

My System 321

Chapter 321: How is it so fast? _3

Thanks to Cheng Guang's advance warning, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had long since made preparations. The vast majority of the soldiers in the Northern Expedition Army were arranged to patrol and guard near North City, without being dispatched deep into the Border Area battlefield.

Therefore, it was possible to call back all the soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army to the city at the first sign of trouble, preserving all of their combat strength.

The million-strong Northern Expedition Army was gathered within North City, a sight that was bustling, majestic, and awe-inspiring.

There was not a single person in North City who could not or would not fight.

Should hostilities break out, even an ordinary cook, responsible for making meals, would cast aside their apron, hang up their chef's hat, don armor, take up arms, and ascend the city walls to fight side by side with the Demon Beasts that might attack at any moment.

Cheng Guang took steps one by one within Duke Zhen's Mansion, heading towards the direction of the storeroom.

With the Devil Transformation Armor, a Different Treasure he now possessed, as long as the armor absorbed and recorded a Ninth Grade demon core, he would be able to exhibit strength not inferior to the Eighth Rank.

Ordinary warriors of the Eighth-Rank King Realm were no match for him, only those strong individuals in the Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm could possibly defeat him.

The location of the storeroom was in the inner courtyard of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Upon reaching the inner courtyard and arriving at the storeroom, he found it unguarded due to the imminent outbreak of war.

Cheng Guang walked up to the storeroom door and pushed it open to enter.

The sight within the storeroom came into view.

Square wooden racks filled the entire storeroom, and on these shelves, a chaotic and disordered array of resources, which were incredibly precious in the eyes of ordinary people—Spiritual Medicines—were laid out.

An ordinary person entering this storeroom might instantly become lost, overwhelmed by the bounty before them.

Faced with these Spiritual Medicines, which would be extremely valuable in the outside world, Cheng Guang felt little impact.

Perhaps it was because he had grown accustomed to seeing such sights.

Cheng Guang walked among the wooden racks, searching each level in an attempt to find the demon cores.

Demon cores were relatively easy to find; by following the presence of Devil Qi, one could locate them in a short while.

Cheng Guang quickly found a wooden box of demon cores on the lower section of a tall rack.

Various colored demon cores were piled casually inside the wooden box.

The multicolored demon cores, still emitting different colored glows due to the Devil Qi, caught the eye.

Cheng Guang scanned them briefly and realized their auras were not very strong—most of them were Fifth or Sixth Grade.

Even if the Devil Transformation Armor were to record these demon cores, the enhancement in Cheng Guang's martial strength would be minimal, at best described as better than nothing.

After searching the storeroom a while longer, Cheng Guang swiftly found a Ninth Grade demon core on the top level of a rack.

This Ninth Grade demon core seemed to have been acquired some time ago and hadn't been used in a long time, resulting in the demonic power on its surface becoming exceptionally weak.

It still took Cheng Guang quite an effort to find this Ninth Grade demon core.

Afterward, he continued his search but to no avail.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's claim that there were many Ninth Grade demon cores seemed not to be entirely true.

Members of the Devil Clan with the strength of the Ninth Grade were only slightly less formidable than the Devil Emperor. In North City, they'd be on the same level as an existence like Qin Beifeng. Although obtaining their demon cores was easier than acquiring a Devil Emperor's core, it was still not an easy task.

Having even one Ninth Grade demon core was not bad at all.

Cheng Guang wasn't choosy. After all, the Devil Transformation Armor could only record one demon core. If he later obtained a more powerful demon core, it wouldn't be too late to replace it then.

For now, he could make do with this Ninth Grade demon core.

Cheng Guang held the Ninth Grade demon core in his hand and examined it closely for a moment.

The demon core was white and red, with a ring of flame-like patterns around it, giving off a quite devilish appearance.

It was unclear which breed of Devil Clan power this had come from.

Cheng Guang pondered in his heart, and with a slight thought, he summoned the Devil Transformation Armor and pressed the Ninth Grade demon core into the groove in the palm of the armor.

When the Ninth Grade demon core was pressed into the groove in the palm of the Devil Transformation Armor, strands of light in the same color as the demon core streamed out from it.

It was like a pebble being thrown into a calm lake, creating ripples that spread out in concentric circles.

The Devil Transformation Armor on Cheng Guang's body was quickly dyed the color of the Ninth Grade demon core.

The whole armor took on an interspersed white and red coloration.

At the same time, Cheng Guang noticed his body gradually growing larger, akin to a mountain in motion, conveying an overwhelming sense of oppression.

His muscles writhed under the Devil Transformation Armor, which, under the influence of the demon core, was transforming into skin as hard as armor.

His limbs became thicker, and his fingers resembled beast claws, sharp and formidable.

Above all, the most astonishing change was on Cheng Guang's head.

The helmet, under the effect of the demon core, took on the lifelike shape of a beast's head, resembling an aged land turtle, with eyes gleaming fiercely and a mouth full of sharp fangs.

When Cheng Guang had completely transformed, he resembled a Desolate Armored Devil Beast that had stepped out of ancient times, surveying the surrounding world with a chilling gaze.

This was the Devil Transformation Armor after merging with a demon core—it was no longer just a simple piece of armor, but rather it made Cheng Guang a true Devil Beast, becoming part of his body.

Cheng Guang lifted his hand slightly, marveling at the changes in his own body, astonished by the magic of the Devil Transformation Armor.

At the same time.

Cheng Guang also discovered that as he took on the full appearance of a Devil Beast, fragments of memories from the life of this beast unbiddenly surfaced in his mind, and the techniques once used by this beast were now approximately within his grasp.

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In Duke Zhen's Mansion's storeroom, aside from Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan himself, only Cheng Guang was qualified to enter. No one could even approach the vicinity of the storeroom.

Therefore, Cheng Guang did not worry about being disturbed by anyone.

With a slight squint, Cheng Guang decided to simply lie down in the storeroom, propping up his body as he began to organize the Ninth Grade Demon Pill and the fragmented memories of its former owner.

Time slowly passed.

As Cheng Guang breathed, his large and robust body heaved up and down, with demonic power circulating in and out of his mouth with each breath, making him resemble a genuine Devil Beast.

If Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had come back at that time and failed to recognize him carefully, he might have mistaken Cheng Guang for a real Devil Beast and killed him on the spot.

After a quarter of an hour.

Cheng Guang slowly opened his eyes, which were ancient and deep, like two cold, gleaming iron stones.

He slowly exhaled, and a slight joy could be seen in his eyes.

The owner of this Ninth Grade Demon Pill was an Iron Shell Turtle, an ancestor-level existence of the Iron Shell Turtle clan.

The Iron Shell Turtle clan was known for its defensive abilities and longevity.

An Iron Shell Turtle that reached the Ninth Grade Demon King Realm could already ignore most attacks in the world, even those from a Sky-Man, which it could withstand.

