

Nine Star 4321

Chapter 4321: Using Up Energy

When Long Chen summoned his divine ring, the throne quivered as a violent suction force caused the spring's energy to surge toward him. It was possible to see all that energy flowing his way.

Like the gaping maw of a beast, a giant vortex appeared behind him, greedily devouring the energy in the spirit spring.

Long Chen had already tested the intensity of the primal chaos energy and could tell that he could endure it. Thus, he started going all out at absorbing it.

With this, Guo Ran and Xia Chen clearly felt the pressure on them lessen. They could sense that a portion of the energy pouring toward them was being sucked away.

Their joy was palpable. Despite their best efforts, they had been struggling to endure this energy flow, making it seem as though they were on the verge of exploding. However, with Long Chen absorbing it at full power, he succeeded in relieving them of a portion of the pressure.

While the two of them were happy about it, the other experts on their respective thrones seethed with rage. They cursed Long Chen and desperately tried to absorb more energy from him.

However, they clearly didn't know how to expedite their energy absorption. No matter what they did, they could only watch as it poured toward Long Chen. Their furious roars echoed through the pool in vain.

After all, they only knew how to passively absorb the energy of the throne, not how to absorb it faster or how to control the flow of the energy.

"What idiots. These thrones were made by the human race. They have formations around them, but after destroying the human race, you lost the method for controlling the thrones. You truly are hopeless fools," sneered Long Chen as he absorbed the primal chaos energy.

BANG, BANG, BANG...!

The other two heavenly geniuses switched to attacking Long Chen's seal, vainly trying to disturb him. Regretfully, their efforts came to nothing, and the giant vortex was completely unaffected.

As more primal chaos energy poured into Long Chen, his Blood Qi raged like a tsunami. Meanwhile, his tendons seemed to transform into small golden dragons with scales on them, each scale bearing a rune reminiscent of an egg. These runes awakened under the influence of the primal chaos energy, undergoing some kind of transformation. As a result, every single one of his tendons felt full of energy.

In his bones, some strange energy was flowing within the chaotic scars. Like dry riverbeds, they were rapidly absorbing primal chaos energy to repair themselves.

Meanwhile, his Dantian's starry sea sparkled with fervor. Each star hosted a violet flame seedling that greedily absorbed this primal chaos energy.

Just like hungry wolves, Long Chen's Spirit Blood, Spirit Root, Spirit Bone, and dragon tendons were devouring this vast primal chaos energy. It was as if they were worried about running out of it.

The boiling spirit spring then started to rumble intensely, and cracks appeared on its borders.

Countless experts had surrounded the area above and enclosed this region. But now, they were horrified by what they saw.

The land around the spirit spring was now cracking. It was a phenomenon they had never seen before.

The spirit spring was supposed to just boil, but now, it was like there was an earthquake. The ground shook intensely, and the entire world was trembling.

Two hours later, Long Chen's divine ring still voraciously absorbed the primal chaos energy, not showing any sign of being satisfied. However, the seals around Xia Chen and Guo Ran were starting to weaken, causing their expressions to change. This signified that they were reaching saturation, and they would no longer be able to absorb more primal chaos energy.

Once they could no longer do so, the seal would be undone. Then, the two experts who didn't have thrones would immediately attack them. Their gazes were already locked onto Guo Ran and Xia Chen with icy killing intent.

"Boss, just ignore us! We can protect ourselves!" shouted Xia Chen.

He could see that Long Chen was crazily absorbing energy and shouldn't be interrupted. If Long Chen came out in advance to save them, he would no longer have such a chance again.

Suddenly, Xia Chen pressed a talisman against the seal on his throne, and the seal suddenly vanished. He had undone his protection in advance.

"Die!"

Seeing him reveal himself, those two experts immediately attacked him.

In response, Xia Chen activated a formation disc in his hand and unleashed a net that enveloped the two of them. In the water, their movements weren't very nimble, so they were instantly caught.

However, the runic net, formed from an ancient formation disc, proved to be no match for their immense power. It was sliced apart in an instant, allowing them to break free.

Just as they escaped the net, Xia Chen arrived at Guo Ran's throne. In that critical moment, the seal around Guo Ran vanished, and Xia Chen squeezed onto the same throne alongside him. Xia Chen then threw out thirty-six formation discs, arranging them around the throne. As they lit up, these lining-up discs conjured walls of light that formed a powerful defensive formation.

BOOM!

One of those lifeforms launched a relentless assault against the barrier, channeling all his might into it. The sheer force of the blow made the entire spirit spring tremble, and the barrier quivered in response, though it remained intact. Nevertheless, its divine light noticeably dimmed.

“Damn, this one attack can annihilate a swath of half-step Eternals!” Xia Chen exclaimed in shock. It had nearly drained the majority of the formation’s power. If Xia Chen had to estimate it, its power was enough to wipe out a horde of half-step Eternals that had fought during the Sage King Convention. This fellow was absolutely terrifying.

“Let’s see how long you can hide!”

The other lifeform smashed on Xia Chen’s barrier with his fist. But before it happened, a cask-like object appeared beneath Xia Chen’s feet, and it was packed to the brim with primal chaos spirit stones. With its appearance, the dim barrier regained its light.

BOOM!

This lifeform’s fist caused the barrier to dim once more. Following the strike, the primal chaos spirit stones in the cask shattered, turning into debris.

Unfazed by the onslaught, Xia Chen took out yet another cask filled with primal chaos spirit stones. The runic symbols on the cask then activated, causing the spirit stones to burst into a brilliant glow. The previously dim formation once again regained its vitality.

It was evident that these casks served as fuel to sustain the formation. As long as he had a sufficient supply of fuel, the barrier would remain unbroken.

The two lifeforms relentlessly assailed the barrier, and Xia Chen continued to swap out his casks of primal chaos spirit stones. Even as he burned through this money, Xia Chen’s expression didn’t change. With his immense wealth, he could maintain this kind of expenditure for a century with no problem.

The two lifeforms persisted in their attacks but remained unable to reach Xia Chen or Guo Ran, further fueling their frustration.

At this time, the two of them found that the primal chaos energy coming from the spring was starting to weaken. Panic quickly set in as they realized there was no longer enough primal chaos energy to sustain all of them.

Other than Xia Chen and Guo Ran, no one else had reached full saturation. All of a sudden, one of the two experts attacking Xia Chen’s barrier shot toward Xia Chen’s empty throne.

“How can this be?!”

However, when he arrived, he was shocked to find that the throne didn’t react at all. In other words, the spirit spring’s primal chaos energy was no longer sufficient to activate this throne.

It had to be known that Xia Chen and Guo Ran had only absorbed very little of the primal chaos energy compared to the others. When combined, their absorption amounted to less than half of what a single one of them had consumed. Yet, the primal chaos energy within the spring was dwindling rapidly.

Just then, the moon-like core of the spring cracked.

BOOM!

Just as everyone was shocked by this, the core of the spring suddenly exploded.

Chapter 4322: Killing Their Way Out of a Blockade

The *full moon* exploded. It was only then that everyone realized that the core was actually a giant piece of jade with countless runes flowing within it.

“So the core of the spring isn’t natural but man-made!” exclaimed Xia Chen.

“Due to how much time had passed and no one maintaining it, the core was already on the brink of collapse, and under boss’s intense suction, all of the primal chaos energy inside of it was drawn out. Without the support, the runes were thrown in disbalance, and it exploded.” Guo Ran nodded along.

“Hehe, boss really is the boss. After this, there will no longer be a primal chaos eye,” chuckled Xia Chen.

The shattered jade transformed into a powder that scattered throughout the pool, and the pool became incredibly turbid. They could no longer see through it.

As the jade exploded, its residual primal chaos energy detonated alongside it, and the majority of this released energy surged toward Long Chen. Long Chen had wrung out all the primal chaos energy inside of the jade.

BOOM!

It was like a volcano was erupting within Long Chen. He had finally reached his limit and could no longer absorb any more primal chaos energy.

Just then, the seal around Long Chen came undone, and two experts instantly charged at him.

“Boss, watch out!” warned Xia Chen. The divine sea was now in chaos, and they couldn’t see anything. However, through the formation, Xia Chen was able to sense what was happening.

BOOM, BOOM!

