

Chapter 3981: The Caring Mother's Sword

When the sharp Sword Qi shot out, it suffocated the three of them. Out of reflex, Long Chen was about to attack, but Yu Qianxue simply grabbed his arm and dragged him back.

"We just need to watch!" said Yu Qianxue.

Sensing the familiar aura, Zhu Yifeng reacted quickly and summoned a saber in his hand. With a powerful swing, sparks ignited and illuminated the surroundings. However, the force behind the attack was overwhelming, causing Zhu Yifeng to be sent flying out of the gate like a tumbleweed, unable to withstand the attack.

"Unfilial son! Your progress is too slow!"

As this cold shout rang out, a woman holding a sword shot toward Zhu Yifeng like a wild tempest.

"What is going on?" Long Chen was dumbfounded.

"What else? It's a mere disappointment. This fellow has always been lazy and doesn't work hard enough. Thus, he can't reach satisfactory marks in any area. It would be strange if his mother didn't get angry with him," said Yu Qianxue calmly, indifferent in the face of this strange scene. She just watched indifferently as Zhu Yifeng wept and fled miserably.

Long Chen directly understood. No wonder Zhu Yifeng had wanted the two of them to accompany him. It seemed they were there to boost his courage, as well as help plead for mercy in a bit.

On the other hand, Zhu Yifeng's mother attacked ruthlessly, her sword dancing. Zhu Yifeng was forced back repeatedly, unable to even retaliate.

Long Chen couldn't help but sigh, "A caring mother's sword leaves the child bloody as she tries to carve out his potential."

"Shut up!"

Zhu Yifeng's mother suddenly shouted. Following that, Zhu Yifeng screamed and was sent flying. Although dozens of wounds were present on his body and fresh blood was pouring out, Zhu Yifeng's mother had definitely shown mercy.

But even with that mercy, Zhu Yifeng still looked quite frightening with blood soaking his clothes.

Zhu Yifeng just stabilized himself and didn't dare to speak, his head lowered. He seemed completely terrified of this mother of his.

"I was the one who gave birth to him, so I'll discipline him as I please. Do I need you to interfere?" Zhu Yifeng's mother glared at Long Chen.

She looked to be in her thirties and appeared extremely formidable. With her battle robes, she looked very heroic.

"Even if you didn't give birth to him and just found him in the wild, would it be alright for you to beat him like that? Just because you bestowed him with life doesn't mean that you have the right to kill him, no?" said Long Chen a bit helplessly.

"Who are you?!" Zhu Yifeng's mother examined Long Chen. Only now did she realize that she didn't recognize him.

"He is my big brother! My big brother is amazing, and with him protecting me, I don't need to worry about anyone bullying me!" declared Zhu Yifeng bravely as he hid behind Long Chen's back.

"Big brother? You are a prince, but you accepted an outsider as your big brother? Do you not care about your future anymore?!"

"Mom--"

"Don't call me mom!"

"Call her big sister then!" said Long Chen speechlessly.

"Big sister--"

"I'll kill you, you little brat!" Zhu Yifeng's mother hadn't expected Zhu Yifeng to really call her that, so she raised her hand to slap him.

"Senior, why do this?" Long Chen hastily got in the way. He couldn't just let Zhu Yifeng be beaten. After all, he was his brother-in-law.

"Why?! He refuses to properly cultivate, wasting his youth! Rather than improving himself, he wastes his time on worthless activities. Just look at Qianxue! She works so hard! Then look at yourself! You're practically a spineless coward in comparison!" raged Zhu Yifeng's mother.

"Well, you can't blame Yifeng for that. Perhaps it's hereditary," said Long Chen with a smile.

"Are you saying that His Majesty isn't strong enough?!" demanded Zhu Yifeng's mother coldly.

"Perhaps he takes after you." Long Chen smiled.

"You...!"

"It's just a joke. Yifeng might just be a case of a tree taking a long time to spread roots before growing. No one can see the future. Perhaps Yifeng will suddenly soar soon?" said Long Chen.

"Exactly! Perhaps I'm only weak because my chance hasn't come yet!" With Long Chen speaking up for him, Zhu Yifeng's guts grew.

"Is this your excuse for being lazy?!"

"Senior, please calm yourself. Yifeng is not wrong. An expert becomes an expert because they have a reason to become strong. Beating him like this is not a way to force it. You can drive him for a while but not for a lifetime. In the end, your own path must be walked by yourself. In the end, the bitter wine that you brewed will be drunk by yourself. Every person has their own destiny and opportunities. You say that he refuses to improve himself, and you are comparing him to the other outstanding princes and

princesses. Then can't he compare you to the two empresses, or perhaps experts above Heaven Venerates? If you were strong enough, would he still need to work hard on cultivation? So we shouldn't just judge people based on our own viewpoint, don't you think? Everyone's goals and targets are different. It's very difficult to say who is right or wrong," advised Long Chen.

Zhu Yifeng's mother was left silent as she pondered this. She hadn't expected Long Chen to be capable of saying such a thing. Thinking about it, in all these years, she had been the one forcing Zhu Yifeng.

But if Zhu Yifeng wasn't outstanding enough, wasn't it because his mother wasn't that outstanding either?

When she reached that point in her thoughts, a great deal of her anger faded.

"Come here!"

Hearing this, Zhu Yifeng jumped in fright. He thought that his mother was going to beat him again, but he also didn't dare to disobey. He just prepared himself and walked over.

In the past, upon witnessing her son's frightened demeanor, Zhu Yifeng's mother would have grown even angrier. However, now she realized something, so she spoke in a gentle tone, "Come. Your mother has prepared new ceremonial robes for you. Your mom personally made them. Indeed, you are my son, not a tool I use to achieve my dreams and compete with others. In truth, you have always been more important than my own life. I won't force you anymore."

Zhu Yifeng's mother then helped Zhu Yifeng switch out his robes. Having never heard such kind words from his mother in his entire life, Zhu Yifeng couldn't help but cry.

"Mom!"

Zhu Yifeng looked at his mother emotionally. Ever since he was an adult, the distance between them had only grown. It was to the extent that his fear of her grew greater than his love, and calling her dragged his emotions out.

"Good child, don't cry. The banquet will start soon. Tidy yourself up or your imperial father won't be happy." Zhu Yifeng's mother wiped away his tears and comforted him, adjusting his robes.

Seeing her act like this, Yu Qianxue had a blank expression. She seemed lost in some distant memories.

"Don't worry, since Yifeng calls me big brother, I won't mistreat him. He will grow up nicely," promised Long Chen.

Zhu Yifeng's mother was about to speak when a bell suddenly rang.

"Hurry, the feast is about to start."

Chapter 3982: Taking Advantage of Weakness

The banquet hall was located in a side palace. But although it was just a side palace, it was still extravagant and glorious.

A line of beautiful imperial attendants was in charge of receiving guests and bringing them to their seats. Long Chen saw many figures wearing different kinds of robes at the gate.

“There are this many foreign diplomats today?! Heavenly Ruler Seal, Violet Lightning, Eastern Brilliance, Feather Cry... These are all enemy nations! All of them have been hostile toward us lately!” Yu Qianxue’s expression changed when she saw all these people.

Long Chen had heard of the Heavenly Ruler Seal and Violet Lightning Empires, but not the rest.

According to the empire’s customs, it was the diplomatic emissaries that were first let in. In other words, the guests were seated before the host.

Yu Qianxue then counted. There were eight diplomatic emissaries from unfriendly nations, so this banquet was not going to be fun.

When the time came, Long Chen spotted the crown prince, Zhu Yunwen, as well. The latter merely glanced coldly at Long Chen for a moment before turning away. He didn’t say anything, but Long Chen saw the hint of fear he concealed.

Clearly, the matter of him possessing five hundred and thirty-seven dragon power had reached Zhu Yunwen’s ears. As a result, none of the princes dared to underestimate Long Chen any longer.

It was unknown if it was because of Long Chen, but quite a few imperial disciples somehow chose to strike up a conversation with Yu Qianxue at this time. Although they weren’t qualified to actually enter the banquet hall, they did have seats just outside the hall.

When it came time for the princes and princesses to enter, Long Chen followed Yu Qianxue inside. To his surprise, Yu Xiaoyun, the empresses, and a few imperial concubines had arrived in advance.

When Long Chen entered, Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin smiled and nodded slightly at him. It could count as a greeting.

“Long Chen...!”

