

Eternal Heart 221

Chapter 221: Battle Underground

Swoosh~

A profound dark blood crystal stream, about as thick as a thumb, pulsing with ancient blood scale light patterns, suddenly surged into Chen Yu's body.

At that moment,

The scene once witnessed in Blood Burial Garden played out again.

However, this time, instead of the human identity Lu Zhuo, it was replaced by the "Blood Dragon Beast," which possessed the True Dragon Holy Beast bloodline.

Chen Yu clearly perceived

That the bloodline power extracted from the Blood Dragon Beast's body had shed some impurities, emitting an aura of dragon majesty that had become a few degrees purer.

This bloodline power was several levels stronger than the Black Emperor bloodline in Lu Zhuo's body.

In reality,

Although the quality of Lu Zhuo's Black Emperor bloodline was considered good, its awakening was far less than that of the Blood Dragon Beast, limited by his cultivation.

Hmm?

While extracting the bloodline, Chen Yu suddenly felt an unusual movement in a certain part of his left arm.

The source of the movement was a thumb-sized, lustrous blood bead sealed within his left arm, wrapped in a layer of blood cocoon.

Hiss!

That lustrous blood bead suddenly emitted a crystal-like blood-colored flame.

Crack!

The surrounding blood cocoon split open with a small crack.

This scene sent a chill down Chen Yu's spine, as the forbidden "Blood Crystal Flame" that had been sealed in Blood Burial Garden, seemed to show signs of breaking free.

Swoosh~

The dark blood crystal stream that had entered his body divided into a faint trickle of blood scale light, merging through the crack of the blood cocoon into the lustrous blood bead.

Chen Yu held his breath, cold sweat beading on his forehead.

Fortunately,

The blood cocoon had only cracked slightly open, and the compressed “Blood Crystal Flame” bead, which seemed to have a kinship with his flesh and blood, showed no dangerous reactions.

After two or three breaths,

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

The body of the Blood Dragon Beast became shriveled, its mysterious heart ceasing to extract any further.

Sigh~

Chen Yu relaxed slightly and entered the space within his heart, that dark, silent void.

The Light Silver Crystal Space and the Dark Blood Vortex stood separately in the void.

Among them,

The vortex representing the “Black Emperor bloodline” emitted faint black iron blood glows, dwindling to less than the size of a palm.

However,

Beside it, a vivid blood dragon with scales spiraled slowly, emitting an intangible ancient draconic aura.

Chen Yu couldn't help but marvel.

The form of that scaled blood dragon, somewhat resembled the Blood Dragon Beast, as well as the legendary true dragons.

The blood dragon was roughly one zhang long, a hundred times larger in volume compared to the Black Emperor bloodline's vortex.

"This must be the source of the Blood Dragon Beast's bloodline."

Chen Yu thought with surprise.

Schwing!

Before Chen Yu could even attempt to harness the power of this potent bloodline, footsteps approached from afar.

Chen Yu quickly withdrew his mind.

At this moment,

Luo Haochen had already come within a hundred zhang.

Chen Yu immediately crouched down, holding the Dark Snake Sword, and pulled out a blood-colored demon core from the partially desiccated body of the Blood Dragon Beast.

This demon core was several times larger than that of the water monster he encountered before.

Its density and quality were also several times greater.

Chen Yu felt the immense power contained within the demon core, probably at the level of the Guiyuan Realm.

"Could it be that this Blood Dragon Beast, for some reason, has been hibernating here for many years, with its cultivation temporarily regressed?"

Chen Yu thought to himself.

At this time, his attention was on Luo Haochen, who continued to approach.

Chen Yu did not notice

That the rock wall behind the corpse of the Blood Dragon Beast had further expanded its fissures, a layer of eerie and cold blood patterns quietly emerging.

Simultaneously,

The Iron Moon Strange Insect continued its feast inside the body of the Blood Dragon Beast, its aura growing more frantic.

However,

After feasting on the deluxe meal within this top-tier Ancient Beast, the insect let out a satisfied belch and gradually showed signs of fatigue.

This hunting event, was indeed a huge windfall for the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

The benefits provided by the extremely poisonous body of the Blood Dragon Beast were more than ten times better than those from the water monster.

Chen Yu understood that this feast had reached the digestive limit of the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

Swoosh!

He quickly recalled the Iron Moon Strange Insect back.

"Leave the Blood Dragon Beast's demon core behind!"

At that moment, an arrogant and dominant voice rang out.

Whoo!

Luo Haochen's body surged with a dazzling layer of radiant energy, swirling around him was a scorchingly hot fierce wind, exuding an astonishing pressure.

Chen Yu's internal energy stagnated, feeling a scalding dryness.

"This demon core has already been obtained by I. Do you intend to pursue this matter to the end, which would be against the hunting rules?"

Chen Yu put away the demon core and said indifferently.

"You've just acquired the demon core, and Luo can snatch it back quickly. Where's the argument for persistence?"

Luo Haochen sneered with a confident expression.

"Besides, we are underground; whatever happens here won't be known to outsiders."

A victorious smile spread across Luo Haochen's face.

Rumble!

His figure suddenly closed the distance, a bright white column of fist light spun, violently radiant, engulfing Chen Yu.

"This guy!"

Chen Yu hadn't expected his opponent to strike so quickly.

The Postnatal Peak Cultivation and Ancient Clan Bloodline gave Luo Haochen a speed advantage over Chen Yu, who was still accumulating power in his heart.

"Slice!"

Chen Yu grasped the Dark Snake Sword with a gaze as sharp as lightning, ready for an all-out battle.

Facing such an adversary, he could no longer afford to hold back.

Buzz!

A black iron Qi pattern encircled the Copper Statue Gang Body, and together with his dark True Qi, it merged into the Dark Snake Sword.

In an instant,

A slender arc of sword radiance, deep and mysterious, zhang in length, flickered like a feather's touch.

Boom!

However, upon striking Luo Haochen's fist light, a sound like a mountain collapsing erupted.

"What?"

Lu Zhuo's face showed surprise as he staggered back a dozen or so feet, witnessing his own bloodline-fused strike being cut in two by the man's sword.

Incredible.

The seemingly trivial sword wielded by his opponent contained the massive force of a mountain.

On the other side.

After Chen Yu struck with his sword, he felt a searing breath piercing through his protective layer.

A tinge of scorching sensation infiltrated his viscera.

"What terrifying fist strength."

Chen Yu's expression grew solemn, aware that if he were not so robust, a typical Qi Transformation Innate would likely already be injured.

"Hahaha... Excellent!"

After his strike, Luo Haochen was not angry but rather overjoyed.

"I didn't expect to encounter an opponent worth fighting at this hunting contest."

The incandescent spots appearing on Luo Haochen's body, along with the intense aura surrounding him, grew stronger, filling the atmosphere with a suffocating and eerie calm, a harbinger of an imminent storm.

Boom!

In the next instant, Luo Haochen transformed into a domineering white blaze. His punch turned into serpentine dragons of blazing light, rolling fiercely toward Chen Yu.

"This guy, he was actually holding back."

A heavy feeling sank in Chen Yu's heart.

Thump, thump, thump!

His heart gathered strength to its limit, entering a burst mode, where both strength and speed increased twofold to bridge the gap in their cultivation.

Bang, bong, beng!

A black and white pair of figures launched a fierce battle near the underground riverbed.

Every collision came with a massive boom, winds howling violently.

Ordinary Qi Transformation Realm practitioners couldn't even get close to the two.

Every exchange allowed Chen Yu to leverage his strength advantage, pushing back Luo Haochen a bit.

Luo Haochen felt overpowered, his arms numbing repeatedly. Thankfully, his bloodline physique was also far superior to his peers.

But Luo Haochen's advantage in cultivation was simply too great.

Postnatal Peak was far stronger than Chen Yu's Postnatal Early Stage in both the quality and density of True Qi.

Bong chi!

The scorching True Qi and Bloodline Power, with each collision, penetrated Chen Yu's defenses, causing a faint burning injury.

Such damage was naturally negligible to Chen Yu's robust physique.

However.

Chen Yu had another shortcoming.

"This won't do, much of my Black Emperor Bloodline is already depleted."

Chen Yu's heart turned cold.

Both the dark True Qi and the Black Emperor Bloodline couldn't last.

Especially the "Black Emperor Bloodline," this was his first time engaging in such a long battle.

Hum!

Seeing the black blood vortex within his heart space rapidly shrinking, exhaustion was not far off.

Moreover.

Chen Yu's "Dark Snake Sword" underground lacked the additional forty percent potency granted by the moonlit night.

"Hahaha... Chen Yu, you are no match for me, just quickly hand over the demon core."

Luo Haochen's offensive grew more fierce and unrestrained.

Whoosh!

His punching lights gradually emitted a faint layer of air flames, their violent potency increasing by several notches.

Luo Haochen watched sharply.

He knew well that Chen Yu, with his cultivation, releasing such strength surely depended on secret techniques or the like, which wouldn't last.

Before long, Chen Yu's Black Emperor Bloodline had been completely expended.

"In that case

Chen Yu's heart gathered strength, circulating another massive source of Bloodline Power from within his space.

Ao!

Suddenly, a faint dragon chant emanated from Chen Yu's body, exuding a trace of Ancient Dragon might.

Hm?

Luo Haochen's bloodline within his body shuddered inexplicably.

At the same moment.

In the darkened space, the lively, scaled Blood Dragon released strands of Blood Scale Qi.

"Boom!"

Chen Yu felt a violent and piercing pain in his body, along with a sense of swelling.

His eyes exuded strands of blood.

That terrifying force of the Ancient True Dragon Bloodline, directed by his heart, surged and burgeoned through his body.

In a flash.

Chen Yu's forehead and arms solidified semi-transparent blood-color scales, akin to the manifest scales of a True Dragon, radiating an age-old Dragon Prestige that could roam heaven and earth.

"Open!"

Chen Yu shouted ferociously, his fists covered in Blood-Colored Scale Patterns hammering down on Luo Haochen with his bare hands.

Whoosh, bang!

A vast Dark Blood Scale Dragon Shadow, wrapped in roaring dark Evil Qi and echoing with dragon chants, swallowed Luo Haochen's resplendent punching wind.

True Dragon Bloodline! How could this be!"

Luo Haochen cried out in astonishment, sent flying by the force.

The incandescent spots on his body dimmed rapidly, and his Ancient Clan Bloodline shivered for it.

Spurt!

Blood trickled from the corner of his mouth, his face a picture of shock.

In his vision, Chen Yu was enveloped in Blood Scale Qi Patterns, his forehead and arms solidified with semi-transparent blood-color dragon scale crystalline patterns, accompanied by a faint dragon chant, resembling a Dragonkin from legends.

The recent clash had caused his Ancient Clan Bloodline to be oppressed by the higher authority of the Dragon Prestige Bloodline, leaving him able to exert merely fifty to sixty percent of his power.

"This force

Chen Yu felt the colossal and tyrannical force of his bloodline's dragon power, filled with a domineering and exhilarating impulse to shatter all in his path.

Defeat me!

Chen Yu roared, unleashing another Dark Blood Scale Dragon Shadow with his fist. Wreathed in dark Evil Qi, it expanded to a size of five or six zhang (a zhang is approximately 3.58 meters).

"White Shining True Flame!"

Luo Haochen's expression turned grave, sucking in a deep breath as a flame of white fire flickered in his palm, releasing a terrible high-temperature pressure.

At the same time.

The incandescent spots on his body sparkled anew, the brilliant and dazzling white fist radiance and white flame merging into one.

Whoop, boom, rumble!

A fierce flame-enveloped serpentine dragon, ferocious and rampant, clashed with the Dark Blood Scale Dragon Shadow.

The surrounding rock walls trembled, and dust and flames swept through.

Boom!

Luo Haochen staggered back several zhang, his complexion pale.

Chen Yu swayed slightly, suddenly feeling a burning sensation.

"True Fire Spirit Flame?"

A thread of white flame spread across Chen Yu's arm, intertwining with the blood-colored transparent scales.

Chapter 222: True Fire Showdown

"True Fire Spirit Flame!"

Chen Yu was moved, looking at the white flames that spread along his arm, intertwining with the blood-color dragon scales and crystal patterns.

If not for the newly added boost of the dragon scales bloodline, this True Fire would pose a significant threat to Chen Yu.

It is feared that even the Copper Statue Gang Body would be unable to effectively resist these flames.

Chen Yu was just about to urge the dragon scales bloodline and the dark True Qi to extinguish the lingering "White Shining True Flame."

Suddenly.

The blood cocoon sealed within his left arm throbbed, and the crystal-clear blood pearl inside began to stir restlessly.

Crack!

The sealed blood cocoon cracked further, oozing a strand of crystalline and translucent blood-light flame.

"Blood Crystal Flame!"

Chen Yu's heart pounded, and cold sweat appeared on his forehead.

Despite this sealed blood pearl giving him a feeling akin to being connected by blood, with no sense of threat.

However.

Back then, in the Blood Burial Garden, this "Blood Crystal Flame" had cast a shadow of death over him.

"Master, let me assist you. Such low-level flames dare to act fiercely in front of their master."

A milky voice echoed in his ears.

What voice!

Chen Yu felt the sound was somewhat familiar, as if he had heard it somewhere.

The next moment.

The trace of crystal-clear blood-light flame that seeped from the crevice surged through the blood-flow within the scale patterns in his body and burst out.

Puff!

The strand of blood-light flame leaped upon Chen Yu's arm and actively confronted the white flames.

In an instant.

The two flames intertwined.

With a 'hiss.'

Chen Yu's blood-scaled arm emitted a puff of green smoke.

The joyous flash of the blood-light flame was effortless as it devoured the white flames.

"What kind of Spiritual Flame is this? This person also possesses True Fire Spirit Flames!"

Luo Haochen lost his composure.

His "White Shining True Fire," which the family had refined at a great cost, was postnatally condensed.

Even though it was a Postnatal True Flame, its quality was not low, and combined with his bloodline, it was like a tiger with wings added.

But now, the wisp of flame that burst forth from Chen Yu could effortlessly extinguish the remaining True Flame.

Moreover, the pure aura conveyed by that fire was clearly not a Postnatal True Flame but an Innate Spiritual Flame!

"You are the Blood Soul Flower Spirit!"

Chen Yu suddenly realized something, staring at the strand of blood-light flame that followed the blood-patterned dragon scales and fell into his palm.

"Master, the Blood Soul Flower Spirit has become a thing of the past; now I am your 'Flame Spirit.'"

The milky voice was filled with a pleasing tone.

Chen Yu was stunned.

