

Chapter 4191: Eternal Bone Stele

Within the palace, hundreds of white stone steles graced the surroundings. These stone steles, reminiscent of jade, were the source of the immense pressure Long Chen sensed.

When Long Chen examined those stone steles, his heart skipped a beat. They were actually not stone steles but the bones of lifeforms that had reached the Eternal realm.

The bone steles were inscribed with densely packed characters, and a divine radiance enveloped them, lending an air of holiness and sanctity to their presence.

“This is... the Sword Dao’s inscription?”

Mu Qingyun let out a startled cry and immediately flew toward one of the bone steles. She looked as if she had been bewitched, as if her soul had been drawn out by the bone stele. She just stood there motionlessly.

Upon looking at the surrounding bone steles, Long Chen and the others saw hundreds of other disciples in the same state. Most likely, their minds were fully immersed in the bone steles as they comprehended what was on them.

“These are secret arts recorded with original Jiuli immortal characters, which can contain all things and manifestations. They are, in essence, the most ancient of characters, from which runes as we know them today were derived. These words or runes serve as vectors of power and as characters themselves, each carrying a portion of the Jiuli immortal characters’ power. But when they are merged, they are not Jiuli immortal characters,” said Bai Shishi’s mother.

“Now you’ve lost me. If one was split into two, once they’re merged back together, are they not the original one? Senior, can you please explain it some more?” asked Xia Chen curiously.

Bai Shishi’s mother smiled. “One is split into two? It’s not so simple. What if it was ten split into two, or a hundred split into two, or a thousand split into two?”

“Then...?” Xia Chen was at a loss for words.

“Original Jiuli immortal characters are said to contain the greatest secrets of the nine heavens and ten lands. No one can truly understand them. If you wish, you can view Jiuli immortal characters as an enormous measuring instrument capable of appraising everything within the nine heavens and ten lands. It is also capable of appraising the ten thousand laws and Daos of the universe. Our human race was at the bottom of the food chain back in the primal chaos era, merely slaves to the ten thousand races and livestock for slaughter. But the appearance of Jiuli immortal characters was what changed the fate of our human race, allowing us to rise to the peak of the ten thousand races.

“However, good things don’t last forever. After the great battle of primal chaos, the human race plummeted from their peak. It was this battle that caused the inheritance of Jiuli immortal characters to be severed. Currently, we can only decipher up to third-generation Jiuli immortal characters. As for second-generation characters, even the Calligraphy Sect of the four immemorial sects can only

recognize sixty to seventy percent of them. When it comes to first-generation Jiuli immortal characters, their comprehension is limited to a mere ten to twenty percent. If we have to talk about the original Jiuli immortal characters, they cannot be understood by anyone,” Bai Shishi's mother lamented, her voice tinged with regret and helplessness.

“Wait a moment. Senior, are first-generation Jiuli immortal characters not the original Jiuli immortal characters?” asked Xia Chen.

“There is a difference. First-generation Jiuli immortal characters were deciphered by the Jiuli race. At the same time, they also managed to decipher runes of power. Those runes are different from immortal characters as they are used to unleash things, while immortal characters are used to pass things on. In order for something to be passed on, future generations must understand it. However, when the Jiuli race translated first-generation Jiuli immortal characters, the range was too vast for them, so it was not precise enough. Thus, from the foundation of first-generation Jiuli immortal characters, second-generation Jiuli immortal characters were born. Then comes the third generation and fourth generation. The characters we currently use are mostly from decomposing fourth-generation Jiuli immortal characters. Through practice and consideration, we have reached the point where people can communicate accurately and precisely with these characters. Thus, some things can now be passed down with just words and not practice. That looks to be a good thing, but in truth, it is terrible.” Bai Shishi’s mother shook her head sadly at this point.

She continued, “We originally had an enormous instrument to measure the world. However, we disliked it because it was too troublesome and began to break it apart piece by piece, simplifying it. It’s like we took apart a ten thousand-mile ruler into many tiny rulers for measuring every hair, every millimeter. Well, it became more convenient to use, but we would never be able to use them to measure vaster spaces, vaster worlds. Thus, we have basically turned ourselves into frogs at the bottom of a well.”

“Senior, is that really such a problem? Can we not just add all those smaller rulers up again to measure vaster spaces?” interjected Guo Ran.

She bitterly smiled. “How could it be so easy? If you fit billions of smaller rulers together, perhaps then you will have a giant ruler. But are you sure that this giant ruler is still accurate?”

“It shouldn’t be a problem, right?” said Guo Ran.

“Then can you guarantee there won’t be the slightest mistake in your fusion? It has to be known that the slightest mistake will result in miles of difference,” said Bai Shishi’s mother.

Guo Ran didn’t know what to say, but he understood now. After all, this ruler was nothing more than a metaphor. What original Jiuli immortal characters measured were the world, not just distance. It could measure both the visible and invisible, the incorporeal and the corporeal.

“So it was the Jiuli race who took original Jiuli immortal characters and turned them into first-generation Jiuli immortal characters? Why would they translate their own characters into new ones? Unless...” Long Chen suddenly frowned, his heart skipping a beat.

Could it be that the Jiuli immortal characters were just like Lord Brahma and the Nirvana Scripture? Lord Brahma didn’t create the Nirvana Scripture. First came the Nirvana Scripture, and then came Lord Brahma.^[1]

If first came the Jiuli immortal characters and then the Jiuli race, that would make sense. The Jiuli race themselves were unable to understand them, so in order to pass them on, they intentionally translated the original into first-generation Jiuli immortal characters.

But that didn't make sense either. If they were unable to understand those characters themselves, how did they translate them? Long Chen was stumped.

"Aunt, can I ask who was the first to obtain the Jiuli immortal characters?" asked Long Chen.

Bai Shishi's mother shook her head with a bitter smile. "How could I possibly know that? When I was younger, I asked the sweeping elder, but he only told me not to ask anyone that question."

"The sweeping elder?"

Long Chen's heart shook. That elder sweeping the academy was too mysterious. Just who was he?

"This is all I can say about Jiuli immortal characters. In truth, I only know this much. What you are seeing are original Jiuli immortal characters, the most primitive immortal characters. But don't vainly try to understand them. You would be wasting your time. Furthermore, once the martial stage activates, these bone steles will vanish. You should just try to understand as much as you can. Also, just as a warning, if you try to forcibly comprehend something you have no destiny with, your soul might crumble and become bedeviled. Don't force things here. I will teach you a simple method. These bone steles have different things recorded on them. Use your heart to sense them. You will then feel a resonance with some immortal rune or stroke. If you can understand the realm of a single stroke here, that will be enough to benefit you for a lifetime. Don't be too greedy and end up losing everything. Just look at Qingyun. She is staring at a sword-shaped stroke. She has already entered a meditative state. Once she comprehends it, her potential will be limitless."

After Bai Shishi's mother finished saying that, everyone didn't tarry. They closed their eyes, focusing their minds. As expected, they began to sense different things calling them. Thus, they started to go separate ways and walk to their own destinies.

"Boss, I sense too many things summoning me! Am I just too outstanding or what?" Guo Ran cried out excitedly. He felt like every bone stele was calling him.

"Outstanding my ass. You have too many distracting thoughts. Stop being greedy and sense it calmly," scolded Long Chen. This fellow's heart was so unsteady that even his Blood Qi fluctuations were still active. He clearly was too excited to sense any summons.

"Oh."

After that scolding, Guo Ran calmed down a great deal and started focusing.

"Long Chen, I feel a summon from above. What about you?" Bai Shishi opened her eyes.

"I'm feeling something from above too." Long Chen smiled. He already sensed it when he reached this place.

Bai Shishi's mother said, "Then let's go up!" She then led Long Chen and Bai Shishi up the palace.

Chapter 4192: Illusion

There was a staircase in the center of the palace. When Long Chen set foot onto it, the scenery around him instantly changed.

Everything inside the palace was gone, replaced by a desolate battlefield. The staircase was still present, but Bai Shishi and her mother who had stepped onto it with him were gone.

“Kill!”

A furious roar rang out in Long Chen’s ear. After that, he saw a human expert wearing battle armor fly past him.