Long Chen had just walked in when a furious voice rang out. Thus, Long Chen looked over to the source of the voice and exclaimed, “Wow, the benefactor of my wealth? You already gave me the Wild Blade and the lightning tower in the three thousand worlds. Brother, what gift have you brought me this time?”

This person was precisely the Violet Thunderclap Empire’s Weng Tianyao. His lightning tower and Wild Blade were taken by Lei Linger, which was his life’s greatest humiliation. Thus, for Long Chen to immediately bring it up caused his expression to twist with fury.

“Hey, what’s with that look? This is a state banquet, so take note of your decorum! Just look at your face, it’s as wrinkled as the crotch of some pants. What? Are you constipated?” Long Chen directly threw more oil on the fire when he saw Weng Tianyao’s furious expression.

Weng Tianyao was about to explode in fury when an elder beside him stopped him. “Yao-er, don’t be rude.”

This elder was lean, and his face was covered in black spots, looking ordinary. However, there was lightning in his eyes when they opened and closed, and there seemed to be countless stars in the depths of his pupils.

As for the spots on his face, they were not ordinary spots from old age but countless runes that had condensed into spots. Although they looked dark and gloomy, they possessed immense power.

This was definitely a terrifying expert. Just from Weng Tianyao's respectful appearance, it was clear that this elder's status was not ordinary.

However, Long Chen didn't care about his status because he already spotted Yu Qingxuan in the distance.

The banquet hall's tables were all rectangular and around four feet in width, arranged to accommodate two individuals per table. At the very front of it was the table for the emperor and the imperial concubines, and next to them would be the tables for the princes and princesses.

As for Yu Qingxuan's position, it was close to the concubines. Furthermore, she wasn't together with the princes and princesses. For her to be seated with the imperial consorts, her position was clearly higher than the others of her generation.

Also, within this entire hall, there were only two tables set up for a single person. One was the emperor Yu Xiaoyun, while the other was for a stiff white-haired elder.

This elder possessed a sturdy and robust physique, contrasting with his razor-sharp tongue. However, his overall appearance was peculiar and bordering on comical, leaving a distinct impression on those who saw him.

When Long Chen saw Yu Qingxuan, his eyes brightened, and without a word, he started walking toward her.

"Hey, Long Chen, your seat is here!" Seeing Long Chen walk directly toward Yu Qingxuan, Yu Qianxue jumped, pale with fright. She tried to grab Long Chen but missed, thus, she began to sweat. Did this fellow really think that this was his home? He didn't care about any rules!

"Excuse me, big sister, may I be so bold as to ask your beautiful and kind self if we could switch seats?" Long Chen smiled at the woman seated beside Yu Qingxuan.

This woman was also a princess and was here to accompany Yu Qingxuan. Seeing Long Chen walk over and ask such a thing, she was stunned, feeling so lost that she didn't know what to say.

It had to be known that this was a state banquet, so the seats had been set up long in advance. With the seating arrangement made with the finest attention to detail, how could they just randomly switch seats? Furthermore, it was done right in front of the emperor. Was he crazy?

Yu Xiaoyun stared at Long Chen darkly, but he didn't say anything. As for Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin, they exchanged a glance and shook their heads inside. This child's head really wasn't normal. Could he not see what situation he was in?

"I..." The woman looked at the emperor and then the two empresses. After that, she stood up. Seeing them not stop her, under Long Chen's repeated thanks and gratitude, she switched seats with him and walked over to Yu Qianxue's side.

"Hehe, success." Seeing Yu Qingxuan's red face, not knowing if it was from embarrassment or panic, Long Chen stuck out two fingers as an expression of victory.

"To wear casual dress and act so frivolously during an important event, it's clear that the Vermilion Bird Empire's dignity has been ruined by people like you," said that stiff elder suddenly.

In front of the emperor, others didn't dare to open their mouths. But this elder made such a blunt appraisal right in front of him, his gaze full of disdain.

"Old fellow, let me tell you, I am no longer the old me. It would be best if you didn't speak to me, or don't blame me for not giving you face," warned Long Chen.

"Long Chen, he's Philosopher Sun..." warned Yu Qingxuan hastily.

"He can call himself whatever he wants, it doesn't matter to me. What law have I broken for wanting to sit with my wife?" Long Chen stuck his neck out at that elder.

"While you may not have violated any specific laws, your actions have shattered all notions of propriety, justice, integrity, and honor. Having disturbed the order of the ruler and his subjects, it just shows that you don't understand how to respect your seniors, and you have no sense of honor or shame. What face do you have to even sit here and talk?" said the elder expressionlessly.

The elder's words were sharp and merciless. He directly criticized Long Chen's actions in front of the emperor, clearly intent on driving him out of here.

As for everyone else, the majority of the diplomatic emissaries, princes, and princesses all felt great anticipation of this, hoping for Philosopher Sun to teach a lesson to this little fellow who didn't know how high the heavens were.

"You wish to take advantage of my weakness? I gave you too much face, didn't I? You want to play? You shameless old fellow, I'll play with you!" Long Chen sneered at the elder.

Seeing Long Chen dare to curse the Philosopher, everyone was stunned. But when they glanced at the emperor, they saw that he was expressionless, as if nothing was happening in front of him. It seemed that he had no intention of interfering.

"What... what is going on?"

Chapter 3983: Verbal Battle with a Philosopher

Just as everyone was shocked, Philosopher Sun said, "You say that I am shameless? Please tell me how I am shameless."

"Just for the words propriety, justice, integrity, and honor to come out of your mouth is the greatest shamelessness," said Long Chen lightly.

However, this elder was clearly a master debater. Even in front of Long Chen's rude accounting, his expression didn't change in the slightest.

"There is nothing wrong with a noble woman and a noble man coming together. But matters between a man and woman need the fathers and mothers to act as a go-between. For you to forcibly change seats in public in front of everyone shows a complete lack of decorum. It is shameless, it is uncouth, it is unscholarly, and it is a clear disregard of etiquette," said Philosopher Sun.

"Tch, how laughable. If everyone required their parents to act as a go-between for marriage, then tell me where you came from? Did you break free out of a stone? Cursing me is no different from cursing your ancestors, no?" sneered Long Chen.

"What nonsense. The laws of etiquette have existed since time immemorial. You lack logic, so you resort to personal attacks. It can be seen just how inferior you are. Such rotting wood cannot be carved," snorted Philosopher Sun.

"The laws of etiquette have existed since time immemorial? In the primal chaos era when humanity devoured raw meat just to avoid staring to death, when humans had no clothes to cover their bodies, according to your own logic, they should have simply died out, huh? Then none of us would exist in this world! Your ancestors had no parents acting as matchmakers, and that's the only reason they reproduced until your generation. But now you express such an opinion? You are clearly unfilial toward your ancestors. You also mentioned the order between a ruler and their subjects. His Majesty himself didn't even say anything about my actions, but you are here barking like a wild dog. As I see it, you are completely disregarding His Majesty, a complete lack of loyalty. Moreover, at your age, you can still be so shameless as to intentionally target me. It can be seen that you lack humanity as well. When targeting me, you tell me to respect my elders. You are clearly twisting logic, giving people a twisted view about life. That is unjust. You, someone who is not loyal, not just, not humane, and not filial, are sitting there shamelessly preaching to others. I have journeyed throughout the entire world, but I have never seen someone so shamelessly shameful."

Upon hearing this, everyone was silent. Long Chen had managed to unleash such a verbal assault at once, his words sharp as blades, cutting straight to the core. As a result, everyone was struck dumb.

The princes and princesses looked at him worshipfully. If before this, they wanted him to lose face, now they were on his side.

That was because Philosopher Sun often criticized them, and he was very harsh, drawing their ire. Now that Long Chen had cursed him so thoroughly, they were all happy.

On the other hand, Yu Xiaoyun, Jiang Huixin, and Xu Lanxin were expressionless, but their sealed-tight mouths sold them out. They clearly wanted to laugh. Finally, the Philosopher Sun who was said to possess an unmatched tongue had met his match, and he was even cursed black and blue.

"You...!"

Philosopher Sun was enraged. Long Chen was clearly twisting logic, but his counterattack was ruthless. If Philosopher Sun wanted to resolve his points, he would need to do so one by one.

However, if he were to do so, that would reduce him to the point of discussing the Dao with Long Chen. But how could he, a grand Philosopher, be reduced to that point against him? Destroying Long Chen's points one by one wouldn't match his status.

