

Nine Star 3641

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“Boss!”

Guo Ran clenched his fists. “This is impossible! Xia Chen is definitely being framed!”

Guo Ran’s blazing killing intent caused that person to jump. He had felt Guo Ran to be weak and not a threat, which was precisely why he had targeted Guo Ran. He had even thought Guo Ran was some young master who had come out to enjoy the world.

Guo Ran’s killing intent erupted when he heard about the warrant for Xia Chen. He refused to believe that Xia Chen would do something like betraying his sect and master.

“Continue.” Long Chen’s expression was also gloomy. He understood Xia Chen’s character. He wasn’t such a person. There must be some secrets within this matter.

Through that person’s explanation, Long Chen learned that Xia Chen had only been a worker in the Spirit Rune Pavilion at the start. He had been waiting on the Talisman Apprentices.

Later on, he had an opportunity. An instructor discovered his immense talent and accepted him as a disciple. In just half a year, he passed the trials and became a Talisman Master. Based on his age, he was one of the Spirit Rune Pavilion’s ten youngest Talisman Masters in all of history.

It could be said that Xia Chen had shaken the entire Spirit Rune Pavilion at that time. If it weren't for his unmistakably low Spiritual Strength, people would even suspect that he was a reincarnation of an old monster.

After becoming a Talisman Master, he worked hard on mastering the various talisman arts. With his immense talent, he mastered the various kinds of talismans and runes.

In just a year, he started the trial to be promoted to a Talisman Grandmaster.

That news shook the entire Heavenly Talisman Star-Field. It had to be known that a Talisman Master in their twenties was already an existence that deserved to have their own page in the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field's history.

Regretfully, at that time, Xia Chen failed the trial. While his soul energy's purity did reach the level of a Talisman Grandmaster, it wasn't strong enough. There were seven talismans that he had to make in the trial, and after making six, he severely overdrafted his soul energy, causing him to fail on the seventh.

Despite that, it caused quite a ruckus. That was because his first six talismans had all passed the mark.

It had to be known that the trial for becoming a Talisman Grandmaster was extremely stringent. The difficulty to make those six talismans was unimaginable. But Xia Chen had passed all of them. His talent was something countless people admire, but also envied.

To sum it up, at that time, Xia Chen's name became known throughout the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field. This talent made him a monster.

Some people guessed that he would pass the trial within three years and become a Talisman Grandmaster. Even if he took three years to pass, he would still be history's youngest Talisman Grandmaster.

What he was lacking was not talent or comprehension, nor was it experience. It was simply his soul energy. His soul energy would only grow stronger over time as his cultivation base increased.

Although he hadn't passed that trial, he was already viewed as a Talisman Grandmaster. There was no suspense about him joining their ranks. The only question was how long would he need to pass the trial. One year? Two years? Or three years?

As the Spirit Rune Pavilion's brightest heavenly genius, he made all others appear dull and drab. None of them could compare to him.

Xia Chen even ended up in a marriage agreement with the granddaughter of the Spirit Rune Pavilion's master. The pavilion master, Gongsun Xuan, supported the marriage. His granddaughter, Gongsun Ziyi, was also very talented. The two of them were viewed as a perfect couple, the envy of countless people.

For the Spirit Rune Pavilion to end up with two peak heavenly geniuses like Xia Chen and Gongsun Ziyi at the same time made countless people say that the Spirit Rune Pavilion would return to its former glory at their hands.

Furthermore, just over a month ago, a matter shook the entire Heavenly Talisman Star-Field. The number of their Heavenly Talisman Masters had gone from five to six.

The sixth was precisely the master of the Spirit Rune Pavilion, Gongsun Xuan. A Heavenly Talisman Master was an existence that made countless people prostrate themselves in worship. The entire star-field was shaken by it at the time.

The pavilion master had become a Heavenly Talisman Master, and he had two people with limitless potential to carry on his inheritance. Just like that, the Spirit Rune Pavilion's rise was definitely set in stone. Countless sects sent congratulatory gifts, wanting to form a good relationship with them.

However, the waves of Gongsun Xuan's promotion had yet to even settle before a bomb exploded. Xia Chen actually snuck into the Spirit Rune Pavilion's sacred land, opening the Heavenly Talisman Gate and taking the priceless treasure of the Spirit Rune Pavilion.

After being discovered, he grabbed his fiancée as a hostage. But due to how major the implications were, even Gongsun Ziyi's capture didn't dissuade others.

When Xia Chen was driven into a corner, he actually used a spiritual art to control the root of Gongsun Ziyi's soul energy, placing a talisman there. It was an insidious talisman that would devour her Spirit Root, resulting in her never being able to cultivate again in this lifetime.

Everyone was shocked and enraged by Xia Chen's actions, and due to this, they opened a path for Xia Chen to leave. Using Gongsun Ziyi as a shield, just as he was about to escape, Gongsun Xuan appeared, saving Gongsun Ziyi. But Xia Chen still fled.

Just as he fled, he was struck by Gongsun Xuan's talisman. The void was shattered at that time, leaving a giant hole that had yet to heal even until now.

Everyone saw Xia Chen transform into a streak of light and escape. Most likely, he had managed to block Gongsun Xuan's attack. However, that attack was Gongsun Xuan's strongest Heaven Shaking Talisman. Let alone a little Divine Lord like Xia Chen, even a half-step Divine Venerate would lose half their life if struck by such a talisman.

Afterward, Xia Chen vanished. Some people estimated that he was already dead. After all, that was the Heaven Shaking Talisman, Gongsun Xuan's strongest talisman and his strongest trump card. Countless experts had lost their lives to it. Thus, people thought that Xia Chen was definitely dead.

However, some people did not agree. The Heaven Shaking Talisman was a Yang talisman. At that time, people had seen Xia Chen being covered in tens of thousands of black talismans.

In the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field, there were countless talismans. However, in general, they could be classified as Yin talismans, Yang talismans, and Yin Yang talismans.

Yang talismans were made with white paper, Yin talismans were made with black paper, and Yin Yang talismans were made with colors other than black and white based on their character.

The Heaven Shaking Divine Talisman was a supreme Yang talisman. However, Xia Chen had summoned tens of thousands of Yin talismans and detonated them at the same time. With the Yin and Yang forces pulling on each other, he had most likely managed to block a portion of the attack, while also unleashing a portion of its power into the void. At most, he had only endured a third of its power himself.

Even though just a third of that talisman's power should be enough to kill any World King, people refused to believe that Xia Chen didn't have other trump cards. Thus, some people felt that he was very likely still alive.

Xia Chen had actually done such a disgraceful thing, trespassing on their holy land. That was practically as bad as killing his own master. Gongsun Xuan was enraged and made a warrant for him. No matter where he was, he had to be found. If he was living, they wanted to capture him. If he was dead, they wanted to see his corpse.

This matter didn't just shake the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field, but it also caused outsiders to come. The reward that the Spirit Rune Pavilion was offering was just that alluring.

Thus, when Long Chen and Guo Ran asked about Xia Chen, this person's first thought was that they also came for the reward.

When this person was done with his story, Long Chen nodded. He directly tossed out ten thousand immortal king crystals and turned to leave.

Just then, that person suddenly said, "It seems that the two of you are Xia Chen's friends. Then I'll add an additional piece of information. It is said that the Bloodkill Hall dispatched some terrifying experts because the Spirit Rune Pavilion requested their aid in hunting down Xia Chen. Be careful."

Bloodkill Hall? Terrifying experts? Long Chen narrowed his eyes.

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"Boss, what do we do? Should we go to the Spirit Rune Pavilion and capture that damn pavilion master? We'll give him a beating and have him hand over Xia Chen," said Guo Ran.

"Can you please think before speaking? If the Spirit Rune Pavilion could find Xia Chen, they wouldn't need to announce a warrant. That's what it means not to wash your dirty laundry in public. For them to do this, they clearly truly cannot find Xia Chen and have to ask for aid from the entire Heavenly Talisman Star-Field. What we need to do now is not seeking revenge. It's to find Xia Chen. Furthermore, we must do it before the others find him. Most likely, he is seriously injured and is recuperating somewhere secret. He is in his most vulnerable state right now. We must find him first," said Long Chen gloomily.

"But how are we supposed to find him? Is it any different from searching for a needle in a haystack?" said Guo Ran worriedly.

