

Chapter 4301: Long Chen Chops His Hand

Long Chen's whole body emitted a radiant glow as the Supreme Bone re-entered him and came to rest in its original position. After that, his entire skeletal structure quivered in response.

This tiny little bone seemed to contain the power of the entire cosmos, causing countless cracks to appear on Long Chen's entire skeleton.

Enduring the excruciating pain, Long Chen maintained his consciousness as he was determined to witness the transformation of his bones.

Fortunately, Long Zhantian had helped Long Chen complete the process of Blood Condensation by activating his Supreme Blood. Moreover, he had also imparted the culmination of his years of research on the Supreme Blood to Long Chen, transferring his entire understanding.

Having created the immortal arts and divine abilities of the seven-color Supreme Blood himself, Long Zhantian had the ability to brand them into Long Chen's body in the form of runes. Just like that, he had passed down everything he knew to Long Chen.

On the other hand, the matter of the Supreme Bone was a path Long Chen had to navigate on his own since it was uncharted territory. The dragon expert could only help Long Chen come up with the idea, so whether or not he could truly walk this path to the end would depend on his own efforts.

Long Chen's bones started to crack and break apart, and the pain left him feeling dizzy. He was struggling to maintain his consciousness amidst the indescribable torment, even wondering if he could endure it.

"The Long clan really is amazing. By investing most of their resources in your Supreme Bone, they have demonstrated their wisdom in funds allocation," remarked the dragon expert, closely observing what was happening.

"How can this Supreme Bone hold so much power?!" Long Chen's face contorted with agony.

"If this Supreme Bone were an ordinary Supreme Bone, you and your father would not have been so envied by the heavens to the point of facing such misfortune," sighed the dragon expert.

"AHH!"

Long Chen suddenly stiffened and couldn't suppress his scream. His Supreme Bone had forcefully shattered every bone in him, causing him to crumple to the ground like a pile of mud.

"Don't move!" ordered the dragon expert.

Long Chen was quivering from pain. The torment was so intense that it made him want to writhe on the ground, but he still managed to cling to a hint of his rationality. Through gritted teeth, he said, "Even if I wanted to move, I can't!"

Just then, the Supreme Bone blazed with light, and a milky white thread extended out of it, flowing through Long Chen's skeleton.

"Do not move! The Supreme Bone is helping you completely transform your bones. This is the critical moment as any movement will cause irreparable harm!" warned the dragon expert sternly.

Long Chen was in immense pain. Just now, his bones had been shattered, and now it felt as though molten lava was coursing through them. The sensation was torturous enough to kill someone.

However, Long Chen didn't move in the slightest. He treated it as if he had really died, allowing this white energy to slowly pour through his bones.

The pain was so intense that Long Chen lost all sense of time. After some time, the white thread had gone through every bone in his body.

"Fuck, again?!"

Long Chen's bones were reconstructing themselves, but even this process was incredibly painful. The shattered bone fragments were mending, aided by the milky white energy flowing through the fissures.

After the bone fragments had reconnected, they bore many lingering scars that seemed to be permanent.

Finally, once the bones healed to a certain point, Long Chen breathed a sigh of relief as the pain subsided. He was soaked in sweat.

Just then, the Supreme Bone emitted another glow, and Long Chen tensed up. Once more, the excruciating pain engulfed his entire body.

"Again?!"

Long Chen felt like he was about to go crazy. The Supreme Bone's power shattered and healed his newly mended bones once more.

In total, this process repeated nine times. After the ninth time, Long Chen finally passed out.

He had no idea how much time had passed. When he woke up, the first thing he did was look inside himself.

To his surprise, he found that his bones were no longer simply white. There were countless dense marks all over them. Moreover, every single one of those marks emitted strange fluctuations, as if they possessed limitless power.

"Bone runes?"

Long Chen was startled. Bone runes were a method used by many races to transmit their techniques, and races such as demons, beasts, and devils often utilized this type of inheritance technique. With this method, once an individual from one of those races reached a certain realm, they would automatically awaken new divine abilities.

Within the human race, people rarely produced these bone marks. Even if they did, it typically involved using an external force to inscribe the method for employing a divine ability or magical art onto a bone. This made it more convenient to unleash a divine ability.

It was a bit similar to Guo Ran's battle armor, but the difference lay in the fact that Guo Ran applied those marks externally, while this method involved embedding the runes within the body.

However, the marks on Long Chen's bones couldn't be classified as either runes or a formation. They appeared as dense, irregular lines intersecting in what seemed like a haphazard pattern, yet there was also a peculiar sense of order within them. It was incomprehensible.

"These marks are the scars from my bones shattering, and there seems to be something within their disorderly chaos. But I can't feel anything specific." Long Chen clenched his fists, unable to feel any increase in power. Also, there was no change in his Blood qi, and his Supreme Bone had seemingly settled down and gone into slumber.

"Take your blade and chop your finger," said the dragon expert.

"What? I'm not so stupid as to chop off my finger to test the strength of my bones!" Long Chen directly refused. This kind of joke wasn't funny at all.

"Idiot. I told you to try it, so do it," said the dragon expert impatiently.

Hearing the dragon expert's tone, Long Chen sensed the seriousness in its words. Hesitantly, he retrieved a World Domain divine item, a sharp sword, and cut his finger with it.

As a result, the skin on his finger didn't even split open, and the sword bounced off.

"Are you joking? Take out an Eternal divine weapon," ordered the dragon expert irritably.

Long Chen winced in helplessness and retrieved an Eternal battle-ax he had acquired from the battlefield. However, when he looked at its sharp edge, he couldn't bear to slash his finger with it.

"A person's body is precious. It is a gift from their father and mother..."

"Shut up! It's not like I told you to chop off your head! Your bones are a bit strange now, and I don't quite understand them. I'm merely testing to see what kind of reaction your bones will have. But if you're afraid of losing a finger, you can try hitting your head instead!" cursed the dragon expert.

"Fine, fine! I'll stick to a finger!" Long Chen decided not to go with that suggestion.

BANG!

The battle-ax came down on his finger with a muffled thud, causing blood to flow. This Eternal divine weapon's sharpness went without saying.

"Can you hurry up? It only struck your dragon tendons, and this kind of power is unable to slice them. You aren't reaching your bones like this!"

Frustrated by the repeated scolding, Long Chen's temper flared, and he swung the battle-ax at the cut once more.

BOOM!

The moment the battle-ax struck his bone, the marks on Long Chen's skeleton lit up. Following that, the battle-ax escaped his hold and blasted a hole through the roof.

"What?!"

Long Chen himself was dumbfounded by this result.

Chapter 4302: Brazen Idea

The force of the impact sent the battle-ax flying. As for Long Chen's finger bone, there was only the slightest white mark on it, and that mark vanished instantaneously as if nothing had happened.

Long Chen's wound quickly healed. Even the seven-color blood that had flowed out ended up flowing back in.

"This is incredible!" Long Chen exclaimed, overwhelmed with shock and delight. He could hardly believe it. His bones were on par with an Eternal divine weapon!

"Your bones have been strengthened by the Supreme Bone, and those chaotic lines are actually a kind of formation. However, this formation is so complicated that no one can possibly understand it. When the battle-ax struck your fingerbone, your Supreme Bone lit up, and I sensed an energy flowing from it to your fingerbone. It was too fast for me to sense its path clearly, but I guarantee that the force you've seen so far is just a fraction of what the Supreme Bone can achieve," said the dragon expert.

Even an existence as powerful as the dragon expert was unable to see through the full power of the Supreme Bone, so Long Chen's understanding of it was barely scratching the surface.

"Hehe, I really am a genius. Now that I have my Supreme Bone back, I can block Eternal divine weapons with my barehand. That'll scare the experts from that world!" Long Chen grew excited at the thought.

With the return of his Supreme Bone, Long Chen felt an unprecedented surge of strength welling up from within. Although he didn't know how to properly use his Supreme Bone yet, its passive defense was enough to make him unafraid of any potential injuries.

With bones as hard as Eternal divine weapons and the boundless life energy in the primal chaos space to sustain him, Long Chen essentially had an undying body.

