

Nine Star 3531

Chapter 3531

Long Chen transformed into a bolt of lightning that shot through the Soaring Dragon Company's blockade. He had long since been prepared.

However, he had also been prepared for Wu Yang, Zhao Qingxuan, and the others. But they didn't appear to block him. Instead, it was these stubborn fellows from the Soaring Dragon Company.

Long Chen now knew that while Wu Yang and the others wanted to kill him, they seemed to view the Heavenly Flame Spirits as more important. Too many people were present for this opening of the Heavenly Flame World, so they couldn't go back empty-handed.

Thus, after charging through their blockade, Long Chen didn't tarry. He immediately rushed into the depths.

The Heavenly Flame World was chaotic. There was no sun, no moon, and no stars. But there were two directions that were easy to distinguish.

One was the entrance; a giant whirlpool could be seen there. The other direction also had a whirlpool, but it was thousands of times bigger than the one Long Chen had entered through.

That place was the depths of the Heavenly Flame World, the place where the Heavenly Flame Spirits appeared. That was everyone's target.

Long Chen then activated the movement art of the Lightning Falcon race, shooting through the air. He was incredibly quick, catching up to some experts up ahead in just a moment.

Those experts were startled. Seeing Long Chen charging past, they wanted to attack him, but he was too fast. Before their attacks even landed, he was already out of sight.

However, the Heavenly Flame World was gigantic. Long Chen didn't see Wu Yang, Zhao Mingxuan, and the others. He didn't know if it was because they weren't on the same path as him, or if they had flying boats that were even faster than him.

As Long Chen rushed through the air, he vaguely sensed a streak of divine light flying in the distance. That aura seemed to be from Yu Qingxuan's war chariot. But he was too far, and the feeling was too indistinct.

Long Chen couldn't bother with it that much. As he sped through the air, he saw fewer and fewer people. Furthermore, as he got closer to the whirlpool, it grew larger in his vision.

Long Chen flew at full power for six hours. That whirlpool seemed right in front of him, and yet it was always too far to touch. It was simply enormous.

Looking back at the whirlpool that he had entered from, he saw that it was as tiny as a bean. The size difference between the two was truly enormous.

Furthermore, the closer he got to the whirlpool, the denser the flame energy in the air. Huo Linger was already impatient and transformed into runes that stuck on Long Chen's body, absorbing this flame energy.

Long Chen rushed for a full day until he was finally unable to keep going. The air here was dense. Even with the naked eye, it was possible to see flame runes in the air.

Long Chen felt like he was in a sea of flames. As for Huo Linger, she was exceptionally excited. She was like a dragon returning to the sea, a tiger returning to its mountain forest. She was absorbing the energy here freely.

Before this, due to merging with the Ice Soul Divine Flame, she had used up a great deal of her energy. Although she had managed to gain a trace of the Ice Soul Divine Flame's power, that energy had not fully recovered.

Now, she was rapidly replenishing her energy stores. This world seemed to belong to her. Here, she was free. She felt better than ever.

Long Chen rested a bit before continuing deeper into the depths. It was just as he expected.

This place was simply enormous. Even though there were tens of millions of flame cultivators rushing in the same direction, he didn't see a single one.

Furthermore, Yu Qingxuan said that every time the Heavenly Flame World descended, the terrain would be different. Thus, there was no map for this place.

No one knew where the Heavenly Flame Spirits were. They could only rely on themselves to look for them. When Long Chen truly got close to that whirlpool, he finally found that this place seemed to be a completely different world.

All kinds of berserk energy were clashing and merging here. These energies were all flame energy, but these flame energies were split into millions of kinds. They were chaotic, lawless, attacking and rejecting each other.

Sometimes there would be some flame runes in one place, and then just after crossing a single mountain, the flame runes would be different. It was like all kinds of flames were vying for supremacy here, all of them fighting to live.

BOOM!

Long Chen heard a muffled sound in the distance, as well as a miserable cry. Long Chen then rushed over in the direction of that sound.

As a result, after flying a full incense stick's worth of time, he finally saw a ravaged battlefield as well as bloodstains.

Long Chen touched the blood on the ground. "A late stage Divine Lord of the human race with impressive Blood Qi."

Looking at the vestiges, Long Chen was surprised. The portions of the ground that had crumbled were not caused by that human expert. It seemed that the human expert had been sneak attacked and killed here. Not even their corpse remained.

Long Chen then saw a giant footprint and didn't recognize what lifeform it belonged to. Other than that person's aura, he didn't sense any odd auras.

"It seems that there was a Heavenly Flame Spirit here. Just as Yu Qingxuan said, they really are vicious. They took that person's life in one blow."

Long Chen's gaze shone brightly. Not daring to be careless, he flew a few circles in the vicinity but didn't notice the tracks of any mysterious lifeform. Helpless, he continued onward.

What left Long Chen depressed was that he saw several recent battlefields, but it seemed that people had either been killed by the Heavenly Flame Spirits or been subdued by them, leaving him with nothing.

Long Chen was starting to panic a bit. It couldn't be that his damnable bad luck was about to activate at this time, right? If he really was so unlucky to not run into a single Heavenly Flame Spirit, then there would have been no point in coming here.

Just as Long Chen was grumbling inside, he heard explosions in the distance. Long Chen immediately rushed off in that direction. Even if he couldn't run into one, he'd need to think of a way to benefit from others.

As expected, he quickly saw an expert with overflowing devil qi fighting some fierce tiger wrapped in flames.

That tiger was exceptionally ferocious. As its sharp claws pierced through the air, large ripples would appear in the void. The power of its claws was comparable to a World King's attack.

"This is a Heavenly Flame Spirit? What pure flame energy!" Long Chen was pleasantly surprised when he saw the tiger. This was his first time seeing a Heavenly Flame Spirit.

This Heavenly Flame Spirit was like Huo Linger and Lei Linger. It represented a pure concentration of energy.

“It has one kind of rune on it. In other words, its power is comparable to an ordinary first Heavenstage World King.” Long Chen carefully examined the tiger and found that while it had countless runes shining on it, they were all of one form.

Before entering the Heavenly Flame World, Yu Qingxuan had explained some differences between the power levels of the Heavenly Flame Spirits to make sure Long Chen didn’t accidentally target the wrong one.

Just as Long Chen was observing the fight between the Heavenly Flame Spirit and the devil expert, Long Chen noticed someone stealthily sneaking over not too far from him.

“Someone is snatching my business?!”

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Long Chen sensed that aura stealthily creeping in from the other direction. Hence, Long Chen quickly concealed his own aura.

His flame energy stemmed entirely from Huo Linger. As long as he didn’t expose Huo Linger’s aura, it wouldn’t be easy for others to notice him.

He quickly saw a furtive figure coming up from the other side of this mountain.

“Luo Zijun?”

When Long Chen saw his face, he smiled sinisterly.

This fellow was with Zhao Mingxuan and the others, the one who had made sarcastic remarks toward Long Chen in the Fallen Immortal Pavilion. After that, he threatened to kill Long Chen for the bounty. Enemies truly did cross paths often. He just had to encounter Long Chen here.

Luo Zijun was by himself. Sneaking over and looking around, he didn't seem to sense any danger. After stamping his foot on the ground, he directly pounced on that devil expert and the Heavenly Flame Spirit.

That devil expert was focused entirely on the flame tiger. But just as he had the advantage, he was sneak attacked. With a furious roar, he swung his weapon behind him, only for the distraction to cause the tiger's claw to smash into his body, blowing him up. As a result, flame energy erupted.

Luo Zijun seemed prepared. At some point, a large net appeared in his hands. He then cast it through the air. All that flame energy and the tiger were enveloped by that net.

Long Chen was startled. This flame net possessed a terrifying aura, and it was covered in runes. It was actually a World Domain divine item.

That tiger struggled crazily. But that net simply tightened and its body exploded, transforming into flame runes.

When the net contracted, it actually gathered the flame runes from the Heavenly Flame Spirit and the devil expert together.

"Haha, that's the sixth! The treasure that my master gave me really is perfect!"

Luo Zijun laughed wildly. The net then shrank until the devil expert's flame energy and the Heavenly Flame Spirit's runes were compressed into a fist-sized sphere.