Long Chen once again irritably said, "Please grow a brain. I really am bewildered by how you managed to become one of the Four Heavenly Dragon Heroes. On the Martial Heaven Continent, didn't we have our

own special way of staying in contact? Using dragon blood as the link, we created an instrument to find any of the Dragonblood warriors who cultivated the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art. The compass will sense the dragon blood within a certain range. Xia Chen definitely wouldn't be as foolish as you. He definitely preserved his dragon blood all this time. Perhaps he even has a sensing compass to sense the other Dragonblood warriors. If two people activate the compass at once, it can sense even further. We'll definitely have an easier time finding him than anyone else."

"Oh, I really am a pig. I forgot about this. Boss is wise! I'll make one right now!" Guo Ran clapped his own head. In his worry, his head didn't work properly.

This sensing compass had been developed by Guo Ran and Xia Chen back then. It was so that the Dragonblood warriors could find each other if they were ever separated.

However, they hadn't used it much in the mortal world. Who would have thought that they would find a use for it in the immortal world?

When it came to the art of runes, Guo Ran was not an expert. But this kind of compass was easy considering he had made it before. He quickly made two compasses.

"Boss, these are the best compasses I can make with the materials we have on hand. The sensing range should be beyond three hundred thousand miles. But the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field is gigantic. It would take years to scan all of it. Where should we start?" asked Guo Ran.

Long Chen shook his head. Being with this fellow caused his intelligence to fall. He couldn't even bother using his head now. Long Chen took out a map and pointed at a few markers. "Let's start from these areas. These are the areas with the highest likelihood of finding Xia Chen."

Those markers were actually given to them by the fellow trying to peddle talismans to them. This was the calculations of the Spirit Rune Pavilion and the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field's experts.

They had calculated the spatial fluctuations of that day, the remnant fluctuations of the Heaven Shaking Talisman's explosion, as well as how Xia Chen had transported himself. They then came up with several lines of space that Xia Chen might have gone through.

"No way, those areas have been flipped through many times. How could Xia Chen stay there?" asked Guo Ran.

"Fool, do you not understand that it's darkest right beneath the light? The more dangerous the place, the safer it is. Xia Chen didn't have time to run anywhere far. If he tried, it would be even more dangerous. Rather than taking that risk, it would be better to stay in a chaotic land. The greater the chaos, the greater the holes. Furthermore, he is a talisman expert. He naturally knows how to conceal himself. The more muddied the waters, the better it conceals him. Alright, let's not waste time. There are five regions. You take the ones on the left, I'll take the ones on the right, and we'll converge at the center. Rather than going fast, make sure that you cover all the space that he could be. Don't leave any gaps."

Long Chen drew a path on the map just in case Guo Ran was careless and didn't go through the entire area.

Guo Ran took the map. He also took out a flying boat and used a brush to write a line of words boldly on it.

"I, Guo Ran, come to find Xia Chen! Those who block my path to riches will be treated like the murderers of my parents. Anyone who dares to block me will be killed!"

Long Chen smiled. This fellow did have some smarts when he wanted to think. Outsiders would probably think that he was crazy and wouldn't want to bother him.

But if Xia Chen saw it, he would definitely show himself. Xia Chen and Guo Ran had been together the longest. These ugly characters of Guo Ran's would be instantly recognized as the real deal.

“Not bad! Let’s go!”

Long Chen and Guo Ran parted ways, going to two separate areas.

Long Chen also used a flying boat and wrote some characters on it: Dragonblood Legion.

He had thought about just writing his own name, but he felt that this was being too brash. Supposedly, even the Bloodkill Hall’s assassins had come. Although as long as it wasn’t Enpuda, he wasn’t afraid at all.

However, before finding Xia Chen, he didn’t want to clash with anyone. Finding Xia Chen first was more important.

When Long Chen arrived at the first area, he was dumbfounded. The number of flying boats in the sky made them seem like ravens. Those flying boats were emitting rays of divine light sweeping across the land. They made sure to go over every inch of this land.

“Damn!” When Long Chen arrived, he just happened to see two flying boats attacking each other. He didn’t know if they were fighting over an area to search or if something had happened, but in the end, the two flying boats smashed into each other, causing both flying boats to explode.

Two wretched figures then came flying out of the wreckage. Both of them were in bad tempers. With a wave of their hands, one talisman after another came flying out. They were like flying blades spinning through the air. Those blades would then explode, occasionally causing a tempest, soaring flames, frost that covered everything, or golden light to erupt.

This was Long Chen's first time seeing two talisman cultivators fighting. First, ignoring their actual fighting skill, it had to be said that a battle between talisman cultivators was very eye-catching. All of their moves were flashy and pretty.

However, after watching for just a bit, Long Chen got bored. It seemed that neither of them was a true expert. They were just randomly tossing out talismans, competing over who had more.

Furthermore, as their hands got to work, their mouths didn't slack off. They were constantly cursing each other. It seemed that they were intent on competing until one of their stocks was exhausted. Whoever ran first would be the loser.

It seemed that they weren't competing in terms of power. Those talismans were all money. It was clearly a method of using money to crush the other side. These were two foolish sons of rich parents that were burning money to play around.

Some other talisman cultivators watched them like watching monkeys perform. They occasionally even cheered for them. As a result, the two of them fought more energetically. Talismans were flung out as if they cost nothing at all.

Long Chen shook his head. These two were clearly idiots, and he couldn't be bothered to keep watching. He continued onward. Just as he started on the path that he had decided, his compass began to violently shake.

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"Found him!"

Long Chen's heart pounded wildly. The compass quickly pointed in one direction. However, after locking in that direction, the compass suddenly dimmed and became still.

Long Chen quickly rushed off with his flying boat. All of a sudden, he saw countless figures rushing off in the same direction he was heading to.

A sea of people was tightly surrounding one area. There was a giant spatial crack here.

Right now, the spatial crack was slowly healing. But the earth was torn apart and a terrifying energy still hung in the air. It seemed that a large battle had just been fought here.

"As expected of the Bloodkill Hall's number one genius. He found Xia Chen so quickly."

"It's too bad, Xia Chen still managed to get away."

"However, he coughed up blood just now from the injury. He probably didn't get far. He'll be found again quickly, and then all that awaits him is death."

"That Ji Wuying really is terrifying. We searched for so long without finding a single trace, but he found Xia Chen as soon as he arrived."

"After all, that's an assassin. Their noses are sharper than dogs'. It's nothing to be surprised about."

When Long Chen arrived, he heard countless people talking about it. Hence, his expression sank and he directly squeezed his way through. Seeing this, some people were irritated by his brashness. They were

about to start a fight, but when they saw Long Chen's gaze, they were so terrified that their curses were swallowed back into their stomachs.

"Passers-by, get out of here. Don't interfere with our Bloodkill Hall's matters. We are gathering specimens."

When Long Chen reached the edge of the battlefield, there were several masked, cloaked people blocking him and anyone else from going any further.

However, Long Chen ignored their warning and directly walked in. One of them glared at him and was about to attack when he saw Long Chen's face more clearly. At that moment, an expression of terror came across his face.

"You-!"

That expert didn't even get to move before Long Chen slapped him in the face. His entire head exploded.

Everyone was shocked. Those Bloodkill Hall experts were in the midst of gathering the bloodstains and investigating it for something, so they didn't expect someone to suddenly barge in and start killing.

Long Chen didn't give them any chance to react at all. They were killed with one slap after another. In just a moment, the four Bloodkill Hall experts were all slain. The final one was in the midst of fading into the void when Long Chen dragged him out and killed him with a slap as well.

Seeing this scene, everyone was terrified. As Ji Wuying's trusted aides, those assassins were experts amongst experts, but Long Chen slaughtered them effortlessly. If they didn't personally see it, they wouldn't believe it.

In their eyes, Long Chen had slaughtered these experts without any effort at all. But in truth, every single one of his attacks contained immense profundities that they simply could not comprehend even after seeing it.

Long Chen was far too familiar with the Bloodkill Hall's movement art. He had predicted their movements the moment he appeared, so while it appeared as if those Bloodkill Hall experts were simply waiting to be hit, it was not the case. It simply appeared bizarre to the people.

After killing those four, Long Chen ignored the others. He then touched the fresh blood on the ground.