Suddenly, two deafening explosions echoed through the area, accompanied by two pained grunts. The two experts who had been assaulting Long Chen were sent flying backward, crashing into the walls. Boulders then rolled down as the walls started to collapse.

Just then, the seals around the other experts came undone. Infuriated, they let out furious howls and launched an assault on Long Chen. Their killing intent surged like a tempest.

After all, the seals on their bodies weren't undone because they had reached their absorption limits; rather, it was because there was simply no more primal chaos energy for them to absorb. At most, they had only achieved half-saturation. As all the other energy had been taken by Long Chen alone, how could they not be enraged?

With the destruction of the primal chaos eye’s core, from now on, there would no longer be a primal chaos eye. In other words, they were the final batch of people to undergo its baptism.

“Die!”

Out of nowhere, a gleaming golden arrow streaked forth. Despite the springwater obstructing its path, it moved at remarkable speed and reached Long Chen almost instantaneously.

Long Chen's heart raced as he recognized this as a divine ability of the Kunpeng race. He didn't dare to receive it head-on and ducked to dodge the deadly projectile.

BOOM!

The divine light was like a sword piercing straight through the rock and out the earth, penetrating the nine heavens.

"What a terrifying divine ability!"

Long Chen jumped in shock as the power of this attack was unimaginable. If he was struck, even he might meet his end.

Suddenly, an ear-piercing shriek tore through the air, like a needle stabbing into his very soul. Both Xia Chen and Guo Ran screamed in pain and covered their ears, while blood poured out of their ears, eyes, nose, and mouth.

That two-headed lifeform had unleashed a spiritual attack, causing Long Chen to feel shocked, as this attack was impossible to evade or defend against. As a result, Xia Chen and Guo Ran's souls were on the verge of tearing apart.

Just then, the blood flame expert attacked Long Chen.

"Go for broke!"

Long Chen gritted his teeth and turned his gaze. The next moment, a giant image of a dragon appeared behind him, and a brilliant dragon cry rang out.

"Divine Dragon Pendulum Tail!"

BOOM!

A golden dragon tail shot out like a heavenly whip, delivering a powerful strike to the Blood expert.

With an immense explosion, a giant vacuum appeared underwater, and terrifying ripples spread in every direction, sending boulders flying and causing waves to explode into the sky. That Blood expert was sent flying out of the water like a shooting star.

"They're here! Suppress them!"

Just as the Blood expert came flying out of the water, over ten Eternal experts summoned weaving Blood Qi that locked down this area.

BOOM!

The Blood expert directly smashed into the Blood Qi barrier made by the combined forces of multiple Eternal experts. As a result, his protective divine light shattered, and blood sprayed out of his mouth.

"Wait, this is one of ours!" shouted one of these Eternals.

They had thought that after being surrounded by so many experts, Long Chen's group of three would immediately try to flee. Hence, these experts had set up a heaven-encompassing net for the three of them to fly into.

However, they hadn't expected the first one to come out to be the heavenly genius from the Blood race. Fortunately, they had wanted to capture Long Chen alive; otherwise, this Blood expert would have been annihilated.

BOOM!

Just as they were surprised by the appearance of the Blood expert, the water exploded once more, and a bronze cauldron smashed into their barrier.

This impenetrable barrier had part of its power retracted due to the confusion surrounding the Blood expert's appearance. As a result, the bronze cauldron smashed into it at its weakest moment, and this enormous barrier was forcibly blasted through.

"What?!"

All the Eternals who had set up the barrier were shocked, their Blood Qi flipping inside of them. This bronze cauldron's divine pressure made their souls quiver.

"Quick, stop them!"

Right as the bronze cauldron broke through the barrier, Long Chen grabbed Xia Chen and Guo Ran and flew through the opening.

These experts immediately attacked, but they were one step too slow. Long Chen retracted the Earth Cauldron and his golden wings shimmered. In an instant, he disappeared from view.

More figures then came flying out from the water. The other eight heavenly geniuses appeared, covered in mud.

"Chase!"

Seeing Long Chen escape, all of them were seething with rage and instantly shot after him.

A giant Kunpeng then appeared in the sky, and with a flash of golden light, it vanished without a trace. It was that heavenly genius from the Kunpeng race.

One figure after another shot toward Long Chen's direction with terrifying speed.

Long Chen then sped through the air with great velocity, leaving a wake of constantly collapsing space behind him. Numerous experts pursued him at their maximum speed, the tremendous spatial pressure they emitted causing the very laws of heaven and earth to buckle and waver.

"Fuck, this is terrifying!" Guo Ran looked back and felt a chill.

Countless experts, including many Eternals, were crazily chasing them. As a result, the space in their wake crumbled as if a relentless dragon was hunting them down. Once they were caught, they would definitely be torn apart.

Xia Chen and Guo Ran had been alongside Long Chen for many years and had witnessed numerous incredible events. However, this high-speed chase was an entirely new and terrifying experience for them.

“Not good! Boss, someone’s catching up!” shouted Guo Ran. A golden Kunpeng had thrown off the other experts and was getting closer and closer.

Chapter 4323: Fleeing From Danger

“It’s that fellow from underwater!”

Guo Ran recognized him. The closest one to them was not one of the Eternal experts but the heavenly genius from the Kunpeng race.

At first, he was with the crowd, but now, he was gradually throwing them behind him as he got closer.

“Boss, he’ll catch up soon!” shouted Guo Ran.

“It’s the two of us slowing down boss’s speed.” Xia Chen’s expression also changed.

“Boss, put me down! I can use formation discs to block them and then leave with a formation!” shouted Xia Chen.

“What nonsense. If you get off, don’t even think about leaving alive. With the laws of space in chaos, how are you going to leave with a formation?” demanded Long Chen.

Xia Chen was clearly planning on sacrificing himself to slow them for a moment. Although Long Chen would be able to leave with Guo Ran, in that case, Xia Chen would definitely die.

Just then, the Kunpeng got even closer, and Xia Chen panicked. “Boss, we’re going to enter his attack range! His feathers are already shining! He’s preparing some big moves!”

That Kunpeng’s speed was even faster than before, and runes were blazing all across him.

“Don’t worry, he won’t rashly attack us as he’ll only have one chance. His speed will drop the moment he attacks, and if we dodge, he won’t have another chance to catch up to us,” said Long Chen.

Long Chen raced at his maximum speed, causing the very fabric of heaven and earth to distort around him. It was as if he had entered a tunnel of spacetime. Other than this heavenly genius from the Kunpeng race, the others had fallen far behind. It was no longer possible to see them. In other words, once they threw off this Kunpeng, they would have a chance to fully escape. Thus, Long Chen was sure that the Kunpeng would not launch a rash attack without being absolutely confident.

“Boss, is your speed dropping?! He’s getting closer!” shouted Guo Ran. Even through the spacetime channel, while everything else was blurry, that Kunpeng’s figure grew clearer and clearer.

“My speed isn’t dropping. He’s taking advantage of me breaking the flow of air, reducing the air resistance on him. That’s why it looks like he’s getting faster. If I was the one chasing him, I’d also be able to catch him like this. But there’s nothing we can do in our current position. Whoever is at the front is at a disadvantage,” said Long Chen.

“Then what can we do? Should we throw stuff at him?” asked Guo Ran.

Long Chen was dragging Guo Ran and Xia Chen by the arm as he flew through the air. It was difficult for them to endure. If they hadn’t gone through the primal chaos eye’s baptism, this immense pressure

would have torn their bodies apart. However, while they were able to endure it now, there was no way that they could properly attack. They couldn't even form hand seals.

"No need. We're still a bit far, so he'll dodge. Once he's closer, he will launch a divine ability at us. At that moment, toss some useless Eternal divine weapons at him. With his speed, smashing into them should daze him," said Long Chen.

Long Chen continued to fly at full speed, but the Kunpeng got closer and closer. Xia Chen and Guo Ran could now see the runes flickering in his eyes.

After all, their full attention was on his eyes. When those runes ignited, Xia Chen and Guo Ran's souls quivered. They knew that they had been locked onto.

Without hesitation, they tossed out the divine weapons of other races that they had only kept for research value. There were sixteen of them, including sabers, spears, swords, halberds, hatchets, axes, hooks, and tridents. These divine weapons came from the devil race, the Ghost Dao, and even from the Underworld lifeforms.

