

Nine Star 4411

Chapter 4411: Playing This Game?

A giant sword and a giant saber—two giant weapons that looked like they were wielded by gods shattered the sky.

BOOM!

The two immense weapons then exploded at the same time, unleashing a dazzling burst of divine light so intense that onlookers couldn't keep their eyes open.

As their vision was momentarily seized, a wild qi wave blasted them. It was so powerful that even the Eternal experts felt as if they were being torn apart, prompting them to flee into the distance.

However, before they could get far, they were devoured by the terrifying qi wave, akin to ants carried by the tide.

When the dazzling light dimmed and calmness returned to the world, people saw a bottomless abyss. Long Chen hovered in the air above the abyss, panting heavily and covered in bleeding wounds, yet his gaze remained composed.

On the other hand, the giant dragon beneath Netherdragon Tianye had vanished, along with his once overwhelming Blood Qi. His massive form had withered.

Staring in shock at Long Chen, he had never imagined that Long Chen would be able to withstand his attack.

“This is the attack of a Doyen? It isn't bad.” Long Chen nodded.

It was truly powerful, but it wasn't beyond reason. If Long Chen had had a good weapon, he wouldn't have been injured.

On the other hand, Netherdragon Tianye had paid a terrifying price to unleash this attack, exhausting the majority of his essence blood to the extent that even his manifestation disappeared.

Long Chen looked at Netherdragon Tianye and remarked, “This so-called Doyen power involves gathering the power of heaven and earth, usurping the role of the Heavenly Daos to control the world, and merging with heaven and earth to command the laws of the universe. It's a bit similar to a Saint's power. No wonder senior Ye Ling said that your full-power attack is equivalent to half the power of a Saint. This force not only carries destructive capabilities but can also compel the laws of the world to yield. The bindings of the Heavenly Daos and a spacetime lock are all encompassed within it. It's no surprise you were able to lock me down. The power of a Doyen is interesting. It's my first time being locked down by someone in the same realm.”

It was truly Long Chen's first encounter with such a situation. Normally, even people with higher realms were unable to lock Long Chen down because his soul and will were too strong to be confined.

However, just now, he had been firmly locked down, rendering him unable to dodge. Netherdragon Tianye hadn't given him any chance to get away. Despite this, Long Chen was not afraid of him in a direct clash.

Still, this realization left Long Chen feeling uneasy. The palace master had advised him to run as far as he could when facing a Saint, and it seemed that this form of restraint was part of the reason. While Long Chen could remain unafraid of Netherdragon Tianye after being immobilized, if he faced a Saint, he would definitely be in trouble.

"Damn human, what are you getting arrogant for?! I'm still not a true Doyen and am simply on the verge of becoming one. Once I truly awaken my fate divine seal and become a Heavenly Doyen, you'll only be able to kneel beneath me!" roared Netherdragon Tianye, gnashing his teeth and glaring at Long Chen with rancor.

"What a pity. My time is very precious, so I can't wait for you that long." Long Chen shook his head and sighed.

"And what does that mean?" asked Netherdragon Tianye coldly.

"What else could it mean? Is your head full of crap?" Long Chen couldn't help but wonder.

He was somewhat curious. Netherdragon Tianye had lost, yet he still appeared fearless. Did he not fear death?

"Do you dare to kill me?" Netherdragon Tianye suddenly thought of something and laughed.

Pow!

Long Chen suddenly vanished and appeared in front of Netherdragon Tianye, sending him flying with another slap.

"Is there anything in this world that I don't dare to do?"

As lightning wings appeared on Long Chen's back, he shot after Netherdragon Tianye, slapping the other side of his face.

Pow!

"Didn't you say that you would destroy my entire family?"

Pow!

"Weren't you going to destroy my sect?"

Pow!

"Didn't you call me ignorant?"

Pow!

"Didn't you call me foolish?"

Pow, pow, pow, pow...!

Long Chen delivered a series of resounding slaps to Netherdragon Tianye's face, leaving it a bloody mess.

“Who let you be a traitor?”

“Who let you be arrogant?”

“Who let you act wild?”

Each question was emphasized with a forceful slap. Netherdragon Tianye roared repeatedly but was powerless to resist.

After all, he had just unleashed his strongest technique and was in an extremely weak state. His Blood Qi was now empty. Regarding Long Chen’s slap, while it was sharp and impossible to guard against, its actual killing power was very low. Even after enduring so many slaps, Netherdragon Tianye wasn’t dead or even unconscious.

“You damn human, you dare-?!”

Pow!

“Just you wait-!”

Pow!

Long Chen suddenly stopped slapping and just grabbed his throat, lifting him up. Now, Netherdragon Tianye no longer had any of his former arrogance, looking like a dead dog instead.

Seeing this scene, the experts fighting against the Earth Spirit race abruptly stopped in their tracks and fell back. They just stared at Long Chen in horror. Curiously though, not a single one of them came to help Netherdragon Tianye.

As they gazed at Long Chen, their expressions were marked by sheer terror. Netherdragon Tianye had been decisively defeated, a defeat that left him visibly drained of energy. On the other hand, Long Chen still had immense reserves of power left, highlighting the stark difference between them.

In other words, Long Chen still had the power to fight. Once he joined forces with the Earth Spirit race, they would definitely be crushed, and who knew how many of them would lose their lives then?

Once the combat ceased, the Earth Spirit race also halted their actions and regrouped. They had no choice but to stop. Having been constantly fighting for their lives over the past few days, they were thoroughly fatigued. They would have long since collapsed if it weren’t for their powerful wills.

“If you have the guts... kill me...” spat out Netherdragon Tianye.

The next moment, Long Chen’s hand pierced into Netherdragon Tianye’s chest just like that. Netherdragon Tianye screamed as a palm-sized dragon scale was forcibly ripped off of him—his reverse scale.

“You wanted to play this game with me? I know you wanted to trigger the power inside of this reverse scale when your life was under threat. Quite shrewd, but you forgot that even though I’m not of the

dragon race, I possess the dragon race's inheritance. Furthermore, it is the most primal inheritance of all. Did you think that I wouldn't see through your scheme?" sneered Long Chen.

Long Chen tossed the reverse scale into the primal chaos space. Runes directly flashed on top of the reverse scale, and a terrifying aura was rising out of it. However, the moment it entered the primal chaos space, it instantly went still.

"You...!"

At that moment, Netherdragon Tianye's eyes were finally full of terror.

Chapter 4412: An Offering for a Declaration of War

"To play such a game with me, you're far too naive, child!"

Long Chen tightened his hand and ripped Netherdragon Tianye's head off, causing a rain of blood to fall.

"No... don't kill me!" Netherdragon Tianye screamed in terror as he finally submitted.

With his head in Long Chen's grasp, his headless body transformed into a headless dragon. As soon as that enormous body appeared, Long Chen tossed it into the primal chaos space.

Netherdragon Tianye differed from regular dragons, as he had somehow condensed a Neidan—an exceedingly valuable item. Although Long Chen wasn't certain about its use, he was convinced it was a treasure.

Suddenly, Netherdragon Tianye's forehead lit up, and a hole appeared in the space behind him, looking like a fiend's eye staring at Long Chen.

"I knew you would have such a thing on you," said Long Chen with a slight smile.

"Who dares to bully my son?! Report your name!"

A cold shout came from the other side of the hole, sounding tyrannical and mighty, like an imperial edict.

This was a terrifying existence. By crushing Netherdragon Tianye's throat and putting away his body, Long Chen automatically triggered the protective seal on Netherdragon Tianye.

"Boss Long San," answered Long Chen indifferently.

"Are you a human? No, you have dragon blood on you, and it's true dragon blood. Just who are you?!"

"Are you deaf? I already told you that I'm Boss Long San," sneered Long Chen.

Long Chen understood that the individual on the other side of this opening was a formidable presence, likely Netherdragon Tianye's father. Most probably, he was an authentic Saint.

"I don't care who you are! Release my son and we can let bygones be bygones. Otherwise, I will make you beg for death! Not just you, but also your whole family, your entire sect, your-!"

"AH!"