"He was previously injured. Now, this is injury on top of injury." Sensing the fluctuations coming from the blood, Long Chen circulated the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art. He quickly sensed the general direction of Xia Chen.

Xia Chen had transported himself away. But due to his injury, the dragon blood aura remained in the air. From it, Long Chen was able to see some clues.

Ji Wuying was already chasing after Xia Chen. But his efficiency should be much lower than Long Chen's. That was why his subordinates were gathering samples here. It was in case he failed to follow the tracks.

Long Chen then put away the flying boat. It was too slow. No longer caring about exposing his status, he rushed off like a bolt of lightning.

“Who was that? How is he so terrifying?” It was only once Long Chen left that people started reacting.

“Heavens, isn’t he that madman who’s been plundering the Soaring Dragon Company? In the Chaotic Star Sea, he slaughtered countless heavenly geniuses! I heard he even defeated Yan Xu’s son! He is the youngest dean in the history of the number one academy of the nine heavens and ten lands, Long Chen!”

Some people recognized Long Chen’s adornment, but they weren’t too sure. In the Chaotic Star Sea, Long Chen had killed an unknown number of heavenly geniuses from various races, along with Yan Xu’s son. Hence, his name had long since spread throughout the large domains.

However, the Violet Flame Heaven was gigantic, so information couldn’t spread that rapidly. After all, the experts of the various regions were more familiar with their homes and the laws of the Heavenly Daos there. They had no need to run around with the human race. As for the human race, they weren’t too friendly with each other anyway.

The main reason Long Chen’s name could reach this place was because of the Soaring Dragon Company. In all the history of the Soaring Dragon Company, he was definitely the first to dare to so openly plunder their treasures.

Of course, after people recognized him, some of them immediately alerted the Soaring Dragon Company in hopes of obtaining a reward.

At this moment, Long Chen had found Xia Chen’s tracks, so he no longer cared if others recognized him. His goal was to find Xia Chen as quickly as possible.

As space quivered, Long Chen appeared atop a large mountain. It had just crumbled, and there was dust everywhere.

Xia Chen had just been transported here. As for Ji Wuying, he had chased Xia Chen down here. But based on the scars, Xia Chen hadn't stayed behind. He had undergone a second transportation.

Long Chen continued following the aura. This Ji Wuying was truly terrifying. Even without a compass, even without being able to sense dragon blood, he was relying on some unknown ability to track Xia Chen.

Long Chen chased him down as quickly as he could, while also actively throwing out the compass's fluctuations in hopes of Xia Chen sensing it.

Finally, on the fourth transportation, Long Chen's compass reacted. Long Chen was delighted. Xia Chen had finally sensed his compass.

At this moment, Long Chen stopped moving. Standing atop the peak of a mountain, he calmly waited.

If Xia Chen had noticed him, then there was no need for him to continue chasing. Xia Chen would naturally transport to him. If they both started running to each other, they would just end up switching locations, and their senses would be thrown into disarray. They might not even be able to find each other.

Long Chen's compass grew brighter and brighter. Xia Chen was getting closer and closer.

BOOM!

Suddenly, the void quivered and a blood-soaked figure came out. It was Xia Chen. When Xia Chen saw Long Chen, his eyes immediately reddened.

“Boss!”

Xia Chen was choked with sobs. He was thin and haggard, and there was an unmistakable weariness and pain in his eyes that aggrieved Long Chen.

“Good brother. Everything is in the past.” Long Chen emotionally hugged Xia Chen. He then took out a healing pill for him.

BOOM!

Xia Chen had just consumed it when the void once more exploded. At this moment, a sword pierced toward Xia Chen.

“Xia Chen, you won’t get away.” That voice was icy, like a specter from hell.

“Likewise, I don’t know if you’ll be able to get away.” Killing intent exploded out of Long Chen. The Minghong Saber came flying out of its sheath, and a powerful mental energy instantly locked onto that person.

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Long Chen’s saber contained his full heart and spirit, and it completely locked onto that person, not letting him get away.

BOOM!

Two divine weapons clashed together, resulting in an explosion of sparks. When that happened, the world was like a mirror that was struck. Cracks instantly spread throughout the void.

“Spatial energy?”

Long Chen was startled. At this moment, his saber’s power was released into the void by a strange energy.

Due to how long he had known Bai Xiaole, he was familiar with spatial energy. Seeing this, he instantly had a bad feeling.

Without hesitation, Long Chen slashed his saber behind him.

BOOM! Another explosion caused cracks to appear in the void.

Long Chen repeatedly slashed his saber sixteen times. Other than the first one when he took the initiative to attack, the rest were all him being forced to passively defend.

The attacker was as quick as lightning, and his movements were like that of a phantom. Long Chen couldn’t even grasp them. Furthermore, the attacker’s target was always Xia Chen who was behind him.

That enraged Long Chen. This person actually dared to ignore him and focus on killing Xia Chen when he was right there.

“Long Chen, is it? You’re quite famous, but is this all your power? If I, Ji Wuying, wish to kill someone, then not even ten of you would be enough to stop me.” That person sneered, and his sword continued to dance in the air, aiming for Xia Chen.

“Even Enpuda doesn’t dare to say such big words in front of me. Who do you think you are? Do you think having a Supreme Bone is so amazing?” Long Chen snorted. After his battle with Alldevil Tianye, he was more familiar with Supreme Bones. Thus, he could sense the aura of a Supreme Bone on Ji Wuying’s body.

Furthermore, this person was capable of activating spatial energy without hand seals, incantations, or even using his Spiritual Strength. It was directly unleashed. That meant that his spatial energy was not something he latently cultivated but a kind of innate divine ability.

It was somewhat similar to Bai Xiaole’s Three Flower Pupils. However, even when it came to the Three Flower Pupils, the body, mouth, and will still had to work together to use spatial power.

On the other hand, this person’s spatial power was unleashed all on its own. That made Long Chen guess that it was the natural spatial energy of this person’s Supreme Bone.

“Split the Heavens 1!”

Violet qi burst out of the Minghong Saber, and it slashed through the air. Its sharp killing intent locked onto Ji Wuying once again.

BOOM!

Cracks once more appeared in the void. However, it was different from before. Previously, Long Chen's energy was all blocked by spatial energy. But this time, a violet saber-image continued through the spatial cracks to strike Ji Wuying.

Ji Wuying was forced back three steps. On the third step, the ground beneath his feet exploded, and it was caused by a golden talisman that had appeared there.

The golden talisman's explosion made Ji Wuying grunt in pain. His lower legs were turned into pulp.

That talisman was placed by Xia Chen. Even Long Chen didn't know how he had sent the talisman there. The timing and location were so perfect that even Ji Wuying was struck by it.

All of a sudden, the void exploded and a black-armored figure came flying out. His black saber slashed down on Ji Wuying with all his power.

Guo Ran had arrived. After receiving a message from Long Chen, Guo Ran immediately rushed over. Long Chen chased Xia Chen, while Guo Ran chased Long Chen, resulting in him arriving now. Without hesitation, he unleashed his strongest attack.

"Split the Heavens 2!"

Ji Wuying had just been knocked back by Long Chen and injured by Xia Chen. Hence, now that Guo Ran's attack came, he didn't even have time to think and could only block hastily.

As a result, Guo Ran's blow sent him flying. Without a chance to unleash his spatial energy, he was blown far into the distance.

After that, Xia Chen took out dozens of talismans. With a wave of his hand, those talismans covered heaven and earth.

“Hmph, interesting. To be able to injure me, although you used numbers, I have to say that you have some ability. But if you want to trap me, you must be dreaming. Next time, I will take your life.”

Ji Wuying’s figure suddenly vanished into the void.

It was then that Xia Chen’s talismans unleashed a barrier of light. He had been trying to keep Ji Wuying trapped here, but he was one step too late.

“Fuck, he got away! That’s too bad, but, hehe, who cares? We’ll kill him next time. Brother Xia Chen, I really missed you. Without you, I feel like the entire world is black and white. I can’t see a trace of color.” Guo Ran was a bit displeased that Ji Wuying escaped, but seeing Xia Chen again made him forget about that. Guo Ran immediately walked over and gave Xia Chen a fierce hug.

