

Great Ruler 961

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Chapter 961: Liu Qing

"Young man, am I right?!"

Heavenly Sparrow Elder shouted like thunder, shaking the sky. His eyes were like a sharp sword, carrying a fierce aura that pierced through the space and directly enveloped Mu Chen.

Then, under his fierce gaze, Mu Chen suddenly perceived a terrible oppression sweeping through his chest. The gaze almost pierced his chest and caused his blood to be in turmoil. A hint of blood surged up his throat, but he stiffly swallowed it back. He looked up, but his eyes did not shrink back as he made eye contact with Heavenly Sparrow Elder. A sharp aura burst out from his eyes. Even if Mu Chen was not as strong as Heavenly Sparrow Elder, his willpower was not inferior.

"Hmph!"

Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw how Mu Chen, a mere Fifth Grade Sovereign, actually did not kneel down in submission but dared to look directly at him. He immediately snorted coldly and wanted to take a step to release even more terrible pressure to subdue the man in front of him.

Just as he was about to do so, Mandela's furious voice rang out. "How dare you strike in my Daluo Territory! Do you completely belittle my presence?" Heavenly Sparrow Elder perceived a horrible sense of oppression looming over him, and under that sense of oppression, he found himself unable to land his step.

Although he could have forced his foot down, he could sense the pressure in the atmosphere. He knew that once he stepped down, Mandela would strike, and when the time came, even if he could escape unscathed, he was bound to be extremely embarrassed.

At any rate, Mandela was only half a step away from ascending to Upper Earthly Sovereign. Compared to a Lower Earthly Sovereign like him, she was much more powerful than he was, and he had no chance of winning.

Heavenly Sparrow Elder's gaze changed. His robes that had been billowing despite the lack of wind eventually stopped, and the terrible oppression emanating from his body gradually subsided.

As the oppression dissipated, Heavenly Sparrow Elder's angry, cold eyes turned directly to Mandela. He murmured, "Dominator of Daluo Territory, this matter is of great importance to the Nine Netherbird Clan, and I hope that the Dominator of Daluo Territory can respect that. Hand this man over to us, and the Nine Netherbird Clan will be immensely grateful!"

Mandela looked at Heavenly Sparrow Elder and remarked nonchalantly, "That's absolutely impossible. Mu Chen has achieved great accomplishments in battle for Daluo Territory. Whoever wants to touch him in Daluo Territory will be declaring war with us!"

Although her voice was calm, the steely intention was quite clear. Heavenly Sparrow Elder's eyes narrowed. He had apparently not expected Mandela to reject his request so vehemently.

"Dominator of Daluo Territory, would you rather start a war with my Nine Netherbird Clan for the sake of a small Fifth Grade Sovereign?!" Heavenly Sparrow Elder's voice grew shrill. Although Daluo Territory was somewhat unexpectedly strong, it was only a force with a shallow foundation and could not be compared to their long-standing spiritual beast race. Thus, if they truly wanted to clash, it would definitely be a disaster for Daluo Territory.

"If Daluo Territory cannot even defend someone who has achieved great accomplishments for us, how would we be worthy to have standing in the North Territory? I would rather dissolve it sooner than later." Mandela sneered.

"Moreover, although your Nine Netherbird Clan has a long history, if you want to devour Daluo Territory, I'm afraid you'll have to prepare for some of your Earthly Sovereigns to fall, which perhaps would include you, Heavenly Sparrow Elder!"

At this point, murderous intent surfaced in Mandela's eyes. Her domineering words made her position clear, causing Heavenly Sparrow Elder's face to turn steely with rage. Despite the fury, he was also secretly alarmed. In his view, the Dominator of Daluo Territory was simply insane and defied all expectations. With merely words, she was ready to drag the other party down and cause casualties on both sides... They may have a stronger family background than Daluo Territory, but they were absolutely unable to withstand the fall of several Earthly Sovereigns.

The Nine Netherbird Clan had accumulated their Sovereigns over thousands of years. They could only cultivate a handful, so losing one would result in severe damage to the clan.

"Heavenly Sparrow Elder!"

As Heavenly Sparrow Elder's expression oscillated wildly and was full of signs of renewed vigor, Nine Nether roared furiously, "If I had not met Mu Chen, I would have been burned into ashes. He is also a benefactor of the Nine Netherbird Clan. Do you intend to return his kindness with malicious intentions now?!"

Heavenly Sparrow Elder said in a deep voice, "Nine Nether, I know you have great affection, but there are different ways to give thanks. You are the purest bloodline in my family for a thousand years. Even if you want to make a Bloodline Bond, it should be with the same rank of Divine Beast with a high-ranking bloodline, not this ordinary little boy. He is not worthy to receive such fortune, and it will only cause harm to him!"

"Ordinary?" Mandela snorted coldly and scoffed. "Mu Chen is at the top of the Dragon-Phoenix Record in the North Territory and is the most outstanding among the younger generation. I'm afraid no one can surpass him."

Heavenly Sparrow Elder and Liu Qing behind him were startled at her words, and there was a trace of surprise in their eyes. They had not expected that Mu Chen could have achieved such accomplishments.

"Hey, this North Territory is also vast. I did not expect the younger generation to be so incompetent. The strength of a mere Fifth Grade Sovereign, if placed among our younger generation, at best could only be given an evaluation of being ordinary. As for attaining the triumph of a top position, that's a joke." Heavenly Sparrow Elder soon came to his senses, and immediately scorned them, apparently full of doubts about the legitimacy of the supposed Dragon-Phoenix Record in the North Territory.

Mu Chen listened to Heavenly Sparrow Elder's disdainful comments but did not flare up in anger. He just laughed and said, "I could become the first in the Dragon-Phoenix Record in the North Territory because of some elements of luck indeed, but as to whether I have such qualifications, Elder can send someone to try."

Facing Heavenly Sparrow Elder's aggression, Mu Chen did not blindly shrink under Mandela's protection. He also understood how much pressure Mandela would face if she clashed head-on with the Nine Netherbird Clan, so he wanted to share some of the pressure by proposing this.

However, Mu Chen was not so arrogant to challenge the Heavenly Sparrow Elder, who in any case, was an Earthly Sovereign, after all. To obliterate Mu Chen was just a matter of flicking his finger, so he simply suggested sending someone to try.

Now, if Heavenly Sparrow Elder really wanted to send someone to try his capability, it was obvious that he could only send the young man named Liu Qing. This person was not simple. According to Mu Chen's speculation, he should possess the same strength as Nine Nether, but if they really fought, the latter might not be able to win easily.

Upon hearing Mu Chen's words, the Heavenly Sparrow Elder's gaze flashed, and he immediately sneered and said, "You are a cunning young man. If I am really determined to strike, no one can protect you... But since you have the courage to take the initiative to stand up, I really want to see how capable you are!"

"Liu Qing!"

The handsome green-robed young man with a sharp gaze answered with a low voice, "Yes!"

"Take him down in ten rounds." As soon as his voice fell, Heavenly Sparrow Elder looked at Mandela and the Three Kings and said, "I don't think you will intervene in the fight between these younger generations, will you?"

After he was sure that the boy was ordinary, and he brought the news back to the clan, it would inevitably cause a lot of elders to be furious. Their thousand-year prodigy must not taint her bloodline because of such an incompetent human being. When the news blows up, let's see if Daluo Territory will still be so adamant.

Mandela and the Three Kings frowned and then no longer spoke. After all, Heavenly Sparrow Elder represented the Nine Netherbird Clan, and it would not do them any good to be overly resistant. Since he wanted to let Liu Qing strike, then so be it.

Mandela glanced at Liu Qing. This man was indeed not an ordinary person, and was probably one of the best among the younger generation in the Nine Netherbird Clan. However, they were too arrogant and wanted to get rid of Mu Chen in just ten rounds... At this point, Mandela's mouth curved into a sneer. Over the years, people who had despised and belittled Mu Chen ultimately came to a bad end.

"The Dominator of Daluo Territory is understanding of the big picture, indeed." When Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw Mandela acquiesce, he smiled with satisfaction, and then he nodded softly to Liu Qing behind him.

Upon seeing this, Liu Qing nodded and gradually stepped out.

However, as Liu Qing moved, Nine Nether blocked him and stared at him coldly.

Liu Qing stared at Nine Nether's chilling gaze and smiled. "Your Highness Nine Nether, please be assured, I will not kill him. I just want him to understand something."

Heavenly Sparrow Elder said in a deep voice, "Nine Nether, you will stop meddling in this matter. This kid would be too incompetent if he needed you to protect him. If news spread to your father, he would never let you continue making a fool of yourself!"

Nine Nether looked at Liu Qing with a cold smile and sneered. "I just don't want you to be utterly humiliated later."

Liu Qing's eyes narrowed slightly, and then he smiled and said nothing more. He just stepped out, bypassed Nine Nether, and walked slowly toward Mu Chen.

As he walked out, anyone could feel that a fiery and violent spiritual wave was gathering within his body like a volcano.

His sharp eyes became even sharper, and his spiritual energy caused his robes to billow as a clear and crisp sound rang out.

An astonishing aura slowly emerged from his body.

The Three Kings perceived Liu Qing's aura, and their gazes turned grave. Judging from the present aura, Liu Qing's strength might be on par with the lords of their Daluo Territory, and only Lord Asura could oppress him.

The younger generation of the Nine Netherbird Clan did have some abilities. No wonder Heavenly Sparrow Elder was so arrogant.

Under the crowd's gazes, Liu Qing walked ten feet in front of Mu Chen and then stood still. He looked at Mu Chen indifferently and said faintly, "This time, I just want you to understand... A man should know his limits."

However, it was as if Mu Chen had not heard Liu Qing's words. He remained calm as he stretched out one hand with his palm slightly bent.

"Mu Chen from Daluo Territory, seeking guidance."

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Chapter 962: Nine Nether Flames Sparrow

In front of the Hall of Welcoming Guests, Mu Chen and Liu Qing stood in confrontation. Their eyes were sharp as blades, and the powerful spiritual fluctuation that was emanating from their bodies caused the surrounding air to vibrate and buzz.

Liu Qing looked at Mu Chen, who did not appear weak, and was astonished. He did not understand where Mu Chen got his confidence from, as he was only a mere Fifth Grade Sovereign.

However, Liu Qing didn't think much more about that at the moment. Instead, he focused on what he needed to do right now, which was to take him down in ten rounds or less! He would show this kid the

gap between the two sides, and that he should also not involve himself in this incident with Nine Nether!

"I sure hope you have some skills! Otherwise, you are just some dumb kid that has tarnished the noble bloodline of our Royal Highness Nine Nether!"

After Liu Qing said this, he looked seriously at Mu Chen, but said no more. His hands were clenched, and suddenly, a fiery and violent spiritual fluctuation burst from his body. A heat wave rolled, causing the temperature between the sky and the earth to rapidly increase.

Boom!

When the temperature between heaven and earth rose, the soles of Liu Qing's feet suddenly stamped, causing the earth to tremble. It was as if there were flames, which were exploding under Liu Qing's feet! Cracks spread out in the hard bluestone ground, and his figure unexpectedly turned into an afterimage, bursting out into the space.