White flames suddenly appeared on Long Chen's hand, burning Netherdragon Tianye's head. The latter then let out a miserable scream.

"What did you say? I didn't hear you. I'll trouble you to speak more clearly, word by word, then I'll be able to understand you," said Long Chen, cupping his ear and turning toward him.

"You...!"

The owner of that tyrannical voice was enraged but didn't know what to say. After all, his son was in Long Chen's hands, so he couldn't just attack Long Chen. If he kept acting tough, his son would suffer.

"This was all a misunderstanding. The nether dragon race has no direct conflict with the Earth Spirit race, and my son Tianye was simply instigated by others into doing something foolish. I offer my apologies to the Earth Spirit race. We will prepare generous gifts as compensation, and then this matter can count as over. How's that?" said the owner of the tyrannical voice as he turned to the distant Ye Ling.

Clearly, this expert thought that Long Chen was allied with the Earth Spirit race. He could also sense that Long Chen was extremely difficult to talk to, so he preferred to communicate with Ye Ling.

Ye Ling was taken aback and remained at a loss for words. It was Long Chen who seized control of the situation once more. "Old fellow, you don't need to waste the effort. The only reason I didn't directly kill your son was to draw you out and tell you something."

"What do you want?" The owner of the tyrannical voice instantly went cold. Although he spoke through space, a chilling killing intent permeated the world.

Unaffected by that killing intent, Long Chen indifferently stated, "I want to tell you that in this world, there exists an individual named Boss Long San who will wipe out your nether dragon race, so prepare yourself."

"Courting death!"

A furious roar came from the other side of the hole, shaking all the lifeforms here. They became dizzy, and some of the weaker experts directly fainted.

"Say whatever you want. Consider your son, Netherdragon Tianye, my declaration of war against your nether dragon race."

The white flames on Long Chen's hand suddenly soared, and Netherdragon Tianye let out a chilling scream.

"STOP!"

A giant claw stretched out of the hole, but at that moment, the hole collapsed, preventing the claw from attacking.

What collapsed along with it was Netherdragon Tianye's head. The heavenly genius of the nether dragon race, someone close to becoming a Heavenly Doyen, died just like that.

Following that, the world gradually returned to tranquility. The terrifying pressure of a Saint vanished, and the world resumed its usual state.

Immediately, the experts that had been attacking the Earth Spirit race scattered, fleeing for their lives as they worried about Long Chen turning his attention to them. Even Eternal experts were afraid of him.

Some of the Earth Spirit race's experts want to pursue them as vengeance for their fallen comrades, but Ye Ling commanded them to stop.

This was truly a case of not chasing cornered enemies. The Earth Spirit race was already exhausted and on the brink of collapse after fighting for so long.

If they were to pursue these experts now, once they were split up, it would be easy for their enemies to ambush them with a counterattack. It wasn't worth the risk.

"Great hero of the human race, you have offended a very frightening existence for us. My Earth Spirit race will definitely stand with you until the end." Ye Ling came to Long Chen's side, twisting her left hand in front of her chest in an ancient form of etiquette.

Long Chen returned her etiquette and smiled. "Senior is too courteous. I possess the dragon race's inheritance, so I naturally have the responsibility of cleaning up the dragon race's trash. The nether dragon race is fated to be my enemy, and this has nothing to do with the Earth Spirit race- Senior!"

Long Chen suddenly let out a startled cry. Before him, Ye Ling swayed and collapsed. Long Chen hastily caught her. Following that, the other experts of the Earth Spirit race rushed over.

"Not good! The Saint has used up too much of the life divine stone's energy, and due to her realm being suppressed, she cannot recover her energy. If this continues...!" cried an elder.

"What will happen?" asked Long Chen quickly.

"Her realm might forever fall," stated the Eternal expert in a panic.

Long Chen was startled. If that happened, didn't that mean that even if she returned to the Esoteric Spirit World, she would no longer be a Saint? If she wanted to become one again, she would have to recultivate this realm.

"What do we do?!" Everyone was panicking like ants on a hot pot.

"What if we bring her back to the Esoteric Spirit World?" asked Long Chen.

"We would be sending ourselves to our deaths, but the issue is that there isn't enough time. It will only take a few hours for the life divine stone to regress. Ahh, it's our fault for being useless..." These experts were fraught with anxiety and couldn't think of anything.

"Don't panic. I can save this big sister."

At some unknown point, Little Crane had woken up. She came over, and Long Chen was startled and delighted to see her.

Chapter 4413: The Nether Dragon Race's Fury

“Courting death!”

A thunderous roar echoed, causing a world somewhere to tremble in response. An entire palace directly disintegrated into nothingness.

An elder had been sitting inside this palace. Beyond its walls stretched an infinite mountain range saturated with black qi. At this moment, in countless gorges and ravines, pairs of colossal eyes snapped open.

They were all giant dragons concealed in the darkness, originally cultivating but were roused by this resounding roar.

One giant dragon after another flew toward the elder from every direction. They completely blocked the sun, giving off an enormous and heavy feeling.

“Race leader, what happened?”

The giant dragons were all Eternal experts. Most importantly, their auras were dozens of times stronger than those of ordinary Eternal experts.

“Damn bastard! A human brat killed my son, Tianye!” roared that elder.

“What?!” The giant dragons were shocked and enraged.

“How could this be? Young master Tianye bears your personal spiritual seal. When he is on the brink of death, it should activate automatically. The power of that seal is definitely on par with half of your full-power attack! Not to mention a little human brat, even a Saint of the human race might not be able to block it!”

“That human race brat possesses the true dragon race’s divine abilities and has a certain level of understanding over our nether dragon race. He actually managed to rip off Tianye’s reverse scale without triggering its senses, making it impossible for me to unleash an attack! Absolutely hateful! The human race must pay the price for their foolishness! Gather everyone. We will completely trample his sect and everyone in his family!” roared the race leader.

“Race leader, please calm yourself for now. We naturally must get revenge for young master Tianye. However, we have to learn the background of his killer first,” said one of the Eternal experts.

“Fuck, why would I care about that?! I want to destroy his sect, his entire race! They will all accompany my son in death!”

“Race leader, please don’t misunderstand. When has our nether dragon race ever been afraid of anyone? If they dared to kill young master, we must make them pay the blood debt. I’m simply saying that we have to investigate first to make sure that we include all sects related to him, including his friends and family. We must kill them all. Before moving, we must learn all their positions and come up with a battle plan first. If we were to just wipe out his sect, some people would be able to escape. If that were to happen, hunting them down would be like searching for needles in a haystack,” explained that Eternal expert.

Finally, the race leader’s furious expression softened slightly. He nodded. “You really are the calmest one among us. You are right. We can’t let any of them escape. Doesn’t the human race have something

called 'nine familial exterminations?' Hmph, I'll kill everyone even remotely connected to him. Inferior humans dare to kill a genius of my esteemed nether dragon race? I'll make them understand the meaning of fear!"

"Greetings, respected race leader."

In a short moment, two human elders in black robes with a dragon head emblem on their chests walked in and bowed deeply to the race leader.

They were guests of the nether dragon race, or more bluntly put, dogs in charge of managing things in the Darklight Heaven for them.

Given that the nether dragon race's Saint wouldn't risk departing this world lightly, they relied on humans to gather information and handle matters outside their world. Because of this, countless humans had knelt before them, pleading for the opportunity to be their liaison.

As for these two elders, their cultivation bases had reached the Eternal realm, and they were truly skilled at adapting to circumstances and fawning. Hence, they managed to obtain the dragon race's favor, which allowed them to become dogs clad in dragonhide.

"Tell me, who is this brat called Boss Long San?" demanded the race leader.

"Boss Long San? This little one has never heard of such a person," responded one of the elders in confusion.

"You don't even know him!? Then what use do I have for you?!" roared the race leader. He then sent a single claw cutting through space.

That elder didn't even have a chance to resist before exploding. His blood soaked the other elder beside him.

Trembling with terror, the surviving elder realized the ruthlessness of the nether dragon race. They were too brutal, killing people at the drop of a needle. Despite their complete loyalty to the nether dragon race, death could arrive for them at any moment.