This Blood Soul Flower Spirit communicated with him through a spiritual connection akin to a Spirit Pet contract.

At this moment.

The spiritual connection from the sealed blood pearl was very similar to his relationship with the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

Sigh!

Chen Yu breathed a sigh of relief.

It seemed that the crisis of the “Blood Crystal Flame” was not only resolved but also mysteriously refined and taken possession of by himself.

"I don't believe it!"

Luo Haochen growled in a low voice, his face turning iron blue, and his palm's White Shining True Fire transformed into a wave of flames, rolling up a fierce white flame wind and rushing towards Chen Yu.

Not good!

Chen Yu's breath tightened, his whole body felt hot, and he sensed a trace of pressure.

Faced with the massive wave of flames, the mere wisp of “Blood Crystal Flame” in his palm seemed hardly enough.

Chen Yu was just about to confront the enemy through means like the dragon scales bloodline and the dark True Qi.

"Master, your bloodline inside can combine with my flame."

The milky voice came through.

"Good!"

Chen Yu's heart gathered strength, controlling more of the "scale-patterned blood flow" to surge near the ruptured cocoon.

Swoosh~

From the cracks of the blood cocoon, more glazed blood flames seeped out, merging into the "scale-patterned blood flow" of the Blood Dragon Beast bloodline.

Puff!

In Chen Yu's palm, a small cluster of blood flame suddenly shot out, far less than Luo Haochen's "White Shining True Fire."

"Is this little bit enough?"

Chen Yu was astonished.

"Enough!"

The milky voice said.

Whoosh~

That small cluster of blood flame transformed into a dazzling, glazed flame bloom, somewhat resembling the Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower.

Buzz!

The surface of this blood-flame bloom suddenly burst out with a radiant blood-fire light, which with a 'pom' sound, met the incoming White Shining flame wave head-on.

'Sss!'

In mid-air, the two fires once again interwove.

At first.

The flame wave and the fiery wind turned by the white True Fire, with its overwhelming volume, engulfed the blood-flame bloom.

But after half a breath, green smoke billowed.

Buzz!

A radiant blood-fire light blossomed from within the White Shining flame wave, swallowing and scattering swathes of the white flames.

How is this possible!”

Luo Haochen was shocked and disoriented, his face a picture of despair.

What’s more inconceivable.

Chen Yu had no method of “flame control,” yet the blood-colored flames seemed to have their own sentience as they met the enemy.

Whoosh!

Luo Haochen flipped his palm, and the intense white light swathes, gathering the defeated remnants of the “White Shining True Flame.”

After regrouping, the volume of the White Shining True Flame was reduced, dimming by a small fraction.

While the small cluster of “Blood Crystal Flame” in Chen Yu’s palm, like a blooming glazed flower, had nearly not dimmed much.

From the confrontation of the True Flames, the two were simply not on the same level.

Such a powerful Innate Spiritual Flame!”

Luo Haochen’s expression fluctuated between light and shadow, his face showing envy and dissatisfaction.

“True Fire Spirit Flames” are the essence of the fire energy in heaven and earth, often containing extraordinary might, and due to different flame attributes, possess their own unique abilities.

Some naturally born True Flames are known as Innate Spiritual Flames.

In legends, some powerful Innate Spiritual Fires possess the ability to destroy heavens and earth, bringing calamities wherever they go, making even the great powers of the world step aside.

Undoubtedly.

The “Blood Crystal Flame” that Chen Yu owned was an Innate Spiritual Flame that coexisted with the Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower.

And furthermore,

The majority of the flame’s essence was still sealed within the blood cocoon inside Chen Yu’s body, compressed into a blood crystal.

“Your Excellency, do you still wish to continue the battle?”

Chen Yu’s tone was calm, the glimmering blood flame dancing on his palm like crystal dreams.

Luo Haochen’s complexion darkened, his heart roaring with unwillingness.

He was a genius of the Ancient Clan, with a noble bloodline, and had refined the “White Shining True Flame”, yet he was defeated by a postnatal early-stage nobody.

But reality left him no choice.

In the true fire showdown, his pride, the White Shining True Flame, couldn't withstand a single hit.

In the clash of bloodlines, his opponent possessed a bloodline akin to that of a holy dragon, completely overpowering him.

Even without the Blood Crystal Flame, relying on his robust physique and the explosive power of his heart, along with the dragon scale bloodline, Chen Yu had a good chance of winning.

However,

With the [Blood Crystal Flame] in play, Chen Yu won with even greater ease, sparing himself a tough battle.

"No... Your bloodline power!"

Luo Haochen's flickering gaze landed on the blood-patterned dragon scales emerging on Chen Yu's body.

During their clash, he had sensed something vaguely familiar about this bloodline phenomenon.

Now, upon a closer look, he finally realized something was amiss.

"How could the traces of the Blood Dragon Beast's bloodline appear on you?"

"And how can you possess two different bloodlines!"

Luo Haochen was extremely shocked, staring unblinkingly at Chen Yu.

Even the black emperor bloodline that Chen Yu had before, if not for the restriction of cultivation, might have surpassed that of his own Ancient Clan bloodline.

Chen Yu's heart tightened; Luo Haochen discovering such a secret was extremely unfavorable.

He was just about to speak some misleading words.

Thump, thump, thump!

Suddenly, a mysterious heart began to pound rapidly, issuing a warning.

Crack!

Suddenly, the rock wall behind them burst open, with a vast array of bizarre blood patterns emerging, spreading like a spider web.

This was the very place where the Blood Dragon Beast had awakened before.

"Who... killed my dragon beast?"

A chilling and ghastly voice came from the deeper part of the rock wall.

Boom, boom, boom!

The entire underground riverbed and surrounding rock walls began to shake, cracking open as an earth-shattering presence awakened.

"Run!"

Chen Yu didn't think twice; his heart went into an explosive state as he transformed into a blood-black afterimage, running towards the ground nearby.

That voice, as well as the awakening presence, gave him an unprecedented sense of crisis.

"What on earth is going on?"

Luo Haochen felt his bloodline tremble with fright and glanced in alarm toward the area where the blood patterns were spreading from the cracked rock wall.

Swoosh!

Luo Haochen turned into an afterimage, following Chen Yu and running in the direction of the ground.

However,

Just as they had run a few dozen feet,

The cracked rock wall with blood patterns suddenly shook, extending a dirty, blood crystal-smearred hand.

"Where do you think you're going!"

The blood crystal hand was only the size of an ordinary person's, but with a casual squeeze, it gathered a blood-red phantom in the void of the space.

Whoosh, boom!

A blood palm phantom, as large as a small mountain, sweeping down with a commanding presence, advanced towards Chen Yu and Luo Haochen.

"Ah!"

Luo Haochen, who was half a step behind, screamed in terror, his hairs standing on end.

He felt his body enveloped by a terrifying suction force, as if trapped in a quagmire, unable to escape.

Swish!

The blood palm phantom instantly clasped Luo Haochen, and with a "snap," his body was crushed into a clump of blood mud.

This scene was sensed by Chen Yu's spiritual awareness.

Luo Haochen was only a few feet away from him.

"Run faster!"

Chen Yu felt a chill down his spine, and his heart sank into an abyss.

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

His heart, in a bursting technique state, pushed his speed to the ultimate limit.

Buzz! Roar!

"Dark True Qi" surged into his legs, and the "Blood-Color Dragon Scales" bloodline also fully erupted on his body.

Amidst the sound of a dragon's roar, a shadow of a blood scale dragon emerged on Chen Yu, his speed reaching an all-time peak.

As such,

Chen Yu's dark True Qi and dragon scale bloodline were drastically consumed.

Bang swoosh!

Chen Yu's speed exploded, turning into a blood-scaled afterimage, finally gaining some distance from the blood palm phantom behind him.

Boom, boom, boom!

By a distance of a few feet, the colossal blood palm phantom smashed the nearby mountainside into dust.

"Eh?"

The owner of the blood crystal hand in the fissure revealed himself.

It was a gaunt young man with blue eyes, extraordinarily handsome but with a pale and weak appearance.

"Hm? That seems to be the Blood Dragon Beast's bloodline phenomenon, how can this be?"

The gaunt young man was taken aback.

The Blood Dragon Beast was his pet beast, which for special reasons had slumbered here with him.

Now,

The power of the Blood Dragon Beast's bloodline was unexpectedly bolstering a human youth, allowing him to suddenly accelerate and avoid his attack.

"Could it be, this youth is a descendant of the 'Blood-sucking Clan'!"

"Only the Blood-sucking Clan has such an ability, to devour others' bloodlines and convert them for their own use."

The blue-eyed youth's expression instantly turned cold, a chilling murderous intent evident in his eyes.

Regardless of whether the Blood Dragon Beast was his pet, the other party, being a "Blood-sucking Clan" member, was a bitter nemesis to his own race.

These thoughts flashed through the blue-eyed young man's mind in an instant.

"This boy must not be left alive!"

Behind the blue-eyed young man, a pair of insidious and sinister blood wings condensed.

With a flap,

The blood wings unfolded, and the blue-eyed youth transformed into a bloody blur, rapidly chasing after Chen Yu.

His sudden burst of speed was at least ten times that of Chen Yu!

However,

The bloody blur had only shot forth a few dozen feet when suddenly, it halted.

Ugh!

The blue-eyed youth spat out a mouthful of blood, his complexion turning even paler and more feeble, and he stumbled.

"My old injuries have not healed, I've slumbered for so long, my primordial qi bloodline has nearly run dry

The blue-eyed youth's face fluctuated with uncertainty.

Chapter 223: Foreign Strongman

"My old injuries have not healed, I've slept for so long, my Primordial Qi Bloodline is nearly exhausted

The blue-eyed youth's complexion was gloomy, his face pale and weak.

Behind him, his sinister Blood Wings suddenly dimmed, resembling the wings of a bat, they weakly retracted into his body.

Seeing this.

Chen Yu's figure quickly darted into the passageway leading to the ground.

Puh!

The blue-eyed youth gritted his teeth and extended an index finger to pierce his brow, a drop of dark essence blood emerging from the fingertip.

"Break!"

With a press of the finger, the drop of essence blood ignited, transforming into a huge finger shadow capable of splitting mountains and tearing earth, the blood light soared to the sky, accompanied by the sound of thunderous rumbling.

"This is bad!"

Chen Yu dove into the ground passage, sensing an overwhelming oppressive presence.

Even burrowing into the rock walls, he felt not a hint of safety.

All Chen Yu could do was flee at top speed and reinforce his defenses as much as possible.

Boom! Bang!

The massive blood-colored finger shadow struck near where Chen Yu had entered the rock wall.

In an instant.

The underground rock walls cracked and collapsed, huge chunks of rock layer peeled off, disintegrating into powder.

Wa!

Separated by a dozen yards of rock layers, Chen Yu was hit by the remnants of the finger strike's force, and he spat out a mouthful of blood on the spot.

Crack! Crack!

The Blood Scale Dragon Shadow covering his body, along with the dark blue light film of his beast hide armor, shattered in succession.

It was hard to imagine the true might of that one finger strike.

Even through a dozen yards of rock layer, the power of that strike had been reduced by over eighty percent.

The remaining ten to twenty percent was enough to break through the Blood Scale Dragon Shadow and the beast hide armor's protection.

Chen Yu knew very well that these two layers of defense would not necessarily be shattered with one blow even if Elder Mao, a seasoned Innate at his level, struck with full strength.

At last.

The Copper Statue Technique's true body layer and his physique's own defense were still strong enough to leave Chen Yu seriously injured.

Yet this wasn't everything!

Boom bang!

The collapsing of the rock walls blocked the passage to the surface, striking Chen Yu with a massive blow.

Apparently, this was the real intent of the blue-eyed youth.

To cause a collapse of the rock walls to obstruct the path.

"To kill my Blood Dragon Beast, a descendant of the Blood-sucking Clan, if I let you escape, my lifetime of reputation

A cold, grim smile appeared on the increasingly pale face of the blue-eyed youth.

But soon.

The smile on his face froze.

Chen Yu, buried under the rock walls, was not only unmaimed or dead as imagined, but also forcefully surged upwards.

Through Spiritual Sense scanning.

The young man in the rock wall burst into a glaze of Blood Crystal Flame light, and the surrounding rock walls melted away like snow in an instant.

"That is... Blood Crystal Flame!"

The blue-eyed youth could not help but exclaim aloud.

With just one glance, he recognized the Blood Crystal Flame.

"How could such a powerful Blood Dao Sacred Flame fall into the hands of a mere Postnatal Stage junior?"

The blue-robed youth's face was clouded with dismay, quite aggrieved.

However.

Having just expended essence blood, he was now in extreme weakness and had no strength to block further.

"Break!"

Inside the rock wall, as Chen Yu's body shone with the Blood Crystal Flame light, the Blood Scale Dragon Shadow reappeared behind him, breaking through the blocked passageway.

Fortunately.

The passage was not as deep as they had imagined.

A few breaths later, Chen Yu burst through the surface along with a cloud of dust and debris, the Blood Scale Dragon Shadow retracting behind him.

Nearby on the surface.

Ye Luofeng, He Qiuyun, and others were not too far away.

Just now, they had felt the tremors of an earthquake from deep underground, as a massive breath surged, suffocating.

Subsequently.

An indistinct dragon's roar, accompanied by a bloody shadow and a cloud of dust and debris, erupted from the ground.

The group felt an invisible pressure of vital blood, causing their bodies and spirits to tremble.

"Chen Yu!"

After the dust settled, a young man in beast hide armor, bloodied, emerged from the debris.

Cough cough!

Chen Yu coughed violently, his back soaked with cold sweat, feeling the terror of having walked through the gates of hell.

"Chen Yu, you're the only one who came out; where is Luo Haochen?"

He Qiuyun asked.

Nearby, other Qi Transformation Realm talented youths wore puzzled expressions.

This underground passage.

So far, only Chen Yu and Luo Haochen had entered in succession.

"Luo Haochen is dead!"

Chen Yu took a deep breath, calming his blood and feeling the rapid healing of his internal injuries.

Dead?

Everyone present, including He Qiuyun, Ye Luofeng, the Black Robed Puppet Master, were somewhat dazed.

Many showed incredulous faces.

That Luo Haochen, known as a talented individual with an Ancient Bloodline, had strength that was counted among the top in this “Hunting King” competition.

Furthermore, Luo Haochen had also cultivated the White Shining True Flame.

"Everyone! There has appeared an extremely terrifying alien powerhouse in these underground passages, we must retreat quickly!"

Chen Yu's expression tensed.

He dared not linger a moment longer nor had the time to explain further; after signalling Ye Luofeng with a Spiritual Sense communication, he immediately withdrew.

