

Nine Star 4041

Chapter 4041: A Curse that Shakes the Heavens

The lightning needle pierced through Dongfang Zichu's Yuan Spirit, causing him to scream so miserably. Even a three-flower Earth Venerate would wail in pain if their Yuan Spirit was pierced.

Pain was the fairest thing in this world. It didn't matter what your status, realm, or power was. In front of pain, no falsehoods could be made; they were all stripped away.

A three-flower Earth Venerate's pain tolerance might not be greater than an ordinary cultivator. As he screamed in pain, the dignity of an expert was silently trampled.

"When a man is about to die, they talk softly, when a bird is about to die, they cry out mournfully? Well then go ahead and scream as much as you please."

Long Chen's expression was frightening. He was clenching his teeth, and veins bulged on his forehead. As for his eyes, they were full of icy killing intent.

Another lightning needle pierced Dongfang Zichu's Yuan Spirit. Having endured the harrowing process of soul refinement, Long Chen gained firsthand knowledge of the most excruciating form of torture possible: tormenting the Yuan Spirit.

"AH!" Dongfang Zichu's Yuan Spirit quivered and screamed. He was suffering through unimaginable pain at this moment.

"Why must you force me?"

STAB!

"If you want to kill me, why didn't you come at me? Why did you have to target Qingxuan?!"

STAB!

"If you want to harm me, then fine. But you cannot harm the woman I love."

STAB!

"You harmed my woman, turning me into a devil. None of you will ever reincarnate again."

STAB!

Long Chen repeatedly stabbed Dongfang Zichu's Yuan Spirit with a lightning needle. Dongfang Zichu repeatedly screamed like he was in hell. But he had no ability to resist.

"Didn't you say that you had an undying body? I don't believe in that kind of witchcraft. These lightning needles contain my will."

Long Chen clenched his teeth. He suddenly bit his finger, causing blood to flow. After that, he marked Dongfang Zichu's forehead.

"I, Long Chen, swear my oath! All gods and devils hear me! All ten thousand Daos of the universe be the witness! Using my blood, I seal Dongfang Zichu! Starting now, heaven and earth cannot contain him! The Six Daos cannot reincarnate him! The three worlds cannot accept him! He is to suffer the pain of lightning devouring his soul night and day. As long as I, Long Chen, do not die, the soul devouring cannot stop. If any one of you dares to defy me, when I rule this world, heaven and earth will collapse, the Six Daos will crumble, and the three worlds will be overturned!"

When he swore his oath, rumbling rang throughout the world, causing heaven and earth to quiver. Each of his words seemed to be branded into the laws of heaven and earth. In that instant, heaven and earth submitted, and the ten thousand Daos obeyed.

"His will has exceeded the laws of the Heavenly Daos, to the point that he can change the laws with just words?! Just who is he?!"

Within the darkness, a pair of beautiful concealed eyes finally showed a trace of shock.

Following Long Chen's roar, a crack appeared in heaven and earth. After that, Long Chen released Dongfang Zichu.

"No! Lord Brahma, save me!"

However, no one answered him. Dongfang Zichu was dragged into the darkness by an invisible force, and it shrank until the world sealed itself once more. Dongfang Zichu was gone.

Everyone knew that Dongfang Zichu was done for. He would not die and would be tortured for eternity. From this moment on, he could no longer exist within heaven and earth, the Six Daos, and the three worlds.

All he could do was suffer through the cracks between the three worlds as lightning ravaged his soul. Even if he wanted to die, he could not die.

As long as Long Chen didn't die, he would suffer. This curse was truly terrifying. When people thought of Dongfang Zichu's fate, they got goosebumps.

Within the capital, everyone was stunned. They were holding off the Yan Xu Gate's invasion, so they saw everything clearly.

Long Chen was absolutely terrifying. After going through the trial by fire with him, Zhu Yifeng, Zhu Yunwen, Yu Qianxue, and the others thought that they had gained a certain level of understanding over Long Chen's power. But now, they found that they didn't understand him in the slightest.

With a single oath, Long Chen made heaven and earth submit? The ten thousand Daos grew subservient? It was like an imperial edict, shaking the world with his words alone. That left them completely dumbfounded. Was this really the Long Chen they knew?

Yu Qingxuan's eyes were full of tears as she stared at the ferocious Long Chen who appeared to be a devil. At this moment, she felt no fear, only warmth.

Long Chen had previously told her that for her, he would be willing to become a devil to fight this world.

Long Chen had said it, and he had done it. To be loved by a man so deeply that he viewed her life as above his own, that was a love that no woman could resist.

Yu Qingxuan's tears rolled down her face. She then looked from the Yan Xu Gate to the deathly hell gate. Now, she knew that she did not want to die.

Just then, Long Chen's Kunpeng wings flapped. He actually shot toward the Yan Xu Gate.

BOOM!

All of a sudden, the Yan Xu Gate opened and a black hand reached toward Yu Qingxuan.

When it appeared, an overwhelming divine pressure shook the land, causing the capital to actually begin to sink. The barrier also became covered in countless cracks.

As a result, the experts inside the capital were horrified. At this moment, Long Chen reached the Yan Xu Gate and unleashed his remaining power. Before the Dragon King Battle Armor fully faded, he would destroy the Yan Xu Gate.

BOOM!

However, his enormous saber-image directly crumbled, the backlash causing him to hack up blood, almost dying. As for the hand, it was completely undamaged.

"That's... a Heaven Venerate's power!"

Yu Xiaoyun and the others despaired. This hand possessed the aura of a Heaven Venerate, the strongest existence within the Divine Venerate realm.

Mortal Venerate, Earth Venerate, and Heaven Venerate. Although they were all in the Divine Venerate realm, the difference between each level was as immense as heaven and earth. Those beneath the Heaven Venerate realm were ants. To put it simply, even a hundred thousand Earth Venerates could not resist a single Heaven Venerate.

As the giant hand slowly fell, the barrier cracked more and more, looking like it might shatter at any moment.

Yu Xiaoyun, Jiang Huixin, Xu Lanxin, and the others were bitterly enduring, but they were already pale. It seemed like they had reached their limit. Once this barrier was broken, they would at least be severely wounded, if not dead from the backlash. But they refused to give up.

Yu Xiaoyun looked over everyone who was bitterly enduring, then he looked at Long Chen in the distance. Despite being badly injured, Long Chen charged back at that hand. He was like an ant trying to fight back against the hand of the heavens. His figure appeared so small and alone.

Yu Qingxuan suddenly cried out, "Stop! Mom, dad... Thank you all. Thank you for bringing me into this world. Thanks for letting me experience this world's beauty. Long Chen, thank you for everything that you have done for me. But you can stop now. If there is a next life, I am willing to be your wife and spend a lifetime with you to thank you for the kindness you have shown me."

Yu Qingxuan fully gave up when she saw all the people that she cared about fighting to the death for her. She loved this world, and she loved everyone here. So, she was willing to die rather than have them all sacrifice their lives for nothing.

“I already said that as long as I am here, no one can hurt you! Trust me!”

Long Chen’s furious roar rang out. Although he was covered in blood, his gaze was still determined. He then put away his saber and formed hand seals. Just like a moth throwing itself into the fire, he charged toward the Yan Xu Gate.

Buzz.

Suddenly, a golden light lit up in front of Long Chen’s forehead, and a golden lotus seed appeared in front of him.

Long Chen was overjoyed. He had finally managed to summon this lotus seed. Just like that, Long Chen smashed the golden lotus seed at the Yan Xu Gate and the hand.

Chapter 4042: Unmatched Golden Lotus Seed

As Long Chen smashed the golden lotus seed into the Yan Xu Gate, the golden lotus seed emitted supreme divine might.

In response to this surge of energy, the giant Yan Xu Gate trembled and, to the shock of all present, it exploded along with the colossal hand that emerged from it.

The collapse of the spatial gate resulted in a vast black vortex forming, swirling ominously. However, the divine light radiating from the golden lotus seed illuminated the depths of this dark vortex, creating an awe-inspiring spectacle for all to behold.

Through the vortex, they saw a world engulfed in black flames. Within the sea of black flames, the divine light emanating from the golden lotus seed only illuminated a minuscule portion.

However, within that tiny corner, they saw a long-haired man glaring at Long Chen in fury and shock. Long Chen could see that one of the man's arms was missing, and his shoulder was consumed by golden flames.

“Impossible! Long Chen has killed countless lifeforms! How could he obtain your approval?!?!” roared that man.