"Tell me, do you know some youngster in the human race called Boss Long San? Don't tell me you don't know either!" The race leader glared at the surviving elder with a grim expression.

That elder's soul almost fled in fright. He knew that if he couldn't answer, he would be accompanying his comrade in hell.

"Boss Long San, Boss Long San... A youngster..." the elder murmured.

The race leader grew impatient and suddenly waved his hand. Seeing this, the elder jumped in fright and cried out, "I know, I know who he is!"

"Speak! Who is it?!"

"He... he is... a very outstanding youngster..." In truth, this elder had not thought of who Boss Long San was and was simply stalling for his life.

“You dare to lie to this Saint?! You must want to die!” The race leader’s hand reached for the elder’s neck.

“I know! He’s Long Chen!” shouted that elder in terror.

Just then, the race leader’s claw stopped, just a bit away from crushing the elder into a patty.

“Bastard, he called himself Boss Long San! You dare to lie to me?”

“No, no!” The elder waved his hand, but he kept stumbling over his words in panic. “Boss Long San is his nickname! His real name is Long Chen! I guarantee it! I swear on my head!”

He was already covered in sweat. In truth, he didn’t even know Long Chen. When Long Chen grew famous in the Darklight Heaven, this elder was still sealed away.

Fortunately, after he joined the nether dragon race, in order to be a better dog, he started to gather information on the Darklight Heaven in recent years. Perhaps this was another case of knowledge being able to change one’s fate.

“What family does he hail from? What sect?” asked the race leader.

“He’s an ascender from the lower world. He has no family. However, he does belong to a sect!” answered the elder hastily.

“What sect?”

“The High Firmament Academy!”

Upon hearing this response, these experts of the nether dragon race instantly fell silent.

Chapter 4414: Netherdragon Tianzhao

When this elder mentioned the High Firmament Academy, the atmosphere instantly tensed. For a while, no one dared to speak, so it was deathly silent.

“What absolute nonsense! Didn’t you already investigate the High Firmament Academy!? Amongst all their heavenly geniuses, there is no one known as Long Chen!” shouted one of the nether dragon race’s Eternal experts.

That elder cried out in terror, “Our informants only covered the current experts of the High Firmament Academy! Long Chen left the High Firmament Academy years ago, and no one knows when he came back. Even our eyes were unable to transmit any news about this.”

“Then just who is this Long Chen?” demanded the race leader.

“He is the greatest heavenly genius the High Firmament Academy has seen in recent years. He soared like a shooting star the very moment he joined the academy. At such a young age, he ascended to the position of dean of a branch academy, becoming the youngest dean in the history of High Firmament Academy. Based on our information, he wields the power of dragon blood and exhibits remarkable combat prowess. Moreover, he is exceptionally gifted, having successfully fused the Starry River of the

Sky Art and the Seven Supreme Yang Technique through sheer force. He has forged his own unique cultivation path...”

The elder hastily informed them about all the things Long Chen had done in the Darklight Heaven. This fellow’s memory wasn’t bad. After just glancing through the information, he could already memorize it.

“This brat didn’t do anything particularly extraordinary back then, so how could he defeat young master Tianye?” asked one of the nether dragon race’s experts.

“I agree. Perhaps someone else killed young master Tianye, or Long Chen has some terrifying weapon on him. Otherwise, just based on power, I refuse to believe that a human could defeat young master Tianye,” said another Eternal expert.

They all knew of Netherdragon Tianye’s power, so they refused to believe a youngster from the human race could defeat him—someone aiming to become a Heavenly Doyen.

After all, according to that elder’s information, Long Chen wasn’t even a Supreme back then. They refused to believe a dragon blood inheritance and a new cultivation technique made from merging two incomplete techniques could allow him to defeat Netherdragon Tianye.

“Who cares? Gather all the elites of our race! We’ll raze the High Firmament Academy to the ground!” said another Eternal expert who had just arrived.

This newcomer was a youthful Eternal expert who was unaware of the current state of affairs in the outside world. Moreover, he didn’t see the stunned expressions of his seniors upon hearing the name of the High Firmament Academy.

“What do you know? Shut your mouth!” shouted an elderly Eternal expert.

Hearing this reprimand, the new Eternal expert was startled, not realizing his mistake.

“Race leader, we cannot be rash when it comes to this matter. The High Firmament Academy is viewed as the primary target of the various worlds, yet none have initiated an attack against them. It’s evident that the High Firmament Academy has extensive influence. If we declare war against them without adequate preparation, we would probably become other people’s probing blow,” cautioned that elderly Eternal expert.

The race leader was silent, his face gloomy. Indeed, the High Firmament Academy was a mysterious and frightening existence.

Its existence alone was enough to shake them. Although everyone said that the High Firmament Academy had declined, true powerhouse factions didn’t dare to believe such a claim.

When their realms were sealed off from the nine heavens, the High Firmament Academy remained the mightiest academy in the nine heavens and ten lands. No one dared to challenge its supremacy. Hence, even with the re-opening of their realms, in the face of the seemingly weakened High Firmament Academy, they were only willing to make a few probing blows. No one dared to declare a direct war.

No matter how old a tiger was, it wasn’t something a bunny could challenge. Unless that tiger had reached the point of no longer being able to move, a single breath of it could still crush the bunnies.

The race leader was incensed after hearing this information. He had not expected that the one to kill his son would be from the High Firmament Academy. Now, all the vicious words he had said in the end about wiping out Long Chen's sect had turned into a joke.

"Race leader, why don't we send a few half-step Saints after Long Chen to take his head?" proposed one elder.

The race leader was silent for a long time before gloomily shaking his head. "Just killing him alone is not enough to show off the nether dragon race's might. We'll be laughed at if that's all we can do."

The other experts of the nether dragon race fell silent. Just killing Long Chen wouldn't suffice to regain the face they had lost, nor would it be adequate to quench their burning rage.

However, what else could they do? They were in a tough position. They wanted to crush the High Firmament Academy, but they didn't dare to.

Even if one day the laws of the multiple worlds merged and Saints could venture beyond their worlds, the nether dragon race wouldn't necessarily dare to challenge the High Firmament Academy alone.

If the High Firmament Academy really had fully declined, why did no one from any of the other worlds dare to touch them?

"How much longer until Tianzhao emerges from seclusion?" asked the race leader suddenly.

"He should be able to come out in around a month. Young master Tianzhao is expected to be a true Heavenly Doyen upon his return. He'll likely be able to sweep through all the heavenly geniuses of the world," responded one elder with enthusiasm.

"It's too bad our dragon pool can only accept a single person to undergo the Heavenly Doyen baptism, or young master Tianye..." Another Eternal expert let out a regretful sigh.

The nether dragon race had originally had two heavenly geniuses aiming to become Doyens. When the world gates opened, the nether dragon race activated their dragon pool to let one of them become a true Doyen.

The leader of the nether dragon race had two outstanding sons: Netherdragon Tianye, and his elder brother, Netherdragon Tianzhao. However, the latter's talent and strength far surpassed the former.

After spending two months in the dragon pool, Netherdragon Tianzhao was set to complete his period of seclusion within another month.

Originally, Netherdragon Tianye was supposed to undergo his own baptism in the divine altar once Netherdragon Tianzhao concluded his. During this interim period, Netherdragon Tianye was supposed to wait patiently. However, as an extremely arrogant prick, he was displeased to have the best resources given to his big brother, while he had to accept the scraps later on.

As a result, he ran amok and beat quite a few of his race's geniuses and even his elders. Seeing his idiot son displeased and knowing that he could do nothing about it, the race leader let him go out on his own. He could go kill some people to vent his anger, and then come back when the time came for his baptism.

Unexpectedly, Netherdragon Tianye received word about Ye Ling and directly went after her, wanting to claim the achievement of slaying a Saint to prove that he was stronger than his big brother. However, he lost his life in the process.

“Then we’ll let that brat live for another month. Tianzhao will be the one to take his life! Let Tianzhao confront the junior generation of the High Firmament Academy later! I want to see if the High Firmament Academy has really declined or not!”

A sinister light appeared in the race leader’s eyes, akin to the predatory gaze of a man-eating wild beast.

