

Eternal Heart 161

Chapter 161: Split

Blood Sky Hall, in the outdoor square.

The situation, at this moment, took a drastic turn.

Lu Zhuo, by a step behind, turned from a big winner to the pursuer.

"Where can you run... I'll tear you to pieces!"

Lu Zhuo was furious, veins bulging on his forehead, no longer able to remain calm.

"Chase!"

From the Bone Demon Palace faction, Mei Changqing, Jiang Ping, and five or six secret disciples, all pursued the purple fox.

Moreover.

From the Three Sects Camp, also two or three top disciples joined the chase.

Swoosh!

The purple fox flashed a few times and landed in front of Chen Yu and Chen Ying'er.

Originally.

As soon as Chen Yu noticed the fox had seized the Blood Soul Flower, he immediately came to protect Chen Ying'er.

After using a portion of Mysterious Water Moth Lotus, Chen Ying'er had advanced to the Mid-stage of Refining, making her quite formidable among the disciples who entered the Blood Burial Garden.

However.

Facing some top disciples present, even those at the Qi Transformation Level, this strength was far from sufficient.

Swoosh!

The purple fox, carrying the Blood Soul Flower, jumped onto Chen Ying'er's shoulder.

"Brother Yu, isn't my pet amazing?"

Chen Ying'er's eyes narrowed into crescent shapes.

"What are you proud of! Let's get out of here—"

Chen Yu grabbed Chen Ying'er and, along with the light purple fox, ran towards the exit.

Fortunately.

The two were not far from the exit, and no top disciples obstructed them along the way.

"Run fast..."

Chen Ying'er came to her senses, her face filled with fear, as Chen Yu dragged her into the exit passageway.

A few moments later.

Mei Changqing, Lu Zhuo, Jiang Ping, and other top disciples arrived at the exit.

Swoosh!

A small bead like white frost crashed down at the exit.

"It's an Ice Split Ball!"

Mei Changqing and Jiang Ping's expressions changed.

At this moment, including Lu Zhuo, the few people had just reached the narrow space of the exit passageway.

Boom!

A mass of white chilling wind, alongside thousands of ice crystals, exploded at the exit, engulfing the several people.

Ting, ting, ting!

Under the attack of the chilling wind and ice, the group let out angry roars.

With Mei Changqing and Lu Zhuo's Qi Transformation Realm power present, an Ice Split Ball obviously wasn't fatal.

What was frustrating and infuriating was.

The precision of that Ice Split Ball was too accurate, bursting right at the exit passageway, causing everyone to bear the maximum efficacy.

Mei Changqing and Lu Zhuo, who bore the brunt, took on most of the pressure.

A layer of frost formed on Mei Changqing's clothing and skin, causing some frostbite.

Lu Zhuo, with strong defenses, was nearly unscathed, but his body and limbs felt a wave of stiffness.

Regarding explosive power.

The Ice Split Ball was slightly inferior to the Yin Fire Pearl, but the chilling frost force it generated could freeze the blood, slowing down the target's movements.

At this moment.

It was a perfect verification as:

The speed of Mei Changqing and Lu Zhuo, in the next few moments, slowed down by twenty to thirty percent.

Ten moments later.

Mei Changqing, Lu Zhuo, Jiang Ping, and other top disciples reached the grand hall's exit of the Blood Sky Hall.

Outside the hall.

Chen Yu and Chen Ying'er had just arrived before the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain Array.

Sigh!

Chen Yu sighed inwardly, looking back at the pursuers like Mei Changqing and Lu Zhuo.

If it were only him.

Perhaps he could step forward and hope for vast, open skies, becoming the biggest winner.

However.

By his side, there was a burden he simply couldn't shake off, making it impossible to escape Mei Changqing and Lu Zhuo's pursuit.

"This ultimate treasure, the Blood Soul Flower, I simply cannot monopolize. Even if Yunyue Sect obtained it, it would only bring disaster."

Chen Yu's gaze flickered.

"Brother Yu, I've dragged you down, shall we just give them the Blood Soul Flower?"

Chen Ying'er said pitifully.

She knew that without Chen Yu, she would have been obliterated by Lu Zhuo and the others long ago.

Just then.

Swoosh! Swoosh, swoosh...

Outside, a troop was approaching the Blood Sky Hall.

"Junior Brother Chen!"

Several familiar voices rang out.

Hmm?

Chen Yu glanced sideways and saw Kun Ling, Fang Haofer, Tong Yuling, Xie Jing, and other Yunyue Sect disciples in a small team of six or seven people approaching.

This team, Chen Yu had caught a glimpse of once when Mei Changqing first chased him.

Due to some delays.

This team led by Kun Ling had only now arrived at the Blood Sky Hall.

"Reinforcements have arrived."

Chen Ying'er's face brightened.

But Chen Yu couldn't bring himself to feel happy; his heart sank instead.

Behind them, the pursuers were top disciples like Mei Changqing, Lu Zhuo, and Jiang Ping.

If Yunyue Sect's team got involved, they might suffer a merciless slaughter.

"In that case..."

Chen Yu finally made a decision.

Since it was destined that he couldn't monopolize the Blood Soul Flower, he might as well share it and at least not implicate his fellow disciples.

The next moment.

Chen Yu snatched the Blood Soul Flower from the fox.

A fleeting strange light flashed in the purple fox's eyes, but it did not object.

"Open for me!"

The Blood Soul Flower floated midair, and Chen Yu fiercely struck it with his palm,

He intended to split the Blood Soul Flower in two, thereby sharing more than half the pressure.

Swish!

Just as a palm surrounded by black and green shadows was about to hit the Blood Soul Flower.

"No—"

Lu Zhuo behind couldn't help but let out a scream of fury.

If the Blood Soul Flower were damaged, it could lose its miraculous ability, such as the ability to create Blood Soul replicas.

Boom!

Chen Yu's palm had just touched the Blood Soul Flower when the latter burst into a blood-colored brilliance and split into two halves with a "crack."

Huh?

Chen Yu felt an illusion, as if it wasn't he who had split the Blood Soul Flower, but rather it had split itself into two halves on its own.

Swish~

The two halves of the Blood Soul Flower floated in mid-air, overflowing with blood radiance, emitting a wild force of Blood Soul Power.

Lu Zhuo, Mei Changqing, and others were stunned for a moment.

They didn't seem to expect Chen Yu to be so decisive and directly split the great treasure of Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower.

Before the others could react,

An anomaly occurred in the split halves of the Blood Soul Flower.

"Giggles..."

From one half of the Blood Soul Flower, an ethereal female voice faintly emerged, transforming into a shadow that broke through the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain.

Swoosh!

That half of the Blood Soul Flower turned into a bloody afterimage, lunging toward the Yunyue Sect team consisting of Kun Ling, Tong Yuling, Fang Haofei, and others.

"Be careful!"

Kun Ling, Tong Yuling, Fang Haofei, among others, silently braced themselves.

However,

That bloody afterimage was too fast, bringing with it a shock of Blood Soul Power that left everyone dizzy and unsteady.

Swish!

One half of the Blood Soul Flower landed on a strikingly beautiful young girl.

"Tong Yuling!"

Chen Yu couldn't help but exclaim.

Why did that half of the Blood Soul Flower choose nobody else but landed on Tong Yuling?

Buzz!

The "Blood Jade Spirit Bamboo" on Tong Yuling suddenly burst into a layer of translucent blood-colored brilliance.

Immediately thereafter,

Tong Yuling's face was filled with struggle and pain, and a blood-colored lotus mark quickly appeared on her forehead, faintly visible.

However,

The other half of the Blood Soul Flower, floating in mid-air, showed no abnormalities.

Suddenly, near the ground.

Swoosh!

A crystal-clear, thumb-sized blood-colored bud shot out toward the exterior of the Array.

"Hmph!"

Chen Yu wore a cold smile, he roughly guessed that this bud must possess some form of spiritual awareness.

Thud!

A silver-spotted black dot burst forth and struck the blood-colored small bud fiercely, biting into it harshly.

Blood splashed.

The Blood Soul Bud, bitten by the Iron Moon Strange Insect, emitted a fragrant scent that permeated the soul.

"Aiyoh!"

A whiny voice seemed to come from the soul layer.

After taking a bite, the body of the Iron Moon Strange Insect shone with a crystalline blood hue, its energy surged, and it became extremely aggressive and erratic.

Swoosh!

Chen Yu dashed forward and grabbed the Blood Soul Bud but failed to store it in his storage bag.

He immediately clenched the blood-colored bud within his fist.

With a thought,

Chen Yu stored the Blood Soul Bud in the Light Silver Crystal Space.

This scene caused the Purple Fox, who was about to make a move, to flash a hint of surprise in its eyes.

"Hold it!"

Just then, Lu Zhuo and Mei Changqing had already closed in.

"Ha ha..."

Chen Yu laughed out loud, tossing the other half of the Blood Soul Flower towards the two men.

Right between them.

One half of the Blood Soul Flower floated perfectly in between Lu Zhuo and Mei Changqing.

"What choice will you make?"

Chen Yu chuckled silently, grabbing Chen Ying'er and breaking through the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain.

The Blood Sky Hall's Array defense was double-layered.

Open up!

Chen Yu, with something vaguely in his other hand, slashed at the heavily flawed Silver Pattern Blood Curtain.

Pop!

The Silver Pattern Blood Curtain split open, effortlessly torn by Chen Yu's punch as he took Chen Ying'er and the Purple Fox away.

The Purple Fox's eyes swept a trace of surprise, staring at the hand Chen Yu had just swung.

Chen Yu had already stored the Token in the Light Silver Crystal Space.

"Senior Sister Tong, are you alright..."

After breaking through, Chen Yu's first thought was to rush to Tong Yuling.

At this moment.

A blood lotus mark appeared on the center of Tong Yuling's forehead, her face was stern and elegant, her demeanor vastly different from usual.

Swoosh!

She flipped her hand, an odd blood pattern emerged in her palm, and the "Blood Jade Spirit Bamboo" she wore trembled, releasing strands of crystalline blood brilliance.

Subsequently.

She abruptly molded one half of the Blood Soul Flower into a crystalline blood orb with both hands as if performing magic.

Huff!

Tong Yuling opened her mouth, and an invisible force sucked the crystalline blood orb, transformed from half of the Blood Soul Flower, into her stomach.

"This... you're not Tong Yuling!"

Chen Yu cried out in horror.

The current Tong Yuling gave him a feeling of icy condescension, as if looking down on ants.

"Tong Yuling" sneered, just about to make her move.

Suddenly.

The blood lotus mark on her forehead inexplicably twitched, and a struggle appeared on her face.

"Still struggling? It seems she heard the voice of her beloved."

Blood Lotus Tong Yuling revealed a cold smirk.

Zing!

Her figure blurred, moving almost as fast as Lu Zhuo, and dashed toward a location in the Blood Burial Garden.

"We can't let her succeed!"

Chen Yu's expression turned stern.

He suddenly had an intuition.

Tong Yuling's body had just been taken over; perhaps there was still a chance to save her.

This "Tong Yuling" of the Blood Lotus Mark, seemed to be looking for a place to completely erase Tong Yuling's consciousness and take full possession of her body.

Bang!

At the same moment, Lu Zhuo and Mei Changqing, along with Jiang Ping, Yuan Li, and a cold-faced disciple, clashed fiercely.

Ultimately.

Thanks to the numerical advantage on the Bone Demon Palace side, Mei Changqing and others pinned down Lu Zhuo, and one of the disciples took the half Blood Soul Flower and quickly retreated.

Lu Zhuo was extremely infuriated, summoning a sword shield puppet, ready to fight desperately.

Crack!

Mei Changqing's hand held a wooden box, which he slowly opened, revealing half of a bone-like finger, emitting a ghastly and immense aura of Yin Corpse.

Chapter 162: Ambush

Facing Lu Zhuo alone with his puppet, who wanted to launch a frantic counterattack.

Mei Changqing's wooden box in hand slowly opened, revealing half a withered bone finger, emitting a chilling and immense aura of a corpse.

"That is..."

Lu Zhuo's expression tightened, showing a trace of deep wariness.

"Even if you blood sacrifice this object to launch one or two invincible attacks, the price you will have to pay will be extremely grievous."

Lu Zhuo's voice deepened, yet his figure was slowly retreating.

His gaze then moved to another side, towards Chen Yu and Tong Yuling.

If he remembered correctly, the other half of the Blood Soul Flower had fallen into the hands of that non-top disciple.

It seemed that there was also a small bud obtained by Chen Yu.

After weighing his options,

Lu Zhuo finally flickered away in retreat, giving up on the half of the Blood Soul Flower at the Bone Demon Palace's side.

At this time.

His bloodline power had depleted quite a bit, and the Bone Demon Palace had the most available hands and strong fighters.

What he feared most

Was the last ace in Mei Changqing's hand.

Peng chi!

Lu Zhuo and the puppet together tore open a gap in the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain and burst through.

Whoosh~

At the exit of the Blood Sky Hall, Mei Changqing's body swayed, his complexion turning pale.

"Brother Mei!"

Jiang Ping and others couldn't help but cry out low, supporting Mei Changqing.

Clearly.

After several tough fights with Lu Zhuo, Mei Changqing's injuries had accumulated, and he had been seriously hurt.

After all, he did not possess the powerful self-healing physique like Chen Yu.

"There is no danger to my life."

Mei Changqing waved his hand, closing the wooden box in his hand, causing that half withered bone finger and the terrifying corpse aura to vanish completely.

"It's good that this person has retreated. Once I sacrifice this object, I can indeed launch one or two attacks close to the Guiyuan Realm, but I will lose a great amount of vital blood and life essence, possibly dropping my cultivation level, and even affecting my future advancement to the Guiyuan Realm."

Mei Changqing murmured.

The object in the box was his biggest trump card, an unbeatable ace.

But this object, unless absolutely necessary, must not be used.

"From now on, I will rest here for three days. No disciple is allowed to act without permission."

Mei Changqing ordered.

Looking at the figure of Lu Zhuo pursuing his prey, he hooked the corner of his mouth with a hint of coldness.

"Brother Mei has a good strategy. There will be a life-and-death fight between Chen Yu and Lu Zhuo. No matter which side wins, we will reap the benefits of the fishermen,"

Yuan Li, the man in battle armor, said with a smile on his face.

Now,

The Bone Demon Palace needs to do nothing but recuperate and bide its time.

...

Swoosh!

After breaking through the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain, Lu Zhuo's first action was to pursue Tong Yuling.

Chen Yu was also pursuing Tong Yuling.

Invisible to each other, the three of them formed a straight line.

Lu Zhuo swallowed two elixirs and, with a gloomy expression, watched the man and woman fleeing ahead.

"Chen Yu! You have repeatedly foiled my good deeds, I will tear you to pieces..."

Lu Zhuo's heart was filled with boundless hatred and murderous intent.

