

Divine King 931

Chapter 931 A Different World

Xu Nian followed the burly man towards Chen Nei.

Xu Nian was quite surprised by the strength of this burly man.

The black city tower was a full twenty meters high, yet when the man jumped down from it, he was unharmed.

This was enough to indicate that his physical strength was exceptionally strong.

Xu Nian himself couldn't achieve this.

As for his cultivation, Xu Nian couldn't discern it.

But he was sure it was definitely not below the Gang Tribulation Realm.

The Gang Tribulation Realm corresponds to the Transcendence Tribulation Stage of Spirit Cultivators.

Anyone who manages to cultivate their body to this level possesses extraordinarily terrifying physical strength.

Under the guidance of the burly man, Xu Nian entered this huge black city.

However, the population inside the black city was much sparser than he had imagined.

On the streets, there were only a few dozen people, and only a dozen soldiers stood on the city walls.

By Xu Nian's estimation, the entire city wouldn't exceed a thousand people.

However, everyone here had exceptionally strong bodies, and without exception, they were all Body Cultivation practitioners.

This is because many Spirit Cultivators fell to their deaths upon entering.

Even if they didn't die from the fall, they must practice Body Cultivation to adapt to the terrifying gravity here.

Soon, Xu Nian was led to an iron mine.

Here, nearly a hundred cultivators were continuously hammering and forging weapons.

Their method of forging weapons was extremely rudimentary, even incomparable to traditional artifact refining.

Besides, Xu Nian noticed that the metal they forged was different from the outside world; it was an extremely hard type of iron.

In terms of hardness, it was as tough as Top-grade Spiritual Artifact materials from the outside world.

Possibly due to the terrifying gravity here, the metals were extraordinarily hard.

Yet, at this moment, these materials were being forged into ordinary weapons, not spiritual artifacts.

To Xu Nian, this was completely wasteful.

"What are they doing?" Xu Nian couldn't help but ask in curiosity.

"Can't you tell? They're forging weapons," the burly man replied, obviously thinking Xu Nian's question was somewhat naive.

"But these hard materials can be forged into Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts. Making them into ordinary weapons, isn't that wasteful?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

The burly man glanced at Xu Nian, and the look of disdain was even more obvious.

"We don't have any Top-grade Artifact Refiner to forge them into Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts," the burly man answered, albeit a bit displeased.

"But you can use other materials to create Mid-grade or Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts!" Xu Nian continued to ask.

This time the burly man did not answer but turned his head to look at Xu Nian. After a long gaze, he finally said: "Do you have a Top-grade Spiritual Artifact on you?"

"Yes!" Xu Nian nodded, although puzzled.

"Use your Top-grade Spiritual Artifact to attack me!" the burly man said to Xu Nian.

Xu Nian hesitated, obviously unsure.

"Young man, go ahead, don't worry, you can't hurt him," the weapon forgers around them stopped their work to look at Xu Nian with a smile.

All of them were looking as if they were watching a joke.

Reluctantly, Xu Nian took out the battle saber he acquired from Guihai Tianxing and struck towards the burly man.

"Boom!"

The burly man punched the blade, a powerful blow.

In an instant, the blade forged from a Top-grade Spiritual Artifact shattered.

It ultimately fell to the ground in pieces.

"This..."

Xu Nian's face was instantly filled with surprise.

"As you see, due to the intense gravity here, weapons made from Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts from the outside world are unworthy here. To fight here, you must use weapons forged from the Heavy Origin Iron here. However, these are extraordinarily hard, and no regular flame can melt them. Only the flames produced by our Heavenly Refining Furnace can melt them. Without a Top-grade Artifact Refiner, we can only forge them into ordinary weapons, but even ordinary weapons are far stronger than your Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts."

The burly man explained to Xu Nian.

Xu Nian suddenly understood.

So that was the reason.

"Then why forge so many weapons? Is there a conflict here?" Xu Nian asked the burly man.

The burly man looked at Xu Nian and said, "That's right, in our Black Corner Domain, there are two major cities. Our city is called Black Wind City, and ten thousand miles away, there's Black Dragon City. The City Lord of Black Dragon City is a ruthless individual. His city has five thousand people, all warriors. Although we have nearly a thousand people, we have less than six hundred warriors; the rest are women and children. Black Wind City constantly wants to annex us."

"Then why go to war?" Xu Nian continued to ask.

If Black Dragon City intended to annex Black Wind City, there must have been some interest driving them.

"For two reasons: the first is women. In Black Corner Domain, women are the most scarce resource. They want to take the women from our city to indulge themselves," said one of the forging men, his eyes filled with fiery anger.

Xu Nian nodded.

In such a closed place, women were undoubtedly the most scarce resource.

He had also seen a few women on his way here, and they lived quite happily.

If they were kidnapped by Black Dragon City, their fate would undoubtedly be tragic.

"And the second point?" Xu Nian asked again.

The burly man looked at Xu Nian and said, "The second point is the forbidden area in the deepest part of Black Wind City, where they want something."

"Forbidden area? Could it be the Tao Trace Fruit that Black Dragon City wants?" Xu Nian thought to himself.

"Now it's time for you to make a choice: either stay and become a part of Black Wind City, or leave and never set foot in Black Wind City again," the burly man's sharp gaze locked onto Xu Nian.

The other members also looked at Xu Nian, seemingly waiting for his decision.

"I am willing to join Black Wind City!" Xu Nian immediately decided.

Compared to Black Dragon City, as described by the burly man, he preferred Black Wind City.

"Alright, from today onwards, you are a member of Black Wind City. I am Wei Feng, the guard commander in charge of the city's safety. We have a rule in Black Wind City: every new member must refine weapons in this forge workshop for ten years. Do you agree?" the burly man said.

"Ten years?" Xu Nian was stunned.

He's treating me as a laborer!

But then again, these ten years were obviously a test for him.

After all, Black Wind City had to guard against spies from Black Dragon City.

"You are unwilling?" Wei Feng asked.

"Alright, ten years it is," Xu Nian reluctantly agreed.

Based on his intuition, the Tao Trace Fruit was likely in Black Wind City.

He would have to stay if he wanted the Tao Trace Fruit.

But before that, he needed to gain the trust of Wei Feng.

"Old Wang, he's handed over to you," Wei Feng said to the depths of the blacksmith's shop.

Then, he turned and left.

"Alright!"

At that moment, a response came from the corner.

Only then did Xu Nian notice an old man sleeping soundly next to the blazing Heavenly Refining Furnace.

Chapter 932 932: The Frighteningly Powerful Old Man

In the following days, Xu Nian was assigned to the Heavenly Refining Workshop, which looked like a blacksmith's shop.

Xu Nian's responsibility was to keep the Heavenly Refining Furnace from extinguishing.

One must admit, this Heavenly Refining Furnace was indeed a powerful artifact furnace.

The temperature of the flames inside even surpassed that of a typical constant star.

According to Xu Nian's estimation, this Heavenly Refining Furnace should be an ancient Immortal Artifact.

Otherwise, ordinary flames couldn't possibly reach such a high temperature.

As for the hammering and refining, the blacksmiths wouldn't let Xu Nian interfere.

In their words, with Xu Nian's frail arms and legs, he might not even be able to lift a hammer.

Initially, Xu Nian was a bit unconvinced, but when he truly tried to pick up a hammer, he realized what true terror meant.

Those hammers, easily swung by the blacksmiths, felt as heavy as ten thousand mountains in Xu Nian's hands.

Only then did Xu Nian realize just how weak his strength was.

Although he was at the middle stage of the Heavenly Phenomenon Realm and supported by the robust body of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast, with physical strength comparable to an early-stage Tribulation Gang expert,

his physique was weak compared to those who had grown up here.

Thus, Xu Nian, the top-grade Artifact Refiner, was reduced to being a stove boy in this ordinary blacksmith shop.

Of course, Xu Nian did not give up on cultivation.

Over the next three years, he never stopped strengthening his body.

As he gradually became acquainted with the blacksmiths, Xu Nian learned many peculiar ways to train his physique from them.

Although his cultivation remained at the middle-stage Heavenly Phenomenon Realm, his physical strength had increased several times compared to before.

Now Xu Nian could defeat someone from early-stage Tribulation Crossing without using a trace of True Essence, relying solely on physical strength.

And he could now swing the hammer, which he previously couldn't move, ten times in succession.

Xu Nian often seized the chance to take over the hammer from the blacksmiths to forge, thereby exercising his body.

Besides, Xu Nian kept researching the Heavy Origin Iron.

Eventually, he discovered that Heavy Origin Iron is entirely suitable for forging top-grade Spiritual Artifacts, being a top-notch material among them.