If he had possessed such power during the Sage King Convention, he could have swept through all his enemies without anyone's help. Even if he couldn't beat them, he could exhaust them to death.

"Don't be too pleased. The Supreme Bone has only just been activated, and you don't even know how to use it properly. Blood Condensation and Bone Forging are now complete, and I aided you in finishing Tendon Transformation. All that remains are Meridian Opening and Qi Condensation."

"Alright. Then I'll do Qi Condensation first."

"Go ahead."

Long Chen nodded and concentrated. Within his Dantian was a clump of qi. That was his Spirit Root.

The Spirit Root was like a flame sprout emitting strange fluctuations. Long Chen felt like its breathing was in sync with heaven and earth's breath, as though it was on the same wavelength as the world.

However, Long Chen didn't understand the significance behind this wavelength. In most people, the Spirit Root would be situated in the dantian, serving as their core, the main thing that determined a person's talent.

Long Chen had asked Meng Qi, Chu Yao, and the others about their Spirit Roots, but they couldn't provide a clear explanation. They simply mentioned that their Spirit Roots would exhibit unusual fluctuations during breakthroughs in realms or when they had significant insights into the Heavenly Daos. However, they couldn't elaborate on the specific functions or significance of their Spirit Roots.

The Spirit Root was extremely mysterious. It seemed to serve as the link that tied them to the entire world, and it could also be considered the foundation of a person's intelligence. It was what decided a cultivator's future.

As for how to use a Spirit Root, even after flipping through countless ancient tomes, Long Chen was unable to find a precise answer. His understanding of the Spirit Root remained quite obscure.

Even ancient sages with their own comprehension of the world were unable to give a precise definition of a Spirit Root.

Since Long Chen didn't have a proper Dantian, this clump of qi simply hovered above his Dantian area, with the starry sea beneath it.

Buzz.

With a thought, Long Chen guided the clump of qi into the starry sea. He then clenched his teeth and started to form hand seals.

The next moment, the 108,000 stars rumbled and shook, and each star unleashed a ray of divine light at the clump of qi. In return, the clump of qi quivered and suddenly inflated, emitting a blazing divine light that shot into all 108,000 stars. It was like a sea flowing into thousands of rivers. Long Chen's stars suddenly ignited, their auras growing explosively.

However, cracks started to appear on the stars, and Long Chen and the dragon expert cried out in horror.

"Not good!"

"Stop!" shouted the dragon expert.

"I can't!" Long Chen was already trying, but he couldn't control this qi.

"The stars are going to explode!" Long Chen shouted. If his 108,000 stars exploded all at once, then he would definitely be blasted out of existence.

Just as Long Chen thought that he was about to die, a strange light enveloped him.

"The Sage King divine radiance?"

Long Chen was delighted. The Sage King divine radiance appeared and started to nourish the stars with its energy, causing them to gradually settle down.

Following that, a flame seedling appeared on top of every star, and both Long Chen and the dragon expert cheered in relief.

“Success!”

Long Chen’s Spirit Root had merged into the starry sea. This had been an absolutely crazy idea, and both of them knew just how difficult and dangerous such a thing was.

Unexpectedly, they had succeeded with the help of the Sage King divine radiance. Long Chen's Spirit Root was now firmly rooted in the 108,000 stars, which meant he would have 108,000 Spirit Roots in the future.

Although splitting it into so many pieces had made each of them extremely weak, so weak that their existence was about to fade away, Long Chen knew that if he nourished them, he would be a hundred thousand times stronger than an ordinary expert.

Now that Long Chen had succeeded with Qi Condensation, the two of them were incredibly excited. This was Long Chen’s first time feeling lucky.

Looking at the flame seedling of his Spirit Root on every star, Long Chen was full of anticipation for the future.

“Next is Meridian Opening. Take advantage of this luck to finish it all at once,” advised the dragon expert.

Long Chen nodded and formed hand seals. In an instant, his violet blood flowed through all his meridians.

To Long Chen’s surprise, his violet blood and his meridians harmonized perfectly, with no signs of rejection at all. His meridians absorbed his violet blood rapidly, causing one rune after another to condense in his meridians, significantly strengthening them.

Long Chen’s meridians didn’t get any wider, but their toughness was crazily rising. Previously, his meridians could be likened to straw, but now they had transformed into something akin to immortal metal. The difference was tremendous.

“Hahaha, that was so easy! I’m really lucky, hahaha! With meridians this powerful, I won’t have to worry about any backlash no matter how powerful the technique is!” Long Chen laughed with excitement, having successfully completed his Meridian Opening.

Before this, whenever he wanted to use a big move, he had to first consider the impact on his meridians. A single mistake could injure his meridians even before unleashing the technique, which could easily be fatal.

However, with his newly strengthened violet blood meridians, Long Chen was confident that even if he channeled all of his power into a single technique, his meridians could effortlessly withstand it. This realization filled him with exhilaration, and he couldn’t help but shout in excitement.

“Excellent. Now, I have another brazen idea. What do you think? Do you want to try it?” The dragon expert laughed mischievously.

Chapter 4303: Other World, Move Out

Long Chen was still basking in the delight of the immense changes in his body when he suddenly heard this, and in an instant, his curiosity was piqued.

“Another brazen idea? Great!”

“Now, your Spirit Root has been dispersed throughout your starry sea, your seven-color Supreme Blood has been activated, the dragon blood has entered your tendons, your Supreme Bone has reforged your skeleton, and your violet blood has opened your meridians. Qi Condensation, Blood Condensation, Tendon Transformation, Bone Forging, and Meridian Opening have all been completed. But have you not noticed something peculiar about your body?” asked the dragon expert.

“Something peculiar? I feel like my body has gotten even stronger. I’m thirsting for a battle with a real expert!” Long Chen felt his body thrumming with power, but he felt an intense thirst as well.

“You are wrong. This thirst is not for a battle but for nourishment.”

“A thirst for nourishment?”

“You have awakened your qi, blood, tendons, bones, and meridians, going through an immense transformation all at once. However, you have to know that the stronger the body, the more energy is required to maintain it. This is why little Wilde has to constantly eat meat when he fights. If he runs out of meat, he also runs out of his energy source and will quickly exhaust himself. After a certain point, he will enter a deep slumber to reduce the exhaustion in his body. You are now the same, and you should be able to feel it. You feel full of power right now, right?”

“Yes, I feel limitless power welling up within me. I feel like I want to fight someone just to unleash it,” said Long Chen.

“You are not in a combat state but already feel such terrifying power. If you were in a fighting state, you would burn up even more energy. Your body is like a reservoir. Before this, the output was only a finger’s thickness, while the input was an arm’s thickness. Thus, you never ran out of energy. But now, your output is greater than your input even when you aren’t fighting. Even if you just sleep, you will constantly exhaust an enormous amount of energy. In less than half a year, you will not be able to keep up, and your core energy will start running dry. When that time comes, your qi, blood, tendons, bones, and meridians will descend into slumber to protect themselves, and you will return to your old state.”

“What!?”

“This is a serious problem. I’m not joking at all. Your body is like an empire with an army of a hundred thousand. But suddenly, you gain an army of ten million, while your army provisions have not increased. How long do you think you can keep them satisfied? In this era, there is no lack of amazing geniuses. But why do people rarely manage to surpass their ancient predecessors? It isn’t that they aren’t strong enough but that they are so powerful that there isn’t enough energy for them. They either starve to death or sacrifice some power to continue surviving,” said the dragon expert.

Long Chen's jaw dropped. "Isn't primal chaos qi slowly filling the Nirvana Overflow Heaven? And aren't the laws of the Heavenly Daos gradually growing complete? Aren't they enough for me?"

"If you only had one or two types of energy, it would be no problem. But you now possess seven-color Supreme Blood, violet blood, and dragon blood—three top-tier bloodlines, and they come at an immense cost. Moreover, there's your mysterious Supreme Bone and the extraordinary 108,000 Spirit Roots. Do you feel like the Heavenly Daos will starve everyone else to death just to feed you? Fortunately, you have the Sage King karmic luck, and the Heavenly Dao energy now favors you. Otherwise, with this level of consumption, you would be drained in just three days, let alone lasting half a month."