However, if an Iron Shell Turtle was continuously attacked by strong opponents from the Heavenly Human Realm, no matter how resilient the Devil Beast of the Iron Shell Turtle clan was, it ultimately wouldn't last long.

Back then, this particular Iron Shell Turtle was one of the leading Devil Clan generals attacking North City, and as the Devil Clan's offensive against the Northern Expedition Army crumbled, the Iron Shell Turtle remained calm and collected, slowly rising to its feet.

It paid no mind to the Northern Expedition Army swarming to kill it.

Meanwhile, the other members of the Devil Clan fled swiftly through the Border Area rift they had come through.

Eventually, only one Iron Shell Turtle remained.

By the time the Iron Shell Turtle reached the Border Area rift, it had already closed up.

At this point, Cheng Guang could already imagine the Ninth Grade Demon King Realm Iron Shell Turtle must have been shouting:

"I haven't entered the hole yet, I haven't entered the hole yet."

Even for a Devil Beast of the durable Iron Shell Turtle clan, being abandoned and left alone, the Iron Shell Turtle must have felt panicked.

What followed was naturally unsurprising.

With the efforts of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, the shell of the Iron Shell Turtle was broken open with one palm, ending its life and obtaining its Demon Pill, which was then tossed into the storeroom.

Looking at it this way.

The Ninth Grade Demon King Iron Shell Turtle met a quite suffocating death.

If it had not been left alone, even if the Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, could break through its shell, it surely would have taken quite some effort.

It was not so easy to break through its shell.

Furthermore, Cheng Guang discovered that the process by which the Duke of the State acquired the Iron Shell Turtle's Ninth Grade Demon Pill was also full of coincidences.

If not for the Iron Shell Turtle's slow speed, its overconfidence in its defense, and its misjudgment about the closure time of the Border Area rift, it might not have died.

As he thought about this, Cheng Guang couldn't help but chuckle and shake his head.

Cheng Guang did not focus his attention on how the Iron Shell Turtle died.

Instead, he turned his attention to the strength of Iron Shell Turtle.

Its defensive power was astonishing, but its offensive capabilities were lacking.

Cheng Guang originally thought that by inheriting the Ninth Grade Demon King Realm Devil's Demon Pill, he could wreak havoc below the Eighth Rank.

However, he had not anticipated that.

The Ninth Grade Demon Pill he had recorded was from an Iron Shell Turtle. It was incredibly resistant but had no offensive output.

Although it had reached the Ninth Grade, it struggled significantly against the general Eighth Rank Realm.

Cheng Guang could only inherit thirty percent of the Iron Shell Turtle's strength, which now seemed insufficient to deal with even the Seventh Rank, let alone the Eighth.

The one thing that offered Cheng Guang a glimmer of hope was the astounding defensive capabilities of the Iron Shell Turtle. The defense did not seem to be a part of the inherited strength.

Instead, it belonged to the Iron Shell Turtle's own body.

It did not follow the rule of inheriting thirty percent of the recorded Devil's strength.

It seemed the defensive ability was perfectly inherited.

This meant that even the might of the Heavenly Human Realm or the Devil Emperor Realm would find it very difficult to kill him in this state.

This was an unexpected pleasure.

Not a loss at all.

In fact, one might even call it a windfall.

Cheng Guang's face wore a smile, and his demeanor was relaxed.

With a slight intent, the Devil Transformation Armor retracted, and his size began to shrink until he regained the appearance of a handsome young master.

The Devil Transformation Armor, having absorbed the Demon Pill of the Iron-Shell Beast, may not have enhanced his attack much, but it seemed to have inadvertently opened another correct path.

He inherited the defensive power of the Ninth Grade Demon King Realm Iron-Shell Beast perfectly.

At that moment, Cheng Guang began to wonder if, by using the Devil Transformation Armor to record a winged member of the Devil Clan, he could possibly gain the ability to fly.

The higher the strength of the Devil Clan, the higher his flying speed would potentially be.

After all, speed is related not only to the amount of Qi and vitality one possesses but also to their physical constitution.

If a Devil's wings are strong, its flight speed will doubtlessly be high.

With these thoughts in mind, Cheng Guang felt that in this short period, he had discovered more ways to play with the Devil Transformation Armor.

Cheng Guang tidied up briefly and did not linger in the storeroom for long; he turned and left the place.

The Demon Beast siege of North City did not actually require Cheng Guang's strength.

As long as he could stay quietly in North City without any accidents, that would be the greatest help to all the soldiers of North City.

If Cheng Guang had lacked strength at that moment, he would most likely have chosen to be a shrinking turtle.

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But now, he had already acquired a certain level of strength.

Cheng Guang still wanted to go and witness the battlefield.

As long as the city gates of North City remained closed, it was highly unlikely that any members of the Devil Clan would break through the defenses of the Northern Expedition Army and enter North City.

Therefore, Cheng Guang believed that he was generally not in any danger.

Cheng Guang took steps toward the outside of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

A group of guards, who were charged with protecting Cheng Guang, closely followed him as soon as he stepped out of the Duke's Mansion.

In North City, at the northern gate, a large new tent had been erected.

Within the tent, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, Qin Beifeng, Li Baxun, and other senior military commanders of the Northern Expedition Army, stood beside a sand table, watching the lights on it.

Many of those lights were darting chaotically across the sand table.

A massive cluster of green lights gathered together.

This represented North City and the Northern Expedition Army.

The red lights that surrounded them densely, in a besieging formation, represented a legion of Demon Beasts.

A dense mass of members of the Devil Clan was converging on North City.

They were fast, even very fast.

Perhaps in just an hour or two, North City would be completely surrounded by layers of Demon Beasts.

Even if Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was an exceptional powerhouse of the Heavenly Human Realm, capable of annihilating tens, even hundreds of thousands of Demon Beasts, how could he contend with millions?

The sheer number of these Demon Beasts, even if they merely stood still without any action, allowing themselves to be slaughtered, would take a very long time to defeat.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, relied not only on his own power but on the collective strength of the Northern Expedition Army to survive this siege.

So...

During this time.

They could not have a spy among them.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, upon this thought, couldn't help but shift his gaze from the sand table to Qin Beifeng.

According to what Cheng Guang had said, Qin Beifeng was very likely to be the spy within their own Northern Expedition Army.

Previously Cheng Guang predicted there would be turmoil within the Great Yan Dynasty, and this proved to be true.

Now, with the Great Yan Dynasty withdrawing troops from the Border Area, it proved again that Cheng Guang's prediction was correct.

And now,

Cheng Guang had suggested that Qin Beifeng might be a spy.