"Hmph, the human race's progress only continues forward. When did the wheel of history ever go backward? I can't be bothered to explain such things to you. You say that I am not loyal? Tell me, which is the greatest, heaven, earth, ruler, family, or master?"

"Tch, you can't answer, so you just change the topic? You're just drawing me into your most skilled domain and using your incomparably thick idiotic experience to defeat me, right? I know that whichever one I choose, you have traps waiting for me. But I don't believe such nonsense, so I'll say whatever I want. In my opinion, the earth is the greatest," said Long Chen.

In this case, the heavens referred to the Heavenly Daos, the earth referred to the father and mother, the ruler was the emperor, family meant blood relatives, and the master meant the master who raised you.

Heaven, earth, ruler, family, master. There were several rankings for them, but the first two never changed. The heavens were what gave birth to all things, while humans were all born from a father and mother. Without them, you would not exist. Thus, in all rankings, heaven was first and earth was second.

As for the rest, sometimes the ruler was third, and sometimes the master was third. Amongst cultivators, the master was third. While the parents gave birth to them, it was the master who gave them the chance to change their fates.

Amongst the scholars though, they would place the ruler as third, because without a powerful ruler, a nation would crumble. Without a powerful ruler, the people would have no assurance of safety.

If there was no nation, then naturally there would be no family. Thus, to Philosopher Sun, the most obvious order would be heaven, earth, ruler, family, and then master.

"Are you aware that if you marry the princess, you will need to marry into the imperial family? Your children will have the imperial surname?" asked Philosopher Sun.

"I am aware and I am willing," said Long Chen.

Philosopher Sun smiled slightly and then looked at the wall. After pointing at the sunflowers in the murals, he said, "The golden disc shows off its brilliance as it soaks in the sun's rays, but it completely forgets the favor of all the rain that raised it. All it thinks about is its own rapid growth."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin's expressions changed. Yu Qingxuan in particular was enraged. Philosopher Sun was insulting Long Chen, saying that if he was to marry her, it would be for glory and riches. He even went so far as to say that Long Chen was forgetting his duty to his parents, that since his children would not have his surname, he was an unfilial son.

In front of his insults, Long Chen simply sneered and pointed toward the mural as well. Spotting a giant willow tree with two birds on it, Long Chen instantly thought of Liu Ruyan.

"Willow leaves are thin like silk, hanging off the branches in the thousands. The crow clamors, its cawing pleasing only to itself."

In truth, those birds were brown, so they weren't crows. But if Philosopher Sun was going to use the murals to attack him, Long Chen would directly counterattack.

What did an old fellow who refused to die know about love? All he knew how to do was chatter. As for the viewpoint of the secular world, Long Chen didn't care at all. His feelings were something only he and his lovers needed to know.

Long Chen then looked at Yu Qingxuan. As expected, she was looking back at him. When their gazes met, it felt like they could see the depths of each other's hearts. That unhesitating trust was the most precious thing.

In truth, in terms of creative literature, Long Chen's counterattack was clearly inferior to Philosopher Sun's. However, Philosopher Sun had been the one to attack first and had prepared himself, while Long Chen only replied casually. Thus, it could be said to be even. As a result, people were quite surprised by Long Chen's quick reactions. They knew that cultivators rarely had such literary grace.

Philosopher Sun snorted. "Hmph, I also have a verse about willows: wild branches whip through the air like blades, bringing chaos. The wild leaves cover the sun and moon, concealing the light of heaven and earth."

"I am wild? How laughable. Just now you said that I was using personal attacks, but aren't you doing the same now? As I see it, you are even more inferior than before. But if you want to play, I'll accompany you."

Long Chen looked around and suddenly raised the teapot on the table. After that, he looked at Philosopher Sun, then at the teapot, and then back again before suddenly exclaiming, "It couldn't be that you're a teapot that achieved sentience, or are you?"

The stiff-faced Philosopher Sun appeared fat, and as he settled into a seated position, his face seemed even fatter. Upon closer observation, Long Chen couldn't help but draw parallels between Philosopher Sun's visage and that of a teapot. The longer he scrutinized them, the more striking their resemblance became.

Upon hearing this, quite a few people were unable to hold back their laughter. That was because their appearance was truly similar.

In an instant, Philosopher Sun's expression grew unsightly. Flames almost burst out of his eyes.

Chapter 3984: Eyes Growing Out of Your Butt

Philosopher Sun's fortitude was clearly much greater than his disciples'. Although flames of anger were about to burst out of his head, he didn't curse back.

He had already given his parable and taken the advantage. If he were to instead end up quibbling with Long Chen over this matter, he would appear to be lacking self-cultivation.

Long Chen waved the teapot and smiled. "Sharp mouth, big belly, high ears, it comes to the dragon table proudly. But compared to the vast sea, it is ultimately too small to carry anything. It can only be used to cause a splash."

This was Long Chen's true response. Upon hearing this, everyone stared at him in shock. He truly had talent in this regard.

He was mocking Philosopher Sun for thinking himself great just because he sat in his position, while inside, he was lacking anything substantial. In fact, his final sentence was clearly saying that he didn't have much learning and was only showing off whatever abilities he had. It was the exact case of a half-empty bottle making the most noise.

Philosopher Sun's expression sank. For a moment, he was unable to find a reply.

The emperor, empresses, and concubines were all stunned. As for the princes and princesses, they were already prostrating themselves toward Long Chen in admiration. In this empire, matching wits with a Philosopher of this caliber was likely akin to facing off against a formidable three-flower expert.

"To not reciprocate is against etiquette. You say that me wearing a casual dress for an important event is against etiquette. But you have no idea what the true meaning of my clothes is, and I can't be bothered to explain it to you. Since you care so much about my clothes, I will use clothing as a response," sneered Long Chen.

Long Chen's gaze then roved across the room. He suddenly saw a woman in the murals who was working hard on embroidery with a needle in her hand, her head lowered over her work.

The needle in her hand was golden with a silver tip. It was precisely the kind of precious needle that imperial maidens used.

"A silver needle soaked in gold, weaving up and down the fabric. Eyes growing out of your butt, seeing only clothing, not people."

People were left dumbfounded. Long Chen was truly a vicious character. Was he really planning on fighting Philosopher Sun to the death without leaving the slightest leeway?

Just before, he had said that Philosopher Sun wasn't qualified for his position, and now he was even more direct, saying that the latter was short-sighted. No matter how much the imperial family cared about him, a needle was still just a needle. Even if it was gilded in gold and painted with silver, it was just a needle. There was nothing for him to be proud of.

Just now, Philosopher Sun had used the sunflower to say that Long Chen was attempting to climb through society by forgetting his parents, and he utilized the willow to say that Long Chen was wild and conceited, saying that he would face his retribution sooner or later. But Long Chen's counterattack was even sharper than a blade.

As a result, Philosopher Sun was so enraged that he stood up and pointed at Long Chen, his whole body shaking with rage. However, Long Chen simply ignored him, pouring a cup of tea for Yu Qingxuan. He didn't even look at Philosopher Sun, as if telling him to continue responding.

"Long Chen, you are being rude to Philosopher Sun. Quickly apologize." At this time, Jiang Huixin suddenly spoke up.

She had no choice but to speak. It was because the banquet had yet to even start, but the atmosphere was already like this.

Long Chen looked at her. Although she was chiding him, he could see the encouragement and support in her eyes. She was very pleased with his beating of Philosopher Sun.

How could Long Chen not know what she meant? He smiled and said, "Hey, my little son- no, sorry, I misspoke, cough, Philosopher Sun..."

Pfft!

Yu Xiaoyun was in the midst of drinking tea, but he spat it out when he heard this.

"Your Majesty!" rebuked Jiang Huixin.

"Sorry... cough, it wasn't on purpose," said Yu Xiaoyun awkwardly.

Jiang Huixin glared at him before looking away. An emperor of a nation spat out tea during a state banquet? That was a loss of the state's dignity.

"Long Chen, keep going..." Yu Xiaoyun hastily redirected everyone's attention to Long Chen.

"Ah, Philosopher Sun, I'm sorry. You know, as a person, my mouth is faster than my head. Maybe I said something wrong, so I hope you won't mind. This can just count as friends fighting, no? Next time, why don't we exchange pointers again when we're alone?" apologized Long Chen.

He naturally had to listen to his mother-in-law as he was still hoping for her to support him.

"Hmph, do you think that I would quibble with a baby like you?" Philosopher Sun snorted and sat back down.

However, many people could hear that he was afraid. Long Chen had managed to get the last word. In essence, Philosopher Sun had lost.