Liu Qing was so fast, he could hardly be seen by the naked eye. He quickly appeared to the right of Mu Chen. At the same time, he bent his two fingers together, as if they were blades, and a crimson red spiritual energy gathered there, causing his fingers to redden. A scarlet flame flickered in his fingertips, as it whistled out. Even the space itself was warped and evaporated by such a high temperature.

Once Liu Qing made his move, he was relentless and showed no mercy. If a Sixth Grade Sovereign was hit by Liu Qing's strike, half of his body would be pierced through by the high temperature, resulting in a bloody wound. So, you can only imagine the damage Liu Qing's attacks could do to a Fifth Grade Sovereign...

"Haha. Liu Qing's Scarlet Flame Spirit Finger is getting increasingly skilled." When Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw Liu Qing's thunderbolt move, he nodded with satisfaction.

On the other side, Mandela, the three kings, Nine Nether and the rest all watched with cold demeanors, none replying. They knew of Mu Chen's capability, and were keenly aware that he was no ordinary Fifth Grade Sovereign.

At that moment, the scarlet red fingers, like a shadow, were reflected in Mu Chen's dark pupils. In the next instant, he abruptly bent his fingers, pointing in their direction, without hesitation.

When his own fingers shot out, it seemed that there was a golden light that was emitting on the surface of his body. Then, a dragon's roar reverberated throughout the space, followed by a purple and a gold dragon symbol, both emerging on his fingers, as golden light bathed the entire space.

"Dragon-Phoenix Body, Golden Dragon Symbol!"

Mu Chen's two fingers, as if they had been made of gold, had pierced through the void directly, then collided with the scarlet fingers! Suddenly, a spiritual shock wave broke out, and the ground on which the two men were standing collapsed directly, causing the hard bluestone slab to shatter and turn into ash.

As they clashed, Liu Qing's eyes froze in a fierce gaze. The violent force emanating from Mu Chen was much stronger than he had imagined.

Moreover, Mu Chen's two fingers were unexpectedly strong. After all, Mu Chen was a Divine Beast, so his fingers were sharper than ordinary Divine Artifacts. Generally speaking, even those of the same rank of Sovereigns, who specialized in refining their human physiques, found it difficult to withstand Mu Chen's blows.

"This guy's physical body is so strong! I can't believe that you can stand up against me!"

Liu Qing frowned after he said this, then immediately let out a cold hum, his aura as fast as lightning, transforming into numerous afterimages. These afterimages then circled around all of Mu Chen's vital parts, each emitting a piercing cry.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Yet, even in the face of Liu Qing's intense attack, Mu Chen matched him tit-for-tat. As golden light surged forth, the silhouettes of the fingers also swept out of the sky, clashing harshly with the afterimages that charged towards him.

Boom! Boom! Crash!

The collision culminated in an explosion of spiritual energy, and as the wind raged, it cut deep traces onto the ground. However, every trace was different, as Liu Qing's marks were filled with rage and fervor, showing signs of melting, while Mu Chen's traces were sharp and smooth, like knives' edges cutting into tofu.

Dong!

The wind was so strong, when the last remnant of the shadows collided with one another, a violent shock wave burst out, causing the two close figures to stagger backwards. Mu Chen was dragged along the ground for ten feet, before he was able to steady himself. He looked at Liu Qing, who was in front of him, and the latter's eyebrows were wrinkled tightly, as if he was in pain.

"It's no wonder that you are known as the top character among the young generation in the North Territory! That was really something." Liu Qing slowly raised his palm, only to see shallow wounds on the back of his hand. With a shake of his palm, red flames emerged, and the scars quickly disappeared! This showed the superhuman recovery ability of a Divine Beast's physique!

Mu Chen looked at him and smiled. There were drops of blood trickling down his finger, but when the golden light surged forth, the blood on his fingertips disappeared completely. His Dragon-Phoenix Body was obviously no weaker than a Divine Beast's!

In the previous battle, with the help of the Dragon-Phoenix Body's strength, Mu Chen could withstand Liu Qing's violent blows. And yet, he was also surprised at the latter's capability.

According to his estimation, Liu Qing was already at the top of the rankings of a Sixth Grade Sovereign. This meant that, if he was placed among the Lords, he would only be a little weaker than Lord Asura! Such an opponent was intimidating indeed!

Liu Qing stared at Mu Chen with narrowed eyes. After the previous battle, the contempt in his eyes had dissipated. After all, the fact that Mu Chen could clash with him, while only being a Fifth Grade Sovereign, showed that Mu Chen was no ordinary person!

Although Liu Qing had only been testing the waters in their meetings before, it was now apparent that Mu Chen had not put in his all at that time either!

"Interesting..." Liu Qing murmured to himself.

Then, his eyes, which were burning with a desire for combat, surged, locking onto Mu Chen. His clothes then suddenly billowed out, despite the lack of wind. As they rustled about, a fierce and fervent spiritual energy, like a volcano, erupted suddenly from his body.

The majestic spiritual power surged and gathered behind Liu Qing, coalescing into a huge scarlet red bird. On the body of the giant bird, a blazing flame was burning, and even the clouds above the sky were evaporated under such a high temperature.

Liu Qing's body suddenly appeared on the back of the red giant bird, while flames condensed in the center of his palm. In a flash, they had turned into a crimson spear.

He clasped the spear in his palm, and in that instant, Mu Chen could clearly feel that Liu Qing's momentum was becoming increasingly overwhelming. Whenever Liu Qing directed a glance towards Mu Chen, it made his skin prickle with its intensity.

Mu Chen surmised that the massive red bird should be Liu Qing's Divine Beast form, yet it was vastly different from Nine Nether's Nine Netherworld Bird form. So, if Mu Chen's speculation was right, this Divine Beast form was actually the Nine Nether Flames Sparrow!

Although the Nine Nether Flames Sparrow was not as rare as the Nine Netherworld Bird, the species were also quite powerful Divine Beasts in their own rite. Once summoned, they possessed the ability to burn the sky and boil the sea...

At that moment, the Nine Nether Flames Sparrow fluttered its wings, and the whole sky seemed to be set ablaze, turning scarlet red. The Nine Nether Flames Sparrow and Liu Qing seemed to meld into one, and the spiritual energy of heaven and earth began to boil.

"Execute your Sovereign Celestial Body, or you will not have another chance." Liu Qing looked down at Mu Chen, commanding him.

The Divine Beasts have not cultivated the Sovereign Celestial Body, because they have the form of a Divine Beast, which was too similar. Now that Liu Qing had transformed into his own Divine Beast form, his combat effectiveness would surely soar. So, if Mu Chen did not use the Sovereign Celestial Body, it would be nearly impossible to compete with him.

"As you wish." Mu Chen replied with a smile. He then used his hands and conjured a seal quickly. Suddenly, a brilliant golden light burst out from his body. Then, after a few breaths, a huge and incomparable Sovereign Celestial Body appeared behind him.

The Sovereign Celestial Body stood between heaven and earth, with a golden sun floating behind it. The huge body, which was covered with mysterious and ancient gold symbols, was the Great Solar Undying Body!

"I have never seen such a strange Sovereign Celestial Body." Liu Qing could not help but be astonished, as a trace of surprise flashed in his eyes.

Now that he had summoned the Divine Beast form, the confrontation should be over quickly, yet the fact that Mu Chen could have pushed him to this point, revealed that Mu Chen was quite capable.

Nevertheless, it was evident that Heavenly Sparrow Elder intended to ruthlessly humiliate the boy, so it should be made clear to him that his abilities are still far from qualified to form Bloodline Bonds with His Royal Highness Nine Nether! After all, such mediocre people should never jeopardize the promising future of His Royal Highness Nine Nether!

At this point, Liu Qing's gaze became increasingly sharp. He raised the spear that was burning with scarlet red flames in his hand slowly, locking his gaze onto Mu Chen's figure.

When his eyes locked onto Mu Chen, the slender teenager seemed to raise his head, and the returned gaze from his black eyes pierced through the space, showing not the slightest fear. Mu Chen had come so far these years, and had been in all sorts of life and death situations, so for Liu Qing to actually think that he could make him submit was utterly ridiculous in his mind!

Thus, their two sharp gazes collided in mid-air, and in the twinkling of an eye, fiery sparks flew forth and tensions rose...

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Chapter 963: Intense Battle against Liu Qing

Two giants stood in the air, and terrible spiritual energy swept out like a raging storm. It roared between the heavens and the earth, and the clouds in the sky were torn to pieces.

Although the area had long been blocked by Mandela, it was still within the boundaries of Daluotian, so when such astonishing spiritual fluctuations erupted, the area soon became a little turbulent. Countless silhouettes whistled in the distance and eventually floated far above the sky, watching the confrontation.

They did not intrude into the area at will, for they also saw Mandela, and since the Dominator was there, the battle before them was taking place with her permission.

Some of the Sovereigns who had the responsibility of defense breathed a quiet sigh of relief, then turned their attention to the distant confrontation. A look of surprise appeared in their eyes.

"Isn't that Lord Mu?"

"There's someone fighting with him. Who is that? I have never seen him before, but that spiritual oppression is overwhelming!"

"Such a spiritual oppression... This person must have stepped into the highest peak of Sixth Grade Sovereign. Among the lords, only Lord Asura would be able to defeat him. Where does this man hail from?"

"..."

A great deal of whispering broke out in mid-air. Since the end of the Great Hunting War, Mu Chen's fame in the North Territory had increased steadily, and he was even the top character among the younger generation in the North Territory. Thus, when these great Sovereigns of Daluo Territory suddenly saw someone confronting Mu Chen, who was so reputable now, they felt very astonished.

"I heard that the Nine Netherbird Clan came to welcome Lord Nine Nether back to their clan. If my guess is correct, the young man should be a prodigy from the Nine Netherbird Clan." There were still high-level leaders in Daluo Territory, thus they had more insider information.

"However, the Nine Netherbird Clan is formidable, indeed. At present, this man is at the top of Sixth Grade Sovereign, and his strength, placed in any one of the North Territory's forces, would inevitably be valued greatly," someone remarked and sighed.

"This man is extraordinary, and I don't know if Lord Mu can win..." Some people worried that although Mu Chen had been reputable in the North Territory for a while, his strength was only that of a Fifth Grade Sovereign. Of course, if he could use his position as a war troop dispatcher to summon fighting intent, then the prodigy from the Nine Netherbird Clan might not be able to last even five rounds. Unfortunately, Mu Chen could not employ fighting intent in the current battle.

Ordinary people might sneer at a Fifth Grade Sovereign if they tried to compete with a Sixth Grade Sovereign, but if it happened to be Mu Chen, they reconsidered the odds of winning, because the latter had created so many miracles over the years.

Thus, in this battle, people could not tell what the final outcome would be.

While the confrontation between Mu Chen and Liu Qing attracted the attention of the great powers of Daluo Territory, the two combatants were not distracted by their gazes. Their gazes were locked onto each other as chilling glints flashed in their eyes, and their spiritual energy raged like a storm.

Liu Qing, who was on the Nine Nether Flames Sparrow's back, slowly gripped the crimson spear in his palm tightly. The next moment, scarlet flashed in his eyes, and he suddenly stomped his foot.

Squawk!

At his feet, the huge Nine Nether Flames Sparrow suddenly emitted a loud and crisp cry. It then opened its long, sharp beak as a sea of crimson fire immediately swept through the sky, permeating it.