Whoosh!

Chen Yu turned into a faint shadow, rushing towards the direction of the Hunting King starting point.

"What alien? What nonsense!"

"Stay there! Where is the Blood Dragon Beast Demon Core?"

Some of the present Postnatal Stage talented youths were utterly unconvinced.

Immediately.

The Black Robed Puppet Master and two Postnatal Stage youths from the Chu Family made their move to intercept.

Crack!

From the metallic arm of the Black Robed Puppet Master sprung a Purple Iron Claw Hook that flashed like lightning towards Chen Yu.

At the same time.

The other two Postnatal Stage youths each unleashed a spatial swordlight and saberlight, both attacks respectable among those in the Postnatal Stage.

"You know not what's good for you!"

Chen Yu wore a cold smile, despite his pacifying words he was met with suspicion.

He was unapologetic.

Extending a bronze-shining large hand, the Blood Scale remnants barely flickered, “Ding,” he caught the Purple Iron Claw Hook with his bare hands.

This time.

He temporarily boosted the Dragon Bloodline in his arm, instantly feeling his strength and defense surge by nearly double.

"Rise!"

Chen Yu bellowed as he grabbed the Purple Iron Claw Hook and swung it like a Meteor Hammer, tossing the Black Robed Puppet Master high into the sky.

"Ahh

The Black Robed Puppet Master screamed in shock as he flailed his limbs in terror while ascending.

The onlookers stood dumbstruck, watching the Black Robed Puppet Master turn into a speck in the distance.

Boom!

A few breaths later, the Black Robed Puppet Master crashed into a forest, sending a thunderous roar and dust flying everywhere.

As for the knife and sword beams from the two other Postnatal youths, Chen Yu easily disregarded them with the defense of the Copper Statue Technique and the animal hide armor.

"The amplification of strength by this Dragon Bloodline is astonishing."

Chen Yu was slightly surprised.

Just now, he had used his bloodline without any clear signs, fearing no exposure.

Swoosh!

Chen Yu quickened his pace, continuing on his journey.

Back at the site, the youths looked fearful and dared not pursue any further.

"Seeing Chen Yu fleeing in such panic, there must really be some terrifying existence down below."

"No matter, the Blood Dragon Beast Demon Core has most likely fallen into his hands."

The crowd conversed in low voices.

Eventually,

Most maintained their distance but followed Chen Yu's lead back to the hunting ground's departure point.

An hour later,

Team after team gathered at the hunting ground's departure point.

Chen Yu, amidst the crowd, felt slightly relieved as he looked at the several pavilions atop the mountain.

This place was guarded by several Guiyuan Realm powerhouses and should not be feared even by that weakly awakened exotic powerhouse.

Chen Yu had an intuition that the Blue-eyed Youth from the Blood Wing Clan would definitely not give up pursuing and killing him.

Another two hours passed.

Dawn approached, and the sky was soon lit with the daybreak's first light.

"The Hunting Competition, three days have passed."

A Flying Bird Knight in the Innate Stage with a Yun flag flew over the heads of the crowd.

"Guest Chen, can we claim the first place in this Hunting Competition?"

Fu Hong asked cautiously.

At that moment,

Rumors were circulating among the teams that Chen Yu had obtained the Blood Dragon Beast Demon Core.

"Of course!"

Chen Yu was relaxed and smiling.

Just then,

He locked eyes with Ye Luofeng's clear and icy gaze.

Ye Luofeng's beautiful, jade-like face seemed unsettled, showing a trace of unease.

Chen Yu chuckled maliciously, his eyes sweeping over the cold and aloof girl's pristine beauty.

Ye Luofeng bit her lip nervously; her heart raced as she averted her gaze from Chen Yu's somewhat fiery stare.

"This is great!"

"Securing the title of Hunting King means hefty rewards for every member of our squad."

"What a pity that Fu Jing died by the hand of that Blood Dragon Beast."

The youths of the Fu Family discussed among themselves, their overall mood more joyous than worried.

The title of Hunting King would greatly enhance the Fu Family's fame and attract talents.

...

Before long,

The hunting teams had returned to the mountain peak's starting point.

"Now, let's tally the results."

The Prince Manor dispatched a Guiyuan Realm official and several Innate Stage powerhouses to count the hunt's achievements.

With so many watchful eyes, no one could play any tricks.

Chen Yu was feeling delighted within.

The individual Hunting King's rewards were quite substantial.

Moreover, he also had beside him... this ethereally beautiful girl who was an additional "reward"!

"Why hasn't Luo Haochen shown up?"

In a pavilion belonging to the Prince Manor, Marquis Yunlai and others showed a hint of surprise.

Upon hearing this,

The gaze of many young hunters shifted towards Chen Yu.

Chen Yu hesitated, wondering how to explain the death of "Luo Haochen."

This matter could indeed be troublesome.

After all,

The battle underground was a duel between two, without third-party hunter verification.

But just then,

Swoosh!

A residue of blood wings streaked across the sky from afar.

"Human junior... prepare to die swiftly!"

The silhouette of the Blood Wing Blue-eyed Youth emerged from the bloody afterglow.

In a moment,

A chilling blood radiance tinted the surrounding sky, spreading a formidable oppression.

"It's barely even midnight, and he has regained so much strength."

Chen Yu's heart chilled.

Furthermore, this person was able to pursue him with such precision.

"Who goes there!"

Several Guiyuan Realm elders present shouted, releasing powerful auras.

Swish!

The Blood Wing Blue-eyed Youth spread his blood wings, increasing his speed, and materialized a bloody blade in his hand.

"Senior Fu, this person wants to kill me!"

Chen Yu cried out in alarm.

He never expected the exotic powerhouse to harbor such a strong desire to kill him, daring to come all the way to this mountaintop.

Boom!

The blood blade in the sky, emitting crackling bloody electric glints, expanded to twenty to thirty zhang and slashed towards Chen Yu.

"Stop!"

Fu Yangzi reacted first, flashing into the air.

Whoosh!

Fu Yangzi spun his hand and unleashed a series of deep, cyan ancient tree shadows, enveloping a radius of several dozen zhang.

Boom!

The blood blade bursting with electric glints struck the ancient tree shadows, instantly disintegrating upon impact.

Fu Yangzi's form shook and he staggered back, with a trace of blood at the corner of his mouth.

Moreover, his arm and shoulder bore several scorch marks.

Chen Yu was shocked; Fu Yangzi's strength surpassed that of Yunyue Sect's Supreme Elder Gongyang, but he was defeated by a single strike from the Blood Wing Blue-eyed Youth.

In just half the night, the Blue-eyed Youth had recovered a fraction of his power, yet he was so fiercely formidable.

"The Blood Wing Clan! How dare you invade Yun Zhao Country!"

Marquis Yunlai in the Prince Manor's pavilion shouted sternly, his eyes flashing sharply.

Chapter 224: Ascend to Hunting King

The Blood Wing Blue-eyed Youth, with a single blow, defeated Fu Yangzi, startling everyone.

"Blood Wing Clan! How dare they come to invade Yun Zhao Country!"

Marquis Yunlai, dressed in a luxurious cloud-patterned robe that fluttered noisily, floated into the void.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Several other Guiyuan Realm experts at the scene, following Marquis Yunlai's lead, flew up into the sky, casting cold glances at the blue-eyed foreign youth.

The foreign youth's expression changed slightly.

After recovering some Yuan Qi, he had tracked down Chen Yu by the scent of the Blood Dragon Beast on his body.

Unexpectedly,

There were several Guiyuan Realm experts in this place.

"Humph! Humans of the Guiyuan Realm like you—I've killed countless before."

The blue-eyed youth spoke with a cold voice as he slowly spread his arms.

Buzzcrack!

His blood wings on his back started to shimmer with a cold dark blood glow, abruptly expanding by twenty to thirty feet.

The next moment.

With the blue-eyed youth as the center, the surrounding patches of sky surged with numerous overlapping blood wing blades, shining intensely.

"Quick, attack!"

Fu Yangzi, Wu Tianxiao, and other powerful Guiyuan Realm experts changed their expressions.

The overlapping illusionary blood wing blades, like a storm of blood blades, instantly engulfed several major Guiyuan Realm experts.

Apart from Marquis Yunlai, several other Guiyuan Realm experts appeared slightly panicked as they coped.

Sizzle! Sizzle!

The collision between the blood wing blades and the Guiyuan Realms gave off brilliant electric sparks, causing ordinary Guiyuan Realm beings to tremble when touched.

"Monsters!"

Marquis Yunlai snorted coldly; a dark blood-colored wave of cloud light emerged around him, repeatedly rushing towards the blue-eyed youth.

Within the radiance of this dark blood cloud wave, several massive cloud light beast shadows appeared, pouncing at the foreign youth.

"You human have actually integrated some secrets of the beast blood faction."

The blue-eyed youth's expression darkened.

The bit of Yuan Qi he had managed to recover in his body was going to be exhausted again, a flash of reluctance appeared in his pupils.

However,

Given the sheer number of human powerhouses at the moment, being alone, grievously injured, exhausted of Yuan Qi, and weakened,

"Luotian Fan!"

Marquis Yunlai's face was stern as he produced an antique, muted-silver feather fan in his hand.

As soon as the fan appeared, it immediately emitted a vast aura, swirling with pieces of fluctuating silver clouds.

Whoosh-buzz!

The silver clouds swelled up in an instant, extending into a massive cloud-mist light shadow with an imposing force capable of encompassing heaven and earth.

"It's actually a replica of the 'Luotian Fan

A trace of solemnity and fear appeared in the blue-eyed youth's eyes for the first time.

Swish-swoosh!

The blue-eyed youth hesitated no longer; a tremor of his blood wings transformed him into a streak of blood wing remnants, fleeing toward the distance.

A hint of mockery curled up at the corner of Marquis Yunlai's mouth.

Boom-swish!

The massive silver nimbus fan shadow in the heavenly void suddenly trembled, manifesting a giant silver twilight fan shadow that swept across the fleeing blood wing remnants.

Ah!

The blue-eyed youth spat out a mouthful of blood, tumbling over miles in the sky before he managed to stabilize himself.

Enduring his injuries, his face was filled with rage and resentment.

"Humans! The hatred of today, I will return it multifold someday

With a beat of his blood wings, the blue-eyed youth merged into the distant horizon.

At the mountain peak, amid the pavilion.

Phew!

Everyone present breathed a sigh of relief.

"Thankfully, Lord acted and repelled the enemy with a single fan!"

Several Guiyuan Realm experts in the scene said politely with awe in their expressions.

Yun Zhao Country was divided into thirty-six prefectures, each governed by a prince.

Each prince, renowned in their own right, commanded immense influence as pillars of the ancient nation.

"Is this the strength of a 'Prince-level' expert?"

Chen Yu was shocked.

The power exhibited by Marquis Yunlai's fan could be described as earth-shattering, terrifyingly potent even among Guiyuan Realm experts.

"This member of the Blood Wing Clan is unusually weak. It seems what he displayed was merely twenty or thirty percent of his strength at his peak."

Marquis Yunlai spoke solemnly.

"Only twenty or thirty percent?"

"Could the peak cultivation of this fiend is that of the Sky Sea Realm?"

Some elders present shuddered.

The supreme Sky Sea Realm, on Kunyun Continent, represented a peak unreachable.

Of course,

In Yun Zhao Country, one of the three great ancient nations, sightings of the Sky Sea Realm had been rumored.

"Even if it's not the Sky Sea Realm, it's not far off. This is no trivial matter; I will report this to the current 'Holy Emperor.'"

Marquis Yunlai continued slowly.

Chen Yu, hearing the discussion above, felt his heart skip a beat.

He had never expected the Blood Wing Clan's powerhouse to be so formidable at his peak.

Considering,

The Ancient Beast Demon Core of the Blood Dragon Beast was of the Guiyuan Realm level.

Possessing an Ancient Beast as a Spirit Pet, even if the blue-eyed youth wasn't of the Sky Sea Realm, he had a terrifying strength approaching that of the Sky Sea Realm.

...

The chaos caused by the appearance of the foreign powerhouse soon settled down.

Then,

Including Marquis Yunlai, several Guiyuan Realm experts' gazes collectively fixed on Chen Yu.

"Guest Chen, what happened just now? That foreign powerhouse, he actually pursued you despite being heavily wounded."

Fu Yangzi asked.

Chen Yu, not daring to conceal anything, reluctantly smiled and said, "Because that Blood Dragon Beast was his Spirit Pet, and I unfortunately killed it."

Upon hearing this,

All the elders present were taken aback.

And the Blood Dragon Beast, being the Spirit Pet of a foreign powerhouse, no wonder he ruthlessly pursued Chen Yu.

After all,

Such Ancient Beasts like the Blood Dragon Beast were rare, running through its veins, a diluted bloodline of True Dragon Holy Beast.

Of course,

What the crowd did not know was

The foreign powerhouse wanted to kill Chen Yu also because he misperceived him as a member of the Blood-sucking Clan.

Furthermore,

The 'Blood Crystal Flame' on Chen Yu had also attracted the covetousness of the Blood Wing Clan powerhouse.

It didn't take long.

Chen Yu recounted what had happened underground, including the cause of Luo Haochen's death.

"Luo Haochen, did he die at the hands of those foreign tribes?"

The various powerhouses present looked at each other.

Regarding Chen Yu's "unilateral statement," people including Marquis Yunlai were all somewhat skeptical.

Chen Yu looked somewhat frustrated.

Indeed, he hadn't killed Luo Haochen, but there were no witnesses present.

"The death of Luo Haochen. The Ancient Clan Luo Family will naturally have ways to determine the true culprit."

Marquis Yunlai paused slightly.

His gaze fell on Chen Yu:

"I will tentatively believe your words."

"But Luo Haochen came to assist our Prince Manor. Before the Luo Family arrives to find out the truth, you cannot leave Yunlai Prefecture."

Marquis Yunlai's tone was plain but carried an invisible authority.

"The junior understands."

Chen Yu did not object.

Presumably, with the resources of the ten great ancient clans, through a bloodline connection, some truth could likely be revealed.

Subsequently,

This session of the “Hunting Competition” began to establish the position of the Hunting King and distribute rewards.

When Chen Yu presented the “Blood Dragon Beast” demon core, his hunting performance overshadowed everyone else’s, securing first place.

Even if all other teams’ demon cores were combined, they couldn’t match this single one.

A Guiyuan Realm demon core had never appeared in previous hunting competitions.

Moreover,

This was an Ancient Beast Demon Core containing the bloodline of a True Dragon Holy Beast, worth more than ten times that of others at the same level.