After that, he took out a bottle and carefully put the sphere inside of it. Just as he was about to put the bottle away, a gust of wind blew by.

That bottle vanished. Hence, Luo Zijun was shocked and hastily looked around.

"Long Chen!"

He quickly spotted Long Chen standing on the mountain peak, holding his bottle. Luo Zijun was enraged. His treasure had actually been taken by Long Chen.

"Fuck, are the heavens blind? If I want to get something, I have to run all around and exhaust myself like a dog, all just to see a single Heavenly Flame Spirit fighting with someone else. You're telling me that you've run into five before this?! Where is heaven's justice?!" Long Chen looked at the six spheres inside the bottle and couldn't help feeling envious. This bastard's luck was too good, wasn't it?

"Long Chen, die!"

Luo Zijun felt a mix of shock and anger. With a howl, he swung his giant net over Long Chen.

But all of a sudden, a flame spear pierced his back. Luo Zijun's body quivered and he looked down at his chest in disbelief. Slowly turning around, he saw a pretty girl in a flame dress staring at him coldly.

“Have you gotten used to peaceful days? You’re so foolish. Do you not even know how you lost your item?” Long Chen scoffed at Luo Zijun’s lost expression with disdain.

Huo Linger had merged into the space here and snatched his bottle, giving it to Long Chen. Afterward, Luo Zijun only spotted Long Chen but didn’t see Huo Linger standing right behind him.

Any Dragonblood warrior in the same situation would have sensed something wrong. But Luo Zijun hadn’t even considered it, only thinking about taking back his bottle. Hence, he was easily done for.

Originally, Long Chen had been thinking of having Huo Linger draw his attention while he killed him, but he had overestimated this fellow who called himself an expert.

Luo Zijun was shocked to find that his flame energy was rapidly being sucked away by the spear.

“Long Chen, I have my sect’s jade talisman! If you kill me, everything here will be transmitted outside. If you kill me, you won’t live either. My sect will definitely avenge me. Let’s discuss it. I can give you those Heavenly Flame Spirits, and you can let me go. Then we can each mind our own business,” said Luo Zijun loudly.

Long Chen wasn’t moved. Looking at the six flame spheres in the bottle, he curled his lips. “Who are you trying to con? Four of the six people you killed were humans. Are you not afraid of their revenge?”

Long Chen found that there was one sphere with the aura of the devil race, one with the beast race, and the rest contained the aura of the human race.

Clearly, these six Heavenly Flame Spirits weren't first discovered by him. He had simply used his net to kill the person and take their treasured discovery. Moreover, he hadn't just taken the Heavenly Flame Spirits but also the flame energy inside the bodies of those experts.

"No, no, it's true! I killed them because even if their sects found out, they wouldn't dare to touch me!" shouted Luo Zijun hastily when he saw that Long Chen didn't believe him.

His voice was already starting to become hoarse, and fear filled his eyes. That was because Huo Linger was rapidly absorbing his flame energy. That was his core flame. If too much of it was absorbed, he would be crippled.

"Oh, so that's the case. You mean that you can kill people, but I can't kill you?" said Long Chen disdainfully.

Luo Zijun wanted to say yes. But he didn't dare to say it in the end for fear of infuriating Long Chen. The cultivation world was simply like that. There was no justice or law. Whoever was strongest was the law.

"Too bad. I can't let you off. Just based on the fact that you want to kill me, I cannot let you off. You will definitely die today. Didn't you say that a recording of just before you die will be sent to your sect's experts? Then do you have any final words? Say them quickly, or don't say that I didn't give you a chance," said Long Chen indifferently.

"No, I don't want to die! Please, let me go!" Luo Zijun cried. In front of death, his pride vanished like it had never existed.

"That's obviously impossible. People like you think that you can control other people's lives and treat them as nothing. I can't even form the slightest pity for people like you. Now you know fear? Did you think about other people's pain and thirst for life before you killed them?" Long Chen's expression turned cold. He then nodded to Huo Linger.

BOOM!

Luo Zijun's body exploded. Just as he was killed, a mirror design appeared in the void. That mirror caused time runes to fly about before it vanished.

"Good, this scene can be considered my declaration of war against those ignorant fools!"

Long Chen took away Luo Zijun's net, and with a flash, he entered deeper toward the whirlpool. As for the other whirlpool in the entrance, just as Luo Zijun died, an uproar exploded there.

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"Long Chen, you goddamn...!"

At the entrance to the Heavenly Flame World, a fourth Heavenstage World King let out a heaven-shaking roar.

A scene appeared above his head. Luo Zijun had not been lying. After he was killed, this scene really was transmitted outside.

Furthermore, it recorded several breaths' worth of time. Hence, Long Chen and Luo Zijun's conversation was all sent back.

When they saw that scene, quite a few experts had their hearts shake. Luo Zijun was from the Magnificent Cliff Valley. Moreover, he was the valley master's only disciple. He was viewed as his heir who would take up his legacy. Other than the actual valley master, he had the highest position in the Magnificent Cliff Valley.

As for the valley master, he was a grand seventh Heavenstage World King. He was also an overlord with immense power and prestige.

Thus, no matter how tyrannical Luo Zijun acted, no one dared to do anything to him. Now that he was killed, people were shaken.

"That Long Chen really is brave. He even dares to kill Luo Zijun.

People were shocked by Long Chen's guts. After killing Luo Zijun, how was he planning on leaving? Was he not afraid of the Magnificent Cliff Valley guarding the exit for him? It had to be known that the Heavenly Flame World only had a single exit.

However, they also felt some delight. Luo Zijun had also killed some of their people, but they didn't dare to provoke the Magnificent Cliff Valley or even make a sound. Now Long Chen had essentially gotten revenge for all of them.

"Report this to the valley master immediately!" shouted their head elder. The valley master's disciple had been killed, and this matter's implications were huge.

"The valley master will personally descend to avenge his disciple. Now it's going to be fun."

Some of the spectators muttered to themselves. However, this wasn't some crazy thing. Every time the Heavenly Flame World was opened, there would be a chaotic battle at the end.

Disciples would kill each other, so naturally the seniors of those fallen disciples would avenge their disciples. And of course, the seniors of the killers would defend the killers.

Thus, before the Heavenly Flame World opened, people wouldn't start fighting. But after it closed, there would definitely be a bloodbath.

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Long Chen didn't know what was happening outside. Even if he knew, he would act the same. Anyone who wanted to kill him had to be prepared to be killed in reprisal. Everyone's life was the same. If you want to kill me, don't blame me for being vicious.

Long Chen was pleasantly surprised by Luo Zijun's net though. It was a true treasure. He didn't know what material it was made out of, but it was very elastic. It could be spread many thousands of miles if he so desired. If he unleashed its full power, it would be enough to instantly wipe out a prefecture city.

Luo Zijun was completely unable to control this World Domain divine item. It was a priceless treasure of his master and had his master's spiritual imprint on it. Thus, while it was in his possession, he was unable to unleash its true power.

A World Domain divine item did not just require its approval to use, but it also required a powerful Spiritual Strength. This divine item in particular required a huge amount of flame energy to activate its power.

Luo Zijun was unable to obtain its approval, so he was relying entirely on his master's spiritual seal to use the slightest bit of its capabilities.

Considering his Spiritual Strength and flame energy, he was unable to activate any of the runes on the net. However, just relying on the innate properties of its materials, it was still a terrifying killing item.

It could pull in flame energy. Any flame caught within it would be rapidly compressed into flame essence.

This was a perfect divine item for this place. It was not only capable of being used in battle, but it could also assist with cultivation. To a flame cultivator, it was a priceless treasure.

This treasure was actually one of the core treasures of the Magnificent Cliff Valley. If it weren't for Luo Zijun being the sole beloved disciple of the valley master and the fact that this net could make Luo Zijun a tiger with wings, they definitely would not have permitted him to bring this treasure with him.

The fact that this treasure had landed in Long Chen's hands made the Magnificent Cliff Valley's experts panic. That elder had directly reported things to the valley master.

Long Chen was excited to obtain this treasure. First, he directly gave the flame spheres that Luo Zijun had gathered to Huo Linger. She instantly started devouring them.