That roar came through the vortex but still caused the ten thousand Daos to crumble. Hearing this roar, Long Chen then grunted, and blood suddenly gushed out of his eyes, ears, and nose.

On the battlefield, both allies and enemies were shaken and lost consciousness for a moment. Sharp pain also wracked their souls as if they would be torn apart.

“That is definitely a Heaven Venerate!”

Yu Xiaoyun and the others were shocked. This man was absolutely terrifying.

Despite his terrifying power, he was still injured by Long Chen through space. No, it should be said that he was injured through space by that golden lotus seed.

Long Chen didn't answer that man. Of course, the golden lotus seed also didn't answer him. The vortex slowly shrank until it vanished.

...

"Third brother, you...!"

Within an endless sea of black flames where primal chaos qi gushed forth, a startled cry rang out. The speaker was Yan Xu's eighth son, and the deceased Yan Hong's big brother, Yan Feng.

As for the man whose arm was gone, he was Yan Xu's third son, Yan Chang. He was shocked and enraged.

At this moment, the sea of flames beneath his feet erupted, and primal chaos qi rushed toward him. A million-mile sea of flames then wrapped around him.

As those black flames poured into his body, the golden flames on his arm slowly extinguished.

"How can this be?! Even you can't deal with Long Chen?!" exclaimed Yan Feng.

When Long Chen killed Yan Hong, Yan Feng also attempted to avenge his brother by trying to kill Long Chen. However, Long Chen possessed the protection of the golden lotus seed, rendering Yan Feng powerless to harm him.

So this time, Yan Chang, a formidable Heaven Venerate, took matters into his own hands. But even he ended up losing an arm for nothing.

"It seems that restoring this arm will require several months at the very least," Yan Chang stated gravely.

"What?! Within the sea of primal chaos flames, you still can't instantly recover?!"

Yan Chang remained silently for a long time before sighing. "I don't understand. Long Chen is a murderer. How can it have chosen him? It makes no sense. Well, the hell gate is already open. Long Chen probably won't survive anyway. Let's just see what happens."

Yan Chang merged into the sea of primal chaos flames. As for Yan Feng, he was stunned for a long time before he also merged into the sea of flames.

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The vortex vanished, and along with it, the divine light of the golden lotus seed also faded away. Now, it appeared dimmer, having lost its original radiance. It became evident that Long Chen's act had exhausted all of its energy.

Horried to see that, he immediately returned it to the primal chaos space. Fortunately, once it was back in the primal chaos space, it returned to its original location, and other than being dimmer, there was nothing wrong with it.

BOOM!

Suddenly, there was an explosive sound, and Long Chen turned to see a black dagger cut through the air, slicing through the ten thousand Daos. A fat head then flew into the air.

“Mingyu!”

That head belonged to the Bloodkill Hall’s master, Enpuda. Dong Mingyu really had cut off his head.

Furthermore, the weapon she had used to do so was not her original dagger, but the divine weapon that Long Chen had given her.

As for Dong Mingyu, despite her paleness and weakened aura, she displayed remarkable composure. Her eyes remained as steady as two stars in the night sky, showing no signs of wavering. Even in the presence of an expert like Enpuda, she remained completely collected and unfazed.

“How unexpected, how truly unexpected. The three thousand six hundred and seventeen attacks at the start were all preparation for your final attack. That steadiness, that patience, that scheming—they were all excellent. My loss was not unjustified.”

Enpuda’s head floated there, the wound on his neck rapidly rotting. But even as his body rotted, he calmly looked at Dong Mingyu.

Within the capital, everyone gaped in utter shock at Dong Mingyu. This seemingly young girl, appearing to be merely thirteen or fourteen years old, had accomplished the unthinkable—she had decapitated the notorious master of the Bloodkill Hall, Enpuda.

Zhu Yifeng, Zhu Yunwen, Yu Qianxue, and the others stood there, their expressions dazed and sluggish, unable to believe what they had just witnessed. They couldn't comprehend how such a tiny figure could possess such terrifying power.

Just then, Xia Chen, Guo Ran, and the others arrived with the Dragonblood warriors. Guo Ran's saber bore the grisly evidence of three corpses still hanging from it—three Empire Lords. Among them was Weng Taibei.

During the intense battle, all eyes were fixated on Long Chen and Dong Mingyu, causing everyone to lose focus on the other battlefield where Xia Chen, Guo Ran, and the Dragonblood warriors were fiercely fighting.

But now that the Dragonblood warriors were returning, it was clear that everything was over. They then looked and didn’t find a single living enemy.

The absence of the three-flower Earth Venerates, who were either slain or had fled, signified a great triumph for the Dragonblood warriors. Such a feat would undoubtedly make their names renowned throughout the world. However, despite this remarkable achievement, the expressions of everyone, except Guo Ran, remained indifferent, as though they had merely accomplished something insignificant. This calm demeanor sent shivers through the hearts of onlookers.

Guo Ran, Xia Chen, and the Dragonblood warriors all stood behind Long Chen. When Yu Qianxue saw that, she couldn’t help but put on a bitter smile.

Any random Dragonblood warrior was actually stronger than them, the princes and princesses of the empire. However, she had actually wanted to gamble on winning the entire Dragonblood Legion? As she reflected on that, she was so embarrassed that she wanted to find a hole to hide herself in.

Zhu Yunwen and the others couldn't help but sigh in admiration. The Dragonblood warriors were dragons among men. Perhaps only a monster like Long Chen could win their recognition.

"We've already determined that when a man is about to die, they talk softly. I don't know what a crafty, shameless fellow like you will say before your death," said Dong Mingyu.

Enpuda was reduced to just a head, but Dong Mingyu did not relax. Her starry eyes were still locked onto him.

Enpuda smiled slightly and turned to a certain space.

"I've lost and I am fully convinced by it. Ye Wusheng, you can come out."

Chapter 4043: Eight Great Divine Commanders

Following Enpuda's gaze, they looked toward an empty space. To their surprise, a mesmerizing and ethereal figure began to materialize there, slowly taking form before their eyes.

She donned an exquisite outfit, a combination of elegance and power. Her skin-tight leather armor accentuated her graceful curves, reminiscent of a majestic and fierce leopardess. The sight was both alluring and intimidating, leaving onlookers in awe.

Even as she materialized before them, everyone couldn't really sense her. It was as if she was intertwined with the void, remaining elusive even to those who looked directly at her.

She seemed to embody the world itself, as though she held its very essence within her being. It was as if she was the master of the world, and a mere thought from her could wipe out all life in an instant.

She had short hair and thin lips, with long, narrow eyes and a fair complexion. Her beauty carried a deadly allure.

However, when looking at her, there was no way to form the desire between men and women; instead, there was only fear. When she looked at you, it was like the blade of death was pressed against your throat.

In front of her, it was as if all your weaknesses were fully exposed, fatal weaknesses that could not be concealed.

She was a legendary existence of the immortal world, the master of the Shadow Sect, and the one who was called the Silence of the Night, Ye Wusheng.

The Silence of the Night was both the name of her manifestation and her moniker. It was a name that caused countless experts to quiver in fear.

“As expected, only you have the ability to cut off my ties to Lord Brahma’s faith. I just don’t understand, are you truly challenging Lord Brahma to war?” Despite Enpuda being left with only his head, and even with the wound to his neck slowly rotting away, he still remained remarkably calm.

“You antagonized me back then, so I wanted to kill you. Lord Brahma did stop me then, so I warned him that he could protect you for the moment but not for a lifetime. No one that I want to kill has yet to survive. However, after my fight with Lord Brahma, I broke through. Killing you then would be meaningless. That is when I decided I would have my most outstanding disciple take your head. It would count as their greatest trial. Whoever could accomplish this would receive my full legacy.

“On the surface, you appear to have hidden yourself away and not dare to leave your hole with your true body, instead using avatars to do your business. But in truth, your true body did leave many times. You were testing me, seeing if I would pursue you. So, I pretended not to notice, and you thought it was because I was afraid of Lord Brahma. In truth, every single one of your movements was under my gaze. I was just waiting for the right opportunity. When you started plotting to kill Long Chen here, I had little Yu prepare herself. I knew that the opportunity had come, and Little Yu really didn’t disappoint me. In the Immortal King realm, she killed you who is at the peak of the World King realm. This also shows that the nine heavens and ten lands is progressing to a new era. None of us are the main characters of this era, not me, not you, not even Lord Brahma. We are all part of a larger story, playing our roles, but none of us holds the spotlight. This is a completely new era. The laws that we could not break back then will be broken by them,” said Ye Wusheng expressionlessly.