Despite how much Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, didn't want to believe there could be any issue with Qin Beifeng's identity, and even though he didn't know how Cheng Guang had arrived at his conclusion,

For the safety of North City and also for the safety of the Northern Expedition Army,

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had to be vigilant.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, observed Qin Beifeng for a moment, noticing that even though Qin Beifeng furrowed his brows while examining the lights on the sand table, as if in deep thought,

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, seized the appropriate moment to speak.

"Beifeng,"

Qin Beifeng, upon hearing Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's voice, regained his composure and greeted him with a slight bow, respectfully saying,

"Your Grace."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, shifted his gaze from Qin Beifeng and set it back on the multitude of lights around him, asking,

"Beifeng, what do you think our chances are in this battle? For us here in North City, and for the Northern Expedition Army?"

Without hesitation, Qin Beifeng patted his chest and declared, "Your Grace, of course we will be victorious."

"Although most of these Demon Beasts attacking us are quite strong, they are no match for the Northern Expedition Army."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, didn't say much more, simply nodding. He had intended to test Qin Beifeng, but Qin Beifeng's usual good performance left hardly any slip-ups,

And he didn't seem to be pretending.

It was possible that his grandson had made a mistake this time.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, pondered, and even though he remained cautious because of Cheng Guang's words, that caution inevitably diminished somewhat.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, watched the lights on the sand table, silent, until a red light touched North City.

In that instant,

Boom!!!

"Human Race! Meet your doom!"

A thundering voice reverberated through the void.

It was the voice of a Devil Clan powerhouse.

As that voice fell, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and his accompanying soldiers all turned into multiple streaks of light, soaring into the sky and drawing an arc in mid-air to reach the top of the city walls.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan slightly lifted his gaze to behold the Devil Clan member leading the attack.

The Devil was brazen—possessing only the strength of the Seventh Grade, it headed straight toward North City from the sky.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan faced the Devil, who bore a piercing aura, without a hint of change in his expression.

As the Devil grew closer, Li Baxun alongside him stepped forward with a smile, waving his sleeve. The Devil, which had just been making earth-shattering noises, instantly showed a slight widening of its eyes, its body stiffening in place, and it fell rigidly from the sky.

Its body was like sand.

As it fell, it started to disperse.

Before even hitting the ground, it completely dissipated into the void.

Li Baxun, being on equal footing with Qin Beifeng, had also reached the Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm and was just a step away from the Heavenly Human Realm.

For him, dealing with a Seventh Grade Devil was effortless.

The soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army within North City saw Li Baxun's action and did not cheer; for him, such a minor Devil was hardly worth making a fuss over, nor was there anything worth cheering for.

The soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army stood atop the city wall, each with a stern gaze, looking into the distance at the Devil Beasts rushing toward North City like dark clouds.

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The death of that Demon Beast just now seemed to have ignited a fuse.

The great battle was on the verge of erupting.

Above the towering city walls, the Northern Expedition Army engaged in fierce combat with the numerous Demon Beasts.

At this time, the majority of the Northern Expedition Army, as well as most of the Demon Beasts, were engaged in mediocre confrontations.

The top forces of both sides had yet to enter the fray.

It was mostly minor skirmishes.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan stood on the city wall with his hands behind his back, expressionless as he looked up at the Demon Beasts in the distant sky.

He seemed to be waiting for something.

So many Demon Beasts gathered together.

With the experience of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, it was not difficult to see that behind these Demon Beasts, there was a hidden mastermind.

Was it the Devil Emperor or the Demon Emperor?

Or could it be that both were involved?

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's gaze was fixed on the dark cloud formed by the gathering of numerous Demon Beasts.

His eyes occasionally flashed with a sharp, playful intensity.

It seemed that his gaze could penetrate the dark cloud made of Demon Beasts, seeing the figure hidden behind it.

By the side of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan stood Qin Beifeng and Li Baxun.

Both of them were also focusing on the person behind the dark cloud.

North City was surrounded by chaos of battle, with blood pouring down like rain, and the scent of death nearly cloaked the heart of every soldier in the Northern Expedition Army.

It was only because every soldier in the Northern Expedition Army had an incredibly strong mentality and were the most elite troops of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Otherwise, if it were any other force, like the Army of the Four Symbols or the Imperial Army, they would have likely been scared off by the Demon Beasts long ago.

Even those with the strength to fight would still feel a trace of fear under the circumstances of the enemy's endless reinforcements, and would hesitate to continue the battle.

While the Northern Expedition Army was fighting the Demon Beasts, Cheng Guang quietly climbed up a section of the city wall.

He carefully sensed the aura of the Demon Beasts that were attacking, most of which were above the fourth grade.

In the Great Zhou Dynasty, they would be considered major demons capable of wreaking havoc in a region.

However, in this Border Area battlefield, they seemed to have become the most basic cannon fodder.

The level of combat power in the Border Area battlefield was unimaginably stronger than the outside.

Cheng Guang, at this moment, also came to understand why Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, with only the Northern Expedition Army, was able to hold his ground in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Even Emperor Zhou, who was wary of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's Northern Expedition Army and wanted to weaken the military strength of Duke Zhen's Mansion, felt somewhat unable to start.

Not for any other reason,

but simply because the Northern Expedition Army was too strong.

The one who had formed the Northern Expedition Army, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was even more unreasonably strong.

Emperor Zhou wanted to move against him but could not.

Cheng Guang clicked his tongue, guarded by many protectors upon the city walls, as if watching a vivid live show of life and death unfold.

At this moment, Cheng Guang also felt the urge to fight alongside the soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army, to slaughter the Demon Beasts, but the guards arranged by Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan for his protection were too diligent.

They took great care to keep him safe from any mishap.

Having been in this world for so long, it was the first time Cheng Guang felt oddly like a giant panda.

As long as he didn't die, his main job was to breed, his secondary job was to be adorable.

Thinking this, Cheng Guang couldn't help but shake his head and chuckle.

But after watching the Northern Expedition Army fighting against the low-level Demon Beasts on the city wall for a while, Cheng Guang soon lost interest.

The strength of the Demon Beasts currently fighting the Northern Expedition Army was mostly not very strong.

The real powerhouses had not yet taken action.

Furthermore...

Cheng Guang noticed that Qin Beifeng was standing quietly behind Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan without making any move.

If Qin Beifeng was truly a spy, according to his original plan, the gates of North City should have been breached by now, and Qin Gaozhi would have been killed by me.

Yanqiu was also rescued by me.

What would Qin Beifeng do next?

On the flip side, if Qin Beifeng was not the spy, could there be the possibility of another spy being present?

Was it a mistake to concentrate all attention on Qin Beifeng?

Pondering this, Cheng Guang only thought for a moment before he felt his thoughts becoming cluttered.

Anyway, since things had reached this point, no matter who the spy was, the idea of wiping out all the high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army and destroying the entire army in one fell swoop was basically impossible now.

Cheng Guang shook his head and didn't think about it anymore.