A devil expert was cleaved in two by a stroke of that person’s blade. However, as soon as the devil expert was slain, that human expert let out a painful shout.

A fist-sized spider clamped its fangs into his neck. The spider bore five-colored spots, and within moments, the unfortunate victim withered into a desiccated corpse.

After eating that human expert, the spider suddenly shot toward a battlefield in the distance. Looking in that direction, Long Chen saw countless lifeforms fighting crazily.

The devil race, Blood race, demon race, beast race, giant race, and many other races that Long Chen had yet to come into contact with were all fighting. And the target of all their attacks was the human race.

Long Chen knew that this was just an illusion. However, his spot on the staircase was too low for him to see everything clearly, so he hastily climbed up.

As he climbed up, his line of sight was constantly changing. He saw battlefields further away and saw the human race fighting all the different races.

No one was helping the human race. They were always alone against an endless sea of enemies. Panic, despair, thunderous roars, and tears consumed them, yet it all amounted to naught. After all, the battlefield knew no mercy, showed no pity, followed no logic, and adhered to no system.

On the battlefield, there was only the most primal, bloody face of cruelty, violence, and malevolence. The ugly desires of the heart were fully unleashed, and the ugliest side of the world was on full display.

The sky was no longer blue. The sun and moon were covered. Perhaps even they were unable to watch this ugly scene, and had shut their eyes.

The human race bitterly endured. Although the slaughter from the ten thousand races made them weep, they persevered. Countless times they teetered on the brink of collapse, yet they still managed to endure.

The human race’s tenacity was shocking. Despite knowing that they had no chance, they still didn’t give up and just fought to the death. When they fell, others would pick up their weapons and continue fighting in their place. This unbroken chain of determination persisted as one generation after another took up arms, each refusing to relent.

In an endless cycle, the battlefield was still the same battlefield, but the humans were constantly changing.

“They aren’t just picking up their seniors’ weapons but also their will and responsibility. The moment they pick up the weapons, they also understand why their seniors continue to fight to the death despite knowing that there is no hope. That is because they have no way to retreat. If they didn’t fight, their fathers, mothers, partners, and children would all die at their enemies’ hands. Despite knowing that there was no hope, they continued to fight to buy time for their descendants. Fighting with no hope is sometimes the only thing to do when there is nothing you can do.”

As Long Chen climbed higher, he saw more and more of the battlefield. He wanted to dive in and help these humans, but he knew that this was an illusion. Perhaps it really did exist, but it wasn’t necessarily happening now. Perhaps it was the past, perhaps it was the future.

Long Chen didn’t know why he would see such a thing now. This scene saddened him, but he was powerless to do anything about it. He didn’t like that feeling.

In order to escape this illusion faster, he quickened the pace. But as he did this, he saw the battlefield developing faster as well.

The humans dwindled in numbers. Furthermore, at this time, the human race suddenly fractured into countless factions that were gradually picked off one by one by the ten thousand races.

“What?!”

Long Chen was enraged because he saw some factions of the human race actually betray their own people, joining forces with their enemies. Blood was spilled by countless humans.

“Bastards!” Long Chen gnashed his teeth furiously. He saw the traitors, but he was now too high to see who they were.

Enraged, Long Chen tried to climb down, but he was shocked to find that this staircase could only be climbed, not descended.

In his fury, he jumped down, but just as he was about to touch the ground, space twisted and he appeared in his original location.

“Damn it! Who are they?! Who sold out the human race?!” roared Long Chen.

He knew it was an illusion, but it was definitely a projection. Perhaps it had already happened, or perhaps it was about to happen. Long Chen wanted to see it clearly, but the laws here would not permit it.

“Traitors!” Long Chen clenched his teeth. What he hated most was traitors. Since he couldn’t see it more clearly, he could only clench his teeth and continue climbing.

Suddenly, the battlefield below vanished and was replaced by a lake. The lake’s surface was flat and smooth like a mirror, reflecting an enormous figure.

Long Chen paused, his gaze fixed upon the colossal figure's back. Even though it was just its rear view, an eerie sensation still washed over him. That figure exuded an aura of unfathomable destruction, one

that sent shivers down the very core of people's beings, invoking terror at the deepest level of their souls.

Long Chen felt a fierce pain in his eyes, his soul shaken. He also felt a profound sense of unease.

"Who is it? Why would it appear here?" Long Chen stared in shock at that huge figure.

Buzz.

Abruptly, the figure vanished, along with the entire lake. The surroundings shifted once more, and before Long Chen stood Bai Shishi and her mother. He had returned to the palace once more.

Bai Shishi excitedly asked, "Long Chen, what did you see? I actually saw-"

"Silence!"

The expression of Bai Shishi's mother suddenly changed, and she barked at her daughter.

"Mom...!"

Bai Shishi was startled. She didn't recall her mother ever talking so severely to her.

"Whatever you saw, only you can know. You cannot tell anyone, or you and whoever you tell will face terrible karma," warned Bai Shishi's mother.

"I understand, Mom!" Bai Shishi responded, her heart quivering at her mother's words. Witnessing her daughter's reaction, Bai Shishi's mother felt that she had been a tad too stern as well, causing her to soften her tone.

"Shishi, it's my fault. I didn't expect you to see anything on the stairs. That's why I didn't warn you beforehand."

"Mom, you didn't see anything?" asked Bai Shishi.

Bai Shishi's mother shook her head. "It is said only destined people with the ability to change the future will see anything. I didn't see anything, so this matter ends here, understood? No matter what you saw, don't mention it ever again."

Bai Shishi and Long Chen nodded. After that, they followed Bai Shishi's mother further ahead. When they passed by a gate, they saw that they were in another large palace hall.

This room was also full of bone steles. However, there were only nine of them. Even before getting close to them, a powerful resonance drew Long Chen and Bai Shishi.

Chapter 4193: Original Nirvana Scripture

When Long Chen and Bai Shishi arrived at the second floor of the palace, they were greeted by the presence of more than ten individuals, all of whom belonged to the senior generation. Amongst them were Bai Zantang and the other vice palace master.

However, these elders paid no attention to Long Chen and his companions as they arrived. The former were already deeply engrossed in a meditative trance, fully immersed in the profound immortal characters inscribed upon the bone steles.

At this moment, Long Chen found that Bai Zhantang's aura had reached the innate Heaven Venerate realm.

In the state where he had forgotten himself and everything else, except for what he was comprehending from the bone stele, he couldn't conceal his aura. Thus, a powerful pressure exuded from him, one that was several times greater than an ordinary innate Heaven Venerate.

"How can this be?"

Long Chen was taken aback. During his time at the academy, he had never sensed this. Bai Zhantang had always appeared to be an Immortal King. Even if he suppressed his power on purpose, at most he could be a World King.

Just how much time had passed? When did he become an innate Heaven Venerate? Was he like Long Chen's grandfather and had suppressed his power?

Bai Shishi's mother simply smiled and didn't say anything in response to Long Chen's shock. As for Bai Shishi, she was walking over to a bone stele.

This bone stele had golden immortal characters carved into it, and Long Chen could sense the terrifying metal energy fluctuations coming from it.

Bai Shishi was instantly drawn to it. The next moment, before Long Chen even said anything, Huo Linger and Lei Linger ran out in the form of two excited girls. Just as they were about to cry out, Long Chen hastily covered their mouths.

Long Chen then pointed at the people who were in meditative states and gestured to both of them to stay silent. They couldn't cause a ruckus here.

Huo Linger and Lei Linger obediently nodded, and only then did Long Chen release them. The two of them immediately ran to separate bone steles and started comprehending them, following the same practice as everyone else in the room.

"Your spirits are amazing." Bai Shishi's mother was amazed by Lei Linger and Huo Linger. She could see that they were a fire spirit and a lightning spirit. Despite her wealth of experience, having encountered many stronger spirits, she had never come across any with such remarkable intelligence. The level of intelligence these two displayed was approaching that of the human race, a phenomenon that should have been inherently impossible. If she didn't personally see it, she wouldn't believe it.

"They aren't my spirits, they're my little sisters," corrected Long Chen with a slight smile.