“Yes, these days without you really have been hard. Us brothers can’t be parted. Now, we can collaborate once more.” Xia Chen embraced Guo Ran tightly. The two of them began weeping without being aware of it.

Guo Ran and Xia Chen were perfect partners. After so many years of collaboration, they could practically communicate without words. A simple gaze was enough to convey what they were thinking to each other.

Hence, the two of them only needed a glance to know that both of them had suffered during this time. They couldn’t even say anything and simply wept.

It was only after a while that the two of them calmed down. Xia Chen then activated a transportation talisman, sending the three of them into a secluded mountain range.

This place was also not safe. According to Xia Chen, his enemies would manage to track them down in at most six hours.

Long Chen felt that six hours was enough. He then checked Xia Chen's body and found that his outer wounds were nothing. The main concern was the injury to his soul. In order to block Gongsun Xuan's attack back then, he had paid a terrifying price. Because of it, he had yet to recover.

After giving Xia Chen several medicinal pills, Long Chen used his own Spiritual Strength to help him recover.

Although Long Chen wasn't a talisman cultivator and didn't purely raise his soul energy, his Spiritual Strength was incomparably powerful. With the aid of his Spiritual Strength, Xia Chen's soul energy would quickly recover as well.

In just four hours, Xia Chen's soul energy recovered to around eighty percent, and his outer injury was also healed. Only then did Long Chen ask Xia Chen about the situation.

When this matter was raised, Xia Chen was first silent for a moment before flames of fury filled his eyes.

"I, Xia Chen, have never hated someone so much in this lifetime. Boss, I will definitely kill Gongsun Xuan and that bitch."

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When Xia Chen ascended from the Martial Heaven Continent, he arrived in the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field. He then directly aimed for the Spirit Rune Pavilion due to its reputation.

Just like Guo Ran, he was rejected. He didn't have enough power, nor did he have the money to pay to take the test. That was ignoring all the money he needed for his future cultivation.

Moreover, Xia Chen wasn't as fortunate as Guo Ran. No one came to help him. In order to stay in the Spirit Rune Pavilion, Xia Chen had to register as a regular worker first.

He started off just playing second fiddle to those Talisman Apprentices, secretly studying as he worked. The talismans and runes that he started off with were made with pieces of trash material that he gathered over time. They were essentially scrap.

In that environment, Xia Chen steadily learned things bit by bit, accumulating power. Finally, as a worker, he had the chance to butt in a trial for disciples, managing to draw the attention of an instructor.

Xia Chen chose to interrupt during a certain question that had befuddled that instructor for a long time. After that, Xia Chen's words ended up enlightening the instructor, instantly causing him to favor Xia Chen.

That instructor was someone that Xia Chen had had an eye on for a long time. His character wasn't bad. That was why Xia Chen had taken this chance to show off when the chance came.

That instructor then showed favor to Xia Chen, paying for him and using his own connections to set up a test for Xia Chen to become a Talisman Apprentice. As a result, Xia Chen passed with full marks, astonishing everyone.

After that, Xia Chen was like a soaring phoenix. As he constantly learned more, his terrifying talent was gradually displayed. The entire Spirit Rune Pavilion began to take note of him.

When he passed the trial to become a Talisman Master, his fame was even more resounding. As for the trial for Talisman Grandmaster, although he failed, he still shook the entire Heavenly Talisman Star-Field.

The Heavenly Talisman Star-Field might not see such a genius talisman cultivator in tens of thousands of years. At that time, Xia Chen became the most brilliant star, and countless talisman cultivators worshiped him. Wherever he went, he was followed by fawning people, and there were countless beauties around him. He was always the brightest star in any event.

What moved Xia Chen the most was that he not only gained the favor of the pavilion master, Gongsun Xuan, but he also gained the favor of the Spirit Rune Pavilion's number one beauty.

Gongsun Ziyi was famous for being an ice beauty and not being moved by any man. Only Xia Chen could win her favor, and they even had a marriage agreement. At that moment, Xia Chen would say that he had reached the pinnacle of his life.

He had a beauty to accompany him all day, and the Spirit Rune Pavilion's tomes were all available for him to peruse. They didn't hold anything back.

Xia Chen then grew more and more familiar with talismans and runes. His perseverance was almost maniacal. It seemed that he had grown to love this work more than his own life.

After that, practically the entire Heavenly Talisman Star-Field's tomes were at his disposal. He studied all kinds of runes, and the pavilion's Elders even discussed the evolution of various runes with him. He then ended up inferring runes of the ancient era and writing plenty of his thoughts on the subject. It could be said that he had made huge contributions to the Spirit Rune Pavilion.

"Brother, you were so skilled that you could interpret the ancient era's talismans, causing the Spirit Rune Pavilion to soar once more. You have limitless potential. Is the Gongsun family crazy? Why would they try to destroy you?" Guo Ran couldn't help asking.

Xia Chen bitterly smiled. "That was my first thought too. I was completely loyal to the Spirit Rune Pavilion. Countless headhunters secretly tried to buy me, but I rejected them all. It wasn't because the pavilion master had so much trust in me or because Gongsun Ziyi treated me so well. I simply felt that after learning all my skills from the Spirit Rune Pavilion, this place was my home, and I couldn't do anything that would be a betrayal of my home. But I didn't expect that while my heart was clear and bright, they were actually using me. At first, they only eyed my talent with runes, but then their target turned to my soul energy seed and my body. At that time, I fell for a trap that they set up. Gongsun Ziyi tried to take my soul energy seed, while Gongsun Xuan wanted to take over my body. That grandfather and granddaughter are animals!"

A vein throbbed on Xia Chen's forehead when he explained this. Killing intent filled his eyes.

He had always shown loyalty to the Spirit Rune Pavilion, but why would the Spirit Rune Pavilion bear malice toward him?

He had never expected that this one matter would completely change their thinking. There was a restricted area in the Spirit Rune Pavilion called the Spirit Rune Sacred Land. It was actually a palace where the Spirit Rune Pavilion's most ancient inheritance was locked.

It was said to contain the true foundation of the Spirit Rune Pavilion. Inside was a record of the most profound talismans of ancient times. However, since no one could crack the runes on the gate, the inheritance had remained locked inside for tens of thousands of years. No one knew what was really there.

It went without saying that Xia Chen was a genius. In just over a month, through repeated calculations and deductions, he finally opened this gate that had been locked for countless years.

What he hadn't expected was that by opening this gate, he also opened the path to his own demise. Just as he was cheering over his success, a poisonous dagger stabbed him through the back.

He would never forget Gongsun Ziyi's cold sneer when he turned back. That smile was full of disdain and the pity of someone who thought of themselves as far, far above him.

Meanwhile, Gongsun Xuan just watched from the side. He was like a wily old fox with everything in his control. What was in his eyes was not pity; it was greed!

Perhaps it was due to her pity, but Gongsun Ziyi told Xia Chen the reason for this. Even Xia Chen was unaware that his soul energy was actually so pure that it had mutated. With the right conditions, it was possible to produce a mutated Spirit Root, and it could be considered a talisman element Spirit Root.

A mutated Spirit Root was just as precious as a Supreme Bone. Also, Xia Chen's cultivation base was at the late Divine Lord realm, the optimal time to take a mutated Spirit Root. If Xia Chen advanced and became an Immortal King, the Spirit Root would awaken and remember his body. At that time, taking it would be very difficult. Even if they did, it would be difficult to get it to form a connection with someone else.

It had taken a great deal of consideration for them to do this to Xia Chen. His talent was so great that he had helped the Spirit Rune Pavilion progress rapidly. But a mutated Spirit Root was even more attractive than his talent.

Gongsun Xuan was also eyeing Xia Chen's body. Xia Chen's talent with runes was astonishing, so his body would have memories of that talent. For that purpose, Gongsun Xuan was planning on taking over his body. Since that was the case, the two of them chose to make their move just as Xia Chen opened the gate to this sacred land.

With the gate open, they felt that Xia Chen wasn't too useful any longer, and so they went to take everything that he had.

However, they hadn't expected Xia Chen, who was exhausted at that time, to have studied an ancient death substitution talisman. He had stuck one to himself as soon as he learned how to make them. He hadn't even had an opportunity to tell them about his success in this research before they attacked him.

Luckily, it wasn't time for Xia Chen to die yet. Just as they were about to kill him, he activated the death substitution talisman and escaped.