After watching the Northern Expedition Army's soldiers and the Demon Beasts fighting fiercely for a while, he soon became somewhat bored.

Just as Cheng Guang was about to walk down the city wall,

suddenly, from within the dark clouds formed by layers of Demon Beasts, a man clad in shining armor with horns on his head and a ferocious face called out to Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan in North City, the heartland of the Northern Expedition Army.

"Duke, I, the Fire Dragon Devil King, have come today to fight a fair battle with your generals. I hope you won't intervene," he said.

Faced with the shouting of the man claiming to be the Fire Dragon Devil King, Duke Zhen of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, remained expressionless, silent, and his gaze merely swept indifferently over the Fire Dragon Devil King before he ignored him completely.

His expression even showed a hint of disappointment.

He gave a slight sigh.

More humiliating than disdain was the blatant disregard!

The Fire Dragon Devil King had thought that upon his arrival, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan would show him a certain respect. But in the end, he received nothing.

Just as his lips trembled, about to say something more, he felt something, raised his fiery eyes, and looked up at the figure that had appeared overhead at some unknown time.

"What Fire Dragon Devil King, you're just a dragonfish. You're not worthy of the Duke's special attention. It's more than enough for me to deal with you!" Qin Beifeng's dignified voice came from the sky above.

"Thousand Waves Palm!"

As the voice fell, a crack spanning thousands of feet opened in the void, and an immensely large hand, enough to cover the heavens, chopped down towards the Fire Dragon Devil King's face.

"Well met!"

The Fire Dragon Devil King roared and threw out a palm in response.

In the instant the two palms met, Qin Beifeng's palm strike suddenly surged in might.

With just one palm,

he shattered the Fire Dragon Devil King's palm force and imprinted it on his chest.

"Puh."

The Fire Dragon Devil King spat out a mouthful of blood, his complexion turned pale instantly, then, clenching his teeth, blood flowed from the corner of his mouth as he stared fixedly at Qin Beifeng.

He suddenly gave a laugh.

"Your palm lacks strength. Look at mine."

The Fire Dragon Devil King's body suddenly expanded several times in size, and the blood that he had just spewed out, which had not yet hit the ground and floated in midair as a mist, took the form of a fire dragon. With a fierce momentum, it roared and surged towards Qin Beifeng.

Qin Beifeng's body stiffened slightly, seemingly revealing panic as he quickly used Divine Power and Martial Arts to resist, but as soon as his Divine Power touched the technique used by the Fire Dragon Devil King, it dissipated like a soap bubble.

"Puh!"

Just like the Fire Dragon Devil King before him, Qin Beifeng spat out a mouthful of blood. His bones made cracking noises as he was sent flying backwards, his body drawing a distinct trail of airwaves in the void.

Qin Beifeng.

Defeated in two moves.

Defeated by the Fire Dragon Devil King, also of the Ninth Grade.

How is this possible?

How could it happen so quickly?

North City went silent for a moment.

All the soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army who noticed this scene widened their eyes in disbelief, their breath momentarily catching.

At that moment in the sky, the Fire Dragon Devil King was also stunned, seeming not to have expected that the widely praised Great General Qin Beifeng of the Northern Expedition Army would be so easily defeated.

Just one palm, and he was vanquished.

Very good, it seems that today my Devil Clan will be able to trample North City!

A hint of joy shone in the eyes of the Fire Dragon Devil King.

At this moment, the expressions on everyone's faces were all different.

Some were worried, some were shocked, some couldn't believe it...

But...

Among all these expressions, Cheng Guang's looked rather out of place.

A look of bemusement appeared on Cheng Guang's face.

Cheng Guang's lips pursed slightly, his eyes widened a fraction, and he couldn't help but inhale a cold breath.

Hiss...

Was Qin Beifeng's acting taught by me?

.....

Chapter 325 - What Counts as the Great Wind General

Struck by the Fire Dragon Devil King, Qin Beifeng was sent flying instantaneously.

His bones fractured with a cracking sound.

As he spewed crimson fresh blood from his mouth, his originally heroic face instantly turned pale, his hair disheveled, looking utterly disheveled and in dire straits.

Many soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army watched this scene, all finding it unbelievable.

Their eyes widened, filled with shock.

How is this possible?

Qin Beifeng was but a step away from the Heavenly Human Realm, even if the Fire Dragon Devil King is the Devil Emperor, it shouldn't be possible for him to make Qin Beifeng look so miserable with just one strike!

Incomprehensible!

At this moment, various emotions intermingled in everyone's hearts, making their expressions extremely complicated.

It was at this time, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, upon seeing this scene, his aged face trembled slightly, and his usually calm stance faltered for a moment before he sighed, immediately appearing behind Qin Beifeng, supporting him with his hand.

Qin Beifeng's rapidly retreating body was abruptly halted as if hitting a break under the intervention of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Even so, the tremendous impact caused waves of Qi to erupt at the spot where Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's body touched Qin Beifeng's, forming visible shockwaves.

Qin Beifeng clearly recognized that the person behind him was Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and his pale face showed a hint of shame.

"Duke, I..."

Qin Beifeng opened his mouth slightly, just as he was about to say something when another mouthful of fresh blood sprayed out, brutally interrupting his speech.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's expression remained unchanged as his Qi probed into Qin Beifeng's body.

After scanning for a moment, Cheng Shiyuan felt a jolt of surprise and then a great headache.

Qin Beifeng's body was currently severely wounded.

The Fire Dragon Devil King's demonic power had invaded Qin Beifeng's limbs and bones, and the Eight Extraordinary Meridians, causing severe damage to both his body and meridians.

Beyond the damage to the meridians, what was more troublesome for the Duke was that Qin Beifeng's bones had all fractured.

Even if Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan himself could remove the demonic power within Qin Beifeng and heal the injuries in his meridians, to completely recover Qin Beifeng's fractured bones was not something that could be accomplished in a short time.

It would require at least several hours.

Under ordinary circumstances, these several hours would not be considered slow.

But what time was it now?

It was when Demon Beasts were attacking the city, when North City was struggling for survival under the siege of countless Demon Beasts.

To say that General Qin Beifeng needed at least several hours of recuperation was almost no different from saying that he was already dead at this moment.

The situation on the battlefield changes in an instant, and nobody knows what will happen the next moment.

A slight change could lead to a complete shift in the course of battle.

With Qin Beifeng injured, the impact on North City and the entire Northern Expedition Army was immense.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan sighed, stabilized Qin Beifeng's condition caused by the demonic power, and after managing to prevent his condition from worsening, brought Qin Beifeng back up to the city walls.

Upon returning to the walls, a soldier came over to take Qin Beifeng, bandaging his wounds and treating them with utmost effort.

It would undoubtedly be good if Qin Beifeng could recover sooner rather than later.

Lying on a stretcher, Qin Beifeng felt his face flush with extreme embarrassment, "Duke, I have brought shame upon myself."

