

## Primordial 321

### Chapter 321 Harvest

Lin Chen was pondering where to search for such a rare item when, to his surprise, he found it within the Wanxing Commerce Association's treasury.

At this moment, Lin Chen's heart was filled with joy, feeling as if heaven was on his side. With Cold Jade Marrow, he had a certain confidence in refining the Blue Lotus Divine Flame imprisoned within the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

However, refining the Blue Lotus Divine Flame was naturally not so simple. Just as back in Mt. Taiyin, when Ma Yuan and others wanted to subdue the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, they had gathered people from the Black Cloud Sect and used icy treasures, freezing the cave where the Divine Flame resided, which then provided the opportunity to extract it.

Now, looking back, Ma Yuan should actually be thankful to him.

How formidable the Blue Lotus Divine Flame was. If Ma Yuan had tried to refine it forcibly that day, he would have surely been backlashed by the flames of the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, and Ma Yuan's life might not have been spared.

After all, the power of the Blue Lotus Divine Flame was certainly not something that a few Black Cloud Sect disciples could weaken with some icy treasures.

But the Cold Jade Marrow at hand was different. It was an extremely rare material of extreme cold, tailor-made for refining Divine Flames.

However, at this moment, Lin Chen was not in a hurry to refine the Blue Lotus Divine Flame because having Cold Jade Marrow was not completely foolproof. Lin Chen had to prepare some additional materials as auxiliary; he had to ensure that the refining process would be foolproof.

Otherwise, a loss of control during the refining process could lead to unimaginable consequences.

Now, Lin Chen's gaze swept through the treasury of the Wanxing Commerce Association. After inspecting the entire treasury, his heart was extremely shocked and satisfied.

The treasury of the Wanxing Commerce Association was indeed too rich.

The value of these treasuries far exceeded the total value of all the treasures Lin Chen had obtained in the last two years. Now, Lin Chen finally understood why those sects would fight each other by any means possible, even exterminating other factions.

The feeling of looting someone else's treasury was too thrilling, simply the best way to sudden wealth.

Lin Chen calculated that the materials were enough for him to refine at least ten Qiankun Escape Talismans, which would be an absolute life-saving Divine Artifact before he reached the Reverting Void Realm.

From the materials he had obtained from the Descension Ruins earlier, those materials were only enough to refine three talismans, one of which he had given to Yu Weilian.

Besides, with these materials, Lin Chen could also refine some Divine Fire Troop Killing Arrays. The power of the Divine Fire Troop Killing Array was incredibly potent, albeit a one-time consumable.

Lin Chen had used it in Divine Sun City. This could be considered Lin Chen's strongest life-saving trump card besides the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron and the Dragon Fang Dagger.

Although it was already expended, with the materials in this treasury, Lin Chen could refine more with some time, and the power would be even stronger than before.

Additionally, the Stone Sculpture Puppets also needed improvement and re-refining, as for Third-Grade and Fourth-Grade Elixirs, and the Talisman Inscriptions consumed on a day-to-day basis. Considering Lin Chen's significant consumption during the recent battle, he naturally needed to refine a new batch.

No matter how one looked at it, the Wanxing Commerce Association's treasury truly satisfied Lin Chen.

Moreover, Lin Chen could now be said to be the most meritorious person in the Jade Cauldron Sect. Even Xu Ma'an would not dare to say much if Lin Chen decided to access these resources.

While Lin Chen's original body was collecting these treasures from the Wanxing Commerce Association's treasury, at this moment, in the underground treasury of the Great Flame Imperial Family, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division was leading Xu Ma'an, Li Xuanming, and others, looting place by place.

"We've struck it rich, this time it's truly a fortune."

"How did this insane Great Flame Imperial Family come by these treasures and Heavenly and Earthly Treasures? The abundance here is perhaps ten times greater than that of our Jade Cauldron Sect's Treasure Pavilion, and there are some treasures which are far superior to those within our sect. Some materials have only been seen in ancient texts and have never been seen before."

"With these treasures, our Jade Cauldron Sect will surely rise quickly and become the most powerful sect within the Great Flame Dynasty."

Xu Ma'an, following behind Lin Chen, was incredibly excited, his eyes gleaming as he couldn't stop admiring those treasures around him.

The treasury of the Great Flame Imperial Family was extremely secretive and concealed under highly obscure formations. Even Li Xuanming, an expert in formations from the Reverting Void Realm, could not locate it.

Fortunately, Lin Chen had a heaven-reaching ability and was able to find the three treasuries directly.

The materials and Heavenly and Earthly Treasures in these three treasuries, when combined, far exceeded the Wanxing Commerce Association's treasury.

Unlike the Wanxing Commerce Association, the Great Flame Imperial Family's treasury housed a massive amount of Heavenly and Earthly Treasures and materials, as well as countless finished elixirs and magic artifacts.

Once the Jade Cauldron Sect gathered enough personnel, they could use these resources to directly cultivate talents.

Xu Ma'an and others could imagine that in no time, the Jade Cauldron Sect would grow to become the top power within the Great Flame Dynasty.

After finding the three treasures, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division allowed Xu Ma'an to distribute those treasures while the Second Soul Division only took some High Grade materials.

These materials were exceptionally precious, but they were not of much use to the people within the Jade Cauldron Sect at the moment. However, in Lin Chen's hands, it was different; he could refine them.

Moreover, Lin Chen had made a monumental contribution this time, and his unparalleled talent was showcased. The future of the Jade Cauldron Sect could be said to depend on Lin Chen alone.

The stronger Lin Chen became, the greater the benefits for their Jade Cauldron Sect would be in the future.

Therefore, everyone from Xu Ma'an respected Lin Chen's Second Soul Division taking those precious high-grade materials, without any objection.

"Brother Lin Chen, there is a woman outside who is eager to see you," said a disciple.

Just as Lin Chen's Second Soul Division had finished collecting materials from the treasury and was planning to meet up with his main body, a Jade Cauldron Sect disciple rushed in hurriedly and reported.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen narrowed his eyes slightly. He couldn't think of who would be looking for him, especially a woman.

Because of Lin Chen's outstanding performance in Divine Sun City, now within the Jade Cauldron Sect, every disciple would respectfully address him as 'senior brother,' even if some of them had joined the sect earlier or had higher cultivation than Lin Chen; they still addressed him so respectfully.

Because Lin Chen's performance in that battle was too outstanding, all the disciples respected Lin Chen from the bottom of their hearts.

## Chapter 322 Xuan Yin Cold Body

Lin Chen walked out of the treasury and came outside.

When he saw the woman before him, Lin Chen's eyes narrowed even more intensely.

The woman in front of him was dressed very seductively, almost rivaling Yu Weilian. Most importantly, this woman was severely injured, with multiple wounds covering her body. Her pale skin, along with the crimson wounds and fresh blood, made her look even more bewitching. Anyone who saw her would likely be stirred within.

However, at this moment, Lin Chen just glanced at the woman, his brow slightly furrowed.

"You're looking for me?"

Lin Chen inquired indifferently.

The woman before him was indeed Hua Lianxin, the senior disciple of the Floral Transfer Palace, who had once competed with Lin Chen at the Wanxing Commerce Association for the Purple Thunder Tung Flower Tree.

However, Lin Chen had no quarrel with her. Their grudge had already been dissolved at the Great Formation of Divine Sun City. Lin Chen wondered why she would be seeking him out at this moment.

Moreover, Lin Chen noticed that the aura emanating from her at this moment was extremely mysterious, giving him an indescribable feeling. Her condition was very poor, but it wasn't entirely due to her injuries.

Furthermore, the Jade Cauldron Sect was currently purging those who had not left Divine Sun City. This woman was from the Floral Transfer Palace, not the Jade Cauldron Sect. Why wouldn't she leave and risk being treated as an enemy and exterminated by the Jade Cauldron Sect?

"Young Master Lin Chen, I hope you can help me,"

Hua Lianxin spoke, but as soon as her words fell, her eyes closed, and she collapsed towards Lin Chen, fainting away.

Lin Chen was rather speechless inside, but still he reached out to support her.

"It really seems like all sorts of things fall upon my head. I don't know what the peculiarity of her body is, but first, I will take her to meet my main body and let him take a look."