Amid the envious and reluctant gazes of many factions, the Fu Family secured this session’s position of the “Hunting King.”

Within the Fu Family team,

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng felt the stares from many factions.

"Guest Chen, ascending to the position of Hunting King, you will soon gain fame in Yunlai Prefecture and even have a bit of reputation in Yun Zhao Country,"

Fu Yanzi said, her face full of admiration and joy.

Chen Yu smiled slightly, then went with his teammates to collect their rewards.

This session's rewards for the Hunting King were very substantial.

Firstly, the team Hunting King rewards.

Each member of the Hunting King team received rewards.

"Team Hunting King: Each member is rewarded with ten thousand genuine yuan stones, a 'Demon Soul Pill,' and access to the Prince Manor's 'Secret Attic' to choose a secret art."

A middle-aged man in the Innate phase announced loudly.

Soon,

Each young member of the Fu Family received ten thousand genuine yuan stones, one Demon Soul Pill, and a token for entry into the Prince Manor's "Secret Attic."

After receiving the rewards,

Chen Yu felt a surge of excitement.

Ten thousand genuine yuan stones were equivalent to one million lesser yuan stones.

[Demon Soul Pill]: For those in Postnatal Qi Transformation, it can significantly increase cultivation and strengthen physique and spirit.

That "Secret Attic" of the Prince Manor was a place many talented individuals longed for.

Additionally,

As an individual Hunting King, Chen Yu also received his own exclusive rewards.

"Chen Yu, now I confer upon you the position of 'Baron,'"

Marquis Yunlai announced.

The position of Baron was one of the additional rewards for the personal Hunting King.

A Baron was a true noble ranking in Yun Zhao Country, not merely an honorary noble.

Such slots, even for a prince of a prefecture, were very limited.

"Thank you, my Lord!"

Chen Yu hastily bowed and received a token from Marquis Yunlai's hands.

This token was pale blue, with a lifelike Cloud Dragon and a blazing sun intertwined on its surface.

Under the instruction of Marquis Yunlai,

Chen Yu integrated a drop of his blood into the token.

Simultaneously, Marquis Yunlai took out another brilliant golden token, from which a mysterious fluctuation emerged and infused into Chen Yu's token.

Quickly,

Chen Yu confirmed his identity and became part of the noble class of Yun Zhao Country.

In addition to the title of "Baron,"

Chen Yu would also gain a recommendation right for Yun Zhao First Academy's "Yunyang Imperial College."

The so-called "recommendation right" means bypassing various selection competitions and the regular admission process, directly entering the final assessment and even receiving certain prioritization.

"Chen Yu, you have one last reward left."

In Marquis Yunlai's palm appeared a seven-sided, multicolored Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box.

"Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box!"

Several figures in the crowd exclaimed.

Chen Yu once again felt the intensely envious gazes of many youngsters.

In Yunlai Prefecture, many knew that Marquis Yunlai possessed an Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box.

Marquis Yunlai kept his most precious and beloved treasures inside the Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box.

Only in very rare instances would he award treasures from within the Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box.

Of course,

There were many rare treasures within the Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box, and whether one could pick a suitable or extraordinary treasure depended on luck.

"Open!"

With a flick of his finger, Marquis Yunlai caused the seven-sided “Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box” to burst into dazzling multicolored crystal light.

Click!

The treasure box opened, and its mouth emitted a strange and enticing array of lights, releasing a tempting aroma of treasures.

Neither the external gaze nor Spiritual Sense could penetrate this treasure box.

"Chen Yu, you may pick one item."

"But remember, once your hand grasps or touches something, that will be your chosen object."

Marquis Yunlai said with a smile.

Chen Yu nodded and stretched his hand into the Exquisite Hundred Treasure Box.

In the next moment,

He felt his hand as if entering another dimensional space, seemingly able to extend indefinitely.

Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump!

With eyes half-closed, Chen Yu's mystical heart entered a strange rhythm of beats, enhancing his senses.

Soon,

His heart sensed an object and began to beat faster.

"This one!"

Following his senses, Chen Yu reached out and grabbed an object.

Everyone's gaze was fixed on the item that Chen Yu had pulled out.

But Marquis Yunlai's smile suddenly stiffened, his brows twitched rapidly, and his face showed a pained expression.

Chapter 225: The Nameless Broken Wing

Guided by the feelings of his heart and intuition, Chen Yu reached into the Hundred Treasures Exquisite Box and grabbed something.

The tactile sensation was unique—flexible yet strong, ice-cold and smooth, almost like the fur or feathers of some animal.

"What is this thing!"

Chen Yu's eyes widened as he stared at the pair of tattered, pitch-black wings in his hand.

The left and right wings were connected as one, stretching out for about an hour in length with numerous tears and damage.

These wings must have been refined by an artifact refiner, yet by touch and sight, they were indistinguishable from the real wings of a bird.

Chen Yu felt a whiff of a wild and ancient aura mixed with an invisible pressure, akin to the Holy Beast Bloodline of the True Dragon Holy Beast.

Moreover,

The faint beating of the mysterious heart seemed to sense a powerful force within these wings—a powerful force that was sealed and dead silent.

The pained expression on Marquis Yunlai's face made Chen Yu even more aware of the wings' preciousness and extraordinariness.

"May I ask, my Lord, what is this object?"

Chen Yu couldn't help but inquire.

Everyone present showed a look of curiosity.

From Marquis Yunlai's reaction, these wings must be considered one of the top items in the Exquisite Treasure Box.

"These 'Nameless Tattered Wings' were obtained by me more than a decade ago in an ancient relic. The material of these wings is very uncommon and resistant to damage even from attacks at the Guiyuan Realm level, and they possess an ancient and rare bird's aura

Marquis Yunlai began to speak slowly,

His gaze towards the wings carried a hint of reluctance.

Resistant to damage even at the Guiyuan Realm?

The crowd was moved.

At the very least, from the material standpoint, these wings were of high quality and must contain the feathers of some ancient and rare bird.

"May I ask, what is the specific function of these tattered wings?"

Chen Yu asked solemnly.

"Although these wings are damaged, they can grant those at the Qi Transformation Realm the ability to fly for short durations!"

Marquis Yunlai declared.

The ability to fly!

Chen Yu was excited, filled with ecstatic joy.

Flying, soaring through the skies—this was the unreachable dream of countless people.

"These wings are the legendary flight artifact!"

The hall erupted into a buzz of amazement.

Flight artifact!

Such a thing was rare even among the gamut of extraordinary treasures, extremely hard to come by.

"Moreover, with the enhancement of these wings, one's speed and movement technique flexibility will greatly increase, especially amplifying the abilities of those at the Qi Transformation Realm."

Marquis Yunlai spoke wistfully.

Suddenly,

Everyone understood why Marquis Yunlai was so pained.

A pair of special material, mysteriously originated tattered wings that could grant flight to those at the Qi Transformation Realm and significantly enhance speed and movement technique.

Although it's said,

The Guiyuan Realm already had the ability to fly shortly, having these wings as an addition was beneficial nonetheless.

"My Lord, have you tried to repair these wings?"

Chen Yu asked a crucial question.

Just a pair of damaged wings already held such capabilities; how powerful would they have been when whole.

"I have tried, even sought the help of Artifact Refining Masters, and even attempts to graft feathers from ancient beasts and rare birds were repelled by the material of these wings, unable to be repaired and incorporated."

Marquis Yunlai sighed lightly.

After speaking,

He waved his hand, and his gaze swept over Chen Yu complexly.

As a reigning prince, his word was as good as gold—he would not go back on it.

Furthermore,

These tattered wings had made no progress in his hands for more than a decade. Perhaps their real secrets were not meant for him.

After receiving the “Individual Hunting King” reward,

Chen Yu returned to the Fu Family Pavilion and met up with the Fu family members.

During this process, Chen Yu felt many gazes of admiration, envy, displeasure, and unwillingness.

Even,

Some looks carried skepticism.

If Luo Haochen or He Qiuyun, such supreme geniuses, had won the title of Hunting King, most people would not question it.

However,

Chen Yu was just a nobody, with a cultivation at the Postnatal Early Stage, also not on par with several of the popular candidates who won the championship.

...

An hour later,

Representatives from the various powers gathered around the Prince Manor for private discussions.

During the meeting,

Fu Yangzi looked radiant with joy, beaming with happiness.

As per tradition, the family of the Hunting King gained priority in the resource allocation choices in Yunlai Prefecture for the next three years.

It wasn't until the afternoon of the same day

That the hunting competition began to wind down.

"The Hunting Competition concludes here. Members of the Hunting King's team may use their Token to exchange for a Secret Technique at the Prince Manor's secret tower."

A middle-aged man at the Postnatal Middle Stage announced loudly.

The Fu Family team had no immediate plans to go to the Prince Manor.

That day,

The Fu Family hunting squad returned to the Fu Family and received treatment "like stars holding the moon."

The entire Fu Family celebrated for the hunting squad.

During the festive banquet,

Many of the youths showed expressions of excitement.

Only one person's brows were lightly furrowed, with a look of deep concerns and struggles.

"Miss Ye! Aren't you happy about us winning the Hunting King title?"

Fu Hong and several other young men asked curiously.

At these words, Ye Luofeng's calm eyes grew colder, and the slight heaving of her chest revealed the fierce internal struggle of her emotions.

Only Chen Yu curved his lips into a smirk.

This Hunting Competition, with the individual Hunting King title snatched by Chen Yu, resulted in a crushing loss for Ye Luofeng's bet.

The last time they wagered, it was a small bet at best, risking just a kiss.

But this time, she would lose herself entirely.

No matter how good Ye Luofeng's mental state was, she was frustrated and extremely annoyed.

"Everyone, my senior sister fought hard during the Hunting Competition and was injured. The latent injuries are acting up."

Chen Yu cheered with a fine wine, letting out a hearty laugh.

In his heart, he felt that secret thrill.

This Hunting Competition could be described as a "win-win" situation.

"Hmph!"

Ye Luofeng, wearing an angry look, let out a low huff, but didn't dare to directly face the "suggestive" gaze in Chen Yu's eyes.

Under the peculiar gazes of the young warriors, Ye Luofeng left as if she had flown away.

"Ha ha! Let's continue drinking!"

Chen Yu grinned and laughed loudly.

After three consecutive days and nights of hunting and battling, it was time to relax properly.

As for the “bet agreement” with Ye Luofeng, Chen Yu did not want to push the girl too hard at the moment, giving her some time to adapt.

Chen Yu certainly did not want the cooked pigeon to fly away.

That night.

Chen Yu returned to his residence, drunk, and without seeking out Ye Luofeng, fell asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

Chen Yu slept soundly.

Elsewhere, within a pavilion surrounded by bamboo, lights remained on.

Ye Luofeng had barely slept all night, her clear and piercing eyes staring out the door, flickering uncertainly.

Her teeth grazed her lips lightly, her willowy brows occasionally furrowed, and her stunning, ice-beautiful face showed annoyance—and unknowingly, sometimes a touch of red would flit across it.

However.

To Ye Luofeng's surprise.

Chen Yu didn't come over to collect on the bet as she had anticipated, which left her enormously unsettled the entire night.

It felt like the agony and psychological pressure of someone waiting for a certain doom.

"Could it be, this scoundrel has reformed?"

Ye Luofeng was greatly surprised.

In her eyes, Chen Yu was neither a bad person nor a good one, with just a hint of common lust.

Or rather, he was an average man, not particularly good or bad, and caught in worldly desires.

After a night of agony.

Ye Luofeng's clear eyes reddened with fatigue, and eventually, she fell into a heavy sleep.

The next morning, Chen Yu woke up early.

The first thing he did upon waking.

Chen Yu began to tally the spoils from the "Hunting Contest."

This included the Blood Dragon Beast's demon core, which peacefully lay in the storage bag.

Besides that.

The team hunting king was awarded ten thousand genuine yuan stones, one Demon Soul Pill, and one Secret Pavilion Token.

Chen Yu's gaze paused for a moment on the Demon Soul Pill.

"This pill can significantly increase cultivation for those in the Postnatal Qi Transformation and strengthen the physique and spirit

He contemplated for a while.

If he waited six months to use this pill, it might enable Chen Yu to advance to the Postnatal Middle Stage in one fell swoop.

After putting away the rewards for the "Team Hunting King."

Chen Yu took out the individual hunting king's reward, the "Nameless Remnant Wing."

Touching the black feathers, Chen Yu felt excited.

To fly—that was the dream of any human being since childhood.

Chen Yu, as a child, had the same dream.

However.

Using this flying treasure would not be so simple.

First, he needed to refine it with his own True Qi and Spiritual Sense, at least to establish a slight connection.

In this aspect.

Chen Yu, having practiced “Heavenly Heart Refining” and experienced in controlling sword shield puppets, found it not too difficult.

Half a day later.

The black remnant wing in front of him responded faintly to Chen Yu’s Spiritual Sense and True Qi.

At this moment.

Chen Yu could barely use this flying treasure.

Swoosh!

Chen Yu injected Primordial Evil True Qi into the tattered black wings.

Whump!

The surface of the tattered black wings presented a pale dark flow of air, which, under Chen Yu's control, floated and solidified behind him.

After several attempts.

The tattered black wings flapped, generating a fierce layer of pale dark wind.

Whoosh!

Chen Yu felt light, and gradually began to float up.

One foot, two feet... ten feet.

One yard, two yards... ten yards.

Before long.

Chen Yu, powered by the remnant black wings, flew dozens of yards into the sky.

During early practice, Chen Yu did not fly too high, and only practiced near his courtyard.

Additionally.

He executed his movement technique within the courtyard, and found that with the remnant black wings, his speed increased by more than fifty to sixty percent.

This was still him only beginning to refine the remnant wings, not yet bringing out their full power.

After half an hour.

"However, the True Qi consumption when using these wings to fly is too great."

Chen Yu breathed heavily, his face showing a hint of weakness.

If he were to fly at full force with these wings, Chen Yu's reserve of True Qi could only last for a few dozen breaths.

Assuming he only floated simply, he could sustain for the duration of half a pot of tea.

Just amplifying his speed with movement technique, he could last more than an hour.

At dusk.

Chen Yu stopped practicing with the remnant wings and sat down to recover his vital energy.

Just then.

Into the courtyard walked a familiar figure in a white gauze gown.

"Ye Luofeng?"

Chen Yu was stunned, looking at the breathtakingly beautiful girl with an ethereal grace and jade-like skin.

The motive behind Ye Luofeng's visit was not hard to guess.

He had intended to let the girl calm down and adapt for a while before discussing the bet.