The Kunpeng expert had begun gathering formidable energy in his mouth, but before he could unleash it, he caught sight of divine weapons hurtling toward him.

In response, his wings fluttered, creating numerous illusory images in the sky. He managed to evade seven of the incoming projectiles in rapid succession.

Nevertheless, a devil spear still found its mark in his chest. Though this spear had been thrown rather haphazardly by Xia Chen, it was the Kunpeng's own speed that amplified the impact. The divine weapon detonated after piercing him, creating a substantial cavity in his chest, sending feathers and blood scattering.

As a result, the attack he had been preparing was abruptly interrupted, and he started to tumble through the air. His speed instantly plummeted.

In the blink of an eye, Long Chen disappeared beyond the horizon, vanishing from sight.

"We did it!"

Xia Chen and Guo Ran couldn't contain their joy. They hadn't anticipated that a simple maneuver would enable their escape.

It had to be known that they had been incredibly nervous just now. The experts pursuing them were truly formidable, and they had harbored a genuine belief that they might meet their end here. Yet, their getaway had been surprisingly straightforward.

"Xia Chen, prepare a formation disc. Once we reach the transportation node, activate it. I'm going to slow down," said Long Chen.

Long Chen's incredible speed made it impossible to perform spatial transportation due to the chaotic nature of space at that moment. After all, to execute a successful spatial jump, they required a stable and calm spatial environment.

However, the dilemma lay in the fact that if they waited for the space to stabilize, the relentless pursuers would soon close the distance. If they didn't manage to initiate the spatial transportation before being overtaken, they would have no option but to flee once more.

Furthermore, it would be even harder to get away if they failed to perform the spatial transportation successfully. The Kunpeng expert would likely not fall for the same ruse twice. If he simply shadowed them closely without making any direct attacks, the aura he left behind would serve as a guide for the other experts in the humanless world to gradually encircle them. Then, they would be dead for sure.

Finally, Long Chen landed in a valley, and Xia Chen immediately activated a formation disc, his hand quivering. After all, this related to whether the three of them would survive or not. It would be a lie to say that he wasn't nervous.

"Quick, quick, quick!"

Xia Chen fervently prayed as he activated the formation disc. Normally, this bit of time would be nothing. But now, every blink of an eye felt as long as hours.

Xia Chen had just activated the formation disc when the space in the distance began to collapse, a sign that the humanless world's experts had caught up to them. Long Chen then grabbed Xia Chen and Guo Ran once more. If the spatial transportation didn't activate in time, he would have to drag them away again.

"Die!"

Just then, those experts also noticed them and unleashed furious attacks. Beams of divine light tore through the world toward Long Chen, Xia Chen, and Guo Ran.

The area where the three of them had stood was instantly blasted out of existence, and a terrifying giant black hole manifested in its place.

Unfortunately for them, just before their attacks landed, the three humans had vanished into thin air.

Chapter 4324: Plan Failure

The first spatial transportation succeeded, and the three of them immediately underwent successive transportations. The formation discs that Xia Chen had set up were finally put to use.

No matter how fast Long Chen was, he wasn't as fast as spatial transportations. Moreover, since it was just the three of them, it was much easier, and they were able to go much farther.

After seven transportations, they were getting closer and closer to the gate. However, that only made them more nervous.

"Boss, are we really just going to barge through?" asked Guo Ran.

The humanless world's experts couldn't possibly be so stupid that they wouldn't lock down the exit.

Even if they were pigs, they would definitely send countless experts to guarantee that the exit was blocked. Furthermore, they would all be the top experts of this world, the members of the senior generation. That was because the experts of the junior generation had all been sent to hunt them down.

Members of the senior generation? Then they had to be Eternals. Furthermore, it wouldn't just be one or two, so charging over like this was truly too dangerous.

"There's no choice. We must charge our way through. If we stay here, we won't be able to undergo tribulation, and we'll waste our time. Even if the gate opens and the humanless world is fully connected to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, our people might not necessarily be able to assist us. After all, the humanless world has too many experts," said Long Chen.

Long Chen knew what Guo Ran was thinking. He wanted to hide here. In any case, with Xia Chen's formations, as long as they hid themselves, the experts here wouldn't be able to find them.

However, what about their tribulations? Were they supposed to keep their cultivation bases suppressed the entire time?

If they did undergo tribulation, then afterward, Long Chen would definitely be exhausted or even mortally wounded. After that, he would definitely be slaughtered.

Moreover, the cultivation world had already changed. Every person was doing their best to get stronger with all their power, not daring to waste a single day.

If the three of them hid here while everyone else underwent tribulation and became World Kings, they would really be doomed.

Leaving aside all other considerations, the peak heavenly geniuses of the humanless world were already existences that Long Chen could just barely handle, so if they underwent tribulation and became World Kings while Long Chen was still in the Immortal King realm, he would definitely die if he ran into them.

The dragon expert had previously said that Long Chen wasn't a match for the top experts of this world. At first, Long Chen hadn't accepted it, but now, he knew just how true that was.

The only reason he could now challenge these heavenly geniuses was because he had undergone the primal chaos eye's baptism. He had gone through a complete transformation.

Back in the spirit pool, Long Chen had unleashed the Divine Dragon Pendulum Tail, not holding back at all. That was an attack that he thought would kill his opponent or at least gravely wound him.

However, that attack was barely capable of breaking through the defenses of that Blood expert. Furthermore, that Blood expert had smashed into a barrier made by Eternal experts and only coughed up some blood as a result. Although he was injured, it wasn't serious. From this, it could be seen just how terrifying he was.

If Long Chen had encountered such an expert when he first entered this world, his chances of victory were abysmal. This was the difference in the environments they had grown up in. It was an immense natural gulf between them.

These terrifying experts were still growing with every passing day. If Long Chen lost his chance to undergo tribulation because he was hiding, then a huge gap would once more appear between them. Catching up in the future would be far too difficult.

Furthermore, the other side would not give him a chance to catch up either. They would slaughter him while he was still weak. Thus, he had to return to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, as only in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven would his cultivation not be delayed.

“Once we reach the exit, I’ll pour all my power into the Earth Cauldron. However, I have no guarantee that we’ll manage to barge through their barricade with just that. This is our last chance. When the time comes, if we can all leave together, then we’ll all leave. But if we can’t, then whoever has the chance has to leave first,” said Long Chen.

“Boss...!”

Xia Chen and Guo Ran were startled. If that was the case, then Long Chen’s chances of leaving were the lowest.

When that time came, Long Chen would have used up all his energy. And against so many terrifying experts, how could he possibly survive?

“It’s decided. If I cannot leave, you must leave. Return to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven and undergo tribulation. Just raise your power, and come back to save me. Don’t worry about me. I’m the fastest on my own. They can’t catch up to me,” said Long Chen.

“But...

“No buts. Sometimes you just don’t have a choice,” said Long Chen firmly.

Long Chen was holding the two of them, but now, he suddenly let them go, and the two lagged behind him. At this time, a giant gate appeared before them.

The Earth Cauldron appeared in Long Chen’s hands. As his Spiritual Strength poured into the Earth Cauldron, it instantly blazed like a sun.

The Earth Cauldron illuminated this world, the gate, and also the countless figures around the gate.

Long Chen’s heart sank upon seeing those figures. Among them, he instantly spotted eight terrifying existences.

Those were eight Eternal experts. Clearly, this time, Long Chen’s luck wasn’t so good. He had been hoping that there would only be two or three Eternal experts, as that would already be giving the three of them face.

Unexpectedly, they had sent eight Eternals to stand guard. These experts didn’t have transportation formations or communication formations. In other words, they were not yet aware of the matter of the primal chaos eye, yet they had sent eight Eternals to guard his place. That meant, right from the start, they had decided to not let the three of them leave the humanless world.

“Wretched human race, do you think that you can leave?! Keep dreaming!”

When Long Chen appeared, those lifeforms immediately unleashed their powerful auras. The next moment, an Eternal expert roared and actually flew straight toward Long Chen, smashing a tiger claw at him.

“Fuck, we ran into an idiot!”

Long Chen’s heart sank. This Eternal expert was so stupid that he didn’t even sense the Earth Cauldron’s divine might and came up alone.