Lin Chen's Second Soul Division thought briefly and then carried Hua Lianxin towards where Lin Chen's main body was.

After Lin Chen had left, the several disciples from the Jade Cauldron Sect were speechless, thinking Lin Chen was rather brash to treat such a beauty in that manner.

Of course, these were thoughts they dared not voice out loud.

At this moment, Lin Chen's main body had just finished collecting all the treasures from the Wanxing Commerce Association's treasury into the space within the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

This operation had completely dumbfounded Zhao Lingxi, who could never have imagined that Lin Chen's Space Ring could hold so much.

The treasury had thousands of square feet of space, and it contained a vast number of large treasures. Just how large was Lin Chen's Space Ring?

And just as Zhao Lingxi was full of doubts, a figure carrying a woman walked in from outside.

Seeing the newcomer, Zhao Lingxi was stunned on the spot.

"There's actually two Young Master Lin Chens..."

Zhao Lingxi exclaimed in surprise.

And the new Lin Chen was even carrying a woman...

"He's my clone, so in a way, he's also me."

Upon seeing Zhao Lingxi's astonished look, Lin Chen simply explained.

As soon as these words were out, Zhao Lingxi was shocked inside.

A clone, and one with a cultivation even stronger than Lin Chen himself, was something even the Reverting Void Realm experts probably couldn't possess.

She could only feel how invincible Lin Chen's talent and methods were, no wonder he was able to grow to such an extent in just two short years.

"Take a look at this woman's physique, although I can sense it, I can't see what it is."

The Second Soul Division of Lin Chen spoke and casually tossed the Hua Lianxin in his hand to Lin Chen.

He seemed to have a sort of obsession with cleanliness, acting indifferent toward women.

Lin Chen's original body, meanwhile, took Hua Lianxin into his arms, and the moment he touched her, his heart did not conjure any evil thoughts because of her beauty or figure. Instead, he knitted his brows and couldn't help but give the woman in his arms a few more glances, for he felt an unbearably piercing cold emanating from her.

Raising his hand and placing it on Hua Lianxin, Lin Chen released a trace of spiritual power to probe into Hua Lianxin's body, and immediately found that most of her meridians were frozen by ice. It wasn't just her body; even her spiritual power was frozen.

"This is the Xuan Yin Cold Body!"

Lin Chen couldn't help but blurt out.

Both Lin Chen's Second Soul Division and Zhao Lingxi were incredulous at the revelation and looked toward Hua Lianxin involuntarily.

"Legend has it that the Xuan Yin Cold Body is a rare physique comparable to the Ancient Divine Body. Its cultivation speed is several times that of ordinary martial artists, and its combat power overwhelms its peers at the same level."

"That being said, she must be very strong!"

Zhao Lingxi said this while looking Hua Lianxin up and down, a hint of doubt creeping into her eyes.

If Hua Lianxin's physique was truly as legendary, then how did she end up so grievously wounded?

"The legend is indeed true, but the Xuan Yin Cold Body is a burden before it fully awakens."

"Before the full awakening of the Xuan Yin Cold Body, the body will periodically release a powerful Cold Ice Power. If this power is not controlled, it will cause great harm to the body. If a martial artist cannot withstand this power, not only will they fail to grasp the abilities granted by the physique, but they will also suffer from the backlash of the power, leading to death."

Lin Chen said this, but his eyes could not help but light up.

Because now, he was precisely in need of Cold Ice Power to aid him.



If he were to help Hua Lianxin master the Xuan Yin Cold Body, then when he proceeded to refine the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, Hua Lianxin could provide him with considerable help in return.

The problem now was if Lin Chen helped Hua Lianxin master this power, how could he ensure that after gaining her power, she would not turn against him.

After all, the Blue Lotus Divine Fire was very enticing, and although Hua Lianxin possessed a physique that countered it, he could not rule out that someone would become greedy and transfer the Divine Fire to others in exchange for other treasures or materials.

"It looks like I have to ensure she is entirely under my control."

Lin Chen said and began to heal Hua Lianxin by directly channeling his spiritual power. Lin Chen's spiritual power could transform into Scorching Sun Divine Fire, and the Primordial Transformation Art inherently had healing effects, so Hua Lianxin quickly revived under his treatment.

"Thank you, Young Master Lin Chen."

After waking up, Hua Lianxin's eyes met Lin Chen's face. Despite being very weak, she still made an effort to sit up and give Lin Chen a bow to thank him.

Originally, after the Black Cloud Bloody Array shattered, she had fled towards the Outer Sect with her sisters from the Floral Transfer Palace.

However, the Cold Poison in her body unexpectedly erupted ahead of time by a full five days. Being pursued by the Black Cloud Sect and having no other choice, she was forced to desperately turn back.

Although she wasn't sure, Lin Chen's mysterious aura always gave her the feeling that he might save her.

It was a gamble for Hua Lianxin; if she continued fleeing toward the Floral Transfer Palace, she feared she would either fall to the Black Cloud Sect's hunt or succumb to the Cold Poison.

### Chapter 323: Making a Blood Oath

Miss Hua Lianxin secretly breathed a sigh of relief, thinking to herself that she had indeed made a good bet, Lin Chen really had a way to cure the cold poison in her body.

"How much do you know about the cold poison in your body, Miss?"

Lin Chen looked at Hua Lianxin and suddenly started to inquire.

Upon hearing this, Hua Lianxin was puzzled, but she still disclosed to Lin Chen the full extent of the cold poison in her body.

After listening, Lin Chen shook his head with a smile, realizing that Hua Lianxin truly did not know about her rare physique and merely thought of it as an ailment from falling into the Extreme Cold Ice Pond when she was young.

"Miss Hua, have you ever heard of a special and rare physique called the Xuan Yin Cold Body?"

Thenceforth, Lin Chen informed Hua Lianxin about her rare physique.

"Xuan Yin Cold Body!? I've never heard of it. Could it be related to my cold poison?"

Hua Lianxin frowned upon hearing this and shook her head at Lin Chen, indicating she had never heard of the special physique he mentioned.

A faint light flashed in Lin Chen's hand, and it so happened that he had some ancient books that recorded special physiques on the continent, which he immediately flipped through to show Hua Lianxin.

Lin Chen wanted to win over Hua Lianxin, making her refine the Divine Fire for him, which would require her to truly recognize him within her heart, and perhaps even develop a strong sense of gratitude.

Of course, Lin Chen was also prepared to make even sounder decisions to ensure nothing went wrong.

"I actually have a rare physique!"

"Young Master, are you mentioning my physique because you have a way to help me harness it?"

After looking through the ancient books, Hua Lianxin's eyes couldn't help but light up with anticipation as she gazed at Lin Chen.

Hua Lianxin wasn't naive; after the great battle at Divine Sun City, she fully realized her weakness in the face of true powerhouses.

Even the masters and senior brothers of her Floral Transfer Palace almost perished in this battle. For Hua Lianxin, harnessing her special physique seemed to be the quickest way to become stronger.

However, Hua Lianxin also understood that Lin Chen, even if he knew how to master the Xuan Yin Cold Body, wouldn't simply share this knowledge with her for nothing.

Hearing her words, Lin Chen silently nodded.

Indeed, Lin Chen had a method that wouldn't be too difficult; the Primordial Transformation Art was an extremely mighty cultivation technique. He could definitely lend a hand to help Hua Lianxin master the Xuan Yin Cold Body, and there would be no harm to him in doing so.

"What should I do?"

Hua Lianxin became excited when she saw Lin Chen nod.

After all, mastering the Xuan Yin Cold Body would significantly increase Hua Lianxin's strength, and her future cultivation speed would also multiply, making her naturally eager to master it quickly.

But she immediately calmed down, realizing from Lin Chen's expression that this wouldn't be free.

"Young Master Lin Chen, please state your conditions. As long as Lianxin is capable, I will not hesitate."

"Even if you desire me, I... I will also satisfy you."

Hua Lianxin's cheeks were slightly red as she clenched her fists and bit her lip, saying,

In her view, her beauty was top-notch in the Floral Transfer Palace; men in the Great Flame Dynasty who wished to pursue her could form a line from the mountain gate of the Palace all the way down to the foot of the mountain. Hua Lianxin was well aware of what these men desired.