Chapter 4415: What Course to Follow

Everyone watched as Little Crane transformed into her rainbow crane form and flew around Ye Ling. A cascade of rainbow light emanated from her, enveloping Ye Ling.

As Little Crane danced in the air, holy light fell from her. Despite the recent bloodshed, her dance purified the atmosphere, transforming the battleground into a peaceful holy land.

This marked the third time Long Chen witnessed Little Crane's captivating dance. Each time, he found himself drawn to the beauty and grace of her natural movements, which made him forget all his vexations.

The members of the Earth Spirit race were entranced, seemingly forgetting the purpose of the dance—to save their Saint.

As she danced, auspicious qi gathered, and the gemstone on Ye Ling’s forehead slowly lit up.

After a while, Ye Ling’s pale face gradually recovered some color, and her aura grew more active.

The Earth Spirit race’s experts were overjoyed to see that their Saint could be saved. If it wasn’t because they were worried about disturbing Little Crane, they would have started cheering.

As more auspicious energy gathered, Ye Ling's eyelids fluttered, and she gradually opened her eyes.

Long Chen then felt a vast power flow into her, realizing that Little Crane was not only preventing Ye Ling’s realm from dropping but also fully healing her wounds.

When Little Crane was done, she stopped dancing and transformed into the form of a little girl. Her forehead was now covered in sweat.

Seeing this scene, Long Chen felt a wave of heartache and hastily took out a handkerchief to gently wipe her sweat away. Following that, Ye Ling immediately rose from her position and bowed to Little Crane, expressing her gratitude according to their ancient etiquette.

“Thank you, great rainbow crane. The Earth Spirit race will never forget your favor.”

“Big sister, you don’t need to thank me. I still haven’t grown up and am too weak; otherwise, I would be able to resolve the bindings of the Heavenly Daos on you. I’m sorry,” said Little Crane apologetically.

Hearing that, Long Chen and Ye Ling were shocked. Resolve the bindings of the Heavenly Daos? Wasn’t that a heaven-defying power?

If the bindings of the Heavenly Daos were undone, wouldn't Ye Ling be able to use the power of a Saint in this world?

Even though Long Chen had been with Little Crane all this time, he still didn't know much about the rainbow crane race's power. Hearing that she had such an ability, Long Chen was stunned.

A sudden thought then popped into his mind.

No wonder the High Firmament Academy has so many experts. Is it related to the existence of the rainbow crane race there?

"Don't be sorry. You healed me and even recovered my energy. I am already endlessly grateful," stated Ye Ling hastily.

Long Chen wiped away Little Crane's sweat and found that her eyes were still bright. As she showed no sign of falling into a slumber again, Long Chen was at ease.

This meant that healing Ye Ling's wounds didn't put too much of a burden on Little Crane, so she didn't need to rest.

Following that, Long Chen had Bally accompany Little Crane to play, and a group of the Earth Spirit race's experts immediately came forward to accompany them. Little Crane had never encountered these lifeforms before, so she played happily with them.

Seeing her happy, Long Chen smiled. It felt like as long as Little Crane was happy, nothing in this world could vex him.

The auspicious qi Little Crane had gathered had yet to scatter even though she was no longer dancing. Seizing the opportunity, Long Chen directed the injured Earth Spirit race experts to absorb it for their recovery. To further aid their healing, Long Chen distributed medicinal pills for the ones with serious wounds. These were all top-grade pills with immense medicinal effect.

Moreover, having never consumed medicinal pills before, they didn't have the slightest resistance to medicinal energy. As a result, the pills were much more effective on them, healing their heavy wounds in just a few breaths.

"Words cannot express my gratitude anymore. However, I will still thank you, hero of the human race." Seeing that Long Chen's medicinal pills were helping all of her people recover, Ye Ling solemnly thanked Long Chen.

"I am Long Chen. You can just call me by name, and I'll call you race leader Ye Ling. Please don't be too courteous. If you keep bowing, then I have to return the bow. In the end, who knows how long it will take for us to say anything? My waist can't handle it," laughed Long Chen.

The Spirit race was a race that respected ancient etiquettes, and the Earth Spirit race was the same. Long Chen wouldn't reject such customs, but there was no need for such a thing when they were already so familiar with each other.

Seeing Ye Ling smile and nod, Long Chen asked, "Race leader Ye Ling, what do you plan to do now?"

In an instant, Ye Ling's expression grew heavier. She looked at her people. Realizing that she had something important to discuss, they then distanced themselves.

"To tell the truth, I'm not sure what to do either." Ye Ling let out a deep sigh. "I found that I'm a very disappointing race leader. I was unable to protect them and have fallen short of fulfilling the trust bestowed upon me by the previous generation. The Earth Spirit race has constantly declined under my leadership, and I could only watch as my people fell to the blades of our enemies..."

Ye Ling couldn't stop a few tears from leaking out. Long Chen then flicked his finger, and violet qi condensed into a barrier around them. He didn't want the rest of the Earth Spirit race to see her like this.

As the creator of the Dragonblood Legion, Long Chen understood this feeling of helplessness very well. Ye Ling wanted to protect her entire race, yet she was powerless to do so. Such a feeling was more agonizing than death itself.

"Thank you."

Ye Ling hastily wiped away her tears, doing her best to remain calm. As the race leader, she had to retain her composure.

However, after being pursued to the brink of death, she had watched many of her people die. As a result, her mental state was starting to waver.

"Are you truly determined not to seek assistance from the Spirit race? If they were to learn of the situation, they would definitely come to help you," suggested Long Chen.

Feeling down, she immediately said, "We cannot. No matter what, we cannot. We have the fiend curse on us. If we come into contact with the Spirit race, our curse will infect their pure souls."

As expected, it was as Bally said. The Earth Spirit race would rather die than implicate the Spirit race.

"Race leader Ye Ling, I want to know what this fiend curse is," said Long Chen.

"It's a long story. If we start from the beginning, I suppose it originated with someone from your human race," said Ye Ling.

"Who?"

"Lord Brahma."

Chapter 4416: Lord Brahma's Soul Remnant

"Lord Brahma? That's impossible!"

Now, it was Long Chen's turn to be shocked. He had never expected Ye Ling to mention this name.

Their Esoteric Spirit World had been sealed away for countless years, and the curse on them was placed before they were sealed away. In that case, from which era was Lord Brahma actually?!

“I’m not sure about the details, but the history of the Earth Spirit race is passed down from each race leader to the next, so there’s no mistake. Our curse was caused by Lord Brahma,” explained Ye Ling. “Countless years ago, the Spirit race was in danger, and our Earth Spirit race immediately rushed to aid them. Lord Brahma brought our seniors through the fiend sea. Without being aware of it, our seniors were infected by the devil qi of the fiend sea, and they only sensed something off after they had passed through and reached the battlefield. When our seniors killed their enemies, a strange flame would burn on their bodies. That was when they realized there was a problem with passing through that region of the sea. We eventually realized that Lord Brahma had betrayed us.”

“Hold on a moment. Lord Brahma was allied with your Earth Spirit race?” asked Long Chen curiously. If they weren’t allies, how could they be betrayed?

Hearing this question, Ye Ling sighed and told him a *long* story. “At that time, the human race was allied with the Spirit race. We were close allies, standing on the same side of the battlefield against our common enemies. The human race had an unrivaled commander to lead the experts of many races against the fiends from beyond the heavens. Ah yes, the human race of that era had another supreme expert, someone with unparalleled alchemy skills. She was known as the Pill Sovereign, and she possessed the greatest prestige among the human race. Lord Brahma was her disciple. As we had utmost respect and gratitude toward the Pill Sovereign, we naturally trusted her disciple. Unexpectedly, he sold us out.