This unlucky Luo Zijun had gathered five Heavenly Flame Spirits and had been looking to find a safe space to absorb them when he was drawn over by the disturbance caused by that devil race expert. In the end, he ended up losing his life and leaving the good stuff to Long Chen.

This net was not an existence that Long Chen could subdue. Thus, he tossed it into the primal chaos space. Just as he had predicted, its item-spirit was disturbed out of its slumber when it entered the primal chaos space.

Just as it thought of resisting, the slightest quiver from the primal chaos space made it become obedient. Long Chen then placed his own spiritual mark on it. As a result, this priceless treasure became his.

Unbeknownst to Long Chen, just as he placed his spiritual mark on it, in the Magnificent Cliff Valley, an elder who had just received some shocking and enraging news suddenly coughed up blood as he was leaving.

“Valley master?!”

Countless experts cried out when they looked at that elder.

“How can this be?! The Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net actually recognized a new master?!” The valley master’s expression was one of shock and fury.

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Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net?

Once Long Chen became the master of the net, he learned its name. Only then did he realize just how terrifying its origins were.

The Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silkworm was a flame element spirit beast, and the silk that it spat out contained endless flame energy. That silk was a supreme treasure.

The silk threads had countless runes on them that could barely be seen with the naked eye. Once the runes were activated, a single thread could cut through a King item. Considering how much silk was here, it had probably taken hundreds or thousands of World King Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silkworms to spit out these threads. There was also the core thread of a Wind Lightning Heavenly Silkworm that had reached the Divine Venerate level. That was how this World Domain divine item was made.

When the net contracted, it could be the size of a baby's fist. And when it was tossed out, it could cover an entire prefecture city. It could contract and extend in the blink of an eye, catching people off-guard. This was Long Chen's first time encountering such a miraculous divine weapon. He was in love with it.

With this net, Long Chen was revitalized. Now, he had ample confidence. As expected, plundering really was the fastest shortcut to wealth.

Long Chen didn't waste any more time. He continued onward. Huo Linger said that these Heavenly Flame Spirits were of immense use to her. They were the best items for increasing her energy.

She wasn't just increasing her flame energy by absorbing them. Their runes also became hers after she absorbed them.

The core flames of the experts that Luo Zijun killed were also absorbed by her. Through these runes, she could learn various flame divine arts. Every rune that she absorbed increased her power by a bit, so she had never felt so refreshed. She was now in an even greater rush than Long Chen to absorb as many Heavenly Flame Spirits as possible.

Long Chen rushed through the land. He met two human experts on the way that were fighting Heavenly Flame Spirits. They instantly tensed when they saw Long Chen.

It had to be known that killing people for their treasures was far too common here. However, their worries were superfluous. Long Chen simply glanced at them before continuing to rush off.

Suddenly, Long Chen heard intense rumbling sounds from up ahead. He saw a group of devil race experts attacking a giant Heavenly Flame Spirit.

“Two types of runes? A Heavenly Flame Spirit on the level of a second Heavenstage World King?”

Long Chen’s eyes instantly lit up. Without a word, he cast out the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net...

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The giant net fell, enveloping heaven and earth. Seven devil race experts were besieging a giant flame lizard and didn’t even sense anything before they were caught by the net.

“Contract!”

Long Chen shouted and the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net instantly contracted. After that, those seven devil experts and the giant flame lizard exploded, and a sphere of light appeared in the net.

However, before Long Chen could even move, Huo Linger had transformed into a flame dragon and devoured it. From the moment of the attack until the gains were devoured, only a blink of an eye had passed.

“Damn, this Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net is too powerful! It is practically a waste of a treasure in Luo Zijun’s hands!” Long Chen was incredibly excited.

That Heavenly Flame Spirit with two kinds of runes was equivalent to a second Heavenstage World King, but it was instantly killed without the slightest ability to resist.

Even those devil experts and their weapons were destroyed. In front of the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, the Heavenly Flame Spirit that was on par with a second Heavenstage World King was trash.

“With such a good treasure, if I didn’t take advantage, I would be wasting it.”

Seeing how terrifying the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net was, Long Chen didn’t waste any time. He continued rushing deeper.

Huo Linger had told him that the flame energy contained within this stronger Heavenly Flame Spirit was over ten times greater than what those first Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirits had.

Furthermore, Huo Linger was originally a spirit of ten thousand flames. So, absorbing the Heavenly Flame Spirits could not be easier for her. As her power slowly grew bit by bit, she had the urge to devour the entire Heavenly Flame World.

This Heavenly Flame World could be viewed as the starting point of her transformation.

Huo Linger and Lei Linger had always been Long Chen’s strongest trump cards. However, after entering the immortal world, Lei Linger’s power far surpassed Huo Linger’s. In fact, their combined attack actually required Lei Linger to weaken her power to cooperate with Huo Linger.

Huo Linger had her own pride, and although she hadn't said anything, she thirsted to get stronger inside. Now, she finally had that chance.

Suddenly, the land in front of them vanished, replaced by a sea of lava. Long Chen saw quite a few lifeforms flying to and fro on top of the sea of lava. It was like they were chasing something.

BOOM!

All of a sudden, one lifeform shouted and threw his flying trident into the sea. A three-foot-long fish was pierced and dredged out of the lava sea.

However, the fish unexpectedly hurled a mouthful of flames at that lifeform, who then hastily swung his trident to the side, parrying the flames.

Even so, many parts of him were already charred black. Clearly, he had been struck by those flames several times now. Supposedly, it was his experience that allowed him to parry the last attack.

"Damn, there are Heavenly Flame Spirits beneath the lava sea as well?!" Long Chen was startled.

These strange fish were actually first Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirits. That lifeform immediately put away the Heavenly Flame Spirit after obtaining it.

Everyone here was not intent on directly absorbing them for fear of someone else attacking them in the middle. Just like Luo Zijun, they were waiting to gather sufficient quantities before finding a safe place to absorb the spirits.

Furthermore, everyone was tense, looking at each other cautiously. Even those from the same race couldn't be trusted.

If they were truly powerful, they would instantly sense the danger to their lives and wouldn't hesitate to flee from this place.

After that lifeform obtained one fish, he looked around and tossed something into the lava sea. Due to how quick his movements were, Long Chen didn't even see what it was.

However, with his powerful Spiritual Strength, Long Chen found that after that person tossed that thing, another fish was drawn over. The moment the fish ate what he had tossed out, he threw his trident, catching another Heavenly Flame Spirit.

"Not bad. You can actually go fishing here."

Long Chen instantly understood that this fellow was likely tossing flame ores into the lava sea. The fish were attracted to those flame ores.

However, these ores would have their energy quickly dissipate within this lava sea. In just a few breaths, they would turn into chunks of garbage.

It was precisely due to this that they drew over these fish with their flame energy. However, the chances of success using this method were too low. If there were no fish in the surroundings when you tossed the ore out, you would just be constantly losing bait. The main thing was still luck.

"Luck? Fuck your luck. I'm not relying on that thing."

Long Chen shook his head and directly flew toward the lava sea. With his Spiritual Strength stretched out, he started to search for those fish.

However, he quickly found that it was too deep for his Spiritual Strength to penetrate all the way. He could only spread it a hundred miles in.

Long Chen also found that these fish weren't in groups. They were all isolated, but he didn't want to foolishly try to bait them like others.

"Huo Linger, you lure them together. We'll catch all of them in one go!"

Long Chen had Huo Linger transform into millions of tiny flame dragons that entered the lava sea. She then spread throughout this region.

As expected, those tiny flame dragons quickly drew the attention of the fish. They chased the tiny flame dragons down to consume them.

With Huo Linger's power spread, she couldn't beat these strange fish that were comparable to first Heavenstage World Kings. Hence, she only played a game of cat and mouse with them.

In just a bit, countless flame dragons caused the lava sea to roil. Countless fish were chasing them, and even some fish from the depths of the sea were disturbed.

The giant lava sea roiled and raged as countless fish went crazy chasing after the tiny flame dragons.

Controlling all these split bodies was very difficult for Huo Linger, so some of them were consumed.

But she wasn't worried. She continued to direct them all to one place, and those fish flocked over in inestimable numbers.

The moment they were all gathered in a ten-thousand-mile area, Long Chen cast out the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, which instantly covered that area.