Therefore, in Hua Lianxin's eyes, since Lin Chen was a man, he probably wasn't an exception.

Moreover, with Lin Chen's appearance and cultivation talent both being top-tier, Hua Lianxin felt that giving herself to Lin Chen was something she could accept.

"Um... Miss Hua, what do you mean by this? I, Lin Chen, am not that kind of person. I ask you to maintain your dignity,"

"Indeed, I do want Miss Hua to give me an attitude, but not in this matter. I hope to help Miss Hua master the Xuan Yin Cold Body so that she will never become an enemy to Mr. Lin, and, when I need Miss Hua's help, I hope she can lend a hand."

Lin Chen expressed his thoughts.

Lin Chen naturally said the former statement because of what had transpired with Mu Qingxue before; he had learned his lesson, and if he fell for the same thing twice, then his life would have been in vain.

In the past, he had spent three years of cultivation and spared no effort to open Mu Qingxue's Sealed Meridians. However, the result was her betrayal, causing his own meridians to be shattered. If it wasn't for his fortuitous acquisition of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, Lin Chen might have ended up a cripple for life.

Therefore, Lin Chen had to ensure that after Hua Lianxin mastered the Xuan Yin Cold Body, she would not do anything detrimental.

Hiss—

After hearing Lin Chen's words, Hua Lianxin decisively bit her fingertip, drawing upon her spiritual power over her fresh blood, raising her finger toward the heavens.

"I, Hua Lianxin, hereby swear a Blood Oath that in this life, I shall never be an enemy to Lin Chen, nor become an ungrateful and treacherous person,"

As Hua Lianxin finished speaking, the power of the blood from her fingertip transformed into a vow, flying towards the sky and dissolving between heaven and earth.

This was the curse of a Blood Oath. Once the oath had been made, there was no method to undo it.

If one were to break the oath, they would assuredly face divine punishment and meet an end with both body destroyed and path annihilated.

Watching Hua Lianxin directly swear a Blood Oath, Lin Chen couldn't help but admire her decisiveness.

Hum—

Right after Hua Lianxin made the Blood Oath, Lin Chen made eye contact with his Second Soul Division. There, in the midst of the Wanxing Commerce Association, he directly began casting spells to help Hua Lianxin unlock her Xuan Yin Cold Body and master it.

At the same time, Lin Chen raised his hand and took out some auxiliary elixirs for Hua Lianxin to consume. Around them, arrays started rising with his casting.

The disciples present in the Wanxing Commerce Association upon witnessing this scene immediately began to protect Lin Chen and the others, although now within Divine Sun City, there were no more forces that did not belong to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Time flew by; three hours passed, and Hua Lianxin opened her eyes, exhaling a breath of mist, which condensed into ice in the air before it shattered on the ground.

Simultaneously, her cultivation surged, and in just a few breaths, she skyrocketed from the Second Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm to the Fourth Layer, ascending two entire realms at once.

Zhao Lingxi and the surrounding onlookers from the Jade Cauldron Sect were dumbstruck. It was known that once one's cultivation reached the Heaven-reaching Realm, even those with exceptional talent might need a year or two of cultivation to advance a single realm. Yet here was Hua Lianxin breaking through in the span of a few breaths. Anyone witnessing this moment would be shocked.

"My cultivation has broken through, and my body's spiritual power has increased several times over, perhaps even more. Moreover, my body feels unprecedentedly comfortable. The Power of Cold Ice that once damaged my body now harmonizes with me so well, it's as if they were a part of me since birth."

Hua Lianxin opened her eyes, lifted her palm, and released her spiritual power. Instantly, the Power of Cold Ice converged around her hand, swirling around her.

#### Chapter 324 Preparing for Seclusion

"Thank you, Young Master Lin Chen, for helping me gain full control of the Xuan Yin Cold Body!"

With excitement brimming in her heart, Hua Lianxin respectfully bowed to Lin Chen.

Had it not been for Lin Chen's assistance, she would have never been able to master the Xuan Yin Cold Body within her. She had always believed that the cold disease she contracted as a child was the issue, and thus she had tirelessly sought various methods to suppress it.

Even within the Floral Transfer Palace, Hua Lianxin's master and the others were unaware of her body's true condition; they only knew that her body would produce cold poison periodically. Fortunately, since

Hua Lianxin's cultivation had not yet reached its peak, the potency of the cold poison was relatively weak, allowing the members of the Floral Transfer Palace to collectively suppress it.

However, as Hua Lianxin's cultivation grew stronger, it became more and more difficult for others to help her suppress it.

Luckily, she had now met Lin Chen, who had clarified her condition and helped her master the legendary Xuan Yin Cold Body, which was an endless delight for Hua Lianxin.

"Miss Hua is being too courteous. My help came with my own ulterior motive."

"Understood, Lianxin will certainly await Young Master Lin's orders," Hua Lianxin said earnestly, her innermost feelings stirred.

"Then please accompany me to the Great Flame Imperial Family's residence, and I will inform you of what needs to be done later," said Lin Chen after finishing his words, he left the Wanxing Commerce Association with the Second Soul Division and Zhao Lingxi, heading toward the residence of the Great Flame Imperial Family.

What Lin Chen needed to do now, of course, was to start preparing to refine the Blue Lotus Divine Flame inside his body.

Yu Weilian's warning upon her departure had always been on Lin Chen's mind.

The Moon Shadow Pavilion and the Red Soul Hall would not take their failure lightly.

So even though everything appeared calm and all dangers seemed to have passed for the moment, a greater crisis was slowly approaching, and Lin Chen needed to increase his cultivation as swiftly as possible.

Regarding the refinement of the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, Lin Chen had been pondering whether it should be done by his true body or left to his Second Soul Division.

Lin Chen's true body practiced the Primordial Transformation Art, possessed the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, and even had the most formidable Ancient Divine Body. Although his cultivation speed was somewhat slower than that of the Second Soul Division, there was no doubt that at the same level, Lin Chen's true body's combat prowess was far superior to the Second Soul Division's.

The Blue Lotus Divine Flame would greatly enhance either his true body or the Second Soul Division.

However, Lin Chen was worried about one thing—if his true body tried to refine it now, even with the help of the Cold Jade Marrow and Hua Lianxin's Xuan Yin Cold Body, the chance of successfully refining the Blue Lotus Divine Flame was not as high as that for the Second Soul Division.

Moreover, the Second Soul Division's cultivation had already reached the peak of the Melding Earth Realm. This not only increased the chances of refining the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, but once successful, the cultivation level would surge dramatically, stepping into the Heaven-reaching Realm. At that point, Lin Chen would have yet another trump card. Even if facing assassins from the Moon Shadow Pavilion or members of the Red Soul Hall, Lin Chen would possess even greater means of self-preservation.

After some thought, Lin Chen decided to let the Second Soul Division refine the Blue Lotus Divine Flame.

Lin Chen did not know how long it would take to refine the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, so naturally, he intended to head to the main stronghold of the Jade Cauldron Sect that had taken over Divine Sun City—the residence of the Great Flame Imperial Family.

After returning to the Great Flame Imperial Family with the two ladies, Xu Lianyu happened to have just finished organizing some treasures in the treasury. When she saw Lin Chen returning, she immediately ran towards him.

However, when she saw the two exceptionally beautiful women following Lin Chen, Xu Lianyu's smile instantly stiffened.

"Junior Brother, weren't you going to the Wanxing Commerce Association to collect treasures? Are these the treasures you've brought back? Two beautiful ladies?"



Looking at Lin Chen, Xu Lianyu was inwardly furious. Had she not been unable to defeat Lin Chen now, she would have wanted to teach him a lesson on the spot.

The women of the Jade Cauldron Sect and Jade Bird Peak were all beautiful and captivating, and the sect's eldest sister was even publicly known as his Dao Companion, yet unexpectedly, Lin Chen seemed to have no other designs on them.

With peaches at home not to be admired, yet insisting on seeking the apricots outside, how could Xu Lianyu not be angry?

At this moment, Zhao Yijing happened to pass by and saw Lin Chen with Zhao Lingxi and Hua Lianxin, conversing with Xu Lianyu.