He had not expected her to come to him on her own initiative.

Chen Yu immediately waved his hand, dismissing his servants and leading Ye Luofeng to his room.

Inside the room.

"Luo Feng has lost the wager, what exactly do you want?"

Ye Luofeng's clear, cold eyes faced Chen Yu squarely, her teeth clenched lightly, her face tense and frosty.

"What do I want? Didn't Miss Ye say she would let me deal with it as I wished?"

Chen Yu stroked his chin.

His eyes, slightly aggressive and smiling, swept over the girl's immaculate ice-beautiful face, her delicate nose, her creamy skin, the smoothly rising curves of her body, and those hidden *****...

"I did say so, but don't take things too far!"

Ye Luofeng felt uncomfortable under his gaze, her face flushed with annoyance, her cheeks burning hot, her ears reddening, and she stamped her foot involuntarily.

Chapter 226: Settling the Bet

"Luo Feng has indeed said so, but don't push things too far!"

In her shame and annoyance, Ye Luofeng couldn't help but stamp her foot and glare fiercely at Chen Yu, although she lacked the courage to look him straight in the eye.

"Don't push things too far? It seems that even you know your position isn't strong."

Chen Yu chuckled.

"You did say that if you lost the bet, you would accept any outcome, even if it meant offering yourself."

The smile on Chen Yu's face grew even more brilliant.

Such an icy and noble beauty, to be at one's disposal, would send any normal man into fits of joy.

"Luo Feng has indeed said

Ye Luofeng's beautiful eyes dimmed.

She lightly bit her lip, and there was finally a trace of yielding in her tone. Her cold autumn-like eyes grew misty with a hint of sorrow.

However.

No matter what, she would never cry and beg this young man.

Chen Yu saw through her pretense.

To make the always proud and aloof Ye Luofeng show weakness and bow to him seemed quite unrealistic.

Requests like "a kiss" or "offering herself," even if there was a very slim possibility that Ye Luofeng would do it, she would resist it with all her heart.

"If you really want Luo Feng to offer herself to you, I hope you wait five or six years until we return to Beiyuan

Ye Luofeng spoke with a negotiating tone, her pretty face blushing.

Chen Yu's heart skipped a beat at her words.

From the tone of her voice, it seemed there might be a faint hope for such requests.

However.

Chen Yu quickly fell into contemplation.

He had never intended to actually marry Ye Luofeng.

The original intent of the bet was a small joke that unexpectedly escalated.

He did feel a bit of affection for Ye Luofeng.

But that feeling remained at a level of mild attraction to a beautiful member of the opposite sex, not yet reaching the level of true romantic affection.

Additionally.

Ye Luofeng didn't seem to have much of a fondness for him, let alone romantic feelings.

Forced fruit is never sweet, an important point to remember.

Even more so.

Chen Yu yearned for the pinnacle of cultivation, desiring to overlook greater and more magnificent vistas.

Marrying too early or getting distracted would be a loss not worth the gain.

"Well, I'll drop the idea of taking this woman as my wife."

Chen Yu convinced himself internally, resisting the foolish urge that arose from instinct.

After all.

The prospect of marrying such a stunningly beautiful wife was truly tantalizing.

"In that case, I won't demand your hand in marriage."

Chen Yu suddenly smiled.

Ye Luofeng let out a sigh of relief, a bit surprised.

She could vaguely sense the struggle and deliberation that had just occurred within Chen Yu's heart.

Suddenly.

She began to see this young man in a new light.

In Beiyuan, Qi Country, as well as in the current Yun Zhao Country, countless talented youths had fallen in love with her at first sight and pursued her.

If.

There was such an opportunity for Ye Luofeng to become the wife of these youths by force.

Certainly, these so-called talented individuals would not let such a chance slip by.

But now, this young man had chosen to give up such a request.

Ye Luofeng couldn't help but look at this young man, who had achieved miracles time and again, with fresh eyes.

He was tall and not excessively handsome, but he had a rugged charm about him, occasionally tinged with a touch of cynicism.

All at once.

She found this young man not as disagreeable as she had initially thought, even quite exceptional, especially considering his tough mindset.

However.

Ye Luofeng's change of heart was quickly overturned by Chen Yu's next words.

"However, if I could have a kiss from Miss Ye and thus settle our account, that would also be a fine idea."

Chen Yu couldn't help but lick his lips.

Somehow, he was reminded of the night he had secretly indulged in forbidden fruit with Qiu Xinxin.

Thinking back on it was indeed tantalizing and nostalgic.

"You

Ye Luofeng's delicate body trembled slightly, her indignation and rage intertwining, causing her to shiver.

Much to her surprise.

Just as she was beginning to see him in a better light, he made such an explicit request.

"Are you really sure you want to do this?"

The girl gave Chen Yu a deep look, her beautiful eyes filled with a chilling aura.

Chen Yu shivered involuntarily, feeling a penetrating coldness from her, and a sense of unease settled in his heart.

The truth was.

His suggestion of a kiss was not meant in earnest but was a test of Ye Luofeng's boundaries.

If it worked out, so be it; if not, he would not insist.

But now, seeing Ye Luofeng looking serious and icy as she made her inquiry.

It seemed... there might be a chance.

Ye Luofeng, seriously and unusually so, stared at Chen Yu for a long while.

"Even before we teleported to Yun Zhao, Luo Feng already owed you a life. Taking into account this bet, if you truly desire it, Luo Feng must oblige."

Ye Luofeng smiled bitterly, her face etched with sorrow.

Chen Yu was struck in his spirit.

First of all, Ye Luofeng was actually willing to honor her promise and accept his request.

Secondly, the sadness and helplessness on the girl's face touched Chen Yu.

"Fine then, Miss Ye is so unwilling and reluctant, even if I could have a kiss, it wouldn't be enjoyable."

Chen Yu gave a bitter laugh.

Truth be told, who wouldn't want to kiss such a fair-skinned and exquisite beauty?

If Ye Luofeng didn't have strong mental resistance to it, Chen Yu naturally wouldn't pass up the opportunity.

But given the current situation, it went against Chen Yu's own principles.

"Are you really being serious this time?"

Ye Luofeng's bright eyes sparked with a trace of bewilderment, still doubtful.

"I am."

Chen Yu sighed, cursing himself for his soft-heartedness, letting such a ripe lamb escape.

"Hmph! It seems you're not completely bad at heart. If you had really agreed just now, Luo Feng would comply. But afterward, I would cut you in two with a single sword."

Ye Luofeng snorted coldly, a faint smile curling her lips.

Sweat formed on Chen Yu's forehead.

If at the climactic moment of the act, to be cut down unexpectedly, that would be truly unforeseeable.

"Don't be too pleased, Miss Ye. I may not demand marriage or a kiss, but I still can make a request that isn't too excessive."

Chen Yu cracked a smile.

Ye Luofeng's delicate body stiffened, as she suddenly remembered that her bet and promise were still unfulfilled.

"You say."

Ye Luofeng's expression became serious.

As long as it wasn't a request of a kiss or similar, she trusted herself to fear nothing.

"I want you to be my servant for five years, completely at my disposal within reasonable limits."

Chen Yu said blandly.

Hearing this, Ye Luofeng's expression changed slightly, but it wasn't as intense as the previous two times.

This request wasn't too excessive.

It did not require her to commit her body or even a kiss; being a servant for five years should be doable, right?

"The next five years are critical for my advancement and breakthrough. Can you postpone it until five years later?"

Ye Luofeng looked slightly troubled.

"It can be postponed until five years from now, but that owed kiss cannot be lessened."

Chen Yu stated unequivocally.

He had calculated in his heart that five years later, Ye Luofeng's cultivation would have greatly advanced.

At that time,

He would return to Beiyuan with a beautiful personal bodyguard by his side; it was truly wonderful!

"Okay."

Ye Luofeng pondered for a moment and finally agreed, her cheeks flushing red.

The previous kiss bet was initially postponed to the next bet implicitly.

Now,

If she could not even accept this minor request, then she would truly be someone who did not keep her word.

"I'll fulfill the promise of that kiss right now."

Chen Yu revealed a mischievous expression.

"You

Ye Luofeng's pretty face turned beet red, embarrassed and annoyed, wishing she could find a crack to crawl into.

Before she could speak,

Whoosh!

A residual image flashed, and Chen Yu swiftly closed in on her.

Then,

Her gracefully lithe figure was embraced by Chen Yu's outstretched arm.

Looking at the breathtakingly beautiful face before him, Chen Yu's expression was greedy, almost drooling as he went in for a kiss.

However,

Before his mouth could touch her creamy skin,

Slap!

A slender, jade-like palm struck Chen Yu's face.

"Ouch! You woman

Chen Yu became furious.

But the next moment, his facial expression froze.

A scent of orchids in an empty valley wafted over him, strands of hair brushed past his arm, tickling gently.

His lips touched something soft and fragrant, smooth and moist like jade.

A flawless, stunning face was almost touching his, the fragrant breath overwhelming.

Their lips made contact for a moment, bringing an electrifying sensation that touched the heart.

Chen Yu's eyes bulged wide.

In just a brief moment, her luscious, sweet lips had already moved away.

The initiator, Ye Luofeng, had her heart pounding and ears almost glowing red.

"You did what?"

Chen Yu was stunned, wondering if this woman had a sudden change of heart or was swayed by his kingly aura.

"I, Ye Luofeng, will not allow others to take liberties with me easily. That kiss is now fulfilled."

A sly glimmer flickered in Ye Luofeng's eyes, her cheeks still flushed.

Whoosh!

She turned into a graceful white silhouette and left without looking back.

Only when she had left Chen Yu's courtyard did Ye Luofeng's heartbeat remain fast, and her pretty face was burning hot.

...

Inside the room,

Chen Yu was in a daze for a long time, the aftertaste of the kiss lingering, leaving a sensation as if the sound was still echoing around the beams.

"This woman is interesting

Chen Yu grinned widely as he reminisced and laughed.

After all,

His bet with Ye Luofeng had reached a temporary conclusion.

This kiss might have been a small compensation from Ye Luofeng; otherwise, she could have just kissed him on the cheek.

Additionally,

According to the terms of the promise, after five years, Ye Luofeng would become his servant for five years.

"Servant?"

Chen Yu murmured softly, looking forward to that day.

After Ye Luofeng left,

Chen Yu closed his eyes and began practicing “Heavenly Heart Refining,” quickly reaching a state where his mind was as vast as the sky and as serene as a lake’s surface.

His spiritual power and will continued to consolidate.

At a certain moment,

Chen Yu’s Spiritual Sense touched the sealed cocoon in his left arm.

More cracks appeared around the cocoon.

"Master

A milky voice seemed to sense Chen Yu’s attention.

"Flame Spirit, how can I control the sealed ‘Blood Crystal Flame’?”

Chen Yu asked.

Inside the cocoon, the sealed blood bead contained terrifying Blood Path Flame Power.

"Master, you haven't learned the 'flame control technique'; currently, you can only use the Blood Dragon Beast Bloodline as a medium for me to unleash a hint of flame power," the milky voice explained.

"Oh? Flame control technique?"

Chen Yu couldn't help but fall into thought.

The Blood Dragon Beast's Blood Scale Bloodline was similar in nature to the "Blood Crystal Flame," which allowed Chen Yu to wield a trace of its power with the help of the "Flame Spirit."

However,

This was not a long-term solution.

Without the "flame control technique," one couldn't fully refine and control this flame power like True Qi.

"Master, you must find the 'flame control technique' as soon as possible so you can refine the 'Blood Crystal Flame' and achieve a perfect fusion with me," the milky voice said.

"Of course,"

Chen Yu nodded, then suddenly changed the subject,

"However, you need to explain clearly how you, as the 'Blood Soul Flower Spirit,' came to be the Flame Spirit of this flame."

Chapter 227: College Days

"But you must explain clearly, as a 'Blood Soul Flower Spirit', how you became the Flame Spirit of this flame."

Chen Yu's sudden shift in tone revealed a trace of caution.

He still remembered.

At the Blood Burial Garden, he had been tricked by this Flower Spirit.

At that time, the [Blood Crystal Flame] had suddenly erupted, almost annihilating both Chen Yu and Blood Lotus Tong Yuling.

"Wuwuwu... Master, at that time I was merely protecting myself."

The milky voice said pitifully.

It was connected with Chen Yu's mind and could sense the fluctuations in his master's emotions and surface thoughts.

"Indeed, initially I was the 'Flower Spirit' born from the Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower."

The milky voice began the tale.

"But later, the Blood Soul Flower I resided in was invaded by the spirit fragment of the 'Blood Lotus Saintess', whose physical body had perished. She tried to emulate a body of blood soul using mine

"Blood Lotus Saintess?" Chen Yu interjected.

"It was that wicked woman who took over your female companion's body."

The milky voice explained.

Chen Yu nodded slightly; back then, he had noticed that Tong Yuling had transformed into someone else.

"Hmph! That 'wicked woman' reaped what she sowed; her spirit was shattered by the [Blood Crystal Flame] I manipulated at that time, merging into your female companion's body, intending to serve as her dowry

The milky voice said with a tone of Schadenfreude.

"So that's how it was."

Chen Yu finally understood the cause and effect of the changes in Tong Yuling.

Even though this woman later underwent a significant change in personality, at least she had not been seized by the Blood Lotus Saintess.

"You've strayed from the point, you still haven't clarified how you became a Flame Spirit."

Chen Yu steered the conversation back to the main topic.

"Because the [Blood Crystal Flame] itself is a spiritual flame coexisting with the Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower, almost cultured within the same mother body; over time, I gained some influence over it, and we were compatible with each other, with no rejection

The milky voice stated fittingly.

Back then, during the battle for the Blood Soul Flower.

The Ten-thousand-year Blood Soul Flower was split in two by Chen Yu.

Both the Flower Spirit and the Blood Lotus Saintess occupied half of the Blood Soul Flower's body, thereby dividing it.

Among them.

The Blood Lotus Saintess seized half of the Blood Soul Flower petals and possessed Tong Yuling.

While the Flower Spirit resided in a bud, trying to slip away but was bitten and intercepted by Chen Yu's Iron Moon Strange Insect.

Later on.

When Chen Yu took out the sealed [Blood Crystal Flame], it was counterattacked by the Flower Spirit.

But in the end.

Due to the presence of a mysterious heart, the Flower Spirit ended in failure and fell into a coma after the bud shattered.

"By the time I woke up, I had become the Flame Spirit of the [Blood Crystal Flame] and inexplicably recognized you as my master."

The milky voice, filled with some puzzlement.

Chen Yu contemplated thoughtfully.