“At the time, we had such trust in him that we didn’t immediately realize he had betrayed us. We thought that he didn’t know about the problem with crossing the fiend sea. So, we had two options back then. The first was to promptly withdraw from the battlefield, cease the bloodshed, and seek a tranquil location where we could dispel the curse of the fiend sea. Without death qi and resentment to feed the curse, my ancestors could slowly eradicate it. However, opting for this path meant leaving the Spirit race vulnerable to the lifeforms besieging them, which would result in their demise. Ultimately, we chose the second option—to allow the curse to embed itself in us—sacrificing ourselves to safeguard the Spirit race. As a consequence, we emerged victorious, but the victory came at a great cost. While we triumphed in the battle, our Earth Spirit race, alongside dozens of other races, fell under the shadow of the curse. In the end, we left the battlefield, no longer staying in contact with the Spirit race to prevent the curse from spreading.

“At first, we thought that being cursed wouldn’t be a problem. After all, our Earth Spirit race’s innate kindness wouldn’t change. We thought that after a few generations, the curse would weaken and ultimately vanish. However, we were too naive. While it wasn’t able to change our kind cores, it made our characters more explosive and easier to anger. We lost the tranquility we once possessed. If we are bullied or taken advantage of, the curse will affect our minds and trigger an intense killing intent. If we kill someone in that state, the resentment of the dead will trigger the curse. It’s impossible for us to escape it. Only then did we learn just how terrifying the curse was. When we discovered that Lord Brahma had betrayed the Pill Sovereign, it dawned on us that this was a malicious plot aimed at poisoning the entire Spirit race with the curse. If the Spirit race’s sacred hearts are infected, while they won’t perish, they will cease to be the Spirit race as we know it.”

Long Chen understood what she meant. If the Spirit race was no longer kind, they would no longer be the Spirit race.

After all, the Spirit race was synonymous with kindness and light. Long Chen had interacted with them before, and he was fond of their hearts. He was even willing to risk his life to protect them.

While the Earth Spirit race wasn't part of the Spirit race anymore, their inner hearts were still kind. However, this kindness was no longer untainted and pure.

Contaminated by the fiend curse, their characters started to warp from time to time. This curse was truly malicious.

"Then what cultivation base did Lord Brahma reach back then?" asked Long Chen.

Ye Ling shook her head. "No one knew because no one ever saw him fight. When the world gates opened this time, we killed a few human experts, and from their souls, we learned about Lord Brahma. Nowadays, people refer to him as Divine Venerate Brahma. I know that your human race also has a Divine Venerate realm, so many assume that he is only a Divine Venerate. However, that can't be further from the truth. A Venerate is a Venerate. His title—*Divine Venerate*—is a distinction as a 'Venerate amongst gods.' Even in that era, an expert capable of being classified as a *Divine Venerate* was exceedingly rare. Otherwise, he wouldn't be the Pill Sovereign's most outstanding disciple."

"But some people have come into contact with Lord Brahma in this world, and he doesn't seem as amazing as that," remarked Long Chen.

"They must not have seen Lord Brahma's true body. After all, it was destroyed by the Pill Sovereign. Due to his betrayal, she exterminated him in mind, body, and soul. However, the Pill Sovereign was severely wounded back then and didn't have the ability to fully eliminate him. As a result, a remnant of his soul managed to survive. This led to Lord Brahma gathering disciples and accumulating faith energy. Once the faith energy reached a certain level, it became possible for him to condense a clone, and this clone had to ascend to the Heaven Venerate realm to absorb the remnant of his soul. The more formidable the clone, the more advantageous it is for his disembodied soul," explained Ye Ling.

Long Chen's heart pounded wildly. Today, he finally knew Lord Brahma's true face. So, the Lord Brahma that others, including the likes of Ye Wusheng and Feng Xinyue, had seen was not the true Lord Brahma.

"After so many years, has Lord Brahma's discarnate soul recovered?" asked Long Chen.

Ye Ling shook her head. "No one knows. When our world was sealed, it was related to him, and now that all the worlds have opened once more, that must also be his scheme. Perhaps it is related to his recovery. If that's the case, then he shouldn't be fully recovered yet. After all, the Pill Sovereign was a supreme Sovereign. Her attack isn't something ants like us can fathom."

Even a Saint called herself an ant at the mention of Pill Sovereign, her eyes brimming with reverence. It was evident how unrivaled the Pill Sovereign was in her heart.

However, what she didn't know was that the person standing right in front of her was the heir to this supreme existence.

Long Chen hadn't expected his Pill Sovereign memories to have such a terrifying background. In a world filled with countless people, why had the Pill Sovereign memories awakened within him? Was it really just a coincidence?

“Race leader Ye Ling, I have a proposal. Why don’t you come back to the High Firmament Academy with me?”

Chapter 4417: Ye Xue

“That is... we don’t dare to ask for such a thing. Our enemies will not let things rest as they are. Besides, the High Firmament Academy is the main target of the various worlds. If we go there, it will give them the perfect excuse to launch an attack on the High Firmament Academy,” said Ye Ling.

The High Firmament Academy stood at the peak of the world before the Esoteric Spirit World was sealed. Obtaining their protection was something she could only dream of.

However, the High Firmament Academy had fallen from its glory; it was no longer the venerable institution of the past. The once shining beacon of the human race had lost its brilliance.

As a result, experts of various worlds harbored intentions of destroying the academy, an act equivalent to shattering the human race’s final hope. It would deal the most devastating blow imaginable to the human race.

Currently, they were still unable to figure out the truth about the High Firmament Academy, so they didn’t dare to make any rash moves.

However, if the Earth Spirit race were to seek asylum in the High Firmament Academy, the other two major powers of the Esoteric Spirit World would use this excuse to launch an attack and test the current state of the High Firmament Academy.

All the major factions were still eyeing the High Firmament Academy, eager to discern what was genuine and what was not. They were like hyenas surrounding their prey.

Due to this reason, even though the Earth Spirit race faced the imminent threat of destruction, Ye Ling was unwilling to bring a calamity to the High Firmament Academy. The Earth Spirit race held onto its integrity and would prefer extinction over endangering others in such a manner.

Hearing this, Long Chen simply smiled. “We really hope that they’ll use this excuse to attack.”

This smile caught Ye Ling off-guard, so she stared at Long Chen in confusion.

Long Chen continued, “Race leader Ye Ling, since I dare to offer such an invitation to you, I am confident we can handle them all. Please don’t worry about it.”

Ye Ling was moved. “But you’re just a disciple of the academy. This matter should be discussed with your higher-ups. Otherwise, something awkward might occur.”

Seeing Long Chen’s young age, Ye Ling naturally thought that Long Chen was just a disciple of the academy. Even if he were the academy’s most outstanding disciple, he wouldn’t have the authority to make such decisions.

What if she led her people to the academy only to be halted at the entrance? Perhaps the Earth Spirit race had indeed declined, but they had their own pride. They wouldn’t stoop to begging outside for favors.

That was one concern, but her biggest worry was that if Long Chen's higher-ups didn't give him face, Long Chen might do something unthinkable in his fury. In such a scenario, she wouldn't know what to do.

Although she had just met Long Chen, she could see that he was someone who kept his word. If he was forced to take back a promise, he might resort to extreme measures.

Little Crane came running over, seemingly tired of running around and playing. Catching the tail end of their conversation, she promptly interjected, "Big sister, my big brother isn't a disciple. He is the youngest branch dean in the history of the High Firmament Academy."

Little Crane's face was still rosy from running around. However, she was extremely happy after playing so much. When she told Ye Ling about Long Chen's status, her face flushed with pride.

"You... you are a dean of the High Firmament Academy?" Ye Ling was stunned.

"I'm ashamed to fill this spot with my meager abilities. It's only temporary," said Long Chen with a smile.

"Please be at ease. I wouldn't invite the Earth Spirit race to come if I didn't have the authority. Although I am young, I suppose I could also count as meticulous. I'm sure I've taken everything you are worried about into consideration. So please, race leader Ye Ling, you don't need to have any misgivings over this."

Hearing this, Ye Ling was filled with gratitude. This was what it meant to send charcoal in snowy weather. At their critical moment, Long Chen's helping hand was far too important for the Earth Spirit race.

Ye Ling was about to thank him again, but she suddenly thought that she had said her thanks so many times today that it was getting tedious. Let alone someone like Long Chen who didn't like formalities, even she was getting tired of it.

She immediately agreed to go to the High Firmament Academy. She then gathered all the experts of the Earth Spirit race and told them her decision.