"Nine Nether Flames Sparrow Art, Scarlet Sea Burning the Sky!"

The crimson spear in Liu Qing's hand pointed to Mu Chen from afar. Suddenly, the scarlet sea of fire swept out. Wherever it passed, the space twisted and distorted, causing the vision of people who were looking in the distance to blur.

Whoosh!

The sea of fire surged, and in the twinkling of an eye, it instantly enveloped the Great Solar Undying Body. However, in the face of the roaring scarlet sea, Mu Chen's face was calm as he stood upon the Great Solar Undying Body's head, and a golden light bloomed around it.

The sea of fire roared, but the Great Solar Undying Body was as firm as a rock. Not only did it not melt in the sea of fire, the whole body of gold became increasingly golden in the scorching heat, looking like a majestic golden body from afar.

Liu Qing looked at this scene, and his eyes couldn't help but turn grave. The flames within his scarlet sea of flame were the flames of his own Life Source and were extremely domineering. Even if a Sixth Grade Sovereign had been trapped in them, after employing the Sovereign Celestial Body, they would also

have gradually melted. But now, not only had Mu Chen's Sovereign Celestial remained unmoving, it had also become increasingly refined.

What are the origins of this kid's Sovereign Celestial Body? Why is it so powerful?! Liu Qing's eyebrows wrinkled, and immediately he let out a cold hum. Without any hesitation, he conjured a strange seal with one hand.

Buzz!

With the change of his seal, the scarlet flames that swept around the Sovereign Celestial Body suddenly condensed into numerous flame feather swords. These flame feathers were like fire swords covered with flame symbols, and blazing waves emanated between the flames.

As these flame feather swords took shape, Mu Chen's gaze turned somber. He was standing above the Great Solar Undying Body, and he could faintly sense some dangerous fluctuations from those feathers.

Liu Qing stared at Mu Chen from afar. He seemed to smile indifferently, then flicked his finger, dealing the killing blow.

Buzz! Buzz!

The sound of the swords vibrating all over the sky was heard. Suddenly, the numerous flame feather swords suspended in the sea of fire strangely disappeared.

When Mu Chen saw this, his eyes could not help but narrow, for when those flame feather swords disappeared, he had not even noticed any unusual fluctuations.

It felt as if those flame feather swords really had vanished into thin air.

No, they did not disappear, they integrated into the sea of fire!

However, the moment Mu Chen realized this, the golden light around the Great Solar Undying Body suddenly faded. In that instant, a dozen flames flickered around Mu Chen. The flames contained flame feather swords. Although it was blazing, the blades were very sharp, causing Mu Chen's skin to tingle.

Whoosh!

When those flame feather swords made their strange appearance, there was no hesitation at all as it struck as fast as lightning towards Mu Chen's vital parts. Its speed was so fast that Mu Chen could not even react.

The flame feather sword blades were unparalleled in sharpness. Apparently, Liu Qing had given it his all. If Mu Chen was hit, even if his physical body was strong, he was bound to be severely injured.

The light of the sword was reflected in Mu Chen's eyes. In an instant, the swords' blades touched his clothes, but Mu Chen's gaze suddenly sharpened.

On the Great Solar Undying Body's crown, golden light surged out and at a lightning speed, turned rapidly into golden shields on Mu Chen's skin.

Boom! Boom!

As sword light collided with golden shields, suddenly a harsh piercing sound rang out, and in the midst of the spiritual energy turmoil, both dissipated into light spots.

"What a quick reaction..."

When Liu Qing saw that such an ingenious move had failed to work, he smiled in astonishment. However, he flicked his finger again. "What about this time, then?"

At the moment his voice fell, Mu Chen's heart dropped, for he saw that this time, there were hundreds and thousands of flame feather swords. Strangely, they appeared around him as though a sword array had trapped him.

Only then did Mu Chen realize that Liu Qing's sea of fire was not intended to burn him. Rather, it was the medium through which he attacked surreptitiously.

Those flame feather swords could integrate with the sea of fire and then appear in this sea of fire anywhere, so even if Mu Chen had the protection of the Great Solar Undying Body, it would still be unable to defend against the overwhelming flame feather swords.

Unless he could extinguish the sea of fire, the offensive attack would continue until he became a hedgehog... These means were enough to entrap a Sixth Grade Sovereign. Liu Qing's power could not be underestimated.

However, Mu Chen had been embarrassed just because he had been caught off guard. If Liu Qing had thought the same thing could be repeated, that would be belittling him.

Thus, this time, when the thousands of flame feather swords came as if they were lightning, Mu Chen's sharp blade-like gaze skimmed over them and locked onto Liu Qing's direction in the distance.

To catch a thief, one must first capture the king. As long as he destroyed Liu Qing, the sea of fire would be rendered useless.

Phew.

Mu Chen huffed out a cloud of white mist, and immediately his hands conjured mysterious and complex seals at lightning speed...

Boom! Boom!

As Mu Chen's seals changed, the numerous flame feather swords surrounded him. Immediately, a dense golden shield emerged around him, and the two fiercely collided. The aura of the swords enshrouded Mu Chen, cutting gashes into his skin.

However, Mu Chen's expression remained calm as he completely ignored the diminishing golden shields. However, the speed of change in conjuring seals became more rapid. The next moment, his hands suddenly paused as afterimages scattered and flew.

In the distance, Liu Qing saw Mu Chen's seals and suddenly a sense of unease arose in his heart.

However, before he could think about it, he saw that the space above Mu Chen began to ripple, and in the rippling space, it seemed that there was a huge and unparalleled monstrous flower slowly blooming.

The demonic flower was dark purple, and the space above each petal was engraved with many ancient runes of heaven and earth, which were mysterious and cryptic.

With the blooming of that demonic flower, the spiritual energy of the world was suddenly crazily absorbed. Even the flames below were surging at this time, transforming into torrents of flames that were directly absorbed into the demonic flower.

Thus, the demonic flower bloomed even more brilliantly.

Mu Chen raised his head, and he exhaled a long breath. Immediately, his finger pointed to where Liu Qing stood in the distance, and his expression was extremely solemn. Mu Chen smirked as he pointed down in the air.

"It's impolite to not reciprocate one's favor... Brother Liu, how about this..."

His voice rang out and in the heart of the demonic flower, suddenly a dark purple divine light surged and locked onto Liu Qing. The next moment, a horrifyingly destructive blow charged out that seemed capable of destroying the world as Mu Chen chanted softly in his heart, Perfect Divine Art... Datura... Sky-wrecking Light...

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Chapter 964: The Oppression of the Real Phoenix

A dark purple divine light suddenly bloomed from the heart of the demonic blossom, and when the purple light surged out, the sky and the earth darkened instantly, as if the light between the sky and the earth had been swallowed up by that purple light.

In the Daluo Territory, many of the Sovereigns were shocked at the scene before them. They perceived an aura of death coming from that purple light. They had no doubt that, if the purple light were to come towards them, they would perish on the spot!

"This must be a Perfect Divine Art!" A few Sovereigns shivered in awe, their faces filled with respect and envy.

Mu Chen was indeed the top among the young generation in the North that day. He could even master a Perfect Divine Art, so it was no wonder that, even in the face of a Sovereign stronger than him, he was composed and showed no hint of fear.

From his perch at the front of the Hall of Welcoming Guests, Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw this dark world, and a glint flashed in his wizened eyes. He had not expected Mu Chen to have such an impressive combat prowess.

The Perfect Divine Art was really powerful, but the difficulty of cultivation was also quite high. In fact, ordinary people would be lucky to even obtain such a Divine Art, much less alone cultivate it.

However, Mu Chen not only had the opportunity to acquire such a Divine Art, but he was able to cultivate it! This capability alone was enough to show that he was no simple man!

Thus, when Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw this scene, Mu Chen inevitably raised in his esteem. He finally saw that Mu Chen did have great skills, and that he was not a mediocre person in need of Nine Nether's protection.

"Although this technique is formidable, don't underestimate the prodigy from my Nine Netherbird Clan..."

Although he knew how formidable Mu Chen's Perfect Divine Art was, Heavenly Sparrow Elder did not worry too much. If they wanted to talk about heritage, the Nine Netherbird Clan would surpass the Daluo Territory by leaps and bounds!

Naturally, there were collections of Perfect Divine Arts within the clan. Liu Qing had also obtained a volume of Perfect Divine Art, which he had then cultivated successfully.

As Heavenly Sparrow Elder pondered all of these things, Liu Qing was looking at the purple light. Immediately, he took a deep breath, and the self-assuredness in his gaze completely disappeared. He obviously had not expected that Mu Chen's counterattack would be so fierce!

Mu Chen was only a Fifth Grade Sovereign, but the offensive attacks that he had launched had chilled Liu Qing to the bone. This human being, who had formed a Bloodline Bond with Nine Nether, was indeed no mediocre human!

However, even though this fellow was extraordinary, if he thought that Liu Qing was someone he could easily defeat, then he was too naïve!

You have a Perfect Divine Art, but so do I!

Liu Qing's gaze flickered. His face grew solemn, as he clasped his hands together swiftly. Afterimages flew upwards, as he conjured an ancient seal.

With the change of his seal, his whole body suddenly burst out a brilliant spiritual light. Red flames then immediately blazed forth from the foot of the Nine Nether Flame Sparrow's massive body. In a few short moments, the flame had transformed into a fireball, which resembled a scorching sun.

Liu Qing's figure was standing right at the center of the scorching sun. The mysterious and mystical purple light of destruction pierced the void. Meanwhile, the immense and incomparable scorching sun that enveloped Liu Qing's body was shrinking at an astonishing rate.

In another short moment, the scorching sun transformed into the size of a human's head, as it lay suspended in Liu Qing's palm. Upon seeing this scene, many of the Sovereigns of the Daluo Territory could not help but twitch their eyebrows, as they were able to perceive the terrible destruction that the orb of red flames contained.

Liu Qing stared at the ball of flames on his palm, which was scarlet red in color and covered with ancient runes. The whole light ball was as solid as a red crystal ball, and within it lay the power of utter destruction.

"Heavenly Inflammation Divine Art, Great Flames Magical Pearl!" Liu Qing's gaze gradually grew fiercer at this time, and immediately his palm slowly raised, emitting a cold hum.

"Go!"

The crystal-like sphere of light suddenly shook, and in the next instant, it turned directly into a flash of scarlet red light, which directly penetrated the void, shooting across the sky in a trace of flames. Finally, amid numerous shocked gazes, the scarlet light clashed violently with the dark purple divine light.

Rumble!

When the two collided, the earth-shaking sound reverberated loudly. Then, a huge shock wave, visible to the naked eye, shattered the void in the sky.

The buildings below were originally meant to be reduced to ashes by such shocks, but Mandela acted in the nick of time. With a single flick of her finger, a layer of spiritual light covered all of the buildings. The layer of spiritual light seemed weak, but it remained intact under the impact.

Mu Chen and Liu Qing were also affected by the terrible shock waves. The former, who was standing on the Great Solar Undying Body's head, rapidly started sinking into the Great Solar Undying Body.

Liu Qing stomped his foot, as the Nine Nether Flame Sparrow immediately covered its body, placing its huge wings in front, like a huge shield. As it did so, there were red flames burning above it!