If successfully refined, the durability and sharpness would be ten times more powerful than the weapons currently forged.

However, Xu Nian did not reveal his identity as an Artifact Refiner because he felt it wasn't the right time.

Refining the Heavy Origin Iron into a top-grade Spiritual Artifact wasn't easy, and he wasn't able to do it yet.

So during this period, Xu Nian seized the chance to forge with the blacksmiths and also hone his Spiritual Sense Power.

Only by breaking through to the Transcendence Tribulation Stage with his Spiritual Sense Power could he forge top-grade Spiritual Artifacts.

Three years allowed Xu Nian to become quite familiar with Black Wind City.

But there was one person Xu Nian couldn't fully understand.

That was Elder Wang, the one in charge of the Heavenly Refining Workshop.

This elder's power was unfathomable, yet he spent most of his time sleeping.

His conversations with Xu Nian were minimal, totaling less than ten sentences over three years.

But Xu Nian knew this elder's strength was at least Earth Immortal level.

To be accurate, he was at Gang Immortal level.

Because, once, Xu Nian accidentally saw him leave a finger mark on Heavy Origin Iron using Finger Power.

It must be known that this material is incredibly hard, even Earth Immortal Peak might not destroy it.

And Elder Wang casually left a finger mark on it; what a terrifying existence.

Xu Nian had inquired other blacksmiths about Elder Wang's deeds, but whenever he brought him up, they fell silent.

They only said that as long as Elder Wang was around, Black Dragon City wouldn't dare invade.

This added a layer of mystery over Elder Wang in Xu Nian's heart.

On this day, Xu Nian was tending the fire.

Suddenly someone tapped him on the shoulder from behind.

Looking back, it was Elder Wang, who usually slept soundly.

"Elder Wang!" Xu Nian immediately greeted respectfully.

He was a bit surprised; he hadn't expected Elder Wang to not be sleeping today.

"Come with me!" the elder said to Xu Nian.

After speaking, he walked out of the Heavenly Refining Workshop.

Xu Nian asked a nearby blacksmith to watch the fire and followed along.

Soon, Xu Nian was led to a secluded, uninhabited place.

With hands behind his back, Elder Wang turned to Xu Nian, his eyes seemingly piercing through everything about him.

Xu Nian felt uneasy, unsure why the elder was staring at him like this.

He knew that if this elder wanted to kill him, it would just take a moment.

"Are you a human or a Demon Beast?" the elder suddenly asked.

The question stunned Xu Nian.

He never expected the elder to ask such a question.

"Replying to senior, this junior is human, but this body is that of a Demon Beast," Xu Nian answered truthfully, daring not to hide anything.

The elder nodded, "So you're just an avatar right now?"

"Yes, senior!" Xu Nian felt a cold sweat down his back.

The elder's eyes were truly sharp.

"So your true self is still outside? You just sent an avatar in here?" the elder seemed mildly curious.

"Yes, senior!" Xu Nian replied anxiously.

Hearing this, the elder's gaze softened slightly.

"Actually, I bear no malice. On the contrary, there's something I need to ask of you," the elder said.

"What is it? Please speak, senior. If I can accomplish it, I certainly will," Xu Nian responded promptly.

Yet the elder waved his hand, "It's not urgent. When I need your help, I'll come to you."

Xu Nian nodded.

Only then did he feel relieved, realizing Elder Wang sought him out upon seeing through his avatar identity.

"Are you also an Artifact Refiner?" As Xu Nian marveled at the elder's insight, the elder continued speaking.

Xu Nian was astonished; could the elder discern that too?

"Young man, you can't hide from me. I see your Artifact Refining level is not low, almost reaching top-grade Artifact Refiner level, which is good. Why conceal it?" Elder Wang said with a smile.

"I never intended to hide it, but since I haven't reached the top-grade Artifact Refiner level yet, I thought I'd wait until then," Xu Nian replied awkwardly.

The elder nodded.

"If you truly break through to top-grade Artifact Refiner, then help Black Wind City. Relying only on my deterrence isn't enough, especially since I won't live much longer. Once I die, Black Wind City will surely

fall to Black Dragon City. The fate of the women and children then may be miserable," Elder Wang said with a sigh.

"Senior you..." Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"Don't be surprised, I suffer from Heavenly Dao Scar, which can't be healed except by Tao Trace Fruit. Now I have less than twenty years of life left; my constant sleep suppresses the injury," the elder said with a smile.

Xu Nian looked shocked.

Unexpectedly, this elder only had twenty years of life remaining.

Chapter 933 933: Tempering the Soul

"Senior, since you don't want Black Wind City to be invaded by Black Dragon City, why don't you take the initiative to destroy Black Dragon City in one fell swoop? With your strength, you should be able to do it," Xu Nian voiced his doubts.

The strength of the elder before him was absolutely beyond his imagination.

He believed that destroying a small Black Dragon City should be achievable.

However, Elder Wang shook his head.

Xu Nian looked surprised. Could it be that there is an existence in Black Dragon City with terrifying power as well?

Seemingly seeing through Xu Nian's doubt, the elder smiled and said, "With my strength, there is indeed no one in Black Dragon City who is my opponent. Even the strongest in Black Dragon City, the Black Dragon City Lord, is only at the Peak of Tribulation Crossing. It's easy for me to kill him, but he holds an Immortal Artifact, the Destroying Immortal Needle, which can instantly destroy the soul of anyone below the level of an Immortal. Even I am not confident to withstand it."

"Destroying Immortal Needle?" Xu Nian was a bit surprised.

He didn't expect that the Black Dragon City Lord actually had an Immortal Artifact, and one that attacks Spiritual Sense at that.

"Of course, that Black Dragon City Lord wouldn't dare to attack me easily either. After all, while he kills me, I can also ensure mutual destruction," said the elder arrogantly.

Xu Nian suddenly felt a jolt in his heart.

The elder did not exude any aura, yet Xu Nian clearly felt a domineering killing intent.

This killing intent made his body instinctively feel fear.

He truly could not imagine how terrifying the scene would be if Elder Wang unleashed his full strength without restraint.

"Elder Wang, since the Tao Trace Fruit Tree is in Black Wind City, why don't you take it?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

Upon hearing Xu Nian's question, the elder's expression immediately became serious.

Then he sternly said to Xu Nian, "You'd best not have any ideas about the Tao Trace Fruit; it is a forbidden zone of life, perhaps more painful than death."

Xu Nian was somewhat surprised.

He could feel that while Elder Wang was admonishing him, he was also warning himself.

Because Xu Nian clearly saw a flash of fear in Elder Wang's eyes as he spoke.

"What exactly is in that forbidden area that even a powerful figure like Elder Wang fears?" Xu Nian muttered heavily to himself.

This was the first time in five years since arriving in the Dark Abyss that he had heard news about the Tao Trace Fruit.

Although he knew very little, he could feel it.

Obtaining the Tao Trace Fruit would be extraordinarily difficult.

However, Xu Nian was in no rush; he still had twenty-five years to make an effort.

He believed that in the next twenty-five years, he would surely find a way to obtain the Tao Trace Fruit.

"Xu Nian, do you need my help in the path of Artifact Refining? I can see that your method differs from others', relying more on Spiritual Sense Power," Elder Wang said to Xu Nian.

If Xu Nian could become a top-grade Artifact Refiner,

and refine these Heavy Origin Stones into top-grade Spiritual Artifacts, the strength of Black Wind City would undoubtedly increase several times.

In this way, Black Wind City would also have the strength to contend with Black Dragon City.

"Indeed, my refining method does rely on Spiritual Sense Power. Currently, my Spiritual Sense Power is at the Peak of the Heavenly Phenomenon. Once I break through to the Transcendence Tribulation Stage, I'll be confident to use Heavy Origin Stones to refine top-grade Spiritual Artifacts," Xu Nian nodded and replied.

Elder Wang, upon hearing Xu Nian's words, showed a look of contemplation.

Seemingly considering how to help Xu Nian quickly break through the Soul Realm.

"I do have a method here to help you quickly break through Soul Cultivation, but to use this method, you'll have to endure some suffering," Elder Wang said.

"What method?" Xu Nian's eyes lit up immediately.

Hasn't he suffered enough over the years?

Not to mention anything else, just the Heavenly Tribulations he experienced every time his true self broke through caused him a lot of suffering.

So when Elder Wang mentioned a little suffering, he didn't mind at all.

But soon, his face turned difficult to look at.

Because the method Elder Wang mentioned truly involved a lot of suffering.

"Elder Wang, are you joking? You want me to temper my Soul Origin as if in the Heavenly Refining Furnace?" Xu Nian swallowed and asked.

Indeed, using the Heavenly Refining Furnace to temper the soul, thereby making it stronger.