After hearing the grave picture that the dragon expert painted, Long Chen couldn't help asking, "Then senior, why didn't you tell me about this earlier?"

"I also didn't expect your consumption to be this terrifying. Furthermore, even if I did tell you beforehand, what could you do? If you didn't activate them in the Immortal King realm, then the process would take even more energy in the World King realm. Furthermore, they would be far more difficult to activate then. You wouldn't make such a choice even if you were beaten to death," said the dragon expert.

"That is true. Then senior, what is this brazen idea of yours? Is it a solution to this problem?" asked Long Chen hastily.

"Of course. I am simply thinking that you might want to explore the world on the other side of the gate," said the dragon expert.

"What is there? Can I recover my energy in that world?" asked Long Chen.

"Primal chaos qi is much denser there. If you go to that world, recovering your energy won't be an issue. But that's not my real goal. After all, you can't undergo tribulation there, and if your identity is exposed, you will definitely die. My plan is that since the human race has long since vanished in that realm, there should be quite a few spirit stone deposits underground. Hehe, you understand."

"Spirit stones? I have plenty!" For a moment, Long Chen still didn't understand.

"Fool! Your spirit stones are basically trash! I'm talking about primal chaos spirit stones! Spirit stones that contain primal chaos qi!" cursed the dragon expert.

"What? There's such a thing?" Long Chen jumped in shock.

"Of course. It is something that only your human race can use, and it is trash to other races. That's why I guarantee there are primal chaos spirit stone deposits in that world. There should be some in the ruins of the human race. As long as you gather enough spirit stones, you can rely on the primal chaos qi within them to help you cultivate and maintain the requirements of your body. Otherwise, you will simply starve to death. So, are you interested?"

"Of course, I'm interested! Fuck, this is an undiscovered land of treasures to me!"

Long Chen's eyes lit up as though he could see countless spirit stones shining before him and even hear some kind of calling.

“The lifeforms on the other side of the gate are theoretically capable of crossing, but they lack an understanding of formations, preventing them from doing so. However, from your side, attempting to pass through requires opposing the flow of primal chaos qi, a pressure that's beyond the endurance of an ordinary individual. Moreover, the higher one's realm, the more intense the pressure becomes. If a Heaven Venerate attempts it, it's akin to self-destruction. Even for World Kings, the odds are incredibly slim. Only Immortal Kings might have a chance, but they would need not only an exceptionally robust physical body but also a spatial law-based formation. As you have a formation master by your side, it should be no problem for you.”

“Alright!”

Long Chen immediately got impatient and ran off, grabbing Xia Chen and Guo Ran. When he told them that he wanted to go to the world on the other side of the gate, their eyes turned green with greed. They seemed even more excited than Long Chen.

“Move out!”

The three of them were on the same page in an instant, and without another word, they set off.

Chapter 4304: Enemies Gather

“Damn, there really are quite a few people here!”

Long Chen's group of three snuck their way back to the Sage King Prefecture and found a gathering of many experts. Most of them were at the core of the battlefield, sitting with their eyes closed in meditation.

“It seems that they came for the leftover fighting will and broken laws from the battlefield.”

An immense battle had just been fought here, leaving twisted and chaotic places in some areas. The fighting will of experts lingered in the air, and remnants of some broken laws occasionally offered glimpses into the events of the past

Numerous cultivators were borrowing the leftover wills of experts from the battlefield to temper their own wills. It was as if they were actively engaging in that battle, but without any danger involved.

When the three of them arrived, countless experts cried out in shock, and many non-humans directly ran away. However, many of them stood their ground and just stared at Long Chen calmly, aware that with Long Chen's status, he would disdain killing them. In any case, if he really did want to, they wouldn't be able to get away anyway.

“Senior Long Chen!”

Some human experts greeted him with excitement, their eyes filled with admiration and reverence. In the previous battle, Long Chen had fought off the enemy races and swept through their geniuses, rekindling a radiance within the human race that had long since faded into history.

As a result, Long Chen's reputation was now unrivaled within the human race, and no heavenly geniuses could stand on par with him. It wasn't that they weren't outstanding; rather, it was Long Chen who was too powerful. His sudden rise simply eclipsed the luster of countless geniuses.

After all, no matter how bright the star, it couldn't compare to the bright moon. Thus, when Long Chen arrived, the human race's experts were instantly excited.

Long Chen nodded to them, his gesture serving as a form of greeting. As for the other race's experts, they immediately cleared a path for him.

As the three of them ventured deeper, they saw more and more experts from various hostile races. Strangely, despite their unfriendly relations with one another, they all appeared to mind their own business here. No one was fighting.

"Why are there so many new World Kings here? Could they not wait any longer to advance?" Guo Ran saw quite a few new World Kings with unsteady auras. From this, it was evident that they had not been able to control their realms and had just advanced.

"Not everyone can control their realms so well. I think some people with weaker foundations were stimulated by the influx of primal chaos qi and simply broke through. They couldn't even suppress it," said Long Chen.

The stronger the person, the greater their control over their realm. But regrettably, not many people could exercise such precise control.

Unfortunately, making their breakthroughs now was detrimental to them. It was because the primal chaos qi in this world was in the midst of rising, so each day of delay presented a slightly greater benefit.

Thus, every Immortal King was suppressing their realms, and the top experts were all planning on making their breakthroughs only once the primal chaos qi's density stopped increasing.

Long Chen's group of three delved further under the scrutiny of countless experts and reached the location where the Sage King martial stage had previously stood.

The martial stage was gone, and in its place lay an enormous gate from which primal chaos qi was crazily pouring out of the slight crack.

While the primal chaos qi right outside the gate was extremely dense, it was unsuitable for direct absorption. After all, it still possessed the concentrated power of laws, and if it was directly absorbed, it would be extremely harmful to the body. It could only be steadily absorbed once it had dispersed and was in a tranquil state. In its current form, the primal chaos qi could only be looked at.

"Scram! Anyone near the gate will be executed!" Just as Long Chen arrived and stirred up some commotion, a chilling command resonated from the vicinity of the gate.

"It's the devil race. What are they doing?"

Guo Ran was startled. There was a group of the devil race's experts around the gate, and they were blocking others from getting close.

"Reporting to senior Long Chen, the devil experts are communicating with the devil race on the other side of the gate. They seem to have a way to communicate with each other. It has been several days, and they're not letting anyone else get close," said someone from the human race.

"They're communicating?" Long Chen exclaimed, clearly surprised by this revelation.

"Most likely. We can hear devil sounds coming from the crack even at a distance, and hundreds of thousands of the devil race's Triple Supremes are listening intently nearby. Speaking of which, senior Long Chen, how many people did you bring this time?" asked that person.

"Just the three of us."

"Three?" That person was shocked. "Senior Long Chen, you have to flee! The devil race has over ten half-step Eternals standing guard over this place! You have to run before they notice you!"

"Over ten half-step Eternals?"

Both Guo Ran and Xia Chen were shocked by the sudden turn of events. What in the world was the devil race planning?

At that very moment, the void ruptured, and a malevolent devil energy enshrouded the entire area, causing the human expert's face to contort. He was on the brink of fleeing when Guo Ran grabbed him.

"Don't run. We've been locked down. If you leave, you'll die," said Guo Ran. A barrier of the Devil race slowly appeared in the air, sealing this space.

"Hahaha, there was a path to the heavens, but you didn't take it. Instead, you dug a hole straight to hell. Long Chen, you really are brazen! Let's see how you escape now!" Devil experts began to manifest in the skies one after another, emanating dread-inducing auras.

Sixteen half-step Eternal experts surrounded Long Chen and the others. One of them in particular glared at Long Chen darkly, his eyes full of icy killing intent.

"How laughable. Weren't you the one fleeing the last time we crossed paths?"

Long Chen sneered. Suddenly, he cocked his head toward that elder and pointed. "Hey, you look familiar. Do I know you?"

"Of course, you know me! You bastard, trash, scammer! Return my treasures!" That expert's face twisted with fury.