The surface of the lava exploded as the fish struggled within the net. Long Chen had caught hundreds of thousands of them. However, the net shook as they resisted with all their power. Explosions repeatedly sent pillars of lava soaring into the sky.

As the fish resisted with all their power and spat out flames, Long Chen was shocked to find that there were actually too many of them. He was unable to reel them in.

"Huo Linger, help me contract the net!" Long Chen quickly reacted. These were no fish after all; they were a group of World King Heavenly Flame Spirits.

At this moment, the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net glowed. Those struggling fish exploded into flame runes when they smashed into the net.

With Huo Linger's flame energy injected into it, the silk's runes lit up and explosions rang out from inside the net. In just a few breaths' time, those fish were all turned into runic spheres.

After that, Huo Linger transformed into a giant dragon and devoured all those flame runes. In an instant, Huo Linger became a fatty. Her aura grew crazily.

But when the lava sea began to rise, Long Chen's expression changed. Putting away the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, he fled.

BOOM!

He had just left when a giant mouth broke through the surface of the lava and tried to devour him.

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"Damn..."

That giant mouth caused the heavens to collapse and a giant vortex to appear. Fortunately, Long Chen fled quickly enough. If he had been slower, he definitely would have been devoured by that vortex.

"Five kinds of runes?"

Long Chen was shocked. No wonder it had given him such a terrifying feeling. It was a Heavenly Flame Spirit comparable to a fifth Heavenstage World King.

At this moment, a powerful suction force tore at the sky. Long Chen felt like his body would be torn apart. Fortunately, he had fled early enough, or he would be doomed.

That Heavenly Flame Spirit let out a heaven-shaking roar. It was actually a giant python. Failing to consume Long Chen in one bite, it actually swung its tail and chased after him.

“This fellow seems a bit too big. Huo Linger, I don’t think we can eat it,” said Long Chen as he eyed that python.

“It seems that we really can’t,” said Huo Linger obediently.

Even if they could catch this thing in their net, they might not be able to subdue it. If it was during a normal time, they could still try it.

However, they couldn’t in this place. Who knew whether or not geniuses of other races were lying in wait here? What if when Long Chen used up all his power subduing this terrifying existence, he was suddenly sneak attacked?

Thus, although Huo Linger wanted to devour this terrifying python, she didn’t want Long Chen to take the risk. After all, there were too many enemies here. Furthermore, in the process, they might draw even more terrifying Heavenly Flame Spirits.

The python continued to chase Long Chen, refusing to let him off. It was constantly roaring at him.

“What is it saying?” asked Long Chen.

“It’s cursing you, saying that you ate all of the food that it was raising. It says that you’re a vile interloper and must be eaten,” said Huo Linger. As a flame spirit, she could understand the words of Heavenly Flame Spirits.

“What is it cursing me for? I’m not the one who ate them! It should be cursing you!” laughed Long Chen.

Huo Linger also laughed. “Ah, that’s right, it does seem to be cursing the two of us.”

It seemed that Long Chen’s laughter provoked that python. Its killing intent soared as it continued to chase.

Lightning then appeared beneath Long Chen’s feet. His speed was faster than the python’s, but he wasn’t able to shake it off.

Long Chen was still hesitating about whether or not he wanted to take the risk to devour it anyway. After all, the greater the risk, the better the gains. If Huo Linger absorbed it, Long Chen was sure that she would be able to fight a third Heavenstage World King all by herself.

Long Chen then spread his senses far and wide and was unable to find any sense of safety. His intuition was telling him not to play with fire.

Suddenly, Long Chen spotted a group of people in the distance. Without even thinking about it, he rushed off in that direction.

He found that it was a group of over thirty humans. One of them was actually his old friend, Zhao Mingxuan.

Zhao Mingxuan and the others had surrounded a region of the lava sea, seemingly paying close attention to something. They didn’t even notice Long Chen.

“Long Chen, they’re driving the fish together to collect and annihilate them,” transmitted Huo Linger.

“Oh? There’s such a good thing?” Long Chen was surprised.

Huo Linger told Long Chen that Zhao Mingxuan and the others were using their own flame energy to drive those fish together. As they didn’t have the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, it was unknown what they were planning to do after bunching those Heavenly Flame Spirits together. But that wasn’t what Long Chen was thinking about.

“Huo Linger, tell that python that my reinforcements are here. That fellow with the crown is our leader, and now it’s definitely dead,” transmitted Long Chen.

Huo Linger immediately transformed into the form of a dragon and roared at that python. As a result, after she was done, smoke came steaming out of the python’s body and it roared back.

“What is it saying?” asked Long Chen.

“It’s cursing us,” laughed Huo Linger.

“Tell it that the crowned fellow says that he will rip out its bones, skin it, and take over its territory. He will eat all of its food.” Long Chen added some more spice into the mix. At this time, Long Chen was getting very close to Zhao Mingxuan and the others.

Only then did Zhao Mingxuan and the others notice Long Chen. When they saw his sinister smile, they instantly had a bad feeling. Then they saw that terrifying python.

Huo Linger roared a few more things at the python, and Long Chen was pleasantly surprised to find that the python's killing intent really did slide off of him and lock onto Zhao Mingxuan.

A mountainous pressure instantly vanished from his body. Seeing Zhao Mingxuan's shocked expression, Long Chen reacted quickly. He threw out his net and instantly captured thousands of Heavenly Flame Spirits that Zhao Mingxuan and the others had bitterly worked to bunch together.

"Thank you, brothers! Don't feel bad, this is just the soup. I'm leaving the big piece of meat for you!"

Long Chen and Huo Linger pulled in the net and immediately fled. As for the Raging Flame Heavenly Palace's experts, they had yet to understand what was going on before Long Chen was already far off in the distance.

"Watch out!"

Just as they were bewildered, Zhao Mingxuan's startled cry broke them out of their reverie.

That python's scales lit up. It then opened its mouth, and a giant flame sphere came out of it. After that, heaven and earth seemed to flip. The immense power made the ten thousand Daos weep.

Clearly, this python believed Huo Linger's words and viewed this all as Zhao Mingxuan's fault. It immediately launched its strongest killing blow.

BOOM!

The flame sphere was like a sun exploding. Huge waves erupted out of the sea, making it impossible to see anything else.

Long Chen had long since fled far away but was still flung into the distance by that terrifying qi wave.

“That fellow’s attack is really vicious!” Long Chen jumped in shock. Although he had known that it was an existence on par with a fifth Heavenstage World King, he was still stunned by this attack.

The shockwaves from tens of thousands of miles away were still able to make his qi and blood flip inside of him, almost making him cough up blood. If he was struck directly, there was no way he could keep his life.

“What a terrifying attack. Good thing that we didn’t fight it. Even with the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, we wouldn’t be able to suppress it,” said Huo Linger.

Although the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net was powerful, with Long Chen and Huo Linger’s current power, there was no way for them to draw out its full potential. At that time, they might be able to capture it inside, but it would only turn into a battle of attrition.

That terrifying attack just now was enough to prove its power. There was no way the two of them would be able to outlast it.

Furthermore, if they did encounter other geniuses who attacked them in the process, they would be doomed.

“Did Zhao Mingxuan die?” asked Huo Linger as she watched the lava waves rage.

“No. That fellow definitely has treasures. Do you see that python flying off in the other direction? Clearly, that fellow didn’t die, and it’s chasing to kill him.” Long Chen pointed out. The python’s killing intent had not diminished, so Zhao Mingxuan clearly hadn’t died.

To be able to take on such a terrifying attack without dying, that showed Long Chen that Zhao Mingxuan, Luo Zijun, and the other heavenly geniuses on their level all had terrifying trump cards. Their backgrounds were truly amazing.

“Linger, it seems that I’ll be depending on you in this Heavenly Flame World. Let’s keep going.” Long Chen saw that if he wanted to crush these people, he would need to improve Huo Linger’s power. They couldn’t waste any moment.

Long Chen and Huo Linger continued flying deeper into the Heavenly Flame World.

Chapter 3536

Long Chen turned tail and fled. At this moment, two fifth Heavenstage World King Heavenly Spirit Fish were crazily chasing him.

“How am I so unlucky?!”

Long Chen cursed furiously. This was the seventh day since he had entered this world. Using the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, he was catching a crazy number of Heavenly Flame Spirits.