When Xu Nian first heard of this method, he almost spat out a mouthful of blood.

He had been fueling the Heavenly Refining Furnace's fire for three years and knew better than anyone about the temperature of its flames.

That could easily melt Heavy Origin Iron; how could his soul withstand it?

"The Heavenly Refining Furnace is an Ancient Immortal Artifact. Years ago, two Immortal Artifacts were discovered in the Black Corner Domain, one being this Heavenly Refining Road, the other the Destroying Immortal Needle, each treasure taken by one of the two great cities. The Heavenly Refining Furnace can temper anything in the world, including soul power, but only if your soul can withstand the roasting flames," Elder Wang said.

After pondering for a moment, Xu Nian finally answered, "Alright, I'm willing to give it a try."

Elder Wang also showed a smile on his face.

Soon, Xu Nian came before the Heavenly Refining Furnace.

He took a deep breath and sat down cross-legged in front of the furnace.

Then he closed his eyes and directed his Spiritual Sense Power into the furnace.

At the moment his Spiritual Sense touched the furnace's flames, his soul instantly felt an intense pain.

The pain from soul roasting far exceeded the harm caused to the body.

However, Xu Nian still gritted his teeth and persisted.

In the end, his Spiritual Sense Power condensed in the blazing furnace fire, forming a small figure.

This small figure looked exactly like Xu Nian.

Yes, that was Xu Nian's Soul Origin.

The soul figure sat cross-legged in the flame, wrapped by the blazing fire, continuously tempering his soul.

Xu Nian had no extra thoughts to pay attention to his surroundings, focusing entirely on stabilizing his soul against the fire's tempering.

According to Elder Wang, he needed to endure the tempering in the furnace for forty-nine days.

So moving forward, he had a long time to hold out.

"What's Xu Nian doing?" The blacksmiths around also noticed Xu Nian's anomaly and showed surprised expressions.

"He's in cultivation. During this period, none of you are allowed to disturb him. I will personally protect him," Elder Wang said as he walked over.

The blacksmiths around all showed astonished looks.

What exactly is Xu Nian cultivating?

It could even make Elder Wang protect him.

Could it be that Elder Wang accepted Xu Nian as a disciple and taught him some powerful secret technique?

In Black Wind City, no one didn't want to apprentice under Elder Wang.

Even the Black Wind City Lord once begged to study under him.

But Elder Wang refused.

If Xu Nian indeed became Elder Wang's disciple, it would cause a sensation throughout Black Wind City.

Chapter 934 934 Physical Strength

"Boss, are you really going to fight us without using any True Essence and Gang Qi, and even let us have one hand?" Tie Chui looked at Xu Nian and asked.

He had now broken through to the Middle-stage of Heavenly Phenomenon Realm, and his Earth Power Profound Argumentation had reached Great Success.

Recently, he absorbed the Xuan Gold Energy Metal to saturation; even opponents at the Late-stage of Heavenly Phenomenon might not be his match.

Zhao An, although slightly weaker, was also a top-tier existence among the Middle-stage of Heavenly Phenomenon Realm.

Now, Xu Nian wanted to fight them with pure physical strength and even let them have one hand.

To Tie Chui, this looked like their gang leader was asking for trouble.

"Just go ahead." Xu Nian placed one hand behind his back, with a faint smile on his lips, gesturing to Tie Chui and Zhao An.

The main members of the Heavenly Court Gang were all standing in the martial arts arena at this moment.

This was Xu Nian's second time coming out of seclusion.

After absorbing three million tons of energy metal last time, he took another three million tons.

Now out of seclusion again, they were eager to see what extent Xu Nian would enhance to after Xuan Gold Energy Metal had reached saturation.

But merely beating two Middle-stage Heavenly Phenomenon opponents with pure physical strength — wasn't this too exaggerated?

Xuanyuan Qingling was also standing in a corner of the martial arts arena.

Recently, she had been managing the Heavenly Court Gang.

Therefore, the members of the Heavenly Court Gang respected her greatly.

Not for anything else, but for her thunderous management tactics; the originally chaotic merged Heavenly Court Gang was now orderly under her management.

This had already been shown when Xuanyuan Qingling was managing Rashamon City before.

At this moment, Xuanyuan Qingling was quietly watching Xu Nian in the center of the arena.

She was also very curious about Xu Nian's strength.

"Well then, Boss, we won't hold back, take my punch!" Tie Chui shouted, and a wave of powerful True Essence immediately surged on his fist.

Besides, he also mobilized the Earth Power Profound Argumentation.

Although not his strongest punch, its power was equally fierce.

Tie Chui showed a sly smile; he had always been beaten by Xu Nian in previous duels.

Now, finally, there was a chance for revenge.

He wanted Xu Nian to experience what it felt like to be beaten every time.

Xu Nian, looking at the smug Tie Chui, also revealed a slight smile.

Watching the incoming punch, he quickly clenched his fist and punched back.

"Boom!"

Fists collided.

A terrifying force exploded instantly.

Tie Chui felt as if he had been hit hard, quickly retreating, staggering underfoot, nearly falling to the ground.

And the True Essence gathered in his arm had been entirely scattered by Xu Nian.

Looking at Xu Nian again, his body remained unmoved, not affected by the impact at all.

"How could this be? How can there be such strength?" Tie Chui's face was full of shock.

The surrounding Heavenly Court Gang members were also shocked.

Unexpectedly, their gang leader had the upper hand with that punch?

"Buzz!"

Just then, an extreme Sword Light slashed towards Xu Nian's back from behind.

Indeed, it was Zhao An who attacked this time.

He had acted as soon as Tie Chui moved.

He wanted to catch Xu Nian off guard and launch a sneak attack.

Of course, he didn't intend to hurt Xu Nian, just to force Xu Nian to use the other hand.

As long as Xu Nian used the other hand, it would mean he lost.

Feeling the Sword Light from behind, Xu Nian showed a faint smile.

Then, without turning his head, he directly stretched out a finger to meet the blade cutting towards his back.

"Clang!"

A crisp sound of refined iron collision rang out.

The blade sparked brilliantly as it rubbed against Xu Nian's finger.

Xu Nian's skin gleamed with a cyan metallic luster, as hard as a weapon.

"How... how could this be?" Zhao An widened his eyes abruptly.

Everyone around was also gaping.

Even Xuanyuan Qingling showed a surprised expression on her face.

If Xu Nian had used the Dragon Scale Armor to block this blow, she probably wouldn't be surprised.

But Xu Nian purely used his body to withstand this strike without utilizing any power to counter the Sword Light.

Forget a Low Grade Spirit Artifact, even a Mid-grade Spiritual Artifact couldn't remain unscathed.

Xu Nian smiled lightly, then flicked a finger at Zhao An's Battle Saber.

"Clang!"

The terrifying force instantly exploded on Zhao An's Battle Saber.

Directly sending Zhao An flying backward.

His feet staggered, causing him to sit on the ground, sliding a hundred meters.

The movement was extraordinarily comical.

"Boss, how strong is your body really? My Battle Saber is a Mid-grade Spiritual Artifact, and it can't harm you." Zhao An got up from the ground, ignoring his embarrassing appearance, and spoke.

"Precisely, my physical defense now is about on par with a Mid-grade Spiritual Artifact, and in terms of power, it's almost comparable to the Peak of Heavenly Phenomenon, so why don't you both come at me together?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

Zhao An and Tie Chui's mouths twitched immediately.

Physical body comparable to a Mid-grade Spiritual Artifact?

How can we fight like this?

Does that mean only a Top-Grade Spiritual Artifact can harm Xu Nian?

This is too perverse!

Moreover, this is still pure physical defense; if True Essence and Gang Qi were added, wouldn't it be even more formidable?

Actually, Xu Nian wasn't finished; he was the Nine Dragons Supreme Body.

If he underwent Dragon Transformation, summoning the Blood-colored Dragon Scale Armor.

Then his defense would definitely compare to a Top-Grade Spiritual Artifact.

And pure physical strength would undoubtedly reach the peak of Heavenly Phenomenon.

"No more fighting, this is just asking for trouble!" Tie Chui and Zhao An called out simultaneously.

Currently, they couldn't win against Xu Nian with pure physical strength, even while letting them have one hand.

No hope of sparring with Xu Nian in the future.

Xu Nian helplessly shook his head.

He knew revealing the truth would lead to this result.

"Boss, how much Xuan Gold Energy Metal did you absorb, actually reaching a level comparable to a Mid-grade Spiritual Artifact? We absorbed the Xuan Gold Energy Metal, and our bodies only barely reach the level of a Low Grade Spirit Artifact." Tie Chui stepped forward and asked.