Seeing Long Chen apologize gratified Yu Qingxuan as she understood Long Chen's temper the best. A person who could force Long Chen to concede had yet to be born.

However, for her, Long Chen was willing to apologize. She knew that this was something that betrayed his principles. Of everyone present, only she knew just how proud of a person Long Chen was.

All of a sudden, she reached out her hand and held Long Chen's, startling him. Yu Qingxuan had taken the initiative. When he looked into her eyes, his heart warmed, but he also felt a pang of guilt.

This little concession was nothing compared to her undergoing a thousand reincarnations for him. What he owed her could not be repaid in this life or even ten lives after.

As their gazes locked, this short moment felt like an eternity. They didn't even hear when the feast started or what the emperor was saying. It was only when the attendants started placing food on their table that they were drawn out of their stupor.

The two of them then smiled and started eating. At this banquet, the wine flowed freely and the food was excellent. There was also entertainment, with singers and dancers. Long Chen even asked Yu Qingxuan why they hadn't invited the fairies of the Zither Sect over.

Hearing this question, Yu Qingxuan almost burst into laughter. Did he really think that the Zither Sect could be asked to play just for anyone? Only then did Long Chen understand that the Zither Sect didn't even place the imperial family in their eyes. If they wanted to play for them, they would. If they didn't, nothing could make them play.

"Long Chen, your little debate just now was very marvelous. I didn't expect that your mouth was not at all inferior to your fists," said someone suddenly.

The one speaking was an expert from the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire and a true Double Supreme at that. Even though he was smiling at Long Chen, that smile didn't reach his eyes.

"If you have something to say, just say it. There's no need to set up a whole stage. We're all busy. If you want to talk, let's talk. If you want to fight, then I'll happily accompany you." Long Chen picked up a napkin and wiped his mouth, looking at this guy indifferently.

He knew that the good show was just starting. At the same time though, he smelled something off. It seemed that now he would learn why the emperor had invited him to this state banquet.

Chapter 3985: Ignorant Fellow

Long Chen's response lacked any politeness, but there was no need for him to be polite.

In the three thousand worlds, his Dragon Roars at the Nine Heavens had killed countless experts, including the people of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire. As a result, the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire definitely wouldn't be his ally.

As soon as that person spoke to him, Long Chen knew that he was up to something. Thus, Long Chen refused to act courteously.

However, that expert didn't seem to mind and kept smiling. "I heard just now that you wanted to sit with your wife? Are you deriding Princess Qingxuan as your wife?"^[1]

Long Chen curled his lips. "With your little bit of ability, don't come out and embarrass yourself. With your little intelligence, do you wish to challenge my relationship with Qingxuan? This term exists in the mortal world and the immortal world. The meaning is to stay together for a lifetime until you're both old and white-haired. If you wish to challenge me, I'd advise you to pick another direction. People should know their own limits, or they will only be asking to be bullied.

Even after this chiding, that expert's expression didn't change. "Then tell me, how did my Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire offend you? Why did you kidnap my seventeenth brother? And why did you kill my empire's experts?"

"Because the weather wasn't bad that day!" responded Long Chen directly.

"You...!" That expert finally lost control, and killing intent exploded out of him.

"What you? I already told you to get to the point. Whether you represent yourself or your Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire, I will accompany you. A martial competition or a scholarly competition, you can pick one. If you want to play, let's play," Long Chen shrugged indifferently.

Without his heart-devil, Long Chen had no misgivings about anything, so he did whatever he wanted. It was like he had returned to his youth and had no misgivings at all.

That expert was about to reply when an elder by his side stopped him. The elder said, "Let us put aside the matter of children for now. Your Majesty Xiaoyun, I wish to ask you, why has your noble army repeatedly provoked and attacked the people of my empire? Today, I invited the Violet Thunderclap, Eastern Brilliance, Feather Cry, and the other empires' diplomats to hear a satisfactory response."

This question infuriated the people from the Vermillion Bird Empire. Previously, they could be considered friendly neighbors with the Heavenly Ruler Seal, but it was clear that the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire had cast its side to the Violet Thunderclap Empire. Moreover, they were the ones causing trouble on the border, and they were also the ones to attack first. The Vermilion Bird Empire only counterattacked when they invaded the border.

But now, the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire actually acted like the victims. That was absolutely shameless. It was like a thief crying, "Stop thief!"

All eight empires' had sent diplomats here as the representatives of eight major empires. However, this was no diplomatic mission; it was clearly bullying.

"What are you saying? The scuffles on the border are just two nations training together and mutually raising each other. Why have you elevated this to a concern for our nations?" responded Jiang Huixin on Yu Xiaoyun's behalf.

Long Chen glanced at Yu Xiaoyun, seeing him drinking wine with his head down as if he hadn't heard anything. Long Chen couldn't help finding it curious. With Yu Xiaoyun's temper, shouldn't he be directly exploding at this moment?

"My mom set up a screening formation around him. Due to his cultivation technique, his temper is fierce, so Mom set up this formation to screen his six senses. They're already used to acting like this. Dad always acts like this in such moments, leaving these things to my mom and second mom," transmitted Yu Qingxuan.

Only then did Long Chen understand. He already knew that there was no way someone like Yu Xiaoyun would be able to endure such a thing.

"Exchanging pointers? Empress, your words really are interesting. In the last few years, the Vermilion Bird Empire has been focusing more and more on the martial side while abandoning the learning side. You are clearly raising your combat power for war! It is precisely due to this that matters between our two empires have grown increasingly tense. If we have to trace the source of this friction, we can only conclude that it stems from your side! Tell me, Master Gongzhi, did I say anything wrong?" That elder actually turned to look at Philosopher Sun.

Philosopher Sun's surname was Sun, but his given name was Gongzhi. In the Vermilion Bird Empire, the majority of people called him Philosopher Sun, and only people from outside the empire would call him something else.

Shockingly, Philosopher Sun nodded. "The Vermilion Bird Empire has truly been focusing on martial arts too much lately, leaving a heavy atmosphere over the empire. Rather than focusing on learning to better

themselves, the people are focusing on fighting. With that, they are unable to control the greed and avarice in their hearts. I also share the blame over this matter.”

Long Chen was stunned. What was he doing? Joining the other side? This was clearly throwing the empire into the other side’s trap, and it was such an obvious trap as well.

“The Vermilion Bird Empire has been increasing its number of cultivators to the point that it is a serious threat to my Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire’s peace. We argue for what is right, but instead we are slaughtered by your respected nation. Do you have anything to say that explains your actions?” demanded the elder righteously.

“To use literature to reach the Dao, to spread a culture of learning throughout the land is the true King Dao. However, the current Vermilion Bird Empire is focusing entirely on martial arts, causing people’s hearts to be war-like. People then grow violent and fickle. Even in this state banquet, there are people who don’t understand etiquette or the ways of the world. They make a fool of themselves, a waste of the Vermilion Bird’s blessing. Your Majesty truly must revitalize the empire’s culture!” declared Philosopher Sun.

In the end, he even dragged Long Chen into his words, causing Long Chen’s temper to instantly explode. He snorted, “This world really is unjust. How do idiots manage to live for so long? Do they spend their entire lives cultivating their face? I’ve seen shameless people, but not someone as shameless as you. You eat the Vermilion Bird Empire’s food, drink the Vermilion Bird Empire’s wine, and benefit from the greatest status and wealth here, yet you side with some outsiders. Fuck, some people really are less than a dog! At the very least, a dog knows not to bite its master!”

“You... you little brat, what right do you have to speak at this time?!” raged Philosopher Sun, standing and shouting at Long Chen furiously.

“You... you ignorant old fellow, you dare to bark like a dog here?!” Long Chen also stood and cursed back at Philosopher Sun.

Seeing this scene, Yu Qianxue, Zhu Yifeng, and the others almost cheered. This cursing was truly satisfactory. They felt their own blood heating up.

“The other side has forced their way all the way to our gates, yet you are still so blind and do not understand the situation. All you know is how to help other dogs eat crap. Did you grow up on crap? Is that why your mouth is so smelly?” After cursing Philosopher Sun, Long Chen’s gaze roved across the experts present. He sneered, “What does the Vermilion Bird Empire’s focus on literature or martial arts have to do with any of you? Do you think you have the right to interfere? Who do you think you are to tell our Vermilion Bird Empire what to do?”