Upon hearing this, everyone’s heart shook. Lord Brahma was a legendary existence, and his name had resounded throughout heaven and earth eras ago.

Although he suddenly vanished at his most glorious time, the legends of him were known to all.

At that time, Lord Brahma was a glorious, fast-rising genius who reached the very peak of the Heaven Venerate realm. However, he suddenly went into seclusion, with only his apprentices and their grand apprentices doing his work.

Countless years passed; geniuses rose and fell. However, the name of Lord Brahma was still known to all.

However, this woman had actually fought Lord Brahma in the past? Then she had to be someone from the same era.

Clearly, although Ye Wusheng also had a degree of fame, it was mostly limited to the senior generation. The youngsters in the Vermilion Bird Empire had not heard of her.

That was why Zhu Yifeng, Zhu Yunwen, and the others were all stunned. They had never dreamed that someone from that ancient era would appear before them now. Could a person really live so long?

This short-haired woman who looked to be in her thirties was actually such an ancient figure? However, she seemed to be full of life. Had she really lived for that many years?

Enpuda sighed. “You are right. I didn’t have your vision. Although I also knew that the new era would arise, I thought that it would be centuries from now. I was always very confident in my calculations, but

it was that confidence that brought about my ruin. If I had your vision, I would have paid any price to kill Long Chen at the start. I was too conceited. I have let down Lord Brahma's trust in me."

Enpuda's tone was very regretful as he blamed himself. He had always viewed Long Chen as an important figure, and he had even been thinking of pulling Long Chen to his side.

However, he found out later that there was no way to control Long Chen. He always liked to use the smallest price to make the greatest gains. But when it came to Long Chen, he had actually misjudged, and very badly at that. All his schemes ended up useless. In the end, he suffered a grievous defeat, one from which he could not recover.

"You always thought yourself smart. You know to be meticulous, down to the smallest detail. Perhaps that is perfect for doing small things, but when it comes to accomplishing anything major, you lack decisiveness and daring. That is why you only remained the master of an outer hall. You were never able to be promoted to the inner hall or to rank amongst Lord Brahma's eight great divine commanders. If you were one of the eight divine commanders, I would not be able to sever your tie to Lord Brahma's faith. Even though he is in seclusion, he would definitely come save you then. Unfortunately, there are not so many ifs in this world. Even a wise man who considers everything a thousand times will make a mistake eventually. With this one mistake, you have no chance of winning anymore," said Ye Wusheng.

Enpuda smiled bitterly. "That is correct. There are not so many ifs in this world. I have to thank you. You have made me understand why Lord Brahma never valued me highly. I understand now. This chess piece is too small to be useful. But understanding now is too late. In the end, I still failed to live up to Lord Brahma's expectations."

Long Chen was originally enraged and wanted to slice Enpuda apart, but seeing Enpuda acting like this before his death, without any trace of cowardice or blaming others, Long Chen had to acknowledge that Enpuda was undoubtedly the most cunning adversary he had ever faced. As he calmly watched Enpuda's life come to an end, a sliver of respect crept into Long Chen's heart.

"Enpuda, as your enemy, I am willing to give you a dignified death," said Long Chen.

"Hahahaha!" Enpuda suddenly laughed.

Chapter 4044: The Hell Gate Opens

Enpuda laughed. Even now that his neck was severed, his faith energy was still delaying the decay caused by the black dagger's power. But at this moment, the flesh of his lower jaw was rotting and breaking apart as he laughed, displaying a horrifying sight.

"Although I, Enpuda, am contemptible and willing to use any means necessary, a loss is a loss. I don't need anyone's pity. I am called the Despicable Killing God for a reason. Do you think that I'd care about dying with dignity?"

At this time, he was still able to laugh. Even Long Chen had to admire that about him. Although he was contemptible, he was still admirable in some areas. After all, not everyone could face death like this.

After laughing, Enpuda said, "Long Chen, this time it is my defeat. I underestimated your rate of growth and overestimated my control. However, just because I lost doesn't mean that you've won. I will die, but

you will also follow me soon. The hell gate will soon open. When that happens, the emissary of the Nether Emperor will descend and bring his woman back to the depths of hell. I know how much you care about your loved ones. That is your greatest weakness, your fatal weakness. It already showed itself when you fought the Yan Xu Gate. You won't just watch as Yu Qingxuan dies, so you will accompany her in death. After all, no one can resist the Nether Emperor's power. I'm a dead man, and so are you. I suppose that this can be considered my final act for Lord Brahma. I can die in peace."

Only when Enpuda said this did everyone realize that the crisis wasn't over. They raised their heads and were shocked to see a crack in the hell gate. Death qi was pouring out of it.

"Master, you can definitely stop it, right!?" Dong Mingyu's expression changed. She turned to her master with a pleading expression.

However, Ye Wusheng didn't reply. Instead, it was Enpuda who answered her.

"As an assassin, no matter how powerful you are, any emotions will make you easy to scheme against and kill. To tell the truth, I don't like that I've lost to someone like you. The Nether Emperor's emissary will possess the laws of hell, and they are immune to all attacks from this world. So, even your master is powerless. Perhaps Long Chen's lotus seed would have had the ability to resist the laws of hell, but it is already out of energy after fighting the power of Yan Xu. Other than that, little Dong Mingyu, you should worry about yourself instead of Long Chen. That dagger you used to kill me has a terrifying background. When it was in Long Chen's hands, I already suspected its origins. When it cut through my neck, it instantly exhausted ninety percent of my faith energy. So, I am now sure of its origin. It already has a master. For the dagger to suddenly absorb so much faith energy, that master has definitely sensed it. When its master descends, they won't just take the dagger but also your life. You also won't be surviving."

Hearing this, Dong Mingyu didn't get angry, nor did she show fear. She simply smiled.

"Did you think that if big brother Long Chen died, I would continue living?"

Clearly, if Yu Qingxuan died, Long Chen wouldn't live either. And if Long Chen died, Dong Mingyu would follow.

For a moment, everyone was stunned. They looked from Long Chen to Dong Mingyu. Both of them were peerless heavenly geniuses with limitless potential, the human race's hope. Were they all going to fall here?

"There's no need for you to worry about these things. Since you feel indifferent to death, I won't stand on courtesy."

Long Chen suddenly appeared in front of Enpuda and pointed his finger.

Buzz.

Enpuda's soul was ripped out of his head.

"You wish to examine my soul? Sorry, but you aren't capable of it."

BOOM!

Enpuda's soul exploded. Even so, Long Chen was prepared, and black flames enveloped those shattered soul fragments.

BOOM!

Enpuda's spiritual fragments continuously exploded, detonating nine more times before stopping. Those spiritual fragments were smithereens now and were essentially useless.

However, Long Chen's expression didn't change. It seemed that this was well within his expectations. He then summoned Huo Linger, and she devoured those spiritual fragments.

As Enpuda's head vanished, his headless corpse was also rotting away. It seemed that it wouldn't be long before his entire corpse was gone.

For an expert on Enpuda's level, his body was nourished by faith energy, so it had almost reached the point of being unbreakable, immortal.

However, in front of that black dagger, his physical body was still not strong enough. When Long Chen was stabbed by that dagger long ago, it clearly hadn't had that much power, or he would have long since died.

It was unknown if the dagger had grown during this time, or if something in it had changed after killing some experts. In any case, this black dagger was growing increasingly powerful, like a bloodthirsty devil that had been sealed for countless years and was awakened by the taste of blood.

Long Chen had no time to study the dagger. After Huo Linger devoured Enpuda's spiritual fragments, she brought them into the primal chaos space.

Long Chen's Spiritual Strength then flowed into the primal chaos space. There, Enpuda's spiritual fragments began to slowly merge back together, growing bigger and bigger.

Inside the primal chaos space, Long Chen reigned as its master, with all the laws under his command. No matter how severely Enpuda tore up his soul, Long Chen possessed the power to mend it back together effortlessly.

Originally, when Long Chen offered to give Enpuda a dignified death, it came with a condition. That was to tell him the secrets relating to the Nether Emperor.

However, since Enpuda refused, Long Chen didn't stand on courtesy. After becoming an Immortal King, the primal chaos space had gone through a mysterious change. Long Chen wasn't sure what it was, but with this first test, he really succeeded.