"Not too much, not too little, about five million tons or so." Xu Nian thought for a moment and answered.

"Five million tons? How could there be so much?" The crowd around gasped.

They had all absorbed only tens of thousands of tons.

Five million tons is too terrifying!

Xu Nian didn't know why either.

Maybe it was because he cultivated Divine Demon Refining Body and the Nine Dragons Supreme Body, or perhaps because of this time's Immortal Essence baptism.

It was equivalent to undergoing a new Washing Essence and Marrow for his body.

So now his physical body is so strong.

"Looks like it's time for a breakthrough." Xu Nian murmured to himself.

Nowadays, both his Spirit Cultivation and Body Cultivation had reached the Harmonization Realm Peak.

If he hadn't suppressed it, he probably would have broken through already.

Because once he breaks through, it will summon the Heavenly Tribulation.

"Buzz!"

However, just as Xu Nian was preparing to advance further.

The sky underwent an anomaly.

Chapter 935 935: Spiritual Energy Storm

Everyone, including Xu Nian, in the Heavenly Court Gang looked at the heavenly dome.

At this moment, a massive vortex appeared above the heavenly dome.

Xu Nian roughly estimated that the diameter of this vortex was at least a hundred thousand kilometers.

Such a massive vortex was like the giant mouth of an ancient fierce beast, wanting to swallow everything.

"This is bad, our Silver Wolf Star is doomed."

Beside him, Wu Gang suddenly screamed.

"I've heard stories about it long ago, but I didn't expect it to be real. Boss, maybe we should escape."
Zhao An turned to Xu Nian and asked.

"What is this 'it' you're talking about?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

He looked around and found that the members of the Heavenly Court Gang were starting to panic.

Looking at the massive vortex in the heavenly dome, their eyes were full of fear.

As if they were witnessing the end of the world.

And this vortex was still expanding, seemingly unwilling to stop until it engulfed the entire Silver Wolf Star.

Even the delicate face of Xuanyuan Qingling revealed a look of astonishment.

"Boss, you may not know, but in the Denor Star System, there exists a terrifying disaster called the Spiritual Energy Storm. This disaster is the doom of cultivators. It blows from the depths of the Star Domain, generated by the massive spiritual energy. But because the spiritual energy is particularly huge, the storm is extremely powerful. Any planet caught in it ends up fragmented. Even experts at the transcendence tribulation stage, if caught, are doomed." Tie Chui explained.

Spiritual Energy Storm?

Xu Nian looked up at the gigantic storm in the sky.

Only now did he understand, the overwhelming pressure he felt from this massive vortex was a spiritual pressure.

There are powerful storms in the Mortal World, and the Cultivation World is no exception.

But the power of this storm is incomparable.

Xu Nian did not expect that the foundation of the Heavenly Court Gang he belonged to would encounter such a thing.

"Wu Gang, hear my orders. Quickly gather all the gang members and try to avoid the Spiritual Energy Storm by entering space to evade it." Xu Nian immediately instructed Wu Gang.

"Understood!" Wu Gang immediately took the order and began gathering the gang members.

Although the power of the Spiritual Energy Storm is immense, cultivators still have time to escape.

After all, they can survive in the cosmic void for a short period.

"What about you?" Xuanyuan Qingling asked.

Originally planning to leave, Tie Chui and others also looked at Xu Nian in surprise.

They noticed Xu Nian standing still as if he had no intention of leaving.

"The Silver Wolf Star cannot be destroyed. Besides us cultivators, it hosts tens of billions of mortals who would surely die once the Spiritual Energy Storm arrives." Xu Nian said.

Xuanyuan Qingling was taken aback.

She didn't expect Xu Nian to consider those mortals.

Normally, facing such disasters, who would care about the lives of mortals?

People would immediately escape into the cosmic void, seeking self-preservation.

As for the mortals, with the planet's destruction, they naturally wouldn't survive.

"But this Spiritual Energy Storm can't be resisted even by Earth Immortal experts. What can you do?" Xuanyuan Qingling asked.

"Yes, Boss, please let's leave. We know you have a kind heart, but this Spiritual Energy Storm is too frightening. Even your body, comparable to a mid-grade spiritual artifact, would be torn apart by it." Tie Chui urged.

Xu Nian turned to Xuanyuan Qingling, smiled, and said: "I must give it a try! You all retreat into the void first. If I fail, I will choose to withdraw."

"Then I'll stay with you..." Xuanyuan Qingling said resolutely.

But Xu Nian shook his head and immediately commanded Tie Chui: "Tie Chui, take the Vice Gang Leader away."

Tie Chui hesitated, pondered for a moment, and looked at Xuanyuan Qingling.

Xuanyuan Qingling stood still, quietly staring at Xu Nian for three seconds, then nodded and said: "Alright, I'll wait for you in the void."

With these words, she turned and left.

Tie Chui and the others naturally followed suit.

In no time, the territory where the Heavenly Court Gang once was, was left with only Xu Nian.

Meanwhile, the Spiritual Energy Storm in the sky began to make landfall on the Silver Wolf Star.

The spiritual energy of the entire Silver Wolf Star suddenly became nearly twenty times more intense, and gusts began to surge around.

Sand and stones flew!

The sky was filled with yellow sand!

Xu Nian, standing alone, watched the expanding spiritual energy vortex above the heavenly dome, unmoved like a mountain.

"How can the foundation of the Heavenly Court Gang be destroyed so easily? Today, I shall see just how terrifying this Spiritual Energy Storm truly is." Xu Nian slightly bent his knees, causing the ground within a ten-mile radius to collapse with a bang.

In the next moment, Xu Nian's figure shot into the sky like an arrow.

"Boom!"

The wind roared, the spiritual energy thundered.

The terrifying gale blew against Xu Nian, like a sharp blade, tearing his clothes apart, leaving them with slits.

Even his skin bore one after another bloody mark.

"What a terrifying gale, yet my body is unharmed even by mid-grade spiritual artifacts." Xu Nian secretly marveled.

Approaching this Spiritual Energy Storm, he felt its ominous presence even more.

He now believed Tie Chui's words; if he were caught, his body might be torn to pieces.

Undoubtedly, this storm could ultimately pulverize the entire Silver Wolf Star.

"Transform!"

Xu Nian shouted fiercely.

Suddenly, a terrifying dragon's roar resonated from within.

Since absorbing the energy metal, Xu Nian had rarely used the Blood-colored Dragon Scale Armor.

Because his skin itself was already comparable to a mid-grade spiritual artifact.

Now, activating the Blood-colored Dragon Scale Armor, which had been tempered by the energy metal, made it incredibly tough.

The blood-colored Dragon Scale Armor gave off a metallic shine.

Its hardness now fully comparable to a top-grade spiritual artifact.

"Clang, clang, clang!"

The Wind Blades hit against Xu Nian's armor, sparking continuously.

Leaving shallow white marks on the armor.

Xu Nian, initially unable to move forward, suddenly surged towards the spiritual energy vortex again.

"Break, Fourth-level Chaos Slash!" Xu Nian shouted fiercely.

The Immortal Sword in his hand slashed out.

The terrifying sword light rushed towards the horrifying spiritual energy vortex, but the instant it collided with the vortex, it was torn apart.

It didn't hinder the vortex in the slightest.

"So strong!" Xu Nian exclaimed in his heart.

The vortex's tearing force was too frightful.

In the void above, tens of thousands of cultivators had gathered.

Leading among them was Xuanyuan Qingling and others.

"Do you think the Gang Leader can really fend off this Spiritual Energy Storm?" Zhao An asked while watching Xu Nian relentlessly slashing.

Beside him, Wu Gang shook his head: "Impossible. There was once a cultivation sect with hundreds of thousands of cultivators who tried to resist the atrocious Spiritual Energy Storm, but ultimately the entire sect vanished."

Upon hearing this, Zhao An fell silent.

Xuanyuan Qingling also had her embroidered brows knitted, watching the figure within the storm.

She never understood how this man before her left an impression on her heart.

But at this moment, she realized it was his fearless spirit, and that sliver of kindness beneath his ruthless exterior.

"No matter what you do, I'll support you." Xuanyuan Qingling silently vowed in her heart.

"Oh my goodness, everyone look..."

Just as Xuanyuan Qingling decided in her heart to step up and join Xu Nian in resisting the storm, a Heavenly Court Gang member suddenly screamed.

Xuanyuan Qingling immediately glanced down at the Silver Wolf Star.

But the scene that unfolded before her left her momentarily at a loss.

Chapter 936: Golden Thunder

Xuanyuan Qingling gazed at the scene below, her beautiful eyes filled with astonishment.

Xu Nian actually...

Actually choosing to cross a Heavenly Tribulation?