Zhao Yijing gave Lin Chen a cool glance, a hint of mild anger surfacing in her eyes, then turned around and walked away without saying a word.

"Junior Brother, you're done for, the eldest sister is angry."

"Hmph, I really don't know what you're thinking, having the eldest sister isn't enough for you, and you still go out every day to flirt, I'm upset too."

Xu Lianyu huffed, turning away to show her disinterest in dealing with Lin Chen.

Seeing Xu Lianyu and Zhao Yijing like this, Lin Chen couldn't help but shake his head with a wry smile.

Women are indeed very troublesome creatures.

"Junior Sister, it's not what you think, they..."

Lin Chen was nursing a headache and just as he started to say something, Xu Lianyu immediately spun around upon hearing his voice.

"They what, go on, explain it to me."

Xu Lianyu stared at Lin Chen with wide eyes, unblinking and demanding an explanation.

At her words, Lin Chen opened his mouth, swallowed hard, but found himself at a loss for words, unable to explain himself, since he truly didn't know how to.

Was he supposed to say that Zhao Lingxi was someone he knew from Desolate Sky City, and what about Hua Lianxin, was it to help him refine the Blue Lotus Divine Flame?

"Junior Sister, this is a bit complicated to explain, but believe me, it's not what you think."

Lin Chen said, at a loss for words.

"Hmph, see, you can't explain it clearly, you might as well save your words to explain to the eldest sister."

Xu Lianyu's lips curled as she walked away, leaving Lin Chen to shake his head.

Zhao Lingxi and Hua Lianxin, witnessing this scene, looked at Lin Chen and shook their heads with a smile. Lin Chen might not realize his two senior sisters' feelings for him, but as women, they certainly understood.

Lin Chen didn't attend to Zhao Yijing and Xu Lianyu; instead, he led the two women inside. He first arranged for Zhao Lingxi to stay next to his own residence.

Having promised Yu Weilian to take good care of Zhao Lingxi, Lin Chen naturally wouldn't let her stray too far from him in Divine Sun City, for if she encountered any danger, he wouldn't be able to come to her aid.

If something were to happen to Zhao Lingxi, he would have no face to see Yu Weilian.

As for Hua Lianxin, Lin Chen had her enter a secret chamber he had prepared and set up several formations outside the chamber that could withstand the attacks of a Heaven-reaching Realm Fifth Layer martial artist.

When Xu Lianyu learned of all that Lin Chen had done, she stomped her feet in frustration.

She was now beginning to wildly speculate; what exactly was Lin Chen planning to do with Hua Lianxin, such a great beauty, in the secret chamber?

### Chapter 325 Refining Divine Fire

After setting up the protective array, Lin Chen found Yang Yuemin and informed her that he needed to enter a closed-door seclusion and requested her assistance as a protector.

Despite being surprised by Lin Chen's request, Yang Yuemin did not hesitate to agree.

Ever since arriving at Jade Bird Peak, Lin Chen had never asked anything of her, and as his master, she felt she had done far too little for him, feeling somewhat unworthy of the title.

In view of Lin Chen's request, she naturally had no reason to refuse. Moreover, after witnessing Lin Chen's display of talent during the recent battle, Yang Yuemin believed he deserved her protection.

Soon, Lin Chen began his seclusion, but the people protecting him were not only Yang Yuemin. Zhao Rushi, Xu Ma'an, and Li Xuanming, four powerhouses from the Reverting Void Realm, also joined to guard him.

This arrangement shocked the disciples of Jade Cauldron Sect immensely.

Within the Jade Cauldron Sect, there was no one else who held such influence to have the Sect Leader and three Peak Masters protect them simultaneously.

Although Lin Chen had performed extraordinarily in the Divine Sun City battle, having four Reverting Void Realm experts as his protectors was considered excessive.

Lin Chen was aware of the protection provided by the four outside his chamber and felt completely at ease.

While the array he had set up could fend off Heaven-reaching Realm warriors, it could not withstand those from Reverting Void Realm. Any disturbances during a critical moment in seclusion could have unimaginable consequences.

But now with the protection from Yang Yuemin and the others, Lin Chen no longer had any concerns.

With this in mind, Lin Chen handed over all the prepared materials and Cold Jade Marrow to his Second Soul Division, then tucked it into the space within the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

Hua Lianxin was dumbfounded to see Lin Chen sweep a living person into his body.

However, thinking of Lin Chen's extraordinary talent, she found it not so surprising.

"Young Master Lin Chen, what do you need me to do?"

"After I begin my seclusion, I need you to release your Power of Cold Ice towards me with all your strength."

No sooner had Lin Chen finished speaking than he waved his hand, releasing countless Spirit Stones, elixirs for recovering spiritual power, and ten Stone Sculpture Puppets that were arranged within the chamber.

"These Spirit Stones and elixirs will help you quickly recover your spiritual power," Lin Chen said as he sat down cross-legged and closed his eyes, entering a meditative trance.

Listening to Lin Chen's words, Hua Lianxin's heart was incredibly shaken, no less than when she had witnessed Lin Chen absorb another version of himself.

What did Hua Lianxin just hear from Lin Chen!? He was asking her to release her full Cold Ice Power, directed at Lin Chen himself.

Furthermore, it seemed Lin Chen had prepared these elixirs and a great number of Top-Quality Spirit Stones just to ensure she wouldn't be drained.

As for the ten Stone Sculpture Puppets, they now surrounded Lin Chen, protecting him. Hua Lianxin understood that even though she had taken a Blood Oath and could not harm Lin Chen, he naturally wouldn't take a gamble with her.

After all, if she defied the backlash of the Blood Oath and insisted on attacking, Lin Chen would be in danger.

The ten Stone Sculpture Puppets, enhanced by Lin Chen, each possessed the power of the Fifth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, all surpassing the strength of Hua Lianxin. With the Formation's reinforcement, should she harbor any malicious intent towards Lin Chen, she would likely be instantly killed.

At this moment, Hua Lianxin felt incredibly anxious, wondering whether these Stone Sculpture Puppets would take action when she released her Cold Ice Power.

She was very aware of the terrifying nature of her body's Cold Ice Power; it had once caused her immense pain when she had yet to master the Xuan Yin Cold Body.

Now having completely harnessed the power and advanced two more realms, her Cold Ice Power was only going to be stronger.

Was Lin Chen serious in wanting her to unleash her full Cold Ice Power?

Although Hua Lianxin was torn, this was Lin Chen's command; she dared not refuse.

Whoosh—

As the spiritual power was released, Hua Lianxin's spiritual power immediately transformed into a fierce Cold Ice Power, projected towards Lin Chen's body.

The ten Stone Sculpture Puppets, controlled by Lin Chen, made no move against Hua Lianxin.

After releasing her power, Hua Lianxin's eyes widened in shock as the terrifying Cold Ice Power she emitted was instantly absorbed by a golden light on Lin Chen's outer body, the absorption rate far surpassing her release.

"What a freak!"

Seeing the scene in front of her, Hua Lianxin was utterly startled, and then she couldn't help but laugh at herself. She now realized she had been a fool to worry that her Cold Ice Power might harm Lin Chen.

At the same time, she became even more curious about Lin Chen, wondering what kind of fortune he possessed to be so formidable.

...

At this moment, within Lin Chen's Soul Sea.

The Blue Lotus Divine Flame burned fiercely within the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, while Lin Chen's Second Soul Division sat cross-legged in front of it, surrounded by materials to assist in refining the Divine Flame.

Among these, the most crucial Cold Jade Marrow was swallowed by the Second Soul Division, who immediately started casting spells, guiding the Blue Lotus Divine Flame and using spiritual power to refine it.

Hum—

Feeling threatened, the Blue Lotus Divine Flame released a burst of flame power, its scorching waves seeming to turn Lin Chen's Second Soul Division into ash.

However, each time the searing wave of flame surged within the cauldron, the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron emitted an aura that quickly extinguished it. Simultaneously, a layer of crystal-clear ice began to form on the surface of Lin Chen's Second Soul Division's body, like an armor of cold ice, shielding it from the burns of the Blue Lotus Divine Flame.