Long Chen's entire focus was on rebuilding the spiritual fragments. After all, he wanted to know the secrets of the Nether Emperor.

After a while, Long Chen finally grasped the right fragment. Feeling delighted, he started studying it. But just as he grasped the slightest information, a terrifying dangerous aura caused him to quiver. After that, he heard a howl.

The moment Long Chen's mind left the primal chaos space, an ear-piercing laugh pierced his ear like a needle, causing him to feel like his soul was being cut into millions of pieces. Countless people also covered their ears and screamed.

The barrier covering the capital could block the Yan Xu Flames, but it was unable to block out that sound. It actually shattered.

Just then, the hell gate slowly opened, and black qi gushed out, along with one figure after another. When people saw those figures, their bodies turned ice-cold, and they were filled with terror.

Chapter 4045: I Will Save My Woman

Those figures were clad in odd clothes, a mix of men and women. Strangely, their clothes seemed to be in a state of constant decay, disintegrating as they moved, yet somehow reforming again.

With the musical instruments in their hands, they played undeniably melodious tunes, but the tunes somehow carried an overwhelming sensation that made people feel as if their very souls might burst.

What weirded out the people around the most was the appearance of these figures. They resembled dried-out corpses, and their faces had an eerie mix of humans and some other lifeforms. However, despite their lifeless appearance, their auras sent shivers down the spines of even the Earth Venerates present.

Slowly, more and more these peculiar lifeforms emerged from the gate, as if they were the musical escorts for a grand event unfolding before them.

Amidst the unfolding spectacle, a black palanquin appeared, looking as big as a mountain. This gigantic thing required the strength of eight giants to carry it.

When these eight giants materialized, the world quivered. With every step they took, mountains swayed and the stars flickered.

This enormous escort stretched ten thousand miles long and set its course straight for the Vermilion Bird Empire. As they approached, endless death energy filled this world, causing all vegetation within the capital to wither.

The infection of this hellish aura turned the place into a corner of hell itself.

"We welcome the Emperor's woman's return!"

Suddenly, the eight giants shouted in unison, their voices shaking Yu Qingxuan's body. And then, as if in response to their shout, flower petals materialized behind her. These petals were unusually long and slender, resembling the tentacles of some monstrous entity. Strangely, the stamens were even longer, giving them the appearance of petals, while the petals seemed to take on the appearance of stamens.

A sinister aura enveloped Yu Qingxuan, and she began to float toward the gigantic black palanquin.

"No!"

Yu Xiaoyun roared and reached out to grab Yu Qingxuan. But he was shocked to see his hand simply pass right through her, unable to touch her.

Yu Qingxuan seemed to have turned into an apparition as they could no longer touch her. Furthermore, when Yu Xiaoyun's body passed through her body, an invisible force knocked him aside.

When Yu Xiaoyun stabilized himself, people were horrified to see a few white strands appear in his black hair. He seemed to have aged.

Undeterred by this, Yu Xiaoyun began to form hand seals. He was clearly intent on dragging Yu Qingxuan back. Thus, Yu Qingxuan could only cry out for him to stop.

"Imperial father, don't!"

She knew that the power of the Nether Emperor was not something that any of them could resist. If her father were to forcibly attempt, his longevity would be stripped away.

However, Yu Xiaoyun refused to stop. Blood then leaked out of the space between his eyebrows, as he ignited his essence blood. At that moment, the immemorial Vermilion Bird in his manifestation reappeared.

Yu Xiaoyun roared, "My daughter cannot be taken by anyone, not even the Nether Emperor!"

Seeing this, everyone was filled with horror. Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin desperately tried to intervene, but Yu Xiaoyun was resolute. Ignoring any restraint, he unleashed all his power in a last-ditch effort. No one could dissuade him from recklessly throwing his life away.

"Imperial father, please, I beg you...!" Upon seeing her father's desperation, Yu Qingxuan's heart shattered. Yu Xiaoyun would definitely die if this continued.

Just as the imperial family's experts despaired, a black figure appeared and reached Yu Qingxuan before Yu Xiaoyun.

When that happened, the void quivered and some black flames formed a screen around Yu Qingxuan, knocking Yu Xiaoyun aside.

"She is my woman! I will save her myself!"

This black figure was Long Chen. He stood in front of Yu Qingxuan, looking at her tear-stained face.

"You little bastard, if my son-in-law dies, will Qingxuan stay alive?! Scram! I will unleash the full Vermilion Bird Divine Radiance! Who cares about some Nether Emperor? I will save my daughter no matter what!" roared Yu Xiaoyun.

Yu Xiaoyun knew that if he ignited all the remaining power of the Vermilion Bird, he should have a shot at saving his daughter.

Even so, the price of such a reckless act weighed down heavily on him. He knew that it would cost him his life and potentially jeopardize the future of the Vermilion Bird Empire.

However, in this battle, he could see that his children had grown up, each being an outstanding figure, so he was no longer worried about them.

With this newfound confidence, he made up his mind. No matter what, he would save Yu Qingxuan. After all, amongst all his sons and daughters, he owed her the most, and this was the only way he could repay her.

“Sorry, although you’re my father-in-law, my woman must be protected by myself.”

Long Chen then cupped Yu Qingxuan’s face and softly said, “Qingxuan, don’t worry. As long as I am here, no one can take you from my side.”

Just like that, Long Chen spread his arms.

“Don’t!” Yu Xiaoyun roared, while Yu Qingxuan screamed in terror. The experts from the Vermillion Bird Empire couldn’t bear to witness what was about to happen and shut their eyes.

Dong Mingyu charged over, wanting to share life and death with Long Chen. However, Ye Wusheng pressed a hand on her, and she instantly couldn’t move.

Ye Wusheng simply watched everything occurring without the slightest ripple in her eyes. It was as if nothing in this world could cause her to feel the slightest concern.

In front of everyone’s despairing gazes, Long Chen grabbed Yu Qingxuan. People were shocked to see his body also grow illusory.

“Long Chen, how could you do this? Big sister Meng Qi and the others still need you! I don’t want you to die with me!” Yu Qingxuan’s heart shattered. She knew that Long Chen would die with her.

Everyone was weeping. They could not accept that these two would die just like this. This was too cruel.

Long Chen and Yu Qingxuan were enveloped by black energy, slowly floating toward the palanquin. Suddenly, Zhu Yifeng roared, his sword transforming into a streak of light that shot toward one of the giants carrying the palanquin.

However, that giant didn’t even look at it. The sword simply pierced through its body and flew out.

Their bodies seemed to not exist. However, the sword turned to dust once it flew out of the giant’s body. A divine weapon of the Vermilion Bird Empire was lost just like that.

“How can this be?! Can we only watch as they die?!” howled Zhu Yifeng painfully.

In the distance, Guo Ran, Xia Chen, and the Dragonblood warriors didn’t say anything but were clenching their fists tightly. They were also anxious.

It had to be known that their enemy this time was the Emperor of the Netherworld, an existence whose name terrified the nine heavens and ten lands. That was a supreme existence. Even with their confidence in Long Chen, their hearts clenched.

“Long Chen, I don’t want you to die with me! Don’t die...” Yu Qingxuan held Long Chen and wept.

On the other hand, Long Chen was calm and just held her. Suddenly, someone cried out. “The flower!”

Only now did people realize that the strange flower that had bloomed behind Yu Qingxuan was swaying. Some kind of force seemed to be affecting it.

Suddenly, Long Chen reached out and grabbed one of the slender petals.

Crack.

What shocked everyone was that Long Chen actually managed to tear off the petal.

“What?!”

Even more shocking though was that Long Chen then stabbed the petal into his own chest.

Blood sprayed, and the petal entered his body.

“Long Chen! Don’t!”

Yu Qingxuan screamed. She instantly realized what Long Chen was doing.

Chapter 4046: The Heavens Will Be Pierced

The flower petal pierced Long Chen’s body like a sharp blade, causing golden blood to gush out. As for the petal, it was like a piece of melting ice merging into Long Chen’s body.

Long Chen’s entire body was shaking. He looked as if he was suffering unimaginable pain, but he did not hesitate to grab another petal.

“What is he doing?”

Yu Xiaoyun was bewildered. If Long Chen died, would Yu Qingxuan wish to stay alive? Even if she lived, it would be a life worse than death for her.

“He is grafting the Nether Emperor’s seal onto his own body. This foolish child...” Jiang Huixin stared at Long Chen nervously.