"The Fire Dragon Devil King's methods are mysterious. For some reason, I suddenly couldn't handle him..."

"I hope the Duke will punish me."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, hearing Qin Beifeng's apology again, didn't say much.

He had not anticipated that Qin Beifeng would be defeated by the Fire Dragon Devil King so easily.

Nor had he expected that Qin Beifeng's injuries would be so severe.

At this moment, looking at Qin Beifeng's pale face, Cheng Shiyuan reflected on what Cheng Guang had once said.

His own grandson had mentioned that there might be some issues with Qin Beifeng's identity.

With Qin Beifeng's somewhat abnormal serious injury, could it all just be a cover?

If Qin Beifeng possessed a healing Divine Power akin to "Everlasting," then the wounds on his body could be healed within minutes.

In that case, if he still wanted to resort to some strategy,

Given that everyone saw him heavily injured, they would not be overly vigilant against Qin Beifeng.

So...

Does Qin Beifeng really have an issue?

Thinking about this made Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's head ache.

No matter what, Cheng Shiyuan became somewhat more vigilant towards Qin Beifeng.

"Beifeng, it's nothing serious. This Fire Dragon Devil King is indeed not simple,"

"You should just focus on healing for now. Don't do anything else. With me here, nothing will happen to North City in these few hours."

After comforting Qin Beifeng with these few words, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan turned to the physician treating Qin Beifeng and said:

"Take him down and treat him."

The physician complied and took Qin Beifeng down from the wall.

Li Baxun, standing nearby, cast a strange look at Qin Beifeng who was being carried down from the wall on a stretcher.

"Duke, this Fire Dragon Devil King may indeed be not simple, managing to beat Qin Beifeng to such a state in just a couple of moves. I'll go and confront him," Li Baxun said.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan heard Li Baxun's words and nodded slightly, "That sounds good."

Both Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan and Li Baxun had indeed not noticed any common technique used by the Fire Dragon Devil King in the recent attack.

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Instead, what occurred was an exceedingly normal exchange.

Those of lower cultivation realms would likely be unable to withstand even the residual effects of the battle between the Fire Dragon Devil King and Qin Beifeng.

But for Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and others of similar stature like Li Baxun, the recent clash between Qin Beifeng and the Fire Dragon Devil King was as insubstantial as a light sprinkling of water.

It was precisely because of this that Qin Beifeng being severely injured by just two moves from the Fire Dragon Devil King appeared extremely odd.

Shockingly, Li Baxun subconsciously thought that the Fire Dragon Devil King was likely no ordinary being.

At this moment, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, also wanted to see if the Fire Dragon Devil King had stealthily used some trick, to verify whether Qin Beifeng's injured appearance was feigned.

Li Baxun took a step, treading upon the void, facing the Fire Dragon Devil King.

The Fire Dragon Devil King, still reveling in his joy of defeating Qin Beifeng in two moves, simply thought that the celebrated General of North City, Qin Beifeng, was pitifully weak.

This time, he, the Fire Dragon Devil King, had indeed achieved a great feat.

When the Fire Dragon Devil King saw Li Baxun appear before him, he smiled with arrogant confidence, "Another one comes."

"It's a bit of a pity I didn't kill Qin Beifeng just now; this time, you probably won't be as lucky as he was."

With a roar, the Fire Dragon Devil King's muscles bulged, and his incredibly robust body charged towards Li Baxun.

Next to the formidable Fire Dragon Devil King, Li Baxun's slender frame made him look like a child who had yet to reach maturity.

"Die."

The Fire Dragon Devil King sneered and, with a loud roar, flames resembling silk spewed forth from his mouth, interweaving into a fiery armor crafted by dragon sinews, enveloping his body.

He threw a punch, with flames billowing and carrying immense terror, aiming straight at Li Baxun.

Li Baxun faced the Fire Dragon Devil King's attack without the slightest panic, as if he had anticipated it, and due to Qin Beifeng's eerily odd defeat, he was exceedingly cautious. As soon as he acted, he intended to deliver a deadly move.

Li Baxun stepped upon the void and bellowed, his Qi surged, and divine glossiness flickered around him. He threw a punch to meet the oncoming Fire Dragon Devil King.

One punch unleashed, a hundred followed.

Innumerable fist shadows flew out, each one growing upon contact with the wind, turning into fierce beasts that pounced towards the Fire Dragon Devil King.

Before the Fire Dragon Devil King could draw near, Li Baxun's divine power startled him, causing him to urgently control his body and brake harshly, his face turning somewhat pale before Li Baxun's momentum.

"You old man! Coming at me with killer moves right from the start!"

The Fire Dragon Devil King hastily retreated to evade.

But Li Baxun's barrage of punches was too numerous, and the Fire Dragon Devil King couldn't evade them all, so he could only protect his head with his arms.

Boom, boom, boom!!

The beasts formed from the punch energy hammered down on the Fire Dragon Devil King like heavy mallets.

The Fire Dragon Devil King let out a scream as cracks appeared on the surface of his fiery armor. In moments, the armor covering his body was blasted to dust.

The Fire Dragon Devil King's complexion drastically changed, trying to launch a counterattack, but he was pressed by the relentless punches and couldn't catch his breath.

Compared to Qin Beifeng, the pressure from Li Baxun was far too great.

What was happening?

I could defeat Qin Beifeng but not Li Baxun?

The Fire Dragon Devil King's simple mind began to doubt his own strength, and he couldn't understand how Li Baxun, seemingly of the same realm, could be so much more powerful than Qin Beifeng.

Under Li Baxun's relentless assault, the Fire Dragon Devil King struggled, and after his armor shattered, his entire body bore varying degrees of bruising.

Then a mouthful of fresh blood spurted out.

His complexion grew paler.

"Damn it, do you really think I'm afraid of you? Seek death!"

With a loud roar, the Fire Dragon Devil King transformed, revealing his true form as a serpent with blue flames entwining its body and horns on its head, churning among the clouds.

Looking ferocious, he roared at Li Baxun, stirring wind and cloud, and with an overwhelming momentum and pressuring aura, he charged towards Li Baxun.

Li Baxun, facing the Fire Dragon Devil King's suddenly intensified assault, grew only slightly more solemn.

"Hmph!"

He snorted coldly, his palm suddenly transforming, turning from fist to hand, and as the swooping Fire Dragon Devil King, who made the wind and cloud shift, came down, he slowly clenched his hand.

The next moment.

Li Baxun seemed to grasp something, and his palm paused for an instant.

At the same time.

In the sky, the Fire Dragon Devil King descending towards Li Baxun also seemed to sense something, his ferocious face momentarily stunned, as if he had a premonition of some terrifying occurrence.

Just like at the beginning, his attack hadn't even touched the hem of Li Baxun's clothes before he already wanted to turn and flee.