It dawned on Long Chen that this was the very devil expert to whom he had auctioned the Heaven Earth Cauldron.

Back then, this elder had handed over fifty-eight Eternal corpses and seven Eternal divine weapons, three of which belonged to the human race. Yet, all he had received in return was a counterfeit.

During the Sage King Convention, he had been biding his time, eagerly awaiting an opportunity to exact revenge on Long Chen. However, that chance had never presented itself. Now, with Long Chen's return, his anger surged, prompting him to summon all the devil experts in the surroundings.

Without further ado, a devil sword radiating a bone-chilling light streaked toward Long Chen, enveloped in a burst of devil energy. The half-step Eternal expert was channeling his full power.

"It seems that you're holding quite the grudge. How about I let you hit me once in return?"

Long Chen smiled and turned his head ever so slightly, allowing that sword to directly strike his shoulder.

BOOM!

A qi wave exploded, and countless experts stared at Long Chen in horror.

“How... how is that possible?!”

Chapter 4305: Charging Through the Gate

Other than Long Chen, everyone else was stunned, including the armored Guo Ran and Xia Chen who was holding a talisman.

The devil expert's sword ruthlessly struck Long Chen's shoulder and broke the surface of his skin, but no blood trickled down. Instead, it was just stuck in Long Chen's shoulder, leaving the devil expert in utter shock.

Although this attack was not the devil expert's absolute strongest blow, it still represented at least eighty percent of his full power. He had intended to force Long Chen to block, whereupon he would launch his true killing blow. However, he hadn't expected Long Chen to not move at all and instead receive his sword with his body.

It felt as if he had just attacked a star, and a powerful backlash shook his arm. People were shocked to see blood dripping onto the ground, but it wasn't Long Chen's blood; it was the devil expert's hand that had split open from the impact.

“I gave you a chance, but it's too bad that you didn't use it well!” Long Chen looked at the “wound” on his shoulder and smiled.

Long Chen hadn't made any attempt to protect himself. In this case, his essence blood had instinctively formed a defensive barrier, but it could only intercept a fraction of the attack's power.

When the sword's impact reached his bones, all the marks on his bones radiated a brilliant light. As a result, the devil expert's attack was unable to harm his bones in the slightest, unable to even leave a mark.

“You...!”

The devil expert stared at Long Chen in bewilderment and suddenly had a bad feeling. Just as he was about to turn and run, Long Chen flicked his finger.

In the blink of an eye, a ray of seven-colored divine light pierced the devil expert's head, and his lifeless body crumpled just like that, leaving his Eternal divine weapon still lodged on Long Chen's shoulder.

Xia Chen and Guo Ran could only stare in silence, their excitement surging. In just a few days, their boss had strengthened himself to the point where even Eternal divine weapons couldn't harm him.

Suddenly, a flame lotus appeared in Long Chen's hand and covered the sky, causing all the half-step Eternal experts' expressions to completely change.

“Run!”

They shouted at the heavenly geniuses of the devil race gathered before the gate.

Long Chen's flame lotus emitted an icy divine radiance as it hurtled toward the gate like a shooting star. Its target was precisely the geniuses of the devil race.

These talented disciples were seated in front of the gate, seemingly undergoing some kind of baptism. By the time they realized that the flame lotus was falling on them, it was too late.

BOOM!

White flames devoured those heavenly geniuses, and they didn't even have a chance to resist. In an instant, they were reduced to ice fragments.

Long Chen's flame lotus was unleashed at lightning speed, requiring no noticeable gathering of energy. Thus, even those half-step Eternals were unable to react in time to stop it.

"Hehe, after the violet blood Meridian Opening, all my divine abilities and magical arts can be unleashed almost instantaneously. Haha, it's finally time for me to be a badass!" Long Chen's expression was icy cool on the surface, but he was cheering excitedly inside.

Before his Meridian Opening, to unleash such an attack, he would have been required to prepare his meridians first, or risk injuring himself. Following that, he would need to draw in Heavenly Dao energy, combine it with his flame energy, bolster it with his Spiritual Strength, and then launch the attack.

However, with such powerful meridians, there was no need for it to be so complicated. He could just draw Heavenly Dao energy into him and merge it with his flame energy. The attack could then be directly unleashed.

Long Chen had harnessed his own body as the bow and the merged flame energy as the arrow. As for his meridians, they functioned as the bowstring. By merely drawing back the string, he could promptly release the arrow, resulting in the instantaneous unleashing of the World Extermination Flame Lotus.

"Ahh!"

Out of the hundreds of thousands of the devil race's top disciples, only a few dozen managed to escape. However, even in their escape, they were not spared as white flames engulfed their bodies, eliciting agonizing screams.

"Damn human race! You dare to ruin my devil race's affairs!"

A furious roar came from the other side of the gate. It seemed that whoever was on the other side knew what was happening here.

"Did I ruin your affairs? Then I'll slaughter everyone from your devil race right now. If you have the ability, come and bite me!"

Long Chen sneered and took out the Seven Peak Sword. Upon seeing it, the devil experts' expressions immediately changed, and even the half-step Eternal devils directly fled. No one from the devil race remained.

"What...?"

The human expert who had just warned Long Chen was completely dumbfounded. He had felt despair upon being surrounded by so many powerful experts, but in the blink of an eye, even the half-step Eternal devils were gone.

Witnessing this, experts from other races were equally astonished. Long Chen's party consisted of only three individuals, yet he had instilled such terror in over ten half-step Eternal devils that they weren't even thinking about avenging the deaths of their top disciples.

"Damn, why are they so gutless?"

Guo Ran and Xia Chen were flabbergasted. They had wanted to see the sight of Long Chen fighting over ten half-step Eternals, but to their amazement, the opposing side had scattered in sheer panic, not even hesitating for a moment.

However, thinking about it, it made sense. After all, their opponent was no ordinary human; he was a monster who could receive Eternal divine items with his bare body. Running in terror was the only logical response here.

As all the surviving devil race experts hurriedly retreated, the space in front of the gate was now vacant. The white ice fragments around were still ablaze—the aftermath of the Ice Soul Divine Flame. The Ice Soul was quite domineering and wouldn't go out until its target was fully incinerated.

Long Chen's group walked to the gate, and a wave of primal chaos qi blasted them, causing their clothes and hair to flap around.

"Damnable human race, you won't be able to stay arrogant for long! Once the gate opens, all that awaits you is death!" Another roar came from the other side of the gate.

Long Chen suddenly closed an eye, and a three-flower image appeared in his open eye, looking through the crack in the gate.

"One, two, three... Hehe, five Heaven Venerates and thirty-five World Kings. Alright, prepare yourself!" Long Chen then put away his Three Flower Pupil with a chuckle.

"Alright!" At this moment, Xia Chen took out thirty-six formation discs and placed them in the air according to a set distance. In the time it took for an incense stick to burn, he was done and nodded to Long Chen.

In the meantime, further curses erupted from the other side of the gate. As they were unable to go through the gate, they could only vent their frustration in this manner.

While Long Chen's group of three set things up, the experts from other races could only watch in bewilderment, uncertain of the trio's intentions.

Buzz.

Xia Chen suddenly crushed a talisman, and divine light enveloped his body. At the same time, Guo Ran summoned his golden battle armor.

"Let's go!"

Long Chen shouted. The next moment, the formation discs that Xia Chen had set up exploded and enveloped the three of them in divine radiance. With its protection, they surged forward against the current of primal chaos qi.

“What?!”

“Are they...?!?!?”

As a sense of astonishment settled over the spectators, they suddenly heard startled cries from the opposite side of the gate, coupled with the ominous sound of blades penetrating flesh.

Chapter 4306: Battle of Eternal Experts

Wielding the Seven Peak Sword, Long Chen cut down the devil race’s Heaven Venerates. The Seven Peak Sword’s sharpness was unmatched, and it easily sliced through them.

On the other hand, both Guo Ran and Xia Chen, each facing one Heaven Venerate, ran into an unexpected predicament in their fights. Guo Ran was shocked to find that his battle sabers were damaged from a single clash with that expert’s claws. It was worth noting that these sabers were top grade World Domain divine items. Yet, not only could they not breach the opponent’s defenses, but they also sustained damage from just one clash. Guo Ran couldn’t help but be deeply surprised by this sudden turn of events.