Boom!

The two gigantic figures collided! As the Great Solar Undying Body's golden light dimmed, the huge body was shocked and staggered back. With every step, it left a huge mark in the sky, causing even the ground below to collapse.

Squawk!

The feathers of fire above Nine Nether Flame Sparrow's wings were shattered at this time, and its sharp cries were heard ringing out. Its huge body used the momentum to dissolve the terrible impact as it retreated.

The shock wave lasted only a few moments, and when the last shock wave had dissipated, the heaven and earth were restored to their former brightness. However, the Great Solar Undying Body and Nine Nether Flame Sparrow were in rather embarrassing plights.

Boom!

As the shock wave dispersed, Liu Qing's face grew deathly pale. Yet, in his eyes, there was a brilliant glint. Nine Nether Flame Sparrow suddenly shot out, carrying the heavenly flames and soaring straight at the Great Solar Undying Body.

However, in the face of his pursuit, Mu Chen did not show any sign of retreat. Instead, the Great Solar Undying Body emerged, its huge gold palm striking directly against Nine Nether Flame Sparrow brutally.

Nine Nether Flame Sparrow flapped its wings and approached, and as they clashed, the sky shook. The two massive entities were embroiled in a fierce fight in mid-air. With each encounter, the deafening sound of gold and metal clashing rang out.

Dong!

Another harsh collision occurred, as Liu Qing stared at Mu Chen, who had once again appeared on the Great Solar Undying Body's head.

"What a rare worthy opponent!"

A fierce combat desire surged in Liu Qing's eyes. At this time, he had thoroughly regarded Mu Chen as a character of the same rank, and his initial disdain had disappeared completely.

Instead, it had been replaced with a small touch of admiration. After all, Mu Chen had proven that he could fight on par with him as a mere Fifth Grade Sovereign. In this sense, he was aware that, if he had been in Mu Chen's shoes, he not have been able to do the same!

However, this realization made his attacks grow in ferocity. Therefore, in this harsh collision, Liu Qing's feet rose to the sky, only to see that, behind him, a pair of huge flaming red wings had stretched out. This meant that his body's spiritual energy had become even more powerful!

His wings fluttered, as his figure charged straight towards Mu Chen. The momentum was horrifying! He could tell how formidable Mu Chen's Great Solar Undying Body was, and if this battle continued, he did not know how long he would last! Thus, he struck with his original form, hoping to end the battle as soon as possible.

"If you want to end this quickly, be my guest!"

At this time, Liu Qing's swift speed caused Mu Chen's face to twist. His eyes twinkled, as he understood Liu Qing's intentions. He then narrowed his eyes and stamped his feet, retreating abruptly and leaving the scope of the Great Solar Undying Body.

"Haha, how courageous! But, your speed is not as fast as mine!"

Liu Qing saw the situation and immediately laughed. His wings fluttered behind him, and his speed became even faster, as he was trying to seize the first opportunity to strike.

"Is that so?!" Mu Chen smirked, as his seals suddenly transformed. A golden light bloomed on his back, and a loud Phoenix cry was heard in the heavens and the earth.

A pair of huge purple and gold Phoenix wings immediately spread out on Mu Chen's back, and at the same time, a strange sense of pressure emanated from the Phoenix wings. This was the oppression of a real Phoenix!

As the oppressive aura appeared, Liu Qing's face twisted drastically, disbelief coloring his gaze for the first time. The terrible oppressive aura had actually caused even his blood vessels to tremble!

And speaking of blood, the Nine Netherbird Clan also possessed the Phoenix bloodline, because the Primordial Undying Bird, was a mutated Sovereign Divine Beast that had originated from the Phoenix Clan. Among the spiritual and divine beasts, the higher-ranking bloodline possessed a special oppressive aura. As such, when faced with such a high-ranking oppression, ordinary spiritual and divine beasts would be subjected to some suppression.

Liu Qing's bloodline was that of a Nine Nether Flame Sparrow, which was also considered a Divine Beast. But, suddenly facing the oppression from the real Phoenix had still caught him off guard. He did not know how to react!

Mu Chen, seeing that Liu Qing was stunned, took the opportunity to act. The phoenix wings behind him fluttered, and he transformed into a stream of light, then charged at the latter. However, just as he charged out, his pupils suddenly contracted.

An ancient ghostly figure had appeared in front of him. It was Heavenly Sparrow Elder!

Mu Chen's brows knit together, as he exclaimed, "Heavenly Sparrow Elder? You..."

Before he could finish speaking, he stopped, because he saw Heavenly Sparrow Elder staring at him. He was fixated, a calculating gleam flashing in his eyes. A moment later, he spoke, voicing each of his words slowly and deliberately, "Oppression of the Real Phoenix?"

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Chapter 965: Land of the Divine Beasts

"Heavenly Sparrow Elder?"

Mu Chen frowned at Heavenly Sparrow Elder, who had suddenly appeared in the sky to stop him. Has he intercepted me because he has realized that the situation is against them? It will be a shame if this is the case.

Swoosh!

As Mu Chen was frowning, air rending sounds broke out beside him and Mandela. Nine Nether, the Three Kings, and the others appeared. They looked unhappily at Heavenly Sparrow Elder, as he had interfered in the fight between Mu Chen and Liu Qing.

"Heavenly Sparrow Elder, I have treated you as a guest, which is why I have given in to you. Don't go overboard and mess with us," Mandela said coldly.

When Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw that Mandela was enraged, he quickly said, "I have indeed gone overboard. Mu Chen has performed well in this fight. He has the qualities to become the top guy among the younger generation in the North Territory."

Liu Qing immediately darted over from behind Heavenly Sparrow Elder. He could not deny what Heavenly Sparrow Elder had said, as he had not had the upper hand during the fight with Mu Chen earlier.

Mu Chen was indeed outstanding. Given his strength, which was only at Grade Five Sovereign, he had managed to take Liu Qing on until now. If they had continued with the fight, they would have given it everything they had. If they were unable to control their strength, they might have ended up getting hurt or killed.

When Mu Chen heard what Heavenly Sparrow Elder had said, he started to loosen up. He did not want to offend the Nine Netherbird Clan, thus it would be best not to push too far in the fight. Moreover, he knew that it would have been impossible for him to defeat Liu Qing if they had continued.

Liu Qing was at the Peak of Grade Six Sovereign, and his combat force was more powerful than Heavenly Dragon Tiger's, whom Mu Chen had encountered at the Sovereign Secret Treasure. Both of them would have gotten injured if they had not stopped the fight.

When Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw that all of them had been appeased, he stared at Mu Chen and asked, "Why is there an oppression from the real phoenix in you?"

Although the oppression of the real phoenix that Mu Chen exuded was subtle, it was apparent to the Nine Netherbird Clan, as they had the bloodline of the Undying Bird.

In the world of the Spiritual Beasts, the real phoenix was top among the Sovereign Divine Beasts. Every matured real phoenix possessed horrifying power that was equivalent to that of a Heavenly Sovereign.

This level of power was rare in the Phoenix Clan to the point that none of them had ever possessed it. Heavenly Sparrow Elder and Liu Qing's expressions changed when they noticed that Mu Chen possessed such power, and they found it unbelievable.

Mu Chen was stunned when he heard the question and quickly replied, "This is the Dragon-Phoenix Body that I cultivated in the Dragon-Phoenix Rift." He had not felt the oppression of the real phoenix emanating from his body. Previously, when he had activated the Dragon-Phoenix Body during fights, none of his opponents had been affected by it.

It seemed that only the Nine Netherbird Clan, who possessed the bloodline of the Undying Bird, would have noticed the oppression of the real phoenix. In this case, Mu Chen possessed the oppression of the real dragon as well, but only those Divine Beasts that possessed the bloodline of the Dragon Clan would notice it...

"Dragon-Phoenix Rift?"

Heavenly Sparrow Elder frowned and said, "Is it the Dragon-Phoenix Rift in the North Territory? I have heard of it before. A real dragon and real phoenix died there. We have sent our men to check it out, and although we have gained something from it, we did not manage to possess the oppression of the real phoenix."

"Only the one who has reached the 10th step of the Dragon-Phoenix Steps is destined to obtain it. Throughout the centuries, Mu Chen is the only one to have reached the 10th step," Mandela said flatly.

Heavenly Sparrow Elder was speechless. He knew about the 10th step, and it was apparent that those fine men whom they had sent there had not succeeded in reaching it. However, Mu Chen had managed to do so.

Nine Nether looked at Heavenly Sparrow Elder and said, "Heavenly Sparrow Elder, you have already drawn a conclusion from the fight between Mu Chen and Liu Qing. Can we just forget about this matter?"

Heavenly Sparrow Elder simply smiled and shook his head.

"You!" Nine Nether shouted. She raised her brows and clenched her teeth.

"Little Nine Nether, you should know how serious this matter is. Even I am not in the position to decide this." Heavenly Sparrow Elder looked sternly at Nine Nether and said, "Throughout the millennium, you are the only one who possesses the purest bloodline among the Nine Netherbird Clan. You stand the highest chance of awakening the bloodline of the Undying Bird and becoming the Primordial Undying Bird.

"You are the future pillar of the Nine Netherbird Clan, and we will do all that we can to remove anything that will hinder your progress!"

Having said that, Heavenly Sparrow Elder looked sharply at Mu Chen, which sent a chill up his spine.

When Mandela heard it, she froze. She seemed to have underestimated the importance of Nine Nether to the Nine Netherbird Clan. Judging from what Heavenly Sparrow Elder had said, Nine Nether could become as powerful as a Heavenly Sovereign in the future. This was enough for the Nine Netherbird Clan to be overprotective of Nine Nether.

After all, there had never been a Heavenly Sovereign in the Nine Netherbird Clan throughout the millennium!

The Nine Netherbird Clan saw it as a hidden danger that Mu Chen and Nine Nether's bloodlines were bonded together. If Mu Chen were to be killed, Nine Nether would have to pay a high price, even if she managed to stay alive. This might hinder her from evolving. The Nine Netherbird Clan would not be able to bear such a consequence.

This issue seemed to be knotty... although Mandela was not afraid of the Nine Netherbird Clan, she had to admit that their heritage of the Spiritual Beasts' race was richer than Daluo Territory's.

Daluo Territory had depended on Mandela to sustain it. If she died, Daluo Territory would be in the same situation as the Divine Pavilion, but the Nine Netherbird Clan was different. Although they did not have any Heavenly Sovereigns, they had many Earthly Sovereigns. If Heavenly Sparrow Elder died, it would only be a loss to them, but it would not come to a point where they would perish.

Nine Nether clenched her fists and stared hard at Heavenly Sparrow Elder. After taking a deep breath, she said in a threatening tone, "If you act recklessly, don't blame me for doing the same."

When Heavenly Sparrow Elder heard Nine Nether's threat, he turned grave. He was furious with Nine Nether for being so stubborn, but he suppressed his anger and sighed.

Heavenly Sparrow Elder turned to look at Mu Chen and said, "Young man, when will you stop hiding behind her?"

Mu Chen gently pulled Nine Nether back. He smiled flatly at Heavenly Sparrow Elder and said, "At the worst, we can break off the Bloodline Bond. I believe you have a way to do it."