Hence, Huo Linger had also devoured an unknown number of Heavenly Flame Spirits. Her true combat power was practically capable of matching a third Heavenstage World King now.

As a result, Long Chen's heart had grown greedy, and he had started to look for a fifth Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirit to consume.

He found that the Heavenly Flame Spirits in the lava sea were quite a bit weaker than the ones on the land, so it would be a bit safer. Thus, in the last few days, Long Chen had started baiting fish in the lava sea.

Today, he had finally summoned the courage to bait a fifth Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirit. After tremendous effort, they finally managed to suppress it, only to end up disturbing another strong Heavenly Flame Spirit. Seeing the situation take a terrible turn, Long Chen and Huo Linger directly fled.

They fled all the way out of the lava sea region, and only then did those Heavenly Flame Spirits return to within the lava. After that, Long Chen wiped off some cold sweat.

Yu Qingxuan had said that the Heavenly Flame World would stay for around twenty-one days. As a third of the time was already over, Long Chen had to hurry up to help Huo Linger absorb more Heavenly Flame Spirits.

"Big brother Long Chen, just now, if I used the Ice Soul power, I could definitely kill them. Why didn't you let me?" Huo Linger couldn't help asking.

"Foolish girl, the Ice Soul power isn't your core energy. Once you use it, it won't recover for at least ten days. If some terrifying existence comes out at that time, we'll be doomed. The Ice Soul power is our final life-saving trump card. We can't use it unless we have no other choice," said Long Chen.

Huo Linger had merged with that rune of the Ice Soul and could control a trace of the Ice Soul's power. However, this rune was like an energy storage rune.

Once the rune's energy was used up, they would have to wait until it recharged, and that would take too long. Thus, Long Chen didn't dare to allow Huo Linger to use it just yet.

"Then are we returning to the lava sea?" asked Huo Linger.

Long Chen pondered their options and then shook his head. "No, although it's big, there are too many people there. Everyone has noticed that the Heavenly Flame Spirits aren't too dangerous in the lava sea, so they are putting all their efforts there. When there are too many wolves, there isn't enough meat. Furthermore, after fishing for so many days, the fish have gotten smarter, and we're getting fewer and fewer. Getting some soup with all these people isn't as good as pressing forward and seeing if we can get some big meat."

The lava sea was large, but too many people were gathering there. If others didn't provoke Long Chen, he didn't feel good driving them off. Hence, his efficiency had been dropping over the last two days. That was why Long Chen had taken the risk of trying to subdue a fifth Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirit.

"Furthermore, we haven't seen Zhao Mingxuan, Wu Yang, and the others during this time. They might have found a better place, so they haven't come back here. We should press onwards."

After resting a bit, he and Huo Linger returned to their peak condition and continued deeper.

Past the lava sea was a lava swamp. Suddenly, fluctuations came from ahead, and Long Chen rushed in that direction.

He heard roaring. After that, he saw a cheetah several meters long chasing down a foot-long white fox.

The fox was small, but it was very fast. It maintained a set distance from the cheetah the entire time.

The fox was actually rushing straight toward Long Chen. Seeing that he wasn't afraid, it was like it had seen its lucky star and threw itself into Long Chen's embrace.

Long Chen was dumbfounded and instinctively caught it. After that, the fox hopped onto his shoulder and hid behind him.

Huo Linger then appeared with a flame spear and killed the cheetah. It was a two rune Heavenly Flame Spirit, and she could easily kill it.

The white fox started to cry on Long Chen's shoulder, seemingly expressing something. But Long Chen didn't understand. For now, the only thing he could sense was that it bore no malice against him.

"It's asking you to send it home. It will repay you," translated Huo Linger.

"Home?" Long Chen was even more confused. This white fox was clearly a Heavenly Flame Spirit. Was this place not its home?

The little fox seemed to understand his words. It once more cried out.

"It's saying that this place isn't its home. It accidentally ran over here. It can see the way back, but there are too many demons that want to eat it, so it can't get back. It has been stuck in this world for a long time and has missed three chances. If it still can't get back this time, it will die here," said Huo Linger.

When the little fox was done explaining, it actually rubbed its little head on Long Chen's neck, looking at him with a pleading expression.

"But our time is limited. Where is its home? How will we find it? How long will it take?" asked Long Chen.

The little fox once more spoke and Huo Linger explained, "Its home is at the end of the whirlpool. There seems to be an exit there. Based on its explanation, it seems a bit similar to the entrance we came through. It lived in another world, and one day, it was sucked in by a gate and came to the Heavenly Flame World. Because of this, it has to spend every day hiding from the other Heavenly Flame Spirits. It has no concept of time and only knows that it has been here for a very long time. Three times it saw the exit to its home appear, but it was unable to get through the demons and was almost eaten. This time, it met you. It says that you can definitely bring it home. Otherwise, it will die here because this is its final chance. If it misses it, the energy inside its body will not last until the next time the exit appears."

Seeing this little fellow pitifully staring at him, Long Chen helplessly said, "Fine, we can try it. But it can't get in the way of our return. Worst-case scenario, we just won't hunt."

Long Chen really couldn't harden his heart enough to refuse this pitiful little fellow. He agreed to try.

The little fox instantly became delighted. Its body shrank until it was like a squirrel obediently squatting on Long Chen's shoulder.

Huo Linger exchanged a few more words with it. Long Chen learned that the center of that giant whirlpool had another entrance to this world that connected to another world.

According to the little fox, the Heavenly Flame World would often form entrances to other worlds, but the entrance to the fox's world would only appear once in a very long period.

Furthermore, after it was sucked into the Heavenly Flame World, it could only rely on its core energy to survive. It could not cultivate here. Moreover, every day, it had to nervously hide from those fiendish spirits.

Long Chen investigated its core energy and found that it wasn't lying. Although it was also a flame attribute lifeform, the energy inside of its body was pure and peaceful. The wild flame energy would not merge with it. Furthermore, it really was almost out of core energy. If it stayed here any longer, it would die.

"Little fox, you lead the way. I'll send you home." Long Chen took a deep breath. Although he knew that it was a bit foolish, there was no other way. He couldn't just watch as this pitiful little fellow died.

The little fox squatted on Long Chen's left shoulder, while Huo Linger transformed into a little flame dragon squatting on his right shoulder. Along the way, the little fox gave directions while Huo Linger translated. Just like this, Long Chen was directed into the depths of this world.

Chapter 3537

"Big brother Long Chen, up ahead on the left side. It says that there is the nest of a seventh Heavenstage World King Heavenly Flame Spirit."

"Big brother Long Chen, wait a moment. There's an underground flame river up ahead. You'll get washed away as soon as you step on it. We have to wait until it calms first..."

The little fox repeatedly chattered away while Huo Linger translated. This little fox had clearly figured out the way home and was clear on where the danger was.

Furthermore, it explained the terrain of the surroundings as well. As a result, they essentially gained a map of this region.

The little fox had been here for countless years, so it was very familiar with the terrains and Heavenly Flame Spirits here. Long Chen was delighted by this. With this map, he found that there were many treasures to be taken. However, first he had to send the fox home.

Through the fox's pointers, Long Chen was constantly avoiding the more terrifying existences. Against the weaker ones, Long Chen directly devoured them.

The little fox said that it wasn't afraid of those terrifying existences because they all ignored it.

It was only Heavenly Flame Spirits at the third Heavenstage and below that would try to kill it. It was always forced to flee in terror by those fellows, causing it to miss its chance to return home. Every time, he could only watch as the exit back to his home vanished.

The laws of the Heavenly Flame World didn't seem quite the same as what Long Chen had imagined. There were terrifying existences here that could get along with the weaker ones. The weak Heavenly Flame Spirits actually weren't afraid of those stronger ones.

That was because after they grew to a certain level, they would no longer devour the weak. Thus, there was no conflict between the strongest and the weakest Heavenly Flame Spirits.

Due to that law, there were weak Heavenly Flame Spirits everywhere. It was those weaker ones that became the little fox's bane, cutting off its path home.

However, Long Chen still had to be careful. While those terrifying existences might accept weak little Heavenly Flame Spirits, they would not permit a human in their territory. Once they sensed him, that would spell trouble.