Indeed, Xu Nian chose to break through amidst this raging storm.

The breakthrough immediately caused a celestial disturbance.

The thunderclouds quickly gathered in the sky, stirring up the heavens.

With the emergence of the Heavenly Tribulation, the Spiritual Energy Storm also seemed to be suppressed.

Due to the fearsome spiritual energy, Xu Nian's Heavenly Tribulation became incredibly terrifying.

"Is the boss trying to use the power of the Heavenly Tribulation to counter this Spiritual Energy Storm?" Tie Chui exclaimed in surprise.

"Seems like it, but that idea is just too insane!" Wu Gang couldn't help but murmur in disbelief.

They all knew that every time Xu Nian broke through a major realm, a Heavenly Tribulation would occur.

Yet, they never expected Xu Nian would choose to cross this tribulation at this precise moment.

They knew very well that it was possible for Xu Nian to be torn apart by these two forces simultaneously.

Xuanyuan Qingling stared blankly at the figure standing in mid-air.

His actions were always so unpredictable.

Yet the final outcome was always awe-inspiring.

At that moment, amidst the fierce winds, like the roars of ten thousand dragons.

Xu Nian stood as firm as steel.

His body was covered in blood-colored Dragon Scale Armor, making him appear exceptionally ferocious.

He gazed up at the Heavenly Dome, where the thunderclouds gathered, clashing with the spiritual vortex.

Just as he anticipated, the arrival of the thunderclouds siphoned away half of the energy from the Spiritual Energy Storm.

This way, the storm was substantially weakened.

But this wasn't enough.

To completely dismantle the Spiritual Energy Storm, he needed the ensuing thunderbolts.

"Boy, you're taking it too far this time, crossing tribulation amidst a Spiritual Energy Storm; aren't you afraid of being shattered to pieces?" Wentian Demon Sovereign's voice echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

Clearly, he believed that Xu Nian choosing to cross tribulation within the storm was akin to a death wish.

"I intend to go big." Xu Nian smiled lightly.

Then he dashed towards the center of the spiritual vortex.

Indeed, he wanted to use the Spiritual Energy Storm as his defensive shield.

To counter the Heavenly Tribulation while simultaneously wearing down the storm.

Since the vortex's center was free of fierce winds, Xu Nian smoothly entered its core.

Yet, the vortex hadn't fully formed.

If it were fully formed, Xu Nian would need to break through the wind barrier to enter.

With Xu Nian's strength, breaking the wind barrier would be impossible.

"Boom!"

At this moment, the first Heavenly Tribulation finally descended.

A huge thunderbolt shot from the thunderclouds, aiming at Xu Nian.

However, Xu Nian was surrounded by a storm, and the thunderbolt had to penetrate the wind barrier to reach him.

"Boom!"

The thunderbolt struck the wind barrier.

And exploded instantly.

The ferocious thunderbolt failed to pierce the wind barrier and was torn apart.

"Such powerful force." Xu Nian remarked.

It was no wonder he couldn't break the wind barrier with all his might and a single sword.

The first Heavenly Tribulation's power wasn't extremely strong.

To weaken both forces, the subsequent tribulations were crucial.

"Boom!"

Soon after, the second Heavenly Tribulation descended.

This time, the tribulation was as thick as a barrel.

Rather than a bolt, it was more of a pillar of thunder.

Yet when this thunder pillar collided with the wind barrier, an explosive confrontation ensued.

However, the thunder pillar lasted only a few seconds before dissipating completely.

The Spiritual Energy Storm also ceased expanding due to the attack.

Seeing this, Xu Nian smiled.

Indeed as he expected, using the Heavenly Tribulation against the storm achieved a dual purpose.

The third Heavenly Tribulation was a massive thunderball.

The horrifying thunderball struck the storm, causing it to start shaking.

However, the thunderball only weakened one layer of the wind barrier but didn't penetrate entirely.

Despite the impact, the wind barrier could no longer engulf the entire Silver Wolf Star, though it could still destroy billions of lives.

In the void above, members of the Heavenly Court Gang witnessed this and showered praise.

"Boss is truly awesome, thinking of using the storm to help him cross the Heavenly Tribulation."

"Indeed, I initially thought the boss was crazy, now it seems he is actually smart."

"Not only smart, but it also requires wisdom and courage; would you dare do it?"

Everyone around voiced their admiration.

They certainly wouldn't dare attempt it.

Such actions were indeed too crazy.

Xu Nian felt ecstatic.

He not only blocked the storm but withstood the Heavenly Tribulation.

"Boom!"

The fourth Heavenly Tribulation descended.

This time, the thunderbolt was different from the previous three, as it was golden.

The speed of the golden bolt was faster, striking the wind barrier in an instant.

The barrier, upon facing the thunder's impact, burst out a large hole.

However, the golden thunderbolt also seemed greatly weakened.

By the time it reached Xu Nian, it was only as thin as a hair, almost powerless.

Yet Xu Nian still took a toll.

The fourth Heavenly Tribulation was already this strong?

If this continued, wouldn't he have to withstand the last three tribulations himself?

The storm, after the strike, made the wind barrier even thinner.

Just two more attacks might disperse it.

"Boom!"

And indeed the fifth Heavenly Tribulation followed.

The terrifying thunderbolt struck the wind barrier, shattering it instantly.

A golden thunderbolt passed through the barrier, targeting Xu Nian.

Though only finger-thick, Xu Nian dared not take it lightly.

He quickly summoned the Power of Earth, four earth-yellow circles gathered on his arm.

"Boom!"

The Fourth-level Earth Fist punched out.

"Bang!"

Xu Nian's figure flew back, colliding with the opposite side of the wind barrier.

Bled profusely.

"What exactly is this golden thunder, why is it so terrifying?" Xu Nian exclaimed in surprise.

If finger-thick held such power, if not attenuated by the barrier, wouldn't it be even stronger?

He felt speechless.

"Boom!"

Next came the sixth thunderbolt.

Again it was golden, this time as thick as a wrist.

It struck the wind barrier.

The previously already weak storm dissipated instantly.

The golden thunderbolt charged straight at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian immediately employed the Space Profound Argumentation, unleashing Seventh-level Gravity Waves.

"Boom!"

The terrifying energy exploded.

The blood-colored Scale Armor on Xu Nian's arm blew apart.

His entire right arm was a bloody mess.

His mouth spewed blood uncontrollably.

"Boss!"

"Gang Leader!"

Members of the Heavenly Court Gang shouted outside the Heavenly Dome.

Xuanyuan Qingling clenched her fists, her eyes expressing anxiety.

"Damn, is this accursed heaven furious? This golden thunder is way beyond my level." Xu Nian cursed spitting blood.

His punch could withstand the Middle Stage Tribulation Crossing, yet it didn't resist the golden thunder.

It showed just how powerful the thunder was!

"Using the Spiritual Energy Storm as a shield, the tribulation's assessment of your strength rises; you might not survive the final hit." Wentian Demon Sovereign's voice rang in Xu Nian's mind.

Xu Nian was speechless. Was he lifting a stone to smash his own foot?

Chapter 937: The Seventh Heavenly Tribulation

Xu Nian did not expect to use the Heavenly Tribulation to counteract the Spiritual Energy Storm.

Yet it made the power of the Heavenly Tribulation so terrifying.

Now the Spiritual Energy Storm is gone, and only the last bolt of the Heavenly Tribulation remains.

However, this last bolt of Heavenly Tribulation might just take his life.

"No matter, let's heal first." Xu Nian looked at his bloodied right arm.

He quickly activated the Divine Demon Gang Qi within him for repairs.

The higher Xu Nian cultivates the Divine Demon Refining Body Technique, the less likely he is to die.

Once he reaches the Gang Immortal Realm, he can even be reborn from a drop of blood.

Therefore, even with a wounded arm, Xu Nian can repair it in a very short time.

Xu Nian raised his head and looked towards the sky.

At this moment, the seventh bolt of Heavenly Tribulation is being nurtured above the Heavenly Dome.

Xu Nian could feel that the power of this seventh bolt would become exceedingly terrifying.

"Vice Gang Leader, do you think the boss can pass this Heavenly Tribulation?" Tie Chui asked worriedly.

Xuanyuan Qingling looked solemnly at Xu Nian crossing the Heavenly Tribulation below.

She knew there was no way anyone could help him at this time.

It's up to Xu Nian himself.

"He can definitely do it," Xuanyuan Qingling's voice rang out.

This sentence seemed like a response to Tie Chui's question, yet also as self-assurance.

If someone had noticed Xuanyuan Qingling's hand, they would have seen her fist clenched tightly, with her palm covered in cold sweat.