Lei Linger and Huo Linger were raised by him. So, he had never viewed them as servants, but rather as cherished members of his own family.

Bai Shishi's mother didn't mind his correction. She then said, "You should start as well. There's not much time left. This is your greatest chance to improve before the Sage King Convention."

"Senior, you go ahead. I can sense a stronger summon. It's not on this level," said Long Chen.

Bai Shishi's mother was startled. "You want to go to the third level?"

Long Chen nodded. "Yes. The summon is stronger from there. This junior will take his leave."

Long Chen bid farewell and went off to the next staircase. He quickly vanished within it.

Watching as he left, Bai Shishi's mother was filled with shock.

"He can touch even higher secrets of the Heavenly Daos while in the Immortal King realm? Can it be that he is the destined one? The one to change the final board?"

Long Chen didn't know what Bai Shishi's mother was thinking. All he knew was that there was a stronger summon up there.

This time, there were no illusions when he stepped onto the staircase. Everything was normal. After ninety-nine steps, he reached the third level, also the final level of the High Firmament Palace.

BOOM!

The moment he stepped onto the third floor, a terrifying pressure attacked him, almost sending him flying.

Long Chen felt like an entire world was pressing down on him, creaking his body. Long Chen was startled. After that, he took a deep breath, and golden dragon scales covered his body.

With the Dragon King Battle Armor on, most of that terrifying pressure was instantly mitigated.

Long Chen walked in step by step. When he passed the gates, he saw the palace master's large figure.

This level only had three bone steles and a lone figure in addition to Long Chen. The palace master stood before one of the bone steles, deep in meditation, resembling an immovable giant statue.

"The palace master is actually this terrifying. This is only his most ordinary aura, but it has such a terrifying pressure."

Long Chen was shocked. When a person was in their meditative state, their aura should be calm. And when most experts fought, they would raise their auras to the peak in preparation for a high-intensity battle.

Normally, they would keep their auras suppressed to avoid making others uncomfortable. Being in a meditative state returned their auras to a natural state.

However, the palace master's natural aura actually exuded such a terrifying pressure. If he was in his battle state, Long Chen couldn't imagine just how powerful he would be. It seemed that Long Chen had still underestimated him.

"Could it be that the palace master has stepped into the Eternal realm?" guessed Long Chen. Otherwise, how could he give off such terrifying pressure? It was many times stronger than other innate Heaven Venerates.

Bai Zhan'ang's pressure had been strong enough. But in front of the palace master, he paled in comparison.

Long Chen didn't dare to disturb him as he headed toward the three bone steles. He could feel two bone steles calling to him. One of them was the one that the palace master was facing at the moment.

"Dragon bone stele?"

When Long Chen got closer to the bone steles, he was shocked to see that this bone stele was made from a dragon bone. Although the dragon bone's power had been locked by the immortal characters, Long Chen immediately sensed it when he got closer.

"No wonder I have such a feeling," thought Long Chen. He had dragon blood flowing through his veins, cultivated the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art, and possessed the dragon race's divine abilities. It would be strange if he didn't feel a resonance with it.

"Perhaps what's carved on top of it is related to the dragon race. However, it's not the one resonating the strongest with me."

Long Chen then turned to the other bone stele. Looking at this one, he saw that there were very few immortal characters on it.

Other bone steles had millions of immortal characters carved densely on top of it. However, this one only had a few dozen immortal characters.

Even so, every single one of these characters was extremely complex, akin to totems. When Long Chen got closer to it, his head turned blank as he actually recognized two characters.

"Nirvana Scripture!"

Long Chen knew some second-generation Jiuli immortal characters but not even one first-generation Jiuli immortal character. There was even less to say about the original Jiuli immortal characters.

However, for some reason, he recognized these characters. It was like these characters had been carved into his soul.

Buzz.

When Long Chen got closer, those characters seemed to come to life. In the next instant, his surroundings transformed, and he found himself in a world of fire.

Chapter 4194: Comprehension

Countless flames raged within this world of fire and began to gather toward Long Chen when he appeared.

At this moment, Long Chen heard the sound of billions of flames burning. Together, they formed a strange sound.

The sound resembled the exchange of emotions, the sharing of thoughts. The flames felt intimately connected to Long Chen, as if they relied on him for their existence.

The flames burned, emitting a sound that seemed to be telling him something, yet Long Chen couldn't understand its meaning.

The sound was cacophonous. These flames contained all kinds of manifestations, including the immortal world's Heavenly Flames, the mortal world's Earth Flames, beast flames, even wildfires in the mountains, and fires for cooking food.

It was too complicated, too chaotic. They all seemed to be trying to communicate with Long Chen, but Long Chen couldn't comprehend what they were trying to say. There was a barrier between them that he couldn't break.

Within the endless flames, Long Chen suddenly noticed ten thrones.

Of these ten thrones, seven were ahead, and three were behind. The three rear thrones were high in the air and completely empty.

"This is...!"

Long Chen looked at the fourth throne, and his heart leaped. In the thrones around it, Long Chen saw the Heavenly Rainbow Flame, the Ice Soul Divine Flame, the golden Sun Flame, the black Moon Flame, as well as the Phoenix Flame which was in the shape of a beautiful divine bird.

Furthermore, the order they were in was clearly the order of the top ten of the Heavenly Flame Rankings.

The Heavenly Rainbow Flame was rank nine, the Ice Soul Divine Flame was rank eight, the Moon Flame was rank seven, the Sun Flame was rank six, and the Phoenix Flame was rank five. But as for rank four, the flames on that throne were as black as ink.

"The Yan Xu Flame?! How can that be?! Isn't the Yan Xu Flame the strongest flame within the nine heavens and ten lands?!"

When he saw the rank four, Long Chen almost couldn't believe his eyes. That was clearly the Yan Xu Flame. However, this Yan Xu Flame didn't give off any sinister air, so Long Chen almost couldn't accept it. But the fluctuations it gave off made it impossible for him to deny that this was the Yan Xu Flame.

The Yan Xu Flame said to be the strongest flame within the nine heavens and ten lands was actually only ranked fourth? Was there some mistake? Long Chen was dumbfounded.

"The top three spots are empty. They should be the rank one, rank two, and rank three Heavenly Flames. But they aren't there?"

This ranking shattered Long Chen's current understanding. Could it be that the immortal world's Heavenly Flame Rankings were wrong?

"This is the Yan Xu Flame, but it is also different from the Yan Xu Flame I've seen. Is it real or not?"

"If it is the Yan Xu Flame and it's merely rank four, then what are the top three Heavenly Flames?"

Long Chen looked at the three empty thrones with a dazed expression. This world of flames had truly shaken him, and he struggled to accept this reality.

The flames continued to burn, their power seemingly limitless and freely unleashed.

Long Chen's mind went blank as he listened to the roaring flames. Time seemed to come to a standstill, and gradually, his heart began to regain its composure.

He could only patiently listen to the voices of the flames, not thinking of anything else. Long Chen didn't know how much time had passed, but he suddenly felt a spark of enlightenment.

He then formed hand seals and began to chant a scripture. As he did, the flames grew active, akin to soldiers who had received orders. The sound of his scripture chanting was the bugle horn to war.

As the chanting intensified, the flames rose with it. It was as if someone had poured oil into the flames, causing them to wildly rise.

Billions of flames surged upward, weaving around Long Chen to take the shape of mystical runes.

"So that's the case. The most original Nirvana Scripture is made of endless runes. These runes are dead, but the scripture is alive. Then there must be another thing as a contrast. If there is Yin, there is Yang; if there is right, there is wrong; if there is good, there is bad. Between Yin and Yang, right and wrong, good and bad, there must be something dividing them. This is one of the principles behind the Dao: one produces two, two produces three, and three produces all things."

The runes manifested by these flames were the original Jiuli immortal characters, the characters for Nirvana Scripture.

As Long Chen progressed to the second volume of the Nirvana Scripture, the flames rose once more and twisted into another kind of rune.

Then he went on to the third volume, the fourth volume, and the fifth volume. The flames continued to twist and merge into runes.

As those runes swirled around him, Long Chen finally reached a certain threshold. Now, he not only comprehended what the runes were expressing, but he also knew their actual names.