While pursuing Tong Yuling, Chen Yu had already instructed Chen Ying'er to leave with the Purple Fox. He believed that with the fox to protect her, Chen Ying'er would be safer than most.

"Stop right there!"

A cold shout came from the Yunyue Sect team.

Zoom!

Out darted Kun Ling, clad in a purple robe, who held a red-gold broadsword in his hand, blocking Lu Zhuo's path.

Chen Yu, who had run a distance away, saw this scene and cried out in dismay.

On a normal day,

He and Kun Ling did not have a particularly good relationship.

It began with "Qiu Xinxin," where Kun Ling showed some hostility towards him, and later because he felt this person was rather arrogant.

"Chen Yu, last time at the Yan Family Castle, I, Kun, owed you a favor. It's time to repay it now."

Kun Ling said calmly.

Last time at the Yan Family Castle, if it were not for Chen Yu leading the team and arriving just in time, he and Senior Sister Xie Jing would have probably encountered misfortune.

Whizz chi!

He swung his red-gold broadsword, releasing a near-zhang-long Golden Pattern Blade Radiance, where the incisive wind pre-emptively struck Lu Zhuo.

After entering the Blood Burial Garden, Kun Ling also had his gains, and his cultivation had reached the limits of the Organ Refining Stage.

This strike was his peak effort.

At the same moment.

Zeng zeng!

Fang Haofer and Xie Jing attacked Lu Zhuo from both sides.

"Junior Brother Chen, I will also lend you a hand this time to stop this dark kid."

Fang Haofer said with a light chuckle.

"You... you all fall back!"

Chen Yu, who was in pursuit ahead, shouted in alarm.

For the first time, his face showed a touch of urgency and unease.

Kun Ling and the others, who had arrived later, were still unaware of how truly fearsome Lu Zhuo was.

Clank chi! Ding ding!

Lu Zhuo stood in place, striking sparks in all directions while standing firm against Kun Ling's strike, completely immobile and unharmed.

On both sides, the attacks from Fang Haofei and Xie Jing didn't even break Lu Zhuo's skin.

"This... "

Kun Ling was dumbstruck, and the three showed looks of horror.

"A bunch of ants!"

Lu Zhuo, with disdain on his face, stirred up a cluster of dark, gloomy energy on his arm.

Ah!

Kun Ling screamed as he was directly swept by that dark, gloomy energy, his body instantly slashed in two, blood spreading on the spot.

Pong chi!

A trace of the residual dark energy also sent Fang Haoifei and Xie Jing flying.

Among them,

Fang Haoifei had a deep gash across his abdomen, bitterly closing his eyes as his consciousness plunged into silence.

"Brother Kun..."

Seeing Kun Ling's body, Xie Jing's eyes filled with blood, ignoring her serious injuries, and frantically lunged at Lu Zhuo.

"Don't! Senior Sister Xie..."

The two disciples behind her grabbed Xie Jing and pulled her to the ground, not letting her move even in death.

Zoom!

After slaying Kun Ling, Lu Zhuo did not spare another glance and continued chasing in the direction of Chen Yu and Tong Yuling.

"Brother Kun..."

Xie Jing, with tears on her face, fainted in front of Kun Ling's body.

For a long time, she had silently watched over this proud man who, however, harbored feelings for Qiu Xinxin, the number one beauty of the Yunyue Sect's inner sect.

Later,

After Qiu Xinxin's betrayal, she finally had a chance to be with Brother Kun.

At Yan Family Castle, they faced the Infinite Thief and shared life-and-death experiences; in the Blood Burial Garden, they fought side by side...

But all memories halted at the ghastly moment when Kun Ling was cleaved in two.

The death of Kun Ling, along with Fang Haoifei's mysterious disappearance, caused Chen Yu, who was in hot pursuit, to falter in his steps.

A surge of unprecedented murderous intent flickered in Chen Yu's eyes.

"Lu Zhuo! I never bore you intense animosity; I only wanted a share of the Blood Soul Flower. I never imagined you would slay my fellow sect members..."

Chen Yu took a deep breath, suppressing the fury in his chest.

He had never liked Kun Ling, yet he had not expected him to take such a stand and encounter this misfortune.

And Fang Haoifei!

But,

Chen Yu could not linger at this moment.

He must kill Lu Zhuo, but fighting here would endanger his sect brothers and possibly attract the interference of other formidable competitors.

"This is not a suitable place for battle."

Chen Yu gathered strength in his heart, accelerating his pursuit of Tong Yuling.

Tong Yuling's situation was equally dire; if too much time passed, her consciousness would be devoured by that unknown powerhouse, and she would lose herself.

Soon,

Chen Yu noticed that the "Tong Yuling" ahead was running down a familiar path.

At a certain moment,

An ancient, dilapidated temple appeared ahead, shrouded under a layer of the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain.

"It's actually this place!"

Chen Yu watched as "Tong Yuling," with a flash of blood patterns, easily passed through the Array's restrictions and entered deep into the temple.

Wasn't this the very inheritance site where he and Liu Xin'er had spent time?

Zoom!

With one hand, Chen Yu quietly gripped an ancient Token, slicing through the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain to arrive at the temple entrance.

However,

He did not continue to pursue Tong Yuling.

Glancing back,

Chen Yu's expression turned cold as he fixed his gaze on Lu Zhuo, who was nearing the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain.

"Now is the best time to kill this man."

Chen Yu immediately activated his heart.

Thump! Thump-Thump! Thump-Thump-Thump!

Chen Yu's heartbeat quickly reached a critical threshold.

At that moment,

Lu Zhuo's Bloodline Power had been mostly depleted, his strength falling by a fraction.

The biggest threat was the Qi Transformation Realm puppet he possessed.

Smash!

Lu Zhuo let the puppet move forward, swinging a massive sword. Together, they quickly broke through the diminished power of the Array's restrictions.

Just as Lu Zhuo and the puppet entered beneath the curtain of light,

Chen Yu made his move!

Woosh!

An afterimage flickered, and a fierce gust of wind had already enveloped Lu Zhuo.

"So fast!"

Lu Zhuo's face changed dramatically.

He had been on guard against Chen Yu, but never expected the other's speed to suddenly surge to such an extent.

Thump-Thump-Thump! Thump-Thump-Thump!

Chen Yu had entered an "explosive technique," from the depths of his body to his limbs, a vigorous and renewed strength surged forth.

In an instant,

His strength and speed doubled from normal!

Boom!

A large, dark-green shadow of a fist struck Lu Zhuo up close.

Barely managing to invoke his Bloodline Power, Lu Zhuo's forearm shined with black iron patterns and burst forth with a gloomy radiance.

Thump-Thump Stagger—Bang—

That horrifying punch sent Lu Zhuo staggering back several steps, his internal energy roiling, nearly causing him to vomit blood.

Had it not been for his protective beast-skin armor, that punch would have caused him severe injury.

"Prepare to die!"

Just as Chen Yu was about to close in again, Lu Zhuo's figure shifted, taking cover behind the puppet.

The puppet was over ten feet tall, wielding a shield and sword, like an iron wall.

Clang-Clang-Boom!

Holding the Xuan Heavy Sword, Chen Yu, in his explosive state, managed to confront the puppet head-on without defeat.

Even in terms of speed and agility, he was slightly superior to the Qi Transformation Realm puppet.

"This kid..."

Lu Zhuo was shaken, a sense of retreat creeping into his mind.

Facing Chen Yu in his current state, even if Lu Zhuo's Bloodline Power remained at its peak, he might not be able to withstand such a ferocious offensive.

"This puppet's defense is comparable to a Qi Transformation Innate..."

Chen Yu's intense barrage was mostly blocked by the puppet.

Whoosh!

An afterimage flickered, and Chen Yu disappeared from the front of the puppet, retracting the Xuan Heavy Sword into his storage pouch.

Swipe!

In the next instant, Chen Yu's speed, twice that of normal, allowed him to close in on Lu Zhuo from the side.

Lu Zhuo hastily retreated, commanding the puppet to shield him.

Suddenly,

He felt a sharp pain at his feet as something bit him. Caught off guard, he was nearly bitten through the skin.

After all, his Bloodline Power was nearly exhausted, and he couldn't always protect his whole body. Moreover, the Iron Moon Strange Insect, having fed on the Blood Soul Bud, had grown significantly more aggressive in its attacks.

Just as Lu Zhuo's form tensed for an instant,

Swipe!

Chen Yu rapidly closed in, the renewed power surging within him about to erupt from his arm.

Not good!

Lu Zhuo felt a sinking sensation in his breath and blood.

In the crisis, he hastily infused the remaining Bloodline Power and energy into his beast-skin armor.

Buzz!

A layer of purple-green light emanated from the armor, protecting his entire body.

This piece of beast-skin armor was a High Grade Treasure and could form an energy layer that protected his whole body, despite the tremendous energy drain.

Unexpectedly,

As Chen Yu's fist approached, a dull, inconspicuous short sword appeared in his hand.

"Slice!"

Chen Yu channeled the surging power and Inner Qi of his entire body into the Dark Snake Sword.

A bizarre scene unfolded.

Pop~

The Blood Moon of the Blood Burial Garden space shone upon the Dark Snake Sword, casting blood-colored crystalline brilliance upon the blade and boosting its might by over thirty percent!

Chapter 163: Seize the Blood

Plop~

Under the blood moon's luminescence, the short dark grey sword emanated a bloody crystalline brilliance. Dark flowing blood patterns intertwined, its aura burgeoning violently.

"Strike!"

Chen Yu, with his heart unleashing the cultivation technique, channeled all his burgeoning strength and internal breath into this mid-grade poisonous treasure sword.

Not good!

Lu Zhuo, having been closely approached, felt a trace of fatal chill.

However,

He had just been bitten by the Iron Moon Strange Insect, leaving a slight gap and unable to dodge.

All Lu Zhuo could do was to enhance his own protection.

Buzz!

A layer of bluish-purple light film emerged from his beast skin, encasing his whole body, particularly guarding the vital areas of his upper body.

Yet,

Chen Yu suddenly lowered his stance and didn't stab toward the common vital points like Lu Zhuo's head, throat, or heart,

Which were the very points he heavily guarded.

Swoosh!

A dark residual shadow flickered as the Dark Snake Sword slashed across Lu Zhuo's left leg.

The beast skin armor on Lu Zhuo's body was not of full-body type.

Being a high-grade treasure, once fully activated, the energy layer formed could protect the whole body.

However,

Protection in areas without the armor itself was somewhat weaker by two to three tenths.

"Shick."

The bluish-purple light film on Lu Zhuo's left leg was torn open by the Dark Snake Sword, the dull black-iron patterns on his skin, flickering dimly, finally being sliced open.

A flash of blood!

This sword cut only grazed the flesh, not even amounting to a minor injury.

Yet a smug smile crossed Chen Yu's face.

Roll!

He rolled on the ground, swiftly dodging an attack from a puppet behind him.

"Hiss!"

Lu Zhuo felt a numb stiffness in his left leg as the virulent poison began to corrode his entire body.

"This sword..."

Lu Zhuo's complexion drastically changed, his body swaying, the wounded leg darkening with a bruise-purple tinge.

"Hmph, the intense poison of this sword, after several enhancements, even one struck during Postnatal Qi Transformation would hardly escape unscathed."

Chen Yu sneered inwardly.

If Lu Zhuo had been at his peak, with vigorous Bloodline Power, this sword strike of his might not have succeeded.

But now his Bloodline Power was nearly depleted, and his defensive strength sharply reduced by thirty to forty percent.

Besides,

Chen Yu had learned from past lessons; this time, he aimed for the leg.

During that incident in Beishan Spirit Garden, he wounded Shangguan Qi's arm with one strike, expecting him to be undoubtedly dead.

However, Shangguan Qi amputated his arm and barely survived.

"Tsk tsk, if you amputate a leg yourself, you might still stabilize the rampant poison."

Chen Yu smiled sinisterly.

Amputate a leg?

That would mean losing much of his mobility. How could he continue to fight?

Lu Zhuo's face turned a deathly pale yet retained his calm, immediately swallowing a special black elixir.

A flicker of surprise crossed Chen Yu's eyes.

After a few moments, Lu Zhuo's poison had not yet attacked his heart?

On second thought.

Lu Zhuo possessed a robust Bloodline Body, perhaps like him, having a strong resistance to deadly poison.

"To death!"

Chen Yu rushed forward, the Dark Snake Sword striking again under the glow of the blood moon, its attack force enough to intimidate anyone undergoing Postnatal Qi Transformation.

Ding Ding!

Lu Zhuo defended passively, letting the puppet block most of the onslaught.

And,

He kept a vigilant expression, strictly guarding against sneak attacks from the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

In a short time, Chen Yu found it difficult to replicate his initial success.

"The Detoxification Secret Pill I just took has only neutralized thirty to forty percent of the poison. Once my Bloodline Power is completely drained..."

Lu Zhuo became even more anxious inside.

He was mainly relying on the remnant Bloodline Power to suppress and neutralize some of the poison.

At this moment,

He had only two paths left.

To flee, or to fight to the death?

Flee?

He had just killed Chen Yu's fellow disciple, inciting a strong murderous intent in him.

His mobility was reduced due to the leg poisoned; if he fled, his puppet's movement and defense would show flaws.

Fleeing would mean certain death!

"I can only break the cauldrons and sink the boats in one battle..."

Lu Zhuo took a deep breath, his eyes flashing with a grim ferocity.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

He pointed rapidly at over a dozen spots on his body.

The next moment,

From Lu Zhuo's Bloodline, a majestic force was unleashed, his eyes emitting a terrifying divine light.

Whoom!

Instantly, the dark iron patterning on Lu Zhuo's body brightened once more, his Bloodline Power returning to its peak condition.

"This is..." Chen Yu's face changed.

Then, the intense poison in Lu Zhuo's leg was swiftly suppressed, his figure swaying as he charged at Chen Yu aggressively.

"To death!"

Lu Zhuo's arm, as stout as black iron, was wrapped in a deep dark aura, like a rampant black iron wild boar charging at Chen Yu up close.

Chop!

Chen Yu switched to his Xuan Heavy Sword, swiping with a crescent moon-like brilliant silver arc, also unleashing a limit-breaking strike.

Clang Boom!

The dark aura clashed with the silver arc, and both figures retreated simultaneously.

Chen Yu stepped back a few paces, while Lu Zhuo was forced back by about ten meters.

But the next moment.

Swoosh!

A large puppet lunged from another side, slashing a dazzling blood arc.

Not good!

Chen Yu hastily retreated, a "Ding" sound resounding as a shallow blood trace was left on his abdominal area.

The puppet's attack force was comparable to the Postnatal Middle Stage.

Luckily, Chen Yu's swift reaction allowed him to avoid the main attack, only enduring fifty to sixty percent of the residual force.

Swoop! Swoop!

Lu Zhuo and the puppet, from left and right, rapidly lunged again at Chen Yu.