"Fuck, how hateful! Repaying kindness with enmity! They are worse than animals!" Guo Ran clenched his teeth furiously, wanting to directly charge over and kill the two of them right now.

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Guo Ran was even angrier than Xia Chen. Although he had also been bullied in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College, that was simply because the cultivation world was like that. There were too many wolves and not enough meat to go around. With a limited amount of resources, if you wanted them, you had to fight for them.

However, the pavilion master Gongsun Xuan had schemed against Xia Chen with his granddaughter, harming someone who had shown favor to the Spirit Rune Pavilion. It was absolutely vile.

The most unacceptable thing was that they actually used love to trick Xia Chen. The pain from such a betrayal was unbearable.

“Let’s go. We’re almost out of time and we need to switch locations. I don’t know what that wily old fox did to me, but he keeps being able to find my general location,” said Xia Chen.

All these days of running had made Xia Chen realize that the other side was able to slowly determine his location. He didn’t know if it was due to him cultivating the Spirit Rune Pavilion’s secret arts or something else.

“We’re not leaving! We’ll kill anyone who comes!” said Guo Ran hatefully.

“Killing them is meaningless. They’re just cannon fodder that the Spirit Rune Pavilion is using to disturb me. There’s no need to waste time on them,” said Xia Chen.

Long Chen nodded. “Xia Chen is correct. There is no need to waste time on them. Ji Wuying ended up running. But next time, he will definitely strike like lightning. I’m not afraid of him, but I am worried about you two. He possesses a Supreme Bone and is a natural controller of spatial energy. Adding on his status as an assassin, we cannot be careless. Xia Chen has yet to recover, while Guo Ran, don’t you also have something important you need to study with Xia Chen?”

“That’s right!” Guo Ran slapped his leg and jumped up excitedly.

The three of them went through several more transportations. In a new location, Guo Ran proudly took out a black arm bone and showed it to Xia Chen.

When Xia Chen saw the runes on the black bone, he almost jumped. “These are... runes born of heaven and earth! How can they appear on a person’s body?!”

“Hehe, this is a Supreme Bone! Supreme heavenly geniuses are all bestowed with gifts from heaven and earth. They naturally aren’t ordinary. However, this gift was taken by me. Xia Chen, you’re skilled with runes. Can you see how to link this thing with my body? I’ve already nourished it for a while, and my mental mark has appeared on it. You have a way, right?” Guo Ran looked at Xia Chen excitedly.

The current Guo Ran was like a child who couldn’t wait any longer. It was like he was afraid of Xia Chen saying that he didn’t have a solution. Moreover, his tense expression looked like he was waiting for a sentencing. Whether he would be executed or live was up to Xia Chen’s next words.

Xia Chen lightly touched the black bone. He still had a shocked expression, which gradually grew grave. Never had he ever come into contact with this kind of rune. He then spent an hour just examining it, with sweat dripping down his forehead.

Guo Ran was also sweating. Xia Chen stared at the black bone, while Guo Ran stared at him. Neither of them blinked.

“Beautiful. A masterpiece of the Heavenly Daos. It is truly amazing.” Xia Chen finally sighed in amazement.

“What?! Don’t get so shocked! Can I use the bone or not?” asked Guo Ran urgently.

“Yes, you can. But you will probably have to pay quite the price. The first thing to do is to cut off your own arm and then plant the runes of the black bone on your skeleton. That way, the bone will form an attachment to you. However, this attachment can’t be completed in just one step. There are many processes that you must go through, and every process will be very painful. The pain will definitely not be inferior to when boss trained us in the Dragon Blood Body Tempering Art. You have to be mentally prepared. Furthermore, the source of this black bone’s power lies in the bloodline. You have boss’s dragon blood energy, so you can use it. But due to its own original source being different, it will need to gradually get accustomed to the dragon blood energy. The start of that process will also be painful, and

that pain will only stop when both powers fully merge. You have to think this through. Once you start, you can't go back," warned Xia Chen gravely.

"What are you talking about? When have I, Guo Ran, ever been afraid of pain? If you want to show off, you have to pay a price. Even boss said that if you want to stand above others, you have to sacrifice more than them. However much I pay now is how much higher I'll stand above others. Haha, when I wear my battle armor in the future, I'll have the Supreme Bone inside, and I'll be able to look down on everyone. Come, brother! Go ahead and start! Don't talk about those meaningless things. If you say too much, I'll lose my confidence." Guo Ran clenched his teeth and stuck out his right arm.

"It's not time yet. I'll need to replicate the bone's runes and plant them in your body first. That will increase the familiarity between you two. Otherwise, this bone will simply destroy your skeleton," said Xia Chen.

After saying that, Xia Chen got to work. Taking out a refined desk, an inscribing brush, as well as hundreds of different powders of different colors, he got to work. The first thing he did was mix the powders into liquid.

The curious thing was that when these different-colored powders were mixed, they turned black. Moreover, the liquid came to possess the same aura as the bone. Seeing this, Long Chen was amazed. This was also a Grand Dao, just like the Pill Dao. When raised to the pinnacle, there was no differentiating which was greater.

Xia Chen first copied the runes on the bone, and his copies were perfect duplicates. Only then did he start drawing on talisman paper.

A single talisman had to go through hundreds of copies and then hundreds of tests. Also, repeatedly detonating them to test their power was the only way to confirm if they could be used or not.

When Xia Chen detonated a talisman the size of a fingernail, it left a giant ripple in the air. That power was equivalent to a full-power attack from a late stage World King. Seeing this scene, Guo Ran jumped in terror.

Just this single rune was already so terrifying. If it was stuck onto his bones, would he still have his life? But having said some big words, he couldn't take them back. Guo Ran directly stopped watching and ran off, saying that he was going to guard them, when in reality he was afraid that if he kept watching, he wouldn't have the courage to take in the black bone.

Time passed bit by bit. The three of them constantly moved around, and three days quickly passed. During these three days, Xia Chen had drawn over three thousand and six hundred talismans before he finally finished.

"Guo Ran, come over!" called Xia Chen.

Guo Ran was pale. But after taking a deep breath, he stuck out his right arm.

Without a word, Xia Chen cut off his arm, and Guo Ran clenched his teeth in pain.

Xia Chen then waved his other hand. Three thousand and six hundred fingernail-sized talismans spread out to cover Guo Ran's body.

"AHH!"

Guo Ran let out a scream. Those talismans were like worms burrowing into his flesh and attaching to his bones.

"Boss, start!" said Xia Chen, holding the bone.

Long Chen nodded and pressed a hand on Guo Ran's back. At that time, Xia Chen placed the bone on Guo Ran's shoulder.

BOOM!

When the arm bone met Guo Ran's bone, a powerful explosion rang out along with the sound of bones shattering. Guo Ran instantly fainted.

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"AHH!"

Guo Ran had just fainted when he instantly woke up from the pain. He felt like every bone in his body was shattering and repairing. His soul was also in immense pain, as if it was being torn apart.

"I can't, I can't do this!" Guo Ran screamed, his eyes almost popping out from the pain.

"There's no turning back now." Xia Chen shook his head. Ignoring Guo Ran's screams, he continued controlling the talismans, having the runes within Guo Ran's body form a connection with the runes on the arm.

"I'm going to die, I'm really going to die!" screamed Guo Ran. His eyes were open, but he couldn't see anything.

No matter how he screamed, Long Chen and Xia Chen ignored him. With Guo Ran's current physical body, there was no way he would die.

What kind of joke was that? Long Chen had split a portion of his true dragon essence blood with him. His physical body had reached a terrifying level.

Right now, Guo Ran was in the midst of switching out his skeleton. Although the power of his blood and flesh was strong, his skeleton was weaker. The injection of the dragon blood didn't strengthen his bones enough.

Hence, if Guo Ran wanted this arm, he had to make his skeleton reach a level that could control it. Right now, Xia Chen was helping Guo Ran absorb the Supreme Bone's power so that he could strengthen his whole skeleton. Just a single arm was useless. If he were to fight someone in that condition, in the first exchange, his Supreme Bone would fly off, and every other bone in his body would explode.

Guo Ran's bones were constantly shattering and being reborn. Long Chen's life energy was helping him recover.

Guo Ran couldn't die, but he would wish he was dead. Who told him to choose this path? Since he had already chosen it, there was no going back.