This Flower Spirit, becoming the Flame Spirit of the [Blood Crystal Flame], indeed had an incredible opportunity.

Otherwise.

Chen Yu thought about how difficult it would have been to refine or use a high-level True Fire Spirit Flame like the [Blood Crystal Flame].

Furthermore.

Innate Spiritual Flames are very rare and extremely valuable.

And possessing a True Fire Spirit Flame with a “Flame Spirit” is even rarer, all of which are great fortunes.

After the birth of the Flame Spirit, the spirituality, growth potential, and even power of the Spirit Flame will far surpass that of ordinary True Fire Spirit Flames.

...

Having understood the Flame Spirit, and the true story of the past Blood Burial Garden.

Chen Yu didn’t dwell on this matter further.

His attention returned to the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

Ever since it had eaten the essence of the Blood Dragon Beast’s viscera and flesh, the insect had fallen into a deep sleep.

After two or three days.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect finally woke up.

Its appearance unchanged, but its aura had grown stronger, subtly exuding a primordial beast-level pressure.

In the past.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect, already on par with primordial beasts due to its mutation.

Now.

Its individual power had greatly increased, including the terrifying necrotoxins it contained.

Chen Yu estimated.

At present, the insect's strength could dominate the Postnatal Stage, and it was absolutely lethal to ordinary Demon Beasts of the Postnatal Stage.

Even humans at the Qi Transformation Innate Stage might die from poisoning if bitten by this insect.

After the insect's condition stabilized.

Chen Yu's next step was to go to the secret library in the Prince Manor to claim a secret technique.

...

Just on that day.

Several disciples of the Fu Family prepared to go to the Prince Manor.

Ye Luofeng was also invited to join.

Upon meeting again.

Ye Luofeng's gaze was clear as ever, her face placid as if the intimate kiss from that day had never happened.

Chen Yu's gaze lingered regretfully on the delicate and moist red lips of the woman.

Ye Luofeng turned away, a faint blush spreading across her porcelain-like face.

"Let's go!"

A group of young people, riding on two flying birds, left the Fu Family's territory.

Their destination this time was "Yunlai Imperial Residence," located in the central county town of Yunlai County—Yunlai Royal City.

The previous hunting competition was held far from the Royal City.

Thus.

This was Chen Yu's first visit to a royal city in Yun Zhao Country.

Two days later.

A grand and massive ancient city came into Chen Yu's view.

Originally from Beiyuan, Chen Yu was seeing such a huge city for the first time.

Even the imperial capital of Chu Country was not as magnificent.

Thinking about it made sense.

After all, Yunlai Prefecture was essentially like a kingdom with its own territory, practice civilization, far surpassing Chu Country in both aspects.

Before entering the Royal City, all flying creatures had to be left outside the city.

"Guest Chen, being a 'Baron' now you can ride a flying creature into the Royal City."

Fu Hong and Fu Yanzi spoke with a mix of admiration and awe.

"Let's go together then."

Chen Yu didn't want to draw attention to himself, and with so many people together, he didn't wish to flaunt any privileges.

After all,

On the field, he was the only Baron, and only one bird could enter.

Chen Yu's actions won the favor of the disciples from the Fu Family.

Fu Yanzi's radiant eyes occasionally lingered on his face, vaguely expressing admiration and infatuation.

Chen Yu had just entered the city.

Suddenly, several figures emerged from the crowd.

"Reporting to the lord, the Hunting King has appeared

"Report! Two guest elders from the Fu Family have entered the Royal City."

...

Similar voices quietly arose in every corner of the Royal City.

Chen Yu walked among the crowd,

Vaguely feeling eyes watching him.

After the hunting competition, his reputation in Yunlai Prefecture soared; he was no longer an unknown youngster.

Not yet at the Prince Manor,

Several groups of people suddenly blocked the way, dressed differently.

"Is this young hero Chen Yu, the Hunting King of this session?"

One of the elders, with a flower-like beard, wore a kind smile.

"It is I."

Chen Yu looked puzzled.

"I am the Vice Dean of the External College at Yundong Academy, and I've come to discuss matters with Young Hero Chen and Miss Ye

The elder with the flower-like beard said with a smile.

"Yundong Academy?" Chen Yu was taken aback.

This elder gave him the impression of being on equal footing with Elder Mao in terms of cultivation aura.

"Yundong Academy is the premier academy of Yunlai Prefecture, with a rich history spanning over a thousand years."

Fu Yanzi added with a flush on her face.

"As long as the two of you join our academy, we can waive your tuition fees and provide access to some precious cultivation resources."

The elder spoke, his face glowing with enthusiasm.

However,

Before Chen Yu could react,

"Pah! Yundong Academy? It doesn't even make the top fifty in the entire Yun Zhao Country."

"Gentlemen, I come from 'Holy Heaven Prefecture's Luokun Academy.' Our academy ranks in the top twenty of Yun Zhao, with a heritage of five thousand years, encompassing various cultivation paths and secret training grounds that greatly enhance the speed of cultivation

A dark-faced burly man spoke animatedly.

"Miss Ye, our 'Holy Sword Institute' specializes in the Sword Dao, and we have fostered renowned Sword Kings. The 'Ten Thousand Sword Mountain' within our institute sharpens the Sword Intent

A sword-bearing young man invited Ye Luofeng.

In just moments,

A large group of academy elders gathered, all of them at least of the external elder rank.

Suddenly,

Chen Yu was stunned, while Ye Luofeng, appearing unsurprised, looked on nonchalantly.

"Brother Chen, every 'hunting competition' invites many forces, including some academy teachers from outside the prefecture."

Fu Yanzi explained.

The hunting competition was essentially an opportunity for young talents to demonstrate their strength and prowess.

In each competition, the Hunting King or other outstanding participants would often receive invitations from various academies.

What is an academy?

Since arriving in Yun Zhao Country, Chen Yu had heard of them to some extent.

It was well known.

After the first "Yun Zhao Holy Emperor" unified the country, clans declined. Either they were obliterated or retreated to the mountains, unable to interfere with the secular world.

However,

Many clans continued as academies.

Academies, too, are places of cultivation heritage, but their constraints and governance are much less stringent than in the era of clans.

Including the Yun Zhao Royal Family, who founded their noble academy—Yunyang Academy.

Of course,

Yunyang Academy was revered as the number one academy of the ancient nation, with a very high admission threshold. Generally, only the royal family, ancient clans, and a few nobles could enroll.

Ordinary civilians, even if they possessed some cultivation aptitude, found it very difficult to gain admission.

Not just Yunyang Academy; the threshold for any of the four major academies was incredibly high, each producing paragons and dominators of eras.

Besides the four major academies.

There were at least thousands of ordinary academies in Yun Zhao Country. Some with lower requirements just needed expensive Primordial Stones, and commoners, even those with Half Spirit Bodies or mortal bodies, could enroll and start their cultivation path.

...

Many acadies varied in status, standing neutral within the ancient country, pushing Yun Zhao Country's national strength to unprecedented brilliance.

"The academy is indeed a good choice."

Chen Yu pondered internally.

Firstly, the constraints of an academy were far less than those of a clan.

Compared to the stringent clans, it was relatively free.

Secondly, the heritage of the academies and various resources, including teachings from academy mentors, could make the cultivation journey less circuitous.

Previously, clans were relatively more secretive about their teachings.

And the most important point.

The acadies here, unlike the clans of the Beiyuan region, didn't often lead to clan battlegrounds and disruptions in the secular world.

The key was in choosing the right academy.

That was the issue Chen Yu needed to consider.

The hunting competition had made him famous, placing him on a relatively high platform.

If it were an ordinary academy,

He might even bypass the assessment and directly become a student.

"Guest Chen, you are the Hunting King of this session and have the recommendation rights of 'Yunyang Imperial College,' so there's no need to rush."

Fu Hong reminded him by his side,

Worried that Chen Yu might impulsively join a common academy.

A talent like Chen Yu should at least strive to enter one of the “four major academies,” these renowned institutions with a heritage lasting thousands of years.

"Heh, there is no strongest academy, only the most suitable academy

A distant and eerie voice reached Chen Yu's ears.

Hmm?

Chen Yu's heart tightened, and soon in the crowd, he saw a solitary figure in a black robe.

"Although Yunyang Academy is the foremost of the four major acadies, it's tailored for nobles and ancient clans with an often superficial atmosphere."

"Whereas our 'No Demon Academy,' not only boasts profound heritage but also fosters generations of Demon Lords in an environment of unbounded and harsh competition

This strange person, clad in a black cloak with a gray cat perched sluggishly on his shoulder, spoke while yawning intermittently.

Chapter 228: Luo Family Sends a Message

"And my 'No Demon Academy' not only has a profound heritage but also creates generation after generation of Demon Lords in an environment of unbounded freedom and brutal competition

The man in the black cloak stood silently in the crowd.

His voice didn't seem to come from his mouth, a distant and eerie sound echoing around Chen Yu's ears.

Chen Yu's eyes widened slightly, deeply feeling the strangeness and mystery of this peculiar person.

His gaze then fell upon the gray, sleepy mountain cat perched upon a bearded man's shoulder.

This mountain cat reminded him of the "Dark Night Mountain Cat" that had momentarily shocked the audience at the hunting competition.

However,

This mountain cat was half the size. And the cat that day had blended into the dark night, making it impossible to discern its contours and details.

Others might have speculated but were unable to equate the two.

Chen Yu, however, had fought the Dark Night Mountain Cat up close and with physical contact. His Spiritual Sense and even the keen intuition from his heart led him to a definite conclusion.

This smaller mountain cat in front of him was indeed the Dark Night Mountain Cat from that night!

Noticing Chen Yu's expression and gaze, the man in the black cloak showed a hint of approval on his face.

"You have passed the preliminary assessment of the 'No Demon Academy.'"

The man in the black cloak looked straight at Chen Yu.

Assessment?

Chen Yu suddenly remembered the attack from the Dark Night Mountain Cat that evening.

"If you wish, you may come to the 'No Demon Academy' at any time within three months, and upon your arrival, you will be exempted from most of the assessments, the same as the recommendation right from 'Yunyang Academy.'"

With these words,

The man in the black cloak tossed out an ancient, dark Token.

Chen Yu reached out and caught the token.

As he held the ancient dark token in his hand,

There was a stir!

All the instructors from the various academies present changed their expressions.

"No Demon Academy!"

"This seems to be an invitation token from the 'No Demon Academy.'"

These instructors showed apprehension and seemed fearful.

Chen Yu tucked away the Token.

His eyes swept over the crowd again, and his expression changed.

Where was the man in the black cloak now?

"Did any of you just see a man in a black cloak?"

Chen Yu asked via a transmission.

Around him, Ye Luofeng and several disciples of the Fu Family shook their heads in confusion.

Chen Yu felt a storm of surprises in his heart.

Could it be that the scene just now was only an illusion?

Or,

Was the man in the black cloak really standing among the crowd, invisible to others but visible only to Chen Yu?

"Elders, I have now received recommendations from both 'Yunyang Academy' and 'No Demon Academy' and am not considering other academies at this time; I hope you understand

Chen Yu clasped his fists, his face apologetic.

Upon hearing this,

The instructors from the various academies present hesitated briefly before sighing and leaving without any objection.

It seemed,

The daunting presence of Yunyang Academy and No Demon Academy was indeed very strong, and these academy instructors were self-aware.

"Brother Chen, you have actually obtained the recommendation rights from both Tianyang and No Demon Academy simultaneously."

Fu Yanzi, awed and excited, exclaimed.

But amidst the joy, there was a hint of dimness in Fu Yanzi's eyes.

The four top academies, being the epitome of Yunyang Academy, gathered the pride of the entire Ancient Clan.

Stepping onto such a grand stage,

Chen Yu's life trajectory seemed to be getting further and further from hers.

...

"Fu Hong, what is this 'No Demon Academy' all about?"

Along the way, Chen Yu inquired.

"The 'No Demon Academy,' together with 'Yunyang Academy,' 'Heavenly Sword Academy,' and 'Sky Star Academy,' is one of the top four academies, specializing in various schools of inheritance, primarily in evil techniques and heterodox paths, but of course it also includes the top inheritances of orthodox Martial Arts and others."

Fu Hong replied thoughtfully.

"Actually, given the Evil Technique you are cultivating, the 'No Demon Academy' is indeed suitable for you. However

Fu Hong added.

"Oh, but what?"

Chen Yu asked, interested.

"This academy's predecessor is said to have been founded in alliance by some demonic sects of the Evildoer's Path from the age of the sects ten thousand years ago."

"As such, competition in this academy is even more brutal, with frequent injuries and fatalities, far less peaceful than the other three top academies

Fu Hong spoke with a sense of forbearance.

"Competition is brutal?"

Chen Yu murmured to himself, his heart showing no sign of retreat.

Reflecting on his experiences at the Yunyue Sect in Chu Country, including invasions by the Bone Demon Palace and killings in the Blood Burial Garden, he had contemplated those early sect days at the bottom tier.

During those years of adversity, as he walked this path towards the vast skies above,

It was this very career of hardship that caused Chen Yu to advance by leaps and bounds, advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm before the age of sixteen.

Competition at the No Demon Academy could be more brutal, but after all, it was still an academy. Compared to his tumultuous past, it should still be considered comfortable.

An hour later,

A group of young people from the Fu Family arrived at the Prince Manor at the center of the Royal City.

In front of the Prince Manor stood two groups of guards, all at the Peak of Organ Refining.

"Organ Refining gatekeepers."

Chen Yu reflected inwardly.

He presented his Token, and a guard went in to announce their arrival.

Before long,

A portly middle-aged man, smiling, came out to welcome Chen Yu and the others inside.

"Lord Steward."

The guards showed evident surprise.

The Steward, with considerable authority and status within Prince Manor,

That several youngsters could personally receive the Steward's welcome was significant.

Chen Yu's heart sensed that this seemingly harmless Steward was actually at the Innate Peak of cultivation.

His strength was probably even greater than Elder Mao's.

Inside the Prince Manor, the view resembled that of another realm, with corridors carved with ancient dragons, small bridges over flowing water, and gardens abloom with hundreds of flowers, with the occasional sight of grand and luxurious halls.

Half a tea time later,

Chen Yu and his companions arrived in front of a heavily guarded pavilion.

"Secret Pavilion!"

The three characters on the plaque marked their destination.

"You each have an hour to select one secret teaching,"

The steward instructed, raising his hand.

Chen Yu, Ye Luofeng, and several Fu Family's disciples entered the Secret Pavilion in succession.

The Secret Pavilion had only one level.