The Minghong Saber suddenly appeared on Long Chen’s back. He patted the hilt and shouted, “If anyone wants to fight, let’s fight! Anyone from your junior generation, come out and let’s have a fight to the death!”

In an instant, sharp killing intent filled the entire banquet hall, so cold that it gave people goosebumps.

^[1] The term being used for wife here can be split into two words: old grandmother.

Chapter 3986: Trap

"Do you see? This is the result of focusing too much on martial arts. Instead of talking reason, you just want to use violence. Violence cannot solve problems. We have managed to develop our culture to this point, but you are still using the most primitive, barbaric methods to deal with issues!" raged Philosopher Sun.

"Pure nonsense. Your so-called culture is nothing more than a thin veil over your barbaric, hypocritical self. You, a so-called cultured person, think yourselves superior and can pass judgment on everything, like you should be the ones to decide other people's fates. Do you think you are some kind of saint? I spit on you. Our enemies have come to our door, and you are still helping them speak. You dare to eat our food while working for the other side? You dare to be so wanton? Have you gotten so used to peace that you've forgotten the essence of this world? People can talk reason with other people, but can they talk reason with animals? You, someone who hasn't even roamed the entire Vermilion Bird Empire, dare to speak of a worldview? Have you seen the ghouls from hell? Have you seen the devils of the devil world? Have you seen the ten thousand races? You haven't seen jackshit. Did you think reading a few books would allow you to understand the universe? Hmph, I've read more books than you've ever seen. What right do you have to be arrogant? The essence of this world is that if there is reason to speak of, we can talk reason, and if there is no reason to speak of, we can only talk with our fists. As for your so-called culture? It's a high-sounded excuse for the wolf to eat the sheep. The bloody greedy nature hasn't changed at all. You, an old fogey who doesn't understand anything, wish to stall the development of an empire. Did you think that when devils, ghosts, demons, and monsters come to slaughter you, they will listen to your foolish rambling?"

Long Chen's voice grew louder and louder until the entire palace was shaking. Moreover, his icy killing intent made this place seem like a bloody battlefield.

"You... you... pfft!"

Philosopher Sun suddenly coughed up blood and passed out, but someone immediately caught him. He found that Philosopher Sun was only unconscious. However, it was unknown if it was from anger or fright.

"No matter how loud you talk, it means nothing. You can't scare anyone. Also, I don't know what you are intending. Do you represent the attitude of the Vermilion Bird Empire?" asked the elder of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire.

"Long Chen is currently a commoner of my Vermilion Bird Empire. And for a regular commoner to possess such great vision, how could my imperial family be so short-sighted? The Vermilion Bird Empire has no wild ambitions of expanding our territory or bullying others. We only want to get stronger to protect our people. No matter how the future changes, no matter if our enemies are devils, ghosts, demons, or monsters, we will have the power to protect every single person in the empire. They will not need to set foot onto the cruel battlefield," said Jiang Huixin lightly.

She was clearly supporting Long Chen. This was why she had demanded Long Chen to participate in the state banquet. Thus, despite Yu Xiaoyun's objections, she still gave the command for Long Chen to be summoned.

In the end, Long Chen didn't betray her expectations. He fearlessly expressed words that might have been difficult for the imperial family to say, cursing their opponents on her behalf.

After all, Long Chen didn't have to worry about his status, so he could curse or attack anyone he wanted. What he had said caused Jiang Huixin to cheer for him inside even though she couldn't express it.

"Well said. Then how are you going to guarantee that after you get stronger, you won't bully the neighboring empires?" demanded that young Double Supreme from the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire.

"Are you saying that the Vermilion Bird Empire must cripple themselves for you to feel at peace?" sneered Long Chen.

"Ignoring everything else, the first thing would be to hand you over, you bastard! Otherwise, the Vermilion Bird Empire should just wait to be greeted with swords!" At this time, Weng Tianyao stood up.

"You're the bastard! You're practically bullying us!" Before Long Chen replied, Zhu Yifeng was already roaring. Although he hadn't been with Long Chen for long, he felt great admiration for Long Chen, to the extent that it was even somewhat worshipful. He couldn't help himself when Long Chen was insulted like this.

This caused all the princes and princesses to be startled. The always cowardly Zhu Yifeng who had never dared to lift his head actually drew all the attention to himself at this time.

When Zhu Yifeng stood up for Long Chen, his mother's eyes lit up with a touch of pride. This was what a man should be like.

"So what? If you don't like it, let's fight!" Weng Tianyao sneered and stood.

Long Chen's heart skipped a beat. He was about to stop it, but Zhu Yifeng was already responding. "Come!"

Long Chen immediately cursed inside. Zhu Yifeng was not a match for Weng Tianyao. Moreover, Weng Tianya had intentionally set a trap for Zhu Yifeng, taking advantage of the latter's impulsiveness, which clouded his judgment at the moment.

"Weng Tianyao, you are quite despicable! If you have the guts, come at me!" Long Chen glared at Weng Tianyao, his killing intent blazing.

"He's the one who agreed to it. If he's afraid of death, he can back out. I won't force him to fight. However, hehe, I know that the Vermilion Bird Empire's people care a great deal about face. If he can be so shameless as to renege on his agreement, I won't mind it!" sneered Weng Tianyao.

"Every man in the Vermilion Bird Empire is a real man capable of holding up the heavens. We don't take back our word. I, Zhu Yifeng, am an imperial disciple with the Jiuli bloodline of my ancestors. Even if I fight to the death, I will not frown!" declared Zhu Yifeng angrily.

Long Chen began to panic inside. This foolish child, what happened to his calmness? Did he not know his own limits? But this matter was now linked to the royal family's face, so there was no way for Long Chen to stop him.

“Hurry up and think of a way to stop this fool. Weng Tianyao will kill him!” transmitted Long Chen to Yu Qingxuan.

Long Chen had fought Weng Tianyao before and knew his true power. In his estimation, not even three Zhu Yifengs would be enough to beat one Weng Tianyao.

“Your Majesty, please open the martial stage. Why not let my Violet Thunderclap Empire exchange pointers with your Vermilion Bird Empire? It can count as dinner entertainment,” said the elder beside Weng Tianyao.

Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin’s expressions were ugly. They looked at Yu Xiaoyun, and he said, “Prepare the stage. Let me see whose guts are bigger.”

That final sentence was clearly a threat. On the surface, it was praise for Zhu Yifeng’s bravery, while on the other side, it was a warning to Weng Tianyao. If he really had the guts, he could try to kill his son.

“Long Chen, don’t worry. No matter how powerful Weng Tianyao is, he won’t dare to kill Zhu Yifeng,” comforted Yu Qingxuan.

“Foolish girl, you’re thinking too simply. Weng Tianyao truly does dare to kill Zhu Yifeng. He could simply claim that it was an accidental death, citing that blades have no eyes. With the eight nations present, it’s evident they came prepared. Perhaps they wish to kill Yifeng to test the Vermilion Bird Empire’s response. Unless the emperor is willing to wage war against all eight empires at once, he will have no choice but to swallow this. However, if the Vermilion Bird Empire wishes to start a war, they must have a justifiable reason. Going to war solely due to an accidental death from a mutually agreed-upon combat would only fuel rumors that the empire is acting out of pettiness and without a just cause. Such actions could stain their reputation as sore losers. But if you don’t go to war, it will be a serious blow to the empire’s morale. That’s why these fellows are extremely vicious,” said Long Chen darkly.

Only then did Yu Qingxuan realize that she had been thinking too simply. But it was at this moment that a circular design lit up at the center of the banquet hall, and a martial stage appeared inside.

Suddenly, two rays of light shot out of the martial stage, sucking in Weng Tianyao and Zhu Yifeng.

Chapter 3987: Treacherous Little Person

When the ancient martial stage appeared at the center of the hall, countless runes lit up throughout the room, causing the entire hall to become as bright as day.

However, this stage was just a projection that gave people a feeling of being right on stage.

At this moment, two rays of light entered the stage; they were Weng Tianyao and Zhu Yifeng. But before their figures even landed on the stage, divine light already erupted out of them. Zhu Yifeng roared and flames burst out of him. As the mark of the Vermilion Bird appeared on his saber, he slashed it at Weng Tianyao.

BOOM!

Lightning exploded. Within the flames, Zhu Yifeng coughed up blood as he was defeated in one move.

When the lightning faded, people saw that Weng Tianyao hadn't even taken out a weapon. With his bare hands, he blocked Zhu Yifeng's divine weapon, shocking everyone, including Long Chen.