When they heard that Long Chen was a dean of the High Firmament Academy, they were startled and delighted. The High Firmament Academy was lending them a helping hand? Finally, they could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Little Crane was particularly delighted that everyone would go to the High Firmament Academy with them. That meant that she would have more playmates.

However, before going to the High Firmament Academy, they had to gather all the Earth Spirit race's members that had been scattered around the place when they fled.

Back then, they couldn't do anything but scatter in every direction, which resulted in them being easily picked off one by one. Now that the danger had passed, they had to quickly gather once more.

Fortunately, as the race leader, Ye Ling had a special ability to call her people. Many experts of the Earth Spirit race quickly gathered here. The Earth Spirit race constituted a vast community, and their joint characteristic was that they were all born from the earth.

Ye Ling was originally a Nine Leaf Immortal Grass. As for Bally's Earth Mound race, to put it in human terms, they were essentially... potatoes.

The origins of the Spirit race remained shrouded in mystery. According to legends, during the primal chaos era, the Heavenly Daos gathered all the kindness of the world's spirits into one, sowing the seed of kindness.

Just like that, primitive lifeforms with pure kindness in their hearts all grew sentient, liberating themselves from the constraints of their mortal forms. They then condensed their spirituality, becoming the embodiments of goodness. Taking on human form, they cultivated the Heavenly Daos, comprehended the myriad laws, traversed the sea of bitterness, and existed above the other lifeforms in the world.

Therefore, the Spirit race was an extremely special existence. They existed throughout all of the nine heavens and ten lands. However, the most prevalent form among them was the spirit plant Spirit race.

Spiritual plant lifeforms were part of the Spirit race if they were kind. Conversely, they were considered demons if their nature leaned toward malevolent, as seen in demonic trees and flowers, some proving even more ruthless than devil and demonic beasts.

To sum it up, the defining criterion for identifying the Spirit race was their kindness, not their breed or bloodline.

Hence, seeing all the Earth Spirit race's experts, Long Chen's eyes were opened to the world. He saw many lifeforms with strange forms, making Bally's appearance seem comparatively ordinary. Among these lifeforms, several were notably feeble despite possessing relatively high cultivation bases; their actual combat prowess was severely lacking.

For example, someone like Bally had the cultivation base of a Heaven Venerate, but it didn't have any powerful attacks. All of its power lay in fleeing.

With the increasing presence of experts from the Earth Spirit race, a growing number of women emerged among them. These flower-type lifeforms, while lacking combat power, possessed exceptional healing abilities. They immediately started helping their people recover.

After seven days, millions of their people had gathered. However, Ye Ling's expression grew increasingly solemn instead.

"Race leader Ye Ling, what troubles you?" asked Long Chen finally.

"My only disciple. I haven't received word from her this entire time, so I'm worried about her," said Ye Ling nervously. "I thought that I would be doomed, so I told her to leave me. That would leave behind a seed for the Earth Spirit race. But now..."

Long Chen was instantly speechless. Why hadn't Ye Ling mentioned this earlier? According to her, her disciple was extremely powerful. Theoretically, she should have been the first to respond to her call.

It had been seven days, so who knew what could have happened to her? However, complaining was useless, so Long Chen quickly thought about the possibilities.

"Do you have a secret art to determine her general location?"

“Yes, but I would need to be within a certain range from her,” replied Ye Ling.

“It's concerning that she hasn't appeared after all this time. Something must have happened, and we must save her as soon as possible. Race leader Ye Ling, come with me.”

The next moment, Long Chen summoned a flame girl and a lightning girl—Huo Linger and Lei Linger.

“Can both of you protect everyone for me? If anyone dares to get close to the Earth Spirit race, kill them,” instructed Long Chen.

“Big Brother Long Chen, don't worry. Leave this place to us!” promised Huo Linger.

Long Chen nodded and told Little Crane to patiently wait here. Long Chen then summoned his Kunpeng wings and flew off with Ye Ling.

Arriving at an ancient city, Long Chen directly kicked away the lifeform guarding the transportation formation and activated it.

After seven transportations, Ye Ling suddenly cried out, “I can sense Ye Xue's position!”

When Ye Ling pointed in a certain direction, Long Chen directly flew off. However, as he saw a sprawl of extravagant new buildings, he was startled. He was actually very familiar with this place.

BOOM!

Long Chen shattered the gate with a kick, and the experts guarding it were sent tumbling away, not knowing what was going on.

“Idiots of the Long clan, hand over Ye Xue! Otherwise, I will slaughter you all to the last!”

Long Chen's shout resounded throughout every corner of the Long clan.

Chapter 4418: Long Clan Submits

Long Chen's shout reverberated like rolling thunder, echoing throughout heaven and earth. Countless newly constructed buildings crumbled directly under the pressure of this sound wave.

Long Chen hadn't expected Ye Xue to be trapped in the territory of the Heavenly Divinity race, the Eternal Long clan. Thoughts of the Long clan stirred memories of the trials his father had faced, and Long Chen's fury erupted instantly.

The Long clan had just completed the repair of buildings that had been destroyed last time, so everything was brand new.

Whether it was due to their recent construction or a lack of time to set up formations, Long Chen's kick toward the gate didn't activate the grand formation, and his roar directly crushed countless buildings.

Long Chen's fury intensified. If his father hadn't intervened last time, he would have destroyed the Long clan.

“Courting death!”

Countless powerful auras erupted. Astonishingly, hundreds of Eternal experts suddenly emerged from beneath the ground, their killing intent erupting.

Witnessing their sudden appearance, Long Chen jumped in fright. At the same time, Ye Ling sensed an unusual power beneath the surface of the earth, and it sent shivers down her spine.

“Long Chen, I can no longer sense Ye Xue’s aura. I’m only sure that she’s within this region, but not where exactly,” Ye Ling conveyed as she saw the Long clan’s terrifying foundation.

Concerned that her perceptions might be mistaken, Ye Ling hesitated. She was aware that wrongly accusing such a powerful entity would lead to dire consequences.

“As long as she vanishes within this region, I’ll kill them if they don’t hand her over,” declared Long Chen, his teeth gnashing in determination.

Long Chen hated the Long clan to the bone. Only due to his father's intervention had he refrained from seeking revenge on them. Yet, if Ye Xue's aura vanished in this area, it had to be connected to the Long clan. Even if the Long clan didn’t personally do it, this entire prefecture was under their command, so they definitely knew who did it. Long Chen was confident that his judgment was right.

“Long Chen! You goddamn bastard, how dare you come back here?!” A furious roar resounded, and the patriarch of the Long clan appeared, his anger evident.

Right now, the patriarch was already an Eternal expert with an extremely condensed aura. It appeared that Long Chen had underestimated the foundation of the Heavenly Divinity race.

It seemed that the Heavenly Divinity race had been in a hibernating state all this time, waiting for a chance to suddenly soar. All of a sudden, hundreds of their Eternal experts appeared, showcasing their shocking power.

As these old enemies met once more, both Long Chen and the patriarch’s gazes were full of surging killing intent, looking like they wanted to tear each other apart.

“Hand over the Earth Spirit race’s Ye Xue. Otherwise, the Long clan will disappear from the nine heavens and ten lands,” shouted Long Chen.

The Long clan’s experts were enraged, especially their Eternal experts. While some of them hadn’t seen Long Chen personally before, his reputation as a mortal enemy of the Long clan was well-known among them.

“There was a path to the heavens, but you dove into hell instead! Don’t even think about leaving now that you’ve come here!” declared one of the Eternal experts before launching a direct attack.

“No!”

The patriarch tried to prevent him, but it was too late.

With a single explosive sound, Long Chen unleashed a fist covered in astral light, blasting apart that Eternal expert through space. He didn’t give the other side any chance to use his Eternal energy.

Long Chen couldn't be compared to his old self. Now, his astral energy flowed naturally with a single thought. Even without the support of his manifestation, a single fist from him could instantly unleash the equivalent of seventy percent of his peak power.