The Fire Dragon Devil King forcibly stopped his plunging motion and instead turned to rush towards the dark clouds formed by layers of Demon Beasts.

"I'm done fighting, I'm done."

The Fire Dragon Devil King fled with a look of terror on his face.

"Hmph! Running away? Divine Power Martial Arts, one grasp of Dan Yang."

With a cold snort following close behind, the air around the Fire Dragon Devil King seemed to compress instantaneously, producing a series of booming sounds.

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The void around them seemed to be compressed by some terrifying force and, with a bang, shattered like glass.

It was at that moment that the Fire Dragon Devil King's form halted, his body instantly tensed, as if he was enduring some immense pressure. With a miserable howl, all the scales on his body's surface burst apart like dust.

At the same time, blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. His pale face was full of horror, unable to believe that a single move had injured him so badly, and even posed a life-threatening danger.

The gap in strength between him and Li Baxun was even greater than between him and Qin Beifeng!?

The Fire Dragon Devil King couldn't believe it!

But he was already close to death.

All the bones and flesh in his body were wailing.

And Li Baxun's palm was still slowly tightening.

By the time Li Baxun's palm closed completely, the Fire Dragon Devil King's life would be over.

The Fire Dragon Devil King immediately cried out for help.

"Devil Emperor, save me!"

At the same time, a majestic presence emanated from the depths of the dark clouds, caressing the Fire Dragon Devil King's body like flowing water.

The Fire Dragon Devil King immediately felt the oppressive force around him lessen considerably and without the slightest hesitation, he bolted into the dark clouds.

Li Baxun did not chase after the Fire Dragon Devil King.

He had anticipated that he couldn't truly kill the Fire Dragon Devil King. Even without seeking help, Li Baxun wouldn't be able to crush the Fire Dragon Devil King's body.

The Devil Clan's physical strength was not something the ordinary Human Race could compare with.

The purpose of this battle was merely to test the strength of the Fire Dragon Devil King.

Though the Fire Dragon Devil King was strong, he wasn't an outrageously strong Demon King.

If he could suppress the Fire Dragon Devil King in two moves, there was no reason Qin Beifeng should have been beaten into such a state by him.

Why was this so?

Li Baxun reflected for a moment and realized he was starting to not understand.

As Li Baxun was contemplating,

The next moment, a figure walked out from the depths of the dark clouds.

Before anyone could see the figure's face, a majestic voice came from within the clouds formed by layers of Demon Beasts.

"Heh..."

"North City, it seems the Northern Expedition Army is indeed impressive. Seeing how Qin Beifeng performed just now, this Emperor thought there was no need for me to take action, and that just a few Demon Kings would suffice to flatten North City."

"It seems I still have to make a move."

"Duke, long time no see."

This voice started off as a whisper, but in the blink of an eye, it boomed like thunder, as if the entire space was trembling along with this voice.

What followed was a terrifying aura.

This aura came from the depths of the dark clouds and swept over the entire North City like a raging storm and a vast ocean.

On the city walls of North City, all the soldiers who were battling the Demon Beasts suddenly felt as if a mountain were weighing down on them, feeling an inexplicable pressure on their bodies, and their actions slowed significantly.

Standing atop the city walls, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, upon hearing this voice, looked up slightly in surprise but without much panic. He took a step into the air, doing nothing as he alone blocked the aura from that Devil Emperor.

It was only then that the soldiers within North City started to feel some relief.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, stood suspended in the air, his gaze directed towards the figure stepping out slowly from the dark clouds, his aged face showing a coldly detached expression.

"Ghost Spider Devil Emperor? I presumed you Devil Emperors would hide behind the scenes, refraining from taking action until the very end. You seem to be bolder this time."

"What's the matter, only one Devil Emperor has come today? Do you really think you alone can flatten my North City?"

The figure addressed by Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, as the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor, gradually revealed his form.

He was immensely large, his skin a deep black color. His face, although human-like, was more akin to that of a spider's, with features twisted together, creating a grotesquely strange expression.

His limbs were long and powerful, sharp claws adorning each of his fingers, their cold light concealed, as though they could effortlessly tear apart all things in the world.

Besides his face, the most eye-catching feature was his belly.

The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor's belly was round and occasionally moved as if there was a living creature inside.

The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor, stepping forward, looked at Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and laughed, "How could that be?"

"The situation today arose suddenly, unexpected by both you and me."

"Even with my full confidence, I wouldn't dare face you alone, Duke."

As the words of the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor fell, another figure appeared abruptly beside him.

The figure's appearance was obscured by a murky aura, making it difficult to see clearly, but one could make out his deep eyes.

Clad in a black robe, his body was tall and robust, his hair long and lustrous, his fingers slender and thin, and his skin was covered with fine scales.

The Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, took a glance at the figure and, with his eyebrows slightly raised and showing little surprise, said, "Soul Devouring Devil Emperor?"

The Soul Devouring Devil Emperor under the black robe chuckled, his expression dark and indistinct as he watched Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and said nothing.

He surveyed the surrounding Demon Beasts besieging North City.

He then spoke in a moderate tone:

"Duke, you are isolated and without aid now. It would be wise for you to surrender."

With two Devil Emperors descending upon North City, their Devil Qi filled the sky, imposing a great sense of oppression upon all the soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army.

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The Northern Expedition Army soldiers had fairly good mental resilience, with faces only slightly pale, and their movements in battle against the Demon Beasts hardly faltered or slowed.

Otherwise, the appearance of the two Devil Emperors might have caused many soldiers to lose their will to fight.

The pressure exerted by the two Devil Emperors was indeed too overwhelming.

If Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, could not handle these two Devil Emperors and they broke through the city gates, allowing countless Demon Beasts to flood in, then there would be no chance of victory.

"Heh."

In midair, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, faced the words of the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor with composure.

He slightly raised one hand and a streak of blood light flickered from his grasp.

In a breath, he held in his hand a great sword that was even slightly taller than Duke Zhen Guo himself.

"If it's a fight you want, then it's a fight you'll get, Devil Emperor. I was just worrying about not finding any Devil Emperors. Now that you've shown yourselves, it's a fine opportunity for this old man to take a few Devil Cores for my grandson," Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, declared and swung his sword towards the two Devil Emperors in the midst of the Demon Sea.

At the same time.

By Duke Zhen Guo's side, the high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army, led by Li Baxun, closely followed Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, into the fray of encircling Demon Beasts.

Their intention was not to help Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, kill the Devil Emperor.

A battle of such a level, between Devil Emperors and Sky-Men, was not something they could interfere with.

The purpose of Li Baxun and the others was simply to help Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, clear the surrounding impediments, preventing other Demon Kings from interfering with the battle between Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and the Devil Emperors.

Faced with Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's approach, the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor looked slightly surprised; clearly, it hadn't expected Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, to be so bold.