After the recovery of his Bloodline Power, Lu Zhuo was able to control the puppet while simultaneously deploying about eighty percent of his own strength.

Together, they would make anyone undergoing Postnatal Qi Transformation recoil.

"It's unwise to fight head-on."

Chen Yu's mind tensed, quickly retreating into the main hall.

The geographic environment inside this hall was more familiar to him, which was an advantage.

Moreover,

Lu Zhuo's coordination with the puppet was imperfect; the puppet's defense was strong, but its movements, compared to two individuals, were somewhat clumsy.

If Chen Yu did not directly confront but rather used evasive maneuvers, he could protect himself.

"This cunning boy..."

Lu Zhuo, mad with the pursuit, gritted his teeth.

He activated his bloodline potential through a secret technique, restoring himself to his peak condition, but the cost was immense.

Afterward.

He would lapse into weakness, his strength reduced by over half, and his bloodline power would be depleted for at least half a month.

Swoosh! Swish, swish!

Three figures closely followed without giving up, quickly entering the depths of the great hall.

However.

The puppet's speed was a beat or two slower than the two humans; as long as Chen Yu did not confront them head-on, he wouldn't have to face both a person and a puppet at the same time.

"What is this place?"

Lu Zhuo entered the great hall, his face alert.

A breathtakingly majestic statue of a woman, ten zhang tall, dressed in a Lotus Blood Robe, exuded a cold loftiness that seemed to disdain the world.

"So this is the place..." Lu Zhuo mused thoughtfully.

At that moment.

Under the statue of the Blood Robed Woman, a strikingly cold and beautiful young girl was sitting cross-legged, dressed in a Blood Lotus Skirt just like the statue.

"Tong Yuling!"

Chen Yu hardly recognized the girl.

Upon close inspection, one of the stone cabinets where the Lotus Blood Robe had been stored was open and empty.

Without a doubt.

The Lotus Blood Robe on Tong Yuling's body was the very same one from the stone cabinet.

"Hand over the Blood Soul Flower."

Lu Zhuo, seeing the seated Tong Yuling, his eyes lit up.

He remembered this woman was not a top disciple of the three sects; she was now sitting in front of the statue, apparently circulating her cultivation technique.

What an opportunity!

Lu Zhuo, dropping the crafty and troublesome Chen Yu, led his puppet to attack Tong Yuling.

"Damn!"

Chen Yu felt a chill in his heart and spun around to go and rescue Tong Yuling.

Hmph!

Tong Yuling opened her cold, deep eyes; the blood lotus mark on her forehead shimmered with a glistening blood luster.

Suddenly.

Tong Yuling emitted an aura not weaker than that of someone in the Postnatal Qi Transformation stage, though it was strangely cold and unfamiliar.

"Swish!"

A bloody afterimage flickered, and Tong Yuling disappeared from her spot.

Clang chi!

The puppet's giant sword swung, missing its target entirely.

Lu Zhuo was shocked, and so was Chen Yu, who was en route.

At this moment.

Tong Yuling's cultivation had reached the limits of the Organ Refining Stage, with a hint of True Qi flickering within her breath fluctuations.

Whoosh!

The Blood Lotus Skirt on Tong Yuling burst into a flurry of blood lotus shadows, and she astonishingly leapt into the air.

An overwhelming pressure radiated from her.

"How is this possible... are you really..."

Lu Zhuo seemed to realize something, fear apparent on his face.

Boom pong!

Tong Yuling, engulfed in a swarm of bloody lotus shadows, collided with Lu Zhuo.

Bang!

Lu Zhuo was sent flying, spitting a mouthful of blood; his skin's purple-black membrane shattered greatly.

But.

After striking that blow, a moment of pallor crossed Tong Yuling's face as she murmured, "This body's foundation is far too weak..."

This scene caught Lu Zhuo's eye.

Charge!

With gritted teeth, Lu Zhuo quickly maneuvered his puppet to attack Tong Yuling.

"What are you dazed for? Leave the puppet to me, handle him..."

Tong Yuling's icy gaze swept past Chen Yu.

Chen Yu was startled.

Leave the puppet to her to deal with? Knowing that, when it came to a straight fight, the puppet was slightly stronger than Lu Zhuo.

But since she had spoken thus, Chen Yu did not object.

Chen Yu picked up the Xuan Heavy Sword, unleashing a breeze-like delicate silver sword maelstrom, and charged at Lu Zhuo.

Clang clang chi!

That seemingly feather-light silver sword maelstrom forced Lu Zhuo back, his lips dripping with a trace of blood.

Chen Yu was greatly surprised; why had Lu Zhuo weakened?

Turning his head, he got a shock.

On the other side, "Tong Yuling" had transformed into a ghostly bloody shadow, darting around the puppet.

Pop, pop!

"Tong Yuling" reached out a fragile jade finger, pressing several times on certain joints of the puppet.

On each press, the puppet's frame shuddered.

Clearly.

This unfamiliar "Tong Yuling" had a way to specifically curb the puppet, distracting much of Lu Zhuo's attention.

Lu Zhuo was already injured by Tong Yuling's earlier hit, and now diverted in managing the puppet, his strength was only about sixty to seventy percent of his prime.

Under such circumstances, Chen Yu naturally showed no mercy, beating the proverbial drowning man.

Wow!

Lu Zhuo, under Chen Yu's fierce offensive, vomited blood—the blood was dark purple, tainted with poison.

The poison had backfired!

Seeing Lu Zhuo's unsteady form, Chen Yu was overjoyed.

Just as Lu Zhuo was about to pull something else from his storage bag, his foot hurt again, and he screamed.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect attacked once more!

This time, the Iron Moon Strange Insect's entire body shimmered with blood luster; its biting power greatly increased, almost on par with the Postnatal Qi Transformation stage.

It seemed to have digested the earlier chunk of the Blood Soul Bud it had bitten, significantly boosting its strength.

Bang!

A remnant shadow wind struck Lu Zhuo's face, and Chen Yu bodied him out of the air, his internal injuries and virulent poison acting up simultaneously.

As Lu Zhuo was midair, just trying to flip over.

"Stay down!"

Chen Yu roared, soaring into the air, twisting his opponent's arm behind his back and pressing his head vigorously downwards.

Bang!

Lu Zhuo's head hit the floor of the hall hard, blooming painfully, a wave of dizziness washing over him.

"Die!"

Chen Yu exerted tremendous force; with a "crack," he first broke Lu Zhuo's arms.

Lu Zhuo let out a mournful scream, followed by a snap in his neck, losing consciousness, his consciousness sinking into darkness.

Initially.

His head had been brutally twisted off by Chen Yu's raw strength.

"This method really works..."

Chen Yu exhaled deeply.

This primitive method of killing proved more effective than attacking Lu Zhuo's hard shell with swords.

Thump! Thump thump! Thump thump thump!

Chen Yu's heart was still in explosion mode.

Hmm?

Chen Yu realized something was amiss; why hadn't he stopped from this state yet?

Subsequently.

He felt a strange suction force emanating from the center of his heart.

And then, an astonishing scene unfolded.

Whoosh! Pop~

The blood within the dead body of Lu Zhuo surged, seeping through the skin, forming a deep black blood crystal stream that "whooshed" into Chen Yu's body.

Chapter 164: Bloodline of the Black Emperor

"What's going on..."

Chen Yu was horrified, not only had his heart not recovered under the blast technique, but there also seemed to be a magnetic attraction occurring between him and Lu Zhuo's corpse.

Thump! Thump, thump! Thump, thump, thump! f

As his heart beat rapidly, Lu Zhuo's blood inside his body started boiling and surging, seeping out through his skin and condensing into a profound stream of black blood crystals.

This stream of black blood crystals brought Chen Yu a feeling of ancient and formidable aura.

It seemed somewhat similar to the Bloodline Power that Lu Zhuo had exerted, but it was much purer.

Blub~

Inside Lu Zhuo's body, only a lush thick stream of black blood crystals, no longer than a foot or two, had condensed.

The stream of black blood crystals flashed and then darted into Chen Yu's body.

More precisely, it was sucked into his heart.

Underneath their feet, Lu Zhuo's corpse immediately shriveled a bit.

Thump, thump, thump! Thump, thump! Thump!

After absorbing the black blood crystals, Chen Yu finally returned to normal from the effects of the blast technique.

Immediately,

A sensation of weakness came over him; Chen Yu's face turned pale, and his body slightly swayed.

This time,

The heart blast technique had been activated for a relatively long period.

"What just happened?"

Chen Yu, with a face filled with shock, immersed his mind into his heart to check the situation.

The next second,

His thoughts entered a dim, dead silent space.

Here, Chen Yu was not unfamiliar—it was the dead silent space within his heart.

That Light Silver Crystal Space was also located here.

But at the moment,

Another palm-sized black blood vortex had appeared in that dim, dead silent space.

The black blood vortex was slowly rotating, emitting a faint iron blood glow, seemingly the transformed substance of that black blood crystal flow.

"Could it be..."

Chen Yu had a terrifyingly bold thought.

Perhaps,

The source of Lu Zhuo's bloodline had been absorbed into the mysterious heart?

Swoosh!

With a thought, Chen Yu's mind returned to reality.

At that moment,

Not far away, the Lotus Blood Robe Tong Yuling was continuously tapping on the motionless puppet.

Hum!

A layer of bright white light mist flashed on the puppet's body, and its body rapidly shrank, quickly turning into a metallic sphere.

Chen Yu was stunned.

"Just a Postnatal Stage Puppet, and using such space compression tools, what a waste. However, with his cultivation, not being a Puppet Master, he can only control Postnatal Stage puppets as he wishes..."

The Lotus Blood Robe "Tong Yuling" wore a cold smile as she put away the metallic sphere.

At that moment,

Chen Yu picked up the storage bag from Lu Zhuo's body.

"Tsks, quite a stash..."

Chen Yu opened the storage bag and found many heaven-and-earth treasures, including some rare Spiritual Ores.

Excluding the ancient token and the Mysterious Water Moth Lotus, the various other gains on Lu Zhuo's body were even superior to Chen Yu's.

Among them, Chen Yu found several items that could be used to forge High Grade Treasures and some ores whose origins he could not immediately identify.

"Eh! What's this..."

Suddenly, a chest appeared in Chen Yu's hand, its surface rippling with blood-colored crystalline patterns, completely sealed with seals and talisman papers.

From this chest, a terrifying aura that took Chen Yu's breath away emanated.

Suddenly,

Chen Yu recalled a scene he had seen when a bug was scouting.

If he remembered correctly, this chest seemed to contain a True Fire Spirit Flame known as "Blood Crystal Flame."

"Give me the chest!"

A cold voice, carrying an indisputable tone, rang out.

Swoosh!

A fleeting shadow of a blood lotus dashed over, accompanied by a pressure nearly equivalent to that of the Qi Transformation Realm.

It was the Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling."

"Why should I! You are not Tong Yuling, who are you exactly!"

Chen Yu said sternly.

"Then die!"

The face of Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" turned cold.

The Blood Lotus Mark on her forehead emitted a Blood Soul Power that struck directly at the heart, and a vague blood-colored lotus shadow attached to her hand slapped towards Chen Yu.

Chen Yu felt a shake in his spirit, but the spirit of malice from the "Cloud Evil Fist" he cultivated suddenly howled.

The Ice Heart Tears he wore close to his body trembled.

Whap!

A hand enveloped in a vague blood lotus phantom had already slapped in front of him.

Chen Yu instantly felt a pressure nearly equivalent to a punch from the Postnatal Qi Transformation Stage; the strength displayed by this Blood Lotus Tong Yuling was almost on par with Lu Zhuo.

However, at this moment,

Chen Yu was somewhat weakened after activating the blast technique, making it difficult to withstand.

Roll!

In a moment of urgency, Chen Yu's heart gathered strength forcibly, and he fiercely greeted it with a punch.

An unexpected scene occurred.

The moment Chen Yu gathered strength in his heart, he felt a hot stream suddenly surge from the black vortex in that pitch-black space.

Roar!

As he swung that punch, a copper-like glow adorned his arm, now also covered with a layer of black iron patterns, emanating an ancient and formidable strange power.

"Crack!"

The nearing vague blood-colored lotus shadow, nearly as powerful as a Postnatal Qi Transformation strike, shattered on contact under the sweeping iron qi patterns.

Wow!

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" spurted a mouthful of blood and flew backward for dozens of feet, her face filled with astonishment.

"What! How could you possess that boy's 'Emperor's Bloodline'!"

The Blood Robed Woman said in disbelief.

This moment,

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" had a shocked expression on her face as she stared at Chen Yu, her expression changing uncertainly, and even showing a hint of fear at the end.

"Could it be...you are the descendant of the legendary 'Blood-sucking Clan,' capable of devouring others' bloodlines and transforming them into your own?"

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" instinctively stepped back.

If,

Chen Yu was truly the legendary "Blood-sucking Clan," then for a practitioner of the Blood Path like her, he would be a great nemesis and a nightmare.

"Emperor's Bloodline? Blood-sucking Clan?"

Chen Yu was taken aback, looking at his fist where the iron-black patterns were slowly fading, momentarily puzzled.

However, one thing was certain.

He had inexplicably absorbed Lu Zhuo's bloodline and made it his own.

The power of the bloodline exhilarated Chen Yu.

That "Emperor's Bloodline" not only seemed to enhance his defense and strength, it appeared to even amplify the power of his inner energy by a fraction.

No wonder,

Lu Zhuo, with his Peak of Refining Organ power, could suppress Mei Changqing, a genius at the Qi Transformation Realm.

Indeed, this Emperor's Bloodline was too powerful!

Chen Yu had seen the power of bloodlines on Shangguan Qi and Jiang Ping.

Especially with Shangguan Qi, with whom he had even exchanged blows. But compared to the Emperor's Bloodline, there was a world of difference.

"With this bloodline enhancement, I am nearly invincible in the Blood Burial Garden. Even Mei Changqing coming in person, directly fighting him, might not be my match."

Chen Yu was delighted, and his mind briefly merged into the murky space.

That black blood vortex was still spinning, but its volume had slightly reduced.

It seems,

The power of this black blood vortex could not be wastefully unleashed indefinitely.

Even so,

Chen Yu was still very satisfied, as he had obtained this bloodline power out of thin air.

Having it was certainly better than not.

At that moment,

The Blood Lotus Tong Yuling came to her senses.

"Chen Yu, the 'Blood Crystal Flame' in your hand is a very tyrannical Blood Dao Sacred Flame. This flame is not something your mere Organ Refining Stage can control; even at the Qi Transformation Realm, it might not be possible to refine..."

Blood Lotus Tong Yuling spoke.

Chen Yu grinned, "Then I'll just wait till I reach the Qi Transformation Realm to try it. If that doesn't work, I'll wait till the Guiyuan Realm."