This was completely different from Long Chen’s expectations. He had thought that Eternal experts would have at least some brains and sharper senses. After sensing the power of the Earth Cauldron, they would join forces to lock down the gate.

However, his calculations were off as even the Eternal experts here were different. While they possessed formidable power, they had generally led peaceful lives, and their instincts for danger were not as keen.

Nonetheless, even if their sense of danger wasn’t very sharp, they should have been able to sense the Earth Cauldron’s terrifying desolate aura. Unfortunately, Long Chen’s luck wasn’t good this time. The other seven Eternal experts had sensed an immense danger and didn’t take any rash actions, choosing to defend.

There was only one pig-headed tiger who foolishly threw himself at Long Chen the moment he saw him.

Long Chen was shocked and enraged, but the arrow had left the string, so there was no going back.

“Idiot, die!”

Long Chen gritted his teeth and smashed toward him with the Earth Cauldron. With the support of his Spiritual Strength, the runes of the Earth Cauldron lit up, and its sacred aura shook heaven and earth.

Long Chen was unable to control the Earth Cauldron to fight. However, he could use an alchemy method to activate more of its runes.

BOOM!

With a heaven-shaking explosion, the Earth Cauldron struck that huge tiger claw, causing it to instantly explode.

The Earth Cauldron then continued to strike the eternal expert’s head and blew it apart. After that, the brain matter of an Eternal flew through the air.

“Die!”

Long Chen roared. After slaying that Eternal expert of the demonic beast race, Long Chen shot at the other Eternal experts.

Those seven Eternal experts were both startled and enraged. They joined forces to block the Earth Cauldron.

BOOM!

Amidst an explosive sound, the ten thousand Daos crumbled, and Long Chen grunted, coughing up blood. Due to his earlier clash with the Eternal expert, this attack was unable to breach their defenses, and he was halted in his tracks.

"Not good."

Long Chen's heart sank as his plan had failed.

Chapter 4325: Imprisoned Dragon of the Cosmos

Blood sprayed out of Long Chen's mouth as the Earth Cauldron's divine might knocked the seven Eternal experts back several steps.

This was the Earth Cauldron, not the full Heaven Earth Cauldron. It was not meant for killing, but even so, Eternal experts would suffer when directly clashing with it.

Long Chen quickly put away the Earth Cauldron. He knew he had only one chance, and with this failure, he had to leave immediately, or he would certainly die. Just as he was preparing to bring Xia Chen and Guo Ran away while these experts were still shocked and had yet to surround them, the dragon expert's voice rang out in his mind.

"Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw!"

"What?!"

Long Chen was shocked. At this critical time, the dragon expert wanted him to keep attacking? Long Chen gritted his teeth. However, due to his trust in the dragon expert, he chose to do it. Golden dragon scales appeared all over his body, and a majestic dragon cry resounded throughout heaven and earth.

A giant dragon image appeared behind Long Chen. However, this time, it was different from before. It went from illusory to solid, as if a real dragon had just descended.

Long Chen's body shook as his divine sense abruptly departed from his physical form, delving deep into the cosmos. He experienced the sensation of seeing a colossal dragon entwined around countless stars, a truly awe-inspiring sight.

"This is my second time lending you power, so we will have to part for now. You will have to walk your future path yourself."

"Senior!" Long Chen's heart trembled as an ominous premonition washed over him.

"Attack!"

Long Chen gritted his teeth. Putting aside his misgivings, he roared.

"Cloud Dragon Immolation Claw!"

A dragon claw extended from the image behind Long Chen, casting a shadow that seemed to cover the heavens, shrouding the sun's radiance. As soon as it manifested, it tore through the ten thousand Daos. Gaping cracks filled the very void, and it appeared as though this claw would rip the world apart.

“Run!”

When that claw appeared, all the Eternal experts’ expressions changed, and they fled like startled rabbits.

BOOM!

A heaven-shaking explosion erupted as the dragon claw fell, instantly obliterating a space of hundreds of thousands of miles. Those seven Eternal experts were struck by a terrifying ripple, and every single one of them screamed and exploded into blood mist.

Not even Eternal experts were able to escape this claw, so it instantly wiped out the other experts as well.

Seeing this scene, even Long Chen himself was stunned. The dragon expert had helped him with its power, and it actually annihilated so many Eternal experts in an instant.

However, Long Chen felt no joy, for he sensed that the dragon expert's aura had abruptly vanished. Previously, he could feel the dragon expert watching over him, but now it seemed that this connection had disappeared.

“Senior, senior...!” Long Chen cried out, but the dragon expert didn’t reply. It was like it had vanished forever.

Just then, Xia Chen and Guo Ran flew over, both shocked by Long Chen’s attack.

“Boss...!”

Suddenly, they saw Long Chen sway and actually collapse. The two of them immediately grabbed him.

They checked his body to find that every last bit of his energy was gone. His essence, qi, and spirit were all severely overdrafted.

“Run!”

Xia Chen and Guo Ran didn’t dare to tarry and carried Long Chen toward the gate. Xia Chen then activated a formation, and the three of them went with the flow of primal chaos qi, vanishing instantly.

Within the boundless cosmos, within the sea of stars, a pair of giant eyes grew dim and listless.

“You really are a foolish brat that doesn’t let your elder feel at ease. However, I like your character. He bet everything on you, so I will bet my everything as well.” The dragon expert’s voice echoed throughout the cosmos.

Following that, its body quivered and the entire starry sea quivered with it.

Looking from a greater distance, it was possible to see countless chains binding its body, with every chain bound to a star.

One particular giant chain pierced straight through the dragon expert’s head, and the other end of that chain was embedded into the heart of the cosmos.

This was a land of darkness. Its absolute black aura was like the mouth of an all-consuming beast, exuding a feeling of terror and dread.

“This little fellow really isn’t bad. I thought that with my power, he would only be able to drive them back, but he actually killed them all. His potential really is astounding. But borrowing one bit of my power took ten thousand bits of power out of me. These damn blood-sucking ghosts, they’re still absorbing my energy. I need to enter a slumber. Hopefully, when I wake up, that foolish brat will have grown up...”

Those giant eyes slowly closed, and this entire cosmos descended into a deathly silence. There was only some mystical energy flowing at the heart of the cosmos, where it was darkest. It was like some terrifying existence was being born there.

...

Xia Chen and Guo Ran came flying out of the gate and returned to the Sage King Prefecture, where countless experts from various races had gathered. When the three of them abruptly appeared, these experts were all shocked. However, when they saw the unconscious Long Chen, their expressions turned hostile, and killing intent exploded out of them.

Weeks before, when the experts from the humanless world noticed Long Chen’s presence in their world, they directly locked down the gate.

Following that, one of their Eternal experts shouted to the side of the Sage King Prefecture, shattering the formation that Xia Chen had set up to block off communication.

As the gate had opened a bit wider since Long Chen’s entry, this allowed the lifeforms on the Sage King Prefecture’s side to barely manage to communicate with the other side.

Once they connected though, the humanless world’s experts could communicate properly with them and learn about the situation in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven.

The experts of the devil race, Blood race, and demonic beast race in particular were delighted to learn about experts from their respective races in the humanless world. They were eager to open the gate and welcome them.

Hence, they immediately pledged loyalty to the humanless world’s forces. Once the gate opened, they would be their advance troops.

These experts were very skilled at sucking up, and the humanless world’s experts were very pleased by their flattery, so the latter would occasionally transmit a few low grade divine abilities through the gate.

Those were divine abilities that had long since been lost in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven. To the humanless world’s experts, they were crude superficial techniques, but they were priceless secret arts to the experts in the Nirvana Overflow Heaven.

Due to this, experts from various races were gathering here, waiting for the direction of the humanless world’s experts. With time, more and more of them arrived in this prefecture, including half-step Eternals.

Hence, when Guo Ran, Xia Chen, and Long Chen emerged from the gate, those experts were stunned. They had not dreamed that the three of them would be able to escape alive.

“Kill them!”

Upon seeing that Long Chen was unconscious, those experts instantly erupted with killing intent. All the half-step Eternals directly attacked the three of them.

“There was a path to heaven, but you didn’t walk it. There was no gate to hell, but you still forced your way through. Fine.”

Upon seeing the idiots charging over, Xia Chen’s expression sank. He then took out an ancient formation disc. As soon as it appeared, a terrifying murderous aura filled the air.