Meanwhile, Xia Chen invoked runes around him to trap his opponent. However, with a single roar from the Heaven Venerate, his runic lock was shattered. It had to be known that Xia Chen’s technique could normally immobilize a half-step Eternal for at least a brief moment. Yet, this devil expert easily blasted it apart.

Taking advantage of them being distracted, Long Chen swiftly swung his Seven Peak Sword twice, cleaving the two Heaven Venerates in half.

“Kill!”

However, to their surprise, the remaining World Kings didn’t run and charged at them instead.

The three of them fought together and instantly slaughtered all the devil experts. What shocked the three of them was that the devil experts were so fierce that they fought to their deaths, without a single one of them attempting to flee.

“Are they crazy? Don’t they feel any fear?” wondered Xia Chen.

“Their intelligence seems to be very low, and their reaction speed is somewhat slow. Most likely, they’ve grown accustomed to peaceful lives, causing their instincts to deteriorate. In a world where the human race has been wiped out, they might have become complacent and foolish.” Long Chen guessed.

These devil experts had been extremely powerful. The five Heaven Venerates were comparable to the half-step Eternals in the outside world, but when they started fighting, their reactions were clearly a bit slow. Otherwise, it wouldn’t have been so easy for Long Chen to kill them.

“How are the devil race’s experts so powerful here?” Guo Ran lamented, casting a sorrowful look at his now-mangled sabers. These weapons were essentially broken now.

“The lifeforms here grow up nourished by primal chaos qi, so they are countless times stronger than us in every way. We have to be careful. Also, we have to make it seem as if they charged through the crack in the gate and were crushed as a result,” said Long Chen.

“Will such a trick work?” asked Guo Ran hesitantly.

“Their intelligence seems limited, so it should fool them for a while. Xia Chen, you can set up a formation. Block the outside world from communicating with them, and don’t worry about the formation being broken. The human race has long since been obliterated here, so these lifeforms don’t know anything about formation arts. You should be able to set it up freely!” said Long Chen.

“Alright.” Guo Ran got to work, tossing the corpses into the crack in the gate. Their bodies were immediately crushed by a terrifying pressure, transforming into blood mist that splattered the area around the gate.

Meanwhile, Xia Chen set up a formation that blocked sound from going through the gate. After that, the three of them erased any trace of their presence and left.

After getting away from the gate, they found a good place for Xia Chen to set up a formation disc. This disc served as a reference point to ensure they wouldn’t lose their way and also as a spatial transportation node.

Xia Chen also set up an illusion formation outside. This way, let alone these foolish experts, even if human experts who weren’t on the level of a formation grandmaster came, they wouldn’t notice anything odd.

After setting this up, the three of them flew off. They found that the vegetation here was flourishing on an entirely different level compared to that of the Nirvana Overflow Heaven. The same tree might only grow to ten meters in their world, but here, it would reach a height of hundreds of meters. They almost couldn’t recognize the same tree here.

“Damn, is this what the world was like in ancient times? No wonder those devil experts are so powerful.” Seeing this, Guo Ran was amazed.

The primal chaos qi was incredibly dense to the point that they could sense its fluctuations with every wave of their hand. Even without intentionally absorbing it, it flowed into their bodies on its own.

Long Chen also sensed the phenomenon that the dragon expert had mentioned. He was capable of maintaining a balance in terms of core energy in this place.

Upon arriving here, he clearly felt his power being replenished continuously. On the flip side, in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, he had been using up more energy than he was gaining.

The three of them flew rapidly. Suddenly, they heard heaven-shaking explosions, and Long Chen’s expression suddenly changed. He directly grabbed Xia Chen and Guo Ran and dragged them to the side.

BOOM!

An enormous ray of divine light shot past the three of them and pierced through countless trees and mountains. Wherever the light passed, destruction followed, causing the earth to melt and black smoke to emanate from the void.

Even Long Chen was covered in cold sweat seeing this attack. It had surpassed his current understanding. If he hadn't dodged quickly enough, the three of them would have been wiped out of existence.

Guo Ran was pale with terror. "Have we been noticed?"

Just then, the world shuddered and they saw more rays of divine light flying out.

Clearly, a battle between terrifying experts was underway, and they weren't targeting the three of them. Just now, they had only dodged the attack that had coincidentally gone near them.

"What level of experts are they?!" exclaimed Xia Chen.

"Even the void is corroded, and the laws of heaven and earth are in chaos. Perhaps only true Eternals are capable of such a thing. Let's take a look," said Long Chen.

Eternal experts? Guo Ran and Xia Chen both quivered, but they followed Long Chen over.

The three of them carefully crept closer to look at the battlefield. Occasionally, rays of divine light would fly through the air not far from them, and one of the rays left a bottomless hole in the ground.

Gazing into the hole, Guo Ran was sweating. He just wanted to leave and run as far as he could, but he still summoned his courage to follow Long Chen.

After two hours, the three of them finally managed to sneak their way to the top of a mountain. This mountain was newly formed, and it was covered in mud.

The three of them then stuck their heads over the mountain to watch and finally managed to see two enormous figures.

One of them was a golden-winged devil. Its two wings appeared as if they were made of solid gold, the ends of its feathers coated with numerous sharp barbs. Also, its eyes contained swirling golden light, which flickered like lightning with each blink. Long Chen had never seen this species of winged devil before.

As for its opponent, it was a black tortoise, and its shell had five-colored spots on it. It was squatting on the ground, glaring at the golden-winged devil.

Their fight had completely changed the surrounding terrain. Based on what Long Chen saw, these two creatures were evenly matched, with neither gaining the upper hand in their conflict.

"What a terrifying pressure!"

Xia Chen found it difficult to breathe, and his face was as pale as a sheet of paper. Despite his predicament, he didn't dare to use his talismans to resist this pressure, instead choosing to grit his teeth and watch in dismay.

BOOM!

Just then, those two enormous figures ruthlessly charged toward each other like two shooting stars.

Chapter 4307: The Fisherman Profits

“Not good!”

Long Chen was startled. These two terrifying existences seemed to have gotten angry and were now using their core energy.

Long Chen directly dragged Guo Ran and Xia Chen behind him. Just as he stepped in front of them, it felt as if a meteor were colliding with him. The tremendous force nearly caused him to cough up blood.

BOOM!

A wave of death spread, razing the ground, leaving heaven and earth devoid of color. After the impact, Long Chen, Xia Chen, and Guo Ran found themselves enveloped in darkness, dazed.

Long Chen carefully poked his head out of the mud, and to his surprise, this world had become a barren wasteland. Cracks permeated the atmosphere, and thunderous lightning roared. It was like this place had suddenly become hell.

Looking at the core of the battlefield, he saw that the golden-winged expert’s aura had weakened a great deal.

It let out a roar and flapped its wings, transforming into a streak of light that vanished instantly. It seemed that it had lost and had no choice but to leave.

“Damn, even from such a distance, the shockwaves alone were enough to almost crush us. Eternal experts really are terrifying!” said Xia Chen.

It had to be known that they were incredibly far from the two creatures, but the shockwaves of their collision were so terrifying. If it weren’t for Long Chen bearing the brunt of the impact, the two of them would have been utterly crushed.

“Those two probably don’t count as terrifying existences here.” Long Chen shook his head gravely.

“Why not?” asked Xia Chen and Guo Ran.

“Think about it. Why hasn’t any other lifeform intervened in their battle? It’s likely that they don’t have any allies to aid them,” said Long Chen.

“Boss, are you saying that they’re similar to our rogue cultivators?!” exclaimed Guo Ran.

Just then, the black tortoise also took off, its four legs bringing it away surprisingly fast. The earth quivered as it ran.

“We’re going after it.” Long Chen waved his hand.

“Boss, what are you planning?” asked Guo Ran.

“Hehe, the black tortoise is badly wounded. It’s probably returning to its lair to recuperate. Let’s see if we can take advantage of it,” Long Chen chuckled.