Each original Jiuli immortal character could convey multiple meanings through variations in their form, length, and angle. Moreover, every character had several pronunciations, and when combined with another character, their pronunciation would undergo yet another transformation.

Long Chen's Nirvana Scripture had been taught to him by a mysterious woman. Initially, he could only recite it without understanding the meaning behind each character. But now, he was gradually gaining a comprehensive understanding of the entire scripture.

Long Chen had learned up to the fifth volume of the Nirvana Scripture. However, now that he had found the key to opening the entire Nirvana Scripture, he could grasp the complete Nirvana Scripture with just its first two characters.

As Long Chen started to chant the sixth volume, the world of flames soared once again. The intense heat it produced made it seem like the world would explode.

But all of a sudden, Long Chen's Spiritual Strength began to rapidly fade away, causing him to jump in fright. He hastily stopped chanting the Nirvana Scripture. To his astonishment, he discovered that his Spiritual Strength had plummeted to less than ten percent.

If he had been the slightest bit slower, his Spiritual Strength would have run dry and he would have passed out.

“What’s going on? Even now, I can’t control the sixth volume of the Nirvana Scripture? That doesn’t seem right.” Long Chen was shocked to find that his Spiritual Strength had been so rapidly exhausted.

After all, his Spiritual Strength was incredibly powerful. He had never encountered someone in the same realm with a stronger Spiritual Strength. In fact, even innate Heaven Venerates might not have such vast reserves of Spiritual Strength.

It could be said that his Spiritual Strength far surpassed the rest of his power. However, even then, it was almost sucked dry.

When Long Chen stopped chanting, the explosive world gradually calmed down. In the end, it returned to its original appearance.

Long Chen sank into thought as she started studying the Nirvana Scripture again. All of a sudden, he burst into laughter.

“I understand! I understand!”

Chapter 4195: Limit

“Time, space, haha! So the space is wrong! This is the world of the immortal characters, not a true world. Unleashing the sixth volume of the Nirvana Scripture here requires expanding this immortal character world. With my current power, expanding it is really difficult.” Long Chen laughed. He figured it out as soon as he looked at it from a different angle.

The next moment, flames once more rose. However, Long Chen wasn’t chanting this time. He was only forming hand seals and chanting the scripture in his heart.

With this, Long Chen was deducing the scripture, not unleashing it. As long as he wasn’t forced to expand this space, Long Chen wouldn’t use up so much Spiritual Strength.

After a while, he finished deducing the sixth volume and moved on to the seventh volume.

However, when he got to the seventh volume, he encountered a problem. The seventh volume actually required some syllables to be said with the mouth.

“It’s no good. I can only go up to here and will have to figure out the rest outside. Fortunately, I’ve fully memorized the Nirvana Scripture. Even without the flames here, I’m confident I can decipher even the ninth volume.”

Long Chen took a deep breath and looked at the flames here emotionally. If it weren’t for their help, Long Chen wouldn’t have been able to understand the true meaning of the Nirvana Scripture.

The High Firmament Academy’s Nirvana Scripture had tens of thousands of characters. But all those characters couldn’t express as much as these two original Jiuli immortal characters. They were unable to express the same realm.

But then again, when it came to original Jiuli immortal characters, you either understood them, or you didn't. If you couldn't understand, it would be like reading a magic book. Most importantly, Long Chen would have no way of explaining it to others.

The current era's characters were invented so people could express thoughts more accurately, allowing for inheritances to be passed down more easily. But while that appeared to be harmless, in truth, the true meaning of the original characters had been lost.

After all, these two original Jiuli immortal characters had the power to convey the pinnacle technique of the Flame Dao. With just these two characters, a supreme divine ability could be transmitted, a feat only the original Jiuli immortal characters could achieve.

"Original Jiuli immortal characters contain things that I cannot imagine. The reason why Lord Brahma named himself like that must be connected to the Nirvana Scripture. He only changed his name to Lord Brahma after learning the Nirvana Scripture. Could it be that the name of Brahma is lucky?" wondered Long Chen.

In the end, with a final look at the three empty thrones, Long Chen retreated from this space. When his soul returned to his body, he instantly felt a burst of weariness. He immediately cursed in his heart.

BOOM!

As expected, before he even had time to defend, he was sent flying by a terrifying force, tumbling all the way down the staircase.

While in meditation, he was protected by the Jiuli immortal characters, so the palace master's pressure didn't affect him.

However, the moment his soul returned to his body, the protection of the Jiuli immortal characters vanished. Since Long Chen's Spiritual Strength was too weak to instantly summon the Dragon King Battle Armor in that state, he was forced out by the palace master's might.

When Long Chen tumbled down to the second floor, he saw that two more young disciples had managed to reach this level. From their robes, they came from the Battle God Palace.

Fortunately, they were all in meditative states and didn't see Long Chen's wretched state.

At this moment, Bai Shishi was surrounded by golden divine radiance, like a golden goddess sitting there, appearing incredibly noble and holy.

Looking at her beautiful smile, Long Chen smiled at himself mockingly. Just what kind of luck did he have to obtain the favor of such a fairy?

Long Chen often felt like he had too many beauties by his side, and every single one of them deeply loved him. Such affection was challenging to reciprocate, even if he were to toil until his very bones crumbled to dust. Thus, he often felt ashamed of himself due to this.

He had also been young and frivolous, thinking of having many wives and concubines. But now he knew that a man could only carry so much on his shoulders.

When he was young, his father had once given him a wooden sword. As he held that wooden sword, he felt like he was completely unrivaled, as if the world was within his grasp.

Yet now, despite all the power he had attained, his anxiety only deepened. He harbored a growing fear that one day, he might prove unable to protect those he loved.

Long Chen was suddenly drawn out of his thoughts. He didn't see Huo Linger and Lei Linger anywhere.

However, he could sense their auras, and he quickly became speechless. The two of them had actually transformed until they were the size of worms and stuck themselves to the runes on the bone steles.

Most likely, the two of them had found a method more suited to them. Perhaps sticking their bodies to these characters might assist them in understanding their meaning. After all, the two were spiritual entities, and the human race's methods might not be the best ones for them.

Long Chen rested for a while and consumed a pill to restore Spiritual Strength. Afterward, he didn't head back to the third floor. Instead, he went down to the first.

On the first floor, he saw that more people had arrived, and on the way down, he saw several people striving to climb up.

On the first floor, he spotted Zhong Ling and Zhong Xiu. They had actually reached this place and were gaining comprehension from one of the bone steles.

Long Chen's gaze swept over the crowd and he spotted Luo Bing, Luo Ning, Mu Qingyun, Xia Chen, Qin Feng, Qi Yu, and the others gaining comprehension of the bone steles. However, what was rare was that Guo Ran was also in front of one of the bone steles, his eyes closed. It didn't seem like he was faking it. He really was earnestly comprehending its secrets.

When Long Chen climbed down, quite a few disciples greeted him reverently. In the High Firmament Academy, even the hidden heavenly geniuses felt immense reverence for Long Chen.

Long Chen greeted them in return. Then, he headed back up to the second floor. However, he was disappointed to find that there were no illusions this time.

He had been hoping to see if he could determine the identity of those who had betrayed the human race and stabbed them in the back.

However, since that image didn't appear again, he could only accept it. After adjusting his condition on the second floor, he headed for the third floor once more.

The palace master's pressure struck him again, but this time, he was prepared and had summoned the Dragon King Battle Armor. He easily entered the third floor.

Long Chen sat himself down in front of the bone stele again, wanting to see if he could gain anything from other Jiuli immortal characters that were on the bone stele.

"This is the Sword character."

When Long Chen looked at one of the characters, his back instantly turned cold. It was as if a dagger had been thrust into his very soul, carrying with it a piercing sword intent that seemed to penetrate him deeply.

Long Chen had barely looked at it and he was almost injured. This character was too domineering and contained countless things.

“Truly domineering. It won’t even give me a chance to comprehend it. Most likely, it’s simply on too high of a level. You would need to take it step by step,” sighed Long Chen.