“Explode!”

That formation disc shot out like a bolt of lightning and detonated within the crowd.

Chapter 4326: Pathway of the Nine Heavens

As the formation disc exploded, numerous runic swords shot out, and three half-step Eternals directly turned to ash.

Meanwhile, the other half-step Eternals who were a bit slower and hadn't reached the core of the formation disc were pierced by those runic swords, but they survived the attack. Despite that, they were horrified and hastily fled. The other experts were equally terrified, having never witnessed such a technique before.

“Boss isn’t interested in wasting time on you, but if you really want to die so badly, I don’t mind fulfilling your dreams. I’m leaving now. If anyone wants to die, come try and stop me,” sneered Xia Chen. Just like that, he carried Long Chen away with Guo Ran.

They weren’t particularly fast, leaving plenty of time for people to attack them. However, Xia Chen’s single attack had slaughtered three half-step Eternals in the blink of an eye, scaring anyone from attempting to stop them.

In truth, Xia Chen was just bluffing when he said that he wanted to kill all of them. While he did want them dead, he was unwilling to use up all his formation discs.

After all, the formation discs he had brought back from the humanless world were limited in number, so each one he expended was a valuable resource lost. Until he had the ability to create them himself, he was hesitant to use them indiscriminately.

These formation discs couldn’t be underestimated just because they were small. In truth, they contained their own pocket dimension, packed with hundreds of primal chaos spirit stones, which granted them their formidable killing power.

Although Xia Chen had plenty of primal chaos spirit stones, these were all exceptionally precious to him. In Xia Chen’s eyes, these half-step Eternals weren’t worth the money it would take to kill them.

In front of the appalled gazes of countless experts, Xia Chen and Guo Ran carried Long Chen away. In the end, not one of them dared to even make a sound.

The three of them had just left when furious roars came from the other side of the gate. Their pursuers had finally arrived by the gate, but they were one step too late. Long Chen had returned to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, and they could only vent their frustration through the gate.

However, after venting for a while, they found that something was wrong. The surrounding laws of space were broken, and they also found a few destroyed bodies. For a moment, they were left in a state of shock and confusion.

...

"Long Chen, the great nine star heir, can you hear my call?" That elderly voice once more resounded from within the endless darkness.

"Why is it that you can only communicate with me in my weakest moments?" muttered Long Chen.

"It's because I can only sense you when you are at your weakest. This is the only time your heart is free of other thoughts, and you can hear me," responded the elderly voice.

"Your voice is now very clear. Is that because my realm is higher or because we're now closer?" asked Long Chen.

"It is because we are closer. I can already sense that you have entered the pathway of the nine heavens. We are now one step closer." The elderly voice sounded a bit excited.

"The pathway of the nine heavens? Is the humanless world the pathway of the nine heavens?" Long Chen was startled.

"I don't know about the humanless world, but I can confirm that you just entered the pathway of the nine heavens. You are now in the eighth heaven, the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, and you just came out of the channel. In truth, had you gone through that channel, you would have reached the ninth heaven," said the elder.

Upon hearing this, Long Chen's heart trembled. The term "nine heavens" referred to nine worlds, each with barriers separating them, and they were collectively referred to as the nine heavens.

The nine heavens could also be differentiated by power. From the Darklight Heaven to the Violet Flame Heaven, and then to the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, Long Chen had been constantly going to higher worlds.

Previously, Long Chen had thought that the Nirvana Overflow Heaven was the highest of the nine heavens. Unexpectedly, it was only the eighth, so the ninth heaven had to be the greatest world.

According to this elder, the humanless world didn't even count as a real world; it was just a channel connecting the Nirvana Overflow Heaven to the ninth heaven. However, Long Chen hadn't seen any exit to the ninth heaven within the humanless world. Had he simply missed it?

"Great nine star heir, I can sense the change in the world. Countless nine star heirs are now rising like shooting stars. The time of our revenge is coming," said the elder excitedly.

“Revenge? What revenge?” asked Long Chen.

“The blood debt of the nine star line. This is the chance for the human race to soar once more. Long Chen, great nine star heir, have you not yet sensed the mission you carry on your shoulders?” asked the elder.

“Mission?”

Long Chen pondered for a moment. “I really haven’t sensed anything. I feel like fate is constantly toying with me, and its guillotine always slams down right behind me, forcing me to run forward with all my power.”

“What? Every nine star heir will condense their life star when they awaken the Five Star Battle Armor. And obtain...” The elder was bewildered, suddenly hesitating to tell Long Chen.

“Life star? What is that? What will they obtain...?” asked Long Chen.

The elder didn’t reply and muttered to himself, “How can this be? This shouldn’t be!”

“Senior, can you answer me?” asked Long Chen sternly. He wanted to know just what secret lay within his cultivation art.

“In truth, every nine star heir will come to awaken their mission after reaching a certain realm. You all have different missions, so I also don’t know how to answer you,” said the elder finally.

“Then what about you? Can you tell me who you are?” asked Long Chen.

“I am the awakener, the one who awakens slumbering nine star heirs,” said the elder.

“Then tell me, do you know the complete Nine Star Hegemon Body Art?” asked Long Chen.

“The Nine Star Hegemon Body Art is innate to all nine star heirs. As your power rises, you awaken the cultivation art step by step. Is that not the same for you?” asked the elder, more bewildered than ever.

Upon hearing this, Long Chen’s heart shook. He suddenly had a very odd feeling and didn’t directly reply.

“Senior, can you tell me the mission of nine star heirs?”

“I’m sorry, but I am only the awakener of nine star heirs, so I don’t have the right to direct you. You will need to realize it yourself,” said the elder apologetically. “I can only warn you that immense danger is about to befall. The nine heavens and ten lands will soon be destroyed, and you are all the final hope of this world. There is not much time left. If you don’t quicken the pace, it really will be too late.”

If it was before, Long Chen would feel uneasy and anxious after hearing the elder’s words. But for some reason, this time, he felt much more at peace.

Long Chen didn’t reply. This endless darkness caused his thoughts to become clear, and he felt calmer than ever.

“Please answer this one question. Who is the Pill Sovereign?” asked Long Chen suddenly.

"You...! How do you know of the Pill Sovereign?!" The elder seemed so shocked by this question that even his voice quivered.

"Please answer me."

Buzz.

Suddenly, the darkness vanished and Long Chen woke up. The moment he opened his eyes, Yu Qingxuan and Bai Shishi's startled cries rang out in his ears.

Chapter 4327: Challenge

"Long Chen, you scared us to death!"

Yu Qingxuan and Bai Shishi's eyes were red. They had clearly been crying, but they were delighted to see Long Chen wake up.

"I was just sleeping," said Long Chen with a smile.

"Sleeping?! Do you know that your aura and spiritual fluctuations almost vanished just now?!" cried out Yu Qingxuan before bursting into tears.

"Just now?"

Long Chen was startled. Was it while he was speaking to that mysterious elder? Long Chen sensed his condition and found that he was incredibly weak. His spiritual fluctuations were faint, and he felt like he didn't have the slightest trace of energy left inside of him. It really did feel like he was about to die.

However, curiously, his mind was in excellent condition. Furthermore, this extremely weak state rapidly recovered once he woke up.

In just a few breaths, his spiritual fluctuations strengthened and his power gradually recovered.

"Can it be that speaking to that elder exhausts too much of my energy?" wondered Long Chen.

Seeing Yu Qingxuan and Bai Shishi's red eyes, Long Chen grabbed their hands. "I'm sorry to make you worry."

Yu Qingxuan and Bai Shishi both blushed. Although Long Chen had held their hands in private, he had never done it in front of others, so they instantly turned shy.

Upon seeing their tear-stained beauty, Long Chen's heart felt like it would melt. He then pulled the two of them in, and the two cried out, instinctively avoiding him.

Bai Shishi's face was completely red. "I... I'm going to tell Father and Mother that you're awake so that they don't worry."

After saying that, Bai Shishi directly fled, her face just like a red apple as she ran.

"Qingxuan..." Long Chen pulled Yu Qingxuan, who was also extremely red.

Yu Qingxuan held his hand and softly said, "That's enough. You just woke up and your Yuan Spirit is still in a weak state. Eat this pill and rest some more."