Now, with the Emperor's Bloodline empowering him, he was completely fearless towards the Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling," but he didn't know how to restore the real Tong Yuling.

"You..."

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" faltered, unable to fight back.

She was annoyed internally, knowing from her memories that this kid was only a Half Spirit Body and was fortunate enough to advance to the Qi Transformation Realm, yet he was absurdly dreaming of reaching the Guiyuan Realm.

"How about this, I'll trade my puppet orb for it. You've seen this puppet's strength; its defensive power is comparable to Qi Transformation Innate."

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" didn't give up.

"Agreed. But you must come out of Tong Yuling's body."

Chen Yu pondered briefly before responding.

The level of the 'Blood Crystal Flame' was indeed too high, with little hope before reaching the Qi Transformation Realm.

Even at the Qi Transformation Realm, it would be difficult to refine it for oneself.

Moreover, the box couldn't fit in the Light Silver Crystal Space, and even if he brought it back, the flame wasn't likely to be his.

Hearing Chen Yu's demand, Blood Lotus Tong Yuling showed a troubled expression.

"That's impossible! In the Blood Burial Garden, it's hard to find another body suitable for me."

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" denied.

Upon hearing this,

Chen Yu's eyes flashed severely, "If you don't come out, I'll force you out!"

"Giggle..."

Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling" chuckled lightly, "Indeed, I can't defeat you now. But you are not a Soul Cultivator, nor do you know any spiritual secret techniques, you can't harm me, only injure this girl's body."

Chen Yu frowned.

"I have a compromise here. Take out that Blood Soul Bud and add half of the Blood Soul Flower from my side, and it might just be possible to create a Blood Soul Body."

The Blood Robed Woman proposed.

"A Blood Soul Body? How can I trust that you'll actually come out?"

Chen Yu spoke coldly.

"Giggle... Once the Blood Soul Body is formed, its potential will at least be on par with that of a High Grade Spirit Body. Why would I stay attached to this girl's body then?"

The Blood Robed Woman laughed.

After hearing her out, Chen Yu felt there was some reason to her words.

A High Grade Spirit Body potential, in all of Chu Country, couldn't be found.

Even Mei Changqing at most had High Grade Spirit Body potential. And, Tong Yuling herself did not have high qualifications.

Seeing this,

Chen Yu hesitated, took out the partially bitten Blood Soul Bud from the Light Silver Crystal Space, and decided to test her reaction.

He naturally wasn't willing to easily hand over the Blood Soul Bud to her, as he hadn't found her weakness yet.

Seeing the Blood Soul Bud, a fervent look appeared in the eyes of Blood Lotus "Tong Yuling."

"Kid, don't be fooled by this woman."

A childish voice rang in Chen Yu's mind.

Eh?

Chen Yu's heart stirred, looking at the Blood Soul Bud, was the voice coming from there?

"Chen Yu, don't listen to the words of this Flower Spirit. Once I start to create the Blood Soul Body, it will need to be eradicated and will naturally try to stop you."

The Blood Robed Woman quickly said.

"Kid! Listen to me, knock this woman unconscious, I promise I have a way to help you drive her out."

The childish voice urgently said.

Seeing the two sides argue and refusing to compromise,

Chen Yu sighed, "One says one thing, one says another, who should I believe?"

However,

After weighing his options, Chen Yu decided to first follow the "Blood Soul Flower Spirit's" approach.

In his view, humans' cunning was definitely above that of the Flower Spirit. Moreover, following this approach, he could still keep the Blood Soul Bud.

"Your Honor, perhaps you should try knocking yourself unconscious."

Chen Yu looked at Blood Lotus Tong Yuling.

After a while, the weakness inside him had greatly diminished, nearly back to normal.

Further empowered by the "Emperor's Bloodline," he felt confident in overcoming the Blood Robed Woman.

"Young one! To think you would rather listen to this cunning Flower Spirit!"

The Blood Robed Woman resentfully gritted her teeth and transformed into a streak of blood lotus shadow, fleeing toward the great hall's exterior.

Chapter 165: Heart of Eternity

Seeing the Blood Lotus Woman transform into a residual shadow, she fled towards the outside of the grand hall.

"Where do you think you're going!"

Chen Yu was prepared, his heart suddenly storing power, a flash of black iron patterns on his body, and his speed approaching an explosive technique.

Shua la!

A streak of black pattern, and Chen Yu suddenly intercepted the Blood Lotus Woman, just about to make his move to restrain her.

"Hehehe..."

A childish, milky voice, filled with smugness, echoed in the void.

"Damn it!"

The Blood Lotus Woman cried out in alarm.

Crack!

The sealing box in Chen Yu's other hand had its bottommost seal suddenly crack.

The surface of the box emitted a thick black smoke, showing some fractures, seeping out strands of glassy blood flames.

"That is..."

An aura that made Chen Yu's hair stand on end, truly terrifying, burst forth as the box exploded.

Not just Chen Yu.

In the eyes of the Blood Lotus Woman, too, there emerged a deep fear, and even despair.

Pu pu pu!

Immediately after, blossoms of crystal-like blood flames erupted from the box, engulfing Chen Yu in an instant.

"Hahaha! Foolish humans, these Blood Crystal Flames, as companions to the Blood Soul Flower, I do have a certain control over them..."

The childish, milky voice was brimming with smugness.

Run!

Seeing Chen Yu being engulfed by the Blood Crystal Flames, the Blood Lotus Woman didn't look back as she retreated into the grand hall.

"Where are you running to!"

The childish, milky voice, full of cold bloodthirst.

Pu sha!

One of the Blood Crystal Flames transformed into a giant net of blood flames, trapping Blood Lotus Tong Yuling within it.

In an instant.

Both Chen Yu and Blood Lotus Tong Yuling were swallowed by the terrifying Blood Crystal Flames.

The power of these flames was such that even someone in the Qi Transformation Realm, touched by it, would have their flesh and blood eroded, turning into a puddle of bloody residue.

"No"

The voice of Blood Lotus Tong Yuling was chilling, filled with despair and unwillingness.

She gritted her teeth, her hands forming gestures, the Blood Lotus Mark on her brow flickering with bright blood crystal light.

Then.

Her Blood Lotus Robe surged with a brilliant bloodlight, blooming into a water-tank-sized shadow of a blood lotus, enveloping her entirely.

That moment.

The defensive power formed by Blood Lotus Tong Yuling exceeded Lu Zhuo's beast skin armor. The grade of her Blood Lotus Robe was comparable to that Blood Sun Pearl.

However.

As the glassy blood flames approached, the shadow of the blood lotus violently shook and suddenly dimmed, shattering.

It could not withstand a single blow.

Even Elder Mao, Guardian Shangguan, of the Qi Transformation Innate level, once surrounded by these flames, would meet a fate of certain death.

Weng!

The Blood Lotus Mark on Blood Lotus Tong Yuling's brow suddenly flashed, transforming into a transparent shadow of a blood lotus, attempting to escape like a cicada shedding its skin.

"A lonely remnant soul trying to flee? Give up your futile struggle and accept your death graciously!"

The childish, milky voice, full of mockery.

Whoosh~

Transparent blood flames illuminated from within the glassy blood flames, "pu" sound, forcing the fleeing shadow of the blood lotus soul back.

Crack!

The shadow of the blood lotus soul dimmed and shattered, dispersing and merging back into Tong Yuling's forehead, forming a vivid and beautiful Blood Lotus Mark, its aura subtly changing.

Just then.

The glassy blood flames broke through the shadow of the blood lotus around Tong Yuling, about to completely engulf her.

At this moment, a sudden change occurred.

Wu hu! Dong dong! Dong dong!

A strange pulling force, accompanied by heartbeats that seemed to shake heaven and earth, caused the surrounding Blood Crystal Flames to quiver uncontrollably, shooting towards one direction.

"What's going on!"

The childish, milky voice let out an enraged roar.

The source of the pulling force came from Chen Yu, who was the first to be enveloped by the Blood Crystal Flames.

The moment before.

It clearly saw that Chen Yu was swallowed by the glassy blood flames, his body's flesh and blood quickly igniting, disintegrating.

Even though Chen Yu's body surface showed copper patterns and black iron patterns, in the face of the Blood Crystal Flames, there was no significant resistance.

And then.

The Blood Soul Flower Spirit's attention was all on dealing with Blood Lotus Tong Yuling and it did not closely monitor Chen Yu, thinking the latter had already turned into a puddle of blood.

Chen Yu didn't turn into blood water as quickly as imagined.

In that instant of life and death crisis, he not only ran the Copper Statue Technique and "Black Emperor's Bloodline" for protection.

Dong dong! Dong dong dong!

His mysterious heart, under immense pressure, suddenly entered an explosive state again.

Chen Yu's body, burning under the glassy blood flames, rapidly disintegrated and dissolved, yet healed at an astonishing speed.

"It turns out that under the explosive state, the body's self-healing ability is also twice the usual..."

Chen Yu discovered this point.

Only.

The power of the Blood Crystal Flames was too terrifying; even with double the self-healing ability, nearly invincible, he could not avoid being ignited and corroded by the flames.

"Could it be that this is the end..."

Chen Yu roared frantically in his mind, pushing the powers of the mysterious heart, the Copper Statue Technique, Yun Sha internal breath, Black Emperor's Bloodline... all the forces he could muster to their limits.

In that instant of life and death.

Chen Yu felt the Yun Sha internal breath advance once again, bursting forth with an aura nearly like Postnatal True Qi fierceness, exuding a wild and unrestrained Evil Qi.

The Copper Statue Technique also awakened potential, reaching the pinnacle of a level near the copper bone layer.

Dong! Dong dong dong! Dong dong!

The mysterious heart seemed to feel its master's urgent crisis, entering a peculiar state of irregular pacing.

Suddenly.

Chen Yu felt a forbidden aura, emanating from the depths of his heart, leaking a trace.

Weng hong!

Just that trace of forbidden aura caused the surrounding void, the grand hall, to transmit a faint sensation of vibration.

Dong! Dong dong!

Every beat of the mysterious heart seemed to touch the pulse of the world, and a part of the void seemed to develop some form of double image.

Whirl!

The next moment, the invading Blood Crystal Flame inside his body was suppressed by an overwhelmingly powerful force, causing it to shudder uncontrollably.

Then,

All the Blood Crystal Flames, whether inside or outside his body, were drawn and contracted into a corner within Chen Yu's body by an invisible, domineering power.

...

At the same moment,

Outside the Blood Burial Garden, in the battlefield area of Lu Yun City.

Boom~

Under the blood moon, the massive "Blood-colored Light Screen" exhibited strange overlays and slight tremors, ushering in a ripple of spatial fluctuation.

"What's going on! The space inside the Blood Burial Garden seems somewhat unstable."

"The projection of this secret realm's space appears to be shaking."

"What on earth has happened inside the Blood Burial Garden to cause such anomalies..."

The elites of the Bone Demon Palace and the Three Sects Camp looked on with horror-stricken faces.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Numerous high-ranking individuals at the Qi Transformation Realm quickly vacated the area around the "Blood-colored Light Screen."

"Your Excellency, what exactly is happening? If the Blood Burial Garden's secret realm collapses, even those at the Guiyuan Realm inside would hardly escape."

Palace Master Fu looked very displeased.

Among those inside the Blood Burial Garden were the elite disciples of the Bone Demon Palace, including his direct disciple, Mei Changqing.

"This is too unusual! The space within the Blood Burial Garden has always been stable—estimated to last at least a millennium. Could it be, something unknown has occurred inside?"

The Blood Robed Handsome Man expressed his confusion.

Suddenly,

He thought of something, flipped his hand, and a broken soul token appeared in his palm.

This shattered soul token was streaked with traces of black blood.

"Impossible! With Lu Zhuo's strength, how could he die in the Blood Burial Garden!"

The Blood Robed Handsome Man roared in disbelief, his face a picture of denial.

"Hmm? Are you saying that the junior you brought along has died in the Blood Burial Garden?"

Palace Master Fu's face revealed a hint of shock.

Immediately,

His expression changed as he likewise retrieved a soul token.

"Thank goodness..."

Palace Master Fu let out a sigh of relief, finding the soul token he held intact.

At least Mei Changqing had not yet met with any mishap.

"Lu Zhuo, who possesses the 'Black Emperor's Bloodline', along with that defensively formidable puppet, how could he have died..."

The Blood Robed Man's face was ashen, his mood dark and heavy, unable to accept this reality.

...

Inside the ruined palace,

The rampaging Blood Crystal Flames all burrowed into Chen Yu's body and gradually subsided.

At this moment,

Within the flesh of Chen Yu's left arm, there was a ball of Blood Crystal Flame, compressed to its limits, as transparent as crystal, wrapped in a layer of a blood cocoon.

Thump thump! Thump thump!

The sound of an invisible heartbeat, with each pulse, caused the crystal-clear Blood Crystal Flame to tremble and compress further.

Until a certain moment,

The compressed ball of Blood Crystal Flame within the blood cocoon formed a crystal bead the size of a thumb, which then stilled into eerie silence.

"Ahh, why has this happened..."

In the void, came a childish, tearful voice, filled with reluctance.

But at that moment,

Chen Yu's consciousness had plummeted into an endless dark abyss.

"Where is this..."

Chen Yu's consciousness was muddled, feeling like he was within a dream.

Swish!

In the darkness suddenly emerged the sound of a heartbeat.

In the blurry vision, a familiar crystal heart appeared as if in a dream.

Then,

Beneath the crystal heart appeared a pair of slender female wrists cradling it.

"Who is it?"

Chen Yu widened his eyes, vaguely making out the silhouette of a woman.

The woman's hands were cradling a crystal heart, her figure indistinct, her face faintly showed beauty beyond this world, with a trace of determination and maternal love.

Squeal! Waaah!

An infant's loud cries echoed, so close to the crystal heart in front.

Swish!

Chen Yu suddenly realized, his consciousness had fused with the infant's.

"What's happening! I've become this infant?"

Chen Yu was horrified.

This must be a dream!

Suddenly, he heard a man's voice beside him, "Is this... the Eternal Heart? Can it change Yu'er's cursed body?"

A pair of rough hands conveyed a warm and solid touch.

"Husband, Yu'er, goodbye!"

"In exchange for my death, never to reincarnate, activate... the...blessing... of...death... speech..."

The woman suddenly let out a sigh that seemed to last forever and chanted a series of obscure incantations.

With the incantations, her body slowly dissolved, emitting a sacred brilliance, enveloping both the infant and the crystal heart in its glow.

At the same time,

The infant's arm was cut, a trickle of blood flowing out, merging with the sacred brilliance and the incantations into the crystal heart named "Eternal Heart."

Wah wah!

The infant that Chen Yu had become cried out in pain, completely out of control.

Thump thump! Thump thump!

Immediately, he felt a heartbeat from the depths of the void synchronize with his own.

Boom! Whoosh!