Above the Soul Sea, an incessant flow of Power of Cold Ice poured in, sourced from his main body absorbing Hua Lianxin's Cold Ice Power, aiding his Second Soul Division. Although this was a mere trickle, no amount was too small when it came to adding chances of successful refining.

The countless materials around him melted into his division's body under the intense heat, accelerating the refinement process.

"Transform for me!"

The Second Soul Division shouted and began to wildly operate the Blazing Fire Divine Decree, steering the Blue Lotus Divine Flame towards the frenzy of his Soul Sea.

Chapter 326: Coming Out of Seclusion

Hum——

A buzzing sound emanated from the Second Soul Division, the explosive roar of flames.

Following that booming noise, the aura of the Second Soul Division climbed rapidly.

The fiery Blue Lotus Divine Flame finally submerged completely into the Soul Split's body, transforming into a force that hovered within the Soul Sea, becoming an integral part of Lin Chen's Second Soul Division's strength.

Divine Fire is what countless Alchemists and Artifact Refiners dream of, their lifeline; it is something one could encounter but not seek. Even if some were lucky enough to come across it, not all with Reverting Void Realm Cultivation could successfully refine it.

But Lin Chen's Second Soul Division managed to refine it at the peak of the Melding Earth Realm.

At this moment, the aura of Lin Chen's Second Soul Division soared quickly and broke through to the Heaven-reaching Realm in an instant.

Next, it was the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, the Second Layer, the Third Layer... until it halted upon reaching the Fifth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

The Sixth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm is an important threshold. Lin Chen's Second Soul Division could have leveraged the power of refining the Blue Lotus Divine Flame to break through it in one go.

However, Lin Chen knew well that cultivating too hastily was inadvisable; it was essential to build a solid foundation. Although the strength of the Blue Lotus Divine Flame was formidable, allowing him to break through to the Fifth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, such a foundation was not stable. He needed time to settle and strengthen his base before considering advancing further.

"Is this... a success?"

Hua Lianxin ceased to sense Lin Chen extracting her power and immediately withdrew her force. At this moment, Lin Chen's original body also slowly opened his eyes, a faint smile appearing on his lips.

Lin Chen then beckoned with a hand, recalling the ten Stone Sculpture Puppets.

At this point, Hua Lianxin didn't know what Lin Chen's seclusion was for, but if Lin Chen didn't wake up soon, she was going to reach her limit.

Although Lin Chen provided her with plenty of Top-Quality Spirit Stones and Third-grade High-level Elixirs, the speed and volume at which he absorbed her Power of Cold Ice were so fast and immense that she simply couldn't keep up with his needs, and it was more than she could bear.



Seeing Lin Chen awaken, she finally let out a quiet sigh of relief.

"Thank you very much, Miss Hua."

Lin Chen spoke calmly, then a gentle force flowed into Hua Lianxin's body, helping her recover from the strain.

"It's what I had promised Young Master Lin Chen; there is no need for thanks," Hua Lianxin said with a shake of her head and a smile.

In the next second, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division flew out from the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron Space and landed beside Lin Chen.

At this moment, purple flames appeared on the body of the Second Soul Division and under its control, these flames were slowly retracted back into its body.

The clothes on the Second Soul Division were burnt to nothing; seeing this, Lin Chen immediately covered it with a black robe he had worn, draping it over the body of his Second Soul Division.

"This... This is the aura of the Heaven-reaching Realm Fifth Layer cultivation!"

Hua Lianxin was utterly shocked when she saw Lin Chen's Second Soul Division.

To think that not long before, when the Second Soul Division disappeared, its cultivation was clearly at the peak of the Melding Earth Realm.

Not much time had passed, and counting the days, the seclusion did not last more than ten days.

In the span of ten days, to break through from the peak of the Melding Earth Realm to the Fifth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm—such a rate of cultivation was unheard of in the Great Flame Dynasty, no, perhaps even on the entire Mysterious Heaven Continent, in ten thousand years.

Right now, Hua Lianxin felt lucky in her heart, having resolved her grievances with Lin Chen early on.

If she had truly become enemies with him because of the conflict at the Wanxing Commerce Association, she didn't know what dire consequences she would have faced.

For someone with such heaven-defying talents, if they can't be one's friend, then they should definitely not become an enemy, or one may never sleep peacefully again, always worrying about potential retribution as they grow stronger, even if you were a Reverter Void Realm powerhouse.

And at this moment, outside Lin Chen's secluded chamber.

The sky was filled with the rumble of thunder, continuous and mighty, as countless dark clouds gathered with thunder and lightning weaving between them.

"Such an anomaly, could it be that someone is about to break through to the Reverting Void Realm?"

"No, that's not right. If it were a Reverter Void Realm powerhouse, we should have sensed it in Divine Sun City."

"Could it be Lin Chen..."

Xu Ma'an and the others looked up at the sky, watching the phenomena unfold, and they immediately realized that it was likely caused by Lin Chen's seclusion.

But Lin Chen's original body was only at the third-level cultivation of the Melding Earth Realm, and Lin Chen's Second Soul Division was at the Peak of the Melding Earth Realm. If there was to be a breakthrough in cultivation, it should have been to the Heaven-reaching Realm.

However, the anomaly above far surpassed the spectacle that a breakthrough by a Warrior of the Heaven-reaching Realm would cause.

Hum——

At this moment, within the chamber.

Lin Chen's Second Soul Division lifted its hand and a purple flame appeared in its palm.

The moment the flame materialized, the walls around it began to melt. Hua Lianxin immediately felt an immense fiery power, which forced her to mobilize the Power of Cold Ice within her body to resist the heat from the flame.

Hua Lianxin realized that this was just a flame Lin Chen had summoned in his hand; if he used it against her, she would be utterly defenseless.

"What terrifying power of flame, this... could this be Divine Fire?"

Her eyes shifted towards Lin Chen, now filled with an additional measure of shock.

Before his attempt to refine Divine Fire, Lin Chen's cultivation was only at the peak of the Melding Earth Realm, yet he dared to undertake the challenge of refining Divine Fire.

If even slightly careless, he would undoubtedly face the fate of both body and dao vanishing.

It's not just about the Melding Earth Realm Cultivation; even for those in the Heaven-reaching Realm or the Reverting Void Realm, the chances of successfully refining Divine Fire are probably only one in ten.

And at this moment, the moment Lin Chen summoned Divine Fire, Xu Ma'an and the other three outside the chamber also sensed the powerful flame power emanating from within.

The displayed might of the flame made them feel a great danger as well.

"Why would such a fierce power of flames come from inside the chamber? Is Lin Chen causing it?"

Xu Ma'an and the others were puzzled. They were eager to rush into the chamber to find out what was going on, but Lin Chen had not yet ended his seclusion, so they dared not intrude recklessly.

"This guy, he always manages to bring surprises."

#### Chapter 327: Backed by the Red Soul Hall

Lin Chen stored his Second Soul Division in the space of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron and walked out of the secret chamber with Hua Lianxin, drawing the gazes of those waiting outside toward them.

Lin Chen had decided not to let his Second Soul Division appear because he intended to temporarily hide the news of its advancement to the fifth layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, thinking that it might offer a chance for an unexpected effect in the future.

Moreover, the Second Soul Division had just refined the Blue Lotus Divine Fire and was not yet able to completely control it, unable to use it freely and precisely control the temperature of the Divine Fire, so further mastering was needed.

At this moment, Xu Lianyu, Zhao Yijing, and others also arrived outside the secret chamber, worried about Lin Chen, they came to see if anything had happened.

After all, the phenomenon in the sky was too eye-catching; considering some of the events currently happening in Divine Sun City, they reasoned that the phenomenon must have been caused by their junior brother.

"Look at you, junior brother! You bring this woman into the secret chamber during your seclusion, what exactly are you doing in there?"

When Xu Lianyu saw Hua Lianxin following Lin Chen out of the chamber, her brain short-circuited, and she immediately asked.

People like Xu Ma'an, whose attention had initially been riveted on Lin Chen, assessing him from head to toe, had not even noticed Hua Lianxin behind him; but upon hearing Xu Lianyu's remark, they shifted their gazes to Hua Lianxin.