Take advantage of an Eternal expert? Guo Ran and Xia Chen both swallowed nervously, astounded by Long Chen's guts.

Long Chen guided them toward the black tortoise by tracing its aura. The three of them maintained their concealed auras, and before long, they arrived at a colossal mountain range.

The three of them were shaken to see this mountain range. Within these mountains lay numerous dilapidated structures and ruins, resembling what might have once been a domain of the human race.

However, those buildings were all badly damaged and covered in vegetation. Only a few unremarkable traces hinted at the possibility that this might have once been a habitation of the human race.

"This old tortoise is actually using the human race's land to recuperate?" said Xia Chen hatefully.

Looking at those ruins, Xia Chen was unable to imagine just how miserable and helpless the human race must have felt during their downfall.

BOOM!

Just then, the enormous black tortoise squatted down at the center of the valley, and there lay a substantial concave hollow that matched its form precisely.

"That concave hollow looks odd. It seems that there's a formation underground," said Xia Chen suddenly.

"Are you sure?" Long Chen was startled.

Xia Chen examined it more closely before confidently saying, "I'm sure. There are fluctuations of a formation. There is some kind of energy coming from underground, and it's not natural."

"Boss, can the three of us really kill that old tortoise?" asked Guo Ran.

"Our chances are slim. An Eternal expert that grew up in a place with abundant primal chaos qi will essentially exist as long as heaven and earth. Furthermore, the tortoise race is renowned for its exceptional defense. Even my Seven Peak Sword might not be enough to break its defenses. And even if it could, it might not be able to deal a mortal blow." Long Chen shook his head as he was uncertain too.

After all, his knowledge of the lifeforms here is limited, so they shouldn't make any rash movements. If they were to anger this black tortoise, they might not even have a chance to flee.

"Then poison?" proposed Guo Ran.

"We don't have anything toxic enough," said Xia Chen immediately. "What kind of poison do you think can affect this terrifying fellow?"

Long Chen nodded. All their poisons came from the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, so it was essentially impossible for them to use poison to kill this terrifying existence. Furthermore, even if they did have such a poison, considering its enormous body, just how much poison would it need to kill this creature, and how were they supposed to poison it? Bait? But they didn't have any bait either.

Even considering its low intelligence, such a terrifying creature might not succumb to poison even if they filled its entire stomach with it.

As a result, Long Chen was caught in a difficult spot. The aura of the black tortoise had weakened; it was clearly gravely wounded. But even in that state, they might not be able to deal with it.

“Do I have to use the Earth Cauldron?”

Long Chen suddenly had a thought, but he quickly dismissed it. The Earth Cauldron was not a weapon designed for killing. If he couldn’t kill the tortoise in one blow, it would be troublesome. He didn’t dare to take such a risk.

“Let’s keep observing. Perhaps there is an open wound or a vulnerable spot we can exploit. Even if we can’t kill it in one blow, we must at least be able to deal a heavy blow in one move in order to make this work,” said Long Chen.

The three of them slowly got closer to the valley. Suddenly, Long Chen grabbed Xia Chen and Guo Ran and gestured to be silent. Guo Ran and Xia Chen were startled and instantly went still.

Even after a long moment, the black tortoise remained entirely motionless. Turning to Long Chen, they followed his gesture and glanced upward.

What they witnessed sent shivers down their spines: an immense figure was silently drawing near, not too far off. It was the very same golden-winged devil they had previously spotted.

Upon seeing it, the three of them were so scared that they didn’t even dare to move. They couldn’t find the courage to even use spiritual transmissions, fearing that even faint spiritual fluctuations might alert the creature to their presence.

Clearly, this golden-winged devil was quite crafty. It had pretended to flee but had snuck its way back, wanting to launch a sneak attack while the black tortoise was still injured.

However, could such a straightforward ruse really work? The three of them were baffled. This kind of scheme was far too naive. Would the black tortoise really fall for it?

They remained completely still, observing the situation. The golden-winged devil gradually drew near to the valley. It then slowly extended its head and opened its mouth.

Buzz.

A ray of golden light suddenly shot out of its mouth, shooting straight for the black tortoise’s head.

“Idiot!”

Long Chen almost cursed out loud when he saw the golden-winged devil’s attack.

BOOM!

Just as Long Chen expected, the black tortoise promptly withdrew into its shell, causing the sneak attack to miss entirely. Even people not from the tortoise race knew that tortoises were most agile when retracting their heads into their shells. Did this winged devil really aim for its head? There was no chance that it would land.

The black tortoise’s five-colored divine light once more blazed around its body. It pressed its legs against the ground and dashed toward the golden-winged devil like a multicolored shooting star.

BOOM!

A powerful explosion erupted. Seeing this scene, Long Chen decided to abandon the concealment and raised a hand.

“Seven Peak Shield!”

A shield of seven-colored divine light condensed in front of the three of them.

BOOM!

In an instant, the Seven Peak Shield shattered, and the three of them were sent tumbling back.

As a result of the collision with the tortoise's shell, the golden-winged devil was left with broken bones and torn muscles. It spat out blood, and its aura experienced a sharp decline.

“Now is our chance! Kill them!”

Long Chen spread his Kunpeng wings and shot toward the black tortoise's head.

“Supreme Seven Peak Thrust!”

A seven-color spear appeared in Long Chen's hand, blazing with divine radiance as it pierced toward the black tortoise's giant eye.

Chapter 4308: Eternal Essence Blood

The black tortoise received a backlash from smashing into the golden-winged devil as well and was now upside down, its legs pointing toward the sky. Long Chen then took advantage of this chance and struck the black tortoise's eye with a seven-color spear, having made ample preparation for this move.

The enormous spear pierced through the black tortoise's eyes, and its power detonated within its enormous head.

BOOM!

When the black tortoise's head exploded, mud-like flesh and blood flew out of its eye sockets, nose, and mouth.

Long Chen was as pale as a sheet of paper after this attack. He did manage to kill the black tortoise with it, but he had no more power to do anything else.

While the black tortoise was dead, the golden-winged devil was still struggling to recover and run. Long Chen shouted, “Stop it!”

BOOM!

Guo Ran followed Long Chen's example and attacked the winged devil's eye. However, the winged devil simply turned its head, and Guo Ran's saber struck its eye socket.

CRACK!

Guo Ran's saber directly shattered and the backlash almost made him cough up blood.

“Yin Yang Heaven Locking Formation!”

At this moment, Xia Chen tossed out thousands of talismans at once, which condensed into chains that locked themselves to heaven and earth, binding the golden-winged devil to the ground.

However, the winged devil roared and struggled, causing those chains to snap one by one. Xia Chen was shocked. Despite being severely wounded and on the brink of death, the winged devil possessed the strength to shatter his runic chains. Its power surpassed his expectations.

“Guo Ran, quick!” shouted Xia Chen.

Guo Ran had initially been disheartened by the loss of his saber. However, upon hearing Xia Chen's call, he swiftly retrieved his golden crossbow.

“Exploding arrow!” Guo Ran shouted as he shot a golden arrow at the winged devil, and it accurately entered the winged devil's mouth.

BANG!

The golden-winged devil quivered, and smoke came out of its seven orifices. Within a matter of seconds, it slumped limply to the ground, motionless.

With the golden-winged devil dead as well, the three of them could finally wipe off their cold sweat. Eternal experts were truly terrifying, even on their deathbeds.

Guo Ran touched the winged devil's wings, and they let out a metallic sound. Its wings were actually comparable to Eternal divine weapons.

“Don't slack off! Gather the Eternal blood! Too late and it'll lose its divine nature!” shouted Xia Chen when he saw Guo Ran studying the winged devil's body.

Meanwhile, Xia Chen had already run over to the five-color black tortoise's side and taken out tools to gather the essence blood.

Whether it was devil blood or demonic beast blood, it was an excellent material for runic inscription. As for essence blood on the level of an Eternal expert? That was a priceless treasure! They were the necessary ingredients to create Eternal talismans and Eternal divine weapons.

Xia Chen had never dreamed that he would be able to gather fresh Eternal essence blood, and not just any, but of the highest purity.