Guo Ran was constantly screaming like a pig being slaughtered. It was unknown how many times he had fainted from the pain just to wake up from the pain again. In the end, he fully fainted and fell silent.

As for Long Chen and Xia Chen, they were covered in sweat. The Supreme Bone was finally connected to Guo Ran's skeleton. His bones had broken and recovered hundreds of thousands of times before finally being able to match this Supreme Bone.

This Supreme Bone was actually rather long and not quite the same shape as the human race's arm. But after merging, it grew to the same size and shape as Guo Ran's original arm. Also, flesh started to grow on the bone. On the surface, it looked like a normal arm.

However, there were countless runes flowing within this arm. It was currently adapting to its new body, constantly changing its new home. Because of it, Guo Ran's physical body was steadily growing stronger.

"Boss, this Supreme Bone has a heavy evil air. I'm worried that in the future..." said Xia Chen.

"It's fine. Every person has a dark side. Although Guo Ran likes to show off, his inner heart is kind. He won't be affected by this little bit of darkness. After all, this Supreme Bone was never fully awoken. It has a great deal of plasticity, and it won't affect Guo Ran's inner heart. Otherwise, I wouldn't have let him keep it back then," said Long Chen.

Hearing that, Xia Chen relaxed about this matter. When looking at the slumbering Guo Ran, he enviously said, "This fellow is so lazy. But now that he has a Supreme Bone, not even the heavens can contain him."

With this Supreme Bone, Guo Ran would definitely be strutting around all day. A Supreme Bone was an unrivaled existence, and with the addition of his battle armor, there was simply no way to estimate Guo Ran's combat power.

Furthermore, a Supreme Bone's true power would only truly manifest in the Immortal King realm. Once this fellow became an Immortal King, he would definitely soar.

Seven days later, Guo Ran finally woke up, and when he saw his arm, he immediately grabbed it and felt it. Sensing the endless power within it, he almost didn't believe it himself.

After that, he let out a simple punch in the air. A heaven-shaking explosion caused a mountain far off in the distance to crumble, and the ear-piercing sound didn't fade for a long time.

"Boss, Xia Chen, punch me! Am I dreaming?!" shouted Guo Ran.

Long Chen immediately kicked him. This kick was actually filled with such power that Xia Chen jumped in shock. Guo Ran then cried out as he was sent flying.

He tumbled back like a shooting star, crashing through multiple mountains. He then vanished beyond the horizon, leaving only a line of dust. It was unknown just how far he was going.

"Boss, that was a bit vicious!" Xia Chen was gobsmacked. That kick was vicious. Was Long Chen not afraid of Guo Ran dying? It had to be known that Guo Ran didn't have any defenses up at all.

Just then, Guo Ran came flying back in his Devil Dragon Battle Armor. "Hahaha!"

Guo Ran took off his armor and laughed. That powerful kick didn't cause any damage at all. Even though he hadn't been on guard, the Supreme Bone had automatically helped him block the majority of the impact. Other than that, even while smashing through those mountains, he wasn't injured at all.

"I, Guo Ran, am unrivaled! Hahaha!"

Guo Ran raised his right arm. Right now, even he didn't know just how much stronger he was. Thus, he had the urge to find a peak expert to fight with right now.

“Your arm is still getting used to you, so there’s a great deal of room for improvement. You should communicate with it more and learn how to control its power. Also, there are many runes on the arm that I couldn’t understand. You’ll need to study them yourself. Ah, your luck really is enviable,” said Xia Chen with a smile.

Although Xia Chen said that he was envious, he had a gratified smile. If Guo Ran got stronger, that made Xia Chen even happier than if he himself got stronger.

“Hehe, don’t worry, I’ll definitely study this! Just who am I? I am Guo Ran, the general of the Dragonblood Legion, a possessor of a Supreme Bone! Starting today, I will turn a new leaf!” declared Guo Ran proudly. He was almost incoherent.

“I wonder who was screaming for their parents just now, saying that he would die and wanted to give up?” Xia Chen curled his lips.

“Brother, are you my brother? If you’re my brother, then you should cheer me on, not drag me down!” said Guo Ran. Just thinking about his appearance before this made him feel embarrassed.

“Alright, don’t mess around. Guo Ran, you’ve just merged with the Supreme Bone. But since our time is rather limited, I’ll give you three days to get used to your new arm and power,” said Long Chen.

During the next three days, Long Chen personally trained Guo Ran, having him get used to his new power. As for Xia Chen, he took this opportunity to restore his power to its peak.

Three days were quickly over. Now, Xia Chen was at full power, and a sharp light was contained within his eyes. He had regained his old confidence.

As for Guo Ran, his confidence was completely inflated. With Long Chen’s training, he had reached an initial level of control over his Supreme Bone. Even without his battle armor, he was able to fight Long Chen evenly. It could be said that Guo Ran’s combat power had instantly soared dozens of times. If it

wasn't a fight to the death, even Long Chen wouldn't dare to say that he could defeat the current Guo Ran. The power of a Supreme Bone was truly monstrous.

Once their preparations were complete, the three of them returned to their original location, their killing intent soaring. Their goal was to wipe away all their grudges.

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The Heavenly Talisman Star-Field's Hidden Dragon Prefecture was a sea domain, and millions of islands were scattered about like stars in the sky there. The water was calm, with dense immortal qi and mist that covered the sea in a mysterious haze.

The smaller islands were around a hundred miles long, while the bigger ones were millions and millions of miles wide. They were almost the same size as the Heavenly Swell Domain.

This sea domain was called the Hidden Dragon Prefecture. The legend was that in the desolate era, it was a dragon pool. In other words, a place where dragons roamed. There was once a dragon nest beneath the islands, and in the desolate era, the dragon race occupied this territory.

Later on, the dragon race disappeared and the human race became the master of this region. The human race and the dragon race were comparatively closer compared to the devil race, so the human race easily adapted to this place.

In the Hidden Dragon Prefecture, they would carry out a major ceremony every year, offering sacrifices to the dragon race's heroic spirits for their blessing. It was said that Hidden Dragon Prefecture was protected by the dragon race's ancestral soul. As long as this ceremony didn't cease, the ancestral soul would not fade away. It could continue to protect the human race generation after generation.

No one had seen the dragon soul before, but one thing was a fact. Hidden Dragon Prefecture had never been attacked by any devil beasts or sea demons. It was unknown if it was due to the dragon soul or because this was the ancestral land of the dragon race, causing some lingering dragon might to drive them away. In any case, this was a comparatively peaceful land.

It was precisely due to this that Hidden Dragon Prefecture's biggest island was even larger than an average domain. Countless cultivators gathered here.

Hidden Dragon Prefecture had one island in particular that was called Hidden Dragon Island. In terms of surface area, it could only rank number three. But it was the island with the most flourishing populace. This was where the spiritual qi of the Heavenly Talisman Star-Field was densest.

The island was covered in cities and sects and had too many cultivators to count. The Spirit Rune Pavilion was located in the northwest region of Hidden Dragon Island.

At this moment, countless people were coming and going through the gates of the Spirit Rune Pavilion. It was a day of celebration.

Today was the formal award ceremony for Gongsun Xuan becoming a Heavenly Talisman Master. This was a major affair for the entire Heavenly Talisman Star-Field.

According to the rules, a month after announcing it to the world, a good day would be chosen to carry out the award ceremony.

That was because a Heavenly Talisman Master was capable of solving an ancient talisman and creating their own talisman. That was a major progression for the entire world of talismans and runes. A Heavenly Talisman Master was both a symbol of status and power, as well as a kind of responsibility.

The other matter was that Gongsun Xuan's granddaughter, Gongsun Ziyi, was marrying the Bloodkill Hall's number one heavenly genius, Ji Wuying.

That news was very unexpected. Just what was going on? Just as she was going to marry Xia Chen, she suddenly chose to marry someone else?

Even if Xia Chen had betrayed the Spirit Rune Pavilion and broken things off with her, could she walk out of that shadow so quickly? Xia Chen hadn't even been found yet, so just what were they doing?

While people didn't understand, they pretended as if there was nothing strange about it and came to congratulate them.

When it came to this matter, understanding didn't matter. Their only goal was to form a good relationship with the Spirit Rune Pavilion. Thus, they could simply act as if they had heard nothing about this.