"His thunderforce has improved again. It's dozens of times stronger than it was in the three thousand worlds, so his power is now comparable to Long Aotian and Kun Tu."

No wonder Weng Tianyao had still come here despite knowing that Long Chen would be here. He had decided to make up for his previous defeat.

"This is a prince of the Vermilion Bird Empire? The great Jiuli bloodline? Are you sure that your father is the emperor?" Weng Tianyao looked at Zhu Yifeng disdainfully.

Hearing this, Zhu Yifeng was enraged. This was a provocation toward the entire imperial family and was the greatest insult to his mother.

"Die!"

The flames around Zhu Yifeng suddenly exploded in power, forming a giant image of the Vermilion Bird. That was the specific mark of the imperial family.

As soon as this illusory figure appeared, an ancient aura burst into existence and Zhu Yifeng's entire body was enveloped by divine flames. He appeared like a battle god of fire.

After channeling all of his power into one attack, Zhu Yifeng's saber hacked down with explosive might.

BOOM!

When this saber fell, the entire martial stage was cut in two, proof that his power was truly astonishing.

However, what made Long Chen speechless was that Zhu Yifeng was unable to lock down his opponent. As a result, Weng Tianyao simply dodged. To Long Chen, such an attack was essentially meaningless.

Weng Tianyao's smile widened. He easily dodged just by stepping aside, and then his hand reached out like lightning toward Zhu Yifeng's neck.

On the other hand, Zhu Yifeng was shocked to see his attack miss. He then tried to parry the attack with his saber, but it was already too late. He could only step back. However, when he did, his hand turned numb and his saber landed in Weng Tianyao's hand. Apparently, Weng Tianyao's sudden attack had been a feint, and his true goal was to take the saber.

"This is the prince of the Vermilion Bird Empire? Hmph, you can't even last a single move against me." Weng Tianyao pointed Zhu Yifeng's saber at him but looked at Long Chen. "Return my Wild Blade and lightning tower, and I'll spare his life."

However, before Long Chen could reply, Zhu Yifeng roared. With a flame blade in his hand, he attacked Weng Tianyao.

"The Vermilion Bird Empire's warriors are heroes who dare to fight to the death! There are no cowards afraid of dying among us!"

Zhu Yifeng somehow lacked any of his normal cowardice and small guts. Despite clearly knowing that he wasn't a match for Weng Tianyao, he still fought to the last breath.

“Since you want to die so badly, you can’t blame me.” Weng Tianyao smiled sinisterly. He was just like a hungry wolf staring at a sheep throwing itself at him.

“Weng Tianyao-” Long Chen shot toward the martial stage, knowing that he was going to kill Zhu Yifeng.

However, as soon as he got close to the martial stage, a screen of light appeared in front of Long Chen. He then felt space twist around him, and he returned to his original seat.

Just then, startled cries rang out. Zhu Yifeng’s saber pierced through his body, and blood flowed down his chest, soaking his robes red.

Weng Tianyao just smiled sinisterly and poured his thunderforce throughout Zhu Yifeng’s body, destroying his meridians. Even if Zhu Yifeng didn’t die, he would be crippled.

“Weng Tianyao!”

Seeing this scene, Long Chen was shaking with rage. Weng Tianyao didn’t dare to fight him, so he attacked someone else. This was intolerable. As for the other princes and princesses, they were also infuriated. Weng Tianyao was too sinister. Whether it was his mouth or his methods, they were all infuriating.

“Prince Yifeng was truly powerful. I greatly admire his boldness. However, swords and blades have no eyes. You can’t blame me.”

At this moment, Weng Tianyao put on an act as if he hadn’t just done this on purpose. But that sinister smile on his face had long since said everything that needed to be said.

When Weng Tianyao let go, Zhu Yifeng collapsed on the ground, his body paralyzed.

Buzz.

Suddenly, the martial stage quivered, transporting Zhu Yifeng and Weng Tianyao out. But to everyone’s surprise, when Zhu Yifeng came out, the saber was already out of his body, and he didn’t seem injured or weakened at all. It was as if he was fine.

“What?”

Even Weng Tianyao was stunned. Although that attack had seemed to be just a simple stab of the saber, all his energy had been transmitted into Zhu Yifeng’s body secretly. In other words, he had planned on leaving Zhu Yifeng with an intact corpse.

After a moment of shock, Long Chen suddenly turned toward where the concubines were. As expected, he saw that Zhu Yifeng’s mother was pale, and blood slowly leaked out of her mouth.

“Mom!”

At this moment, Zhu Yifeng didn’t care about the palace’s etiquette and directly ran over to his mother. Seeing her state, he instantly understood that she had used some kind of substitution art to help him block that killing blow.

Zhu Yifeng was shocked and enraged, as well as aggrieved and ashamed. He hated himself for being powerless and even implicated his mother.

"My son, don't cry... you did very well today. You were like a real man, and mom is very proud." His mother's face was as pale as paper. His aura was unstable, but she was still smiling proudly.

"Quickly bring my concubine to heal!" shouted Yu Xiaoyun, his expression dark. Moreover, killing intent roiled in his eyes as if it might explode at any moment.

Zhu Yifeng's mother was quickly brought away. Looking at her condition, it seemed to be a serious wound, which left many people feeling worried.

The princes and princesses glared at Weng Tianyao, but he just shrugged innocently. "If your skills are inferior, you shouldn't blame others. This is a world where the strong are respected. Whoever's fist is stronger is who is right. If you are weak, don't blame others for being strong. If a mantis tries to block a chariot, if an ant tries to shake a tree, it will pay the price."

Weng Tianyao's arrogant and fearless appearance was exceptionally enraging. This was clearly using the power of all eight empires to provoke them.

BANG!

Suddenly, Long Chen gripped the Minghong Saber on his back. He coldly said, "So you mean to say that you think you are very powerful? Then let's play! If you can block three moves from me, I, Long Chen, will kill myself right here in this hall!"

When Long Chen said this, every expert present jumped in shock, staring at Long Chen in disbelief.

Chapter 3988: Complete Defeat

Long Chen's voice was like thunder echoing throughout the hall, as if to make sure everyone heard him clearly. It was precisely because of this that everyone was so shocked.

The emperor and the empresses were also shocked by this statement, as even experts on their level had misjudged Weng Tianyao's power. His thunderforce had already reached the point of returning to the true essence.

Although Weng Tianyao had not unleashed any of his true power, just the ease with which he caught a divine weapon barehanded showed that his power was unfathomable.

However, Long Chen actually dared to say that he would defeat such a genius within three moves, betting his own life on the line. Did he really have such assurance?

The princes and princesses were especially moved as Long Chen's domineering will filled the room. They had never seen someone so domineering before.

On the other hand, Weng Tianyao was shocked and enraged as Long Chen was clearly looking down on him. Actually, he had come to wipe away his previous humiliation, but when Long Chen said that he would kill him within three moves, the fear deep within his heart was triggered.

After all, back in the three thousand worlds, he had been completely crushed, along with his confidence and pride.

Thus, when he returned to the Violet Thunderclap Empire, Weng Taibei personally brought him to a secret realm to train, which caused his power to undergo a qualitative leap. After that, when he heard that Long Chen was in the Vermilion Bird Empire, he directly came with the diplomatic envoy, wanting to fight Long Chen again and avenge his defeat.

However, this bet from Long Chen successfully triggered the fear in his heart, causing him to feel numb. This was the heart-devil that Long Chen had given him after crushing him.

“What? You don’t dare? Did your guts break after I whooped your ass in the three thousand worlds? If three moves is too many, then we can do one move. If you can last one move against me, I’ll kill myself right here and now. How’s that? Don’t tell me that you still don’t dare,” said Long Chen coldly.

“One move?!”

Everyone’s eyes almost popped out upon hearing this. Had Long Chen gone crazy? Killing Weng Tianyao in one move?

“You are courting death! I-”

“Silence.” Just as Weng Tianyao was unable to endure it anymore and wanted to agree, the elder beside him stopped him. “This is a friendly exchange of pointers, so how can it be turned into a personal duel for selfish reasons? Yao-er, it was wrong of you to lose control and injure someone. Hurry and apologize to His Majesty.”

Weng Tianyao seemed afraid of this elder. Although he didn’t know why the elder would do this, he still bowed to the emperor and said some nonsense about how it was an accident. However, everyone knew that it was a big fat lie.