In the vision, the heart suddenly struggled fiercely, transforming into a brilliant rainbow of crystal light and vanished into thin air.

"Where do you think you're going!"

The man bellowed angrily, a force beyond description shaking the heavens and earth, his towering figure tearing through space, pursuing across the void.

The next moment,

The vision before his eyes disappeared, and everything reverted to darkness.

The dream ended.

Chen Yu opened his eyes, his body drenched in cold sweat, to find himself lying on top of a brightly beautiful girl, a sensation of softness and fragrance enveloping him.

"Junior Brother Chen, you're awake..."

Chapter 166: Dividing the Spoils

"Junior Brother Chen, you're awake..."

A familiar girl's voice, filled with joy.

Chen Yu opened his eyes and found his back drenched with cold sweat, his body completely bare, lying on top of a strikingly beautiful girl.

"Tong Yuling?"

In his line of sight, he saw a face as lovely as a peach blossom, with a bright red blood lotus mark between her eyebrows, exuding a dignified and mysterious aura.

At this moment, Tong Yuling's skin was white as jade and smooth as silk, glowing warmly, her beauty outshining her past appearance.

"Junior Brother Chen, you seemed to be having a nightmare just now."

Tong Yuling's face turned red as she avoided Chen Yu's bronzed, masculine body.

A nightmare?

Chen Yu noticed tear stains on his cheeks.

Suddenly.

He remembered that in that bizarre dream, he had turned into a baby, crying his heart out.

The dream was very strange yet brought him a feeling of familiarity.

He vaguely remembered.

In the dream, there appeared a mysterious heart, and a couple seemed to give Chen Yu a sense of kinship.

"Suppose that dream was real. But my parents in the secular Chen Family certainly do not possess such awe-inspiring abilities..."

Chen Yu frowned slightly.

Just then.

Chen Yu realized the awkwardness of the atmosphere, as he was almost naked, his skin intimately against the delicate girl, Tong Yuling.

Tong Yuling's face was flushed red, her hands clutching her skirt, seeming very nervous and at a loss.

Chen Yu smiled wryly and immediately took a Yunyue Sect uniform out of his storage bag to put on.

Then, something occurred to him.

"Senior Sister Tong, what happened after I fell into a deep sleep? Are you back to normal now?"

Chen Yu quickly checked his body.

There wasn't a single scar on his body. The injuries perviously caused by the Blood Crystal Flame had all been healed by his body's strong self-recovery ability.

Additionally.

He sensed in his left arm a blood cocoon, enclosing a crystal clear blood bead the size of a thumb.

This bead enclosed intensely compressed Blood Flame's essence, identical to the Blood Crystal Flame, but completely dormant now.

"It seems that all the Blood Crystal Flame has been absorbed by Junior Brother Chen's body..."

Tong Yuling explained.

"As for me, there are some additional fragments of memory in my mind, even another life's experiences."

Complex and confused emotions flickered through Tong Yuling's bright eyes.

She couldn't even distinguish whether she was truly Tong Yuling or another awe-inspiring, peerlessly elegant practitioner of Blood Path.

However.

This young man in front of her loomed large in her memories, and she had no small fondness for him.

Chen Yu stared at Tong Yuling, deep in thought.

No matter what, Tong Yuling at least dominated this body for now, and the other memory fragments might influence her personality, for better or for worse.

"By the way, give this to Brother Chen."

Tong Yuling handed over a small metallic sphere.

Chen Yu paused, slightly hesitant.

Tong Yuling hastily said: "Junior Brother Chen saved Yuling once again, and the other half of the Blood Soul Flower has been sealed inside my body..."

After speaking,

Tong Yuling looked somewhat embarrassed.

After all.

The Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower had been acquired by Chen Yu and Lu Zhuo among other top disciples through life-and-death struggles.

"No worries."

Chen Yu waved his hand and accepted the metal sphere.

The massive lifeblood and Blood Soul Power contained in the Blood Soul Flower were not something he could bear or absorb.

He couldn't monopolize this flower. Taking it back would only bring trouble to Yunyue Sect.

And this small metal sphere could activate a Postnatal Stage Puppet with defensive power comparable to Qi Transformation Innate, which was more practical for Chen Yu.

Following this,

Tong Yuling shared the method to activate the small metal sphere, teaching him the technique to refine and control the puppet.

Chen Yu, half-believing, pondered over the technique once.

This technique involved the use of spiritual power. With his cultivation in Cloud Evil Fist reaching the peak realm, Chen Yu's spiritual power was far stronger than his peers.

An hour later,

Chen Yu had initially mastered the technique and activated the metal sphere.

Buzz!

The metal sphere unfolded, brilliant white light fog flashed, revealing a puppet about a zhang tall, covered in black armor.

Chen Yu estimated that even the puppet's sword, shield, and armor's hardness were comparable to High Grade Treasures.

Tong Yuling pressed a couple of points under the puppet's armpit.

Click!

The sound of a mechanism echoed as a compartment inside the puppet's armpit opened, revealing four shiny, slightly dim yuan stones embedded in an Array.

"These are four genuine yuan stones, half consumed. More can be replaced after they are spent..."

Tong Yuling explained the principle.

Chen Yu marveled, controlling the sword and shield puppet with the spiritual technique.

But initially,

Chen Yu's control over the puppet was not very smooth.

The sword and shield puppet made a series of attacking and defending moves in front of him, appearing somewhat clumsy and amusing.

Just then, footsteps came from outside the great hall.

Instantly, Chen Yu used the spiritual technique to shrink the sword and shield puppet into a metal sphere and stuffed it into his storage bag.

Soon,

A purple fox, leading a charming young girl, entered the ancient hall.

"Ying'er."

Chen Yu's expression changed as he quickly got up.

"Hehe, luckily Xiao Zi led the way, or else I wouldn't have found Brother Yu so quickly."

Chen Ying'er beamed with joy.

Swoosh!

The Purple Fox leapt onto Chen Ying'er's shoulder, its gaze fixed intensely on Chen Yu.

It looked as though Chen Yu owed it several million yuan stones.

"Brother Yu, it's asking you for the Blood Soul Flower."

Chen Ying'er said mischievously.

Chen Yu gave a bitter smile and showed a look of difficulty.

The ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower was split in two—half was obtained by the Bone Demon Palace, the other half was ingested by Tong Yuling.

"In fact, a significant portion of the essence of the Blood Soul Flower is concentrated in the Blood Soul Bud. Consuming this bud nurtures the soul, enriches the spirit, and boosts life potential. For those below the Guiyuan Realm, its significance is extraordinary."

Tong Yuling opened her mouth with a smile upon hearing this.

Chen Yu took out the Blood Soul Bud, which had been bitten once.

Once this object appeared,

The purple fox got excited and started jumping up and down.

Swoosh!

At the same moment, a silver-spotted, black speck dashed out and came in front of Chen Yu.

It was the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

Both spirit pets looked expectedly at the Blood Soul Bud.

"This Blood Soul Bud contains extremely pure Blood Soul Essence. It is more than enough for the two of you and your two pets to share."

Tong Yuling suggested.

Chen Yu nodded and prepared to share the Blood Soul Bud.

But suddenly,

A fierce light flashed in his eyes, skimming over the purple fox on Chen Ying'er's shoulder.

Swish!

Chen Yu's body flashed with black iron markings, and with his heart gathering strength, he turned into an afterimage and swiftly grabbed for the Purple Fox.

The Purple Fox screamed, a flash of shock crossing its eyes as it blurred into a purple shadow.

Eh?

Chen Yu's grasp failed by an inch.

This fox's speed was not inferior to Chen Yu's, who was powering his heart and activating his black iron bloodline.

In terms of agility and nimbleness, it was even somewhat superior.

However,

Right as the fox dodged, a bloody afterglow streaked by its side.

Plop!

A mass of bloody aura shadow enveloped the Purple Fox from a distance, causing it to halt mid-air.

It was Tong Yuling, who acted with a smiling demeanour.

The strength she displayed at this moment was almost comparable to the Postnatal Qi Transformation, and her techniques surpassed those of an ordinary Qi Transformation Realm.

"Where do you think you're going?"

Chen Yu's heart gathered its maximum power and his black emperor bloodline activated, his speed faintly surpassing that of Lu Zhuo at his peak.

The Purple Fox only felt a formidable evil qi, accompanying a punch, hitting its body, making it completely disoriented.

The next moment,

It was held mid-air by Chen Yu, its limbs scrabbling, but to no avail.

Chen Yu's arm, as solid as a steel clamp, held it tight.

"Brother Yu, what are you doing..."

Chen Ying'er looked anxious and distressed, almost on the verge of crying.

The captured Purple Fox immediately showed a tearful, pitiful expression, arousing sympathy.

"What kind of spirit pet contract did you sign with this fox?"

Chen Yu asked sternly.

"Of course, it's an equal contract! Little Purple was very helpful to me in the Blood Burial Garden, and I gained quite a lot..."

Chen Ying'er replied as if it were a matter of course.

Chen Yu sneered and immediately recounted the "historical truth" of signing contracts with ancient beasts, from three to four hundred years ago.

"This type of contract is not solid, mainly because it imposes no restrictions on the spirit pets. The ancient beasts and rare birds within the Blood Burial Garden can indeed exploit this loophole to escape from this place..."

Tong Yuling nodded in agreement.

Under the influence of both, Chen Ying'er finally showed a trace of doubt and fear.

"Fox! If you want to live, or truly want to follow Ying'er, then sign an ordinary spirit pet contract."

Chen Yu said threateningly, his face carrying a hint of evil qi.

Upon hearing this,

The Purple Fox struggled desperately and shook its head, showing a firm refusal.

"I think it's better like this. Ying'er can sign a 'life-and-death equal contract' with it, where both sides interact sincerely and are absolutely equal, and neither can harm the other."

Tong Yuling suggested.

Life-and-death?

Chen Yu was taken aback and looked at Tong Yuling questioningly.

Tong Yuling secretly transmitted her voice: "This fox possesses the rare 'Heavenly Fox' bloodline, its potential far surpasses ordinary ancient beasts and is almost comparable to some legendary Holy Beasts. It's already fortunate that Ying'er can sign such a restrictive equal contract with it."

Heavenly Fox bloodline?

Chen Yu was greatly surprised; this was the bloodline of a legendary top-grade ancient beast.

As for the life-and-death situation, with the fox's strength and potential, it was actually in favor of Chen Ying'er.

"Moreover, after signing this contract, outsiders will find it hard to take this spirit pet away from Ying'er's hands."

Tong Yuling added.

"Okay."

Chen Yu nodded.

After pondering for a long time, the Purple Fox finally agreed to sign the life-and-death equal contract.

After all, the fox was trapped in the Blood Burial Garden as a nutrient source being extracted from. Now it was completely controlled by Chen Yu.

Moments later,

Chen Ying'er and the Purple Fox both slashed their palms, and with Tong Yuling's guidance, their fresh blood formed a complex, blurred pattern of blood marks in mid-air.

The pattern twisted and soon turned into an indistinct fluctuation that merged into both Chen Ying'er and the Purple Fox.

Afterwards,

Chen Yu, Chen Ying'er, and the two spirit pets began to share the Blood Soul Bud.

Pluck!

The Blood Soul Bud was divided into four pieces, each person and spirit pet taking a share.

"Ah..."

In the void, a babyish voice screamed in pain.

Tong Yuling, however, declined to partake, as she had already obtained half of the Blood Soul Flower and it was preserved within her body, likely taking a long time to absorb.

Pop, pop, pop!

First, the two spirit pets quickly devoured their respective shares of the Blood Soul Bud.

After consuming its portion, the Iron Moon Strange Insect showed a vivid layer of blood-colored light film emerging on its surface, its brightness growing stronger.

After a long while,

The insect's blood-colored light film condensed into a layer of blood cocoon and quickly fell silent.

"Congratulations Junior Brother Chen, the Iron Moon Corpse Worm was already of an extraordinary grade, and this one is even a variant. After consuming the Blood Soul Bud, its potential grade will

increase even further. Once this insect awakens, it will at least be a Treasure Insect of the Postnatal Qi Transformation stage!"

Tong Yuling said with a smiling expression.

Chapter 167: Cloud Evil True Qi

"...After awakening, this insect is at least a Postnatal Qi Transformation precious pet!"

Upon hearing Tong Yuling's congratulations, Chen Yu naturally brimmed with elation.

One must know that some ancient beasts and Treasure Insects often possess combat strength that far surpasses humans of the same level.

One could conjecture.

Before long, Chen Yu would possess a powerful Postnatal precious pet whose value and practicality could make even the elders of the Qi Transformation Realm within the sects envious.

Meanwhile,

Chen Ying'er's Purple Fox had also ingested a Blood Soul Bud but did not fall into slumber like the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

The fox sat cross-legged on the spot, with strands of purple blood Qi patterns wafting around its body as its aura rapidly entered the Qi Transformation Realm.

"This Spiritual Fox was originally of the Qi Transformation Realm, but it was weakened due to the influence of the 'Blood Absorption Array' in the Central Garden."

Tong Yuling murmured.

Behind the two pets, Chen Yu and Chen Ying'er prepared to ingest their respective portions of the Blood Soul Bud.

"Wait."

Tong Yuling spoke, "Given the physique of humans, especially at the Refining Organ Stage Cultivation, ingesting the Blood Soul Bud, even just one quarter of a small portion will lead to the loss of much of the Blood Soul Essence, which is quite regrettable."

Immediately,

Tong Yuling imparted to them a mental method for refining and absorbing.

This method was specifically for the Blood Soul Essence. Even if one couldn't absorb it all, it could indirectly seal some of it, reducing the loss.

An hour later,

Chen Yu both had learned this simple method of refinement.

Plop!

Chen Yu sat cross-legged, and upon chewing a broad bean-sized portion of the bud, it released a sweet juice and a refreshing, soul-stirring fragrance.

Chen Yu's consciousness trembled.

He suddenly felt a gentle and immense warmth, like that of a hot spring, merging into his consciousness.

This was the essence of Blood Soul within the Blood Soul Essence, which could nurture the soul.

Suddenly,

Chen Yu felt his spirit, and even his spiritual Evil Qi, distinctly nourished and strengthened.

Hu wo!

Simultaneously, another component of Blood Soul Essence called "life essence," bloomed like flowers within his body, quickly merging into his blood and breath.

However,

The volume of the Blood Soul Essence was too vast, beyond what one at the Refining Organ Stage could fully absorb. Even refining a small part of it was a tremendous opportunity.

Chen Yu was just about to employ the absorption method imparted by Tong Yuling.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The mysterious heart began beating faster, exuding a familiar "suction force".

In an instant,

All the Blood Soul Essence and life essence rapidly gathered inside his body, centering on the heart, compressing within the blood and the bones.

The Blood Soul Essence trickled into the spirit.

The life essence fused into his inner Qi, blood, bone, even partially absorbed by the heart itself.

Buzz!