If this was the only way to resolve the matter, Mu Chen would not want to be a burden to Nine Nether. If he did not agree to break the bond, it might implicate the entire Daluo Territory should Mandela get involved in order to protect him. She might not be able to bear the consequences, and that was not what Mu Chen wanted to see.

"Mu Chen!" Nine Nether became furious. The Nine Netherbird Clan indeed knew of the way to break the bond, but it would cause great harm to Mu Chen.

"Ha, you are behaving like a man now," Heavenly Sparrow Elder said. After a while, his expression changed and he said, "The worst case scenario is to break the Bloodline Bond by force. However, we may not have to do this. It will depend on you..."

When Mu Chen heard what Heavenly Sparrow Elder had said, he quickly asked, "Do you have other solutions, Heavenly Sparrow Elder?"

Nine Nether stood beside him and looked doubtfully at Heavenly Sparrow Elder. She knew that other than breaking the bond by force, there was no other way to do it.

"There is no other way to break the Bloodline Bond." Heavenly Sparrow Elder smiled. He looked at Mu Chen, who looked disappointed, and said, "However, if you can get the people to accept you, they will let this matter rest. You will then gain the friendship of the Nine Netherbird Clan as well."

When Mu Chen heard it, he smiled wryly and shook his head. Although he had not met the Nine Netherbird Clan, judging from Heavenly Sparrow Elder's earlier reaction, the people would not have allowed him to be bonded with Nine Nether in the bloodline.

This alternative solution provided by Heavenly Sparrow Elder was not feasible.

"All this is rubbish!" Nine Nether shouted angrily. She knew that Heavenly Sparrow Elder was beating around the bush.

Heavenly Sparrow Elder ignored her reaction and said, "Nine Nether, do you know why we are summoning you?" Nine Nether was stunned and shook her head. She had thought that they had suspected there was a problem in her bloodline. However, after hearing this question, she realized that it could be due to some other reason.

When Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw her reaction, he shook his head and said, "The Land of the Divine Beasts is about to appear."

"Land of the Divine Beasts?"

When Nine Nether heard these words, she looked shocked and became nervous. After a while, she calmed down. From her expression, she seemed to know the connotation behind the Land of the Divine Beasts.

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Chapter 966: Quota of Four People

"Land of the Divine Beasts?"

Mu Chen frowned, hearing this unfamiliar phrase. He had no idea what it meant, and he especially did not know why Nine Nether had turned so pale.

When Liu Qing saw Mu Chen's blank look, he explained. "During the Primordial Age, there was once a big piece of land known as the Divine Beasts Continent. There were seven to eight clans from the Spiritual Beasts and Divine Beasts in the entire Great Thousand World that dwelled on this piece of land."

Liu Qing continued. "When the Extraterritorial Race invaded The Great Thousand World, they invaded the Divine Beasts Continent as well. A terrible war broke out, and the Divine Beasts Continent was split. Even so, the land that was divided still remains as one of the sovereign lands in The Great Thousand World."

Mu Chen gasped at this news, which implied that the Divine Beasts Continent must have been very extensive during the Primordial Age!

"It has been rumored that, during the Primordial Age, even if a Sovereign used decades to fly at full speed, he would not be able to cover the entirety of the Divine Beasts Continent," Liu Qing said with a smile, as though he was able to read Mu Chen's thoughts.

When Mu Chen heard this, his mouth twitched and he was dumbfounded.

"The Land of the Divine Beasts was a special place. Many powerful Divine Beasts had lived within it, and some of them were even Sovereigns. In fact, the combat force of the Land of the Divine Beasts comprised about 30 percent of the entire Divine Beasts Continent."

Mu Chen was shocked yet again. Since the Land of the Divine Beasts could possess such a standing in the Divine Beasts Continent, it must have been extremely powerful.

"During the calamity, even the Extraterritorial Race noticed the power of the Land of the Divine Beasts. They joined forces with a few of their lords and took the Divine Beasts Continent off-guard. They then took the Land of the Divine Beasts by force and put it into a black hole. They were then able to kill the Divine Beasts and defeat the Divine Beasts Continent during the war," Liu Qing said.

"After the calamity, many supreme powers realized that the Land of the Divine Beasts had been devoured by the black hole. Now, every other year, the Land of the Divine Beasts will appear, and the Spiritual Beasts' clans will take the opportunity to enter into the Land of the Divine Beasts in the hopes of obtaining some special power."

Liu Qing became very excited at this point. He licked his lips and said, "Too many people have died in the Land of the Divine Beasts, including the Primordial Undying Bird. If we can attain some of the Primordial Undying Bird's divine blood, Lord Nine Nether's bloodline can become even more perfect. She will then have a higher chance of turning into a Primordial Undying Bird!"

When Mu Chen heard this, he finally understood why the Nine Netherbird Clan was so particular about the Land of the Divine Beasts. It was a precious piece of land to any of the Spiritual Beasts' clans.

Liu Qing continued. "No one knows when the Land of the Divine Beasts will appear. A sign will only be sent, just when it is about to appear. As such, there is always a great commotion among the Spiritual Beasts' clans, every time the Land of the Divine Beasts appears, as it is all of a sudden!"

Mu Chen nodded as he listened. As many Divine Beasts had died in the Land of the Divine Beasts, as long as one could obtain some of the divine blood, it would be beneficial to the Spiritual Beasts.

When Nine Nether became alert again, she stared at the Heavenly Sparrow Elder and asked curiously, "What has the Land of the Divine Beasts got to do with Mu Chen?"

Without hesitation, Liu Qing answered her. "Although it has been rumored that the Primordial Undying Bird died there, it is, after all, only a rumor. No one has validated it. The Undying Bird belongs to the line of the phoenix. Since Mu Chen possesses the oppression of the real phoenix, if he is able to enter into the Land of the Divine Beasts, he might be able to help you find the Primordial Undying Bird."

He paused, making sure she was wanting him to continue, then explained further. "Moreover, every time the Land of the Divine Beasts appears, it attracts many geniuses from the Spiritual Beasts' clans, including those who are eyeing the Undying Bird's divine blood. The Spiritual Roc Clan, the Crane Clan, the Dragon Bird Clan and many others have never seen even met us. Thus, if we should cross paths, a

war would be unavoidable. So, if the Undying Bird's divine blood truly exists, not only would the Spiritual Beasts' clans want it, but even the geniuses of the Phoenix Clan would definitely covet it as well."

At this point, Heavenly Sparrow Elder looked at Mu Chen and said, "If you can help Nine Nether to get the Undying Bird's divine blood, no one will oppose your Bloodline Bond."

When Nine Nether heard this, her face darkened. Heavenly Sparrow Elder had made it sound so simple, but she knew that it was a difficult task.

All those who entered the Land of the Divine Beasts were the geniuses of the Spiritual Beasts' clans, and they were extremely powerful. The Phoenix Clan would only add to the difficulty level, and even Nine Nether did not have much confidence in dealing with them, let alone Mu Chen!

Mu Chen looked at Nine Nether and said with a smile, "If it can help Nine Nether, I will definitely do my best."

Mu Chen could tell from Nine Nether's expression that Heavenly Sparrow Elder had issued a hard bargain. However, he accepted the proposal, as he did not have much choice. Besides, he truly wanted to help Nine Nether.

Ever since he had left the Northern Spiritual Realm and gone to the Northern Heaven Spiritual Academy, Nine Nether had helped him a great deal. So, it might be time for him to do something for her!

Although Mu Chen did not know if he could be of any help, he had to show his willingness to do so, as not to disappoint the people around him. Heavenly Sparrow Elder was surprised with Mu Chen's sincerity, which caused him to soften his attitude.

He smiled and said, "I am just suggesting it. You don't have to agree to it so quickly, as I still need to discuss it with the clan. For now, we can send four people into the Land of the Divine Beasts. So far, we already have three, including Nine Nether. We are still deciding on the fourth person to send in."

Having said this, Heavenly Sparrow Elder looked at Mu Chen. "I can only tell the clan about you. You have to prove yourself in order to secure that last place."

"Me?" Mu Chen was stunned.

"Currently, there are only two people who qualify to fight for the fourth place. They are the geniuses of the Nine Netherbird Clan. Although they have spent more time in cultivation, compared to you, according to their ages, they are still considered to be in the younger generation. If everything goes well, one of them will be selected. Hence, you will have to be even more powerful than them, if you want to be chosen," Heaven Sparrow Elder said.

"May you share with me a bit more about how powerful they are?" Mu Chen asked discreetly.

"Well, Liu Qing is no match for them," Heavenly Sparrow Elder said calmly.

When Mu Chen heard this, he was shocked. He had not expected the Nine Netherbird Clan to be so powerful. Although Liu Qing was extremely powerful, he could not even be among the top three within his clan!

Mu Chen's strength would, at most, be on par with Liu Qing, and that was if he did not tap into the power of the fighting spirit! He would never be able to defeat the two geniuses of the Nine Netherbird Clan, no matter how hard he tried!

Even if he was fortunate enough to secure the last place, he would have to face even more powerful opponents in the Land of the Divine Beasts. Heavenly Sparrow Elder looked at Mu Chen, who was looking grave, and said, "Given your current strength, your chances of securing the last place are dim."

Mu Chen could not refute what Heavenly Sparrow Elder had said.

"However, you still have two months to brush up on your strength. If you want to give it a try, I can help you by delaying the selection of the candidate by two months." Heavenly Sparrow Elder raised his brows and said to Mu Chen, "If you do not have the confidence, we will forget this matter entirely. As for the Bloodline Bond between you and Nine Nether, I will leave that decision to the elders of our clan."

Mu Chen became silent, pondering over all of this new information.

"Do think about it. When you have come to a decision, the Dominator should be able to send you to the Nine Netherbird Clan." When Heavenly Sparrow Elder saw that Mu Chen had gone silent, he did not pressure him to answer immediately. Instead, he waved his hand and said before leaving, "I will wait return to the clan and wait for your answer."

"Lord Nine Nether, let's go," Liu Qing looked at Nine Nether and said.

Nine Nether grasped her hands and looked at Mu Chen. She moved her lips, as though she wanted to say something, but no words came out. However, Mu Chen knew that she wanted to tell him to leave the Daluo Territory!

Liu Qing and Nine Nether then turned into two streamers and quickly caught up with Heavenly Sparrow Elder. Seeing that they had left, Mu Chen held his fists tightly.

Before Nine Nether left, she had obviously wanted to tell him to leave the Daluo Territory. It was apparent that she did not want him to meet the Nine Netherbird Clan. This was her way of offering him another way out, before Mu Chen was powerful enough to gain the recognition of the Nine Netherbird Clan and accept the Bloodline Bond.

However, if Mu Chen had acted according to her plan, Nine Nether would be reproached by her clan. He would never allow this to happen. No matter how powerful the geniuses of the Nine Netherbird Clan were, Mu Chen would not be afraid of them. All of his past life-threatening experiences would have been futile, should he prove to be such a coward now!

As Mu Chen thought of this, his eyes turned sharp and he came to a decision.

Mandela looked at Mu Chen and asked, "What do you plan to do?"

The three kings looked at him as well.

Mu Chen released his grasp and looked determined. He nodded and said, "In two months, I will go to the Nine Netherbird Clan."

Although he had spoken softly, he sounded firm and confidently resolute.