The elder then turned to Long Chen and indifferently said, “You are nothing more than a commoner, so you should take note of your status. In this place, the Vermilion Bird Empire can protect you. But once you leave the empire, you are nothing. Since you’re here talking asylum, you should know how to tuck your tail in and be an obedient dog.”

That provocation actually made Long Chen smile. “It’s true, compared to yourselves, I don’t have the experience of acting like a dog for a lifetime. I wouldn’t dare to compare myself to you in that regard. You wish to anger me? You wish to drive a wedge? You should give it up. You’re here to support Weng Tianyao, right?”

“Of course. As his master, I will naturally support my apprentice,” said the elder with a smile.

Long Chen also smiled. “Then I’ll just say this. If I, Long Chen, want to kill someone, there is no one in this world who can stop me.”

“Hahaha, then I’ll eagerly await you.” The elder laughed as if he had just heard the world’s funniest joke.

“Long Chen...” Yu Qingxuan held Long Chen’s hand, afraid that he was going to do something foolish and fall into their trap. The eight empires had clearly come prepared to attack them.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the banquet hall was very tense, and the princes and princesses were all enraged, filled with righteous indignation. These diplomats had gone too far.

"It seems that the last battle wasn't very good. Why not have this prince come out and experience the teachings of your Vermilion Bird royal family?" At this moment, an expert from the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire stood.

Clearly, he was excluding Long Chen with his challenge as Long Chen was not a member of the royal family.

"I will exchange some pointers with you."

At this moment, the icy Yu Qianxue stood. She had long since been nursing a bellyful of fire.

"Princess Qianxue's name is well known, but I just wonder whether that is all you have," said that Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire expert.

"There's no need to exchange words. Let's just talk with our true abilities!" shouted Yu Qianxue.

The two of them then entered the martial stage. When Yu Qingxuan's sword came out of her sheath, flames erupted. She immediately unleashed her most explosive attack.

However, Yu Qianxue only managed to take the advantage for three moves. Seeing this scene, Long Chen shook his head. Yu Qianxue's power did not to be questioned, but her actual perception in combat was extremely lacking. She clearly lacked actual combat experience, so she wasn't actually much stronger than Zhu Yifeng.

As expected, on the fifth move, the counterattack was launched and her initiative was obliterated. She was then sent flying by the ninth move.

Just as that expert of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire was about to launch a vicious blow, the two were sent out of the martial stage.

"Qianxue, you've lost," announced Yu Xiaoyun coldly.

Hearing this, Yu Qianxue bit her lip, and her eyes were a bit red. However, she had no choice but to admit that she had lost.

Long Chen looked from Yu Xiaoyun to Zhu Yifeng who was clenching his teeth furiously. He seemed to understand something.

Following that, the experts from the eight empires took turns challenging the Vermilion Bird Empire's princes and princesses. As a result, other than the crown prince Zhu Yunwen, who barely managed to hold on against his opponent for over a hundred exchanges, everyone else lost within ten moves.

Now, all those princes and princesses had ugly expressions. They couldn't even look at Yu Xiaoyun anymore. This time, they had lost all their faces.

Sixteen battles ended in sixteen utter defeats. Compared to these experts, they were practically nothing.

"Princess Qingxuan, I heard that your master is the master of the Blazing Heaven Divine Sect. Would you be willing to exchange pointers with this little brother?" Another expert of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire stood up, his gaze examining Yu Qingxuan without restraint. Three young experts had come from the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire; all of them were princes.

Under Long Chen's urge, Yu Qingxuan had ignored all the challenges. She knew that if she was injured or humiliated, Long Chen would immediately become a devil, and everything would instantly go out of control.

Yu Qingxuan shook her head. "I am immersed in the Pill Dao, not the Martial Dao. I also don't like fighting with others."

That expert laughed lecherously. "Hahaha, I like that timid and refined character. I heard that Princess Qingxuan is not yet betrothed, right? Why don't you marry me?"

Upon hearing this insult, Yu Qingxuan's expression instantly changed. She was about to grab Long Chen when she found that he had vanished. After that, startled cries rang out amongst the experts of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire.

That prince was blown apart by a golden fist, transforming into a burst of blood.

Chapter 3989: Crushing Weng Tianyao

That Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire's prince didn't even know that death had arrived before him, as did the elder by his side who failed to react in time.

Long Chen was too fast, so fast that he escaped everyone's perception before blowing apart that prince with a punch.

Even a three-flower Earth Venerate didn't react fast enough. By the time he did, he was only able to watch as the blood mist exploded.

Everyone was stunned. Long Chen actually dared to kill people here, not caring about any laws or rules.

"Courting death!"

That Earth Venerate furiously slammed a palm at him. But Long Chen was already turning and shooting toward Weng Tianyao.

"How brazen!"

Weng Tianyao's master and the three-flower Earth Venerate of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire were enraged. For Long Chen to attack Weng Tianyao here was clearly not placing them in his eyes.

The next moment, the sound of a saber coming out of its sheath appeared like a dragon cry, accompanied by killing intent so intense that even gods and devils would tremble in its presence.

This saber was as quick as lightning, instantly stabbing toward the three-flower Earth Venerate of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire.

By the time people heard the saber being unsheathed, it was already piercing toward the body of that Earth Venerate.

The Earth Venerate was stunned. Long Chen was so fast that it had escaped human limits. Even a three-flower Earth Venerate was unable to produce such speed without activating their manifestation.

With a roar, that Earth Venerate's power poured through his arms. When the Grand Dao runes appeared on his hands, he slammed them together.

BOOM!

The entire banquet hall quivered. To everyone's surprise, Long Chen's saber was only an inch away from that Earth Venerate's chest, but it was firmly caught by his hands.

Just then, a lightning sword appeared in Weng Tianyao's hands, and he stabbed it at Long Chen. Having lost the initiative, Long Chen was in danger now.

Long Chen snorted. Completely ignoring Weng Tianyao's attack, he directly let go of the Minghong Saber. He then spun, causing Weng Tianyao's sword to merely flash by him.

Using the power of the spin, Long Chen's left elbow, which was covered in golden scales, smashed into the hilt of the Minghong Saber.

Before this, the Minghong Saber was tightly grasped by the Earth Venerate. However, the sheer force behind Long Chen's strike was overwhelming, surpassing the Earth Venerate's strength. As a result, the Minghong Saber forcefully broke through his grip.

The Minghong Saber then stabbed through his chest, and the tip of the blade was a full foot out of his back.

When that happened, explosive power erupted within his body. Even as an Earth Venerate, without his manifestation active, his innards were blown apart, causing him to hack up blood.

While everyone was still in a state of shock, Long Chen already returned to his seat like a phantom. Most shocking of all, not only had he pulled the saber back from the Earth Venerate's body, but he had also brought someone back with him.

That someone was Weng Tianyao, which stunned even Xu Xiaoyun, Jiang Huixin, Xu Lanxin, and the other three-flower Earth Venerates. Their attention had been on the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire's Earth Venerate the entire time, and they didn't notice how Long Chen had caught Weng Tianyao.

At this moment, Long Chen gripped Weng Tianyao's throat firmly with his hand, blood trickling down his fingers. Weng Tianyao, deprived of his sword, was trembling uncontrollably. The once arrogant demeanor he had displayed was completely gone, and fear was all that remained in his eyes, rendering him unable to utter a sound or even think about begging for mercy.

Everyone was deathly silent and merely looked at Long Chen. Those princes and princesses even forgot how to breathe.

As they had never seen such a thing before, they were completely stunned. During a state banquet, in front of this many three-flower Earth Venerates, Long Chen actually dared to kill and capture a diplomat, injuring an Earth Venerate in the process. That was unimaginable to them.

Yu Xiaoyun had never liked Long Chen. However, when Long Chen attacked, he saw that Long Chen's moves were clean, efficient, and filled with the style of a peerless expert. As a result, even he had no choice but to admire Long Chen's skills.

It had to be known that Long Chen's true combat power was still a far cry from three-flower Earth Venerates. However, he was so fast that he managed to strike before they even had a chance to unleash their power. Using just the power of his physical body, he crushed his enemies.

Everything—from when he attacked, to when he was blocked and in danger, to his perfect counterattack—was incredibly fast, and these reactions could only be honed through constant battle. Moreover, there wasn't the slightest flaw, which showed his combat awareness and profound experience that was accumulated through a lifetime of fighting.

Jiang Huixin, Xu Lanxin, and the other experts on their level were all stunned. How many years had it been since they had seen such a terrifying young expert?