As he approached the depths of the whirlpool, he found that the flame energy grew even more terrifying. Sometimes, he wouldn't even need the little fox's warning before he sensed some aura that made his hair stand on end.

The further they went, the more terrifying the Heavenly Flame Spirits got. In fact, Long Chen even saw a Heavenly Flame Spirit with nine kinds of runes on its body sleeping soundly on top of a mountain.

That was equivalent to a ninth Heavenstage World King. When it snored, Long Chen's soul almost fled. Furthermore, more and more of those ninth Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirits appeared. The little fox said that the exit was right behind them.

Long Chen even started to regret it a bit. This was practically playing with his life. Why had he agreed to this? But an agreement was an agreement, so he forced himself through.

Fortunately, those ninth Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Spirits were all in slumber. As long as he didn't make any noise, he wouldn't disturb them.

Long Chen did a quick count. There were hundreds of such Heavenly Flame Spirits. On his way here, he had also killed a few dozen of weaker Heavenly Flame Spirits, but that had not disturbed these terrifying existences.

Finally, one day later, Long Chen saw a spatial gate up ahead. This spatial gate had golden flames spurting out of it. After that, Long Chen saw a giant golden dragon slumbering there, allowing the golden flames to wash over its body. It looked like it was enjoying a bath.

“Not good. The little fox says that this Heavenly Flame Spirit is now awake, so it can’t get back,” said Huo Linger.

“Didn’t it say that more powerful Heavenly Flame Spirits won’t make things hard on it?” asked Long Chen.

“It says that this is a terrifying king of the Heavenly Flame Spirits. Based on the human race’s realms, it should belong to the Divine Venerate realm. It won’t attack the little fox, but just its pressure alone will crush the little fox. With it at the exit, the little fox can’t get through,” said Huo Linger.

Long Chen looked at the little fox. As expected, he saw a disappointed expression. It was on his shoulder with paws over its eyes as if it was crying. Just as success was right before it, it sank into despair. That feeling was truly unbearable.

“Don’t cry. There are always more solutions than problems. I’ll think of a way to get you through,” said Long Chen.

The little fox shook its head and continued crying. Huo Linger said, “It says that there is no solution. That Heavenly Flame Spirit king is attracted by the golden flames. It is absorbing them to raise its cultivation base, so it won’t leave. If we try to force our way through, the three of us will die. It doesn’t want to implicate us, so it says to give up.”

Seeing how hard the little fox was crying, Long Chen also didn’t know what he was feeling inside. He was currently thinking as he eyed that dragon.

This was a twin-winged vile dragon, one of the more fearful dragon species.

However, since it wasn't a lifeform of flesh and blood, Long Chen's dragon pressure would not have any effect on it.

It was standing right in front of the gate with its mouth open, absorbing the golden flames coming out. If they wanted to get through the gate, they had to walk over its body.

"I'll try it!"

Long Chen thought for a long time and was unable to think of any solutions. Thus, he chose to stop thinking and just walk over!

"The little fox says that it's too dangerous. Don't try," said Huo Linger.

Long Chen looked at the little fox. It was crying as it looked at him, seemingly unwilling to let him die.

Long Chen smiled and rubbed its head comfortingly. No matter what, he would have to try. Giving up like this was not his style.

He stealthily slipped close to the two-winged vile dragon. As he did, his hair stood on end. Its power was truly terrifying. It was like a volcano, and if the slightest bit of its power was unleashed, he would be blown to bits.

Fortunately, it was focused on the golden flames and didn't pay attention to them. Long Chen then had Huo Linger also absorb some of those golden flames so that she could cover their auras. That way, they wouldn't be sensed so easily.

Long Chen quickly reached the vile dragon's tail. This was an incredibly long tail, almost half the length of the entire vile dragon.

He didn't know what species this vile dragon was. If it weren't for this long tail, it would look more like a bat. At the end of this tail was a giant bone stinger that was like a spear, flickering with cold light.

Fortunately, Long Chen and the others were as tiny as ants in front of it. As they cautiously progressed, they didn't draw its attention.

However, once they climbed onto its back, Long Chen sensed an immense pressure that was growing greater. Furthermore, the golden flames were gushing out here, which was also pressing him back. He had no choice but to use his astral power just to protect himself.

Long Chen continued climbing up the dragon's back. He saw the gate right before him, but it was at this moment that the dragon's eyes opened.

"Fuck!"

Long Chen instantly tossed out the net around the dragon and shot toward the gate like a shooting star.

Chapter 3538

At this time, Long Chen couldn't even bother with whether the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net could endure. He first charged toward the gate with the fox. Once they got close to the gate, Long Chen grabbed the little fox and was about to throw it in.

However, before he threw it, the gate suddenly unleashed a strange suction force that drew him in.

“Hey, I don’t want to enter!”

Long Chen was startled, but before he could even struggle, the scenery around him changed. Golden light filled his eyes, and it was so bright that he couldn’t even open his eyes.

After a while, Long Chen gradually got used to the light here. When he saw the world that he was in, he was dumbfounded.

This was a peaceful and auspicious world. The ground was covered in golden lotuses, and they were endless. Some of them were large and some were small. The large ones filled the sky, while the small ones were only the size of a palm, swaying ever so slightly on the pools.

After Long Chen appeared, countless small foxes stuck their heads out from behind the lotuses, staring at Long Chen curiously. When they saw the little fox in Long Chen’s hand, they let out startled cries and flew over.

As for that little fox in his hand, it also grew excited and shot out, rejoicing with those other foxes. They ran atop the lotuses, seemingly expressing their joy.

Seeing that the fox had returned to its home, Long Chen turned to leave. He had no idea how long the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net would endure. If the vile dragon had yet to escape it, then he would still have a chance to escape with his life.

“Noble guest, please wait.”

Just as Long Chen was about to leave, a gentle voice rang out. A beautiful woman in a golden dress then appeared before Long Chen, standing on a golden lotus platform.

As soon as she appeared, the little fox jumped into her embrace and cried out excitedly.

“This child, you’re too naughty. How many times have I warned you not to get close to that spatial gate? But you never listen. If it weren’t for this noble guest’s aid, you would probably have died in the Heavenly Flame World. Now, are you going to listen?” The beautiful woman rebuked the little fox in her hands, but her gaze was one of love.

“Senior, I still have some urgent matters to attend to, so I’ll be leaving. Any thanks can wait until later.” Long Chen didn’t want to tarry any longer, so he cupped his fists to her.

“Don’t worry. I have frozen the time at the exit. Your net won’t be damaged, so you can rest easy,” said the beautiful woman.

Long Chen couldn’t help being stunned. Frozen time? What kind of heaven-defying ability was that? Just who was this woman?

“Noble guest, there’s no need to worry. Let me introduce myself. I am the one in control of this Golden Lotus World. All the lifeforms here are my children. You have risked your life to send my child back, and I am endlessly grateful.” The woman actually bowed to Long Chen, and Long Chen hastily returned it.

The Golden Lotus World? There was a Golden Lotus World within the nine heavens and ten lands? How come he had never heard of it?

Long Chen looked more closely at this world. This was a world of flames, but the flames here were not explosive. They gave off endless warmth. Standing here, he felt like his soul was being constantly cleansed.

“Noble sir is the first human to come ever since the Golden Lotus World was born. I have a few questions I wish to ask you. Can you give me some guidance?” The beautiful woman was very courteous. She was so respectful that Long Chen was getting embarrassed.

“Senior is the master of an entire world. There’s really no need to be so courteous. Otherwise, I’d feel restrained,” said Long Chen humbly.

He could not sense this woman’s cultivation base or spiritual fluctuations. She seemed to be one with this world. Long Chen had never seen such an existence before.

Furthermore, for some reason, he felt a certain reverence toward her. This reverence came from deep within his soul.

“What do you think is the kindest existence within the world?” asked the woman.

After a moment of thought, Long Chen said, “Water is the source of all life. It profits all things but doesn’t ask for anything. Thus, this little one believes that if we are talking about the kindest existence in this world, it would have to be water.” He didn’t know what her intentions were by asking such a question.

“Then what do you believe is the most evil existence in this world?” asked the woman.

Long Chen was dumbfounded. “This junior really has no way of answering that.”