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Chapter 967: Two months to Prepare

"Two months from now, I will go to the Nine Netherbird Clan."

Mandela was not surprised by Mu Chen's decision. She looked at him and said, "What Heavenly Sparrow Elder said is true. Based on your current strength, if you do not tap into the power of the fighting spirit, it will be impossible for you to get into fourth place."

Mu Chen was only a Grade Five Sovereign. The two geniuses of the Nine Netherbird Clan were more powerful than Liu Qing, which meant that Mu Chen might be dealing with Grade Seven Sovereigns if he were to vie with them over the last place of the quota.

Given their Divine Beasts' nature, they would have amazing combat force. It would be difficult for Mu Chen to snatch the last place away from them. Moreover, even if he managed to win, he had to face the geniuses from the Spiritual Beasts' clans in order to help Nine Nether get the Undying Bird's divine blood. There would be more powerful beings which Mu Chen might not be able to handle given his current strength.

Mu Chen was not embarrassed when Mandela pointed out the facts to him. He simply smiled and said, "What you have said is true, but... don't I have two more months?"

"Eh?"

When Mandela and the Three Kings heard it, they were shocked. After a while, they looked hopefully at him.

When Mu Chen saw their gazes, he nodded. Previously, he had advanced to Grade Five Sovereign at the Meteorfall Battlefield with the help of the Meteorfall Alchemy. After that, he had not had another breakthrough, as he had chosen to build on his spiritual energy which had reached the perfect stage.

During his recent cultivation, he could feel that the spiritual energy in his Sovereign Sea was rich, and he could control it with ease. The wavering feeling that he had previously was longer present.

He could now seek another breakthrough!

Mu Chen looked at Mandela and said with a smile, "However, I will need your help, Dominator."

"Tell me," Mandela waved her hand and said gallantly.

"In order to have a breakthrough, I will need a large amount of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid. I would like to borrow 1,000,000 drops of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid from you," Mu Chen said with a smile.

Mu Chen would need a lot of reserve for his spiritual energy. He had finished the Meteorfall Alchemy and could only depend on the Sovereign Spiritual Liquid for now. However, he had none of it for his cultivation.

Although Nine Nether Palace had risen in power and had become the top among the lords in the number of cities that they were in charge of, Mu Chen did not earn a lot. As Nine Nether Palace expanded, they needed more Sovereign Spiritual Liquid. Moreover, it was not time for the cities to pay

their tributes. Nine Nether Palace could not exploit them at a time when they had not totally gained the acceptance of the people. If they had done so, the people would oppose them.

"A million drops of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid? Sure. I will get someone to send it over to you later." Mandela immediately agreed to his request. Mu Chen had contributed much during the Big Hunting War. It would not be enough to compensate his contributions simply by rewarding Nine Nether Palace.

"Hey, you are our man. You must not let the Nine Netherbird Clan look down on you. Just let us know what you need. We will get it for you."

Mu Chen looked at Mandela, who acted as though she were filthy rich, and laughed uncontrollably. After pondering for a while, he did not stand on ceremony and said, "In that case, can you help me get some Spiritual Array Maps? If possible, Heavenly Grade Array Maps would be the best..."

"Heavenly Grade Array Maps?"

When Mandela heard the four words, she was shocked. She sized Mu Chen up and asked, "Are you able to form Heavenly Grade Spiritual Arrays now? In that case... are you now a Heavenly Grade Spiritual Array Master?"

There were three grades of Spiritual Array Master that corresponded to Grade Nine Sovereign. When Mu Chen had formed the Butchering Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array with the four lotuses, it was merely an Earth Grade Spiritual Array. He had not reached the Heavenly Grade then. As Mu Chen had not used the Spiritual Array for a long time, Mandela had forgotten that he was a Spiritual Array Master.

When Mu Chen brought this up, Mandela and the Three Kings then remembered. The war troop dispatcher had branched out from Spiritual Array Master, and Mu Chen had great talent in Spiritual Arrays. This contributed to his amazing progress with the fighting spirit.

The Three Kings looked at Mu Chen in shock. If Mu Chen could form a Heavenly Grade Spiritual Array, he could contend with a Grade Seven Sovereign even with the simplest Heavenly Grade Spiritual Array.

Mu Chen saw their astonished looks and said with a smile, "Although I am still not very good at it, I seem to be getting the hang of it. If I can study the Heavenly Grade Array Maps, I believe I should be able to get something going."

Although Mu Chen had not focused on cultivating the spiritual array for almost a year, he had not stopped practicing it totally. It was simply a change in priorities.

After he had come into contact with the fighting spirit, he realized that there were some similarities between the two. When he was studying the fighting spirit, he had gained some new insights on spiritual arrays, which had enhanced his attainments in this area.

As he had had a tight schedule and had to participate in the Big Hunting War soon after that, he had not had time to search for the Heavenly Grade Spiritual Arrays. However, he had to make it a top priority now since this would be his trump card in helping Nine Nether get hold of the Primordial Undying Bird's divine blood.

"No wonder you dare to agree to this... you have many secret weapons." Mandela looked at Mu Chen and heaved a sigh of relief. She felt at ease now letting Mu Chen go to the Land of the Divine Beasts.

After all, those Divine Beasts and geniuses of the Spiritual Beasts' clans were not easy to deal with. They were more powerful than the younger generation in North Territory.

"In that case, it is alright for you to go to the Land of the Divine Beasts. It will be a great opportunity for you, and you might even break through to the second level of the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture..."

"Oh?" When Mu Chen heard that, he was tempted. The Dragon-Phoenix Scripture had helped him cultivate the Dragon-Phoenix Body. Although it was only at the first level, it had been a great help to him. The real dragon symbol served both as a powerful attack force and strong defense in life-threatening situations, whereas the real phoenix symbol increased Mu Chen's speed and had helped him gain many credits in the previous battles.

The first level of the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture was to activate the real spirits which brought about the real dragon and real phoenix symbols.

The second level would be to change the forms.

As the name suggested, the real dragon and real phoenix symbols would then be able to break away from Mu Chen's body and have a new level of power.

There would be a change in the characteristics!

When that happened, it would bring out the real power of the Dragon-Phoenix Scripture.

Mu Chen had tried to break through to the second level before but to no avail. The cultivation was simply too tough.

One would need a large amount of Blood Essence of the different Divine Beasts, which was hard to obtain in the Great Thousand World. However, there would be many Divine Beasts that had died in the Land of the Divine Beasts, including the sovereign ones. If Mu Chen could get his hands on them, he might be able to advance to the second level.

"It seems like I have to go to the Land of the Divine Beasts..." Mu Chen muttered as he thought of it.

Mandela nodded and said, "Leave the Heavenly Grade Array Maps to me. Although it is a bit of a rush, it should still be possible to get them as long as I am willing to pay for them."

The Heavenly Grade Array Maps were expensive, and if Mandela wanted to get hold of them within such a short period of time, she would have to use a large amount of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid in exchange for them.

"Sorry to trouble you." Mu Chen nodded. He was fortunate to have the backing of Daluo Territory. If he had depended on his own strength, he would be at his wit's end.

"I will also need to start absorbing the Spiritual Deity Liquid, in case anything happens when I send you to the Nine Netherbird Clan..." Mandela said flatly.

Although Mu Chen looked well-prepared, Mandela had to prepare herself as well. If Mu Chen failed to get the last place to enter the Land of the Divine Beasts, and the Nine Netherbird Clan refused to let him go, she might have to fight with them.

Although there was no Heavenly Sovereign in the Nine Netherbird Clan, they had strong foundations. If Mandela could not break through to Upper Earthly Sovereign, they would not be afraid of her.

Mu Chen knew Mandela's concern and said softly, "Thanks."

He knew that Mandela was putting herself in great danger. After all, the Nine Netherbird Clan was much more powerful than the top forces in the North Territory. Daluo Territory was nothing compared to them, but Mandela had chosen to give him her support. Mu Chen was grateful and touched by her act.

At this moment, he knew that he had made the right decision in handing the Starry Suppression Tower and Spiritual Deity Liquid to her.

He had given Mandela his full support and in return, he had gained her unwavering friendship.

"You don't have to say those meaningless things to me..."

Mandela waved her hand and said, "Leave everything aside. You just need to focus on breaking through to Grade Six Sovereign within these two months."

When Mu Chen heard it, he simply nodded with a smile and gave a confident look.

Two months from now, the result would be out.

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Chapter 968: Grade Six Sovereign

Deep within the Daluotian Territory.

A tall mountain stood alone, which could oversee half of the Daluotian Territory. Its spiritual energy was the densest in the entire area.

Mandela used to cultivate alone in this place, and no one was allowed to enter it. However, in order to help Mu Chen break through under perfect conditions, she had allowed him to use it for the time being.

Mu Chen stood outside a stone chamber, amazed as he looked at the fog around the mountain. The spiritual energy in this region was so dense and pure, it had turned into fog. It was apparent that there were many spiritual arrays in this area, which had attracted the spiritual energy of the entire Daluotian Territory to flow toward it.

"This is truly a good place for cultivation." Mu Chen smiled and immediately went into the stone chamber. He then shut the opening and sat cross-legged on the stone bed that was within it.

He did not go straight into trying to break through his cultivation, but shut his eyes to first to calm himself down. The spiritual energy around him turned into fog, then flowed into his body constantly. He had to bring his body to a perfect state.

Mu Chen spent almost five days in this state. On the fifth day, he opened his eyes. His dark eyes had become crystal-like, which was a sign that the spiritual energy in his body had reached its optimum peak. Mu Chen felt that the majestic spiritual energy in his body was so powerful, it could crush even the mountains.

"It's about time..." Mu Chen muttered. The Spiritual Light in his eyes burst out, and colorful light whizzed out at the flick of his fingers, like a seething river.

The light exuded crystal-like colors, causing the water in the cave to boil with spiritual energy. The air had turned moist and began to form water droplets. The river had been formed by 1,000,000 units of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid!

Mu Chen lifted up his head to look at the river, then formed a seal with his hands. He opened his mouth, and the spiritual energy torrent whizzed in, causing his body to explode with majestic spiritual energy.

However, Mu Chen remained calm. He promptly changed his seal to allow the majestic spiritual energy to flow along his meridians. After he had refined it, it flowed into his Sovereign Sea.

The spiritual energy then rained down heavily into his Sovereign Sea, and the surface of the Sea rose up slowly and steadily. As Mu Chen felt the increase in the spiritual energy in his Sovereign Sea, he slowly shut his eyes. He had to take time to build on it, so that he could break through when the time came. At the moment, he simply had to maintain the inflow of spiritual energy into his Sovereign Sea.

Mu Chen brushed away all disturbing thoughts and went into a deep state of cultivation. When he opened his eyes once again, 10 days had passed.

Within these 10 days, Mu Chen had absorbed almost one-fifth of the Sovereign Spiritual Liquid. His skin glowed with bright Spiritual Light and the spiritual energy from his body was fluctuating constantly. This was a sign that his spiritual energy had reached its peak.

"Still not enough," Mu Chen said to himself, as he shook his head. He felt that he was far from the ability to breakthrough. Once again, he shut his eyes.