Yu Qingxuan took out a medicinal pill and fed Long Chen. Long Chen then opened his mouth extra wide and pretended to bite Yu Qingxuan's hand as he consumed the pill, scaring her into hastily retracting her hand.

"Even at your age, you're still acting like a child!" Yu Qingxuan glared at Long Chen, though there was no real anger in her eyes.

"Qingxuan, just stay by my side. I feel like I can sleep peacefully with you here. The moment Long Chen consumed this pill, a burst of sleepiness came over him. Yu Qingxuan's pills were even more effective than the pills he refined himself.

"Alright. Lie down. I'll go to find Shishi. We'll guard you." Yu Qingxuan smiled sweetly and lightly helped Long Chen lie down.

Long Chen nodded and watched Yu Qingxuan leave the room. He wanted to see Bai Shishi again, but he quickly fell asleep. As he sank into unconsciousness, he seemed to hear two people whispering. Their voices were like birdsong, and he quickly drifted away peacefully.

Long Chen's sleep this time was exceptionally sweet, reminiscent of his childhood when he would fall asleep crying in his mother's embrace. It was filled with a sense of peace.

This single sleep lasted for three days and nights. When Long Chen finally opened his eyes, he found himself lying in Bai Shishi's embrace, his head resting on her lap, and his face nestled into her underbelly. Her fragrance filled his senses.

No wonder he had dreamed so comfortably, as if he was a child again. Long Chen wanted to reach out to hug her, but he was afraid that she would push him away.

Although he already woke up, he didn't move, acting like he was still asleep. Suddenly, he heard Bai Shishi's teasing voice.

"Don't be shy."

Long Chen instantly understood that he had been exposed. Blushing, he hugged Bai Shishi tightly.

Bai Shishi cried out in shock, not expecting him to be so wild. Her face turned as red as a tomato, and she felt a burning heat rising within her.

"Stop messing around. Release me."

"I was told not to be shy, so why should I let go?" Long Chen hugged Bai Shishi even tighter. Looking at her embarrassed appearance, Long Chen laughed.

"Stop! Sister Qingxuan is bringing a wet washcloth for your face and will be back soon. Don't let her see this," said Bai Shishi, pushing him away.

Long Chen knew that Bai Shishi's skin wasn't thick enough, so he didn't dare to tease her too much. He released his embrace, and even after he did, Bai Shishi's cheeks were still as red as a ripe apple.

“What are you looking at!? I was just sitting to the side, and you crawled your way up to me!” declared Bai Shishi upon seeing Long Chen smiling at her.

Long Chen knew that Bai Shishi would really get angry if he kept this up, so he put away his smile and solemnly said, “Thank you. I’m sorry for making you worry.”

It was only then that Bai Shishi’s expression improved slightly. She then glared at him. “You knew that we would worry about you, but you still went running off to the humanless world without discussing it with us! Do you even care about us?”

After Bai Shishi said this, her eyes reddened once more. Even though she did her best not to cry, a few tears still leaked out.

“I’m sorry. It was my mistake. I should have discussed it with you. I promise that I will definitely talk to you about such things next time,” said Long Chen hastily.

In truth, Long Chen hadn’t dared to discuss it with them. He knew that as soon as he mentioned it to them, they would definitely go with him, or they wouldn’t let him go.

Going to the humanless world was far too dangerous, so Long Chen wouldn’t let them go. That was why he had only brought Xia Chen and Guo Ran. Without the two of them, even he wouldn’t dare to go there.

However, Long Chen could be considered smart and didn’t argue about it, directly admitting his mistake. As for whether he would bring them next time, that would be a matter for next time.

Upon hearing his promise, Bai Shishi’s expression improved. Given Long Chen’s character, getting him to admit that he was wrong was extremely difficult, so this could be considered a great concession.

However, Bai Shishi still didn’t understand Long Chen well enough. Long Chen didn’t give concessions to others, but to his own people, especially his beloved woman, he didn’t mind making concessions and acknowledging his mistakes. He had long since gotten used to such a thing.

Long Chen reached out to wipe away Bai Shishi’s tears, but she pushed away his hand and angrily said, “After making someone cry, you’re then going to help them wipe away their tears and count it as even?”

“As a person, you must finish what you start. If I caused something, then I should take responsibility, right?” said Long Chen.

The double meaning behind his words made Bai Shishi blush. Just then, Bai Shishi heard footsteps outside, so she hastily wiped away her tears and acted as if nothing happened.

“Big sis, is boss awake yet?” They heard Bai Xiaole’s voice from outside.

“Not yet. What is it?” asked Bai Shishi lightly.

Long Chen was startled. After all, he was already awake. But seeing her glare at him, he didn’t dare to say a thing.

“Ah, really? Then what are we supposed to do? There are more challengers today,” said Bai Xiaole disappointedly.

“Aiya!”

Long Chen felt a sharp pain in his waist and let out a startled cry. Bai Shishi was pinching him.

“You...!”

“You what? You woke up and still pretended to be asleep. Hurry and get up!”

Long Chen looked at Bai Shishi in disbelief. “God damn...”

“If you want to go, then go! Stop dawdling!” Bai Shishi chided Long Chen, holding back a smile.

“Count yourself vicious!”

Long Chen nodded. He realized that this petty-hearted woman had exacted her revenge. She always found a way to get back at him.

Long Chen then pushed the door open and saw Bai Xiaole.

“Let’s go. I want to see just who is so blind as to dare come to my territory and challenge me! If I don’t beat the crap out of them today, I’ll accept that their sphincters are of high quality!”

Chapter 4328: Arguing For the Sake of Arguing

Long Chen followed Bai Xiaole to the newly constructed guest hall of the High Firmament Academy. Although it appeared large and majestic, it was a bit crude as many details were not yet complete.

At this moment, this hall was packed with hundreds of experts. Amongst them were over ten experts at the peak of the Immortal King realm, and the rest were half-step Eternals.

These experts stood in the hall, accompanied by the High Firmament Academy’s experts. However, the academy’s experts were all Heaven Venerates, and not one of the academy’s important figures like Bai Zhantang was present.

On the way, Bai Xiaole told Long Chen that these people had come with disciples, saying that they wanted to exchange a few pointers with Long Chen. However, in truth, they had come to challenge him.

As a result, the academy’s higher-ups essentially ignored them, only sending a few elders just for show. They said that everything here was up to Long Chen, and since Dean Long Chen was sleeping, they would have to wait until he was awake before doing anything.

These people had been waiting for three days. The hall lacked sufficient seating, so they were all growing increasingly frustrated due to the prolonged wait.

After all, these people were the prominent leaders of the various factions, and half-step Eternals were typically revered and treated with great respect. However, in this situation, they were being overlooked and not even provided with seats.

As a result, these people were constantly chiding the elders from the academy who were in charge of accompanying them. Regrettably, the elders were powerless and could only inform the guests to

continue waiting for Long Chen, indicating that they were unaware of the intentions of the higher-ups. Having to accompany these terrifying existences made them all nervous.

“The dean has come!”

Upon seeing Long Chen walk into the hall, those elders looked like they had seen their saving star. The world instantly felt brighter as the hope of these old timers had come.

Long Chen and Bai Xiaole entered side by side, offering a nod to the academy's elders as a form of greeting. Long Chen then headed straight for the single seat at the very front of the hall. Meanwhile, Long Chen acted like he didn't even see the guests.

Long Chen took a seat, while Bai Xiaole stood by his side. Both of them remained silent, simply gazing at the experts in front of them. As a result, the experts, already frustrated at having to wait, were further infuriated by Long Chen's display of arrogance.

What was he trying to say with this? They had waited three days for him, but now that he arrived, he didn't even say anything? Was he not even going to apologize for making them wait?

“The great High Firmament Academy, supposedly the number one academy of the nine heavens, seems to lack the basic courtesy of treating its guests. How unexpected.” sneered one of the elderly experts finally.

“Guests? Do you count as guests?” responded Long Chen contemptuously.

“We have traveled from afar to pay you a visit! We came with sincerity, with the heart to revere the number one academy of the nine heavens! Does that not make us your guests? If we aren't guests, then great Dean Long Chen, what are we?” demanded that elder coldly. His tone could be considered polite, but it was also aggressive.