This seventy percent wasn't something an ordinary Eternal expert could possibly withstand, especially for one launching a sudden attack without the opportunity to mobilize his full defensive power. Long Chen effortlessly killed him without even having to touch him.

This attack stunned the Eternal experts of the Long clan, including the patriarch. Despite knowing that Long Chen was a terrifying existence, the patriarch hadn't expected Long Chen to be so terrifying that he could kill this Eternal expert with a wave of his hand.

"I'll say it again. Hand over the Earth Spirit race's Ye Xue. Otherwise, the Long clan will disappear today!" proclaimed Long Chen.

"Bastard, our Long clan has no enmity with the Earth Spirit race! We don't know anyone called Ye Xue! You're simply slandering people, or are you trying to make an excuse to attack us?!" raged the patriarch.

"Long Chen, give me a bit of time. I'll try to sense her again..." said Ye Ling anxiously.

"I can't be bothered to waste words with you. Fine, I want to destroy the Long clan anyway. Last time, I let you off because of my father, but that doesn't mean I've forgotten our grudges. Now that you've given me a reason, I wouldn't be called Long Chen if I didn't grasp it. I'll count to three, and if you don't bring Ye Xue out, I promise that no one from the Long clan will leave here alive!"

"One!"

"You're doing this on purpose!" shouted the patriarch.

"Two!" Long Chen counted without hesitation. He couldn't care less about their excuses.

At this moment, his divine ring manifested, accompanied by his starry sea. As his seven stars pulsed, a pillar of light surged forth, making the stars in the sky tremble.

A boundless killing intent then enshrouded the Long clan, causing the soul of every individual within it to quiver. Long Chen's killing intent instantly locked onto each person in the Long clan.

They were horrified to realize that Long Chen wasn't joking; he really did want to kill every single one of them as vengeance for his father.

These Eternal experts were shocked to find that the power they had been so proud of was incredibly minuscule in front of Long Chen. If Long Chen chose to attack, not one of them would survive.

Long Chen snorted and was about to speak again when the patriarch shouted, "Fine, you win! Call over junior sister Ye Xue."

Hearing this, Ye Ling was both shocked and delighted. Unexpectedly, Ye Xue really was in the Long clan, and they had arrived in time.

On the other hand, Long Chen felt disappointed. The pain and suffering his father had gone through were etched deeply in his mind, and Long Chen wasn't such a magnanimous person to wave off grievances.

However, Long Zhantian had ordered him not to take action back then, so he could only endure it. Ever since then, Long Chen had been waiting for his chance. Now that chance had come, the other side was capitulating, leaving him unable to strike. After all, if Long Chen were to attack the Long clan without a reason, he would be disobeying his father's orders.

"If junior sister Ye Xue is missing a single strand of hair, I will kill an Eternal expert for each hair. If she is injured, I will kill all of them," declared Long Chen.

The patriarch's expression changed, and he roared, "We only coincidentally ran into her! She was already injured before we met her, and we saved her! How can you repay kindness with enmity?!"

"Shut up! I don't believe a single word you say! If she really was injured before encountering you..." Long Chen suddenly smiled, but that smile was rather frightening.

"Then what?" asked the patriarch.

"Then you can only blame yourselves for being unlucky. Even the heavens are giving me an excuse to kill you," said Long Chen with a wide smile.

"You... you're completely unreasonable!" shouted the patriarch.

"Why be reasonable with unreasonable people? I've said what I have to say. The Long clan's survival depends on your display," said Long Chen coldly.

Seeing Long Chen push the Long clan to this extent, Ye Ling was worried. She was afraid that the Long clan would go for broke and just harm Ye Xue.

However, it wasn't long before the Long clan's experts walked out with a beautiful young maiden.

"Ye Xue!" Ye Ling cried out in delight and rushed over.

Chapter 4419: Biluo

This maiden was in white robes, and her hair was also white. It wasn't the white of old age; rather, it resembled the purity of a gemstone.

Her eyes were closed as if she was in a slumber. Her breathing was disorderly, and her spiritual fluctuations were also unstable.

Ye Ling rushed over and touched this maiden's forehead. In an instant, she woke up, looking around in panic. She then brought her hands together to form hand seals.

"Ye Xue!" called out Ye Ling hastily.

This shout caused Ye Xue to blink. Her eyes gradually shifted from dim to bright.

“Master!” The maiden cried out in delight and was about to rush into Ye Ling’s embrace. However, she then grew bewildered and stopped.

“The illusion has been dispelled. It’s over,” said Long Chen.

“Ye Xue, don’t worry. Master is here.” Ye Ling walked forward and comforted the bewildered Ye Xue.

“Master, I thought I would never see you again.” Ye Xue suddenly burst into tears. “Everywhere I went, there were only bad people. They continuously hunted me.”

“It’s alright. You’re safe now.” Ye Ling hugged Ye Xue and patted her back.

Ye Xue cried like an aggrieved child, her tears constantly falling to the ground. Sobbing, she suddenly pointed at the Long clan’s people. “They’re all bad people! They attacked me and even said that master was in their hands! They even made a fake master! I was bewildered, which is how I fell for their illusion. Master, I was so afraid. In the illusion world, you were already dead...”

Ye Ling continuously comforted Ye Xue, who held on tightly and cried. When those tears fell on the earth, they actually unleashed a dense medicinal fragrance.

Seeing this scene, Long Chen suddenly came to a realization and sneered at the patriarch. “Your Long clan really knows how to scheme. You were just watching at first. You didn’t care about the Earth Spirit race, but then you saw Ye Xue and wanted to turn her into a medicinal pill. How vicious. But I have to say, that doesn’t match your Long clan’s style.

“Don’t forget that your surname is Long. You are also from the Long clan!” barked the patriarch.

As Long Chen had mentioned, Ye Xue was a precious spirit flower—an ancient great desolate species known as the Thousand Leaf Sacred Light Snow Lotus.

Possessing a powerful sacred energy, she held the inconceivable ability to concentrate the power of the Heavenly Daos. Her tears contained medicinal fragrance that affected the Heavenly Daos, and this aspect of hers gave Long Chen a familiar feeling, reminiscent of the sensation he experienced when encountering Netherdragon Tianye.

Long Chen instantly realized that Ye Xue was also qualified to become a Heavenly Doyen. Perhaps she already was one.

However, being from a non-combatant race, Ye Xue lacked formidable killing prowess. This vulnerability caught the attention of the Long clan and led to her unfortunate capture.

Ye Ling had led the Earth Spirit race out of the Esoteric Spirit World to flee from their pursuers. However, their enemies then sent out word that they would pay handsomely for the heads of the Earth Spirit race’s experts, prompting the Long clan to dispatch their people to assess the situation.

The Long clan was quite lucky. Upon arriving to assess the situation, they witnessed Ye Xue escaping from an encirclement. Seizing the opportunity, they immediately targeted her and even went to the extent of eliminating all the other pursuers to secure their prize. Their intention was to capture Ye Xue without causing her harm, as any injury might compromise the medicinal effect they sought from her. Hence, they surrounded her and persistently cornered her.

Finally, seeing how naive she seemed, they felt that the best option was to use an illusion to subdue her.

Their plan succeeded, and they jubilantly brought her back to the Long clan to consider the optimal way to refine her. However, Long Chen's sudden appearance threw their plans into disarray.

The Long clan directly found themselves in a dilemma—should they relinquish Ye Xue, whom they had captured with so much effort, or risk antagonizing Long Chen? The situation intensified when Long Chen effortlessly dispatched one of their Eternal experts with a single punch, instilling terror in the Long clan.

Still, they weren't willing to give up. Some of them proposed extracting a portion of her essence blood or cutting off one of the limbs. They could just claim that Ye Xue was already in this state when they encountered her. However, Long Chen adamantly insisted that he would kill their Eternal experts if she suffered even the slightest harm. He refused to be reasonable.

Unwilling to risk the consequences, the Long clan had no choice but to hand Ye Xue over in her complete state. Filled with resentment, they could only cast hateful glares at Long Chen.

Long Chen darkly remarked, "The moment you extracted my father's essence blood, me and my father were no longer people of the Long clan. What a shame that Ye Xue is completely fine. The heavens really are blind to let you off again."