Its layout was similar to the Heavenly Martial Pavilion of the Yunyue Sect, however, the secret tomes collected here were far fewer.

"Heavenly Net Scattering Hand": A Loose Hand Secret Skill, specialized in targeting the body's weak points, with remarkable effects in subduing enemies; this secret technique can also temporarily stimulate one's potential, amplifying strength by fifty to sixty percent.

"Windswift Sixteen Forms": Contains sixteen forms of movement technique secret teachings, with each learned form increasing speed and agility by ten percent. Mastering all sixteen forms, in theory, could enhance the speed by 160 percent!

"Enchanting Sound": A mental secret technique, merging psychic power with mesmerizing sounds, capable of disrupting one's state of mind and also briefly inducing sleep, for interrogating enemies.

...

Each and every one of these secret teachings made Chen Yu's heart stir with excitement.

Unfortunately, he could only select one.

Moreover, the books presented here were only introductions, making it impossible to learn any by stealth.

"The matter of immediate concern is I need to choose a flame control technique,"

Chen Yu curbed the longing in his heart.

True Fire Spirit Flames were the essence of earthly flames, making it difficult to find a good flame control secret technique.

Refining the "Blood Crystal Flame" could significantly increase Chen Yu's trump cards.

He quickly glanced through the selections.

At last, Chen Yu found a flame control technique.

"Flame Control Technique": Capable of refining and utilizing most True Fire Spirit Flames, it recorded the characteristics of some flames from the "True Fire Spirit Flame List."

"True Fire Spirit Flame List?"

This was the first time Chen Yu had heard of this list.

He wondered if his “Blood Crystal Flame” was ranked on this list.

Without further hesitation,

Chen Yu chose the “Flame Control Technique” secret teaching.

This secret technique, aimed at rare True Fire Spirit Flames, definitely wouldn’t be found in the Heavenly Martial Pavilion of the Yunyue Sect.

What’s important was

This Flame Control Technique could refine and use most of the True Fire Spirit Flames.

Its versatility was quite high.

Before long,

Chen Yu, holding the secret teaching of the “Flame Control Technique,” walked out of the Secret Pavilion.

According to the rules of the Prince Manor,

Each secret teaching had to be memorized on the spot and could not be passed on afterward.

Spending almost half a day,

Chen Yu memorized the “Flame Control Technique.”

His spiritual power was even stronger than an average person in the Innate Stage, making his memorization speed much faster than that of the Fu Family’s disciples.

“Blood Crystal Flame”: One of the holy flames of the Blood Path, ranked in the top hundred of the True Fire Spirit Flame List. This flame can ignite flesh and life, has a strong erosive force, and when killing powerful beings with ancient bloodlines, it can also enhance its own quality. Moreover, this flame can damage the soul, it’s an exceptional flame capable of attacking both the material and spiritual worlds

On the “Flame Control Technique,” Chen Yu saw the description related to the “Blood Crystal Flame.”

At first glance, being ranked in the top hundred might not seem high.

But this “True Fire Spirit Flame List” only recorded a few thousand True Fire Spirit Flames.

Those that were on the list were all exceptional True Fire Spirit Flames.

According to the list, throughout the entire Kunyun Continent, those that appeared and were ranked in the top hundred were extremely rare, and some were not pure or complete.

From this, it was clear just how precious and rare this “Blood Crystal Flame” was.

Chen Yu couldn’t help but feel fortunate that he had chosen the “Flame Control Technique.”

"Young Hero Chen, Lord Prince has requested your presence,"

The steward of the manor came with a smile when Chen Yu had finished memorizing the “Flame Control Technique” and was idly waiting for the other Fu Family disciples.

"Marquis Yunlai!"

Chen Yu did not dare to delay.

Putting aside Marquis Yunlai’s strength and status, after the hunting contest, the other party had made a move to repel the mysterious foreign powerhouse, allowing Chen Yu to escape a calamity.

In this regard, Chen Yu was indeed in debt to someone.

Before long,

In a secluded study, Chen Yu saw a handsome middle-aged man dressed in luxurious Yunlai robes.

"Greetings to Lord Prince,"

Chen Yu saluted.

"Here is the 'Yunyang Academy' invitation letter,"

Marquis Yunlai waved his hand.

A letter fell into Chen Yu's hand.

After receiving the letter, Chen Yu did not immediately depart.

If it was just the invitation letter, the steward could have sent it over.

"Luo Haochen's death; my men have investigated the site of the incident and preliminarily judged that the murderer is most likely that Blood Wing Clan powerhouse."

Marquis Yunlai's eyes were as calm as a lake.

"Thank you, my lord!"

Chen Yu showed a look of joy; this news was extremely advantageous for him.

"However, there was clearly a fierce battle before Luo Haochen's death. Some details suggest that those from the Ancient Clan Luo Family will likely pursue this matter."

Marquis Yunlai shifted the subject.

"A fierce battle? I did indeed have a fight with Luo Haochen over the Blood Dragon Beast Demon Core,"

Chen Yu nodded.

"From the details, in that battle, you were at least not at a disadvantage, even gaining the upper hand. Thus, it raises suspicions."

"Doubts?"

Chen Yu's heart went cold.

At that time, Luo Haochen had been turned into a bloody mush by the distant blood palm strike of a foreign power.

"One suspicion is your cultivation only at the Postnatal Early Stage, while Luo Haochen was the Postnatal Peak with an Ancient Bloodline."

"In the end, you escaped unscathed, whereas Luo Haochen died."

Marquis Yunlai spoke with a smile.

"Another doubt is that your history in Yun Zhao Country before this was a blank slate."

"That would lead the Luo Family to suspect you of colluding with the foreign clan to kill Luo Haochen, or that you have defected to the foreigners."

Hearing this, Chen Yu was shocked.

"But I killed the Blood Dragon Beast, and the foreign powerhouse pursued me for it; everyone has seen this,"

Chen Yu took a deep breath.

"Of course, I believe you. However, the relatives of the deceased may not. The Luo Family has sent word that they are about to determine the real culprit and will soon send someone through the Transmission Array."

Chapter 229: Refining Spirit Flame

The Luo Family just sent a message; they are about to confirm the culprit and will soon send someone through the Transmission Array."

Lord Yunlai stood with his hands clasped behind his back, unfazed by the news.

Junior Brother Chen's heart grew cold, quite surprised.

The territory of the Luo Family was said to be far from Yunlai Prefecture, spanning the distance across several prefectures.

He had originally thought that it would take the Luo Family at least a month or two to arrive.

However.

Chen Yu had overlooked the cultivation civilization of the ancient kingdom, where prefectures were connected by Transmission Arrays.

Even some of the larger powers were in possession of their own Transmission Arrays.

"The junior will cooperate with the Luo Family's investigation; I trust that Lord will also uphold justice."

Chen Yu said calmly.

Currently, the investigation results from Prince Manor were in Chen Yu's favor.

Chen Yu was indeed not the murderer.

And it was unlikely that the Luo Family, with its Bloodline Secret Technique, would point to him as the prime suspect.

Of course.

Given the loss of a bloodline genius, the Luo Family might be grieving and upset, potentially causing trouble for Chen Yu.

In any case, some minor troubles were inevitable.

"You are this year's 'Hunting King' of Yunlai Prefecture; I will not stand idly by and watch you suffer from injustice. However, in the following few days, you must stay in the Royal City and wait for the arrival of the Luo Family."

Lord Yunlai said righteously.

"I appreciate your care, Lord."

Chen Yu's face showed gratitude, and he felt slightly relieved.

The position of Hunting King was something like a trademark for the young geniuses of Yunlai Prefecture, and Lord Yunlai would not let it become the laughingstock.

...

After bidding farewell to Lord Yunlai, Chen Yu returned to the Secret Pavilion.

At that time.

In front of the Secret Pavilion, the disciples of the Fu Family had already committed to memory the secret arts they chose.

Immediately, Chen Yu explained to Ye Luofeng, Fu Hong, and the others that he could not leave the Royal City right away.

As a result.

Fu Hong and the other disciples of the Fu Family had no intention of leaving right away either, wishing to trade some resources since they had come all the way to the Royal City.

Ye Luofeng also wanted to stay in the Royal City for a few days.

Within the Royal City, there was also turf established by the Fu Family's influence.

The members of the Fu Family quickly found a settlement spot for their clan.

As this year's Hunting King, Chen Yu was treated very highly and was allocated an independent residence in the gold-priced Royal City.

In the following days.

The disciples of the Fu Family, including Ye Luofeng, wandered around and enjoyed themselves in the Royal City.

Chen Yu declined Fu Yanzi's invitation and stayed in his accommodation.

In his room...

Chen Yu sat cross-legged and began to cultivate the "Flame Control Technique."

Refining True Fire Spirit Flame was the best shortcut for Chen Yu to drastically enhance his strength in the short term.

The cultivation of the "Flame Control Technique" placed significant demands on spiritual power.

Fortunately,

After absorbing the potential of the Blood Soul Bud and cultivating the "Heavenly Heart Refining" with Moon Spirit Ore Mother, Chen Yu's spiritual power was much stronger than the average person in the Innate Stage.

It wasn't long before...

Chen Yu gradually got the hang of the "Flame Control Technique."

With the help of the "Flame Spirit," Chen Yu began trying to refine the Blood Crystal Flame seeping from the blood cocoon.

If it were an average Qi Transformation Realm cultivator,

Having just begun to grasp the technique of flame control, they wouldn't dare to try and refine a Blood Crystal Flame, ranked high on the "True Fire Spirit Flame List."

However,

Since the "Flame Spirit" of this spiritual flame was completely submissive to Chen Yu, the difficulty of refining and controlling the flame was greatly reduced by more than half.

In just half a day,

Chen Yu's Spiritual Sense, together with the Primordial Evil True Qi and dragon scale bloodline, initially established a spiritual connection with a strand of flame.

Within that,

The dragon scale bloodline and Blood Crystal Flame's properties were extremely compatible, smoothing the initial process of refining.

Two days later...

Huh~

A small, candle-sized ball of Liuli Blood Flame leaped up in Chen Yu's palm.

That flame, dancing between his fingers, did not harm Chen Yu at all.

"Master, the amount of fire you have refined is very little, the best approach is to fuse it with your True Qi or Bloodline Power to augment its potency," a childish voice suggested.

"I intended to do just that."

Chen Yu nodded with a smile.

During his exchange with Luo Haochen, he had seen the latter use this method.

Fusing just a little True Fire Spirit Flame into a True Qi maneuver could greatly enhance its strength.

This method is far less consuming than using True Fire directly.

Of course,

This approach presupposed that one's own True Qi or Bloodline Power did not conflict with the spiritual flame, and matching it perfectly was ideal.

Over the next two or three days...

Chen Yu methodically refined the spiritual flame while familiarizing himself with integrating the Flame Spirit into his True Qi or Bloodline Power.

Within this process,

The fusion of Blood Crystal Flame with the dragon scale bloodline was astonishingly compatible, feeling naturally effortless.

He didn't need to painstakingly manage it.

Chen Yu's integration of the Blood Crystal Flame into his dragon scale bloodline could unleash formidable might.

Huaha!

As Chen Yu thrust out his fist, a layer of blood-patterned scale light surfaced on his entire arm, emitting an aura of wild destruction.

"Go!"

With a shake of his fist, a strand of Blood Scale Flame Qi landed on a nearby table.

Puff~

In an instant, the table was engulfed in flames, turning into a pile of blackened remains.

"Not bad! The integration of dragon scale bloodline with Blood Crystal Flame surpasses the strength of ordinary Innate True Qi,"

Chen Yu remarked with a smile.

Moreover, since only a small part of the dragon scale bloodline was used, its aura was cloaked by the Blood Crystal Flame's spirit, making it difficult to identify the bloodline of the original Blood Dragon Beast.

After this...

Chen Yu's focus shifted to fusing Primordial Evil True Qi with Blood Crystal Flame.

This would be a more standard mode of combat.

This was because the Primordial Evil True Qi, unlike the dragon scale bloodline, would not diminish with use.

This time, it took two days.

The fusion of Primordial Evil True Qi and Blood Crystal Flame formed a tyrannical Blood Scale Flame Qi, which was much stronger than imagined.

"Blood Evil Transformation!"

Chen Yu clenched his fist and struck out, releasing a blood-black serpent of flame, filled with the violent Blood Evil Qi, exerting a pressure comparable to that of a Qi Transformation Realm ancient beast.

The original Evil Qi Transformation had now become Blood Evil Transformation.

"I didn't expect the power of the Blood Path to complement the Evil Qi so well."

Chen Yu wore a surprised expression.

The fusion of a little Blood Crystal Flame with the Evil Qi Transformation had doubled the original power, posing a threat to a regular Qi Transformation Innate.

And.

Chen Yu could also fuse it with the higher-level "Black·Primordial Evil True Qi" deep within his Qi Sea.

And even.

There was no conflict between the Primordial Evil True Qi, Blood Crystal Flame, and Dragon Scale Bloodline; the three even amplified each other.

It was hard to imagine.

When the three integrated into one, combined with the immense strength of Chen Yu's Copper Statue Technique, how terrifying it would be.

...

In the blink of an eye, Chen Yu had stayed at the Fu Family's stronghold in the Royal City for five or six days.

During these days.

He had completely refined the Blood Crystal Flame that seeped from the sealed blood cocoon.

This flame accounted for one-twentieth of the total.

Even just one-twentieth was something Chen Yu currently could not perfectly control.

At this moment.

Inside Chen Yu's Qi Sea, in addition to the black True Qi and Primordial Evil True Qi, there was a baby fist-sized, continually shining clump of glaze-like blood flame.

Hu~

Chen Yu exhaled a long breath and stepped out of the room.

"Have the people from the Ancient Clan Luo Family still not arrived?"

Chen Yu was slightly surprised.

He didn't think much about it and inquired about the situation of Ye Luofeng and Fu Hong at the Fu Family stronghold.

He learned.

Most of the Fu Family youths had returned to their clan.

But Ye Luofeng seemed to be held up in the Royal City due to some matters.

Stepping out of the Fu Family's stronghold in the Royal City.

Chen Yu casually strolled around Yunlai Royal City.

The streets were crowded, and a considerable portion of the people had a certain level of Martial Arts cultivation.

Yun Zhao Country established itself on Martial Arts and founded academies.

Almost universally practiced by the nation's citizens was the study of Martial Arts.

It would not be surprising to see teenagers at the Meridian Passage Stage or even at the Organ Refining Stage on the streets of the Royal City.

At a certain moment.

An exclamation rang out from the street.

Many men and women paused, gazing dreamily towards a certain spot.