Mu Qingyun’s Sword Dao foundation was quite solid, but she still was stuck on the first floor. As for this character, it was on the third floor. Most likely, you would only be qualified to comprehend it after comprehending the Sword Dao on the previous two floors.

Long Chen wasn’t a sword cultivator, so he chose to give up on it. Just as Long Chen was planning on looking at the other immortal characters, the palace master’s voice suddenly rang out.

“Help me out.”

Chapter 4196: Dragon Claw

“Palace master, you called for me?”

Long Chen was shocked. The palace master was still in a meditative state, but he was talking to him.

“Give me a drop of dragon blood,” said the palace master.

“Oh. Alright!”

Long Chen flicked a drop of golden blood off of his finger, and it suddenly curved midway. Instead of going toward the palace master, it flew toward one of the characters on the bone stele he was facing.

As a result, that character brightened. Following that, the palace master’s aura changed and battle intent erupted out of him.

But all of a sudden, the palace master spat out blood, startling Long Chen.

“Palace master, are you alright?!”

“Hahaha!” The palace master laughed, his eyes ablaze with battle intent resembling a fervent fire. He didn’t respond and continued to meditate.

After a while, he spat out blood once more, but then he reabsorbed it.

Every time he spat out blood, his face was covered in delight, as if he enjoyed this feeling.

“What is going on?”

Long Chen couldn’t figure it out. Just what was the palace master doing?

However, since the latter didn't speak, he didn't ask about it. Long Chen then continued comprehending the other immortal characters. All of a sudden, he looked at one of the characters on the bone stele in front of the palace master. There weren't that many there, and the characters were drawn crudely.

"Dragon claw?!"

As he looked at one particular character, these two words instinctively escaped his lips. It was as if, upon observing that character, he was seized by a sudden insight and naturally uttered its name.

Furthermore, the moment Long Chen read it, he naturally hooked his fingers into the form of a dragon claw.

"Could it be that this dragon bone stele has the record of the dragon race's best techniques?"

Long Chen was delighted by this discovery. He directly abandoned the other immortal characters and focused on this one.

When Long Chen's mind sank into a certain stroke of this character, a sudden sharp astral wind accompanied by an overwhelming sense of imminent danger surged around him.

The next moment, the dragon scale armor on Long Chen's chest shattered, causing blood to spray forth. He was blown back, smashing into the wall, and stars spun in his vision from the powerful impact.

Long Chen was shocked and then glanced down at his chest. He saw that his chest looked like it had been clawed. Without the dragon armor protecting him, he'd have been torn apart by this terrifying attack.

"What is going on?"

Long Chen was dumbfounded as he didn't know what had just happened. The moment he entered that world, an intense sensation of danger made him instinctively leave.

It had to be known that Long Chen's physical body was incomparably powerful after being guided through the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art by the dragon expert. Furthermore, he was in the Dragon King Battle Armor state. Even a World King divine item would not be able to harm in the slightest.

However, such terrifying defenses were torn through like paper in front of that attack. It was quite the blow for Long Chen.

Fortunately, Long Chen had an immense amount of life energy in the primal chaos space to draw on, and his wounds instantly healed.

As for the blood that had sprayed out of him, he recalled it. Although he was injured, it didn't affect him.

Gathering the blood was something he was inspired to do by the palace master. Seeing the palace master surrounded by a layer of divine radiance, it seemed that he was surrounded by a barrier of fresh blood. The blood that he spat out would automatically be gathered, resulting in him taking no loss.

Long Chen tried to comprehend that immortal character once more and entered that strange space again. This time, he was prepared, and the moment he entered, he summoned his Kunpeng wings.

As a result, Long Chen once more shot back, his chest subjected to another vicious clawing. This time, the impact was so severe that Long Chen almost coughed up blood.

In that strange space, when he tried to summon the Kunpeng wings, he was shocked to find that he couldn't. Furthermore, he barely saw a claw appear before he was struck.

"Perhaps it is forbidden to use other divine abilities in that space," concluded Long Chen.

"Again!"

Long Chen once more tried it. This time, he raised his focus to the absolute peak and saw the claw clearly.

BOOM!

Long Chen let out a grunt. His own claw was almost blasted apart by this dragon claw. However, what he saw this time left him astonished—it was a golden dragon claw. Moreover, its aura resonated in the Immortal King realm, much like his own. In other words, this was the claw of a dragon king.

However, despite being in the same realm, despite it being the same dragon claw, Long Chen's dragon claw was like a chicken claw in front of it.

Just then, the space beside him quivered. He let out a roar, and without hesitation, sent out a kick.

"Divine Dragon Pendulum Tail!"

BOOM!

Long Chen's timing was impeccable, and he delivered a powerful kick to the dragon claw that materialized beside him. In return, he experienced a searing pain in his foot, as it was almost blown apart by this claw.

Buzz.

Just then, Long Chen felt a terrifying sensation of death envelop him.

He instantly retreated from this space, feeling something wet on his forehead. It was his blood.

In an instant, Long Chen found himself covered in cold sweat. His scalp had been torn open. Any delay, and his head would have been destroyed.

"How can this be? No matter how strong a true dragon is, it's still just in the dragon king realm! If the realm is the same, how is there such a difference?!" Long Chen looked at his bloody palm and foot. He couldn't believe it.

Ever since he had cultivated the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art, his physical body had reached a point where he could look down on the rest of the world. Even the demonic beast race that was so proud of their physical strength couldn't compare to him.

However, today, Long Chen was given a ruthless blow. In front of a true dragon, he was unable to endure a single blow.

“That is the true dragon from the primal chaos era. Born from primal chaos, it possesses a physical body that can be described as perfect. It cannot be compared to a true dragon of the current era,” said the dragon expert suddenly.

This explanation made Long Chen feel much better. After all, the era and the laws were different. It wasn't that Long Chen wasn't outstanding enough; rather, he had missed that golden era.

“However, even if it is the true dragon of the primal chaos era, you possess my unique Dragon Soul Body Forging Art. Your power is not inferior to it. The reason you are losing is because you are stupid and careless. I thought that you were smart before, but now I find that I was wrong,” said the dragon expert irritably.

“What?”

Long Chen was startled. Just how had he been stupid and careless?

The dragon expert remained silent, a hint of disappointment and anger emanating from its presence. It seemed to be telling him to figure it out himself.

Since Long Chen couldn't figure it out, he could only take a deep breath and try again. Once more, he entered the world inside the immortal character.

Chapter 4197: The Dragon Expert's Instructions

Long Chen persistently battled against the dragon claw, resulting in him being draped in painful, bloody wounds. His determination drove him to relentlessly press on in the fight.

He had gone from barely enduring a few blows to now lasting dozens of exchanges. It could be said that he had brushed against death countless times. Throughout this ordeal, he was dancing on the blade of the death god.

“Idiot, what are you doing?! One slip and you'll die! Why don't you understand it yet?!” Finally, the dragon expert couldn't endure it anymore and cursed at Long Chen.

Long Chen had just gone through an intense fight and was in the midst of healing. Originally, he had been quite pleased with himself, thinking that he had made great improvements by being able to last this long.

"Did you fail to notice that its attack consisted solely of the dragon claw, not the entire dragon body?" the dragon expert demanded.

“Yes?” Long Chen could only thicken his face.

“And why is that?” asked the dragon expert.

Long Chen was dumbfounded. How was he supposed to know? All he knew was that when he entered this space, that dragon claw would randomly attack him. He could only face it passively.

Long Chen blindly guessed, “Because it hid its body?”

“Idiot!” The dragon expert was speechless. “You really are a fool! Its body isn’t there as a hint! All of its power is concentrated in the dragon claw, so this claw is unstoppable, tearing through heaven and earth, leaving no openings. If you want to attack its body, you must first defeat this claw. Your human race often says that you must be skilled in both offense and defense. But to our dragon race, that’s dogshit logic. If you are strong enough, your opponent can only defend. How would they have a chance to attack you? If you split your power, you end up with a weak offense and amateur defense. How could anyone accomplish anything big with such a power distribution?”

Hearing the dragon expert’s words, Long Chen was instantly enlightened. This principle was similar to that of sword cultivators. One stroke of their sword contained their full heart and spirit, as they focused entirely on offense.