Mu Chen opened his eyes twice after that, and every time he did so, the Sovereign Spiritual Liquid river would lessen. When he opened his eyes the fourth time, the river had shrunk by 50 percent, causing it to turn into a small stream. One month had passed.

The Spiritual Light around Mu Chen was extremely thick. It was so bright, one could not even see his own shadow. Mu Chen looked like a Spiritual Light Sun!

Then, a powerful spiritual energy fluctuation surged and caused the cave to quake. Cracks started to form immediately. Mu Chen took a deep breath and gulped down the remaining Sovereign Spiritual Liquid.

Buzz! Buzz!

Spiritual Light burst out from his body. It was powerful beyond description. The spiritual energy in his Sovereign Sea was also at its peak. It was time for the breakthrough!

Mu Chen shut his eyes for the fifth time. He knew that, when he opened his eyes once again, he would have advanced to Grade Six Sovereign! This time around, the process took two full weeks!

The region around the mountain was empty. As Mu Chen went into seclusion, Mandela had sealed up the area, not allowing anyone to enter, so that he would not be disturbed.

A few figures appeared above the mountain, with Mandela taking the lead. The three kings were behind her, watching the cave that was tightly shut. There were spiritual arrays outside the cave, and no one was able to see what was happening within it.

"It has already been one and half months! Has Mu Chen managed to breakthrough? If he does not come out soon, the Nine Netherbird Clan will have to make a decision on who to send for the last place," the Condor King said as he looked at the cave.

He was related to the Nine Netherbird Clan, and was thus aware of the events that had taken place within it. After Heavenly Sparrow Elder had brought Nine Nether back to the clan, there had been a great commotion. Some of the elders, who were extra harsh, had even suggested sending out their army to oppress the Daluo Territory.

However, Heavenly Sparrow Elder and Nine Nether had managed to stop them. Nine Nether's hardcore behavior had restrained them from acting too aggressively. After all, not only was Nine Nether's father the Clan Leader, Nine Nether was the only one with the greatest potential to become the Primordial Undying Bird. Thus, they could not disregard her opinion.

This issue had been put aside temporarily, but Mu Chen still had to secure the last place on time. If this was not done, even the elders who had taken sides with Nine Nether, would have to allow the clan to break the Bloodline Bond by force, so that Nine Nether could regain her purity. Such an act would be detrimental to Mu Chen and the Daluo Territory.

"It is hard to say when one will break through. It will not do any good to force it."

When Mandela heard what the Condor King had said, she remained calm. Cold light flashed across her eyes, as she replied, "If Nine Netherbird Clan is impatient, then there is no point talking to them. If they want to start a war, we will take them on. I would like to see how many Earthly Sovereigns will die at my hands."

Mandela was filled with killing intent as she spoke. The area suddenly darkened, as if the spiritual energy had frozen entirely. When the three kings sensed her killing intent, they shivered. They looked at one another and were shocked. Although Mandela seemed no different from one month ago, she had become much more powerful!

"Congratulations Dominator, for advancing to Upper Earthly Sovereign!" The Sleeping King shook his head with disbelief, then said with a smile.

Mandela had gone into seclusion for a month, when she had broken through the half step to advance to Upper Earthly Sovereign. Although it was only a half-step difference, the three kings knew that it was a large gap.

This could clearly be seen during the Big Hunting War from the fourth hall master's spiritual puppet, which could contend with the seven Earthly Sovereigns of North Territory based on its own strength. Although, it was also because the Earthly Sovereigns were scheming against one another.

It was apparent that, if a war broke out between the Daluo Territory and the Nine Netherbird Clan, many Earthly Sovereigns would die at Mandela's hands. This would be a high price that the Nine

Netherbird Clan would not be able to bear. Moreover, Mandela now possessed the sacred object, the Starry Suppression Tower, which would give her an edge over any Upper Earthly Sovereign!

Boom!

As the three kings were elated with Mandela's breakthrough, the large mountain before them suddenly shook. A howling sound suddenly burst out from the mountain, resounding throughout the whole area.

Bang!

The entrance of the cave suddenly exploded. A shadow darted out from among the gravel and stood in the sky. The three kings saw Mu Chen standing in the sky, with spiritual light surging around him. His dark eyes were like gems, their brilliance was breathtaking.

They heaved sighs of relief, as they sensed that Mu Chen was much more powerful than he had been six weeks ago! It was apparent that he had advanced to Grade Six Sovereign!

"Hohoho, congratulations Lord Mu, for advancing to Grade Six!" the three kings said with a smile.

The light in Mu Chen's eyes started to dim. He looked at Mandela and the three kings, then darted towards them. When Mandela saw him coming, the cold look in her face disappeared. She grabbed her hand and rays of light appeared, revealing five different scrolls.

"These are the Diagram Arrays that you asked for. Two of them are Heavenly Grade Array Maps," she explained.

When Mu Chen heard this, he was elated. He then looked at the five scrolls, which were filled with strange fluctuations.

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Chapter 969: Heavenly Grade Spiritual Array

Five scrolls with strange light and mysterious fluctuations hung before Mu Chen. The scrolls were also packed with runes.

It was the Heavenly Grade Array Map.

Mu Chen was so excited, he lost his cool. This was the first time throughout the years that he had seen this grade of Diagram Array. He quickly clenched his fists, and the five scrolls fell into his hands.

Spiritual energy burst out from his palms and flowed into the scrolls. He could feel a large amount of information flowing into his brain like a windstorm.

Earth Grade High Ranked Spiritual Array, Lotus Spiritual Sword Array.

Earth Grade High Ranked Spiritual Array, Tianluo Array.

Earth Grade High Ranked Spiritual Array, Unperishable Admiralty Array.

The first to appear in Mu Chen's mind were the three Earth Grade High Ranked Spiritual Arrays. Even Sixth Grade Sovereigns were wary of this grade of spiritual array. These three spiritual arrays were good

for attacking, capturing, and defense. They possessed extraordinary power. It was apparent that Mandela had put in a lot of effort in getting hold of them.

However, Mu Chen was not captivated by the three spiritual arrays. He shifted his thoughts, and golden light with text burst out in his mind.

Heavenly Grade Low Ranked Spiritual Array, Heaven's Divine Seal.

Heavenly Grade Low Ranked Spiritual Array, God's Punishment Array.

Mu Chen shut his eyes to sense the large amount of information in his brain. He then slowly opened his eyes, and he could not hide his excitement. He grabbed the scrolls in his hand and muttered, "Heavenly Grade Spiritual Array..."

Although these were Heavenly Grade Low Ranked Spiritual Arrays, even a Grade Seven Sovereign could be badly injured by them.

"I wanted to get some higher grade Diagram Arrays for you, but time is running out... Most of these Diagram Arrays were owned by the Spiritual Array Masters, and they value the arrays more than their lives. It was not easy to get hold of them," Mandela said.

"It is good enough." Mu Chen nodded. Given his current strength, he could only set up a Heavenly Grade Low Ranked Spiritual Array. He had much to observe and learn in order to set up this level of spiritual array.

Even if Mandela had managed to get the middle grade or even higher grade spiritual arrays for him, he might not be able to set them up.

Mandela looked at the scroll in Mu Chen's left hand and said, "Out of these two Heavenly Grade Spiritual Arrays, the last one is extremely powerful. The price of it was double that of the other one."

Mu Chen was stunned when Mandela mentioned the God's Punishment Array. As he went through the information in his brain, he suddenly froze.

"This God's Punishment Array is an incomplete array..." As Mu Chen said this, his reaction was very strong.

"This is an ancient spiritual array used during the Primordial Age. There should be three of them, including the God's Punishment Array. If the three scrolls come together, it can even kill an Upper Earthly Sovereign."

When the Three Kings heard that, they were shocked. Could it be the Ancestral Master Array since it is able to kill an Upper Earthly Sovereign?

"It is a pity... The God's Punishment Array is the weakest among the three, which is why it has been circulated around. As for the other two scrolls, they have rarely been seen. It seems unlikely the three scrolls would be gathered together." Mu Chen shook his head.

The value of the three scrolls was comparable to the Starry Suppression Tower. To a Spiritual Array Master, this grade of Ancestral Master Array was most appealing.

"Although God's Punishment Array is the weakest among the three, it is still more powerful than the ordinary Heavenly Grade Low Ranked Spiritual Array. No wonder its price was higher than the rest. It is value for the money." Mu Chen smiled. He would have to spend some time learning more about the God's Punishment Array. It was a good deadly weapon, and now he had additional ammunition to bring along with him to the Land of the Divine Beasts.

After the breakthrough, Mu Chen's confidence level increased tremendously. Even if he had not used any spiritual arrays, he would have no problem defeating Liu Qing.

Mandela looked at Mu Chen and said, "You still have two more weeks before the deadline. You can go into retreat for another ten days before we set out for Nine Netherbird Clan!"

"Alright." Mu Chen nodded. He had just broken through and would need a few days to get used to the sudden increase in his spiritual energy. Moreover, he would need to try out the spiritual arrays so that he could set them up.

Once he had made up his mind, Mu Chen immediately darted back to a quiet place in Nine Nether Palace.

For two weeks, Mu Chen never stepped out of Nine Nether Palace. All of his time was spent on adapting to his current spiritual energy and understanding the Heavenly Grade Spiritual Arrays.

In the process of studying the Heavenly Grade Spiritual Arrays, Mu Chen started to experiment with them. He failed many times and every time he failed, violent spiritual energy would burst out from the inner part of Nine Nether Palace. Many of the top powers in Nine Nether Palace were fearful, as the spiritual energy explosions were so powerful that even a Grade Six Sovereign would be unable to bear them.

The failed attempts went on for nearly ten days, but they gradually lessened. The runaway explosions had stopped by the final two days. Deep within Nine Nether Palace, vast spiritual energy shot up into the sky, and spiritual light burst out. It looked as though something frightening was churning...

The changes had caused fear in many of the top powers in Nine Nether Palace. As they looked deep inside Nine Nether Palace, they saw that the thing that was churning had not been released but had disappeared.

The top powers looked at one another and figured it as an experiment that Mu Chen had carried out. They sighed and thought that he had failed again...

Mu Chen stood with his hands behind his back in one of the courtyards in Nine Nether Palace. He looked at the spiritual energy fluctuations that were gradually dissipating and smiled. He did not look depressed but seemed to be enlightened.

"Heavenly Grade Spiritual Array..." Mu Chen looked at his palms and smiled.

After he had failed many times in his experiments, Mu Chen started to experience the power of the Heavenly Grade Spiritual Arrays. They were indeed more powerful than the Earth Grade Spiritual Arrays.

It had been worth his efforts spending time trying them out.

Suddenly, footsteps were heard outside the courtyard. Mu Chen smiled and before the visitors could say anything, he said, "Come on in."

Two ladies went into the courtyard. They were Tang Bing and Tang Rou. Tang Bing had been the housekeeper of Nine Nether Palace for two years, and she had done a great job. This designation made her only inferior to Mu Chen and Nine Nether, and it had added to her prideful character.

Tang Rou was gentle and shy, and although she knew Mu Chen well, she still blushed when Mu Chen smiled at her.

Tang Bing looked at Mu Chen and said, "Do you intend to tear Nine Nether Palace down..."