In order to save Yu Qingxuan, Long Chen was throwing his own life away. But why bother? Would Yu Qingxuan not follow him then?

The next moment, Long Chen stabbed another petal into his body, and it once more quivered. However, Long Chen clenched his teeth and didn’t make a sound.

“Long Chen, don’t! If you die, what would be the point in me living? Don’t be selfish! You still have Meng Qi, Chu Yao, Ye Zhiqiu, Tang Wan-er, and the others waiting for you!” begged Yu Qingxuan.

She couldn’t even move under the pressure of the Netherworld’s laws, so she could only watch as Long Chen killed herself.

Long Chen repeatedly plucked the petals and stabbed them into his body. The pain was something that he had never endured before. It was even more painful than refining his spirit.

However, Long Chen didn’t mind. After all, he had experienced something even more painful. The pain of seeing Yu Qingxuan dying in front of him on the Martial Heaven Continent was a million times more painful.

As Long Chen repeatedly stabbed the petals into his body, the hell flower gradually bloomed behind him. When he stabbed the final petal into his body, Yu Qingxuan's body suddenly regained its freedom.

"Long Chen!"

Yu Qingxuan urgently held onto Long Chen, fearing he might push her away. Her fear wasn't of death itself; instead, it was the dread of living in a world without him.

"Qingxuan, you have to trust me. I won't let you leave me, and I won't leave you," said Long Chen solemnly.

Even though Long Chen did his best to control his voice, it was still hoarse due to the pain. Upon hearing it, Yu Qingxuan's dried-out eyes once more overflowed. She gently rubbed Long Chen's face. "It must be painful..."

"It doesn't hurt. It's still within the realm that I can handle. But without you, the pain would be too much to live with," said Long Chen. "Go. I'm going to ask the Nether Emperor what qualifications he has to dare to take my wife."

Yu Qingxuan hesitated but still nodded. "If you fail, I will accompany you."

Long Chen nodded. Only then did Yu Qingxuan let go. Long Chen lightly pushed her, and she escaped the death qi.

Jiang Huixin immediately caught Yu Qingxuan. She wept, unable to say a single word.

Yu Qingxuan then comforted her mother, but her gaze was on Long Chen. Everyone's gaze was on him.

All of them were anxious. Long Chen had been fighting for a long time and had basically exhausted himself. What was he going to bring out to fight a supreme existence like the Nether Emperor?

Heaven and earth were deathly silent. The envoy from hell had stopped playing their music and just watched motionlessly.

Long Chen floated slowly toward the massive palanquin. As he drew nearer, the curtain gradually parted with a cracking sound. The interior of the palanquin was engulfed in darkness, and a potent aura of the Netherworld surged forth from it, making it resemble the gaping maw of a fearsome beast.

With a deep breath, Long Chen slowly closed his eyes and began forming intricate hand seals. As he did so, the hell flower behind him trembled and then gradually merged into his body, as if becoming one with him.

"What is boss doing?!" Guo Ran was shocked. Long Chen was absorbing the hell flower? Would he ever be able to leave it after that?

Even Ye Wusheng's pupils shrank when she saw that.

"This is... Is he thinking of...?"

Everyone was stunned. They didn't know what Long Chen was doing, or what he was thinking.

Long Chen's left eye snapped open, and it was pitch-black. Within that darkness, the image of the hell flower slowly appeared.

After that, heaven and earth quivered as a giant illusory figure enveloped the entire envoy from hell.

"Purgatory Eyes, Hell Flower Bloom!" Long Chen let out a furious roar that shook the world.

BOOM!

When the hell flower bloomed, the envoy from hell, including the giants and palanquin, all exploded.

"He can control the power of hell?"

Even Ye Wusheng was taken aback by the sight. Her gaze fixed upon Long Chen's eye, and a glimmer of divine light flickered in her own eyes. However, what she was thinking remained a mystery.

"Long Chen...!" Yu Qingxuan let out a pained cry. Long Chen's left eye was bleeding, and black blood was flowing out of it.

Furthermore, after unleashing this pupil art, his entire face grew dark, as if his soul had been sucked away.

Seeing Long Chen in such a state, Yu Qingxuan felt as if her heart had been pierced. She could feel the immense sacrifice he was making for her sake. She was about to rush over to him when, all of a sudden, the hell gate in the sky erupted into a massive vortex, shaking the entire scene.

The exhausted Long Chen was sucked into the vortex, and this sudden change made everyone cry out.

"Still nothing?" Ye Wusheng clenched her dagger and stared tightly at the hell gate. Based on her calculations, someone should be appearing at this time.

However, no one appeared, and Long Chen was instantly sucked into the heart of the vortex. On the other side was hell, so if the gate closed behind him, there was no coming out.

"Fuck, I'll risk it all!"

Long Chen suddenly spread his arms. The next moment, space quivered and a bronze cauldron appeared in his hands.

"Go fuck yourself, Nether Emperor!"

After Long Chen poured all his remaining energy into the bronze cauldron, he smashed it at the hell gate.

This was Long Chen's final trump card. The dragon expert had told him not to use it, but he had nothing else and could only risk it.

BOOM!

The hell gate exploded with a force that seemed to pierce the heavens themselves. When the explosion occurred, the runes on the bronze cauldron briefly lit up, and it flew back to Long Chen and disappeared.

The hell gate was gone. However, the imprint of an ancient cauldron remained embedded in the void, not fading for a long time.

“This time, the heavens will be pierced.”

Looking at the imprint of this ancient cauldron, Ye Wusheng muttered to herself.

Chapter 4047: Sweeping Through the Eight Empires

The heavens had truly been pierced, and the imprint of the ancient cauldron was left in the sky. Cracks then spread through the dome of the heavens.

Normally, the Heavenly Daos would automatically repair themselves no matter how severe the damage they suffered. However, this time, it was as if the self-recovery abilities of the Heavenly Daos had weakened.

A net of cracks just hung in the air, and there was no sign of it healing. Looking at those giant cracks, people felt chills.

“Long Chen!”

Yu Qingxuan charged over at Long Chen who had lost consciousness. As he fell from the sky, Yu Qingxuan caught him.

Long Chen was covered in blood, and his eyes were closed shut. Black bloodstains still marred the skin beneath his left eye, emanating an aura of hellish darkness. However, Yu Qingxuan didn't let the gruesome sight deter her. With great concern and affection, she tightly hugged Long Chen, her heart overwhelmed with emotion. Upon sensing that his Spiritual Strength was still present, she couldn't help but shed tears of relief and joy. Long Chen was still alive.

A slender hand gently touched Long Chen's forehead, and Dong Mingyu appeared by his side. Usually, her expression was indifferent, but now it was filled with worry. After all, Long Chen's Spiritual Strength seemed to be hanging on, but the fluctuations were highly erratic. What troubled her even more was the presence of a sinister dark energy that was fiercely active within him.

“Master...” Dong Mingyu looked at Ye Wusheng beseechingly.

Ye Wusheng looked at Long Chen and then said, “He is fine. However, the power of hell isn't so easy to control. After using the power of hell to destroy the envoys, he had to pay a price for it. As for what the price is, only the future can tell. Anyway, he is now infected with the Nether Emperor's karma, and no one can say what will happen to him. Mingyu, we're leaving!”

“Master, I want to...”

“You'll have plenty of chances to reunite in the future. As your master, I promised that once you personally killed Enpuda, I would pass my full legacy to you. Rather than wasting time here, you should be cultivating so that you have enough power to stay together longer,” said Ye Wusheng. She then grabbed Dong Mingyu's hand and started walking away.

Dong Mingyu kept looking back, her gaze heartbreaking. But ultimately, she chose to listen to her master.

Suddenly, Ye Wusheng paused and looked back at everyone. "When Long Chen wakes up, tell him to immediately leave the Violet Flame Heaven. Large groups of experts will quickly come looking for him, and there might even be existences on my level."

Ye Wusheng then pointed at the sky and told Yu Xiaoyun, "This hole will not heal for at least a thousand years. With the wall of the heavens broken, primal chaos qi will come out of it. If you want to strengthen your immemorial heroic spirit, do your best to create a formation around it. If you miss this chance, you will find others coming to take it from you. If that happens, the Vermilion Bird Empire will never recover."

"Many thanks, senior!" Yu Xiaoyun hastily bowed. He knew that this short-haired woman's origins were shocking.