"Senior Wentian, figure something out, how to block this seventh Heavenly Tribulation?"

After thinking for a while, Xu Nian couldn't find a solution.

So he had to ask the Wentian Demon Sovereign for help.

"Hmph, now you know to ask me for help? Kid, weren't you always so capable of causing trouble? If you create a problem, why can't you solve it yourself?" Wentian Demon Sovereign's discontented voice echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

"Senior, please calm down, I'm doing this to save someone!" Xu Nian pleaded with a chuckle.

"Fine, I will help you just this once. Kid, in the future, don't expect me to help you clean up your mess; with your current ability, you can't withstand the Heavenly Tribulation of this magnitude. So, you must borrow external force." Wentian Demon Sovereign replied.

"External force? What external force?" Xu Nian hurriedly asked.

"It's simple; although the Spiritual Energy Storm has dispersed, the Spiritual Energy has descended upon this planet. You just need to use the Black Jade Pendant to absorb all the Spiritual Energy here, and then transfer it to yourself and unleash an attack; it should be able to block this blow," Wentian Demon Sovereign's voice resonated again.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian's eyes lit up.

How had he not thought of the Black Jade Pendant.

It's the treasure that can devour all powers.

Now, with his strength increased, his control over the Black Jade Pendant is much stronger than before.

Thus, temporarily using the absorbed Spiritual Energy to transform it into his attack.

Xu Nian can still achieve it.

The only concern is whether such terrifying Spiritual Energy might overwhelm his flesh.

With this thought, Xu Nian no longer hesitated.

Immediately he activated the Black Jade Pendant.

In an instant, a terrifying suction emanated directly from the Black Jade Pendant.

The whirlpool of Spiritual Energy that had originally dissipated surprisingly reappeared.

Moreover, it was more terrifying than before.

This time, however, the center of the whirlpool was Xu Nian.

"What... what is happening?"

"Did I see wrong? The boss recreated a Spiritual Energy Storm?"

"You didn't see wrong, because I saw it too."

...

The people around immediately showed expressions of shock.

Xuanyuan Qingling's face also displayed a surprised expression.

What is going on?

"The Gang Leader isn't creating a Spiritual Energy Storm; he's devouring the dissipated Spiritual Energy from before, but the speed at which he's doing it is unimaginably frightening." Wu Gang said at this moment.

Xuanyuan Qingling nodded.

She also noticed that all the Spiritual Energy creating the storm ultimately converged on Xu Nian's body.

Yet this only made her more worried.

How can a person's body withstand such terrifying Spiritual Energy?

Xu Nian continued to activate the Black Jade Pendant, devouring the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Energy.

Meanwhile, he gathered the Kun Cave Power formed by the Spiritual Energy in his palm.

At this moment, a black light ball was forming in Xu Nian's palm, containing energy so terrifying it was dreadfully fearsome.

Even the members of the Heavenly Court Gang standing in the Void had a sense of unease.

It felt as though Xu Nian held an energy ball capable of destroying everything in his hand.

Of course, Xu Nian's entire arm bulged with veins, as gathering such power required his flesh to withstand it.

The energy ball continued to expand, initially the size of an egg, eventually growing to the size of a head.

The energy contained within was enough to easily reduce the entire planet to dust.

"Such terrifying power; this force might even pose a threat to an Earth Immortal Expert!"

"Yes, even an Earth Immortal Expert wouldn't dare to take it lightly; how did the boss manage to gather such terrifying power?"

...

The Heavenly Court Gang members exclaimed in astonishment.

At this moment, Xu Nian felt to them like a peerless Demon Lord capable of destroying everything.

The black, demonic glow pulsating in his palm made them tremble from the core of their being.

"Such powerful strength; I've never gathered this much Kun Cave Power before," Xu Nian sighed in his heart.

In the past, even using a trace of Kun Cave Power overwhelmed his body.

If it weren't for absorbing energy metals twice, he could not hold such a terrifying Kun Cave Power.

Even so, now the size of a head was already the limit of what he could endure.

"Boom!"

The thundercloud ripped apart again, and a golden thunderbolt emerged.

This golden thunderbolt was as thick as a calf.

The golden thunderbolt transformed into an energy snake and opened its bloody maw towards Xu Nian.

The Heavenly Will contained within it instinctively engendered fear in people's hearts.

Yet Xu Nian's eyes now surged with insanity.

"Oh heavens, I'm going all out!"

Xu Nian shouted and rushed towards that golden thunderbolt.

The Kun Cave Black Ball in his hand pressed onto the golden thunderbolt.

"Boom!"

The two forces collided with each other.

Immediately, a dazzling light burst forth in the Cosmic Void.

It made everyone's eyes feel like they were blinded.

"Boom!"

Finally, an earth-shattering explosion occurred.

The terrifying explosion swept across an area of ten thousand miles.

Fortunately, the region surrounding Xu Nian and their base was a hundred thousand miles of wilderness, or the explosion would have claimed countless lives.

"Xu Nian!"

"Gang Leader!"

"Boss!"

Members of the Heavenly Court Gang hurriedly called out.

Such a terrifying explosion, it was uncertain if Xu Nian could survive.

Xuanyuan Qingling transformed into a streak of blue light and flew towards the Silver Wolf Star.

However, when she arrived on the Silver Wolf Star, she didn't sense any sign of Xu Nian's life force.

Chapter 938: Top-grade Artifact Refiner

At the same time Xu Nian's true self was crossing the Heavenly Tribulation.

Xu Nian's Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar endured that painful forty-nine days in the Dark Abyss.

During these forty-nine days, Xu Nian's soul continuously received the terrifying tempering of flames.

However, as time passed, Xu Nian's soul gradually grew stronger.

Today is the last day of the forty-nine days.

Xu Nian's soul has reached a bottleneck.

It's now the most critical period for a breakthrough.

Old Man Wang stood before the Heavenly Refining Furnace, looking at the Xu Nian seated on the ground, with a sense of urgency in his eyes.

Whether Xu Nian can make a breakthrough depends on today.

"Old Man Wang, Xu Nian has been sitting there at the Heavenly Refining Furnace for forty-nine days, what is he actually doing?"

"Yes, Old Man Wang, now there are rumors outside that Xu Nian is your disciple, and you taught him a supreme technique. Is this true?"

The surrounding blacksmiths asked one after another.

Even the burly man Wei Feng who had previously escorted Xu Nian here came over.

Apparently, he also heard the rumors in the city and came over out of curiosity.

He once wanted to be an apprentice to Old Man Wang but was refused.

If Xu Nian really became Old Man Wang's apprentice, he really wanted to see what kind of skills Xu Nian had to make Old Man Wang accept him as a disciple.

Hearing everyone's questions, Old Man Wang finally said: "I have not taken Xu Nian as a disciple; he is cultivating his own technique. I just gave him some advice."

The people around were stunned.

It turns out Old Man Wang did not take Xu Nian as an apprentice.

It seems their previous suspicions were false.

Wei Feng also breathed a sigh of relief.

It was evident, as he suspected, that Xu Nian was not qualified to become Old Man Wang's apprentice.

"But since you did not accept him as a disciple, why guard him, allowing him to use the Heavenly Refining Furnace for so long?" A blacksmith asked curiously.

The surrounding people were also puzzled.

No one in the entire Black Corner Domain could have Old Man Wang guard them.

For Xu Nian to have Old Man Wang guarding him, there must be something special about him.

Wei Feng was also curious and looked at Old Man Wang.

Old Man Wang looked at the puzzled crowd, with a rare smile at the corner of his mouth: "Because his cultivation is related to the survival of Black Wind City, it is proper for me to guard him."

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone showed a surprisingly shocked expression.

Xu Nian's breakthrough is related to the survival of Black Wind City?

How is that possible?

Wei Feng was also somewhat puzzled.

Xu Nian's strength is at most comparable to an ordinary Middle Stage Tribulation Crossing expert.

Not to mention saving Black Wind City, even the strength of the ordinary soldiers in the city surpasses him.

Even if he makes a breakthrough, he could not play much of a role.

"Old Man Wang, are you saying Xu Nian can save our Black Wind City? But Xu Nian's strength is not strong!" a blacksmith asked.

Old Man Wang merely smiled and said, "You will know the answer later."

The surrounding people were puzzled and looked at the seated Xu Nian.

Time passed, moment by moment.

Everyone started to grow anxious.

Could it be that Xu Nian will make a breakthrough soon?

"Boom!"

Just as everyone was wondering, Xu Nian, who had been sitting for forty-nine days, suddenly opened his eyes.

A terrifying wave of energy immediately rippled out from around him.

Everyone felt a jolt in their souls.

"Early-stage Tribulation Crossing? Soul power?"