If their opponent could block their killing blow, then it proved that their opponent was simply stronger, and you had lost. Even if you launched a second blow, it would change nothing.

If you were stronger than your opponent, then one stroke of your sword would decide life and death. Why bother with defense then?

The dragon race’s divine abilities walked a similarly domineering path. All people who walked this path had to be extremely confident in themselves.

“You fool, I even warned you, and you still fought like an idiot. Did you think stalling for time meant that you were improving? You already went off on the wrong path! The more you think about blocking its next attack in order to drag out the battle, the more it proves your lack of confidence. You don’t even have the determination to defeat your opponent, which signifies that you don’t have the confidence to win. Without that confidence, why bother cultivating?” The dragon expert grew even angrier as it explained, only a bit off from cursing Long Chen.

“Senior, please give me your pointers!” Long Chen obediently admitted his mistakes.

Long Chen berated himself as well. When did this happen? It felt like his head had really become slow, not being able to see such an obvious thing. It seemed that he really had become a fool.

The dragon expert finally stopped cursing when Long Chen admitted his mistakes. It also stopped speaking to him.

Having regained his composure, Long Chen took a deep breath. After bringing his essence, qi, and spirit to their peak condition, he once more entered the space within the immortal character.

“Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw!”

Long Chen let out a resounding roar, his entire body radiating a brilliant glow. At the same time, the 108,000 dragon scales on his body ignited, their runes flowing like a powerful tide into his palm.

This time, Long Chen didn’t hold back. With all his dragon power concentrated into this claw, it became a claw that would either break through all obstacles or die trying.

BOOM!

With a heaven-shaking explosion, the opposing dragon claw exploded, and Long Chen’s hand was blown into a bloody pulp.

Long Chen then retreated from that space. Looking at his hand, he was pleasantly surprised. He had managed to shatter that terrifying dragon claw.

The dragon expert said, "There's nothing to be excited about. The circulation of your energy was incorrect, so your power was not concentrated enough. After all, you cannot concentrate this power by just compressing it into the dragon claw. Your dragon claw must be the one summoning all your power. The order is wrong. First comes the dragon claw, then comes the support of the dragon power. Only then can you reach the realm of attacking as you will, your power flowing with your heart. In a clash between experts, a thousand things can occur in an instant. Others won't give you time to accumulate power. Thus, you must be able to unleash the dragon claw the moment you need to, making your full body's power flow with your will. As soon as you will it, your power is there. Remember, aim and shoot, not shoot and aim. If you cannot reach this point, you will not set foot in the realm of experts. Right now, you are distracted by too many things, so your head is not focused enough. You should remember, no matter what era it is, power is always number one. Your focus must be on cultivation. Thus, don't waste time on ephemeral things that are not real. Even if you manage to see through them, if you don't have enough power, it is still meaningless."

Ephemeral things that were not real? Upon hearing this, Long Chen's heart shook. He seemed to understand what the dragon expert was referring to.

However, these words also gave him a sense of alarm. Without realizing it, his perception had actually fallen. He had to be vigilant and focus more on cultivation.

Long Chen then extended a claw. However, he was still used to pouring his energy into his arm. In other words, he was still mobilizing his power before unleashing the claw.

According to the dragon expert, that was a mistake. He should instead directly unleash the claw, and his power would naturally follow.

However, this was contrary to Long Chen's habit when fighting, so he would need to break his habit first.

Even so, once a habit was formed, it was difficult to break. Thus, Long Chen was constantly unleashing his claws to find that feeling.

The dragon expert didn't say any more thing and allowed Long Chen to keep practicing. Fortunately, while this habit was deeply ingrained in him, he hadn't been training in the Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw for long, so he could still break this habit for this technique.

Changing it was still difficult though, but after a few thousand attempts, Long Chen gradually began to grasp this feeling.

As soon as Long Chen grasped it, he felt much more confident. With each subsequent practice, his claw strikes began to release piercing whistling gusts, gradually transforming into ear-splitting sound explosions.

The sound explosions intensified to the point where they rattled his ears, but their rumbling eventually subsided. The ear-piercing explosive sounds and the whistling winds gradually dissipated as well.

However, at that point, Long Chen's claws were already leaving tears in the void, looking as if they would claw the void apart.

His dragon scales then began to turn dim, all of their power naturally flowing into his claw.

Long Chen was lost in this state. It felt like this claw encapsulated all the essence of the paragon techniques of the world. It was as if learning this one move was equal to controlling the entire world.

What Long Chen didn't know was that as he repeatedly practiced this technique, the dragon expert who had been cursing angrily was murmuring to itself.

"This little fellow's comprehension is really terrifying. One pointer was all he needed. There's no need for me to even teach him the second realm of the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art. Hehe, this Sage King Convention will be interesting. The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind. All lifeforms are game pieces, but these game pieces might not be so easy to control!"

Chapter 4198: Mastery of the Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw

BOOM!

Within the space of the immortal character, a resounding explosion rocked the heavens as Long Chen unleashed his claw in a seemingly casual manner. The dragon claw that had always sneak attacked him in this space was shattered, while Long Chen was completely unharmed.

Whenever the dragon claw reappeared, Long Chen's claws fought it off, causing the void to be torn apart repeatedly. This space seemed to be on the verge of collapse.

Long Chen roared, his dragon blood boiling inside of him at full power. This feeling gave Long Chen an unprecedented carefree feeling.

Before this, Long Chen had only been capable of unleashing his dragon power in the simplest, crudest methods. He had been like someone with endless wealth who didn't know how to spend his money.

But then, with the dragon expert's guidance, Long Chen finally learned how to spend his money. Every attack now was brimmed with full power. It had been a long time since Long Chen had engaged in such a carefree battle.

"Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw!"

With a roar, his fingers transformed into hooks, and golden light blazed on his fingertips like five brilliant stars.

BOOM!

The next moment, the world around him vanished, and Long Chen once more appeared in the palace. The immortal character's world had been forcibly torn apart by him.

"Hahaha, this is what the Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw is supposed to be! Not bad, not bad!" The dragon expert's voice rang out in Long Chen's mind. This time, it was full of delight and pride.

"It's all thanks to senior's pointers," said Long Chen respectfully. He truly was grateful for this expert.

“There’s no need for such nonsense between us. Good brat, I really didn’t misjudge you.” The dragon expert laughed, no longer sounding the slightest bit disappointed. In truth, Long Chen’s accomplishments had greatly surpassed its initial expectations.

After all, Long Chen was from the human race, so for him to control the dragon race’s divine abilities was as difficult as defying the heavens.

The dragon expert’s previous anger was actually an act to make Long Chen focus on cultivation. After all, Long Chen had many things to deal with, and his focus was being dragged in every direction.

So now that Long Chen had reached the mastery of the Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw, it couldn’t contain its excitement and repeatedly praised Long Chen.

This praise also made Long Chen feel excited. To obtain the approval of an expert like it was an immense honor.

However, Long Chen didn’t dare to let himself soak in this feeling for too long. After all, he didn’t want to be cursed again. He quickly looked back at the bone stele and searched for some other inheritances that he could comprehend.

“You don’t need to look any longer. This dragon bone only has one powerful technique of the true dragon race, while the rest are divine abilities of the other dragon races. It would be meaningless for you to learn them. They might even lead you astray,” said the dragon expert, seeing through his thoughts.

“The techniques of other dragon races?” Long Chen couldn’t help looking at the palace master.

“This little fellow is from the dark barbarian dragon race. His bloodline is very pure, but what’s most remarkable is his unwavering dragon soul; it is as solid as a boulder. He even used that drop of your blood to summon the power of the true dragon in this immortal character space. He actually made his opponent even stronger than himself,” said the dragon expert approvingly.

“He made his opponent even stronger than himself?” Long Chen was shocked and looked at the palace master’s large back. A profound sense of respect welled up within him.

As expected, the palace master was truly terrifying. In order to get a stronger opponent, he actually asked for a drop of Long Chen’s essence blood to strengthen his opponent.

It was no wonder that he was injured. It was intentional, as he wanted an opponent that was even stronger than himself.