Ye Wusheng then waved her hand slightly. Without looking back, she vanished into the void while holding Dong Mingyu's hand. No one knew where they went.

"Activate the grand formation! Pour in all our resources to strengthen the Vermilion Bird's heroic spirit!" shouted Yu Xiaoyun.

Ye Wusheng was Dong Mingyu's master, and Dong Mingyu was close to Long Chen. Thus, Yu Xiaoyun was sure that Ye Wusheng wouldn't trick them.

Once the grand formation activated, the dim capital once more lit up. At the same time, pillars of light soared out of certain places on the Vermilion Bird Empire's borders.

"The broken formations can be repaired?" Yu Qianxue and the others were surprised. It had to be known that on their way back here, they had personally seen the broken formations of the border cities.

"They only broke the fake formations that we set up to trick them. After all, we wanted to capture them all in one net and settle things once and for all. However, we didn't expect them to summon the Yan Xu Gate and the hell gate. If it weren't for Long Chen, we'd have lost," sighed Yu Xiaoyun.

According to their original plan, Yu Xiaoyun had been one hundred percent confident of crushing the eight empires.

After all, the Vermilion Bird Grand Formation's strongest technique had yet to be unleashed. If it was used, it would be enough to wipe out all their enemies, but that would also damage the Vermilion Bird Empire's foundation. Still, in his opinion, wiping out all their enemies and gaining countless years of peace was worth it.

In the end, they could never unleash this technique because the hell gate had the ability to suppress the Vermilion Bird's heroic spirit. While the Vermilion Bird's power could combat the Yan Xu Flames, it proved ineffective against the power of hell.

This time, Long Chen not only rescued Yu Qingxuan but also safeguarded the entire Vermilion Bird Empire, thereby saving countless lives among the common people.

Yu Xiaoyun quickly gave some orders. “Yunwen, Yifeng, Qianxue, Ziang, Fengyi, Changfeng, Qiwen, Xuefeng, the eight of you lead eight squads to the eight empires! Seal off their cities and treasuries. Tell them that starting now, the names of the eight empires are erased. All their territory belongs to the Vermilion Bird Empire. If anyone dares to dissent, execute them. Extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary measures. There is no reason to speak of. There are only your bloody weapons!”

“As you order!”

Everyone immediately assented as they were all nursing a belly of fire. This time, it had truly been dangerous. If it weren’t for Long Chen, not a single soul from the Vermilion Bird Empire would have survived.

With that in mind, they had no intention of being merciful or courteous toward their enemies. Also, Zhu Yunwen and the rest of the group realized that entrusting them with leading the troops was Yu Xiaoyun's way of acknowledging their outstanding performance in battle.

The eight of them then led the Vermilion Bird Empire’s elites to the eight empires. As the experts of the eight empires had been decimated, this conquest posed no threat at all. All their city lords even came out and begged for mercy.

Throughout the conquest of the eight empires, the Vermilion Bird Empire faced minimal resistance. While there were sporadic dissenters, their absolute power obliterated any trace of opposition, leaving no room for defiance in the face of such overwhelming might.

The treasures of the eight empires were swiftly confiscated, becoming the resources of the Vermilion Bird Empire. With a newfound fervor, the empire focused on making the most of these riches.

Moreover, Yu Xiaoyun and his companions were overjoyed to discover that the primal chaos qi emanating from the rift in the heavens had immensely positive effects on the Vermilion Bird's heroic spirit. With each passing day, its strength grew exponentially. If they were able to absorb this energy for a thousand years, the Vermilion Bird Empire would become an unstoppable force, unafraid of any potential enemy.

As the Vermilion Bird Empire got to work, Long Chen descended into endless darkness.

Within this darkness, there was not the slightest sound nor the slightest light. There was only a deathly silence.

However, within this darkness, Long Chen didn’t feel the slightest bit nervous or afraid. Here, he felt at peace; he felt safe. Just like he said, when he was most helpless, when he was most weary, the darkness enveloped him, sympathized with him, and comforted him.

“Long Chen, the great nine star heir, we’ve finally connected again.” Within that darkness, an ancient voice rang out. That familiar voice was back.

Chapter 4048: The Nether Emperor’s Secret

That ancient voice was something that Long Chen had heard many times. But even to this day, he didn’t know who it was.

However, compared to the past, this voice was weaker, as if the speaker was lacking power now.

“Are you injured?” asked Long Chen suddenly.

“Injured? It can count as that. Communicating with you is very taxing. When you were still very weak, I had to use a great deal of time to transmit information to you. But as you grew stronger, I had to spend more energy to reach you through the monitoring of the Heavenly Daos. Long Chen, you’ve done very well. You broke a Star Peering Heavenly Mirror, causing millions of nine star heirs to escape their watch. More of them will survive now,” praised the ancient voice.

“I broke one Star Peering Heavenly Mirror? Are you saying that there’s more than one?” asked Long Chen.

“Yes. There were nine Star Peering Heavenly Mirrors, and you broke one,” said the ancient voice.

“Then where are the other eight?” asked Long Chen.

“The other eight are in the hands of Lord Brahma’s Eight Great Divine Commanders.”

“Eight Great Divine Commanders?”

Long Chen’s heart shook. Ye Wusheng had mentioned the Eight Great Divine Commanders. Apparently, not even someone as powerful as Enpuda was qualified to become one of them. In other words, all eight of them were stronger than Enpuda.

“In any case, your future path will be harder to traverse and longer. You are a nine star heir. I hope-”

Suddenly, the dragon expert’s voice rang out. “There’s no need for you to hope. Long Chen has his own path to walk, and he doesn’t need the status of the nine star heir to bind him. All things in this world have their own path, so Long Chen has the right to choose his own cultivation style. There’s no need for you to worry about it.”

The dragon expert’s voice was icy and definitely not courteous. Hearing this, the ancient voice was silent for a long time before replying.

“That is correct as well. Every person has the right to choose their own path. All I can ask is that you listen to your own heart.” This ancient voice was not angered by the dragon expert’s rude tone; rather, it seemed to approve of it.

Long Chen was shaken. The dragon expert and this mysterious elder were actually speaking within this dark world. Just what kind of existences were they?

Long Chen could tell that the mysterious elder wanted to remind him that as a nine star heir, the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art had to be his focus.

However, during this time, Long Chen had been focusing on the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art. As a result, the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art had not progressed at all, and his realm had not increased either, making it seem as if he had abandoned the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art. So, the elder wanted to warn him.

However, that drew the dragon expert's displeasure. The Dragon Soul Body Forging Art was the technique that it was proudest of. For Long Chen to inherit it was its greatest desire.

Fortunately, the two of them did not start fighting. The dragon expert simply said, "You should focus on your own affairs. Take care of the other nine star heirs. Long Chen has me here, so there's no need for you to worry."

"Then many thanks."

The elder's presence faded away.

"Senior, who is that person?" asked Long Chen.

"He is the guide of the nine star heirs. He is in charge of awakening you and guiding you down the path of the nine stars as quickly as possible. However, you are different from other nine star heirs. From the fifth star, you already deviated from the cultivation path, so your future path will need to be created by yourself. Listening to him won't benefit you. Furthermore, he's in trouble right now. Communicating with you will likely expose your position and put you in grave peril," said the dragon expert.

"Senior, who is the Nether Emperor?" asked Long Chen.

The dragon expert was silent, seemingly hesitating. It finally said, "The Nether Emperor already died and is still in nirvana. Just like Ghost Sovereign, he was slain by someone."

"Could it be...?"

"Yes, he was slain by the Nine Star Master. Just like the Ghost Sovereign, he possesses an undying body. Thus, even though his physical body was destroyed and his Yuan Spirit extinguished, he can still be revived. As for the woman of the Nether Emperor, it is like being his daughter. Just like your Ghost Sovereign seal, it is a seed. These seeds will be reaped once they grow to a certain extent. As that girl possesses the Jiuli bloodline, it was sensed by the Heavenly Daos when she was born. So, the seed of the hell flower was planted in her.

"Originally, the hell flower should have only bloomed when she became a World King. However, someone interfered, using a sacrificial ceremony to open the hell gate. The aura of hell then triggered the hell flower, causing the envoy to come. I originally thought that you would need me to interfere this time, but you dealt with it yourself. You used your Purgatory Eyes to seal the hell flower and even learned a new divine technique from it. When the hell gate collapsed, I was going to seal it. But then I hesitated. Sometimes, helping you is actually harming you. Thus, when you used the cauldron, I didn't stop you. Your future path is already in so much chaos that even I cannot see through it. That is why your path should be walked by you alone."