Within the mysterious heart, a black blood vortex floating in a dim space, grew a notch larger after absorbing a considerable amount of life essence.

In no time,

This black blood vortex expanded to the size of a bamboo basket.

Chen Yu's face showed elation, and at that moment, the life essence scattered throughout his body.

Eh?

Not far away, Tong Yuling, who was paying attention to Chen Yu's condition, couldn't help but show a surprised expression.

After Chen Yu had ingested a portion of the Blood Soul Bud, there was almost no leak of blood path Qi.

He absorbed it entirely?

Tong Yuling was astounded.

In contrast, Chen Ying'er exhibited a layer of blood-colored ripples on her body and, despite utilizing the absorption method, lost at least half of the Blood Soul Essence.

At this time,

Chen Yu's inner breath surged violently, and a powerful wave of spiritual Evil Qi emerged from his body.

The force of that Evil Qi made the nearby Purple Fox, which had recovered to the Qi Transformation Realm, subconsciously distance itself from Chen Yu.

Not only that,

As the Evil Qi grew more robust, Chen Yu's inner breath continued to condense and climb.

Puhu~

From time to time, thin, distinctly visible black-green Qi patterns emerged on Chen Yu's body.

By the end,

Above the nape of his neck, a black-green Qi shadow in the shape of a Blood Python appeared, roaring and exuding raging Evil Qi.

The might of this Evil Qi was enough to unsettle even those in the Postnatal Qi Transformation stage.

Tong Yuling's eyes flickered with surprise and complexity, as if she understood something.

At a certain moment,

Wu!

Chen Yu let out a long roar, with a wave of black-green Qi force rippling across several meters.

Within the wave, a few strands of black-green Qi patterns were mixed with a fluctuation unique to True Qi.

"Heh heh, is this the Postnatal True Qi?"

Chen Yu spread his palm, and several looping black-green Qi patterns appeared, their strength seemingly slightly greater than that of Mei Changqing.

It was just that in quantity, it was far less than Mei Changqing's.

Within the Dan Field Qi Sea,

At the center of an invisible swirl of inner breath, a profound black-green Qi mass appeared, tiny in size, less than one-tenth of the inner breath swirl.

True Qi and inner breath are vastly different.

First, inner breath is difficult to see with the naked eye, generally only leaving corresponding traces of force, and once leaving the body, it dissipates quickly.

True Qi, however, is a visible form of Qi energy, more condensed, and on a much higher level.

"Junior Brother Chen possesses the fortune of a Half Spirit Body, to be able to condense Postnatal True Qi at the Refining Organ Stage, truly is a person of great destiny..."

Tong Yuling couldn't help but feel emotional.

In another lifetime of memories she received, it was extremely tough for a Half Spirit Body to break through to the Qi Transformation Realm and often came with a considerable cost.

For someone like Chen Yu, with the talent of a Half Spirit Body at just fifteen years of age, to be able to condense Postnatal True Qi in advance, this was truly extraordinary.

To condense Postnatal True Qi in advance during the Refining Organ Stage brings many benefits.

First comes greater combat power.

Chen Yu's inner breath was already close to the might of ordinary Postnatal True Qi, and if mixed with this Evil Qi of Cloud, he could fight on equal footing with the average Postnatal Qi Transformation person.

Furthermore,

Cultivating Postnatal True Qi in advance means greater potential, making the breakthrough to the Qi Transformation Realm almost a given.

Hu!

Chen Yu let out a long breath and withdrew the Cloud Evil True Qi from his palm, feeling deeply moved inside.

It was only because of the once-in-a-century opportunity that arose with the opening of the Blood Burial Garden, combined with his desperate struggle, that he was able to have such great fortune bestowed upon him.

Now it seemed,

At twenty years old, or even before eighteen, advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm would be no difficult task for Chen Yu.

Half a day later,

Chen Yu and Chen Ying'er had initially absorbed the power of the Blood Soul Bud, and much of it was still stored deep within their bodies.

In fact,

The greatest benefit from the Blood Soul Bud was on the level of the soul.

Both Chen Yu and Chen Ying'er found a significant enhancement in their souls and spiritual power.

Especially Chen Yu, who had maximized the absorption of the Blood Soul Bud, felt his spiritual power expanding. A slight release of his malicious intent was enough to make an average Refining Organ Stage cultivator collapse, losing all will to fight.

It was precisely because of this increase in malicious intent on a spiritual level that prompted the "Cloud Evil Fist" to condense the Cloud Evil True Qi ahead of time.

"Junior Brother Chen, I have a premonition that the spatial fluctuations of the Blood Burial Garden are abnormal. I'm afraid this secret realm space will close prematurely..."

Tong Yuling suggested leaving.

Chen Yu was greatly surprised, as based on previous statements, the Blood Burial Garden should last at least half a month.

Now, it had been only six or seven days.

Before leaving,

The three of them gave Lu Zhuo's corpse one last glance.

Chen Yu thought for a moment, stripped off the beast skin armor from Lu Zhuo's body, cleaned it, and put it on himself.

As for the spoils of war on Lu Zhuo's body, Chen Yu had already divided them.

Among them were many unfamiliar precious materials and Spiritual Ores, which Tong Yuling identified one by one.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The three immediately got up and left the dilapidated ancient temple together.

However,

As soon as they broke through the Silver Pattern Blood Curtain outside the ancient temple, a light chuckle came from nearby:

"Hehe... Chen Yu! I didn't expect that the one to come out alive would be you."

That voice was eerily familiar.

A handsome young man with long flowing hair came into view.

It was none other than Mei Changqing.

Swoosh! Swish! Swish!

Disciple after disciple from the Bone Demon Palace flashed out from around the great hall.

The figures of Jiang Ping, Yuan Li, and the cold-faced man, among others, surrounded the three.

The Bone Demon Palace had more than a dozen disciples, all elite secret disciples.

Faced with such a lineup, Chen Ying'er's complexion turned pale, her heart filled with trepidation.

Ever since entering the Blood Burial Garden, the three factions had been in a state of being pursued and ambushed by the Bone Demon Palace.

"Mei Changqing, it seems you have been lying in wait here for quite some time?"

Chen Yu spoke calmly.

Wearing the beast skin armor, his tall stature and bronze muscles exuded a heavy and oppressive malicious aura.

"Isn't that Lu Zhuo's treasured armor?"

The disciples of the Bone Demon Palace were shocked, all staring at the beast skin armor on Chen Yu.

At the same time, the shock in the secret disciples' hearts gave way to a burning greed in their eyes as they watched eagerly, almost ready to act.

Had it been Lu Zhuo appearing before them, they would still harbor fear and dread.

But the person who came out was Chen Yu, and their hearts eased a great deal.

"Lu Zhuo was actually killed by you? Chen Yu, as long as you hand over the other half of the Blood Soul Flower, and we will let bygones be bygones," said Mei.

Mei Changqing was filled with suspicion and caution.

He somewhat doubted the death of Lu Zhuo, but the beast skin armor on Chen Yu's body was indisputable evidence.

However, he figured,

Chen Yu probably did not kill Lu Zhuo head-on. It must have involved some other tactics or schemes.

Moreover,

Lu Zhuo had just used up his Bloodline Power to seal the Blood Crystal Flame, and after fierce battles with the three clans and the Bone Demon Palace, his combat power had sharply decreased.

"Sorry. The Blood Soul Flower has been consumed by me..."

A lazy female voice came through.

Tong Yuling's lovely face bore a bright and captivating smile that drew everyone's attention.

At the moment,

Tong Yuling wore the extraordinary Blood Lotus Robe with a mysterious Blood Lotus Mark inscribed on her forehead, exuding an elegance mixed with an enchanting charm.

"It's this woman!"

Several disciples from the Bone Demon Palace focused intently on Tong Yuling.

At the time, amid the chaos, they had seen half of the Blood Soul Flower fall into Tong Yuling's possession.

"This woman indeed has the aura of the Blood Soul Flower."

Cold light flashed in Jiang Ping's eyes.

"Attack!"

Mei Changqing's expression darkened. Without hesitation, he held a dark green bamboo and swung a vast array of bamboo shadows around, causing booming sounds in the air.

The exploding bamboo shadows, carrying the imposing pressure of the Qi Transformation Realm, swept directly toward Chen Yu.

Go!

A black thread in Jiang Ping's hand turned into a cold black line aimed at Tong Yuling.

Yuan Li, in his battle armor, and the cold-faced man led several secret disciples, slowly closing in on Chen Ying'er and the Purple Fox.

At the same time,

In a nearby area, hidden within a corner of the building,

Some disciples from Yunyue Sect and the three factions peeked out, staring at the scene before them.

"Mei Changqing has been lying in wait here to deal with Junior Brother Chen!"

Chang Xuan, Huangfulin, Xie Jing, and other disciples stared in the direction of the dilapidated ancient temple.

"I don't advise taking action!" Huangfulin said with an indifferent expression.

"That's right! It was because of him that Senior Brother Kun Ling met his end."

Several disciples echoed.

"You guys..."

Chang Xuan was enraged, his hand gripping a long blade as he prepared to rush toward the broken ancient temple alone.

But suddenly!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Huangfulin and several other disciples forcefully grabbed Chang Xuan and pinned him to the ground.

"Junior Brother Chang, you haven't fully recovered from your injuries, have you? Rushing over there now is tantamount to seeking death. Do you want to follow in Kun Ling's footsteps?"

Huangfulin shook his head and chuckled lightly.

Chapter 168: The Contrast of Reality

"You people, not only do you disregard the life and death of your fellow sect members, but why must you also obstruct me!"

Chang Xuan's face was filled with indignant fury.

Caught off guard, he was jointly restrained by Huangfulin and others, sealing off his inner breath.

"Junior Brother Chang, I only wish not to see a genius disciple like you throw away his life needlessly, which would be a great loss to the Yunyue Sect."

Huangfulin sighed, looking the very picture of righteousness.

But in truth,

He was filled with envy at the opportunities Chen Yu had found in the Blood Burial Garden and had not forgotten past grudges.

Chen Yu's previous acquisition of the Mysterious Water Moth Lotus had already left him fuming with resentment.

And now, it seemed that Chen Yu had stumbled upon a great fortune again, having killed Lu Zhuo by a stroke of luck.

This was definitely a tremendous opportunity!

He even suspected that Chen Yu might have benefitted from the Blood Soul Flower, an item of great fortune.

"You fools! Junior Brother Chen's strength is not much inferior to Mei Changqing's. If we join forces, we might still stand a chance..."

Chang Xuan was frantic with anxiety and seething with anger.

"Hehe, Junior Brother Chang, you are overestimating Chen Yu. Before, he abandoned Brother Kun, escaping alone—what?"

Huangfulin's face, which had been twisted into a sneer, suddenly froze.

At that moment.

Poof! Clang! Boom!

Chen Yu and Mei Changqing, in front of the ancient hall of inheritance, exchanged a couple of hard blows.

A burst of dark and explosive air swept around them for four or five zhangs, keeping the other Bone Demon Palace disciples from getting close.

Bang!

One particularly handsome young man with long hair was jolted back two or three zhangs, his face filled with shock.

It was none other than Mei Changqing.

"This can't be real!"

Huangfulin stood dumbstruck, as if petrified.

While he spoke, he was also observing the battle, anticipating Chen Yu's death.

However, the reality was vastly different from his expectation.

...

In the first exchange.

Chen Yu's bronze fist went head-to-head with Mei Changqing.

Mmm~

Just as the bronze fist was about to burst with power, an invisible fist spirit, filled with Evil Qi, surged towards Mei Changqing's soul first.

"This Evil Qi!"

Mei Changqing's face tightened.

The domineering and chilly spirit in the Evil Qi was stronger than a typical Postnatal True Qi, causing his mind to tremble and his blood and Qi to become somewhat disordered.

In the next moment.

A roaring python-shaped dark shadow powered by the True Qi, with dark patterns swirling on its surface, emerged as if from an ink painting, a bloodthirsty behemoth coming to life, chilling to the bone.

"Postnatal True Qi? Mid-stage of Refining... how is that possible..."

Mei Changqing's face shifted to one of terror.

Crack! Boom!

The mighty bamboo shadows and the dark Qi whirls conjured by his dark green bamboo staff were forcefully ripped apart by the opponent's punch.

Out of everyone in the Blood Burial Garden, only the previously defeated Lu Zhuo could have achieved this.

What followed.

Chen Yu transformed into a shadow, suddenly drawing near, his alarming speed resembling a second Lu Zhuo!

The fight was hand-to-hand combat!

Mei Changqing even had the illusion that the heaviness Chen Yu brought upon him was slightly greater than Lu Zhuo's.

As the second punch closed in.

Whoosh!

On Chen Yu's punching arm, besides a layer of dark green True Qi, a flash of nearly imperceptible black iron patterns gleamed on his bronze-patterned skin.

With a ding.

The second punch squarely hit Mei Changqing's dark green bamboo staff.

Boom!

Mei Changqing's figure was jolted back, his face filled with horror, his staff nearly slipping from his grasp.

In reality.

He was barely holding back a mouthful of congealed blood, refusing to let it out.

This scene left the Bone Demon Palace disciples who had not made their move, or were in the midst of making their move, in utter shock.

From the brief exchange, it was clear that Chen Yu had the upper hand over Mei Changqing.

In terms of strength.

Chen Yu was even stronger than Lu Zhuo, especially when charging up his heart.

In terms of cultivation, he had also condensed Postnatal True Qi, and after taking the Blood Soul Bud, the spiritual aspect of his fist's Evil Qi became even stronger!

Regarding bloodline.

Chen Yu had acquired Lu Zhuo's "Emperor's Bloodline," which he could use purely and directly through his mysterious heart.

At this moment.

Chen Yu's only concern was not to reveal the "Emperor's Bloodline," using it only subtly to amplify his inner breath and strength.

Even so.

In one or two exchanges, Chen Yu had forced Mei Changqing back, causing the latter to suffer minor internal injuries.

Right after Chen Yu repelled Mei Changqing.

The battles elsewhere were also nearing their conclusions.

"Giggle..."

Tong Yuling chuckled, her delicate fingers flicking a point that lit up with a bloody gleam.

Pop! Clang!

That flick struck Jiang Ping's tightly stretched Black Profound Silk.

Instantly.

A thread of bloody Qi pattern, running along the black edge, backlashed onto Jiang Ping's body.

"Postnatal True Qi!"

Jiang Ping shrieked in horror, her figure flying backward a couple of zhangs, her body sliced with several bloody cuts.

With just one hit, the bloodline-powered Jiang Ping was wounded and defeated.

Mei Changqing's expression drastically changed.

He had thought their numerical advantage would ensure victory, despite his own suppression by Chen Yu.

"Ah..."

A dreadful scream echoed from the battle between War Armor Yuan Li and the cold-faced man nearby.

Swish! Rip!