Unfazed by the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor, he even dared to take the initiative to attack.

Was he not giving face to the Devil Emperors?

The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor, as if by some agreement, attacked together when Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, swung his sword.

Both unleashed their Bloodline Divine Powers at the same moment.

Behind the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor, a giant palm materialized, covered in black patterns that were eerie. Between its fingers, threads were entwined.

With the slightest movement of the palm, the threads came alive like sentient beings, whistling through the air, carrying the sound of tearing the sky as they surged towards Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

And the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor had a pitch-black rat appearing behind him with a gaping maw, into which all the energy around was pouring.

At this moment, the Qi within Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's body seemed to be affected by the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor's Bloodline Divine Power, being drawn out and flowing from his body into the gaping maw of the pitch-black rat behind the Devil Emperor.

"Blood Sea Crazy Sword!"

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, faced the attacks of the two Devil Emperors without a trace of panic and brandished his sword directly into their assault.

As the sword slashed down, the blade shimmered with Martial Arts Divine glossiness, and around it, endless mountains of corpses and seas of blood emerged.

This was precisely the Martial Arts technique that Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, practiced—the Blood Sea Crazy Sword!

Certification through slaughter!

The three attacks met in a breath!

Boom!!!

After a loud bang.

The threads deployed by the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor were cut apart with an extremely fierce strength by Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and the virtual shadow of the pitch-black rat behind the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor seemed as if it had been severed in the middle, becoming even more illusory and unreal than before.

Confronting Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's strike, the two unparalleled Demon Beasts—the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor—were greatly shaken by just one blow.

"Duke of the State! Your... Your Martial Arts Divine Power... Could it be you've reached the Second Realm of the Heavenly Human Realm!?"

The always calm and undisturbed Soul Devouring Devil Emperor seemed to realize something, crying out in shock, his voice hoarse from astonishment.

The Human Race's Heavenly Human Realm and the Devil Clan's Devil Emperor Realm were comparable levels.

Even such a pinnacle of cultivation still offered room for improvement.

By evolving Divine Powers further and comprehending higher levels of rules, one can break through to a greater realm.

Newly entering the Heavenly Human Realm is known as the Heavenly Human Realm, which can also be referred to as the First Realm.

Once Martial Arts Divine Powers evolve further and cultivation improves again, one can then be referred to as being in the Second Realm.

Generally speaking, it is already quite remarkable for any being, human, devil, or demon, to cultivate to the level of the Heavenly Human Realm or the Devil Emperor Realm.

They might find it difficult to achieve anything more in their lifetime.

How to evolve Divine Powers further and advance to the Heavenly Human Realm, or after reaching the Devil Emperor Realm, how to continue cultivating...

No one knew!

One could only explore step by step!

Even after reaching the Heavenly Human Realm or the Devil Emperor Realm and knowing there's more room for improvement, without a clear path for cultivation, one must rely solely on self-enlightenment.

Unless something unexpected happens, it's virtually impossible for ordinary people to make any further breakthroughs.

That's why the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor was immensely shocked upon realizing Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had further advanced his cultivation, and though he somewhat regretted becoming enemies with Duke Zhen Guo so soon, he didn't feel much fear deep down.

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All were at the Heavenly Human Realm.

Even with improved cultivation, the Duke was of little help.

Facing the siege of two Devil Emperors, he would inevitably falter in a prolonged battle. They only needed to find an opportunity to breach the gates of North City.

Once the gates were breached, the Demon Beasts would flood in.

The Northern Expedition Army within North City could defend during a siege against the surrounding Demon Beasts that outnumbered them. They had the strength to fight.

But once the gates were breached and the Demon Beasts poured in, chaos ensuing from the encirclement and melee, North City would quickly crumble.

Even if Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, were a powerhouse of the Second Realm of Heavenly Human, he couldn't change the fate of North City's fall.

There, if Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, chose not to act, it might be fine, but if he did and found himself weary, they would still be able to come over and stab Duke Zhen Guo with a knife.

That would be excellent.

The Soul Devouring Devil Emperor pondered this, his face obscured by his black robe and revealing a faint smile, still confident of victory.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, seeing the faces of the two Devil Emperors, how could he not know what they were thinking?

His cultivation realm had not yet broken through to the Second Realm of Heavenly Human; he was still only at the first. As for how to further evolve his Martial Arts Divine Power, he had only begun to have some clues.

Once reaching the Heavenly Human Realm, cultivation advancement almost entirely depended on comprehension.

One must not rush.

So, even though Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, urgently wanted to improve his cultivation, there was little he could do.

But even without reaching the Second Realm of Heavenly Human, facing the two Devil Emperors, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, harbored no fear.

He could likely see through the thoughts of the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and Soul Devouring Devil Emperor at a glance.

Even without complete confidence in victory, he would willingly play into these Devil Sovereigns' hands.

As long as he stood firm, the gates of North City would not fall.

In the blink of an eye, the two parties had clashed again.

The battle between Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and Soul Devouring Devil Emperor had reached the pinnacle of the world, every move unfolding unimaginable marvels.

During the battle, even the tempestuous skies paled in comparison.

Thunderous roars like beating drums echoed through heaven and earth, resplendent without end.

Meanwhile, as Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, battled the Devil Emperor.

Li Baxun and the high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army clashed with the Demon Kings and Devil Generals.

With North City as the center, within a few thousand feet, the earth was stained with blood, and cries of war pierced the sky.

Cheng Guang stood atop the wall, observing the surrounding battle, his mind trembling.

Such a battlefield, in his previous life, he had only seen in games, but now, he was witnessing it in first person.

In the face of such a war scene, he could smell the scent of blood in the air, feel the quiver in the air, and sense the danger looming like a shadow, ever-present.

Cheng Guang's own blood couldn't help but begin to boil.

In the current battle unfolding in North City between the Northern Expedition Army and the Demon Beasts, Cheng Guang was of no help.

In such a battlefield, individual strength seemed particularly insignificant.

Even for forces like Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, or the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and Soul Devouring Devil Emperor, they couldn't determine the outcome of the battle on their own. They could only use their power to decide a critical point, leveraging this critical moment to turn the tide of the entire battle and achieve their goals.

For North City, the goal was to hold the defensive line.

For the Demon Beasts, they must breach North City's defenses.

The critical point was whether or not they could breach the gates of North City.

Cheng Guang knew, no matter how powerful the Demon Beasts were, as long as Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan stood firm, even if two Devil Emperors made their move, they couldn't breach the gates of North City against his resistance.

Whether the gates of North City could be breached all depended on the spy.

Had Qin Beifeng not been defeated by the Fire Dragon Devil King, although Cheng Guang had his suspicions, he wouldn't be convinced that Qin Beifeng was the spy.

But now, that same Fire Dragon Devil King who had defeated Qin Beifeng was sent running with his tail between his legs by Li Baxun in merely two strikes.