Tang Bing was serious in her work, and she went by the book. When Mu Chen heard what Tang Bing had said, he simply smiled at her. Although he was holding a high position in Daluo Territory, he had treated the two sisters as friends. He would not use his position to put them down.

"Dominator wants you to get ready to go to Nine Netherbird Clan tomorrow." Tang Bing went straight to the point and gave him the message that she had been instructed to pass on.

Mu Chen was shocked when he heard it, and after a while, he nodded.

Tang Bing bit her lips and with her prideful look gone, she asked, "Will Sister Nine Nether be coming back?"

Nine Nether had established Nine Nether Palace, and she had brought the two sisters along with her. They regarded Nine Nether Palace as their home, and if Nine Nether left the palace, even if Mu Chen was able to sustain it, the feeling would be different...

Mu Chen looked at Tang Bing, who was a bit depressed, and Tang Rou, whose eyes were red. He kept quiet and thought how much they must have suffered at Nine Nether's departure. Although they had concealed their feelings well, now that Mu Chen would be leaving soon, they could no longer hide it anymore.

Mu Chen looked at the two pretty sisters and patted them on their backs. He smiled warmly at them and said, "Don't worry, I will bring Nine Nether back."

Tang Bing and Tang Rou looked at the smile on Mu Chen's face. He had always been gentle, but they could hear the determination in his voice.

The two sisters then smiled and nodded.

"Oh yes, bring this along with you..."

Tang Bing suddenly took off the light bracelet from her wrist, handed it to Mu Chen, and said, "There is a total of 1,500,000 drops of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid in it. I have been saving it up. I think it will be helpful to you..."

Mu Chen was shocked when he looked at the universal bracelet. He knew that Tang Bing was competent in her work, and she had controlled the Sovereign Spiritual Liquid well to enable Nine Nether Palace to run smoothly and expand.

Previously, Mu Chen had great difficulty in getting some Sovereign Spiritual Liquid from her. However, this stingy girl had suddenly given him such a large amount of Sovereign Spiritual Liquid, it took him by surprise.

"If you and Sister Nine Nether are no longer here, there is no point keeping the Sovereign Spiritual Liquid."

Tang Bing looked at Mu Chen and seemed to have read his mind. She curled up her lips and stared at him and said, "I know you have been saying that I am stingy."

Mu Chen smiled and accepted it, as the Sovereign Spiritual Liquid was important to him. As he took the universal bracelet, he once again said softly, "I will definitely bring her back!"

"We trust you... you... you must be careful," Tang Rou said. She looked at Mu Chen with great faith.

Mu Chen took a deep breath and lifted up his head. He looked in the direction where Nine Nether had gone and clenched his fists.

Nine Nether, I will not listen to you this time. I must go to the Nine Netherbird Clan!

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Chapter 970: Nine Nether World

There were many spiritual beings in The Great Thousand World, among which numbered several Spiritual Beasts. As Spiritual Beasts usually possessed great talents, they generally had longer lifespans. This trait enabled them to build a strong lineage, which caused many of the human beings to be wary of them.

The Spiritual Beasts also had the most complicated bloodline among all of the spiritual beings in the Great Thousand World. Moreover, since their bloodline was the source of their power, the clan with the most powerful bloodline was known as the Divine Beasts Clan. Those from the Divine Beasts Clan were born with great powers, which caused everyone to fear them.

Yet, there were still a choice few, who were not of the Divine Beasts Clan. This was because they possessed the same latent abilities as the Divine Beasts Clan. One such example was the Nine Netherbird Clan.

The Nine Netherbird Clan was from the same line as the Phoenix Clan, meaning that they possessed the bloodline of the Primordial Undying Bird. This also meant that, once they had been awakened, they would be considered a top force.

It was for this reason that the Nine Netherbird Clan was so particular about protecting the purity of their bloodline. Knowing that they could not afford to allow any impurity within the Undying Bird's bloodline, they viewed any who tried to tamper with it as enemies.

The Nine Nether Continent, although it was technically a continent, was only about the size of the North Territory. Although it was small, it was still very famous in The Great Thousand World. This fame came about because the owner of the land was the Nine Netherbird Clan.

As a reputable clan among the Spiritual Beasts' clans, the Nine Netherbird Clan belonged to the first class force in The Great Thousand World. This was a rank that not even the Daluo Territory had been deemed worthy of.

Achieving such a level of power was not dependent on a clan's having one Earthly Sovereign alone, but was reliant upon having a strong lineage as well. As such, even though Mandela had advanced to Upper Earthly Sovereign, there would need to be another Earthly Sovereign in order for them to be deemed a first class force.

The Nine Netherbird Clan was also considered to be more reputable than the Daluo Territory. However, in the Nine Nether Continent, the forces had the highest regard for Nine Nether World.

Nine Nether World was an independent spatial plane, lying just outside of The Great Thousand World. It was the ancestral land of the Nine Netherbird Clan.

It had been rumored that, during the Primordial Age, the Nine Netherbird Clan had originally come from the lower plane. The clan had kept a low profile at first, but when a few of their people started to stand out, due to their extreme skills and talents, the Nine Netherbird Clan emerged from the shadows of the Spiritual Beasts' clans, beginning to gain its present standing in the Great Thousand World.

When the Nine Netherbird Clan's power was at its peak, they had three generations of Heavenly Sovereigns. At that time, even the Phoenix Clan held the Nine Netherbird Clan in high regard and treated them as peers.

During the Primordial Age, Nine Nether World existed on the lower plane. However, the powerful people in the Nine Netherbird Clan managed to link the lower plane to the Great Thousand World, thus making the Nine Nether World the ancestral land of the Nine Netherbird Clan.

At that time, there were many clan members from the lower planes in the Great Thousand World, but only a handful of them managed to break through. Those that emerged from the lower planes possessed great talents and perseverance. Once they adapted themselves to the environment, they performed very well in the Great Thousand World.

Among the most distinctive members in the above-mentioned group were Flame Emperor of the Endless Fire Territory and Martial Ancestor of Martial Border. These two not only reached the highest ranking of the Great Thousand World, their men were also calling the shots among the top forces in the Great Thousand World.

It had even been rumored that Flame Emperor and Martial Ancestor had forcefully opened up the lower planes, placing the passageways within the Endless Fire Territory and Martial Border. This was done in order to protect them, should the other forces ever covet them. It was apparent that the Nine Netherbird Clan had opened up Nine Nether World for this very same reason. Thus, Mu Chen's ultimate destination would be Nine Nether World...

Nine Nether World, Nine Nether Mountain.

This mountain was large beyond description, and it loomed in Nine Nether World like a humongous continent. It was the most sacred place in Nine Nether World, as it was the ancestral birthplace of the Nine Netherbird Clan. As such, the very first Nine Netherbird was said to have come from this place.

Ancient chiming sounds resounded in the large mountain at this very moment. The birds chirped together and quaked the entire area.

A large peak stood up, like a pillar, at the center of the mountain, with clouds circling around it. Beneath it was a Bluestone Square. There were many figures with strong spiritual energy fluctuations surrounding the cliff.

The center of the square was facing a steep cliff, where many people were seated on stone pedestals. A majestic aura exuded from the cliff, causing the whole area to quake.

These people seated on the stone pedestals were the elders of the Nine Netherbird Clan. They were looking at two people, who were sitting cross-legged in the Bluestone Square. Strong spiritual energy fluctuations surged around the pair, who looked quite haughty.

This haughty demeanor of theirs did not mean that they were not proud, but it was revealing the confidence that they had due to their strength. The two people lifted up their heads and looked at the ancient stone pedestals, where the elders were currently having a heated argument. The elders seemed to have different opinions over a certain issue. The people from the Nine Netherbird Clan were watching the elders as well.

"This is outrageous! After so many millennia, Nine Nether is the only one with the purest bloodline of the Undying Bird. This is an opportunity for our clan to regain our glory. How can we let a human being destroy it?" an elder, who was robed in green, demanded angrily. "We should capture Mu Chen and break the Bloodline Bond by force!"

"That is right. Although the Dominator is powerful, I don't think she will turn herself against us, just because of him!" another elder said in a low voice.

Heavenly Sparrow Elder, who was sitting on the other side of them, frowned and said, "Mu Chen is very talented. He possesses the power of the real phoenix and has great potential. I have promised him that, if he can defeat Jiang Ya and Qin Xuan, we will let him represent us in the Land of the Divine Beasts, where he will be allowed to go and help Nine Nether get the Undying Bird's divine blood!"

When the green-robed elder heard this, he sneered. "Heavenly Sparrow, you have said that this guy is only a Grade Five Sovereign. If that is true, Jiang Ya and Qin Xuan can easily defeat him. If we let him represent us, instead of helping Nine Nether, he may drag her back. Who will take responsibility, if he spoils our plan?"

He did not wait for an answer, before continuing. "Moreover, it has almost been two months, and he is still not here. He is such a coward. He is not fit to taint Nine Nether's pure bloodline!"

Heavenly Sparrow's face darkened at the harsh words of the elder. He ignored him and turned to look at a golden stone pedestal at the center. A middle-aged man was seated on it, looking calm. Although he did not move, a horrifying oppression exuded from him, causing the space around him to freeze. He was the Clan Leader of Nine Netherbird Clan, Tianhuang.

Nine Nether was seated beside him. She looked pale. She grasped her hands, when she saw that the elders were having a heated argument over the Bloodline Bond between her and Mu Chen.

"Clan Leader, please decide whether we should send Jiang Ya or Qin Xuan. After all, the Land of the Divine Beasts is about to appear. How can we possibly wait for the coward to arrive?" The green-robed elder looked at Tianhuang and said.

The elders and the people looked at Tianhuang, waiting for a response from him, hoping that he would stop the argument that had persisted for almost two months. Tianhuang remained calm and squinted his eyes. He then looked at Nine Nether, who still looked pale, and said, "This guy is Nine Nether's benefactor. Since Heavenly Sparrow Elder has given his word, we have to keep our promise. If he comes to Nine Nether World and defeats Jiang Ya and Qin Xuan, we will let him have the fourth place."

At this point, Tianhuang suddenly stopped and his expression turned sharp. He then said, "If he tries to escape, we will go after him! And, if the Dominator should try to stop us, we will go to war with the Daluo Territory!"

His voice thundered in Nine Nether Mountain, and the people were shocked to hear the killing intent in his tone. After that, the elders did not say another word, as they seemed to have accepted his decision.

Light flashed across Nine Nether's eyes, and she grit her teeth. As long as Mu Chen had left the Daluo Territory, the Nine Netherbird Clan would not be able to find him. Then, once Mu Chen had become powerful, her clan would be wary of him, so they would not act rashly!

As she thought of this, she heaved a sigh of relief. Mu Chen should have left the Daluo Territory by now...

Just as she was relaxing from her worry, suddenly, Tianhuang lifted up his head to look at the sky, a light flashing across his eyes. There were space warps in the sky, and a space whirlpool formed within them speedily. Then, two figures slowly stepped out of the whirlpool.

This sudden change of events took the people by surprise, as they looked at the two figures that had just appeared. As the two figures became more visible, the people heard a clear voice resound throughout Nine Nether Mountain.

"How do you do, elders? I am Mu Chen."

The two people, who were sitting cross-legged in the square, widened their eyes and looked coldly at the sky with a sneer.

This coward has finally appeared...