A flash of purple afterimage was seen as Chen Ying'er's Purple Fox dashed like a phantom past several Bone Demon Palace disciples.

Immediately.

A newly advanced Late Stage of Organ Refining Bone Demon Palace disciple had his throat slashed, blood spurting wildly as he fell dead on the spot.

Hiss! Ah!

The cold-faced man's arm fell to the ground after being swept by a streak of purple afterglow.

War Armor Yuan Li's shoulder was also left with a bone-deep gash, narrowly missing his heart by a fraction.

"Qi Transformation Realm!"

"This fox has actually recovered to a complete Qi Transformation Realm."

Yuan Li and the cold-faced man, who survived, turned pale and took a sharp breath.

That Purple Fox, obviously an ancient beast, had regained the cultivation of the Qi Transformation Realm, and its strength might be even stronger than Mei Changqing.

Fortunately.

As the fox was protecting Chen Ying'er, after one round of attack, it returned to the girl's side, not pursuing them to the death.

"Full retreat!"

Mei Changqing was shocked, took a deep breath, and made a rational decision through gritted teeth.

His gaze swept over Chen Yu, Tong Yuling, and the Purple Fox, sweat breaking out on his forehead, and his heart stirring up a storm.

Whoosh! Whoosh whoosh!

The disciples of the Bone Demon Palace, leaving behind one or two corpses and limbs, retreated in terror.

From encirclement to launching an attack, and then retreating, the whole process took less than ten breaths of time.

Just one exchange.

The Bone Demon Palace suffered a complete defeat, with even Mei Changqing, the number one talent of the palace, being defeated in a head-on battle.

Not to mention Mei Changqing.

Even if Lu Zhuo were to come back to life, facing such a powerful lineup, he too would have to retreat.

This scene.

Fell into the eyes of the nearby disciples watching the battle, every one of them inexplicably shocked.

"How could this be!"

Several disciples from the Yunyue Sect, such as Huangfulin, were as if petrified.

Huangfulin's smile froze on his face, his lips trembling slightly, turning from pale to red.

Just a moment ago.

They stopped Chang Xuan from going to rescue Chen Yu, waiting for the latter's demise.

But it was only one round of attack.

Chen Yu overwhelmed Mei Changqing, and with one pet, completely defeated the strong formation of the Bone Demon Palace.

"Hahaha..."

Chang Xuan struggled to his feet, laughing with shock and ecstasy.

"Senior Brother Huangfu, is this the Junior Brother Chen you refused to rescue, the Junior Brother Chen you didn't want to overestimate?"

There was mockery in Chang Xuan's laughter.

At this moment.

He felt an immense sense of relief, particularly when he saw Huangfulin's almost green face.

"Senior Brother Chang, you can't blame us for this."

"It was Huangfulin who instructed us to do so, actually, everyone really wanted to save Junior Brother Chen..."

The accompanying Yunyue Sect disciples, their faces changing faster than the weather, immediately betrayed Huangfulin.

Seeing Chen Yu overpower Mei Changqing of the Qi Transformation Realm, they couldn't be clearer that a new prodigy of the Yunyue Sect had emerged.

Possibly.

Chen Yu now had the strength to challenge the position of Chief Disciple.

"You... you..."

Huangfulin trembled with rage, his blood rushing to his head, nearly fainting on the spot.

At this time.

Chen Yu, along with Chen Ying'er, arrived at the nearby area and seemed to notice the few people from the Yunyue Sect.

"Junior Brother Chen... oh no, Senior Brother Chen!"

"Senior Brother, you were awe-inspiring just now, defeating Mei Changqing and truly bringing glory to our Yunyue Sect."

"With Senior Brother's strength, you deserve the title of number one prodigy of all three sects... No! The number one talent of Chu Country!"

Several Yunyue Sect disciples, one after another, rushed forward to greet him, lavishing flattery.

Chang Xuan looked on with a contented smile, not saying a word, just gazing at Chen Yu.

Chen Yu casually dealt with the others, his eyes stopping on Chang Xuan, and the two brothers exchanged smiles.

On the other side, Huangfulin's face was stiff, and he was cold-shouldered by all the disciples.

At this moment.

Chen Yu, being the person involved, made Huangfulin extremely uncomfortable, wishing he could find a hole to crawl into.

Fortunately.

Chen Yu didn't quite understand the specific situation here and didn't pay any attention to Huangfulin, simply talking with Chang Xuan.

"Junior Brother, I thought I saw Tong Yuling just now, why hasn't she come over?"

Chang Xuan asked with a puzzled expression.

"Her situation is a bit special..."

Chen Yu transmitted his voice and briefly explained a thing or two to Chang Xuan.

After repelling the people from the Bone Demon Palace, Tong Yuling greeted Chen Yu and then left alone.

Chen Yu had an intuition.

Tong Yuling would no longer be the Senior Sister Tong of the past, and perhaps would never return.

It was evident.

She was quite familiar with this secret space, and may have a myriad of connections with the former owner of the Blood Burial Garden.

This could be discerned from the Blood Lotus Robe worn by Tong Yuling, which resembled the statue of the blood-colored woman, and her knowledge of numerous secret techniques.

A moment later.

The Yunyue Sect members arrived at a stronghold in the Central Garden.

Here.

Chen Yu saw the severely injured Fang Haoifei and others, as well as Xie Jing and other disciples, caring for them on the side.

Upon hearing that Chen Yu had defeated Mei Changqing, Fang Haoifei and the other injured were overjoyed.

"Junior Brother Chen, we overestimated ourselves before and tried to stop Lu Zhuo, Brother Kun he..."

Fang Haoifei thought of something, smiled bitterly.

"It seems, Junior Brother Chen, you have already taken revenge on Lu Zhuo..."

Xie Jing's eyes were moist and red, feeling a sense of relief when she saw the animal hide armor on Chen Yu.

After Kun Ling's death, she had sworn an oath to avenge her beloved.

Even though Xie Jing understood that the possibility was almost nil.

Meanwhile.

Her gaze at Chen Yu was complicated, gratitude was not the word, hate? It couldn't rise within her.

Remembering Kun Ling's death, and how it was in vain, Chen Yu sighed in his heart.

Suddenly thinking of something.

Chen Yu took out three portions of Mysterious Water Moth Lotus, giving one to each Chang Xuan, Fang Haofei, and Xie Jing.

At present.

Chen Yu had refined the Cloud Evil True Qi, advanced to the Late Stage of Organ Refining, and even breaking through to the Qi Transformation Realm wouldn't be too obstructed.

And he had consumed a small portion of the "Blood Soul Bud," still having a lot of potential to digest, lessening his need for the Mysterious Water Moth Lotus.

After a good while.

Chen Yu announced, "Fellow disciples, the Blood Burial Garden may close ahead of schedule. We must seize the last bit of time and scavenge for more heavenly materials and earthly treasures before we return."

Chapter 169: The Curtain Falls

Lu Yun City, battlefield area.

The "blood-colored light screen" in mid-air was gradually dimming within its projected manifestation.

Not just that.

The blood pattern array diagrams within the battlefield area were also shrinking and fading away.

"It hasn't even been ten days; is the Blood Burial Garden about to leave this space?"

"Ancient records indicate that the garden's previous openings lasted at least half a month, or even a full month."

The high-ranking practitioners of the Qi Transformation Realm from both camps discussed in low voices.

A war that swept the entire sects of Chu Country, summoning out the Blood Burial Garden through blood sacrifice, was it to last for such a short time?

"It seems the closure of the Blood Burial Garden will be a certainty. What do you think, Xue Feng, how much longer can it last?"

Master Fu's gaze swept toward the gracefully robed and handsome youth beside him.

At this moment.

The youth in the blood robe had already come to terms with Lu Zhuo's death and regained his usual calm demeanor.

"Control over the situation is lost. Judging from the projection phenomena of the Blood Burial Garden, the Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower must have been plucked, and some abnormal change has occurred within the garden."

The youth's gaze flickered uncertainly.

However, a hint of a smile emerged on Master Fu's face.

Lu Zhuo had died, but his direct disciple "Mei Changqing" was still unharmed and well.

If.

The Blood Soul Flower had already been plucked, then the chances would be greater for the capture by the Bone Demon Palace.

"Fortunately, Liu Xin'er has not let me down; she should have completed the mission..."

The youth in the blood robe murmured to himself.

In his palm, he was also holding another Jade Talisman, which flashed and then vanished.

"The Blood Soul Flower will most likely be taken out by outer sect disciples, not completely out of reach."

The youth's expression was calm and collected.

As for Lu Zhuo's death, he was not overly concerned.

After all, the latter was but a temporary reinforcement sent by the organization, a younger genius suitable for this place.

Just then.

Whoosh!

A bright orange sword bloom, emanating an overwhelming Sword Qi from the distant clouds, pierced through the air.

Some of the Innate Strong Practitioners present felt a tingling in their minds.

The fearsome Sword Dao aura caused both Master Fu and the youth in the blood robe to slightly change their expressions.

"Lv Tiezu!"

Figures from the Bone Demon Palace and the Three Sects Camp looked up to see a silver-haired elder with an orange-yellow wooden sword on his back, cutting through the sky from the clouds—he was "Lv Tiezu," the Supreme Elder of the Iron Sword Sect and the foremost figure of the Three Sects.

"Lv Tiantong, what brings you here so abruptly, and what guidance do you have?"

Master Fu held a dark scepter and called out his name directly.

Seeing Lv Tiezu's imposing and displeased appearance, Master Fu was also on guard.

Looking across the Three Sects, only Lv Tiezu, this trump card, could make the Bone Demon Palace apprehensive.

"Who exactly was it that killed Santong... this old man must find the culprit."

From Lv Tiezu's eyes burst a cold gleam that seemed to pierce through space.

The terrifying murderous chill made some Innate Practitioners at the scene shudder in fear.

"Supreme Elder! Are you saying... Lv Santong died in the Blood Burial Garden?"

The Sect Leader of the Iron Sword Sect and several elders spoke cautiously.

"My lifebound soul token has shattered!"

Lv Tiezu gave a cold snort, his gaze as sharp as a sword fixed upon the blood-colored light screen that was fading before his eyes.

Upon hearing the news.

The elders from the other two sects, Yunyue Sect and Water Moon Sect, felt a burst of satisfaction.

"Good riddance!"

"Lv Santong, that scoundrel, caused trouble in all directions, and violated countless women, it truly serves him right!"

"Had it not been for Lv Tiezu's protection, I would have executed that villain long ago."

Some high-ranking figures from the Three Sects silently cheered internally, albeit not daring to show it outwardly.

In truth.

Lv Santong's identity as the Infinite Thief had been a rumor amongst the high ranks of the Three Sects for some time.

In the past.

One or two Qi Transformation Realm elders had wanted to strike down the Infinite Thief, but due to their fear of Lv Tiezu, they could only admonish him lightly at most.

However, at the same time.

These secretly rejoicing elders also felt a chill for the one who had killed Lv Tiezu's grandson.

If they weren't careful, with Lv Tiezu's heaven-reaching abilities, he might well uncover the murderer.

"Oh? Lv Daoist, do you have any suspects?"

Master Fu spoke with a hint of interest.

This time in the Blood Burial Garden, the death rate of the entered disciples was almost fifty percent.

Before this.

Shangguan Qi, Yi Yunfei, Helian Tu—elite disciples had all perished within.

Among them, the Guardian Shangguan asserted that Shangguan Qi's death was at the hands of Chen Yu.

As for the death of Yi Yunfei.

The beautiful female Sect Master of the Water Moon Sect had not determined the culprit, nor did she suspect Chen Yu.

After all.

Before entering the Blood Burial Garden, Chen Yu was merely in the Early Stage of Organ Refining, still far behind Yi Yunfei's Late Stage of Organ Refining top-notch strength.

"A suspect? This..."

Lv Tiezu's expression faltered slightly, showing a bit of awkwardness.

The death of Lv Santong truly made it difficult to pinpoint a suspect.

After all, this man had committed numerous wrongdoings and offended many.

For instance, among the women Lv Santong had harmed, there were many suitors behind them.

If Lv Santong fell into a disadvantageous position, anyone from the Three Sects or the Bone Demon Palace camp might take advantage of the situation to cause his death.

"However. As soon as the Blood Burial Garden closes and those disciples come out, this old man has ways to confirm the culprit."

Lv Tiezu's voice grew heavier, full of self-assurance.

The various high-ranking officials present did not doubt Lv Tiezu's methods.

Not only was he of the Guiyuan Realm, but he was also directly related by blood to Lv Santong.

If the culprit was the slightest bit sloppy in the act of murder, or if they carried any items related to Lv Santong out, there was an eight or nine out of ten chance that Lv Tiezu would sense them.

...

Inside the Blood Burial Garden.

In the days that followed, the disciples of the Three Sects began to scour the garden for treasures.

Since Chen Yu defeated Mei Changqing, the disciples of the Bone Demon Palace kept a low profile, one after another.

The disciples of the Three Sects searched for the remaining rare materials and treasures with great fanfare.

Meanwhile, when the disciples of the Bone Demon Palace encountered the disciples of the Three Sects, they quickly evaded them and dared not confront them directly.

This scene.

Was a stark contrast to when Blood Burial Garden had just opened.

Some disciples of the Three Sects were amazed by this change until they learned of the fact that the siblings Chen Yu and Chen Ying'er had defeated the secret disciples of the Bone Demon Palace.

Of course.

Most people did not witness it with their own eyes and believed it was due to Chen Ying'er's Qi Transformation Realm's ancient beast's prowess.

For some powerful ancient beasts to surpass cultivators at the same stage in the Qi Transformation Realm is considered normal.

In any case.

After learning the news, the disciples of the Three Sects were overjoyed and moved boldly within the garden.

In a hidden valley of the Blood Burial Garden.

"Brother Mei, do we really need to swallow our pride and retreat everywhere?"

"As long as we don't clash head-on with Chen Yu and the others, why should we fear the rest of the Three Sects' disciples?" several secret disciples said through clenched teeth, unwilling to concede.

Since that day, after Bone Demon Palace's strategic retreat, Mei Changqing ordered all disciples to avoid the Three Sects at all costs.

"Just be patient. We've gotten half of the 'Blood Soul Flowers', which at least makes us half winners," Mei Changqing said calmly.

Deep down, he was even worried about a possible counterattack from Chen Yu, Tong Yuling, and Chen Ying'er.

Moreover.

When he fought with Chen Yu that day, he even had an illusion that Chen Yu seemed to be holding back.

Fortunately.

Chen Yu did not pressure Bone Demon Palace further and seemed to have given up on the other half of the Blood Soul Flowers.

Indeed, Chen Yu had given up on the other half of the Blood Soul Flowers.

He didn't want to push Mei Changqing too desperately; moreover, if he obtained the other half of the Blood Soul Flowers, he couldn't monopolize them anyway, and would have to turn them in later.