"Daddy, that sister is so beautiful

"Truly a match made by heaven, a perfect pair!"

...

Chen Yu glanced sideways, his gaze slightly firming.

Among the crowd, several young talents walked out, most of whom were under the age of twenty.

Among them, a man and a woman stood out like cranes among chickens, attracting attention.

The young man, eighteen or nineteen years old, was exceptionally handsome with a clear-cut and fair face, browns flying, and eyes sparkling like stars, exuding an aloof temperament.

The other girl, dressed in light smoke-like white gauze with floating black hair, had an elegant and fairy-like physique.

A pair of cold-autumn-like crystal-clear eyes, delicate nose and brows, skin smooth as cream, clear and lustrous, can only be described as a stunningly flawless Heavenly Immortal.

"They really are a good match."

Chen Yu commented with a hint of sourness in his heart.

This exceptionally beautiful couple was naturally He Qiuyun and Ye Luofeng.

The two were not only Sword Cultivators but also matched extremely well in temperament.

"Chen Yu!"

In the crowd, a sharp-eyed young person spotted Chen Yu.

"Brother Chen."

He Qiuyun slightly cupped his fist, his expression neither humble nor arrogant.

"Chen Yu?"

"Is he the new Hunting King from Yunlai Prefecture?"

In the crowd, numerous young talents stirred up a commotion.

Chen Yu's gaze remained fixed on He Qiuyun.

"Innate Qi Transformation?"

Surprise finally emerged on Chen Yu's face.

At the time of the hunting tournament, He Qiuyun was still at the Postnatal Peak.

"Brother Chen might not be aware. Mr. He had already been ready to advance to Innate, but to temper his Sword Dao, he did not make the transition," explained a youth from the Chu Family at the side.

"By the way, has Brother Chen decided on an academy yet? The enrollments of various academies in Yun Zhao Country will start in two months."

He Qiuyun and Ye Luofeng stood side by side, suddenly brought up the topic.

"It's a pity that Brother Chen is not a Sword Cultivator, otherwise, he could have joined our Sky Sword Academy. Miss Ye has already been recommended by me and obtained the right to enter the Sky Sword Academy," He Qiuyun said, somewhat regretfully.

Chen Yu looked inquiringly at Ye Luofeng.

"Junior Brother Chen, I was just about to tell you, I'm planning to join the Sky Sword Academy," said Ye Luofeng with a smirk.

Her beautiful eyes flickered, sweeping past Chen Yu's face with a hint of teasing.

Whether intentionally or not, she stood with He Qiuyun, not showing any sign of separating.

Around them, many young men and women looked at He Qiuyun and Ye Luofeng with a mix of envy and jealousy.

Clearly, the two were the knight in shining armor and the fairy of dreams in many young hearts.

Chen Yu felt uncomfortable inside. Was this woman, Ye Luofeng, becoming involved with that Mr. He, or was she trying to get back at him?

But.

There was no affectionate relationship between him and Ye Luofeng; he had no right to question these matters.

"Then congratulations, Senior Sister."

"Mr. He, I'd appreciate your extra care for my Senior Sister at the academy. I plan to choose either Tianyang Academy or No Demon Academy and cannot accompany her."

Chen Yu smiled, approached He Qiuyun, and acted as if entrusting his Senior Sister to him.

In fact, he was trying something.

He Qiuyun was immediately flattered by the remark and hurriedly said, "Brother Chen, rest assured, I will surely take good care of your Senior Sister and protect her from others

Chapter 230: Luo Family Siblings

"Brother Chen, rest assured, I will definitely take care of your senior sister and not let her be bullied by others

Chen Yu's attitude left He Qiuyun feeling flattered.

He had never expected that Chen Yu, as his junior, would so staunchly support him and Ye Luofeng being together, almost as if he was entrusting her to him.

And on the other side.

Ye Luofeng's expression faltered, a hint of irritation flashing through her clear, cold eyes.

How to put it.

She had given this man her first kiss, yet he seemed to be genuinely trying to set her up with He Qiuyun.

But very quickly.

Ye Luofeng's thoughts shifted, and she noticed the increasingly brilliant smile on Chen Yu's face, which was quite out of the ordinary.

She suddenly realized, seeming to understand something.

He Qiuyun had clearly been duped, and Chen Yu had probed out his intentions of pursuing Ye Luofeng.

"Oh! With Mr. He's words, I can rest easy."

Chen Yu's smile was radiant.

He reached out and patted He Qiuyun on the shoulder.

He Qiuyun's body trembled as if struck by a heavy blow.

"I have a marriage engagement with Senior Sister Ye from our childhood, and I was worried about her going to Sky Sword Academy and being targeted by those with ulterior motives. With Mr. He's care, I believe such incidents can be prevented."

The following words turned He Qiuyun's face increasingly green.

He had been played!

He Qiuyun's face turned cold, as anger burned in his heart, and he kept his distance from Chen Yu.

"Engagement? Since when do we have an engagement?"

Ye Luofeng, with an embarrassed and angry look, almost stamped her foot with rage and glared fiercely at Chen Yu.

However.

That slight indignation and annoyance made her, who was usually too cold to partake in the affairs of the world, seem a bit more feminine, causing numerous young men to be captivated.

"Hehe, so Brother Chen was just joking."

He Qiuyun, learning that the two did not have an engagement, let out a sigh of relief.

He was quite confident in his own looks, temperament, talent, and family background, having never failed to win over a beautiful woman.

This Chen Yu, although not lacking in looks or strength, probably couldn't compare to him when it came to attracting women.

Chen Yu saw He Qiuyun's self-assurance.

He sneered inwardly, this goddess you're chasing will have to serve as my maid for five years in the future.

"This is all I have to say."

Chen Yu cupped his fist as he was about to leave.

He and Ye Luofeng had no romantic relationship, and if he inquired too much, he might end up being mocked and gratifying her pride.

"Brother Chen, wait a moment."

He Qiuyun's eyes flashed as he suddenly spoke with a smile.

"What can I do for you?"

Chen Yu looked slightly puzzled.

He Qiuyun should be eager for him to leave, so why the urge to keep him?

"Brother Chen, those of us here are preparing to attend a talent gathering at Yunlai County's academies. New disciples in the Qi Transformation Realm, who are about to join or are currently in academies, are all welcome to participate."

A disciple of the Chu Family, who was a Qi Transformation Realm genius, explained.

Academy talent gathering?

Chen Yu was intrigued.

No wonder the youth present were mainly Qi Transformation Realm talents, including Ye Luofeng.

"At this gathering, you can meet seniors and juniors from various academies. Brother Chen may even meet disciples from 'No Demon Academy' and 'Yunyang Academy'."

He Qiuyun said with a light smile.

"Good!"

Chen Yu nodded in agreement.

Although he found it odd that He Qiuyun seemed so keen on him going to the academies.

An hour later.

Chen Yu followed the group of talents to the outskirts of the Royal City, to a villa with beautiful scenery.

Many guards and servants were outside and inside the villa.

"Yunjin Villa."

Chen Yu's gaze swept over the plaque, sensing the extraordinary atmosphere of the place.

A servant quickly approached and led everyone inside the villa.

Simultaneously, a voice echoed in the villa:

"Announcing! Hunting King Chen Yu, Sky Sword Academy's He Qiuyun has arrived

As this voice arose.

Inside the villa, the voices of various figures discussing emerged.

Quite the scene!

Chen Yu observed with interest, walking at the forefront along with He Qiuyun and Ye Luofeng.

Very soon.

A man-made lake with a diameter of several miles came into view.

Chen Yu's gaze sharpened.

He saw pavilions built over the lake, encircling it from all sides.

Moreover.

In the middle of the lake, there was an even larger emerald pavilion.

When Chen Yu and the others arrived, most seats in those pavilions around the lake were already occupied.

In the central pavilion, sat a woman.

She was a moonlike and noble lady in emerald robes, barely over twenty, with eyes deep like pools and hair cascading like a waterfall. Her beauty and grace ranked within the top ten of all the women Chen Yu had seen.

"Greetings to Commandery Princess Ning."

He Qiuyun, among the other young men, bowed in salutation.

Only Chen Yu was slightly slow in his reaction.

He did not recognize this "Commandery Princess Ning," nor did he know she was the host of the gathering.

But the three words "Commandery Princess Ning" did give Chen Yu some conjectures.

This girl must be the daughter of Marquis Yunlai.

"The one here should be Hunting King Chen Yu, and this uniquely stunning Miss Ye

Princess Ning smiled subtly, her gaze sweeping over Chen Yu and the others.

"It's an honor I don't deserve. I apologize for the intrusion and hope the Princess will forgive us."

Chen Yu said politely.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

A group of young talents, using light body cultivation techniques, floated gracefully into one or two pavilions.

Chen Yu, Ye Luofeng, He Qiuyun, and others were in the same pavilion.

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng drew many curious glances from the surrounding pavilions.

Chen Yu was known for the honor bestowed upon him as the Hunting King.

Ye Luofeng, for her stunning and pure beauty and temperament.

Chen Yu sensed with his heart and was startled.

Among the pavilions, there were quite a few geniuses in the Qi Transformation Innate realm, although many were in their twenties.

Including Princess Ning, who was also in the Innate stage and among the outstanding talents present.

Chen Yu was taken aback.

These talents from the academies are indeed the new elite of the Yun Zhao Ancient Country; I just don't know which ones are from the four major academies.

"Continuing our earlier topic, our 'Yunyang Academy's selection criteria, in addition to requiring a decent Spiritual Body talent, also investigates personal backgrounds and family circumstances. Generally, those with unclear backgrounds are not admitted. By comparison, members from great families or those with bloodline inheritance from Ancient Clans are more likely to be selected

Princess Ning's voice was as melodious as a songbird, very pleasant to hear.

So this was it.

Princess Ning, coming from the Yunyang Imperial College, was explaining the insights into the admission process of Yunyang Academy, and some of the advantages of the academy.

Behind Princess Ning,

In a few other pavilions, several Qi Transformation Innate academy elites spoke about the admission requirements of their respective academies and their own unique strengths.

Those listening were mostly the many young talents gathered here for the academy assessments.

Chen Yu, too, was a listener, one of the prospective students.

"It seems that I, He, am the only member of the Sky Sword Academy here

Before long, it was He Qiuyun's turn to speak.

"Our 'Sky Sword Academy,' among the four major academies, boasts the fewest students and most demanding admission requirements. In addition to a requisite Spiritual Body talent, it also requires high comprehension and understanding of the Sword Dao. Our academy's 'Heavenly Sword Pavilion' is quite renowned throughout the entire Kunyun Continent

He Qiuyun's magnetic voice echoed over the lake surface.

Some female attendees, captivated by his handsome face and charisma, blushed with shining eyes filled with affection.

Chen Yu cursed under his breath, "Pretty boy."

"I am 'Sky Star Academy's' Luo Qiuman."

A classically elegant woman in white robes rose gracefully to her feet.

The woman's graceful beauty and the invisible aristocratic poise she exuded even surpassed that of Princess Ning.

This was an aura bestowed by centuries of history.

Chen Yu was also drawn by this woman's demeanor, the second type to move his heart after Ye Luofeng.

"As is widely known, 'Sky Star Academy' was founded upon the core of the 'Tianxing Palace' from the era of sects a millennia ago, which was once a leader of the righteous path. Even in the age of sects, Tianxing Palace was one of the oldest and most revered, and it was instrumental in assisting the first 'Yun Zhao Saint Emperor' with the founding of the country

The elegant and pleasing voice immersed the audience in the charm of history.

Some appreciative murmurs of discussion emerged from the nearby pavilions.

"The 'Sky Star Academy's' precursor 'Tianxing Palace,' is indeed the most ancient and mysterious sect in the history of Yun Zhao Country

He Qiuyun showed a hint of respect.

Chen Yu was listening when he suddenly felt the classically elegant woman in white robes casting a cold gaze over him.

Hmm?

Chen Yu sensed that this woman seemed to harbor ill will towards him.

Not just that.

Beside the woman in white robes, "Luo Qiuman," there was a burly young man whose cold gaze occasionally swept over him.

"Sister Luo truly is a scion of one of the ten great Ancient Clans, with profound knowledge and remarkable insight, I admire you greatly," Princess Ning said with a genuine smile.

Family name Luo? One of the ten great Ancient Clans?

Chen Yu was startled, taking another look at the classically elegant Luo Qiuman in white robes and the young man in the same pavilion.

The young man's face bore a hint of cold and tyrannical features.

"I am Luo Haotian from the 'No Demon Academy.' Our academy may have slightly lower admission requirements than the other three major academies, but the competition is the most brutal. Every year, the number of those who are injured or maimed is countless, and some even disappear without a trace

The young man's voice was hoarse, with an undertone of cruelty.

By the lake,

The students and prospective students in all the pavilions suddenly went quiet.

"Of course, if you're a true powerhouse, you can do as you please at our academy. But if you're the weak? Heh, then you're nothing but prey at the mercy of others!"

This “Luo Haotian’s” cultivation had actually reached the Late Innate stage, emanating a chilling and horrifying aura.

"I heard that Luo Haotian ranked in the ‘Heavenly List’ two years ago, breaking into the top fifty, and it’s said that he is related to the Tang siblings

"Eh! Strange, why are the brother and sister duo here in Yunlai County at the same time? Princess Ning doesn’t seem to have that much clout.”

Some mutterings arose from below.

"Shh! It’s said that Luo Haochen’s direct disciple ‘Luo Haochen’ died as an outside assistant at the Hunting Convention. The Luo Family’s experts have already arrived at the Prince Manor.”

A few well-informed individuals whispered mysteriously.

At this time,

In the same pavilion, He Qiuyun, with a sympathetic look, glanced at Chen Yu beside him.

Chen Yu finally understood why He Qiuyun had suggested he come to this gathering.

However,

His face showed no fear or retreat; this minor trouble with the Luo Family was unavoidable.

Soon, Luo Haotian finished his explanation.

He sat side by side with Luo Qiuman in the same pavilion.

"Haochen brother, the truth has been clarified. Haochen's death is not much related to this man. Our family has already sent people to pursue the Blood Wing Clan's strongman. I think we should not be too hard on this person."

Luo Qiuman sighed softly, advising.

"Be too hard?"

Luo Haotian's face turned cold and grim, "Haochen was my own brother, even someone who indirectly caused his death; I will not let them off!"

"If it weren't for this man killing the Blood Dragon Beast and fighting Haochen, it would not have led to Haochen's death. Moreover, I don't believe he could contend with Haochen with his Postnatal Early Stage cultivation."

"Why does he get to escape unscathed, covered in glory, while my brother met an undeserved tragic end