu Qianqian spread her jade like palm, her pretty eyes staring at Chen Xiang. She stuck her tongue out before she smiled and said, "This flame is very powerful, be careful!" While speaking, a bundle of blue flames appeared on her palm.

Chen Xiang carefully observed the Blue Star Fire. He knew Wu Qianqian had gained a very high level of control over her flames. After all, even though she released extremely powerful flames, the temperature of the room didn't turn hot, in could even be said that it didn't change at all.

Chen Xiang suddenly extended his hand, and grabbed ahold of those blue flames, causing Wu Qianqian to tenderly shout out in fear. However, an even more astonished look soon appeared on her face. Originally, she thought Chen Xiang would definitely be burned, but contrary to her belief, nothing actually happened! She herself started having doubts whether her Blue Star Flame was actually hot or not!

"Are you alright!?" Wu Qianqian asked with a look of worry.

"It's nothing!" Chen Xiang grinned before releasing his own Fire Spirit. Wu Qianqian just saw that blue flame on her palm being wrapped up by a seemingly ordinary Heavenly Sun Flame of Chen Xiang. Soon after, the blue flames began to change as those the two flames started fusing together!

Wu Qianqian was left in a trance after seeing this. She knew Chen Xiang was very formidable, she was perfectly clear about this from the Vermillion Bird Divine Exercise she learned from him. After seeing her flames fuse with Chen Xiang's, she secretly reckoned Chen Xiang also had obtained a Fire Spirit.

"The Blue Star Flame is absorbing your Heavenly Sun Flame, it's as if the Heavenly Sun Flame is deliberately allowing the Blue Star Flame to absorb it! These two fire spirits actually don't reject each other!" Long Xueyi exclaimed in surprise.

Su Meiyao and Bai Youyou also held very strong interests regarding this matter.

The blue colored flame turned purple very, very slowly! The Fire Spirit was actually evolving, the previous blue flame had actually turned into purple flame after fusing with the Heavenly Sun Flame!

Chen Xiang and Wu Qianqian were both extremely shocked.

"The Heavenly Sun Spirit Fire holds the title of the Fire Spirit King. This scene is actually not that surprising, sure enough, it is totally within my expectations, this dragoness is really too smart." Long Xueyi proudly said.

"Canon behind the horse, I have not heard you talk about this before." Chen Xiang retorted with his divine sense, splashing cold water on Long Xueyi.

Chen Xiang returned the flames to Wu Qianqian, which easily went back into her body.

"Chen Xiang, do you also have a Fire Spirit?" Wu Qianqian asked in a low voice with a perturbed look on her face.

Chen Xiang nodded his head, he knew Wu Qianqian had a Fire Spirit so it didn't matter too much if he also let her know he had one.

"Your Fire Spirit is very formidable, it could actually make my flame evolve!" Wu Qianqian's pretty eyes twinkled. A trace of a charming smile appeared on her face, she was happy for Chen Xiang. She knew that he was inherently a very talented alchemist, and if he didn't have fire spirit, that would definitely be regretful.

"If I have time, I'll think of more ways to make your Fire Spirit evolve. Hmmm, what exactly can we do?" Chen Xiang rubbed his chin while pondering this matter.

Wu Qianqian felt a rush of warmth in her heart and tenderly said, "If it brings negative effects on you, then forget it. For me, the blue flames are enough. I'll go and bring some dans refined by me for you to appraise."

Just as Wu Qianqian turned around, Long Xueyi imitated Chen Xiang's voice and said, "Hmmm, it might be possible with the integration of men and women, how about we try it and see?"

While Chen Xiang was pondering, he heard Long Xueyi's words imitating his voice and it seemed like he was struck by lightning. He certainly thought about this approach, however, it was merely a thought. He couldn't fathom how this little girl had so many dirty ideas in her mind. It was alright if she said it outloud, but she should not have spoken while imitating his voice and that too in front a girl. This totally ruined his positive image.

"Little dragoness, your father must have been a very dirty dragon, to actually have passed on so many shameful memories and ideas onto you." Chen Xiang immediately cursed.

When Wu Qianqian heard Chen Xiang words, she was immediately petrified then and there. She didn't expect Chen Xiang to actually make such a request, even more so, this straightforwardly. That being said, it also seemed like it was for her well being. Her face immediately flushed red all the way to the tips of her ears.

The current mood was extremely embarrassing, Chen Xiang could not wait to grab ahold of Long Xueyi and spank her little ass and see if she ever dared to talk nonsense again!

Chen Xiang forcefully coughed twice, "Qiangian, show me the dans you've refined!"

"En!" Wu Qianqian also heaved a sigh. Both of them came to a tacit understanding to forget what happened just a moment ago.

Chen Xiang knew the mess had been swept under the rug and suddenly heaved a long sigh, "Little dragoness, if you want to make trouble, don't do it in such a grand way! Someday, it will definitely come back to haunt me, this father's pure image is being ruined again and again by you."

"Pooh! You're pure? Last time you turned into a little bird and thought of peeking at Elder Dan bathing! Also, I was creating an opportunity for you. Originally Wu Qianqian only had a slightly good impression of you. But because you got entangled with her afterwards, she might be willing to do it with you. You're really stupid such a great opportunity was actually missed by you! If it had come true, it would have been possible for you to relax before going to the Southern Wasteland." Long Xueyi tenderly snorted and said.

Chen Xiang didn't know what he should say. He suddenly felt he could not see Long Xueyi as a little girl anymore, she definitely had very rich experience regarding how to deal with the women.

"All male dragons are womanizers. She definitely inherited this trait from her father's side, Chen Xiang engrave this point in your mind, perhaps you may be eaten by this little dragon in the future and not even your bones would be left." Su Meiyao said with a serious look on her face throughout her warning to Chen Xiang before she broke down and started giggling.

Chen Xiang secretly cursed in his heart and thought, "Sooner or later, there will be a day where I'll eat you and not even leave your bones!"

Now Chen Xiang knew the Heavenly Sun Flame could evolve other Fire Spirits, but he had not found any other good ways to accomplish this feat. Otherwise, he could help Elder Dan and Wu Qianqian evolve both of their Fire Spirits to its highest peak.