However, being savvy veterans, of course, they didn't gossip like younger people, just shaking their heads internally and thinking that it was good to be young.

But they did notice the extremely cold aura on Hua Lianxin, which was nothing like the one she had at the conference before. They secretly thought that this woman must have also obtained some fortune; otherwise, Lin Chen wouldn't have allowed her into the secret chamber. Xu Ma'an and the others didn't believe that Lin Chen took this woman into the chamber for the reasons Xu Lianyu suggested.

Even if there were, that would be something of a pastime during a break in seclusion...

After everyone finished looking at Hua Lianxin, their eyes fell back on Lin Chen, causing his scalp to tingle uncomfortably as if he were standing there without clothes.

"Why are you all staring at me like this!?"

Lin Chen said helplessly, as anyone would find it peculiar to be scrutinized like this.

"You should see for yourself."

Yang Yuemin looked up at the sky and gestured for Lin Chen to take a look.

Confused, Lin Chen quickly stepped forward to Yang Yuemin's position, noticing a fragrance but not minding it, he looked up into the sky.

In the sky, the black clouds gradually dispersed, and the originally darkened sky was slowly regaining the light of day. As these phenomena faded, another marvelous scene appeared on the horizon, where clusters of white clouds transformed into the shapes of lotus blossoms, which lingered long in the sky, creating a memorable spectacle.

Lin Chen was startled when he saw this, having not expected the Second Soul Division's breakthrough in cultivation to provoke such a divine phenomenon, one that could perhaps be compared with the ascension of a Reverting Void Realm powerhouse.

"It seems I can no longer hide it, it is my avatar that has advanced in cultivation to the Heaven-reaching Realm."

Lin Chen said to everyone with a detached tone.

Since the news could not be kept secret any longer, he decided to just tell everyone, as these were all people he trusted.

"What!?"

Xu Ma'an and Yang Yuemin, among others, were shocked upon hearing Lin Chen's words, their faces showing their astonishment and their mouths hanging open.

Everyone knew that a soul split was an exceptionally rare thing, a kind of mysterious spell. Throughout the entire Great Flame Dynasty, it had never appeared; even those in the Reverting Void Realm like themselves had not mastered it.

Moreover, everyone also knew that a soul split was refined in a similar way to a puppet, simply with some divine sense injected into it.

But even if divine sense was injected, it still couldn't be like a real person.

The cultivation of a soul split was determined at the time it was successfully refined, and it would remain at that level forever, without any possibility of advancement.

However, Lin Chen's soul split was actually able to grow, and it far exceeded his original body.

Upon reflection, everyone realized that Lin Chen's soul split was no different from his real body, completely unlike those mentioned in legends. It didn't seem like a puppet, but more like a real person.

This kind of method was unprecedented and unheard of by everyone present.

What sort of heaven-defying secret technique could this be for refining a soul split, they finally understood in their hearts that Lin Chen seemed to have obtained more than just that heavenly top-grade technique in the Descension Ruins.

Xu Ma'an's heart suddenly grew hot, but with previous lessons in mind, he didn't dare to become greedy again, nor did he dare to covet the treasures on Lin Chen's body.

If it weren't for Lin Chen, the Jade Cauldron Sect would have ceased to exist a long time ago. If they harbored any other thoughts towards Lin Chen now, wouldn't they be biting the hand that feeds them? Xu Ma'an was not capable of doing such a thing.

But if he knew about the existence of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron and other treasures on Lin Chen, it was uncertain whether he could maintain his composure...

"With Lin Chen's cultivation increased again, it seems we hold the winning ticket in the upcoming battle with the Black Cloud Sect. Even if they attack us again, we will not be afraid," Li Xuanming said, stroking his long beard, feeling extremely delighted. Previously, they had been worried about how to respond if the Black Cloud Sect attacked again.

But now that Lin Chen's soul split had unexpectedly broken through his cultivation, the problem had been solved.

Indeed, when Lin Chen's soul split was at the peak of the Melding Earth Realm, with the aid of those puppets and a formation, they were able to withstand the Black Cloud Sect's onslaught, creating opportunities for a counterattack. Now that his soul split's cultivation had improved, their combat power would surely be even stronger.

"The Black Cloud Sect is naturally not to be feared, but do you really think that if it was just the Black Cloud Sect, they would have the courage to directly attack Divine Sun City?" Li Xuanming asked after hearing Lin Chen's words, shaking his head and stepping forward, looking deep into the west.

Xu Ma'an and the others felt a shock in their hearts upon hearing Lin Chen's words, as if they realized something.

"Nephew, do you mean that behind this attack, there are other forces at play?" Li Xuanming couldn't help but furrow his brows. In this war, the forces of the Great Flame Dynasty's sects and families were almost all involved, and those who did not participate were mostly insignificant sects and families.

Everyone clearly understood that the other forces Lin Chen referred to would certainly not be the powers of the Great Flame Dynasty, but came from other places in the Eastern Domain.

With this, matters became more complicated.

Seeing everyone looking perplexed, Lin Chen moved his lips once more and spoke again.

"I wonder if any of you have heard of the Red Soul Hall."

#### Chapter 328 Two Major Forces

Lin Chen knew that his elder martial brothers and his master might have traveled to other places in the Eastern Domain, but they probably hadn't been everywhere in the domain, and they might have never heard of the Red Soul Hall.

At this moment, Lin Chen planned to share all the information he knew, so that when the Black Cloud Sect led the Moon Shadow Pavilion and the people from Red Soul Hall to attack, everyone would be prepared and could take measures in advance.

"Red Soul Hall, what kind of power is that? How come we have never heard of it?"

The reactions of Xu Ma'an, Li Xuanming, and the others were just as Lin Chen had guessed; they knew nothing of the existence of Red Soul Hall.

The information Lin Chen had about the Red Soul Hall was also gathered from the people of the Moon Shadow Pavilion, and as for how powerful Red Soul Hall truly was, Lin Chen himself didn't really know.



However, under the Red Soul Hall were seven subsidiary powers, with the Black Cloud Sect and Moon Shadow Pavilion being just two of them.

The Jade Cauldron Sect already felt incredibly wary of just the Moon Shadow Pavilion alone.

As for Black Cloud Sect, if it weren't for the assistance of the Great Flame Imperial Family in this great battle, the Jade Cauldron Sect likely couldn't contend with them head-on.

From this, one could see just how formidable the power of Red Soul Hall was.

Now the spirit puppet that Lin Chen had refined was still infiltrating the Moon Shadow Pavilion to gather intelligence, so if the Moon Shadow Pavilion made any moves, Lin Chen would be the first to know.

Although his spirit puppet had somewhat low cultivation and hadn't infiltrated among the very powerful, only making contact with some lower ranks, it was better than nothing. As long as the Moon Shadow Pavilion made any major moves, he would certainly get wind of some information.

Due to this incident, Lin Chen knew that the next time the Moon Shadow Pavilion and Black Cloud Sect attacked together, the danger would not be less than this time.

Lin Chen didn't feel much allegiance toward the Jade Cauldron Sect just yet, but after all, he had formed a bond over two years, and towards his masters and martial sisters of Jade Bird Peak, he regarded them as family. Naturally, Lin Chen would do his utmost to prevent them from being harmed.

"The power of Red Soul Hall is very formidable, with the Black Cloud Sect and Moon Shadow Pavilion being just a part of them. Red Soul Hall is not a single power, but an alliance composed of various forces."

Lin Chen slowly began to speak, explaining all he knew about the Red Soul Hall to Xu Ma'an and the others.

Upon hearing this, everyone instantly gasped in shock. The joy they had felt before had completely vanished, and their minds were now filled with worry.

If Red Soul Hall sent powerful experts to attack Divine Sun City, their Jade Cauldron Sect would absolutely be unable to defend it.

They were completely unmatched in terms of power; how could they possibly fight?

Although they didn't know how Lin Chen had learned this information, there was really no need for Lin Chen to concoct a series of lies to deceive them.

"What should we do now?"

"Return to the Jade Cauldron Sect? At least within the Jade Cauldron Sect, there is the Sect Protection Array, and if Red Soul Hall truly sends experts to attack, we would have something to rely on to wage a decisive battle."