Currently, there wasn't a single good person in the Long clan. The Long clan could consider themselves lucky this time. Otherwise, Long Chen would have slaughtered them.

"You can go. The Long clan doesn't welcome you," said the patriarch coldly.

"You're in such a rush to get rid of me. Are you afraid that I'll see through more of your secrets?" Long Chen's gaze swept across the land, suddenly fixing on a hole amidst some ruins.

Beneath the ground lay a palace, visible through the hole. Long Chen could sense a formidable concealed aura emanating from within. As he focused on that spot, the expressions of the patriarch and the other Eternal experts tightened.

Long Chen sneered, "I know that the Eternal clans have their own trump cards. You not only raise these few Eternal experts right here but also more disciples like Long Aotian. Furthermore, I know that you are unwilling to let things rest between us. You will definitely come for revenge. I am the same. This enmity will be avenged sooner or later. I'll wait for you."

After saying that, Long Chen nodded to Ye Ling, and the three of them left the Long clan.

Once they were gone, an Eternal expert cursed, "What a tyrannical brat! This Long Chen really deserves the worst death possible! We've spent so many days hunting and killing so many people just to obtain that woman!"

"He really deserves death. With that woman, plus our ancestor's Heavenly Divinity Sacred Baptism, we could have given rise to three Doyens. Now, we're back to the start. The Heavenly Divinity Sacred Baptism can only produce a single Doyen like this," said another Eternal expert, gnashing his teeth so hard that they were about to shatter.

"It's a shame about Aotian. We were too foolish back then. We should have hidden him. If Aotian could have lived to today, would Long Chen dare to be so arrogant?" sighed another elder.

“It’s fine. Even without Aotian, we still have Biluo. As long as she becomes a Heavenly Doyen, her Heavenly Divinity bloodline will be activated. We were hoping to have Aotian and Biluo marry to produce a peak genius possessing both Supreme Blood and Heavenly Divinity blood, but it was all ruined by Long Chen. However, our Heavenly Divinity bloodline is also unmatched. We’ll just patiently wait for Biluo to come out of seclusion and cut off Long Chen’s head!”

The patriarch gazed at the divine altar at the bottom of the underground palace, where a woman sat on its heart. Sacred light bathed her, but her face remained in shadow, making her appear mysterious and strange.

Chapter 4420: Becoming a Fiend Wouldn’t Be Bad

Worried about the Earth Spirit race, Long Chen and Ye Ling immediately rushed back as soon as they saved Ye Xue.

As expected, quite a few experts were unwilling to give up on killing the Earth Spirit race. After spying for a while, they then launched a sneak attack.

However, with Lei Linger and Huo Linger present, they simply killed a dozen Eternal experts and scared the rest to flee.

Lei Linger and Huo Linger were terrifyingly powerful at this time. When they joined forces, the ordinary Eternal experts couldn’t even block a single blow from them.

When Long Chen returned, the land was charred, and Eternal corpses were lying on the ground. The enemies had fled without even taking those corpses.

“Big Brother Long Chen!”

Little Crane immediately rushed over to Long Chen. Meanwhile, after accomplishing their mission, Lei Linger and Huo Linger returned to the primal chaos space. Despite having just engaged in a battle, it didn’t seem like the two of them had used much energy at all.

Now, the two of them could be considered independent experts. Huo Linger in particular had split herself into two entities. The stronger of the two focused on refining pills within the Earth Cauldron, while the weaker portion accompanied Long Chen.

Due to the endless influx of Eternal corpses, the primal chaos space pulsated with vibrant life energy. Because of this, the Fusang Trees and Moon Trees continued to thrive, their flames absorbed by Huo Linger as they incessantly grew.

Once she merged into one once more, she would be even more terrifying. Fueled by the Moon Flame and Sun Flame, Huo Linger’s growth knew no bounds.

On the other hand, Lei Linger also possessed formidable powers but didn’t have that advantage. She was only able to eat her fill when Long Chen underwent tribulation. Fortunately, during their recent endeavors, Lei Linger had absorbed so much thunderforce that she had a huge reserve to tap into. Hence, her power was also constantly growing during this period.

Long Chen tossed the giant corpses into the primal chaos space. With his advancement to the World King realm, the primal chaos space had grown once more. Now, he had no idea what to put in this giant space.

Blessed with the Moon Trees and Fusang Trees, he had an endless supply of life energy. As a result, he didn't even care about other trees anymore. He would rather have a nice wide open space to look at than clutter it with some trash.

After confirming that everyone was fine, Long Chen brought them back to the High Firmament Academy.

Several days later, when they arrived, Bai Letian personally welcomed them, making Ye Ling feel endlessly grateful.

In truth, before arriving, she had been worried. Considering the potential trouble the Earth Spirit race could cause for the High Firmament Academy, she worried about facing rejection. After all, they were known for their pride. This was what made them rather face death than seek aid from the Spirit race.

However, as their power declined and their enemies drew closer, countless bad ideas floated through Ye Ling's mind. Could she thicken her face and endure other people's mockery to find her people a safe haven to rest?

Throughout this period, countless worrisome scenarios crossed her mind. However, to her surprise, the dean personally came to welcome her people. Such a gesture brought tears to her eyes.

"Respected race leader Ye Ling, you've suffered during this time. Having sacrificed so much, all of your people are warriors worthy of admiration. I represent everyone in the High Firmament Academy to welcome you. Starting today, the High Firmament Academy is your home," said Bai Letian.

Bai Letian's demeanor exuded kindness, and his sincere tone put the Earth Spirit race's experts at ease.

Formerly nervous, they were now moved to tears, realizing they no longer had to keep running.

Long Chen smiled. He had secretly sent word over to the High Firmament Academy before this, so they naturally wouldn't reject the Earth Spirit race. Since the High Firmament Academy wanted to rise, they needed to do something to awe others.

Helping the Earth Spirit race could also be considered a declaration of war against certain factions. After all, the constant probing games started to get on their nerves. They would rather have a real fight.

Bai Letian welcomed them and left the arrangements to Long Chen. Since the Earth Spirit race liked mountains and water, Long Chen brought them to the rear mountains of the High Firmament Academy.

This place was the academy's purest land. The disciples rarely set foot here, so there was no need to worry about people disturbing them.

Most importantly, this was the place that the rainbow crane race flew over. Auspicious qi filled this place, causing the Earth Spirit race to instantly fall in love with it.

As soon as they arrived, they started to build their own homes. With their special ability to control vegetation, they let some plants grow into large constructions that wouldn't ruin the scenery of this place.

As a result, the vegetation here thrummed with vitality, and giant trees grew rapidly into the sky. During the construction process, the Earth Spirit race's experts danced and jumped throughout the forest, singing their own songs.

As they sang and danced, the earth seemed to awaken. Long Chen felt like he could hear the heartbeat of the earth, sensing their blessing.

At this moment, he understood why they were called the Earth Spirit race. The target of their faith was the earth. The earth selflessly gave them everything, so they also gave their everything to the earth, putting their full faith and worship in it.

As he saw their way of life, a smile slowly crept over his face. He couldn't help sighing inside. If war vanished from this world, living like this every day would be wonderful.

"Dean Long Chen, this time... we truly thank you." Ye Ling's voice was choked with sobs even as she smiled and thanked Long Chen.

"No need to be so courteous, race leader. I genuinely hold a fondness for the Earth Spirit race. I also didn't save you all solely because of my duty to the Spirit race," replied Long Chen.

"What?"

"You were willing to be cursed to protect the Spirit race. I am the same. To protect the people I love, I don't mind becoming a fiend. If I really became a fiend one day, it wouldn't matter. At the very least, no one would dare to harm my loved ones," stated Long Chen.

Long Chen smiled, a genuinely happy expression on his face. Watching the Earth Spirit race dance, Long Chen suddenly had a flash of comprehension.

Previously, he had expressed his fear of becoming a monster. But now, he felt like he had been overthinking it. Becoming a fiend didn't seem so bad.

Suddenly, the void twisted, unveiling the Earth Cauldron before Long Chen. When Long Chen looked at it, he couldn't help jumping in shock.