When Long Chen was about to die, the dragon expert naturally wouldn't just watch. However, when Long Chen used a pupil art to seal the hell flower, the dragon expert felt that not helping Long Chen was a better decision.

"Senior, just what is this cauldron?"

"There's no need for me to tell you. The news will quickly reach you, so you will know soon."

After that, the dragon expert no longer spoke. Long Chen sank into darkness. When he finally opened his eyes again, the first thing that entered his gaze was a pair of eyes red from crying.

“Long Chen!”

Yu Qingxuan immediately hugged Long Chen, her tears spilling out.

“No wonder people say women are made of water. You’ve cried so much that you got thinner. Stop crying. Aren’t I fine? If you cry, you’ll make me feel bad. I told you, I wouldn’t let you be hurt. If you’re hurt, I’ll feel powerless.” Long Chen rubbed Yu Qingxuan’s face guiltily, truly feeling powerless. Yu Qingxuan had suffered a great deal this time.

“I’m not crying. I’m smiling. You are so incredible that you even drove off the Nether Emperor. No one would dare to say that you are powerless.” Yu Qingxuan wiped away her tears and smiled. But she still couldn’t stop more tears from spilling out.

Long Chen tightly hugged her and whispered into her ear, “Qingxuan, trust me. I won’t let anyone hurt you.”

Yu Qingxuan finally stopped crying and immersed herself in his embrace, smelling his scent and feeling his warm embrace. There was no place that made her feel safer.

“Cough...”

Just then, a sound caused Yu Qingxuan to hastily flee from Long Chen’s embrace.

Long Chen then saw Yu Xiaoyun, Jiang Huixin, and Xu Lanxin walk in. That scene just now was witnessed by them, leaving everyone with awkward expressions.

Chapter 4049: Peerless Grade Golden Pill

“Long Chen, are you alright?” asked Jiang Huixin to resolve the awkward atmosphere.

“It seems that he is fine.”

Before Long Chen replied, Yu Xiaoyun was already answering for him. Of course, Long Chen had to be alright, or how else could he hug his beloved daughter?

Hearing this statement, Yu Qingxuan reddened and Jiang Huixin glared at her husband. This fellow had promised her to talk nicely this time. How could he suddenly go back on his word?

“Long Chen, theoretically, since you just woke up, you still need to rest. But there is no time to rest anymore,” said Jiang Huixin.

Long Chen nodded. “I understand. But my head still hurts, so let me just rest a bit and I’ll go.” Although Long Chen hadn’t heard Ye Wusheng’s final remarks, he knew that using the bronze cauldron would cause trouble.

Even if only the Vermilion Bird Empire’s people saw it, so what? With experts in the empire numbering in the trillions, who could guarantee that there were no traitors among them?

Thus, even if the Vermilion Bird Empire were to enter an information lockdown, it wouldn't be long before the news spread.

Given the tremendous disturbance this time, Long Chen knew that the experts in this region would undoubtedly make inquiries. The shattered void in the sky served as a clear indicator of something major happening, so Long Chen realized that he couldn't stay in this place for long.

Upon awakening, he promptly directed his attention toward recovering. He then felt gratified to find that his physical body was completely fine, instilling him with confidence that he wouldn't fear facing an Earth Venerate if the need arose.

However, his soul felt somewhat hollow, and his head throbbed as if it were about to split open. The pain in his left eye was especially excruciating, and even with the eyepatch gifted by Bai Xiaole's mother, it felt as though sharp needles were relentlessly piercing into his eye. This pain felt like it was swelling, pulsing, and pulling at his soul.

Seeing Long Chen like this, Yu Qingxuan felt heartache for him. Long Chen was a man who never cried out in pain. So, for him to say that it was painful, it was definitely beyond imagination.

Long Chen had acted fine upon waking up for her, but now the truth was revealed, so Yu Qingxuan hastily took out a medicinal pill. When Long Chen saw the pill, he was startled.

"A peerless grade golden pill?"

This pill had golden marks flickering on top of it, moving across the surface. Also, the powerful medicinal energy was perfectly sealed within the pill, with not even a trace leaking.

In the immortal world, medicinal pills had three classifications: spirit pills, treasure pills, and golden pills. Every one of them could be graded as low grade, middle grade, high grade, top grade, and peerless grade.

Golden pills were the highest tier of pills that Long Chen had come into contact with. Furthermore, he could only refine one or two within a hundred refinements.

As for a peerless grade pill, that was something that Long Chen had never managed to refine, whether it was a spirit, treasure, or golden pill.

This so-called peerless grade meant that there could only be one within heaven and earth. There could not be two identical peerless grade pills.

Normally, if one peerless grade pill appeared, a second could not appear, unless the first one was consumed and vanished from this world.

However, there was a more domineering method. If there was already a consummate grade pill in the world, someone who refined the same pill at the peerless grade would have to endure the baptism of heavenly tribulation to obtain the recognition of the Heavenly Daos.

Once the second pill received this recognition, then the first peerless grade pills would wither away and vanish from this world. In the end, only one peerless grade pill of this type could exist.

Thus, refining a peerless grade pill was normally considered a great honor for an alchemist. Yu Qingxuan, through sheer luck, had managed to refine a peerless grade pill, which sent waves through the entire alchemy world. It marked the first occurrence in many tens of thousands of years where a peerless grade pill was successfully refined.

“This is a Soul Nourishing Spirit Calming Pill, and it just so happens that it can help with your injuries. You baddie, why didn’t you say anything sooner?” rebuked Yu Qingxuan.

Long Chen had acted like he was fine when he first woke up. If he hadn’t been pretending, she would have taken it out sooner.

Upon looking at her reproachful gaze, Long Chen’s heart warmed. Thus, he didn’t argue and just tossed the pill into his mouth.

The pill instantly melted, and a miraculous halo of light appeared above Long Chen’s head.

When that happened, the spiritual qi of heaven and earth was instantly sucked into it and poured into Long Chen’s body.

“A peerless grade golden pill can use heaven and earth as the medicine. The legends really are true,” praised Long Chen.

The effect of a peerless grade golden pill was not limited to just a medicinal pill. Its medicinal energy could draw out the essence of heaven and earth to work with the medicinal pill’s energy, unleashing a medicinal effect that surpassed people’s imagination.

Long Chen’s injuries were severe this time, and the damage to his soul and eye was the most difficult to heal. Even with the primal chaos space’s energy, he could only slowly heal them.

But after consuming Yu Qingxuan’s peerless grade golden pill, Long Chen felt immediate relief as his burning eye was refreshed, and the excruciating pain subsided. The splitting headache that had been plaguing him vanished almost instantly, leaving him feeling revitalized and full of energy.

He then tore off his eyepatch and opened his left eye, causing Yu Xiaoyun and the others’ expressions to change. The hell flower in his left eye had yet to fully vanish. Upon seeing the hell flower in his eyes, their souls quivered.

“Still no good. My eye still hurts a bit, and I can’t keep it open. But don’t worry, I estimate that it will only take three to five days for it to heal.” Long Chen felt very uncomfortable when he opened his left eye. It even teared up, so he put the eyepatch back on.

The peerless grade golden pill had instantly healed the wound to his soul, but its effect was limited against the Purgatory Eyes. After all, even the power of heaven and earth was not omnipotent.

Afraid that Yu Qingxuan would be disappointed, Long Chen hastily smiled and said, “A peerless grade golden pill really is amazing. Without it, my recovery would have taken at least half a year, but now I feel revitalized in no time. Qingxuan, you’re amazing.”

Yu Qingxuan was truly a bit disappointed. She had thought that this peerless grade golden pill would instantly heal Long Chen, but his praise did make her smile slightly.

Jiang Huixin watched them with a smile. She then looked back at the gloomy Yu Xiaoyun and couldn't help sighing. Compared to Long Chen, Yu Xiaoyun didn't know how to make others happy.

The feast was already prepared, and as Long Chen and the others walked into the venue, they were greeted with the utmost respect as everyone stood in reverence.

Thinking back, when Long Chen had first come to the Vermilion Bird Empire to propose to Yu Qingxuan, he had stirred anger among countless experts. Many saw him as a toad lusting after swan meat, an unworthy match for her.

However, after the last battle, Long Chen's bravery and fearlessness had fully won them over. He was a true hero, and when they looked at him now, their eyes were full of reverence and gratitude.