If it was about the kindest existence, then his first thought was water. Because in the mortal world, all lifeforms had to stay close to water. Water was the source of all life. Thus, everyone knew just how important water was.

However, the most evil existence? Long Chen really was unable to say.

It didn't matter if it was the devils, ghosts, or demons. They might be evil, but Long Chen had a feeling that their evil was not the worst of all.

"That's alright. We are just casually chatting. Even if you are wrong, it won't matter," encouraged the woman.

Her smile was very warm. It was like an autumn breeze cleansing the soul.

"I've encountered many evil lifeforms, and I've also killed many. Rather than saying that their innate characters are evil, it would be better to say that they have lost their original characters after being clouded by desire, causing them to sink into becoming devils. Devils are not just one kind of race. All lifeforms who lose their core nature end up as devils. Sometimes, I even feel like I am the most evil existence in this world," said Long Chen with a bitter smile.

"Why do you say that?" asked the woman curiously.

"Because when some people enrage me, I can't help wanting to crush them. I don't even know where such an evil desire comes from. I pity them, but they don't pity me. I can let them off, but they will always try to kill me. Sometimes, I feel an impulse to kill everyone who opposes me in this world. I want all lifeforms to prostrate themselves beneath my feet. I want them unable to even form the thought of defying me," said Long Chen.

“Isn’t this what all experts want? Follow me and prosper, defy me and die? That seems to be the style of many experts,” said the woman with a smile.

Long Chen shook his head. “My current opponents are precisely those kinds of experts. They make a fool out of other lives. I hate them, and I look down on them. If I were to be the same as them, wouldn’t I have turned myself into an existence that I hate and look down on?”

“Do you sometimes feel very lost, not knowing what exactly you should do? Also, you don’t know if what you’re doing is right. You are afraid of doing something wrong and afraid of ultimately becoming an existence that you detest. Especially when you are lonely, do you keep questioning your heart?”

“How... how did you know?” Long Chen was shocked. In that instant, he felt like all his secrets had been seen through by her.

Furthermore, when he looked into her eyes, he felt his dark energy crashing angrily like waves. She seemed to have seen through the other self within his body.

“You are a good child. Perhaps you are the one I am waiting for... This seed is yours. I hope it can illuminate a path within your dark world.”

She then opened her hand, revealing a golden lotus seed. At that moment, the entire Golden Lotus World’s lotuses instantly blossomed. Endless golden light dripped down from the stamens and pistils of every lotus and flowed into this lotus seed.

That golden lotus seed seemed to come to life. It slowly floated into Long Chen’s hand.

Chapter 3539

Long Chen looked at this lotus seed that had concentrated all the power of an entire world. His heart pounded wildly. This lotus seed was probably a heaven-defying divine object.

“Senior, I saved this little fellow simply because I wanted to. I did not come for any reward...” Although it was a heaven-defying treasure, Long Chen felt like accepting this present would make his heart uneasy.

“No, no, this is not a reward, nor is it a transaction. This should be considered destiny. It is karma. The Golden Lotus World’s lotus seed has just matured when you came. As for you, you need it. This is fate,” said the woman with a smile.

Long Chen looked at the lotus seed. It seemed to be made out of pure gold. However, it didn’t have the slightest weight and just floated right above his hand.

He couldn’t sense its power, and yet it also seemed to contain endless power. Although he didn’t know its origins, he could see that all the energy of the Golden Lotus World was entering it. This lotus seed was definitely a priceless treasure.

“Senior, you say that I need it? Why?” asked Long Chen.

“Your life is very bitter. Half of you is in darkness, and the other half is in light. You are working hard to maintain the balance. It is like you are walking on thin ice over a deep abyss. You know that you were right to kill those lifeforms, no matter how many it was. But you are also afraid that you killed a good person. You are carrying such weight that your heart is sinking, bringing you to the Devil Dao. You are working hard to persevere your core heart, but the more cautious you are, the harder you force yourself. You will constantly add more burdens to yourself. A person’s power can be endless, but that is only compared to external forces. No matter how strong a person is, if they constantly find burdens to carry, sooner or later, they will surpass their limit.

“Keep this in mind: The Bodhi had no tree, and the mirror had no platform. If they never existed, where did the dust come from?”

Long Chen’s heart shook. This was a saying that he had heard as a child. In the Phoenix Cry Empire’s college, this was a question that had to be answered to pass the exams.

The Bodhi Tree was also called the Tree of Wisdom. The mirror platform referred to the ability that allowed people to keep a peaceful heart, to understand their core heart. It was the ability to see themselves clearly. Amongst the cultivators, it was also called the spirit platform.

There were actually two sayings that were part of it, but they were made by two different people. The other one was: the body is like a Bodhi Tree, the heart is like the mirror platform. They must be wiped occasionally to clean away any dust.

It was an attitude of taking great care and working hard at self-cultivation. It was just like Long Chen’s current state. Afraid of making any tiny mistakes that could cause his Dao-heart to become covered in dust, he spent every day cleaning it. Just as this woman said, it was like he was walking over a deep abyss on thin ice. He was practically trembling with fear, not daring to make the slightest mistake.

The other saying that was made by the other person was also simple but contained an entirely different realm.

The Bodhi had no tree, and the mirror had no platform. If they never existed, where did the dust come from? What was the Bodhi Tree? What was the mirror platform? Those were all idle chatter, things that never existed from the start. If you wiped it occasionally, what exactly were you wiping? Who were you wiping it for? There was nothing there from the start, so which dust were you cleaning?

Long Chen hadn’t expected this little saying from when he was young to be known by this senior of unknown origins. Now that she reminded him of it, Long Chen felt enlightened.

He bowed deeply toward her, respectfully saying, "Many thanks for your pointer, senior. This little one's eyes have been opened."

The current Long Chen seemed as if he had been freed from a curse, as if he had escaped from some shackles. His entire body seemed to be more relaxed.

Before this, he was constantly afraid of becoming a devil, so he was always careful with what he did, constantly calculating how to inhibit the growth of his heart-devil. That state was already a kind of display of being bedeviled.

Thus, it was truly very tiring for Long Chen to be living right now. He no longer had that kind of heroic feeling, the feeling of being full of youthful energy, something from when he first stepped a foot out of the Phoenix Cry Empire all that time ago.

Now, with this woman's reminder, Long Chen seemed to remember the days when he had nothing binding him. His body was full of energy, and he was also full of confidence in himself. At that moment, Long Chen felt like the world was full of sunlight driving away the shadows in his heart.

The woman smiled. "Take good care of this lotus seed. It will be of immense use to you. Put it away."

"Many thanks, senior." Long Chen once more thanked her and sent the lotus seed into the primal chaos space. He then planted it, hoping for it to grow into even more golden lotuses.

He found that it contained dense flame energy. Furthermore, this flame energy seemed to be the most primeval flame. Although he didn't know how to use it, he knew it was definitely something amazing.

The most unexpected thing though was that right after he planted it, the lotus seed actually broke out of the earth and flew into the sky, floating motionlessly high in the air of the primal chaos space.

Once it stopped there, it slowly emitted a gentle light that filled the primal chaos space. The primal chaos space was filled with its golden divine radiance.

The primal chaos space didn't change because of it. But the moment its golden radiance spread, Long Chen felt like he was reborn. His essence, qi, and spirit were instantly raised to their peak.

Long Chen was changing, but he didn't know exactly how. That feeling was very mysterious, and he was unable to explain it clearly. He felt like he had become relaxed, as if all dangers were nothing to him. No matter how great the problem, he had the confidence to face it.

"Don't call me senior. According to the human race's way of speaking, I should be surnamed Gong. You can call me Aunt Gong," said the woman, smiling when she saw Long Chen's face had the golden divine radiance shining on it.

"Aunt Gong!" Long Chen respectfully said this new appellation. He was full of gratitude toward this kindly elder. Ignoring whatever that lotus seed was, just her pointer alone was enough to benefit him immensely. It was just that the Gong that she said and the Gong that he said were entirely two different concepts.[1]

"Good child. There's no need to give yourself so many burdens. In truth, this world isn't so complicated. There are kind people in this world, but there are also devils that throw the world into chaos. Those kind people might be killed at any moment by them. When a saint appears, they protect the lives of the kind, providing for them, not letting them freeze in the cold. They open the path for them, not letting them be trapped in danger. You are the one to provide for them, the one to open the path for them. But there will not be many people to help you. Thus, your path will be harder than others.