Xu Ma'an frowned tightly and voiced his thoughts.

After contemplating, Li Xuanming, Yang Yuemin, and the others nodded in agreement with Xu Ma'an's decision.

Under the current circumstances, they had no choice but to fight to the death, as facing a power like Red Soul Hall, they really didn't have any other options. They couldn't just allow themselves to be slaughtered.

"No, if we retreat back to the Jade Cauldron Sect, the situation might not be better than staying in Divine Sun City. Divine Sun City has the City Protection Array of the Great Flame Dynasty, and beneath it lies the Dragon Vein of Divine Sun City. Once these powers are activated, they will certainly not be inferior to our Sect Protection Array of the Jade Cauldron Sect."

"What we need to do now," he said, "is to activate all forces, ready to strike and prepare for a decisive battle against the people of the Red Soul Hall."

"There are also some military forces left by Divine Sun City here; if used properly, they can be of some use."

Upon hearing Lin Chen's words, everyone pondered for a moment and nodded in agreement.

They hadn't expected that Lin Chen's arrangements would be so appropriate, incorporating both the City Protection Array of Divine Sun City and the Power of the Dragon Vein beneath the ground.

That is to say, Lin Chen was now able to operate Divine Sun City's City Protection Array.

What they didn't know was that, thanks to the combined efforts of Lin Chen and his Second Soul Division, their Formation skills had reached the equivalent of a Fourth-Grade Peak Array Master; hence, the City Protection Array of Divine Sun City, which also fell into that category, could naturally be activated by Lin Chen.

Moreover, Lin Chen possessed the Dragon Vein Jade Seal, giving him the ability to mobilize the Power of the Dragon Vein. So, taken together, these powers were indeed stronger than the Sect Protection Array of the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Xu Ma'an and the others, although relieved by Lin Chen's words, still wore very grim expressions the moment they thought of the might of the Red Soul Hall, their faces filled with worry.

"My esteemed teachers need not be so tense. Though the Red Soul Hall is powerful, the Divine Flame Alliance will not let them run amok. The forces of the Great Flame Dynasty are within the jurisdiction of the Divine Flame Alliance, and the Red Soul Hall will certainly not sit by if they attempt to interfere with the Great Flame Dynasty."

"So even if the Red Soul Hall wants to send someone to harm us, they dare not dispatch powerful individuals, lest they be detected by the Divine Flame Alliance, which would constitute a blatant violation of the rules."

Lin Chen briefed everyone again on the matters between the Red Soul Hall and the Divine Flame Alliance.

"The Divine Flame Alliance? What kind of force is that?"

Xu Ma'an, Yang Yuemin, and the others were bewildered upon hearing Lin Chen mention another force.

Although Xu Ma'an and the others had traveled to other places in the Eastern Domain in their youth, they had not come into contact with these forces.

After all, the Divine Flame Alliance and the Red Soul Hall are among the top forces in the Eastern Domain.

Hearing this, Lin Chen went on to explain the strength of the Divine Flame Alliance to Xu Ma'an and the others.

About the Divine Flame Alliance, Lin Chen didn't have much information; he only learned a little from Yu Weilian.

Just like the Red Soul Hall, the Divine Flame Alliance consists of several forces. They can be said to be incompatible with each other, with both powers dividing the Eastern Domain into countless regions, each governing some.

The Divine Flame Sect, where Yu Weilian resided, maintained a neutral stance.

However, because of the Red Soul Hall's outrageous behavior and sometimes inhumane actions, the Divine Flame Sect actually leaned more towards the Divine Flame Alliance. It's just that the Divine Flame Sect has always preferred to stay out of the conflicts between the two major forces.

"Nephew Lin Chen truly knows quite a bit, surpassing even us old bones. How did you come to learn all of this?"

Xu Ma'an asked, puzzled.

Hearing this, Lin Chen smiled faintly.

"The young man has merely learned from the content in the Library Pavilion, that's all."

#### Chapter 329 Make a Decision

"Lin Chen's arrangement is indeed prudent, yet we must prepare for the worst-case scenario," said a voice.

"If Red Soul Hall completely disregards the rules set with the Divine Flame Alliance and really extends their reach towards our Great Flame Dynasty, dispatching many powerful warriors, what then shall we do?"

Xu Ma'an was after all an old hand, considering every eventuality and preparing for the worst.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen simply smiled indifferently. He had, of course, already pondered this question.

As for the worst-case scenario, Lin Chen had long had a plan in mind.

"I have naturally considered this issue as well, uncles, please look," he said.

As Lin Chen spoke, he swept his arm, and a map materialized before everyone's eyes.

The map detailed parts of the Eastern Domain, including the territories of the Jade Cauldron Sect, various major sects, and the current location of Divine Sun City.

"The Great Flame Dynasty, within the sphere of influence of the Eastern Domain, possesses excellent terrain. Although no powerful warriors have emerged from our Great Flame Dynasty in recent years, this location is highly coveted by both Red Soul Hall and the Divine Flame Alliance."

"This territory would provide enormous strategic advantage to either power should war break out. Thus, I surmise that Red Soul Hall's intent to bring the Great Flame Dynasty into their sphere of influence is to wage war against the Divine Flame Alliance."

"Of course, these are not our immediate concerns. Our worst-case scenario is that should we need to abandon Divine Sun City, our only option would be to head towards a mountain range to the south," Lin Chen continued.

Pointing to the map, Lin Chen's finger landed on a place known as the Trapped Dragon Mountain Range.

The Trapped Dragon Mountain Range featured complicated terrain and was infested with magical beasts. Due to its treacherous landscape, it was extremely unfavourable for martial artists' survival. Many martial artists who ventured there to hunt ultimately met their doom. Hence, the saying, "Nine out of ten who enter the Trapped Dragon Mountains perish," became prevalent.

Given the complexity of the terrain, if Red Soul Hall's forces indeed attacked and Lin Chen and others could not resist, fleeing into the Trapped Dragon Mountain Range would be the best choice.

Due to certain reasons, Lin Chen could completely ignore the difficulties presented by the complex terrain of the Trapped Dragon Mountains.

Another feature of the Trapped Dragon Mountain is that it connects the Southern and Northern Regions, with the Great Flame Dynasty situated precisely at the edge of this mountain range, in a mountain gap.

Another reason Red Soul Hall seeks to control the Great Flame Dynasty is to utilize it as a passage for mobilizing troops into the Southern and Northern Regions.

This route is the shortest path; otherwise, traveling to the Southern and Northern Regions from the Eastern Domain would take many times longer than passing through the Great Flame Dynasty.

That would be a journey of tens of millions of miles. Even a warrior of the Heaven-reaching Realm, flying at full speed without eating, drinking, or sleeping, would need several months. Therefore, the strategic location of the Great Flame Dynasty is extremely important.

Of course, for ordinary warriors, it holds little significance, but for super powers like Red Soul Hall or the Divine Flame Alliance, it's a different matter.

If either power harbours unstable intentions towards the Southern and Northern Regions, then the Great Flame Dynasty becomes a crucial battleground.

After all, if anyone decided to wage war, the Great Flame Dynasty would prove to be an exceptionally ideal base for troops.

Having viewed the map, Xu Ma'an and others also understood the gravity of the situation.

However, they had previously been unaware of the existence of the two super powers, Red Soul Hall and the Divine Flame Alliance, and did not realize the Great Flame Dynasty's strategic significance.

Moreover, the Jade Cauldron Sect was a force that only aspired to compete within the Great Flame Dynasty, content with staying at the forefront alongside the Seven Sects and the Great Flame Imperial Family, not daring to think of advancing into the Southern and Northern Regions.

Lin Chen's words had opened the eyes and broadened the perspectives of Xu Ma'an and the rest.

Yet, when it came to the forces in the Southern and Northern Regions, as well as the Eastern Domain, they still did not dare to entertain any thoughts, knowing well they were not strong enough to contend with those super powers.

As for what action to take, Xu Ma'an and the rest were momentarily undecided.

Whether to stay and defend Divine Sun City or begin to relocate to the Trapped Dragon Mountain Range to establish a defensive system, stabilize their foothold, and prepare to confront Red Soul Hall.