With such a comparison.

Anyone could see something was amiss.

If Li Baxun could defeat the Fire Dragon Devil King in two strikes, and the Fire Dragon Devil King managed to defeat Qin Beifeng in two strikes, wouldn't it mean that Li Baxun could also defeat Qin Beifeng in two strikes, or even say, less than two?

One would be enough.

How could this be?

Every soldier in North City knew that although both were of the same rank and among the top generals of the Northern Expedition Army, standing at the pinnacle of Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm, Qin Beifeng had always been slightly stronger than Li Baxun.

Qin Beifeng's loss this time was too peculiar.

Even so, given Qin Beifeng's grave injuries and the pressing threat of the Demon Beasts, even when everyone knew there was something off about his sudden defeat, they didn't delve further into it.

Most people would simply think that Qin Beifeng might have been in poor condition or careless, leading to his defeat at the hands of the Fire Dragon Devil King.

Glancing at the ongoing battle, Cheng Guang's gaze fell on the tent below the city wall where Qin Beifeng was recuperating.

Pondering what Qin Beifeng might be doing at the moment.

Cheng Guang hesitated for a moment, then turned and walked down from the wall toward the tent where Qin Beifeng's presence lingered.

He planned to keep an eye on Qin Beifeng.

If Qin Beifeng truly was a spy, given his current injuries had healed, Cheng Guang wasn't afraid.

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At this moment, he was armed with the bug-level existence known as the Devil Transformation Armor, so even a Sky-Man Realm powerhouse couldn't possibly hurt him in a short period.

Even if Qin Beifeng disregarded his pride and directly attacked his identity as a spy, aiming at me, he would not succeed.

Cheng Guang was confident and not panicked at all.

When he arrived at the tent where Qin Beifeng's aura was emanating from, he calmed his emotions before entering, then with a face once again showing concern, he lifted the tent flap and stepped inside.

Upon entering the tent, he could clearly smell a faint scent of blood.

In the center of the tent, surrounded by white drapes on the bed, Qin Beifeng was side-glancing through the tent window, observing the battle in the distant sky between Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan and two Devil Emperors.

Watching the battle between them, his brow sometimes tightened, sometimes relaxed.

He was distracted by the changing tide of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's battle.

He didn't even notice Cheng Guang entering the tent.

It wasn't until Cheng Guang approached his bedside that Qin Beifeng sensed someone nearing, his gaze shifting from the window back to Cheng Guang.

Upon seeing Cheng Guang in his tent, he was first startled, then his face broke into a smile.

"Princely Heir, what brings you here?"

Looking at Qin Beifeng, Cheng Guang's face showed concern, "Mr. Qin, I was worried about you. You were just injured by the Fire Dragon Devil King, and I see that Mr. Qin's injury is not light, so I came to see how you were."

When Qin Beifeng heard Cheng Guang say this, his face showed a bit of embarrassment. He scratched his cheek and gave an awkward smile.

"You flatter me, Princely Heir."

Qin Beifeng sighed, "Logically, I shouldn't have lost to that Fire Dragon Devil King. It's just that at that moment, I don't know why, but I couldn't muster any strength and was defeated by him."

"It's truly shameful."

Qin Beifeng's words entered Cheng Guang's ears, and while the concern on Cheng Guang's face did not diminish, he silently observed Qin Beifeng's expressions, looking for any anomalies, which made Cheng Guang a bit disappointed.

Could it be that Qin Beifeng truly isn't the spy?

It's come to this point now.

The Duke and the Demon Kings have entered battle together.

Aside from myself, no one else is paying attention to Qin Beifeng.

If Qin Beifeng was the spy, why isn't he taking action now? What is he waiting for?

Could it be because of the injuries within his body?

After all, not everyone possesses the healing divine power known as Everlasting.

For the sake of a convincing act, Qin Beifeng had not mildly injured himself, and it would likely take some time to recover.

Cheng Guang glanced covertly at the bandages wrapped around Qin Beifeng's body, soaked with blood, and offered consolation, "Mr. Qin, don't overthink it. Just focus on recovering."

"By the way, Mr. Qin, how is your injury now?"

Cheng Guang asked, seemingly off-handedly.

Qin Beifeng, not overthinking it at that moment and looking somewhat disheartened, replied, "It's probably going to take a while, at least a few hours."

"For the time being, I won't be of any help in the battle outside."

After Qin Beifeng spoke, his expression dimmed slightly, looking dejected.

Cheng Guang heard this, nodded slightly noncommittally, and did not say much else.

"There's no need to rush, Mr. Qin. Heal up first; North City should be fine."

Having said this, Cheng Guang walked over to the side table, poured himself a cup of tea, and took a sip.

Clearly, he wasn't planning on leaving.

At this point, Qin Beifeng was the only person worth suspecting.

Watching him a while longer wouldn't hurt.

Qin Beifeng noticed Cheng Guang's actions, and it was clear he hadn't expected Cheng Guang to sit down for tea while he was recovering.

It looked like he wasn't planning to leave.

Qin Beifeng, seeing this, let a covert smile flicker across his face, but quickly suppressed it.

It seemed Cheng Guang's decision to stay by his side was an unexpected pleasure for him.

Qin Beifeng assessed the injury within his body, realizing it needed a bit more time. He calmed his anxious heart and stopped paying attention to Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir beside him, turning his gaze back outside the window.

He focused on the battle between Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan and the two Devil Emperors.

The two Devil Emperors, even when combined, couldn't handle the Duke.

Such incompetence.

Qin Beifeng inwardly sighed, his eyes closed slightly. He already felt that this matter would still require his own intervention.

Time slowly passed.

After a quarter of an hour.

Then, at a certain moment, Qin Beifeng's injuries, still faintly marked by blood, healed instantaneously.

Following a flash of light, Qin Beifeng's originally pale face returned to normal, and his breathing stabilized and balanced.

He didn't look at all like someone who had been injured.

This sudden change of Qin Beifeng caught Cheng Guang's attention.

Cheng Guang, boredly lifting his tea, sipped it while observing the Duke's battle with the Devil Emperor outside the window, just as Qin Beifeng had done.

It felt like watching a blockbuster.

Sensing the activity from Qin Beifeng, Cheng Guang put down his tea cup and turned his gaze to Qin Beifeng.

Qin Beifeng, smiling, began to remove the bandages wrapped around him, sat up, and donned a new suit of armor.

Upon seeing Qin Beifeng's actions, even though he couldn't be sure, Cheng Guang thought it unlikely that Qin Beifeng's injuries had healed.

From the time Qin Beifeng was injured up till now, it had been only half an hour, right?

Such serious injuries, recovered in less than half an hour?

Before Qin Beifeng's recovery, there hadn't been the slightest hint that it was about to happen—it seemed almost sudden.

This feeling...