At the main table, there were five people: Yu Xiaoyun, Jiang Huixin, Xu Lanxin, Long Chen, and Yu Qingxuan. Everyone knew that this feast was more like a family gathering, as there was a bit less dignity to it and a bit more warmth.

Guo Ran and the others were placed around the main table. This time, Long Chen wasn't stingy. He took out the blood fire sorghum wine that he had kept hidden all this time.

When the blood fire sorghum wine appeared, Yu Xiaoyun's gaze instantly locked onto it.

Chapter 4050: Declining a Wedding

Yu Xiaoyun furiously cursed, "You little brat! As expected, you weren't sincere at all! You only bring out this wine now?!"

"Have you not heard that you don't release the hawk until you've seen the hare? You don't even know this?" retorted Long Chen.

"Bastard, you're calling me a hare?!" Yu Xiaoyun turned red and glared at Long Chen.

"Cough, that was a slip of the tongue. I just meant that if I took it out sooner, it would seem like I was bribing Your Majesty. That would be a blasphemy toward Qingxuan. Instead, I use my true sincerity to win His Majesty over and then bring out the wine as a celebration. Then it's an entirely different concept," explained Long Chen.

"Hmph, at least you know how to talk." Yu Xiaoyun's anger turned into a slight smile. "And what if you were unable to win me over?"

"If I can't win you over, I'll trick you. If I can't trick, I'll steal. If I can't steal, I'll snatch. In any case, Qingxuan will definitely be mine," said Long Chen fearlessly, causing Jiang Huixin and Xu Lanxin to laugh.

"To be able to spout such shameless words as if they're natural and just, I have never met anyone with such a thick face," snorted Yu Xiaoyun.

"Thank you for your praise, Your Majesty. Many people say that I lived off of this face, but you know, I just don't like relying on face to live. So what if I'm shameless? If you don't like it, come bite me!" Long Chen raised his fist fearlessly, looking like he needed a beating.

“You...!”

“Ah, don’t get angry. It’s just a joke. For us two brothers- No, for us two old men to drink together is a joyous occasion!” Long Chen hastily opened one of the jugs of wine and poured it into Yu Xiaoyun’s cup.

The moment Long Chen undid the seal on the wine, everyone let out a startled cry. The fiery wine scent set people’s blood ablaze. Just by smelling it, the flame energy within their body surged crazily as if it would explode.

“Could this be...?” Yu Xiaoyun’s anger was instantly dispelled by this wine.

“Of course. If it wasn’t top grade blood fire sorghum wine, how could I bring it out for my father-in-law to drink?” Long Chen was very pleased with its effect.

Long Chen knew that this was Yu Xiaoyun's favorite wine. Prior to this, the best version of this wine that Yu Xiaoyun had ever tasted was a mere third-grade, and even then, he had already hailed it as divine. As for the current blood fire sorghum wine, being the ninth grade, it was personally crafted by a supreme expert of the Wine God Palace. The mere thought of indulging in such an exquisite and rare wine was beyond anything Yu Xiaoyun could have ever dared to dream.

The wine exuded a rich, honey-like density and a captivating amber hue. Powerful flame fluctuations emanated from it, resembling the flow of molten lava. As the wine unleashed its beautiful divine light, it had a mesmerizing effect on people. Merely gazing upon it felt intoxicating, as if one could be enchanted by its mere sight.

The current Yu Xiaoyun didn’t even bother with Long Chen’s pleased expression. He directly gulped the bowl of wine, feeling like roiling lava had been poured down his throat. When it reached his stomach, it erupted like a volcano, spreading a wave of heat throughout his body. In the end, it all gathered and condensed in his head.

After drinking it, Yu Xiaoyun actually felt dizzy, like he had been sent into the clouds. At the same time, he felt like his bottleneck was loosening.

“Good wine!”

Yu Xiaoyun exclaimed delightedly. He had never experienced such fiery wine before, and the feeling of carefree bliss it brought was indescribable.

“If it’s good wine, drink some more.” Long Chen smiled and poured another bowl for him.

“Here, you drink too!” Yu Xiaoyun seemed to become much friendlier.

“I... My injuries have yet to heal...” said Long Chen hastily. He had drunk this wine before. This thing was fatal.

At that time, he had only drunk the seventh grade of the blood fire sorghum wine, and one gulp had made him collapse. If he were to drink a bowl of the top grade wine now, he’d probably pass out. Then Yu Xiaoyun would definitely laugh at him.

“Hmph, are you afraid of collapsing? How gutless! Are you fit to marry my daughter?” provoked Yu Xiaoyun disdainfully.

"Your Majesty, Long Chen is still injured. It's not like you don't know..." advised Jiang Huixin.

"Huixin, don't help him speak! This brat is slippery enough. This wine is very beneficial to his wounds. If he doesn't drink it, it's obvious that he's just afraid," said Yu Xiaoyun.

Being exposed, Long Chen was displeased. He could see that this father-in-law of his was planning on showing him who was boss before he left.

"Then I'll accompany my father-in-law today."

Long Chen raised his bowl. In the worst case, he would simply collapse and be dragged away. In any case, Xia Chen and Guo Ran were also here. There was nothing to fear.

Long Chen fearlessly downed three bowls in a row with Yu Xiaoyun, and the intensity of their drinking left their eyes tinted blue. When they exhaled, flames spurted from their mouths, creating a breathtaking spectacle. Jiang Huixin and the others were taken aback by this sight but couldn't help bursting into laughter at the fiery display.

The blood fire sorghum wine was so strong that they only dared to take small sips. Its power was immense. Even with just the small sips, they were starting to feel a bit light-headed.

After three bowls, Yu Xiaoyun's tongue loosened, and he patted Long Chen on the shoulder. "I really felt like you were an expert at vexing others at first. But now, I find that you're a super expert at pissing people off."

Long Chen was no better off than him, as there was no way for him to suppress the wine energy. He looked at Yu Xiaoyun. "We're in the same boat. When I first saw you, I had to take a second look. You didn't look that great. But after looking more closely, I realized that I shouldn't have taken a second look."

Everyone else was speechless after hearing their slurred words. No one dared to say anything, and even the old patriarch acted like he didn't hear this.

Yu Qingxuan was also holding a jug of the blood fire sorghum wine, pouring it for her seniors. This wine was so precious and powerful that everyone only took the tiniest sips.

On the other hand, Long Chen and Yu Xiaoyun instantly drank three bowls of it. They were red in the face, and even their words were no longer clear.

Yu Xiaoyun patted Long Chen's shoulder. "Brother, in the future... I entrust Qingxuan to you..."

"Big brother, don't worry. Junior brother's love for Qingxuan is beyond the sun and moon," swore Long Chen.

"Good. Then I'm at ease. Cheers!"

"The two of you should stop drinking now. You've even messed up your seniorities." Jiang Huixin hastily grabbed their wine bowls. If these two kept drinking, they might do something really embarrassing.

With his wine bowl gone, Yu Xiaoyun once more patted Long Chen's shoulder. "My dislike for you was just a dislike for anyone who wanted to take Qingxuan from my side. Qingxuan... She is a good child.

She's smart and kind... But you know, the more a child is smart and obedient, the less attention they get. By the time that I wanted to make it up to her, there was no longer a chance... I'm not fit to be a father... You little brat, you have to treat her well..."

Yu Xiaoyun actually began to sob. It was unknown if it was because he was drunk, but the words hidden in his heart were directly revealed.

"Dad..." Yu Qingxuan's eyes reddened with emotion.

Suddenly, Yu Xiaoyun staggered. No longer able to endure the wine, he collapsed. Jiang Huixin hastily caught him and ordered people to bring him to his room to rest.

Jiang Huixin then looked from Yu Xiaoyun to all the princes and princesses. "In truth, His Majesty loves all of you. However, he is the ruler of this empire, so he could not give you the same familial love that commoners enjoy. As your father and mother, we feel very bitter about it. We see everything that you've done, but the burden on our shoulders does not allow us to enjoy certain things."

Jiang Huixin also teared up. Even as an empress, she felt powerless when it came to many things.

"His Majesty doesn't wish for Qingxuan to marry out of the family, but more than that, he wishes for Qingxuan to be happy. Since His Majesty isn't present, let me carry out this wedding ceremony for Qingxuan!" said Jiang Huixin.

"No. I don't want a wedding."

Yu Qingxuan suddenly objected, startling everyone.