However, there was this one rumor. Since they were unable to capture Xia Chen, perhaps Gongsun Xuan was using Gongsun Ziyi's marriage as an attempt to lure him out.

That was a loathsome method, filled with a despicable flavor. But the main thing was, would Xia Chen really fall for such a thing?

Anyone with a brain wouldn't fall for such a thing. They had obviously set up a trap just for him.

However, lately, people had been hearing another name. It was the High Firmament Academy's youngest dean, the one who had repeatedly plundered the Soaring Dragon Company, the one who had slain countless lifeforms in the Chaotic Star Sea, and the one who had killed Yan Xu's son. He was the vicious man known as Long Chen.

Although they didn't know much about Long Chen, they had all heard of these matters. The rumors said that he was a crazy man who dared to do anything.

Xia Chen might be able to endure, but it was different now that Long Chen had arrived. So many people had come to congratulate the Spirit Rune Pavilion. But to be honest, they also wanted to see if this person known as Long Chen would dare to show up.

"Congratulations, congratulations!"

At the front of the palace was a group of elders. The leaders were the five Heavenly Talisman Masters of this star-field.

"Haha, it's all thanks to standing on the shoulders of seniors. We are all making small improvements compared to the blessings that our ancestors gave us. Of course, the pointers from you five were also part of it! Come, come in!"

A tall and rather pudgy elder smiled and courteously invited them in. This was the pavilion master, Gongsun Xuan. His eyes were small, making it seem like his eyes were squeezed shut all the time, as if he was always smiling.

However, his smile was rather fake, just for the public to see. As he greeted his guests, he also eyed the surroundings.

Music began to play at this time. After that, a woman with a phoenix crown and red cape walked in with a black-robed man. He was the Bloodkill Hall's number one genius, Ji Wuying.

He currently had a light smile and gazed in a certain direction. A sinister light also appeared in his eyes.

The void he was looking at rumbled, and a ray of light shot over from the distance. Because of the commotion, everyone was startled and hastily looked over.

“Xia Chen... he really came.”

They saw three figures. The people didn’t recognize the other two, but they instantly recognized Xia Chen.

“Dear fiancée, for your marriage, I don’t bring much. But I hope you won’t mind this little gift!” Xia Chen was glaring at the dressed-up Gongsun Ziyi. Flames almost burst out of his eyes.

He then waved his hand, causing three coffins to fall in front of the palace. Everyone was shocked. To send coffins during a wedding, it seemed that there would be no end until death.

Gongsun Ziyi slowly raised her veil, revealing a beautiful face. But despite being beautiful, her slightly high nose and thin lips did not give off a friendly feeling.

Looking at her face, Long Chen only saw a woman who would use any means necessary for her goals, a woman who was so selfish that she could only ever love herself.

Long Chen couldn’t help sighing inside. Xia Chen, this fool, was completely immersed in runes, talismans, and formations. He had astounding talent in this regard, and yet his eyes couldn’t see people clearly. He was actually tricked by such a woman.

The three of them had just arrived when the grand formation was activated. Now, the entire Spirit Rune Pavilion was covered in a barrier, and all the guests were locked inside.

“Xia Chen, I really admire you. How meticulous! There are three of you, and you brought three coffins. Not too few and not too many! Are you hoping that I will leave you an intact corpse?” sneered Gongsun Ziyi. That sneer didn’t contain the slightest emotion.

“No, these three coffins are for your family.” Guo Ran shouted and his voice suddenly changed, becoming a thunderous roar. “Anyone who doesn’t want to die should back up! Today, us three brothers are starting a slaughter!”

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Of the experts present, there were at least nine half-step Divine Venerates. As for World Kings, there were too many to count.

Moreover, those who could come here were all major figures of the various powerful sects. So, when they heard Guo Ran’s warning, they were startled and then laughed.

“You’re clearly tortoises caught in a jar, yet you dare to say such big words. Youngsters really are interesting these days,” said one elder mockingly.

“You...!” Guo Ran was enraged and was about to kill him when Long Chen held him back.

“Leave it. Kindness cannot advise ghosts about to die. Let them do what they want. If a person wants to die, no one can stop them.” Long Chen shook his head.

Guo Ran had given them their warning. That was their chance. Whether or not they would grasp it was up to themselves.

However, while these people had mocking expressions, they didn't have any intention of fighting. After all, this was a matter for the Spirit Rune Pavilion. They were only in charge of watching the show.

When Long Chen's group of three appeared, the Spirit Rune Pavilion's grand formation was activated. Divine light continued to circulate, causing the pressure to grow increasingly powerful. But Long Chen's group didn't even seem to see the formation.

Guo Ran's killing intent fully erupted. He was just waiting for Xia Chen's order to slaughter people.

When Xia Chen looked at the sneering Gongsun Ziyi, his body quivered slightly. The rage in his eyes ignited. "Gongsun Ziyi, I, Xia Chen, was truly blind. I was actually tricked by you. I was fully devoted to you, and I trusted you. But both you and your grandfather wanted to steal my soul seed and my body. Today, I will settle all our debts."

Even Xia Chen's voice was quivering. He himself hadn't experienced that much. Ever since he had started following Long Chen, he had always been with his hot-blooded brothers in the Dragonblood Legion. He trusted every single one of them with his life, and they did the same with him.

He had always thought that as long as he treated others sincerely, they would treat him the same. But he was wrong this time. His sincerity only brought him pain and anger.

Xia Chen wasn't afraid of bleeding or danger. But this kind of betrayal and deceit was unacceptable, especially with how they had used his feelings.

Gongsun Ziyi smiled indifferently. “Xia Chen, even at this moment, you’re still acting like a victim? Do you think there’s a point? Who would believe the words of a traitor who betrayed their sect and master? Don’t waste the effort. Having committed such sins, even I cannot save you. If you have any sense of responsibility, just kill yourself. My time is very precious. As you can see, I have something very important to do today!”

Gongsun Ziyi then held Ji Wuying’s arm tighter, looking at Xia Chen provokingly.

Gongsun Xuan sighed. “Xia Chen, you’ve really disappointed me. I was originally planning on-”

“Shut your mouth, you old shameless thing! You took the ancient talisman that I deciphered and the new talisman that I came up with to apply for your Heavenly Talisman Master status! You thieving liar, you aren’t qualified to speak with me!” shouted Xia Chen.

Everyone was startled by those words, and they looked at Gongsun Xuan in disbelief.

However, Gongsun Xuan’s expression was still completely calm. He shook his head. “Xia Chen, why bother? Before dying, do you simply have to damage my reputation first? I really don’t understand why you would do this. I treated you like family, and my position was going to be yours. Just who made you do this? Tell me. If you have your own circumstances, then even if I have to bend the rules or give up my position as pavilion master, I will try to save your life.”

Gongsun Xuan’s lamenting appearance was perfect. Because of it, quite a few people were starting to feel angry on his behalf.

“Xia Chen, you’re worse than an animal! The pavilion master treats you so well, and you still betray the Spirit Rune Pavilion?! How can someone like you have the face to live in this world!?”

“Forgetting kindness, repaying favor with enmity, even a dog knows not to bite their master. But you?”

“Xia Chen, I’ve never seen someone as shameless as you. Come out and have a fair fight with me. I’ll take your dog life.”

After Gongsun Xuan’s speech, countless experts of the junior generation stepped forward and cursed at Xia Chen, saying all kinds of ugly words.

Many of those had been Xia Chen’s worshippers. Before this, they all treated him reverently, practically kneeling and worshiping the ground he walked on.

However, today, they were like a group of rabid dogs. They were dragging a former king out of his throne. All kinds of ugly displays were thrown Xia Chen’s way.

Seeing this, Xia Chen quivered with rage and Guo Ran clenched his fists tightly. Only Long Chen looked on calmly.

Growth came at a price. Whether it was Guo Ran in the Heavenly Dragon Divine Armor College or Xia Chen in the Spirit Rune Pavilion, Long Chen saw some of their shortcomings.

On the Martial Heaven Continent, under his wing, their Dragonblood Legion was unrivaled. But in terms of actual living experience, they were still too immature.

Because of that, Guo Ran was suppressed to the point of not daring to retaliate, while Xia Chen was unable to differentiate between good people and bad people. Thinking carefully, it seemed that as their boss, he hadn’t done well enough for them.