“When people are at their weakest, there are more bad people. Thus, many times, there’s no need to differentiate between good and evil. Persevere until you accomplish your dreams. Amongst kind people, there are also fools. When kind people are foolish, they sometimes cause even greater calamities than evil people. When they do evil things with good intentions, they bring a scourge upon the world. This is a common occurrence. In this world, only the virtue of the Heavenly Daos is the fairest. It will not allow you to escape punishment for committing grave sins just because you did them with kindness in your heart. The Dao of Virtue will only remember the result, not your heart or process. Your path is for all the lives in the world and not for your own selfish desires. Thus, you can be at ease. You don’t need to have any misgivings.” The woman brushed Long Chen’s cheek tenderly, her words solemn.

She seemed like a mother imploring her own child, telling him not to be afraid, telling him that he was right.

Long Chen’s eyes reddened and tears almost fell out. She seemed to be able to see through his inner heart, through his soul. She could see his grievances. Even Long Chen, an iron man, couldn’t bear it.

“Good child. Go. Return to your world. The golden lotus’s divine radiance will forever shine on you. You will never be alone,” she encouraged.

Long Chen nodded. He once more bowed toward her before turning around and stepping into the spatial gate.

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When Long Chen stepped through the gate, a heaven-shaking roar rang out right beside his ear. That two-winged vile dragon was struggling crazily within the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net.

Fortunately, time was frozen during his journey in the Golden Lotus World. This vile dragon looked the same as when he had first cast the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net over it.

Before this, he wouldn't hesitate. He would directly flee and just give up on the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net.

However, with the golden lotus seed in the primal chaos space, Long Chen's confidence soared. His head was clear. This lotus seed gave him endless courage and power.

It felt like there was nothing in this world that he couldn't do. Like a bolt of lightning, he grabbed the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net.

"Huo Linger, bind its mouth!" shouted Long Chen.

Huo Linger transformed into flame chains that wrapped around the vile dragon's head. Meanwhile, Long Chen pulled on the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net, and his astral power flowed through it. Therefore, that dragon's mouth was tightly bound. By the time it realized this, its mouth could no longer be opened.

It might have terrifying force biting down, but with its mouth bound, it didn't have much power when it came to opening its mouth. Working together, Long Chen and Huo Linger managed to bind its mouth shut.

This Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net's toughness was shocking. It was almost impossible to break it. With the dragon's mouth bound, it couldn't use its supreme killing moves. This would protect the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net.

Seeing that it really worked, Long Chen was delighted. Moreover, there was no one here who could disturb them. If he and Huo Linger worked together, perhaps they really could subdue this terrifying dragon.

Long Chen stood atop its head. But suddenly, the void rumbled and a black figure pierced toward Long Chen.

“Big brother Long Chen, watch out!”

Huo Linger cried out in shock. Just as Long Chen was pulling the net with all his power, he forgot about the dragon's long tail that was still exposed. Its tail pierced toward Long Chen thunderously.

Its tail had a long bone stinger that flickered with cold light. That sharpness easily pierced the void.

Long Chen jumped. He had actually forgotten about this. Immediately, he activated the Lightning Body Blink.

BOOM!

The bone stinger pierced through Long Chen's afterimage. However, Long Chen still coughed up blood and tumbled back. Despite dodging the actual stinger, the shockwaves almost smashed him apart.

Furthermore, it broke through Huo Linger's body. This attack truly caused heaven and earth to change color.

Long Chen was blown into the distance and smashed into a tough mountain, causing it to half-collapse. Long Chen then coughed up another mouthful of blood.

On the other hand, Huo Linger had been blasted into runes and hastily pulled herself into the shape of a small dragon on Long Chen's shoulder. They both hid behind the rocks from the dragon.

However, seeing it motionless, Long Chen was pleasantly surprised. Its head had caved in. It had actually struck itself dizzy!

"Huo Linger, pull it in quick!" shouted Long Chen.

"Big brother Long Chen, it's no good! It's too powerful, and as a whole, I cannot absorb it." Huo Linger transformed into countless flame dragons that bit at the vile dragon, but she was shocked to find that she couldn't bite through it.

"No way, it's that powerful?!" Long Chen was shocked. Huo Linger was unable to absorb it? Then wouldn't all of this have been for nothing?

"No, it isn't an actual living creature! It has no body of flesh and blood. Perhaps it can be brought into the primal chaos space." Long Chen suddenly slapped his leg.

"Three, two, one, pull!"

As Long Chen and Huo Linger pulled with all their might, the void shuddered. The giant vile dragon and the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net were instantly drawn into the primal chaos space.

Seeing that it really did work, Long Chen and Huo Linger cried out delightedly. They actually succeeded.

Inside the primal chaos space, the vile dragon instantly awoke. It opened its mouth and roared. Seeing this, Long Chen smiled mischievously. The primal chaos space would put it in its place.

However, what he hadn't expected was for the golden lily seed to quiver, and a gentle light illuminated the vile dragon. It actually instantly crumbled apart, transforming into a sphere of flames.

"This..." Long Chen and Huo Linger were stunned. That golden light instantly turned the vile dragon into runes. Its wickedness, its brutality, its bloodthirstiness, they were all gone without a trace.

It was now simply pure energy. Its runes flowed around gently, seemingly harmless.

"Was it purified?"

Long Chen didn't know what had happened, but it seemed that all its negative auras were removed, turning it into a clump of pure energy.

Long Chen then stared in shock at the golden lotus seed. It had to be known that the dragon was an existence on the level of a Divine Venerate. It was purified so easily?

This proved his guess that Aunt Gong had given him an amazing divine object.

Originally, Long Chen had thought that the lotus seed was to steady his heart, letting him no longer question himself, completely stabilizing his mind. But now, he found that it definitely wasn't so simple.

Furthermore, Aunt Gong's eyes were full of wisdom. It was as if she could see through the future, and every single one of her words contained hidden profundities.

Ever since coming out of the Golden Lotus World, Long Chen felt like he had completely transformed. He was freed from those heavy burdens that had been so heavy that he couldn't breathe.

Aunt Gong said that he was acting correctly, and that gave him endless confidence. He could truly act as he pleased then.

Now that he had gained a lotus seed that could easily deal with a Divine Venerate, Long Chen's confidence soared.

Suddenly, a heaven-shaking roar rang out. Long Chen jumped in shock, and his mind hastily retreated from the primal chaos space. He then looked in the distance.

In that direction, another terrifying aura was rising. It did not seem inferior to the vile dragon that he had just subdued at all.

"The Heavenly Flame World doesn't just have one Divine Venerate level Heavenly Flame Spirit!" Long Chen was surprised, but he was also enticed.

However, he then looked at the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net and suppressed that urge. Just now, the struggling of the vile dragon had damaged the net in some places. It needed some time to repair itself.

They had relied entirely on luck to capture that vile dragon, and that kind of luck would not occur twice. Hence, Long Chen decided to obediently leave this dangerous region.

Long Chen returned according to his original path. However, Long Chen was rather depressed to find that while Huo Linger was able to absorb the vile dragon's runes, it was very taxing to do so. Those runes were too powerful, and absorbing them was very difficult. It was like a baby using baby teeth to gnaw at a bone. Huo Linger exhausted herself without getting to eat much.

Ultimately, Long Chen had Huo Linger not waste the effort. He then brought her hunting for those weaker Heavenly Flame Spirits. They should take things gradually.

As Huo Linger grew stronger, they became able to unleash greater power from the Phoenix Blood Heavenly Silk Net. Just like the saying, one mouthful wouldn't make someone a fatty, they had to take things step by step.

Long Chen thought of a certain region that had quite a few fourth Heavenstage Heavenly Flame Kings. At that time, due to protecting the little fox, he hadn't bothered them.

Now he stealthily crept over again. However, he was shocked to find that quite a few cultivators were sneaking over there as well.

"Is there some treasure here?"

Long Chen was surprised and snuck his way closer. Suddenly, he noticed a group of familiar figures.

"Is the path between enemies really so narrow?"