"Long Chen...!"

When Weng Tianyao's master roared, the violent pressure belonging to an Earth Venerate crashed upon the hall. It was like everyone had suddenly sunk into the deep sea, the pressure capable of directly crushing them.

The princes and princesses, as well as the other young heavenly geniuses, felt like they couldn't breathe. Their bones creaked as if they would break at any second.

"This is the pressure of a three-flower Earth Venerate?!"

Those princes and princesses felt like their bodies would explode, as if their souls would be torn apart. Thus, they were filled with fear inside, having never faced such power before.

However, Long Chen didn't even look at that elder and only stared coldly at Weng Tianyao in his hand.

"I told you, if I want to kill you, not even gods or devils could protect you. Now, do you believe me?"

Weng Tianyao could only unleash a strange sound from his throat. He couldn't even speak. At this moment, blood poured out from his seven orifices, and his eyes were filled with terror.

"I should have killed you back in the three thousand worlds. But Lei Linger was kind and let you off. Unfortunately, you didn't know how to repent. Instead, you despicably harmed someone by my side to anger me. Do you feel like you still get to see tomorrow's sun?" Long Chen gazed at Weng Tianyao with his icy killing intent.

Weng Tianyao's master furiously roared, "Long Chen, release Weng Tianyao, otherwise—"

BOOM!

Before he could finish speaking, lightning exploded, causing Weng Tianyao to blow up and turn into nothingness.

"Otherwise what?"

After crushing Weng Tianyao, Long Chen turned to look at his sluggish master.

Chapter 3990: Slapping the Face of an Earth Venerate

A peak heavenly genius, Weng Tianyao, had been crushed to death by Long Chen. His thunderforce exploded like a beautiful firework within the banquet hall.

A lightning dragon then appeared on top of Long Chen's body, opening its mouth and devouring all the lightning. Once the lightning was gone, it vanished as well.

Weng Tianyao was gone and his soul had been extinguished. Moreover, his final power had been devoured by Lei Linger. Seeing this scene, Weng Tianyao's master was quivering with rage. He couldn't believe that Long Chen truly dared to kill Weng Tianyao in front of his eyes.

At this moment, divine light flowed within Yu Xiaoyun's eyes, and an inconspicuous small smile appeared on his face. Long Chen's domineeringness finally caused Yu Xiaoyun to like him ever so slightly. This was the boldness a man should have.

"Long... Chen...!"

Weng Tianyao's master roared. Suddenly, he shot toward Long Chen, and violent pressure exploded out of him, crashing down on Long Chen like the weight of the entire dome of the heavens. A withered sharp claw then reached for Long Chen's face.

Seeing this, Long Chen was prepared for an all-out fight, but he suddenly relaxed as a figure appeared in front of him. That figure was the emperor of the Vermilion Bird Empire, Yu Xiaoyun.

Yu Xiaoyun simply reached out and caught Weng Tianyao's master's attack. There was no explosion or wild qi wave, only a slight quiver in the hall. It turned out that Weng Tianyao's master's overwhelming power was absorbed by the hall.

Pow!

Just then, Long Chen let go of the Minghong Saber and ruthlessly slapped the face of Weng Tianyao's master.

Weng Tianyao's master didn't see the slap coming. Let alone when his attention was focused on Yu Xiaoyun, even if he was fully focused, he might not necessarily be able to dodge this move.

Long Chen's slap contained immense power. Thus, with an explosive sound, Weng Tianyao's master smashed into the wall like a meteorite.

BOOM!

As the entire hall shook, its runes flared. In the end, the hall was undamaged, but Weng Tianyao's master was flattened from smashing into the wall and hung there like a painting.

When an expert from the Violet Thunderclap Empire went to tear him down (yes, tear him down), they saw that his head was deformed.

It was like a frog that had been run over by a wheel. They could no longer tell what his original shape was supposed to be. There were imprints of quite a few runes on his body now.

Those were the runes from the wall. When he smashed into the wall, the defensive formation automatically activated, condensing those runes.

Weng Tianyao's master was now unconscious, which caused the other experts to be stunned. They were unable to imagine just how powerful Long Chen's slap had to be in order to cause such an effect.

In truth, while Long Chen's power was terrifying, there was no way that he could compare to a three-flower Earth Venerate in peak condition.

However, Long Chen's timing was perfect, striking just as Weng Tianyao's master's power was dispersed throughout the hall by Yu Xiaoyun.

That was precisely his weakest moment—when he had expended his current energy and had yet to summon new power. Furthermore, Long Chen hadn't held back with his slap. All his power solidly struck his face without the slightest waste.

Actually, Weng Tianyao's master had automatically triggered his three flowers to protect him, otherwise, anyone would be directly blown apart by the power of this slap.

"Your Majesty, what is the meaning of this?! We came as guests from so far away. You are practically bullying us!" shouted an expert from the Violet Thunderclap Empire. While he was shocked and enraged, he was also afraid.

If Yu Xiaoyun's temper got the best of him, there was no way that they would survive. After all, this was the capital of the Vermillion Bird Empire. If the killing formation was activated, not one of them would leave to tell the tale.

The only reason that they had dared to be so arrogant was because according to their calculations, the Vermilion Bird Empire wouldn't dare to actually attack them. But now that the emperor had personally joined in the fight, they were deeply afraid.

Yu Xiaoyun snorted. He was about to reply when his gaze suddenly fell on Long Chen.

"You can talk reason to them."

After saying that, Yu Xiaoyun returned to his seat as if nothing had happened.

For a moment, everyone was simply stunned, including Long Chen. What medicine had this old fellow taken today?

As for Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin, their expressions were a bit odd. They then exchanged a look, seeing the other's astonishment.

However, Long Chen didn't care about all that. He just sneered at the diplomats, "Bullying? What about what you've done? Is that not bullying? As for guests from far away, does whether or not you're a guest have anything to do with distance? Aren't you the ones who are most clear about whether or not you are guests? Why don't you tell me what you're here for? To mock? Bully? Oppress? Suppress? Probe? When you came to our home to bully us, did you expect us to just take it?"

"We were talking reason! When did we ever mock, bully, oppress, and suppress the Vermilion Bird Empire?!" raged one of the three-flower Earth Venerates.

"Talking reason? When we talked reason with you, you used your fists. Now that we're replying in kind, you want to talk reason. When we talk reason again, you act like arrogant show-offs. However, now that

I'm doing the same, you act like innocent victims. I am not that idiot Philosopher Sun. Not one of us here is some easy target for you to bully, so don't bother with your childish schemes. You want to play such games with your little bit of intelligence? It must be nice not to care about others laughing at you. Peace between empires has never been gained through begging or talking reason. True peace is obtained through mutual respect and gratitude. But you eight empires came not as guests, but as bullies. You wanted me to be exiled to probe the attitude and strength of the Vermilion Bird Empire. If the empire takes a step back, you press them further. If the empire stands up for itself, you threaten the empire with your combined forces. To put it frankly, unless the Vermilion Bird Empire continues to concede over and over again, the only option is war. You are simply looking for an excuse to launch a combined assault on the Vermilion Bird Empire."

"What nonsense! None of us was even thinking of such a thing! That's entirely your own speculation!" barked an elder.

"Do you dare to swear that on your three-flower manifestation?" asked Long Chen.

"You...!"

The three-flower manifestation could not be sworn on lightly, as it was what connected the cultivator with the heavens. To swear on it was to swear on the heavens, so the heavens would judge whether or not the cultivator betrayed this oath or not. Not one person who had ever betrayed such an oath had a good ending. Thus, no three-flower Venerate would make such an oath.

That elder turned completely red. In his panic, he had no idea what to say, and that was already proof of what Long Chen said. Seeing this, the princes and princesses of the empire were even further incensed. This was truly bullying.

"Your Majesty, is this the attitude of your Vermilion Bird Empire?" The elder from the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire coldly asked, "Does the Vermilion Bird Empire really want to fight all eight empires at once? Do you wish to go to war? Are you not afraid of the Vermilion Bird Empire being wiped off of the map?"

"Hahaha!" Yu Xiaoyun suddenly laughed. After laughing, his face suddenly became covered in frosty killing intent. "If you want to fight, I'll accompany you!"

"Good! Good! Good!"

That elder of the Heavenly Ruler Seal Empire then exchanged a look with all the other Earth Venerates who had come. After that, all the diplomats stood and left gloomily, leaving the banquet hall quiet once more.