Some blacksmiths also sensed the soul power emanating from Xu Nian, showing astonished expressions.

Although Xu Nian is only at the Middle-stage of the Heavenly Phenomenon Realm, his soul cultivation has already broken through to the Early-stage Tribulation Crossing.

This strange phenomenon was something they had never witnessed before.

Old Man Wang felt the spiritual sense power emanating from Xu Nian and smiled brightly.

Looking at Xu Nian, his gaze was consistently filled with admiration.

"Old Man Wang, you said this is the breakthrough. Although Xu Nian's soul cultivation breaking through to early-stage Tribulation Crossing is somewhat peculiar, it can't contend with Black Dragon City, right?" Wei Feng finally spoke.

He always felt that Old Man Wang exaggerated Xu Nian's capabilities.

Previously, he did not know what Old Man Wang was planning, but seeing Xu Nian's breakthrough now, he finally spoke.

"Xu Nian, everyone is waiting for you to give the answer, so why don't you answer yourself?" Old Man Wang turned and smiled at Xu Nian.

"Yes, senior." Xu Nian's eyes were bright, emitting a red glow.

He slowly stood up, yet did not move toward the crowd.

Instead, he picked up a piece of Heavy Origin Iron and tossed it into the Heavenly Refining Furnace.

"What is he doing?"

The surrounding blacksmiths did not understand what Xu Nian was doing, questioning in confusion.

"Let's wait and see." Wei Feng stopped the incessant discussions of the blacksmiths, watching Xu Nian.

Though he remained puzzled, unclear about what Old Man Wang and Xu Nian were scheming.

Yet he chose to trust Old Man Wang.

Soon, the piece of Heavy Origin Iron melted.

Xu Nian immediately mobilized his spiritual sense power, wrapping the molten iron.

Moved it out of the Heavenly Refining Furnace.

"Is he planning to forge a weapon?" asked one blacksmith.

"It looks like it!" another replied.

But they all noticed Xu Nian did not pour the molten iron into a mold.

But directly used spiritual sense power to outline a sword shape.

Once the shape was formed, Xu Nian immediately placed it in a water pool.

Let it solidify quickly.

The surrounding people now understood that Xu Nian was indeed forging a weapon.

Yet the forging technique seemed vastly different from theirs.

Subsequently, Xu Nian completed the embryo setting.

Finally a sword in its embryonic form appeared in everyone's view.

Old Man Wang, watching this scene, kept nodding in praise.

Soon, Xu Nian came to the final step, hammering.

Xu Nian lifted the iron hammer beside him and directly activated the Ten Thousand Divine Hammer Technique, fiercely striking the sword handle.

"Clang!"

When the terrifying spiritual sense power exploded within the iron sword, the entire sword seemed to come to life.

"This is..."

The surrounding people showed surprised expressions.

Even Wei Feng's face grew solemn.

"Clang clang clang!"

A series of hammering sounds gradually rose.

Xu Nian kept swinging the iron hammer, striking the iron sword blow after blow.

And with each strike of Xu Nian, the iron sword became increasingly sharp.

When Xu Nian swung the iron hammer for the thousandth time, the entire iron sword emitted a dazzling brilliance.

"Boom!"

A bolt of lightning suddenly slashed down from the heavenly dome, striking the iron sword.

And the iron sword that suffered the lightning strike seemed to have been given life.

Started joyfully dancing in the air.

"Is this... a Spiritual Artifact?"

Everyone looking at the iron sword flying in the air showed surprised expressions.

A Spiritual Artifact forged with Heavy Origin Iron?

Then isn't the Spiritual Artifact grade a Top-grade Spiritual Artifact?

So does it mean Xu Nian is a Top-grade Artifact Refiner?

Chapter 939 Black Wind City Lord

Everybody around was astonished, looking at Xu Nian.

Apparently, they hadn't expected Xu Nian to be a top-grade Artifact Refiner.

They surely knew what being a top-grade Artifact Refiner meant.

This meant that Black Wind City, in the not-so-distant future, would see its combat power increase many times over.

Thus, Xu Nian would undoubtedly become a great treasure of Black Wind City.

"I say, Brother Xu, you've really kept things hidden well, huh? You're an Artifact Refiner and yet never mentioned it. I wasted my time teaching you how to forge iron," a blacksmith familiar with Xu Nian pointed at him and said.

"Brother An, you never asked me, and besides, I only just broke through to the level of top-grade Artifact Refiner," Xu Nian replied with a smile.

The fellow called Brother An just chuckled, not truly intending to blame Xu Nian.

Wei Feng also stepped before Xu Nian, cupping his hands and saying, "General Wei Feng of Black Wind City formally invites Xu Nian to take the position of Deputy General in the City Guard Army."

"Deputy General?" Xu Nian was startled.

He knew the Deputy General position in Black Wind City had been vacant.

But almost nobody was suitable for the role.

Now that Wei Feng asked him to take the position, how could Xu Nian not be surprised?

"General Wei, I don't think I can bear the responsibility of this Deputy General position!" Xu Nian quickly declined.

First, he was merely here for the Tao Trace Fruit and would be leaving soon.

Second, in terms of strength, many in Black Wind City were stronger than him.

If Xu Nian took on the role of Deputy General, it would be hard to win people's support.

"Brother Xu need not decline. This Deputy General position belongs to you alone. If you can truly forge top-grade Spiritual Artifacts for all of Black Wind City, your contributions will be unmatched," Wei Feng said righteously.

"But..."

Xu Nian wanted to say something more, when suddenly a melodious voice sounded.

"Master Xu need not have any concerns, this Deputy General position belongs to you alone."

Following that, Xu Nian saw a graceful figure approaching from afar.

"Greetings, City Lord!"

The surrounding people, seeing this woman, respectfully bowed.

"City Lord?" Xu Nian was puzzled.

He had been in Black Wind City for quite a while but had never seen the City Lord.

He always thought the City Lord of Black Wind City was a man, but never expected it to be a woman.

This woman looked quite young and wore a white robe.

Not only was she breathtakingly beautiful, but she also exuded a certain heroism.

Of course, this wasn't the main reason for Xu Nian's astonishment.

The real reason was that he couldn't discern the City Lord's cultivation level.

But from her aura, he sensed that the City Lord had already reached the Earth Immortal realm.

"Xu Nian pays respect to the City Lord!" Xu Nian respectfully greeted the female City Lord.

Regardless of other factors, just the cultivation of this woman made Xu Nian dare not disrespect her.

"Master Xu, no need for formalities," the female City Lord said with a smile.

She then turned her head to Elder Wang and said, "Huo Xian greets Elder Wang."

Elder Wang nodded, looking at the female City Lord with affection in his eyes.

Seeing this scene, Xu Nian understood the relationship between Elder Wang and the female City Lord was profound.

For this young woman to achieve such cultivation at such a young age, Elder Wang undoubtedly played a part.

"Elder Wang, is your health somewhat improved lately?" the female City Lord named Huo Xian asked.

"Same old, no need to mention," Elder Wang waved off.

Huo Xian's eyes showed a tinge of sorrow.

"Anything stirring on the Black Dragon City side?" Elder Wang continued to ask.

Upon hearing Elder Wang's question, the female City Lord's face revealed an intense expression, snorting coldly, "That Black Dragon has begun stirring. With the Destroying Immortal Needle in its hands, it constantly harasses our Black Wind City. I'm afraid a war might erupt soon."

Elder Wang nodded.

Everything was as he expected.

"Huo Xian, leave Xu Nian in your hands. Treat him well, for he might become Black Wind City's savior," Elder Wang said to the female City Lord.

"Don't worry, Elder Wang. As long as Master Xu can forge more top-grade Spiritual Artifacts, we can fend off Black Dragon City's invasion," the female City Lord said with determination, her eyes shining with resolve.

Elder Wang glanced at Huo Xian, saying no more.

Xu Nian's worth surely went beyond Artifact Refining.

But the truth of it hardly depended on words.

"I'm planning to leave for a while. If Black Dragon City attacks during this time, you'll have to rely on yourselves," Elder Wang seemed to decide something.

Xu Nian instantly noticed Huo Xian's eyes turn red.

"Elder Wang, are you planning to enter the Forbidden Land?" Huo Xian asked.

"Yes, I have less than twenty years left of life. If I don't give it a shot now, it will be truly over," Elder Wang said, his tone heavy with melancholy.

Forbidden Land?

Xu Nian felt anxious.

Was Elder Wang really planning to enter the Forbidden Land?

But from his expression, it was like the look of someone going to face death.

Is the Forbidden Land really that terrifying?