“There’s no need for you to look at the other immortal characters. This is all the destiny you have in this place; the rest of the techniques are useless to you. Furthermore, you have reached the second level of the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art. Upon mastering this technique, you have raised the mastery of all similar-level techniques. In other words, you could learn any other technique now, but it wouldn’t help you,” said the dragon expert.

“Senior, since that is the case, can you transmit more divine abilities to me?” Long Chen couldn’t help asking. The dragon expert was incredibly mysterious. Even now, Long Chen had no idea just what kind of existence it was. If he could gain its divine abilities, perhaps he really would be unrivaled.

“It cannot be done,” said the dragon expert helplessly. “My dragon race’s divine abilities have no records for you to consult. They are mostly continued through the bloodline and soul. The fact that you could learn my Dragon Soul Body Forging Art is mostly thanks to luck. When it comes to my other divine abilities, you could only gain them by studying my reverse scales. I have no way of directly transmitting them to you.”

The dragon race’s divine abilities were always transmitted through the bloodline and soul. Although it was possible for the bloodline and soul to decline over time, causing some divine abilities to be lost from the world, the runes continued to remain in the bloodline and soul. They entered a slumber to protect themselves.

Eventually, they might awaken many generations later. This kind of awakening was then called an ancestral regression.

Thus, cultivating the dragon race’s divine abilities required that hidden power to be lying dormant in one’s body first. Just like farming, there could be no harvest without first fertilizing, weeding, and watering. But all of that effort would be meaningless if you simply didn’t have the land to harvest in the first place.

Without the bloodline inheritance, there was no land to farm. Although Long Chen had managed to absorb true dragon essence blood, he was neither part of the dragon race, nor was he a hybrid descendant of the human race and the dragon race. Thus, for him to cultivate the dragon race’s divine abilities was truly as difficult as ascending the heavens.

His success in cultivating the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art could already be considered a miracle. Back then, the dragon expert had been struck by enlightenment and had wanted to pass down its self-created technique. But at the time, the dragon expert had been fully prepared for the possibility of failure.

In truth, Long Chen’s success was almost unbelievable. However, given that the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art was a self-created technique, perhaps this was why Long Chen had managed to train in it. The dragon expert could not say anything for sure.

However, other than the Dragon Soul Body Forging Art, the rest of its divine abilities were transmitted through the bloodline and soul. So only when one of its descendants reached the necessary realm would they have a chance to awaken these abilities. Teaching them to Long Chen was impossible.

Hence, if Long Chen wanted to learn more techniques of the dragon race, he would have to comprehend them himself. Even the dragon expert couldn’t help him.

Hearing this, Long Chen was disappointed. If only he had managed to learn more than three techniques from the dragon king reverse scale. Thinking back, he really had lost out.

Just then, he sensed something behind him. Upon turning back, he was pleasantly surprised to see Bai Shishi.

The current Bai Shishi had golden divine radiance flowing around her, and every step she took caused a golden lotus to bloom on the ground.

Those golden lotuses were strong and kept her firmly in place. When she had come up, she had almost been blasted away by the palace master’s pressure.

“Shishi, you came!”

Long Chen was delighted by her arrival. He was about to walk over when the High Firmament Palace swayed.

“Not good. Time’s almost up!”

Chapter 4199: Martial Stage Appears

Long Chen and Bai Shishi’s expressions changed. Although they had known that the High Firmament Palace would only appear for a limited amount of time, they hadn’t expected it to be this short.

Bai Shishi had just comprehended two stele characters on the second floor and came to the third floor, but it was already ending.

Suddenly, the pressure within the third floor vanished, and the tsunami-like rumbling came to a stop.

“You still have six hours. Don’t waste this time,” the palace master advised. He then rose from his spot as he had stopped cultivating.

“Palace master!”

Both Long Chen and Bai Shishi could only stare at him. The palace master then patted Long Chen’s shoulder.

“In the immortal character’s world, I tested your drop of true dragon essence blood. Your future is limitless, so don’t fail to live up to it.”

After saying that, the palace master walked away, leaving only Long Chen and Bai Shishi on the third floor.

“Shishi, hurry. Don’t waste any time,” said Long Chen.

Bai Shishi nodded and directly walked toward the central bone stele. Upon her approach, one of its immortal characters instantly lit up. Bai Shishi’s body trembled, and without delay, she entered the world within this immortal character.

Seeing that Bai Shishi had entered the immortal character’s world so quickly, Long Chen smiled. Bai Shishi’s talent and comprehension ability were truly shocking. Although she didn’t have much time, he was confident that she would make huge gains.

With the palace master’s departure, Long Chen had the opportunity to focus his gaze on the third bone stele. However, the dragon expert had told him that he only had this much destiny here; forcibly comprehending anything else here would not benefit him. Hence, although he was a bit unwilling, he chose to hear his advice.

After all, some things would come to you even if you tried to run from them, while some things wouldn’t be yours no matter how hard you worked for them. Forcing it would only cause you pain.

“Don’t feel so conflicted. These original immortal characters are not primal immortal characters; they don’t even count as copies, as they came from stone rubbings. If you think you can uncover the secrets

of the Jiuli race from these steles, I will just tell you that it is impossible. Don't even bother," said the dragon expert.

Hearing that, Long Chen couldn't help sighing and felt a bit embarrassed. The dragon expert truly knew him well.

If this was the case, then there was no point hesitating here. He then went back to the second floor.

Here, he found that thousands of people had reached this point. Bai Xiaole was present, and Long Chen was happy to see that his eyes had healed.

Bai Xiaole sat before one of the bone steles, with a three-colored divine radiance emanating from behind his head, accompanied by six different runes. Together, they were like the eye of reincarnation overlooking the world.

It seemed that Bai Xiaole's mother had used a secret art to help him quickly recover. If she hadn't, he would have lost this opportunity.

Now, Bai Xiaole's mother was beside him, but her eyes were not closed in meditation. She was silently staring at her son, her eyes full of pride and love. She was currently helping him gain this inheritance. It seemed that he had gotten quite the opportunity this time.

Xia Chen, Guo Ran, Qin Feng, Qi Yu, Mu Qingyun, Luo Bing, and Luo Ning were all present on the second floor. The only ones who weren't here were Zhong Ling and Zhong Xiu.

Long Chen did an overview. In general, the disciples of the Battle God Palace clearly outshone the disciples of the High Firmament Academy. Moreover, the auras they radiated while delving into their immortal characters far exceeded those of the academy's disciples.

After strolling through the second floor, Long Chen checked on the first floor. There, he saw something that made his heart burst with excitement.

On the first floor, tens of thousands of disciples were meditating. But what excited Long Chen was the fact that he saw many familiar faces.

The Dragonblood warriors had come. When the High Firmament Palace first opened its gates, Long Chen had dispatched someone to relay a message to the Starry River Sect. In the message, he instructed them to send over all the Dragonblood warriors who had arrived.

Seeing his brothers seated in meditation around him, Long Chen felt his blood boiling with excitement. Many of these brothers were ones he hadn't seen in the three thousand worlds.

Long Chen conducted a quick count. There were more than two thousand Dragonblood warriors here, and every familiar face represented a person whose name he knew. They were his brothers who had slaughtered their way out of countless mountains of corpses and seas of blood with him.

However, they were all in the middle of comprehending their own opportunities, so he couldn't disturb them. After that, Long Chen directly left the High Firmament Palace and saw a veritable sea of people outside the palace.

These people were still trying to get through the barrier. Despite knowing that the High Firmament Palace was about to disappear, they refused to give up.

This was the cruelty of cultivation—power was everything. Sometimes, opportunities would be right in front of you, but if you didn't have the power, you would only be able to watch as it slipped away from you. Moreover, there was nothing you could do.

More often than not, you had to work as if your life was on the line to gain power just so that when such an opportunity arrived, you could firmly grasp it with all your power. That was the only way to change your destiny.

The High Firmament Palace would vanish in six hours. However, Long Chen had left in advance due to the dragon expert's advice. Based on what it said, the Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw he had unleashed in the immortal character's space was actually a kind of power between illusion and reality.

Hence, there would definitely be a difference if he were to try to unleash it in the real world, as the outside world's laws were different.