“There are many kinds of guests. However, the most hateful kinds are unwanted guests who come with evil intentions. When it comes to treating guests, it's essential to approach each guest differently because each person deserves individualized treatment. When you first arrived at the academy, you didn't fill out the guest lists. You didn't come bearing gifts, nor did you show any respect for the academy. Instead, you looked down on everyone here. Do you truly consider yourselves guests? Despite your many years of existence, it appears you have learned nothing about manners. Have all your years been spent living like a dog? You know nothing about being guests, yet you have the audacity to criticize others for not knowing how to treat guests. I see that your power is quite average, but your face is amazingly thick,” scoffed Long Chen.

The academy's elders almost clapped when Long Chen said this. During the past three days, they had endured a great deal of insults and mocking from these arrogant fellows. They had long since found them displeasing, but they could only endure.

Long Chen's response perfectly left these arrogant experts speechless. It was like they had just been given a resounding slap in the face, but the elders of the academy cheered in their hearts.

“You...!” That elder was enraged, but didn't know how to respond. After all, what Long Chen had said was a fact. They hadn't followed the customs of guests this time.

Long Chen was quite displeased after suffering by Bai Shishi's hands, so how could he possibly give them any face? Instead, all his fury would be vented on them.

"Dean Long Chen, good afternoon. This old man-"

Just then, another elder stepped forward from the group of human elders. He had quite the sharp appearance. Although his power was average, he was considered quite intelligent. From his demeanor, it could be seen that he was one of the leaders.

"Hey, why would you say such a thing?" Long Chen directly interrupted him.

"Oh? Did I say something wrong? This old man wishes to learn." That elder simply smiled slightly, not getting angry at all.

"Are you saying I'm only going to have a good afternoon? Do you want me to have a bad morning and a bad night? Are you cursing me?" demanded Long Chen.

"You...!" The other elders were left speechless. This was definitely twisting his words too far. Long Chen was clearly nitpicking.

In the end, this elder simply laughed. "Hahaha, my choice of words is lacking. Then let me start over. Dean Long Chen, I wish you well. I'm from the-"

"What do you mean, you wish me well? You mean I'm going to be well, but you're not going to be? Or maybe they're not going to be well? So, other than me, everyone else will not be well?" Long Chen interrupted him once more.

That elder's expression finally twitched. No matter how good his temper was, he couldn't endure this anymore. He was getting angry.

"Dean Long Chen, don't you think you are arguing a bit for the sake of argument? declared the elder angrily.

"Are you stupid? What do you mean, a bit? I'm clearly arguing for the sake of argument. Am I not making it obvious enough?" asked Long Chen.

One of the academy's elders finally couldn't hold back his laughter anymore. However, he knew that he shouldn't laugh, so he hastily covered his mouth, causing some stifled snorts to come out.

The other academy elders were also biting their lips, trying to suppress their laughter. However, their bodies were shaking because of it.

After living for so long, they could count as experienced people. However, they had never seen such a sight before. This group of arrogant experts were choked to the point of almost coughing up blood.

Now they finally understood why the higher-ups refused to reveal themselves and insisted on waiting for Long Chen to wake up and deal with them. It was clearly a case of using a wicked person to deal with wicked people. People like them could only be put in their place by Long Chen.

"Dean Long Chen, you-!"

"Shut the hell up!"

Long Chen let out a thunderous roar, akin to the roar of a dragon, which resonated throughout the entire hall. Even the half-step Eternals present felt their heads buzzing from the roar's intensity.

This unexpected shift into hostility took them by surprise. Long Chen's once indifferent expression had turned dark, and a powerful aura radiated from his eyes, filled with unyielding determination and a chilling intent to kill.

"Speak! Who sent you here? What kind of benefits did they give you?"

Chapter 4329: You Can Just Kill Yourself

"What... what are you talking about?"

That sharp-faced elder's expression changed, and he shouted indignantly.

Long Chen coldly said, "Don't play this game with me. When it comes to playing tricks, you aren't even fit to carry my shoes. I just came out of the humanless world, and many people saw it. You came here to probe what happened to me, didn't you? Your guts are quite big!"

"You..."

"Shut up! I don't have time to waste on you. Under the banner of exchanging pointers, you came to see whether I was dead or severely wounded. With such malicious intent, if I wasn't the dean of the High Firmament Academy, I'd have slaughtered you immediately," shouted Long Chen.

Although Long Chen had barely exchanged words with them, he was able to guess their goal. He had seen such a thing a lot.

"What arrogance! I, Jiang Song, am not convinced! Do you dare to fight me?!" One of the Immortal Kings suddenly stepped forward arrogantly.

Bai Xiaole was startled when this guy stepped forward as there was primal chaos qi swirling around him. His aura was shocking.

"You... did you collude with the other world's experts?! How did you come to possess such powerful primal chaos qi?!" shouted Bai Xiaole.

"Cut the crap. Do you dare to fight or not?" demanded that expert who called himself Jiang Song.

"After absorbing a few primal chaos spirit stones, do you think that you're unrivaled in this world?" Long Chen snorted disdainfully.

He could tell that Jiang Song had absorbed the energy of primal chaos spirit stones. Moreover, he had just absorbed their energy, and the primal chaos qi had yet to fully adapt to his body.

Long Chen had also absorbed primal chaos energy. However, he had done it under the protection of the primal chaos eye, so it was fully merged into him.

When Long Chen fell into a slumber, his body no longer had any nutrients to sustain it, so it entered a slumbering state to reduce energy consumption.

Because of this though, others were unable to sense the primal chaos qi on him. As a result, this Jiang Song got arrogant.

Absorbing this primal chaos qi had made him feel like he'd undergone a profound change. It was as if he had merged with heaven and earth, as if the entire world was under his command. His confidence extended to the ten Immortal Kings accompanying him, whose auras had also been tremendously enhanced by the primal chaos qi. This newfound strength gave them the audacity to challenge Long Chen.

"Long Chen, are you afraid? Does the great Sage King not even dare to fight me? Hahaha, if news of that spread, your name will be tarnished!" Jiang Song laughed arrogantly.

Hearing this, Bai Xiaole was enraged. This person was practically asking to die. Although Bai Xiaole hadn't absorbed primal chaos qi, he felt that even he would be able to defeat this idiot. Just as he was about to teach him a lesson, Long Chen held him back.

"Every single one of you brings a photographic jade and has it activated. Speak, who are you recording for?" demanded Long Chen.

"We have a photographic jade active to record Dean Long Chen's remarkable presence. Why? Is there any problem?" said one of the Immortal Kings.

The next moment, Long Chen seemed to suddenly teleport in front of that Immortal King, startling him. Having no time to take out a weapon, he swung his fist at Long Chen.

"Pfft!"

However, the moment he attacked, Long Chen's finger had already pierced his head, shattering his soul. Long Chen then saw some scenes from his soul fragments.

"A sneak attack! How dare you!"

These experts were infuriated. Jiang Song, who was closest to Long Chen, unsheathed his sword and swung it at Long Chen's neck.

"How brazen!"

The academy's elders were enraged. They were about to join in the fight when they saw a sight that left them in disbelief.

Crack.

Jiang Song swung his sword at Long Chen's neck, but to their amazement, Long Chen's neck remained unharmed while the sword snapped in two.

This sword might not be an Eternal divine weapon, but it was known for its remarkable sharpness. Even against Eternal divine weapons, it could put up a fight. Hence, Jiang Song cherished it as much as his own life.

Jiang Song looked at his shattered sword in terror. He hadn't held back with that blow. However, Long Chen seemed to disdain even blocking, simply allowing the sword to shatter upon contact with him.

"Isn't living nice? Why do you want to die so badly?" Long Chen sighed and shook his head while looking at Jiang Song.

Jiang Song, in a desperate move, attempted to stab Long Chen's eyes with the broken sword as he retreated and made a run for the exit.

However, Long Chen simply caught the broken sword with his left hand. Then, with a flick of a finger, a streak of seven-color light flew out. Following that, the fleeing Jiang Song quivered and fell to the ground, not moving anymore.

"Humans should possess a respectful heart. Only then can they live a bit longer, don't you think so?" Long Chen looked at the sharp-faced half-step Eternal.

"Right, you're absolutely right! Dean Long Chen, your wisdom is unparalleled, and your divine power is a blessing for the human race! We..." That person hastily nodded and bowed fawningly, showing no trace of his previous arrogance.