After all, anyone could see from the scenarios Lin Chen presented that Red Soul Hall harbored a decisive resolve to subjugate the Great Flame Dynasty, and they would not rest until they succeeded.

And just as everyone was unsure of what to do, suddenly two figures flew in from afar.

It was Li Hanyi and Zhang Dachu, who had been in the city managing the chaos among the common folks.

The people, although sighing at the change in the Royal Family, were largely indifferent.

After all, their lifespans were but a hundred years at most; such matters were beyond their concern.

Thus, for the average person, the change of dynasties had little impact.

They went about their lives, eating and drinking as usual.

For as those at the very bottom of society, the battles between warriors could mean that just one mistake by a warrior might bury them by the tens or even hundreds of thousands.

A century ago, there was an instance when an ancestor of the Black Cloud Sect cultivated the Blood Shastra Technique, casting the Blood Shastra secret technique above a large city in the Eastern Domain, turning all the ordinary people into nourishment to improve their blood energy, aiding the cultivation of the Blood Shastra Technique.

It was from then on that the infamy of the Black Cloud Sect began to spread far and wide, continuing to the present day.

Many on the Orthodox Path sneered at such inhumane practices and stood in staunch opposition.

Now, the fact that the Jade Cauldron Sect, after a great battle, still spared some effort to settle the common folks showed a difference from the Black Cloud Sect.

However, with the Jade Cauldron Sect facing imminent danger, they could no longer afford to concern themselves with as much.

Thus, Xu Ma'an had just sent a message, calling all Peak Masters to gather here.



Before long, the Peak Masters one by one arrived.

Upon hearing Xu Ma'an explain the situation regarding Red Soul Hall, they each started to worry.

"Give the orders to escort all the disciples and elders of the Jade Cauldron Sect here. We're preparing for a decisive battle against the forces of Black Cloud Sect and Red Soul Hall in Divine Sun City. If we're overpowered, we'll proceed to the Trapped Dragon Mountain Range as Lin Chen suggested," Xu Ma'an said.

Xu Ma'an knew that at this juncture, they could no longer just defend the Jade Cauldron Sect.

For the sect to exist, people must be alive.

If everyone were to perish, then even if the Jade Cauldron Sect remained, it would only be guarded for others.

### Chapter 330: Refining the Purple Cloud Wings

As the Peak Masters arrived, Xu Ma'an began to prepare various affairs according to Lin Chen's instructions.

Just as Lin Chen had decided, Xu Ma'an decided to have all disciples of the Jade Cauldron Sect come to Divine Sun City.

They needed to gather the full strength of the Sect to confront the Black Cloud Sect, and if they couldn't withstand the enemy, they would immediately retreat toward the Trapped Dragon Mountain Range.

After discussing the plan, they started assigning tasks and went back to the Jade Cauldron Sect to fetch the remaining disciples.

Since Lin Chen had explained the decided method, and he had another plan in mind, he did not return to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

After all, there truly wasn't anything worth going back for in the Jade Cauldron Sect.

This return to the Sect might be the last, so naturally, he wanted to transfer all the magical treasures and resources of the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Therefore, out of the ten Peak Masters, seven were sent back, leaving only Yang Yuemin, Zhao Rushi, and Li Xuanming to hold the fort in Divine Sun City.

People like Zhao Yijing and Xu Lianyu were also returning to the Sect; after all, though Jade Bird Peak was not wealthy, they still had some treasures there, especially since they acquired a great amount of treasures in their last expedition to the Descension Ruins, which naturally needed transferring.

After they had finished their discussions, Lin Chen took Hua Lianxin to a room and had her settle down temporarily to stabilize her Xuan Yin Cold Body.

Having arranged everything, Lin Chen returned to the secret chamber to prepare for crafting magic artifacts for the upcoming battle.

Back in the secret chamber, he immediately took out various heavenly and earthly treasures he had collected from the Primordial Ruins and day-to-day gatherings.

Before beginning to craft the magic treasures, Lin Chen took out a scroll of martial arts skills and started cultivating it.

This scroll of martial arts skills was the flight martial technique—Purple Cloud Wings—that Lin Chen had won at the Wanxing Commerce Association auction.

Lin Chen had already cultivated this martial arts skill before, and now he was simply reinforcing his memory and familiarizing himself with the feel of the skill.

He did this because he wanted to use the inspiration from the Purple Cloud Wings skill to create a supporting flying magic artifact.

Even those who had not cultivated the Purple Cloud Wings skill could use this magic artifact to improve their flying speed.

As a Fourth-Grade Artifact Refiner, Lin Chen naturally possessed the ability to craft such an item.

This idea was inspired by the Purple Cloud Wings skill.

With a flash of light, the Second Soul Division appeared in the secret chamber.

Lin Chen's Second Soul Division summoned the Blue Lotus Divine Flame with a wave of his hand.

Lin Chen's original body, meanwhile, summoned a golden flame, which was the life essence flame condensed by the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron. Although it was not as marvelous as the Blue Lotus Divine Flame, being condensed from the Primordial Transformation Art's Spiritual Power, it far exceeded the life essence flame of an ordinary martial artist.

Lin Chen's original body once again waved his hand, and numerous Taoist Talisman Scripts flew out, arranging themselves into a small assisting formation for artifact refining.

He then placed a large cauldron at the center of the formation.

Subsequently, both of them started crafting according to their thoughts.

As the various materials melted, refined, and finally fused, the entire process was seamless.

Soon, as the materials coalesced, a pair of purple wings gradually took shape in front of them, until they were fully formed.

"The crafting was successful," Lin Chen said joyfully. He then summoned the newly-made flying artifact to his hand to check its effectiveness.

However, after examining it, Lin Chen frowned slightly, unsatisfied with the first attempt at crafting.

Although it had a flying effect, it was not top-grade; at best, it was an Earth-Level Mid-Grade flying artifact.

"Let's craft again!" Lin Chen and the Second Soul Division looked at each other, both having this intention.

They had plenty of heavenly and earthly treasures gathered from the Wanxing Commerce Association and the Great Flame Imperial Family's Treasury, which could be used for another crafting attempt.

Thus, they efficiently and proficiently started refining, throwing various materials into the cauldron again.

An hour later, as the second flying artifact emerged from the cauldron and Lin Chen saw the golden glow of the finished product, a look of joy instantly spread across his face.

He quickly summoned the flying artifact to his hand and examined it, a trace of a smile appearing on his lips.

This time, he had crafted a top-tier Earth-grade magical treasure.

However, given his materials, Lin Chen felt he could definitely aim for a Heaven-grade treasure.

He considered using some more materials for another crafting attempt, but in the end, Lin Chen decided to abandon this idea.

Despite having acquired extraordinary materials this time, it was no excuse to waste them so extravagantly.

Having crafted two flying artifacts, he had already used up about a third of the heavenly and earthly treasures.

After all, Heaven-grade and top-tier Earth-grade treasures could fetch sky-high prices in the outside world, and their value was probably already exceeding all the materials they had obtained.

"This is crafted based on the Purple Cloud Wings, so let's call you Purple Cloud Wings as well," Lin Chen said. He kept the Heaven-grade one for himself, and the top-tier Earth-grade one was given to the Second Soul Division.

In presence of the original body, the Soul Split naturally would not harbor any dissatisfaction.

While Lin Chen and the Second Soul Division were busy crafting artifacts, Wang Dachui and the others had finished preparations and set off on a Flying Boat back to the Jade Cauldron Sect to gather the disciples and elders.

Many people had come to Divine Sun City to attend the Soaring Dragon Conference, including members of the Seven Sects. When the battle broke out and the Black Cloud Blood Formation was breached, everyone scattered in retreat, not having time to take their Flying Boats they left behind, so there were plenty for Wang Dachui and others on their return to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

But just as everyone was ready to leave, Lin Chen felt a sense of unease and changed the plan, having his original body remain in Divine Sun City while the Second Soul Division went back to the Jade Cauldron Sect with Wang Dachui and the others.

After all, on Jade Bird Peak, there was Mu Qingxue waiting for him. Xu Lianyu seemed to be quite unhappy with her, and Lin Chen, fearing Xu Lianyu might do something to her upon returning, decided to personally go back.