That was why while everyone was busy meditating, Long Chen seized the opportunity to perfectly consolidate this technique. After all, it would be troublesome if he went to such lengths to master this technique but couldn't unleash it when the time came.

Long Chen set out on his own. But just as he was looking for a place to train, countless monsters were walking out of their own territories as well.

All these ancient factions had their own foundations, much like the High Firmament Palace, and they also had Dao depositories within immortal characters to safeguard their precious inheritances. This was why all the major factions would come so crazily when the Sage King Convention occurred.

From the primal chaos era until now, countless powers had risen and fallen, resulting in the loss of many legacies. The Sage King Convention might be their only chance to awaken one of those lost inheritances.

After all, the Sage King Convention's holy power was protected by the power of the Heavenly Daos. These inheritances would be preserved as long as their heirs still existed.

Unless all heirs to this inheritance were lost, it would remain here in their holy land. In other words, as long as the Sage King Prefecture continued to exist, even fallen powers would have a chance of emerging once again.

As the countdown ticked down, more and more monsters appeared out of these holy lands. They raised their heads and roared, declaring war against all challengers.

As they came out, terrifying auras rose one after another, as if they were displaying their divine might, as well as proving their determination to become the Sage King.

After six hours had elapsed, the enormous Sage King Prefecture trembled. At the core of the Sage King Prefecture, a giant sea split apart, revealing a slowly ascending grand martial stage.

Following the rise of the martial stage, vast primal chaos qi radiated all over, immersing this world in divine radiance.

Every lifeform in the Sage King Prefecture was excited. "The Sage King Convention is finally starting!"

Chapter 4200: Martial Stage Staircase

Amidst a deafening rumble, the immense martial stage ascended from the earth. Its ascent exerted tremendous force, compressing and distorting the entire prefecture, ultimately forming a ring encircling the martial stage.

The martial stage was enormous, nearly matching the size of the original Sage King Prefecture. Meanwhile, the outer region of the prefecture had become a circular viewing platform.

When the primal chaos qi gushed forth, immortal mist covered the entire prefecture. With every breath, the people around experienced a profound sense of relaxation and rejuvenation in their bodies.

"Legend has it that every time the Sage King Convention appears, it will bring new changes to the world. Every Sage King will receive the concentration of karmic luck from the ten thousand Daos, becoming the king of the entire world!" exclaimed someone excitedly.

To be able to bear witness to such an event was already an immense blessing, so everyone was excited.

The various heavenly geniuses also grew restless. Meanwhile, the senior generation could only watch and sigh at the fact that they were born too early. They were not qualified to attend this Sage King Convention.

Countless young disciples, on the other hand, were staring at the martial stage, their blood boiling. This martial stage belonged to them.

The disciples of the High Firmament Academy quickly gathered on the edge of the martial stage. On the plaza, the palace master stood composed, looking at the martial stage calmly.

Behind the palace master, Bai Zhantang and the other vice palace master assembled, and further behind them stood Bai Shishi's mother, Bai Xiaole's mother, and a group of experts wearing the Battle God Palace's robes.

Hundreds of thousands of disciples had gathered in the plaza. But when Bai Shishi, Bai Xiaole, and the others looked around, they didn't spot Long Chen.

"What is your boss doing? Why isn't he here?" demanded Bai Shishi.

"We don't know either!"

Guo Ran and Xia Chen were also panicking. Although they knew that the activation of the martial stage would take some time, not seeing their boss at this time worried them.

The Dragonblood warriors were also anxious. Many of them had not seen Long Chen since the Martial Heaven Continent, so they wanted to see him more than anyone.

"And where is Qingxuan?" asked Bai Shishi.

"Uh... I don't know." Guo Ran felt even more awkward now. His guess was that their boss had gone to get Yu Qingxuan, but he didn't dare to say it to Bai Shishi.

"When we left the Starry River Sect, Big Sister Qingxuan was still in seclusion. We don't know the exact details," said a Dragonblood warrior.

Although Long Chen had told them all to go to the High Firmament Academy, as Yu Qingxuan had been in a critical state in her seclusion, they hadn't dared to disturb her.

"Oh, Big Sister Qingxuan, you're here!"

Guo Ran suddenly called out, and everyone followed his gaze to see the white-robed Yu Qingxuan walking over.

Seeing Yu Qingxuan, Bai Shishi tensed slightly and cupped her fists to her. "Junior Sister Bai Shishi greets Big Sister Qingxuan."

While breaking through the bottleneck of Pill Dao, Yu Qingxuan was unaware of the unfolding events. Thus, when she came out, she was surprised to find that Long Chen and the others had gone. Regrettably, when she left the Starry River Sect, the High Firmament Palace had also disappeared.

Yu Qingxuan hastily returned the greeting. "Big Sister Shishi is too courteous. Ever since our meeting in the three thousand worlds, I've been missing you. Now that we meet again, I can see that big sister is shining more brightly than ever. No wonder that Long Chen is always thinking of you."

Bai Shishi blushed slightly. As for this shine, Yu Qingxuan seemed to be referring to how Long Chen was accompanying her.

However, this response did make Bai Shishi happy. When it came to these feelings, Bai Shishi was extremely pure and inexperienced, so she believed anything that Yu Qingxuan said.

Up ahead, Bai Zhantang and his wives couldn't help but stealthily glance back.

Seeing Bai Shishi's blush, Bai Zhantang instantly muttered, "She's normally so strong, but at this critical time, she gets scared. She's at a disadvantage right at the start. Since when did my beloved daughter call herself a junior?"

Bai Zhantang could see that Bai Shishi wasn't a match for her opponent. She was completely red after a single exchange, causing Bai Zhantang to feel particularly depressed.

"And what's wrong with that?" The face of Bai Shishi's mother instantly turned cold, and she viciously pinched Bai Zhantang's waist.

As a result, Bai Zhantang's body directly straightened, the pain making him clench his teeth. These words of his had not just offended Bai Shishi's mother but also his other wife.

That was because, between the two of them, there was no senior or junior. It was only because Bai Shishi's mother was two years older than Bai Xiaole's mother that the latter called her big sister. It had nothing to do with who was the first wife and who was second.

However, Bai Zhantang must have a death wish. Seeing his own daughter call herself a junior irritated him. If he had just muttered it to himself, it would have been no problem, but saying it out loud in front of his wives was just asking for it.

Bai Zhantang also realized that he had misspoken. Looking at their enraged gazes, he hastily admitted defeat, gesturing to them to calm down as everyone was looking.

This disturbance had drawn the gazes of those around them. Even the palace master couldn't help but turn back to look at him. However, the palace master didn't say anything and just turned away.

"It's fine, keep going. We didn't see anything." The other vice palace master smiled slightly and also turned away.

The others then turned away with odd expressions as well, acting like they hadn't seen anything.

Bai Zhantang felt betrayed. These fellows were normally his life-and-death brothers, but at this moment, no one helped speak up for him.

"Let me make this clear, Shishi is my beloved daughter, and she has the right to pursue her own happiness. Don't cause trouble, or I won't forgive you," warned Bai Shishi's mother.

Bai Zhantang immediately nodded like a chicken pecking for corn, and only then did his wives let him off. Further behind them, Bai Shishi was now holding hands and chatting with Yu Qingxuan, smiling.

Seeing that smile, her mother sighed with relief. Considering how prideful and aloof Bai Shishi normally was, she actually didn't have a single good friend by her side.

Only Bai Shishi's mother understood the loneliness her daughter concealed beneath her tough exterior. Hence, while she was uncertain about what the future held, at this moment, she was content to see her daughter smiling so genuinely.

"Big Sister Shishi, where is Long Chen?" asked Yu Qingxuan eventually.

In truth, Yu Qingxuan had wanted to ask this question ever since her arrival, but she had refrained from asking too abruptly, not wanting to offend Bai Shishi. Thus, she had patiently waited until this moment to ask.

Bai Shishi, taken aback, responded, "Shouldn't Long Chen have been with you?"

Just then, the martial stage quivered, and giant staircases appeared on its edges, one being quite close to the High Firmament Academy's side. As soon as those staircases appeared, countless disciples flocked toward them.