In truth, Xia Chen had once bought some half-step Eternal experts' essence blood, but it had been sealed for countless years, leading to the loss of most of its essence. Even then, Xia Chen had treated it as if it was a priceless gem.

During the Sage King Convention, Xia Chen had managed to gather the essence blood of quite a few half-step Eternals, a feat that brought him immense joy.

However, the fresh essence blood from genuine Eternals was in an entirely different league. As Xia Chen sensed the divine nature of this essence blood, he realized it was over ten thousand times more potent

than that of the half-step Eternals. He almost went mad with disbelief, questioning if he might be dreaming.

The two of them swiftly gathered the essence blood while Long Chen summoned his divine ring. With the eruption of his two bloodlines, he rapidly recovered.

Long Chen was delighted to find that the abundant primal chaos qi in this place significantly accelerated his recovery rate. In less than the time it took for an incense stick to burn, he had already bounced back to eighty percent of his full strength.

Long Chen knew that the environment was just one aspect that supported his rapid recovery. The other significant factor was the powerful recovery ability of his seven-color Supreme Blood and violet blood.

Xia Chen and Guo Ran had finished gathering the essence blood. Now, they were working together to take off the tortoise shell, but their weapons were unable to cut the tortoise's flesh.

Guo Ran wanted the tortoise shell as it was a natural Eternal divine item. With it as a shield, he would be invincible.

"Let's not waste more time. We should take a look at what's underground," said Long Chen as he stopped them.

Unless they had Dong Mingyu's dagger, cutting apart this black tortoise's flesh would take a long time, and they didn't have that much time.

Long Chen proceeded to place both of the corpses into the primal chaos space. However, he didn't immediately toss them into the black soil. After all, they were true Eternal corpses, and their bones held immense value as treasures. In particular, their bone runes possessed significant research value, so it would be far too wasteful to just decompose them.

The three of them arrived at the hollow concave that the black tortoise had laid down on. Xia Chen then squatted down and examined the ground. "Yes, there is a formation operating underground. I'll connect to it."

After taking out a dozen formation discs, in just a short moment, Xia Chen had constructed a small-scale transportation formation.

Buzz.

Space twisted, and the three of them found themselves in a gloomy space.

The underground world resembled an imperial palace, but a significant portion of it had already crumbled. Around them were countless broken formation runes. After looking around for a bit, Long Chen found that they were in a corner of the palace.

"This place was indeed occupied by the human race back then." Looking at the surroundings, Guo Ran was startled.

"This formation seems to be an energy replenishment formation, and the external pressure likely activated it," murmured Xia Chen as he inspected their surroundings. "The black tortoise seems to have

regarded this as a place to rest and heal. But what's keeping the formation operational after all these years?"

Xia Chen then took out another formation disc and started walking carefully as if he were looking for something. Long Chen and Guo Ran didn't understand, so they simply followed behind him.

The palace was shrouded in a layer of dust several inches thick, giving it an ancient and desolate appearance. The atmosphere felt eerie and unsettling.

"It should be here. Guo Ran, help me out," Xia Chen finally said, pointing at a wall after an extended period of searching.

Guo Ran retrieved a brush and meticulously swept away the accumulated dust from the wall. His skilled movements indicated that this wasn't his first time undertaking such a task. His brushing was exceedingly gentle, causing the dust to fall away layer by layer. As a result, runes began to emerge on the wall, and a gate materialized before them.

After studying the runes on it, Xia Chen took out two formation discs and placed them on the gate. Following that, he started to form a hand seal.

The two formation discs immediately illuminated, causing the gate to swing open slowly. Once it parted, the three of them saw a scene that stunned them.

Chapter 4309: Mysterious Ruins

As the gate swung open, their eyes fell upon a small mountain of spirit stones, and Long Chen couldn't contain his excitement at the sight.

"Primal chaos spirit stones!"

Xia Chen and Guo Ran joined in Long Chen's jubilation upon realizing these were primal chaos spirit stones. However, their enthusiasm was short-lived as they rushed over and saw the reality.

"How can this be?"

Long Chen picked up a spirit stone, only to find that it was already shattered inside. That was a clear sign that its energy was exhausted.

Although the spirit stone still had some remnant primal chaos qi fluctuations, it was just an empty shell, as no primal chaos qi could be extracted from it. These primal chaos spirit stones were nothing more than worthless debris.

"Fuck, we are one step too late! These primal chaos spirit stones are all used up!" Xia Chen couldn't help gnashing his teeth when he saw hundreds of thousands of depleted spirit stones.

"We're probably not just one step, but more likely ten thousand steps too late. It's very likely that the black tortoise was so powerful that it inadvertently activated the formation here, resulting in it unleashing the energy of these spirit stones," sighed Long Chen.

In this repository of spirit stones, everything had already been exhausted and rendered worthless. Their initial elation had been in vain.

“What are you doing?” asked Long Chen upon seeing Guo Ran grabbing a few spirit stones and putting them away.

“Even if they’re trash, we should keep a few as mementos,” said Guo Ran solemnly.

Long Chen was speechless. “Don’t be like that. The main reason we’re here is for primal chaos spirit stones. Xia Chen, let’s take a look. There should be other depositories. If there’s nothing of value, let’s just leave.”

Xia Chen did a quick scan and found a weapon storehouse, but it was empty. All that remained were some broken weapons that were already rusty.

Following that, Xia Chen found a treasury in a collapsed area. Based on the remains, this place had once housed precious medicinal plants. However, they had long since crumbled to ash, and Long Chen couldn’t even recognize what they were.

Finally, Xia Chen found another treasury, and after opening up the ruins, Guo Ran let out a cheer. This place had quite a few precious ores.

Although Guo Ran didn’t recognize them, given his years of forging experience, he was sure that these ores contained immortal metals suitable for crafting Eternal divine weapons. Although he was currently incapable of refining these ores, it didn’t dampen his enthusiasm. He directly took away everything inside this treasury.

“There are ores but no immortal metals or other materials. This faction clearly did not possess the ability to refine metals and forge divine weapons. However, this is a good start. As long as we find more ruins, we can find even more treasures,” said Long Chen with a smile.

Both Xia Chen and Guo Ran were excited by that thought, so they started to make probing formation discs that could sense primal chaos spirit stones. With these formation discs, they would find the ruins of the human race.

After tidying up, Xia Chen placed an illusion formation around this place, and the three of them left.

Even with their big guts, the three of them were still very careful here, not daring to be the slightest bit careless.

The reason for their apprehension was that the terrifying Eternal experts they had just encountered were merely rogue cultivators. However, even without the backing of a faction, they had reached the Eternal realm.

Since that was the case, the experts belonging to major factions would be considerably more powerful. If the three of them were to provoke individuals of that caliber, not even ten thousand lives would be sufficient to save them.

Two days later, Xia Chen’s probing formation discs finally showed some response, and the reaction was extremely intense. The three of them had located another vestige of the human race.

They couldn't help but gasp in awe. Although this place was also in ruins, the remnants of the colossal shattered gate testified to the once-great glory of the human race here. Even just a fragment of the gate, despite its current state of ruin, still stretched up to the clouds. One could only imagine how majestic it must have been in its prime.

Crack.

When walking past the gate, a strange sound came from beneath Xia Chen's feet, and he looked down to see that it was a bone. The bone had long since eroded and instantly turned to dust after being stepped on. The dust wafted away with the wind, yet even as bone dust, it appeared to harbor faintly flickering runes within.

"A piece of bone that managed to endure the ravages of time until now. At the very least, it had to belong to a half-step Eternal. However, even half-step Eternals couldn't keep their corpses intact after that battle. Just what happened?" wondered Long Chen.

The three of them continued past the corner of the gate, finding no more corpses. Most likely, they had all disintegrated into dust over the passage of time.

"Primal chaos spirit stones!"

Out of nowhere, Xia Chen let out a shout and plucked a thumb-sized crystalline spirit stone from the debris. This was a pristine spirit stone, with primal chaos qi embedded inside in the form of mist. It seemed that not a trace of its primal chaos qi had dissipated.