After suffering came knowledge. Sometimes you had to experience something in order to grow. Pain was your best teacher. After losing the things that you held precious, your youthfulness would be forcibly wiped away. That was the path that you had to traverse to grow.

Seeing Xia Chen quivering, Long Chen decided to let him see this world's cruel and ugly side. Perhaps then he would understand how to differentiate between what was beautiful and what was ugly. He needed a pair of wise eyes to see through the falseness of others.

"AHH!" Xia Chen suddenly let out a roar like an injured beast. That roar contained endless pain and fury.

"All you know is to howl. Is there a point to it? If you're in so much pain, then just kill yourself!" sneered someone in the crowd.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning shot through the air without any thunder. It pierced that person's head, causing his smile to stiffen. After that, he collapsed.

"Since you want to die so badly, I'll help you out." Long Chen's expression was cold as he slowly lowered his finger.

He truly loathed these brainless idiots. They didn't have much power, but they knew how to curse others. It was irritating.

Long Chen had killed someone with a wave of his hand without any warning at all. Seeing this, the other experts were all shocked. They were talisman cultivators. They had to activate their soul energy before entering their combat state.

An elder behind the person who was slain roared furiously. At this moment, runes flowed around him as he entered a combat state. He was that person's elder. "Little brute, you dare-!"

"Die!"

Xia Chen suddenly shouted and that elder's body directly exploded, transforming into a rain of blood.

"This... this is... Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman?!"

This sight shocked and horrified all the experts present. Even the half-step Divine Venerates' expressions changed.

Chapter 3650

When they heard of the Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman, all the experts' expressions changed. They stared at Xia Chen in horror.

The Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman was rumored to be an ancient secret art. Almost all the major sects had records of the Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman, but none of them were able to replicate it.

The legend had it that it was one of the highest core techniques of a talisman cultivator. When a person's soul energy reached a certain limit and was even recognized by the soul of the Heavenly Daos, with their mental energy, they could control talismans from immense distances.

Moreover, those talismans could be their own or others. Legend had it that at the highest realm, a single thought could kill millions of experts.

Even in the desolate era, when the human race finally climbed up and produced endless heavenly geniuses, only a few people had reached the realm of the Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman. As for after that ancient battle, this kind of divine art basically became a legend. Whether or not it was even true was a question.

But Xia Chen was able to cause that person's talismans to detonate from across space with just a shout. That was clearly the effect of the Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman. Thus, people were aghast.

If Xia Chen even comprehended the Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman, then... People couldn't help looking at Gongsun Xuan. They finally formed a bit of doubt about his words.

Xia Chen was a peerless genius. Even the Heavenly Soul Lock Talisman that had befuddled the talisman world for countless years was solved by him. Then it seemed that solving an ancient talisman and creating an unprecedented talisman was also not that difficult for him.

On the other hand, Gongsun Xuan hadn't made any advancements in so many years. For him to suddenly become a Heavenly Talisman Master truly did seem suspicious.

Quite a few people put away their disdainful expressions and grew cautious. They stealthily fell back. Those crafty fellows felt like they had caught a scent of something out of the ordinary.

Xia Chen glared at Gongsun Ziyi. "I was very grateful to you for how well you treated me. I have always repaid kindness with kindness, enmity with enmity. You supported me, helping me in my cultivation. In return, I helped you solve so many talismans of the ancient era. You could have become Talisman Grandmasters any time you wanted. I've already repaid you for what you gave me. As the favors between us are done, let us discuss our enmities. You told me to open the sacred land and set up a trap

when I did so, trying to take my body and spirit root. There's nothing good to say about that. Today, only one of us can live to see tomorrow's sun."

Xia Chen clenched his teeth. Every word he said contained a powerful conviction. He was innately a kind person, but when a kind person was taken advantage of, they became a ferocious beast. The current him only had hatred in his heart.

Gongsun Ziyi shivered and felt a chill in her soul. She had never thought that the always-refined and amiable Xia Chen would suddenly become a wild devil.

"Hmph, such big words mean nothing! You have no proof. Whatever lies you make, they are baseless! Your lies will be uncovered later. Now that the grand formation has been activated, the three of you won't be able to escape even if you grow wings! Are you slandering me before your death just to disgust me?!" sneered Gongsun Ziyi, forcing herself to remain calm.

"Won't be able to escape even with wings?" Xia Chen raised his head and laughed. "You're right, even with wings, you won't be able to escape. Do you still remember? I told you that I was in the midst of studying the desolate era's Yin Yang Heaven Sealing Talisman. Why don't you open your eyes and look more closely? What is that talisman on the top of the formation?"

Everyone curiously looked up. They suddenly noticed that at some point, a giant translucent diagram had appeared there.

It was a Yin Yang Taiji diagram. However, because it was very translucent, it couldn't be seen without looking closely. That Taiji diagram slowly spun and that spinning seemed to contain the cadence of life.

This Taiji diagram didn't give off any aura or pressure. It didn't seem powerful at all.

However, all those that saw it had their expressions change. Legend had it that the Yin Yang Heaven Sealing Talisman was capable of sealing an entire world. Other than the actual master, no one could break it.

Unless you could exhaust an entire world's power, there was no way to forcibly break it. But if you did exhaust the world's power, it would collapse, and everyone inside would die with the world.

"Don't worry, my Yin Yang Heaven Sealing Talisman has less than a hundredth of the original talisman's power. It can't contain an entire world. It can't even contain the entire Hidden Dragon Prefecture. But it has enough power to control the Spirit Rune Pavilion's grand formation. All the formations within the Spirit Rune Pavilion have lost their effect, and their power is absorbed by the Yin Yang Heaven Sealing Talisman. If you want to leave, you'll need to break the Yin Yang Heaven Sealing Talisman. But if you do, all of that power will explode along with the Spirit Rune Pavilion's three hundred and sixty thousand formation disc foundations. Then everyone inside here will be blasted to smithereens," sneered Xia Chen.

Naturally, the three of them had come prepared. Gongsun Xuan had set down a heaven-encompassing net for Xia Chen, but Xia Chen seemed to be worried that the net wasn't strong enough, so he added another unbreakable layer.

"It seems that you have confidence in yourselves!" said Gongsun Xuan. His voice was still calm as if everything was under control.

"Of course. We're full of confidence." Long Chen finally spoke.

Xia Chen was too angry at this moment, so Long Chen had no choice but to step in. This child was too emotional, and it might affect the fighting in a moment.

Gongsun Xuan finally looked at Long Chen. He indifferently said, "I forgot about you since you weren't saying anything. I didn't expect the number one academy of the nine heavens and ten lands to make a child like you dean."

Long Chen smiled. "The future of the immortal world belongs to the young. As for old men like you who refuse to die, you act sanctimoniously while holding a belly of evil tricks. It really is a misfortune for the Spirit Rune Pavilion to be led by a pavilion master who robs men and prostitutes women! A shame, such a shame!"

"How is it a shame?" snorted Gongsun Xuan disdainfully.

"It's a shame that the Spirit Rune Pavilion could be so lucky as to survive the battle of the desolate era only to end in such a peaceful era. Don't you feel that it's a shame?" asked Long Chen.

"Haha!" Gongsun Xuan laughed. "Big words! You want to destroy my Spirit Rune Pavilion? Little brat, you don't even know that your death is at hand. Laughable."

"You say that my words are big? I feel like you're the one saying big words. You're even more arrogant than me. Those who say that my death is at hand have long since gone to see a Yama King. Let's stop wasting time with words and acts. Weren't you precisely stalling to mobilize other forces? If you use some old fellows and attack together, you can reduce the damage here to a minimum. Don't worry, I will give you ample time. Even if all of you attack at once, it's no problem. I already gave all of you your chance to survive. If you can't grasp it, don't blame me. I don't mind killing everyone in the formation. It doesn't matter what trump card you have or what sinister scheme you cooked up. Bring them all out. Today, us three brothers will show you what it means for schemes to be absolutely meaningless in front of real power." Long Chen's gaze swept over the crowd grandly.

"You really do say big words! Pavilion master, I'm sorry, but I can't wait any longer. This Long Chen's head is mine!"

Ji Wuying finally lost patience. His figure suddenly vanished from his original location.