"Brother Mei is right. Given the situation, we can only yield and try to preserve our forces. Once we return to the world outside, our Bone Demon Palace will dominate the sects of Chu Country, and we'll have opportunities to take revenge," Jiang Ping said with a light sigh.

...

On the third day after Chen Yu defeated Mei Changqing.

Buzz~

The entire Blood Burial Garden space vibrated slightly, and the blood moon overhead flickered uncertainly.

"What's happening! Blood Burial Garden is closing so soon," Mei Changqing exclaimed in surprise.

This sign indicated that Blood Burial Garden was about to disengage from its overlap with the land of Chu Country.

However, amongst the Three Sects' camp.

Especially Yunyue Sect, this was not too unexpected.

Chen Yu had already informed everyone that Blood Burial Garden was going to close early.

At that moment.

A team from Yunyue Sect gathered in front of an arched bridge in the central garden.

Chen Yu, Chang Xuan, Fang Haofei, Xie Jing, and others gathered together.

"Junior Brother Chen, your judgment was very accurate," Fang Haofei said, surprised.

"This was also what Senior Sister Tong told me," Chen Yu said with a smile.

He sat cross-legged and quietly sorted through the spoils of war on his person.

This time, the gains from Blood Burial Garden were incredibly substantial.

Just the heavenly materials and earthly treasures of three to five hundred years old numbered in the dozens, not to mention other rare flowers, peculiar herbs, and precious ores, which were also numerous.

However.

According to the promise of Yunyue Sect, the disciples could only keep up to thirty percent of their personal gains.

Chen Yu estimated that his own gains were so substantial that it was uncertain whether he would be able to keep the agreed-upon thirty percent.

Before this.

He planned to collect the necessary spoils into his private space.

Soon.

Chen Yu managed to barely stuff the Heavenly Bamboo Shoot Liquid, Puppet Sphere, three Mysterious Water Moth Lotuses, the ancient token, and a few extremely rare precious ores and materials into the Light Silver Crystal Space.

This included the Green Moss Poison Mushroom and the Black Blood Strange Grass he had obtained before.

Black Blood Strange Grass, as Tong Yuling had pointed out, was a superior strange grass that could promote the awakening of Bloodline Power when consumed.

To the hidden Ancient Clans of the continent, this strange grass was a priceless treasure, even more precious than the Mysterious Water Moth Lotus.

"Almost there..."

Chen Yu looked at the filled Light Silver Crystal Space with a bit of regret in his heart.

He could not accommodate the beast skin armor he was wearing, including other large-sized treasures.

However.

Once he left for the outside world, Chen Yu should be able to retain one or two portions of items and select some spoils that would benefit him.

Hmmm!

Moments later, the light blood-colored space where everyone was began to shake.

Within view.

The various scenes in the space gradually faded.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

A layer of blood fog appeared around the many disciples, their figures sinking into it and quickly becoming hazy and indistinct, disappearing from sight.

"Huh?"

Chen Yu realized that he was standing in the blood fog but had not left.

Whoo~

A strange blood-colored fog enveloped Chen Yu.

Suddenly.

In the blood-colored fog before him, a stunningly beautiful girl appeared, with a Blood Lotus Mark on her forehead and wearing an exquisite Blood Lotus Skirt, looking noble and out of this world.

A thick layer of blood-colored fog embraced both Chen Yu and Tong Yuling.

"Senior Sister Tong..."

Chen Yu looked on in surprise at this scene.

"Junior Brother Chen, I have a way to stay behind in Blood Burial Garden or to become its master. Would you be willing to join me, hand in hand..."

A hint of rosy shyness graced the girl's face.

Seemingly mustering courage, her bright eyes shimmered with a hint of longing as she looked at the tall young man before her.

Chapter 170: Counting on the Spot

In the mist of blood-colored light.

A man and a woman, facing each other.

"Would you be willing to join hands with me and walk together..."

A hint of shyness appeared on the girl's jade-like delicate face as she raised her head and mustered her courage.

Chen Yu was taken aback.

He had never expected that Tong Yuling would confess to him and even try to make him stay at the moment of their farewell.

The young woman in his view was no longer the modest beauty of the past; she had transformed into something mysterious and majestic, embodying an elegant solemnity.

That beauty even put a certain pressure on Chen Yu.

Inexplicably.

Chen Yu remembered the statue of the Blood Robed Woman in the ancestral hall, overlooking the world with a stern demeanor.

"Thank you for your kindness, senior sister, but I cannot stay here."

Under the hopeful gaze of the young woman, Chen Yu rejected her.

He was somewhat moved by the superior resources and environment of the Blood Burial Garden.

However.

He could not "walk together" with her as lovers.

In Chen Yu's mind.

Tong Yuling had always been just a senior sister to him, with no romantic feelings involved.

"You... you actually rejected me..."

Tong Yuling's delicate body trembled, her beautiful eyes revealing a hint of pain and coldness.

In an instant, a blood-colored light surged around Tong Yuling, and the Blood Lotus Skirt she wore set off a layer of blurry blood lotus phantasms.

Her pupils flashed with a cold blood light, emanating a domineering and stern expression.

Motionless, Tong Yuling stared coldly at Chen Yu.

"Senior Sister Tong, it's not like you to force others."

Chen Yu felt immense pressure.

At that moment.

Tong Yuling's aura had reached the level of the Qi Transformation Realm, more than doubling Mei Changqing's strength!

"Don't think I can't keep you here, or about Qiu Xinxin. The matters between you..."

A frost covered Tong Yuling's pretty face, with a hint of domineering intent.

Chen Yu's heart sank as he sensed a great change in Tong Yuling's disposition.

He did not know that his rejection subtly altered the fate of Tong Yuling's peculiar body.

Earlier.

Tong Yuling had been subjected to a body seizing by a powerful entity within the Blood Burial Garden; afterward, that entity's remnant soul was shattered by the backlash of the Blood Crystal Flame.

However.

The shattered remnant memories merged into Tong Yuling's consciousness.

Compared to Tong Yuling's life experiences over the past decade or so, the emotions and soul power from those remnants were far greater.

After merging with this remnant soul power.

Tong Yuling's "humanity" was no longer so pure, influenced by another set of life memories.

Regarding this condition.

Tong Yuling's own heart was also struggling, following the fondness deep within her heart, wishing to keep Chen Yu.

If successful.

Tong Yuling might have returned to her original self.

Regrettably.

Chen Yu refused Tong Yuling, leaving her deeply hurt, and the other half of her personality gained the upper hand.

At this moment.

The domineering aspect Tong Yuling displayed was influenced by the other set of memories.

"Giggle..."

After scrutinizing Chen Yu for a long time, Tong Yuling's beautiful face showed a reckless and unfamiliar smile.

Suddenly.

She seemed to come to a realization, waving her hand.

Whoosh!

A thin gap appeared at the base of the dense blood mist, causing Chen Yu's figure to slowly descend.

Watching Chen Yu disappear into the thin blood mist.

Tong Yuling's smile gradually turned cold, exuding a domineering indifference.

"Now that this deeply hidden mental anchor has also shattered, I might as well inherit the other half's last wish and resume chaos in the Kunyun Realm..."

A trace of tear streaked down the jade-like face of Tong Yuling, filled with resolute despair.

The original Tong Yuling had not enjoyed much familial love within her clan.

Her parents had passed away early.

The clan raised her hoping only to use her status as a sect disciple to stabilize various interests.

Even.

Before the opening of the Blood Burial Garden, the clan was prepared to betroth her to another family's disciple from Iron Sword Sect, a man she felt nothing for.

...

Swoosh!

Chen Yu fell into the thin blood mist, his body suddenly sinking quickly returning to the outside world.

In that instant.

He breathed a sigh of relief, having faced enormous pressure from Tong Yuling just before.

Even if he had agreed to stay together with Tong Yuling for the sake of the superior environment of the Blood Burial Garden.

How could he have endured her domineering other side?

All of this blurred right and wrong.

Just like his previous parting of ways with Mu Xueqing, it was each other's choice, with no one to blame.

Whew~

A chill wind swept through, and Chen Yu appeared on the other side of the thin blood mist.

The familiar scent of the Chu Country Battlefield steadied Chen Yu's mind.

In his vision.

A few disciples emerged from the blood mist, the blood-colored light screen behind them quickly retracting, soon vanishing into thin air.

Clearly.

Chen Yu was among the last batch of disciples to return.

"Junior Brother Chen!"

Disciples from the Yunyue Sect side of the Three Sects Camp called out.

Zip swoosh!

Chen Yu's figure flickered, landing directly among the Yunyue Sect crowd.

Among the crowd.

Chen Yu saw nearly twenty fellow sect disciples safely return.

Additionally.

Some higher-ups from Yunyue Sect, including the Blue Robed Sect Master, Elder Mao, Fairy Xia Yu, and Master Elder Mao, were present, all with expectant expressions.

Chen Yu did not notice.

On the side of the Bone Demon Palace camp, a Blood Robed Handsome Man looked at him with astonishment, observing him for a while.

"Lu Zhuo's Ancient Beast Armor has actually fallen into this child's hands?"

The Blood Robed Man noticed Chen Yu.

Before entering the Blood Burial Garden, he had no impression of Chen Yu at all.

On the other side.

Liu Xin'er stood among the disciples of the Bone Demon Palace, locking eyes with the Blood Robed Man briefly and nodding slightly.

The Blood Robed Man breathed a sigh of relief, his expression as calm as before.

At this moment.

Disciples from both the Bone Demon Palace and the Three Sects Camp returned to their elders, each wearing a relieved expression, sighing deeply.

Those who returned safely from the Blood Burial Garden were undoubtedly fortunate.

"Daoist Lv, as we agreed. All the gains from the disciples of our Bone Demon Palace and the Three Sects will be publicly counted here."

Master Fu said with a light smile.

"Indeed."

Lv Tiezu, with his silver hair and wooden sword on his back, had a void-like sword light flashing in his eyes, sweeping over the many disciples from both sides.

That look seemed to penetrate the soul, exposing all secrets.

"Lv Tiezu!"

When that gaze swept over, the disciples present all trembled in their minds.

Chen Yu felt a chill in his heart and mind, "clinking" uneasily, faintly realizing something.

Inside the Blood Burial Garden.

He had killed Lv Santong, but only Liu Xin'er was present then, and she was also an accomplice.

Chen Yu didn't know.

Just now, by using the Sword Dao secret technique, Lv Tiezu began to check the many disciples present, sensing the slightest bloodline connection to himself.

After all, Lv Santong was his own grandson.

If the person who acted had killed Lv Santong and had been contaminated with a hint of his essence, he would sense it.

However.

The preliminary investigation did not satisfy Lv Tiezu.

After all.

When Chen Yu killed Lv Santong, he had used a javelin, killing from a distance.

Afterwards.

Chen Yu did not even retrieve the javelin, so naturally, he did not carry any trace of the blood essence related to the deceased.

"Master, what's happening? Why do they need to check all disciples' gains on the spot?"

Chen Yu asked Elder Mao.

At the same moment.

Many disciples from the three sects asked their elders the same question.

"This is an agreement between Lv Tiezu and Master Fu. On the one hand, it is to prevent some disciples from hiding their gains; on the other, it seems to ascertain the whereabouts of the Blood Soul Flower."

"Of course, Lv Tiezu also wants to confirm on the spot who the murderer of Lv Santong is."

Elder Mao explained.

Indeed!

Chen Yu's heart shuddered.

Lv Tiezu would certainly try various methods to confirm the identity of the murderer.

Next.

Disciples from the Three Sects and the Bone Demon Palace camp each opened their storage bags and took out various trophies.

Among them.

Those disciples with secret transmissions or true inheritances, had quite impressive gains in their storage bags.

Even a few ordinary disciples had good opportunities, revealing quite a few rare materials.

"Not bad, not bad!"

On the Yunyue Sect's side, Fang Haofei, Mu Xueqing, and Nangong Li all revealed over a dozen three-hundred-year-old heavenly and earthly treasures, including other various rare and unusual items.

Chang Xuan's gain ranked first among the true disciples.

He took out more than twenty plants of three-hundred-year-old materials, including three or four five-hundred-year materials and ten to twenty pieces of spiritual ore that could be used to refine High Grade Treasures, eliciting a wave of awe.

A few elders showed a trace of fervor in their eyes.

"Hahaha... It really is the Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower! Though it's only half."

Master Fu laughed loudly.

At this moment, Mei Changqing opened his storage bag, and the gains inside were at least twice that of Chang Xuan's.

This included half of the Blood Soul Flower and two other items nearly as rare as the Mysterious Water Moth Lotus.

Mei Changqing's gains immediately overshadowed everyone else.

Additionally.

Some of the secret transmission disciples from the Bone Demon Palace also had more impressive gains than the three sects' disciples.

"Yu'er."

At this time, under the signal from Elder Mao, Chen Yu opened his own storage bag.

Rustle!

A plethora of heavenly and earthly treasures, exotic flowers and plants, and various spiritual ores and rare materials appeared, emitting astonishing spiritual energy fluctuations.

Instantly.

The gazes of many in the audience shifted towards Chen Yu.

"Wow!"

The disciples couldn't help but exclaim.

The heavenly and earthly treasures revealed from Chen Yu's storage bag were all over three hundred years old, numbering sixty to seventy, and there were over a dozen of the five hundred-year variety.

Additionally.

There were also many spiritual ores, mostly capable of refining High Grade Treasures, amounting to over a hundred pieces.

Apart from several seeds and petals of Mysterious Water Moth Lotus and two or three materials valued close to or comparable to Mysterious Water Moth Lotus,

Excluding half of the Blood Soul Flower.

Chen Yu's other gains were at least twice those of Mei Changqing!

This scene suddenly alarmed the high ranks of the Bone Demon Palace, who looked towards Chen Yu with astonishment and great interest.

Suddenly.

Chen Yu felt the hot, greedy gazes on the grounds.

Among them.

The eyes of Lv Tiezu, Master Fu, and the Blood Robed Man were all drawn to Chen Yu.

"Yu'er! Did you gain all of these?"

Elder Mao was extremely excited, his face glowing red, as he scrutinized Chen Yu closely.

He then noticed that his disciple had undergone a tremendous transformation, his aura nearing the Qi Transformation Realm.

A glint flashed in his eyes.

One could imagine the great opportunity Chen Yu must have had in the Blood Burial Garden.

"Very good, very good... to have obtained so many five-hundred-year materials, among them even a few rare ores that can be used to refine superior treasures."

A hoarse voice came.

"Meeting the Supreme Elder!"

At the Yunyue Sect, a white-haired, blue-robed elder floated down before Chen Yu, his face full of smiles and admiration.

"Meeting the Uncle Master (Supreme Elder)!"

Elder Mao and Chen Yu promptly paid their respects to the blue-robed, white-haired elder.

Evidently.

Chen Yu's rich harvest had surprised even the Yunyue Sect's Supreme Elder, prompting him to personally make an appearance.