Just as he was speaking, the broken sword in Long Chen's hand flew out, and the elder's head soared into the air, blood falling throughout the hall.

"Where did so many useless words come from? It's annoying to hear them," said Long Chen indifferently.

The elder's head then fell to the ground, and following that, his body also collapsed.

What shocked everyone was that when the elder's head fell, the fire of his soul was already extinguished. So, this blow had not just severed his neck, but it had also wiped out his Yuan Spirit.

It had to be known that if a half-step Eternal's head was cut off, that would be considered a light wound. It wasn't fatal. However, this elder did indeed die with no ability to resist.

"Long Chen, what do you think you're doing?! We are only here to bear witness! Why would you kill us?!" Those half-step Eternals started to panic.

They suddenly realized that Long Chen was far more terrifying than he had been during the Sage King Convention. Although he was still an Immortal King, as soon as he started attacking, he gave them a sense of immense pressure, like a mortal threat that was pointed right at their hearts.

This signified that Long Chen could easily kill them all. They hadn't expected such a thing before coming here.

"Why would I kill you? Well... why would you provoke me? Why would you betray the human race and collude with the humanless world's lifeforms?" demanded Long Chen darkly.

From that slain person's soul fragments, Long Chen knew the entire cause of this incident. The humanless world's experts had started enticing the human race to do their bidding. They sent over primal chaos spirit stones from the other side of the gate, promising that the day the gate opened was the day that the humanless world's treasures would be shared with them.

Unable to resist the allure of primal chaos spirit stones, these idiots promised to carry out their orders. As a result, this batch of brave conscripts came to the academy with photographic jades as evidence of their loyalty, and they would use the recordings to exchange for more treasures.

The reason why Long Chen's killing intent was triggered was that he thought of the human race's extinction in the humanless world. The root cause was betrayal, which was the most hateful thing for him. Originally, Long Chen had planned to teach them a lesson, but now he had changed his plans.

"You can just kill yourselves, or do you want me to personally do it?"

Long Chen's voice was icy, resembling a death god's edict as it reverberated throughout the hall. Those present were overwhelmed with terror, sensing that Long Chen really wanted to kill them all.

Chapter 4330: Starting a Prairie Fire

BOOM!

The hall exploded, and hundreds of figures went flying out of the wreckage.

Within the dust and smoke, Long Chen's figure emerged. As the golden divine radiance around him gradually faded, his heaven-shaking Blood Qi also slowly subsided.

"How sinister!"

A half-step Eternal crawled up with great difficulty and pointed at Long Chen, his eyes full of fear and resentment.

After saying that, he collapsed and no longer made a sound.

Bai Xiaole was behind Long Chen, looking completely dumbfounded. He hadn't expected Long Chen to be so ruthless. Just now, everything had happened so quickly that it was over before he could even react.

In that instant, Long Chen was like an angry god, and even the half-step Eternals were like ants in front of him.

"Dean Long Chen, have you thought about the consequences?" Just then, a voice rang out, and Bai Letian's figure silently appeared.

"Grandpa!"

Bai Xiaole was startled. Bai Letian was actually in this branch academy as well?

Long Chen then turned to Bai Letian and shook his head. "How could I have thought about the consequences? It seems that I'm too childish. I truly am not suited to be the dean."

What shocked Long Chen was that, even in his current state, with his senses sharper than ever, he was still unable to see through Bai Letian's cultivation base.

"No, you are very suited to your position. If I were the one dealing with them, I wouldn't have been able to kill them all. Whether it is out of consideration for the academy or from a personal standpoint, I wouldn't be able to do it," said Bai Letian as he walked over to Long Chen with a faint smile.

"So you had me be the bad person? Well, I've never really been a good person anyway." Long Chen couldn't help smiling bitterly.

"Grandpa, it's not right for you to make my boss bear the burden!" scolded Bai Xiaole.

"If Long Chen doesn't bear the burden, are you trying to get an old man like me to bear it?" said Bai Letian with a laugh. He turned to Long Chen. "Why did you change plans and suddenly kill them? I'm a bit surprised. I thought you would teach them a lesson and then tell them to scram."

All of a sudden, Long Chen's smile vanished, and he somberly said, "I actually disdained the idea of killing them, and at first, I had no intention of doing so. But from their soul fragments, I knew that they had been bought by the humanless world's lifeforms, so I had to kill them. If they could be bought once, they could be bought a second time. Perhaps they wouldn't dare to target me, but they would certainly target other humans. Mountains and plains change, but a person's character doesn't. If I let them off, they wouldn't be grateful to me. And even if they did briefly, such gratitude is short-lived. They would not necessarily let me off when I am in trouble next time. Moreover, there's a crucial aspect to consider: allowing them to go free would give me a reputation for being lenient and magnanimous. But that would bring even more trouble. Who knows how many innocent people would die at their hands? After thinking about that, I decided to change plans. I suppose it's the same reasoning as the death penalty. It may tarnish my reputation, but I don't mind."

After hearing that, Bai Letian's smile widened, and he nodded. "With the opening of the humanless world, primal chaos qi floods our world and reshapes the laws. More worlds similar to the humanless world are gradually emerging. Although things look peaceful right now, in truth, dark undercurrents are lurking beneath the surface. Danger is silently approaching, and the human race is on the verge of destruction. Yet, these people allowed themselves to be bought by other races. They truly did deserve death."

"Dean, are you saying that more worlds like the humanless world are appearing?" Long Chen was startled.

Bai Letian nodded. "We've just received a report. Two mysterious gates appeared in the southeast and northwest sides of the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, and primal chaos qi is flowing into our world from the gates. Furthermore, there are reports of ancient ruins emerging in both the Violet Flame Heaven and Darklight Heaven. As primal chaos qi is coming from their entrances, they are suspected to be gates to other worlds as well."

"If that's the case, opening the humanless world might not have been the ultimate goal of the Sage King Convention... Instead..."

"The humanless world served as the spark that ignited a prairie fire. Now that this spark has ignited, the fire is spreading throughout every corner of this world. It was quite the move. Fortunately, you stopped the humanless world from opening, so we still have time to deal with it," said Bai Letian.

Long Chen's heart shuddered. This time, Lord Brahma's move was truly profound. Just what was he planning on doing?

"Other than that, Dean Long Chen, during this upcoming period, it would be best if you didn't leave the academy," warned Bai Letian.

"Why?" asked Bai Xiaole.

"We have received reports from the Nirvana Overflow Heaven, Violet Flame Heaven, and Darklight Heaven about the appearance of the gates, but we lack information about the number of undiscovered gates that may have opened. There are rumors that experts from those other worlds have infiltrated the nine heavens, leaving blood in their wake. Everyone is nervous," said Bai Letian.

"Then isn't this the perfect time for us to kill them and make a name for ourselves?" said Bai Xiaole.

Long Chen shook his head. "You are thinking about it too simply. Their true experts will not risk coming to our world just yet. They're biding their time for the laws of the various realms to stabilize, then swiftly ascend to become World Kings. That way, they'll establish a connection with the nine heavens and won't be bound by our realm's laws. The ones coming now are just troublemakers trying to disturb us. Killing them won't have any impact and will only slow down our cultivation speed. Perhaps they even have a few hidden assassins that will target our world's heavenly geniuses. Dean Bai is worried that I will be targeted by them."

Bai Letian nodded, appreciating Long Chen's intelligence. After all, Long Chen was still young but could already see so far. It was a rare talent.

Bai Letian then left, leaving the academy's experts to handle the mess. They took away the corpses and got to work on reconstructing this hall.

Killing so many of these experts would definitely cause huge waves. Long Chen believed that these people had countless eyes watching them. By taking decisive action and eliminating them, he aimed to establish a deterrent effect. Long Chen wanted people to know the price of betraying the human race.

If Long Chen had let them leave, it would only send the message that betraying the human race carried no consequences. That was a bad start.

"Let's go. Perhaps Xia Chen has set up the primal chaos grand formation," said Long Chen.

He and Bai Xiaole then headed to the rear mountains of the academy. When Long Chen sensed the primal chaos qi within a mountain valley, he smiled.

"The Dragonblood Legion is truly about to rise. Experts of the other worlds, are you prepared?"