"Elder Wang, I understand that no one can change your decision. Since you've resolved to enter the Forbidden Land, I can only wish you success," Huo Xian took a deep breath, calming herself as she spoke.

Elder Wang nodded and then turned to leave.

Everyone watched Elder Wang's departing figure, eyes filled with melancholy and respect.

Xu Nian also bowed with gratitude in the direction Elder Wang left.

"Master Xu, follow me," Huo Xian said with a smile to Xu Nian after watching Elder Wang leave.

Xu Nian realized he couldn't see through the thoughts of the woman before him.

This woman's shrewdness was deeper than those old foxes.

Apart from exposing genuine emotion at Elder Wang's departure, her eyes remained serene.

"Yes, City Lord!"

Xu Nian nodded.

He then followed Huo Xian towards the City Lord Mansion.

Soon, Xu Nian was led to a courtyard in the City Lord Mansion.

"Please sit!"

Huo Xian sat on a stone stool in the courtyard, gesturing for Xu Nian to sit opposite.

Xu Nian pondered for a moment and sat down.

"May I ask why the City Lord summoned me here?" Xu Nian asked Huo Xian.

Though the person before him was a woman, Xu Nian still felt tremendous pressure.

"Master Xu, no need to be nervous. I simply want to ask you for two favors," Huo Xian said with a smile.

"Please speak, City Lord. As long as it's something I can accomplish, I will give it my all," Xu Nian responded, curious as to what the City Lord might ask.

"Since that's the case, I'll speak plainly. The first matter is to request Master Xu to forge a hundred top-grade Spiritual Artifacts within five years. Elder Wang's news can at most be concealed for five years, and by then Black Dragon City will receive word and surely launch attacks on us," Huo Xian said.

"Regarding this issue, there's no need for the City Lord to worry. I will accomplish it, rest assured," Xu Nian replied respectfully.

Huo Xian nodded.

She wasn't surprised at Xu Nian's reply.

So she smiled and continued, "The second matter is actually a personal issue. I hope you can help me with a cure!"

"A cure?" Xu Nian was astonished.

Chapter 940: Wui Lun's Provocation

"That's right, it's about healing!"

Huo Xian nodded seriously.

"I think, City Lord, you seem to have misunderstood. I am an Artifact Refiner, not an Alchemist. Besides, how could someone of Earth Immortal level fall ill?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

The fact that this Lady City Lord wanted him to cure an illness was truly amusing.

"I haven't misunderstood. I genuinely want the master to help me heal." Huo Xian spoke.

Xu Nian looked at Huo Xian's earnest expression and realized she might not be joking.

So he asked, "May I know, City Lord, what kind of illness do you have?"

The Lady City Lord's expression turned serious upon hearing Xu Nian's question, and she replied, "The illness I have is a congenital mysterious illness that flares up once a month, in the middle of the month. When it does, my whole body feels like it's burning in a raging fire, causing unbearable pain every time."

"Burning in a raging fire?" Xu Nian's face was full of astonishment.

How could such a strange illness exist?

"Could I inspect the City Lord's body?" Xu Nian asked the City Lord.

Huo Xian nodded.

Extending a slender hand towards Xu Nian.

Xu Nian swiftly placed his fingers on the City Lord's jade-like arm.

Then he channeled his True Essence to explore Huo Xian's body.

As Xu Nian's True Essence coursed through, he was surprised to find Huo Xian's meridians extraordinarily wide.

"No wonder she reached the Earth Immortal realm at such a young age. Such anomalous meridians are ten, even a hundred times those of an ordinary genius," Xu Nian thought to himself.

He then continued to probe deeper into Huo Xian's body.

Yet, when Xu Nian's True Essence reached the depths of Huo Xian's Dantian, he sensed an intensely hot aura.

Xu Nian immediately urged his True Essence forward, further exploring the depths.

Arriving at the deepest part of Huo Xian's Dan Sea, Xu Nian astonishingly discovered a grand palace resting within it.

This palace appeared exceptionally majestic and magnificent.

And the intense aura emanated precisely from within the palace.

Xu Nian immediately drifted towards the palace doors.

"Chirp!"

The instant he pushed open the door, a resounding phoenix cry echoed.

Then Xu Nian sensed a terrifying fireball rushing towards him.

Finally, it expelled his True Essence directly from Huo Xian's body, making Xu Nian cough up a mouthful of blood.

"That was..."

Although it was just a fleeting glimpse, Xu Nian saw the source behind the fireball emerging from the palace.

It was a Fire Phoenix!

Indeed, a real Fire Phoenix Demon Beast.

However, Xu Nian couldn't quite comprehend how this Fire Phoenix was within Huo Xian's body.

"Kid, you really are fortunate to have come across an Immortal reincarnation, and a Fire Phoenix is sealed within her," Dao Tian Rat's voice echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

"Immortal reincarnation? Dao Tian Rat senior, do you mean Huo Xian is an Immortal reincarnated?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"Indeed, this woman is truly an Immortal reincarnated. Yet her past life's memories, along with the Fire Phoenix, were sealed within her Dantian," Dao Tian Rat responded.

Xu Nian was filled with amazement.

Reincarnation truly exists in this world.

"Then how did the Fire Phoenix get sealed inside her?" Xu Nian continued inquiring.

"How would I know? But judging by the seal within her, it is at least a seal placed by someone of Immortal level. Although severely weakened now, it's still not something you can break. Even if you could unseal it, the Fire Phoenix would instantly kill both of you," Dao Tian Rat explained.

Xu Nian nodded.

Inside Huo Xian is indeed a True Phoenix.

Such a being has likely reached True Immortal levels.

Not something he could possibly contend with.

"Master Xu, are you alright!" Huo Xian quickly asked, seeing Xu Nian cough blood.

"I'm fine," Xu Nian waved his hand.

"How did it go?" Huo Xian asked Xu Nian.

Xu Nian waved his hand, saying, "City Lord, your illness is beyond my ability to cure. But I will try to find a way to resolve it."

Huo Xian's face showed disappointment, yet she still nodded.

Xu Nian looked puzzled; it was quite strange for Huo Xian to approach him for healing.

She seemed to have ample hope for him.

"City Lord, if I may ask, why do you believe I can cure your ailment?" Xu Nian asked.

"It was Elder Wang who said so. He once mentioned that if anyone in the world could cure me, it would be you. Hence, I held great hope, but now it seems even Master Xu has no solution," Huo Xian explained.

Hearing this, Xu Nian immediately understood.

It was Elder Wang's words that kindled the City Lord's confidence in him.

Yet what basis did Elder Wang have to think he could solve such a challenge?

"Alright, Master Xu, let's leave it at that. I hope you can keep this matter confidential," Huo Xian urged.

"Of course, City Lord, rest assured, I will study this thoroughly once I return," Xu Nian confirmed.

"In that case, I entrust this to the master." Huo Xian nodded.

With that said, she rose and prepared to escort Xu Nian out.

"Huo Xian!"

At that moment, a youth in regal purple attire walked in from the courtyard.

Huo Xian's face instantly fell upon seeing him.

"Wui Lun, who allowed you to come in?" Huo Xian snorted coldly upon seeing the newcomer.

"Xian, we grew up together. Do I really need to notify you before entering your courtyard?" The youth chuckled at Huo Xian.

His eyes revealed a hint of admiration.

Xu Nian immediately understood; the youth before him had feelings for Huo Xian.

But his cultivation seemed rather low.

Merely at the Middle Stage Tribulation Crossing.

"Hmph, I am now the City Lord, discussing important matters with Master Xu. You can't just barge in," Huo Xian snorted coldly.

The youth's face quickly grew unpleasant, and he promptly apologized, "Xian, I know I was wrong. Next time I'll inform first."

Huo Xian indeed looked indifferent, showing no warmth.

Wui Lun, noticing Huo Xian ignoring him, suddenly felt a surge of anger, though he quickly suppressed it.

He then shifted his gaze to Xu Nian beside him, scanned him briefly, a trace of disdain flashing in his eyes. Nonetheless, he still spoke, "You must be the Top-grade Artifact Refiner, Xu Nian? I've heard that Master Xu can craft Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts at a young age. How about creating a Top-grade Spiritual Artifact for me? I'll reward you handsomely."

"Sorry, I've already agreed to forge weapons for the City Lord, so I don't have time for you," Xu Nian naturally sensed the disdain in Wui Lun's eyes and showed no favorable response towards him.

Upon hearing this, Wui Lun became enraged, snapping at Xu Nian, "Hmph, you think you're so great for being able to forge Top-grade Spiritual Artifacts, but believe me, I, Wui Lun, can have your head on a platter in just one word!"

"Oh? I really don't believe it," Xu Nian challenged Wui Lun, his eyes revealing a sense of provocation.