"There's more!" Guo Ran cried out as he found another primal chaos spirit stone nearby. They then found dozens of primal chaos spirit stones scattered around this area.

"What's going on? These are primal chaos spirit stones! Why are they on the ground? Is there some sinister scheme here?" Guo Ran's expression suddenly changed, and he looked around suspiciously.

"There's no scheme. They were just tossed around during the ancient battle. Primal chaos spirit stones are indeed treasures for the human race, but to other races, they are just mundane rocks. They can't harness the stones' power at all," Long Chen rubbed the primal chaos spirit stones and sighed. "Perhaps only they know what happened back then. But they cannot tell us."

Spirit stones were truly eternal divine items. If their essence was not extracted, they could survive for eternity. However, they weren't photographic jades, incapable of recording what had happened back then.

Hearing that, Guo Ran relaxed and continued his search. However, he was quickly disappointed. Aside from a few dozen spirit stones, there was nothing else here.

However, just a few spirit stones were good enough as they were priceless treasures. If the primal chaos qi within them was unleashed, it would lead to an inconceivable density of primal chaos qi within a specific range and duration.

If they were to use that energy for battleships, who knew what kind of effect it would produce? Guo Ran and Xia Chen were looking forward to it.

The three of them continued searching carefully. After a while, Xia Chen quickly sensed the fluctuations of a formation underground and immediately tried to connect to it. However, he failed countless times without being able to reach it through space.

"Ah, let me do it!" Guo Ran took out a strange tool; it was a metal pangolin with dozens of spades at the front.

"What's this?" Long Chen inquired. Then he recalled, "Did you get this when you were with Mo Nian?"

Long Chen's guess was accurate. This thing's function was to dig through the earth, and it was extremely fast. In less than an hour, they were already deep underground.

Boom!

All of a sudden, the surroundings illuminated, and they let out startled cries as they found themselves face-to-face with an armored monstrosity. Its mouth was agape, exposing its bared fangs, and it was fixedly glaring at them.

Chapter 4310: Heaven Battling Divine Sect

The three of them screamed in fright when they saw that terrifying monster, and Long Chen spontaneously slashed it with his sword.

BOOM!

The Seven Peak Sword landed on its head, but it only caused some small sparks of fire to appear. On the other hand, Long Chen was blown back wretchedly, almost coughing up blood.

It was at this moment that they realized this monstrous entity was nothing more than a corpse.

"Fuck, that scared me to death! My heart almost leaped out of my chest!" Guo Ran was covered in cold sweat.

Even with their guts, being stared at by such a terrifying monster almost made them lose their minds. This was the corpse of an Eternal lifeform. Although they didn't recognize its species, it seemed like some kind of mouse with scales all over its body.

A spear had pierced through its body and nailed it to this spot. However, only half of the spear remained. Most likely, someone had tossed it to nail this creature to death.

Wary of the surroundings, the three of them didn't dare to randomly rove around as they found themselves in another underground palace. Many areas had collapsed around here, and they saw more enormous corpses in the surroundings.

"This was likely a grand palace. The battle resulted in the earth burying this location, transforming it into its present state," Xia Chen conjectured, examining the pillars nearby. As a formation master, he had a certain understanding of the architecture of these buildings. He could tell that this palace had originally been aboveground and was different from the usual underground palaces.

"It's too bad. This thing has been dead for so long that although its physical body is preserved, its essence blood has run out of energy to prevent its body from rotting," said Long Chen regretfully as he examined the corpse.

Long Chen then tossed the creature into the primal chaos space to decompose in the black soil. Perhaps it was useless to others, but it was a treasure to Long Chen.

"Boss, you two should split up and search for treasures. I'll see if I can activate a portion of the formations here. If I succeed, I will be able to tell the original arrangement of the palace, and we won't need to randomly run around," said Xia Chen.

Long Chen nodded as this was a good idea. If Xia Chen could activate the formations, they could accurately find the important parts of the palace. That would be better than the three of them running around randomly.

Long Chen and Guo Ran then split off in opposite directions. Long Chen quickly found another mouse-like lifeform and tore it off the ruins, throwing it into the primal chaos space. However, this corpse was odd, as half of its body was gone.

Once Long Chen tossed it into the primal chaos space, he found out that it was an Eternal lifeform whose bones were comparable to Eternal divine items. However, something had severed this Eternal lifeform in two with remarkable precision. Even the cuts in its bones were as smooth as glass, so the weapon that cut it was definitely incomparably sharp. Long Chen could not fathom just what kind of weapon could do that to an Eternal lifeform.

Long Chen continued onward and saw more collapsed areas that forced him to go around. After bypassing several of these areas, he unexpectedly found himself back in the spot he had started from. Guo Ran had encountered a similar situation. The portion of the palace they were in was comparatively small, and if they wanted to search other areas, they would need to go through the collapsed parts.

"Boss, let's go!" Xia Chen suddenly cried out in delight.

"What is it?" asked Long Chen.

"I've found the crux of the formation. Let's go over there."

The three of them got onto a strange machine and dug their way through the collapsed palace. In two hours, they found themselves in an enormous hall.

This hall was perfectly preserved, and they could even see countless formation runes on the floor.

Xia Chen went straight for the center of the hall, where a three-hundred-meter square platform was floating with all kinds of formation discs on it.

Long Chen was shocked to see those formation discs and said, "These are formation discs of ancient times, and they are thousands of times more refined than the current era's formation discs."

"That's not the important thing. We don't have the time to study them now. First, see if you can activate the formation! If not, we'll see just how many we can take," said Guo Ran.

Xia Chen hastily searched through the formation discs and pressed his finger on one of them.

Buzz.

With a light sound, a hologram appeared in front of them, displaying a glorious sect.

When they saw the enormous gate that reached the clouds, the three of them cried out at once. It seemed that this hologram displayed the original appearance of the sect.

“Heaven Battling Divine Sect! Damn, what a domineering name!”

Upon seeing the signboard, Long Chen couldn’t help but sigh. These four characters were written in first-generation Jiuli immortal characters. Long Chen didn’t recognize many first-generation Jiuli immortal characters, but those four characters were among them.

“The scale of the palace is crazy! Does it really span millions of miles wide? Just how amazing were they back then? But even with all that power, they couldn’t escape their fate of being destroyed.” Guo Ran couldn’t help sighing regretfully.

On the other hand, Xia Chen wasn’t focused on the hologram. He just looked at the formation discs more closely, constantly studying something. All of a sudden, he activated another formation disc.

The entire palace quivered. Following that, the surrounding walls split open, revealing several large doors.

“Hahaha, the treasuries are perfectly preserved! Let’s go take a look!” Seeing this scene, Xia Chen was delighted, and Guo Ran was incredibly excited. He asked which direction they should go.

“There’s no need to walk. We’ll directly use a transportation formation to get there.”

Xia Chen plucked a formation disc from the platform, causing the three of them to disappear. They then reappeared in front of an enormous gate, and Xia Chen pressed the formation disc against it. The gate shivered, its countless runes lighting up, yet it remained closed.

Seeing Long Chen and Guo Ran’s confusion, Xia Chen explained, “In the past, opening this gate would require several people holding the right keys to open it together. However, now that all those keyholders are dead, the gate is calling out to them. After a certain amount of time passes and none of them arrives, the gate will automatically open.”

They waited for quite some time, enduring six long hours while the gate continued to flash without any indication of opening. Even Xia Chen was growing somewhat anxious as he didn’t know how much longer the gate would keep them waiting. They couldn’t afford to wait indefinitely.

Thankfully, they didn’t have to wait for much longer. The runes on the gate gradually dimmed, and the gate started to open slowly.

The three of them were delighted, and Guo Ran was about to charge in when Xia Chen caught him.

“Don’t run around randomly. You might trigger a mechanism.”

Xia Chen took the formation disc off the gate and placed it on a notch by the gate. The formation disc suddenly lit up, and divine light appeared on the ground, extending deep into the room. Seeing this

scene, Xia Chen finally relaxed, and the three of them ventured deeper. They had to open nine gates before they finally saw the true treasury. When they did, all three of them cried out in unison.

“We’re rich!”